

Sermon 42: O people, what I fear most for you ...

About heart's desires and extended hopes

(ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام

وفيها يحذر من اتباع الهوى وطول الامل في الدنيا

O people! What I fear most about you are two things – acting according to desires and extending of hopes. As regards acting according to desires, this prevents from truth; and as regards extending of hopes, it makes one forget the next world.

You should know this world is moving rapidly and nothing has remained out of it except last particles like the dregs of a vessel which has been emptied by someone. Beware, the next world is advancing, and either of them has sons i.e. followers. You should become sons of the next world and not become sons of this world because on the Day of Judgement every son would cling to his mother. Today is the Day of action and there is no reckoning while tomorrow is the Day of reckoning but there would be no (opportunity for) action.

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! إِنَّ أَخَوْفَ مَا أَخَافُ عَلَيْكُمْ اثْنَانِ: اتِّبَاعُ الْهَوَى، وَطُولُ الْأَمَلِ؛ فَأَمَّا اتِّبَاعُ الْهَوَى فَيَصُدُّ عَنِ الْحَقِّ، وَأَمَّا طُولُ الْأَمَلِ فَيُنْسِي الْأُخْرَةَ.

أَلَا وَإِنَّ الدُّنْيَا قَدْ وَلَّتْ حَذَاءً، فَلَمْ يَبْقَ مِنْهَا إِلَّا صُبَابَةٌ كَصُبَابَةِ الْأَنْعَاءِ اصْطَبَّهَا صَابُهَا، أَلَا وَإِنَّ الْأُخْرَةَ قَدْ أَقْبَلَتْ، وَلِكُلِّ مِنْهُمَا بَنُونَ، فَكُونُوا مِنْ أَبْنَاءِ الْأُخْرَةِ، وَلَا تَكُونُوا مِنْ أَبْنَاءِ الدُّنْيَا، فَإِنَّ كُلَّ وَلَدٍ سَيُلْحَقُ بِأُمِّهِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، وَإِنَّ الْيَوْمَ عَمَلٌ وَلَا حِسَابَ، وَعَدَا حِسَابٍ وَلَا عَمَلٍ.

As-Sayyid ar-Radi says: “*al-hadhdha*” means rapid but some people have read it “*jadhdha*” “.

According to this version the meaning would be that the cycle of worldly enjoyments would end soon.

قال السيد الشريف: أقول: الحذّاء: السريعة. ومن الناس من يرويه جذّاء، بالجيم والذال، أي انقطع درّها وخيرها

Alternative Sources for Sermon 42

- (1) Nasr, *Siffin*, 3, 4;
- (2) al-Mufid, *al-Majalis*, 50;
- (3) Ibn Qutaybah, *Uyun*, II, 353;
- (4) al-Kulayni, *Furu' al-Kafi*, III, 29;
- (5) al-Harrani, *Tuhaf*, 35, 47;
- (6) al-Mufid, *al-Irshad*, * 138;
- (7) al-Tusi, *al-Amali*, * 73, 145;
- (8) Abu Nu'aym, *Hilyah*, I, 56;
- (9) al-Mas'udi, *Muruj*, II, 436.

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