

The Ruler (The Sultan)

The Ruler (The Sultan) السُّلْطَان

Associating with A Tyrannical Ruler

إِيَّاكُمْ وَمُخَالَطَةَ السُّلْطَانِ الْجَائِرِ

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): إِيَّاكُمْ وَمُخَالَطَةَ السُّلْطَانِ فَإِنَّهُ ذَهَابُ الدِّينِ ، وَإِيَّاكُمْ وَمَعُونَتَهُ فَإِنَّكُمْ لَا تَحْمَدُونَ¹ أَمْرَهُ.

1— The Prophet (S) said, 'Beware of associating with the [unjust] ruler for verily it causes faith to depart. And beware of assisting him for indeed you do not approve of his rule.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 10, p. 368, no. 7]

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ لَزِمَ السُّلْطَانَ أُفْتِنَ ، وَمَا يَزِدَادُ مِنَ السُّلْطَانِ قُرْبًا إِلَّا أَزْدَادَ مِنَ اللَّهِ بُعْدًا²

2— The Prophet (S) said, 'Whoever adheres to the ruler will be tempted away from the right course, and the closer one gets to the ruler the further away one is from Allah.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 371, no. 13]

- رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): إِيَّاكُمْ وَأَبْوَابَ السُّلْطَانِ وَحَوَاشِيهَا؛ فَإِنَّ أَقْرَبَكُمْ مِنْ أَبْوَابِ السُّلْطَانِ وَحَوَاشِيهَا³ أَبْعَدُكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ، وَمَنْ آثَرَ السُّلْطَانَ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ أَذْهَبَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ الْوَرَعَ وَجَعَلَهُ حَيْرَانَ.

3— The Prophet (S) said, 'Beware of [going near] the ruler's gates and the retinue guarding them, for verily the nearest of you to the gates and retinue of the ruler is the farthest away from Allah, Mighty and Exalted. And whoever chooses the ruler over Allah, Mighty and Exalted, Allah will strip away his piety and will render him bewildered.' [Bihar al-Anwar, p. 372, no. 19]

.. الإمام عليّ (عليه السلام): صاحبُ السُّلطانِ كراكِبِ الأسدِ، يُغْبَطُ بموقعِهِ ، وهو أعلمُ بموضِعِهِ4

4— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The one who associates with the ruler is like one who rides a lion – he is envied for his [high] position, and yet only he best knows his [unstable] situation.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 263]

.. الإمام عليّ (عليه السلام): باعِدِ السُّلطانَ لِتَأَمِّنَ خُدْعَ الشَّيْطانِ5

5— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Keep away from the sultan in order to be safe from the deception of Satan.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 215, no. 1]

Subservience to a Tyrannical Ruler

الخُضوعُ لِلسُّلطانِ الجائرِ

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ خَفَّ لِسُلطانٍ جائِرٍ في حاجَةٍ كانَ قَرينَهُ في النارِ6

6— The Prophet (S) said, 'Whoever yields to a tyrannical ruler in any matter will be his companion in the Fire.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 76, p. 360, no. 30]

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ مَدَحَ سُلطاناً جائِراً وَتَخَفَّفَ وَتَضَعَّعَ لَهُ طَمَعاً فِيهِ ، كانَ قَرينَهُ إلى النارِ7

7— The Prophet (S) said, 'Whoever praises a tyrannical ruler, succumbs to him or humbles himself in front of him in a bid to secure his pleasure, will accompany him to the Fire.' [Amali al-Saduq, p. 347, no. 1]

- الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عليه السلام): أَيُّما مُؤمِنٍ خَضَعَ لِصاحبِ سُلطانٍ أو مَنْ يُخالِفُهُ على دِينِهِ طَلَباً لِمَا في يَدَيْهِ، أَخَمَلَهُ اللهُ وَمَقَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَوَكَّلَهُ إِلَيْهِ ، فَإِنْ هُوَ غَلَبَ على شَيْءٍ مِنْ دُنْياهُ وصارَ في يَدِهِ مِنْهُ شَيْءٌ ، نَزَعَ اللهُ الْبَرَكةَ مِنْهُ

8— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Any believer who is subservient to the ruler or any of his entourage, going against his faith in his bid to secure the worldly things that the ruler has in his grasp, Allah will reduce him to obscurity, render him odious to him [the ruler] and will relegate him to the ruler. And whatever he manages to acquire and possess of the worldly things, Allah will strip them of their benediction.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 371, no. 15]

The Virtue of a Just Ruler

فَضْلُ السُّلْطَانِ الْعَادِلِ

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): السُّلْطَانُ الْعَادِلُ الْمُتَوَاضِعُ ظِلُّ اللهِ وَرُمْحُهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ 9

9— The Prophet (S) said, 'The just and humble ruler is Allah's Shade and His Lance on this earth.' [Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 14589]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): السُّلْطَانُ وَزَعَةُ اللهِ فِي أَرْضِهِ 10

10— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The [just] ruler is Allah's lifeguard on His earth.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 332]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِنَّ فِي سُلْطَانِ اللهِ عِصْمَةً لِأَمْرِكُمْ، فَأَعْطُوهُ طَاعَتَكُمْ غَيْرَ مُلَوِّمَةٍ (مُتَلَوِّمِينَ) وَلَا 11
مُسْتَكْرَهٍ بِهَا ، وَاللهُ لَتَفْعَلَنَّ أَوْ لَيَنْقُلَنَّ اللهُ عَنْكُمْ سُلْطَانَ الْإِسْلَامِ ، ثُمَّ لَا يَنْقُلُهُ إِلَيْكُمْ أَبَدًا حَتَّى يَأْرِزَ الْأَمْرُ إِلَى غَيْرِكُمْ .

11— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Verily the ruler in the way of Allah safeguards your affairs, so offer him such obedience as is neither blameworthy nor reluctant. By Allah, you must do so else Allah will take away the rule of Islam from you, never to return it to you thereafter until it settles with others.' [Bihar al-Anwar, Sermon 169]

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