

Sermon 65: Praise be to Allah for Whom one condition does not proceed another...

About Allah's attributes

(ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام

وفيها مباحث لطيفة من العلم الالهي

Praise be to Allah for Whom one condition does not proceed another so that He may be the First before being the Last or He may be Manifest before being Hidden. Everyone called one (alone) save Him is by virtue of being small (in number); and everyone enjoying honour other than Him is humble. Every powerful person other than Him is weak. Every master (owner) other than Him is slave (owned).

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي لَمْ تَسْبِقْ لَهُ حَالٌ حَالًا، فَيَكُونُ أَوْلَا قَبْلَ أَنْ يَكُونَ آخِرًا، وَيَكُونُ ظَاهِرًا قَبْلَ أَنْ يَكُونَ بَاطِنًا

، كُلُّ مُسَمًّى بِالْوَحْدَةِ غَيْرُهُ قَلِيلٌ، وَكُلُّ عَزِيزٍ غَيْرُهُ ذَلِيلٌ، وَكُلُّ قَوِيٍّ غَيْرُهُ ضَعِيفٌ، وَكُلُّ مَالِكٍ غَيْرُهُ مَمْلُوكٌ

Every knower other than Him is seeker of knowledge. Every controller other than Him is sometimes imbued with control and sometimes with disability. Every listener other than Him is deaf to light voices while loud voices make him deaf and distant voices also get away from him. Every onlooker other than Him is blind to hidden colours and delicate bodies. Every manifest thing other than Him is hidden, but every hidden thing other than Him is incapable of becoming manifest.

وَكُلُّ عَالِمٍ غَيْرُهُ مُتَعَلِّمٌ، وَكُلُّ قَادِرٍ غَيْرُهُ يَقْدِرُ وَيَعْجِزُ، وَكُلُّ سَمِيعٍ غَيْرُهُ يَصْمُ عَنْ لَطِيفِ الْأَصْوَاتِ، وَيُصِمُّهُ كَبِيرُهَا، وَيَذْهَبُ عَنْهُ مَا بَعْدَ مِنْهَا، وَكُلُّ بَصِيرٍ غَيْرُهُ يَعْمَى عَنْ خَفِيِّ الْأَلْوَانِ وَاللَطِيفِ الْأَجْسَامِ، وَكُلُّ ظَاهِرٍ غَيْرُهُ غَيْرُ بَاطِنٍ،

وَكُلُّ بَاطِنٍ غَيْرُهُ غَيْرٌ ظَاهِرٌ.

He did not create what He created to fortify His authority nor for fear of the consequences of time, nor to seek help against the attack of an equal or a boastful partner or a hateful opponent. On the other hand all the creatures are reared by him and are His humbled slaves.

He is not conditioned in anything so that it be said that He exists therein, nor is He separated from anything so as to be said that He is away from it. The creation of what He initiated or the administration of what He controls did not fatigue Him. No disability overtook Him against what He created. No misgiving ever occurred to Him in what He ordained and resolved. But His verdict is certain, His knowledge is definite, His governance is overwhelming. He is wished for at time of distress and He is feared even in bounty.

لَمْ يَخْلُقْ مَا خَلَقَهُ لِتَشْدِيدِ سُلْطَانِهِ، وَلَا تَخَوْفٍ مِنْ عَوَاقِبِ زَمَانِهِ، وَلَا اسْتِعَانَةٍ عَلَى نِدَاءِ مُتَأَوِّرٍ وَلَا شَرِيكِ مُكَاثِرٍ وَلَا ضِدِّ مُنَافِرٍ وَلَكِنْ خَلَقَهُ مَرِيئُونَ وَعِبَادٌ دَاخِرُونَ

لَمْ يَحْلُلْ فِي الْأَشْيَاءِ فَيُقَالَ: هُوَ فِيهَا كَائِنٌ، وَلَمْ يَنْأَ عَنْهَا فَيُقَالَ: هُوَ مِنْهَا بَائِنٌ لَمْ يُوَدِّهِ خَلْقٌ مَا ابْتَدَأَ، وَلَا تَدَبَّرَ مَا ذَرَأَ وَلَا وَقَفَ بِهِ عَجْرٌ عَمَّا خَلَقَ، وَلَا وَجَتَ عَلَيْهِ شُبُهَةٌ فِيمَا قَضَى وَقَدَّرَ، بَلْ قَضَاءٌ مُتَقَنَّ، وَعِلْمٌ مُحْكَمٌ، وَأَمْرٌ مُبْرَمٌ الْمَأْمُولُ مَعَ النَّقَمِ، الْمَرْهُوبُ مَعَ النَّعَمِ .

Alternative Sources for Sermon 65

(1) Al-Saduq, *al-Tawhid*, 29, 62;

(2) al-Wasiti, 'Uyun;

(3) al-'Amidi, *Ghurur*, 238.

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