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Straying from the Straight Path

الضَّلَاكَةُ Straying from the Straight Path

Factors that Cause One to Stray (from the Straight Path)

موجباتُ الضَّلَاكَةِ

.. - الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): لِكُلِّ ضَلَّةٍ عِلَّةٌ، وَلِكُلِّ نَاكِثٍ شُبْهَةٌ¹

1— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘For every misguidance there is a cause, and behind every disloyal act is an obscurity.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 148]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): أَلَا وَإِنَّ شَرَائِعَ الدِّينِ وَاحِدَةً، وَسُبُلَهُ قَاصِدَةٌ، مَنْ أَخَذَ بِهَا لَحِقَ وَغَنِمَ، وَمَنْ وَقَفَ عَنْهَا ضَلَّ وَنَدِمَ .

2— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Know that indeed the paths to religion are one, and its courses lead straight ahead. Whoever follows them attains the objective, and whoever stops, moving away from them, strays and ends up regretful.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 142]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): أَنْظَرُوا أَهْلَ بَيْتِ نَبِيِّكُمْ فَالْزَمُوا سَمَتَهُمْ ... لَا تَسْبِقُوهُمْ فَتَضِلُّوا، وَلَا تَتَأَخَّرُوا عَنْهُمْ فَتَهْلِكُوا .

3— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Look at the household of your Prophet and adhere to their direction...Do not overtake them, for then you will stray, nor lag behind them lest you fall into ruin.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 97]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): مَنْ يَطْلُبُ الْهَدَايَةَ مِنْ غَيْرِ أَهْلِهَا يَضِلُّ⁴

4— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘He who seeks guidance from the wrong source goes astray.’[Ghurur al-Hikam, no. 7501]

Those Who Lead Others Astray

الْمُضِلُّونَ

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): إِنَّ شَرَّ النَّاسِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ إِمَامٌ جَائِرٌ ضَلَّ وَضَلَّ بِهِ، فَأَمَاتَ سُنَّةَ مَأْخُودَةٍ (مَعْلُومَةٍ)، وَأَحْيَا بِدْعَةً مَتْرُوكَةً.

5— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Verily the most evil of people in the sight of Allah is the tyrannical leader who himself has gone astray and through whom others go astray. He abolishes established practices and revives abandoned innovations.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 164]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): إِنَّ أَبْغَضَ الْخَلَائِقِ إِلَى اللَّهِ رَجُلَانِ: رَجُلٌ وَكَّلَهُ اللَّهُ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ، فَهُوَ جَائِرٌ عَنْ قَصْدِ السَّبِيلِ، مَشْغُوفٌ بِكَلَامِ بِدْعَةٍ وَدُعَاءِ ضَلَالَةٍ، فَهُوَ فِتْنَةٌ لِمَنْ افْتَتَنَ بِهِ، ضَالٌّ عَنْ هَدْيٍ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَهُ، مُضِلٌّ لِمَنْ اقْتَدَى بِهِ فِي حَيَاتِهِ وَبَعْدَ وَفَاتِهِ، حَمَالٌ خَطَايَا غَيْرِهِ، رَهْنٌ (رَهِينٌ) بِخَطِيئَتِهِ.

6— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Verily the most detested of all people in the sight of Allah are two: the man whom Allah has relegated to his own carnal self, so he has deviated from the straight path and is passionately fond of talking about innovations and misguiding others towards the wrong path. He tempts those who are charmed by him. He himself has strayed away from the guidance of his predecessors, and misleads those who follow him during his life as well as after his death. He carries the burden of others’ sins and is entangled in his own misdeeds...’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 17]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ) - فِي صِفَةِ الْمُنَافِقِينَ -: أُحَذِّرُكُمْ أَهْلَ النِّفَاقِ ؛ فَإِنَّهُمْ الضَّالُّونَ الْمُضِلُّونَ، وَالزَّالُّونَ الْمُزِلُّونَ.

7— Imam Ali (a.s.) said in his description of the hypocrites, ‘I warn you against the hypocrites, for verily they are themselves misguided and they misguide other people. They have slipped and they cause others to slip too.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 194]

That Which Destroys the Pillars of Misguidance

هَادِمُ أَرْكَانِ الضَّلَالَةِ

- الإمامُ عَلِيُّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): اسْتَعِينُوا بِهِ [أَيَّ الْقُرْآنِ] عَلَى لُؤَائِكُمْ؛ فَإِنَّ فِيهِ شِفَاءً مِنْ أَكْبَرِ الدَّاءِ، وَهُوَ الْكُفْرُ وَالنِّفَاقُ،⁸ وَالْغَيُّ وَالضَّلَالُ .

8— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Seek its assistance [i.e. the Qur’an’s] in your distress, for verily it contains the cure for the deadliest diseases, namely disbelief and hypocrisy, revolt and misguidance.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 176]

- الإمامُ عَلِيُّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِنَّ هَذَا الْإِسْلَامَ دِينُ اللَّهِ الَّذِي اصْطَفَاهُ لِنَفْسِهِ ... وَهَدَمَ أَرْكَانَ الضَّلَالَةِ بِرُكْنِهِ⁹

9— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Indeed this Islam is the religion of Allah which he has chosen for Himself ... and has smashed the pillars of misguidance with its one pillar.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 198]

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