

The Human Being

المَرءُ والرجل- The human being

1. A person is in the position where he places his soul through his devotion and obedience, so if he purifies it, it becomes pure and if he sullies it, it becomes sullied.

.. الْمَرءُ حَيْثُ وَضَعَ نَفْسَهُ بِرِياضَتِهِ وَطاعَتِهِ، فَإِنْ نَزَّهَها تَنَزَّهَتْ، وَإِنْ دَنَسَها تَدَنَسَتْ¹

2. A person is in the position that he chooses for his soul. If he preserves it, it becomes elevated and if he does not preserve it, it becomes abased.

.. الرَّجُلُ حَيْثُ اخْتارَ لِنَفْسِهِ إِنْ صانَها إِرْتَفَعَتْ، وَإِنْ ابْتَدَلَها إِتَضَعَتْ²

3. A person is [gauged] by his two small parts: his heart and his tongue. If he battles, he fights with his heart and if he speaks, he speaks by his articulation.

.. الْمَرءُ بِأَصْغَرَيْهِ: بِقَلْبِهِ، وَلِسانِهِ، إِنْ قاتَلَ قاتَلَ بِجَنانٍ، وَإِنْ نَطَقَ نَطَقَ بِبِبانٍ³

4. The human being changes in three instances: when he is close to kings, when he gains positions of authority and when he becomes wealthy. So whoever does not change in these conditions, then he is one who possesses a strong intellect and an upright character.

- الْمَرءُ يَتَغَيَّرُ فِي ثَلاتٍ: الْقُرْبُ مِنَ الْمُلوكِ، وَالوِلاياتُ، وَالغَناءُ مِنَ الْفَقْرِ، فَمَنْ لَمْ يَتَغَيَّرْ فِي هَذِهِ فَهُوَ ذُو عَقْلٍ قَويمٍ، وَخُلُقٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ.

5. A man is [to be gauged] by his astuteness not by his appearance.

.. الْمَرْءُ بِفِطْنَتِهِ لَا بِصُورَتِهِ 5

6. A person is [valued] by his endeavour [and effort], not by his [material] acquisition.

.. الْمَرْءُ بِهَمَّتِهِ لَا بِقُنْيَتِهِ 6

7. A man is [gauged] by his endeavour.

.. الْمَرْءُ بِهَمَّتِهِ 7

8. A person is [judged] by [what is in] his heart.

.. الرَّجُلُ بِجَنَانِهِ 8

9. A person is [gauged] by his faith.

.. الْمَرْءُ بِإِيمَانِهِ 9

10. The distinction of a man is [by] his wealth but his honour is [by] his religion.

.. حَسَبُ الرَّجُلِ مَالُهُ، وَكَرَمُهُ دِينُهُ 10

11. The distinction of a man is his intellect and his magnanimity is [by] his [good] character.

.. حَسَبُ الرَّجُلِ عَقْلُهُ، وَمُرُوَّتُهُ خُلُقُهُ 11

12. The distinction of a person is [by] his knowledge and his beauty is his intellect.

.. حَسَبُ الْمَرْءِ عِلْمُهُ، وَجَمَالُهُ عَقْلُهُ 12

13. The evidence of a person's roots is his action.

.. دَلِيلُ أَصْلِ الْمَرْءِ فِعْلُهُ 13

14. The value of every person [gauged by] is what he knows.

.. قِيَمَةُ كُلِّ امْرِءٍ مَا يَعْلَمُهُ 14

15. The value of every person is his intellect.

.. قِيَمَةُ كُلِّ امْرِءٍ عَقْلُهُ 15

16. A person's worth is based on the extent of his merit.

.. قَدْرُ الْمَرْءِ عَلَى قَدْرِ فَضْلِهِ 16

17. The worth of every person is [measured by] that which he does well.

.. قَدْرُ كُلِّ امْرِءٍ مَا يُحْسِنُهُ 17

18. Every person has a need (or for every affair there is [a proper] etiquette).

.. لِكُلِّ امْرِءٍ (أَمْرٌ أَدَبٌ) أَرَبٌ 18

19. The good and evil of every person, and the purity or impurity of his origin is evinced by what he manifests of his actions.

.. يُسْتَدَلُّ عَلَى خَيْرِ كُلِّ امْرِءٍ، وَشَرِّهِ، وَطَهَارَةِ أَصْلِهِ وَخُبَيْثِهِ، بِمَا يَظْهَرُ مِنْ أَعْمَالِهِ 19

20. When the virtues of a man are more than his vices, then that [person] is ideal, and when his virtues and vices are equal then he has protected himself [from destruction], but if his vices are more than his virtues then he is doomed.

- إِذَا كَانَتْ مَحَاسِنُ الرَّجُلِ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ مَسَاوِيهِ فَذَلِكَ الْكَامِلُ، وَإِذَا كَانَ مُتَسَاوِيِ الْمَحَاسِنِ وَالْمَسَاوِيِ فَذَلِكَ الْمَتَمَسِّكُ، وَإِنْ زَادَتْ مَسَاوِيَهُ عَلَى مَحَاسِنِهِ فَذَلِكَ الْهَالِكُ 20

21. The evil man does not think positively about anyone because he does not see anyone but through the depiction of his own soul.

.. أَلرَّجُلُ السُّوءُ لَا يَظُنُّ بِأَحَدٍ خَيْرًا، لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَرَاهُ إِلَّا بِوَصْفِ نَفْسِهِ²¹

22. The worst person is he who sells his religion for the worldly life of others.

.. بَسَّ الرَّجُلُ مَنْ بَاعَ دِينَهُ بِدُنْيَا غَيْرِهِ²²

23. At times people are deceived.

.. قَدْ تُدْعَعُ الرَّجَالُ²³

24. A person is weighed by his speech and valued by his action, so say that which is weighty and do that which has great value.

.. الْمَرْءُ يُوزَنُ بِقَوْلِهِ، وَيُقَوَّمُ بِفِعْلِهِ، فَقُلْ مَا تَرَجَّحَ زَنْتُهُ، وَافْعَلْ مَا تَجَلَّى قِيمَتُهُ²⁴

25. A person's value is indicated by his knowledge and intellect.

.. يُنْبِئُ عَن قِيمَةِ كُلِّ امْرِئٍ عِلْمُهُ وَعَقْلُهُ²⁵

26. Every person is answerable for what is in his possession and his family.

.. كُلُّ امْرِئٍ مَسْئُولٌ عَمَّا مَلَكَتْ يَمِينُهُ وَعِيَالِهِ²⁶

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