

The Miser And The Avaricious

البخيل والشحيح The Miser and the Avaricious

1. A miser is stingy towards himself with little of his worldly possessions and leaves all the rest for his heirs.

.. الْبَخِيلُ يَخْلُ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ بِالْيَسِيرِ مِنْ دُنْيَاهُ، وَيَسْمَحُ لُورَائِهِ بِكُلِّهَا¹

2. A miser gives up of more of his honour than what he holds of his possessions and loses multiple times more of his religion than what he saves of his property.

.. الْبَخِيلُ يَسْمَحُ مِنْ عَرْضِهِ بِأَكْثَرِ مِمَّا أَمْسَكَ مِنْ عَرْضِهِ، وَيُضَيِّعُ مِنْ دِينِهِ أضعافَ مَا حَفِظَ مِنْ تَشْبِهِ²

3. The farthest of creatures from Allah, the Exalted, is the wealthy miser.

.. أَبْعَدُ الْخَلَائِقِ مِنَ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى الْبَخِيلُ الْغَنِيُّ³

4. The most miserly with his possessions is the most generous with his honour.

.. أَبْخَلُ النَّاسِ بِعَرْضِهِ أَسْخَاهُمْ بِعَرْضِهِ⁴

5. The most miserly of all people is the one who is stingy to himself with his wealth, and [eventually] leaves it behind for his heirs.

.. أَبْخَلُ النَّاسِ مَنْ بَخَلَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ بِمَالِهِ، وَخَلَّفَهُ لُورَائِهِ⁵

6. The miser is dispraised, the envious is disheartened.

.. الْبَخِيلُ مَذْمُومٌ، الْحَسُودُ مَغْمُومٌ⁶

7. The miser is a treasurer for his heirs.

.. الْبَخِيلُ خَازِنٌ لَوَرَثَتِهِ⁷

8. A miser hastens poverty.

.. الْبَخِيلُ مُتَعَجِّلُ الْفَقْرِ⁸

9. A miser is always disgraced.

.. الْبَخِيلُ أَبَدًا ذَلِيلٌ⁹

10. A miser always comes up with excuses and pretexts.

.. الْبَخِيلُ مُتَحَجِّجٌ (مُتَبَجِّجٌ) بِالْمَعَاذِيرِ وَالتَّعَالِيلِ¹⁰

11. A miser is abased among those who are dear to him.

.. الْبَخِيلُ ذَلِيلٌ بَيْنَ أَعْزَتِهِ¹¹

12. I am amazed at the wretched miser who rushes towards the poverty that is fleeing him and loses the wealth that is seeking him; he lives a life of poverty in this world and is called to account with the reckoning of the wealthy in the Hereafter.

- عَجِبْتُ لِلشَّقِيِّ الْبَخِيلِ يَتَعَجَّلُ الْفَقْرَ الَّذِي مِنْهُ هَرَبَ وَيَفُوتُهُ الْغِنَى الَّذِي إِيَّاهُ طَلَبَ فَيَعِيشُ فِي الدُّنْيَا عِشَ الْفُقَرَاءِ¹²
وَيُحَاسَبُ فِي الْآخِرَةِ حِسَابَ الْأَغْنِيَاءِ.

13. The avaricious has no friend.

.. لَيْسَ لِشَحِيحٍ رَافِقٌ¹³

14. The miser has no close friend.

.. لَيْسَ لِبَخِيلٍ حَبِيبٌ¹⁴

15. He who is stingy to himself with his wealth is not successful and leaves behind his possessions for others.

.. لَمْ يُوفِّقْ مَنْ بَخِلَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ بِخَيْرِهِ وَخَلَّفَ مَالَهُ لِغَيْرِهِ¹⁵

16. One who withholds his hand out of fear of poverty has [actually] hastened poverty.

.. مَنْ قَبَضَ يَدَهُ مَخَافَةَ الْفَقْرِ فَقَدْ تَعَجَّلَ الْفَقْرَ¹⁶

17. One who is stingy with his wealth is abased.

.. مَنْ بَخِلَ بِمَالِهِ ذَلٌّ¹⁷

18. One who is miserly with that which he does not [even] possess, has exceeded in meanness.

(.. مَنْ بَخِلَ بِمَا لَا يَمْلِكُهُ فَقَدْ بَالَغَ فِي الرَّذِيلَةِ (بالرَّذِيلَةِ¹⁸

19. One who withholds his hand from [spending on] his family has only held back one hand from them but caused many hands to be withheld by them [against him].

.. مَنْ يَقْبِضُ يَدَهُ عَنْ عَشِيرَتِهِ، فَإِنَّمَا يَقْبِضُ يَدًا وَاحِدًا عَنْهُمْ، وَيَقْبِضُ عَنْهُ أَيْدِي كَثِيرَةٍ مِنْهُمْ¹⁹

20. One who is stingy with his wealth towards himself, is generous with it to his wife's [next] husband.

.. مَنْ بَخِلَ بِمَالِهِ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ جَادَ بِهِ عَلَى بَعْلِ عَرْسِهِ²⁰

21. He who is stingy to the one who needs what he possesses, Allah's wrath upon him increases.

.. مَنْ بَخِلَ عَلَى الْمُحْتَاجِ بِمَا لَدَيْهِ كَثُرَ سَخَطُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ²¹

22. He who is stingy with his favours has not fastened his faith [and made it firm].

.. مَا عَقَدَ إِيمَانَهُ مَنْ بَخِلَ بِإِحْسَانِهِ²²

23. He who is stingy with his favours is not intelligent.

.. مَا عَقَلَ مَنْ بَخِلَ بِإِحْسَانِهِ²³

24. While passing by some filth in a cesspit, he ('a) said: This is what you were competing for yesterday. And in another narration, he said: This is what the misers were stingy with.

- وقال - عليه السلام -: وَقَدْ مَرَّ بِقَذِرٍ عَلَى مَزْبَلَةٍ: هَذَا مَا كُنْتُمْ تَتَنَافَسُونَ فِيهِ بِالْأَمْسِ وَفِي²⁴
خبر آخر أنه قال: هَذَا مَا بَخِلَ بِهِ الْبَاخِلُونَ.

25. Woe to the miser who hastens towards the poverty which has fled from him and abandons the wealth that has sought him.

.. وَيَحَ الْبَخِيلُ الْمُتَعَجِّلُ الْفَقْرَ الَّذِي مِنْهُ هَرَبَ، وَالتَّارِكُ الْغِنَى الَّذِي إِيَّاهُ طَلَبَ²⁵

26. Do not be stingy by acting tightfistedly; and do not waste by acting extravagantly.

.. لَا تَبْخُلْ فَتُقْتَرَ وَلَا تُسْرِفْ فَتُفْرِطَ²⁶

27. There is no magnanimity in a miser.

.. لَا مِرَّةَ لِبَخِيلٍ²⁷

28. Nothing holds back wealth except stinginess, and a miser is blameworthy and liable for punishment.

.. لَا يُبْقَى الْمَالُ إِلَّا الْبُخْلُ، وَالْبَخِيلُ مُعَاقَبٌ مَلُومٌ²⁸

29. A miser is rebuked in this world, and punished and chastised in the Hereafter.

.. أَلْبَاخِلُ فِي الدُّنْيَا مَذْمُومٌ، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ مُعَذَّبٌ مَلُومٌ²⁹

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