

Sermon 64: Fear Allah and anticipate your death by good actions ...

About decline and destruction of the world

(ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام

في المبادرة إلى صالح الاعمال

O creatures of Allah! Fear Allah and anticipate your death by good actions. Purchase everlasting joy by paying transitory things – pleasures of this world. Get ready for the journey, for you are being driven, and prepare yourselves for death, since it is hovering over you. Be a people who wake up when called, and who know that this world is not their abode, and so have it changed (with the next).

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، وَبَادِرُوا آجَالَكُمْ بِأَعْمَالِكُمْ وَابْتَاعُوا مَا يَبْقَى لَكُمْ بِمَا يَزُولُ عَنْكُمْ، وَتَرَحَّلُوا فَقَدْ جَدَّ بِكُمْ وَاسْتَعِدُّوا لِلْمَوْتِ فَقَدْ أَظْلَكَكُمْ وَكُونُوا قَوْمًا صَبِيحَ بِهِمْ فَاَنْتَبَهُوا، وَعَلِمُوا أَنَّ الدُّنْيَا لَيْسَتْ لَهُمْ بَدَارٌ فَاسْتَبَدَّلُوا

Certainly, Allah has not created you aimlessly nor left you as useless. There is nothing between anyone of you and Paradise or Hell except death that must befall him. The life that is being shortened every moment and being dismantled every hour must be regarded very short.

The hidden thing namely death which is being driven (to you) by two over new phenomena, the day and the night, is certainly quick of approach. The traveller which is approaching with success or failure (namely death) deserves the best of provision. So acquire such provision from this world while you are here with which you may shield yourself tomorrow (on the Day of Judgement).

فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمْ يَخْلُقْكُمْ عَبَثًا، وَلَمْ يَتْرُكْكُمْ سُدًى وَمَا بَيْنَ أَحَدِكُمْ وَبَيْنَ الْجَنَّةِ أَوْ النَّارِ إِلَّا الْمَوْتُ أَنْ يَنْزِلَ بِهِ. وَإِنَّ غَايَةَ

تَنْفُصُهَا اللَّحْظَةُ، وَتَهْدِمُهَا السَّاعَةُ، لَجْدِيرَةٌ بِقِصَرِ الْمُدَّةِ، وَإِنَّ غَائِبًا يَحْدُوهُ الْجَدِيدَانِ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ، لَحَرِيٌّ بِسُرْعَةِ الْأَوْبَةِ
وَإِنَّ قَادِمًا يَفْدُمُ بِالْفَوْزِ أَوِ الشَّقْوَةِ لِمُسْتَحِقٍّ لِأَفْضَلِ الْعُدَّةِ، فَتَزَوَّدُوا فِي الدُّنْيَا مِنَ الدُّنْيَا مَا تَحْرُزُونَ بِهِ نَفْسَكُمْ غَدًا.

So everyone should fear Allah, should admonish himself, should send forward his repentance and should overpower his desire, because his death is hidden from him, his desires deceive him and Satan is posted on him and he beautifies for him sin so that he may commit it and prompts him to delay repentance till his desires make him the most negligent. Pity is for the negligent person whose life itself would be a proof against him and his own days (passed in sin) would lead him to punishment.

فَاتَّقَى عَبْدُ رَبِّهِ، نَصَحَ نَفْسَهُ، قَدَّمَ تَوْبَتَهُ، غَلَبَ شَهْوَتَهُ، فَإِنَّ أَجَلَهُ مَسْتُورٌ عَنْهُ، وَأَمَلَهُ خَادِعٌ لَهُ، وَالشَّيْطَانُ مُوَكَّلٌ بِهِ،
يُزِينُ لَهُ الْمَعْصِيَةَ لِيُرْكِبَهَا، وَيُمْنِيهِ التَّوْبَةَ لِيُسَوِّفَهَا حَتَّى تَهْجُمَ مَنِيَّتُهُ عَلَيْهِ أَغْفَلَ مَا يَكُونُ عَنْهَا. فَيَا لَهَا حَسْرَةً عَلَى كُلِّ
أَذِي غَفْلَةٍ أَنْ يَكُونَ عُمُرُهُ عَلَيْهِ حُجَّةً، وَأَنْ تُؤَدِّيَهُ أَيَّامُهُ إِلَى الشَّقْوَةِ

We ask Allah, the Glorified, that He may make us and you like one whom bounty does not mislead, whom nothing can stop from obedience of Allah and whom shame and grief do not befall after death.

نَسْأَلُ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ يَجْعَلَنا وَإِيَّاكُمْ مِمَّنْ لَا تُبْطِرُهُ نِعْمَةٌ وَلَا تُقْصِرُ بِهِ عَنْ طَاعَةِ رَبِّهِ غَايَةٌ، وَلَا تَحُلُّ بِهِ بَعْدَ الْمَوْتِ
نَدَامَةٌ وَلَا كَابَةٌ.

Alternative Sources for Sermon 64

(1) Al-'Amidi, *Ghurar*, 105, 154, 155, 246;

(2) Sibt, *Tadhkirah*, 145.

(3) Nasr, *Siffin*, 7.

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