

## The Scholar

### The Scholar-العالم

1. The scholar is one whose actions attest to the veracity of his words.

.. الْعَالِمُ مَنْ شَهِدَتْ بِصِحَّةِ أَقْوَالِهِ أَعْمَالُهُ1

2. Scholars are strangers [in their own land] because of the large numbers of ignorant people.

.. الْعُلَمَاءُ غُرَبَاءُ لِكَثْرَةِ الْجُهَالِ2

3. The scholar is one who is not satisfied with [his] knowledge nor does he allow himself to be satiated by it.

.. الْعَالِمُ مَنْ لَا يَشْبَعُ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ، وَلَا يَتَشَبَعُ بِهِ3

4. The scholar recognizes the ignorant one because he used to be ignorant [himself] before.

.. الْعَالِمُ يَعْرِفُ الْجَاهِلَ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ قَبْلُ جَاهِلًا4

5. The scholar who is truly a scholar, is one who does not prevent the servants from having hope in the mercy of Allah and [at the same time] does not give them false security from the scheme of Allah.

.. الْعَالِمُ كُلُّ الْعَالِمِ مَنْ لَمْ يَمْنَعْ الْعِبَادَ الرَّجَاءَ لِرَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ وَلَمْ يُؤْمِنْهُمْ مَكْرَ اللَّهِ5

6. The scholar and the student are partners in reward; there no good in anything between this. [1](#)

.. أَلْعَالِمُ وَالْمُتَعَلِّمُ شَرِيكَانِ فِي الْأَجْرِ، وَلَا خَيْرَ فِيمَا بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ<sup>6</sup>

7. Scholars are the purest of people in character and the least rooted in [vain] desires.

.. أَلْعُلَمَاءُ أَطْهَرُ النَّاسِ أَخْلَاقًا، وَأَقْلُهُمْ فِي الْمَطَامِعِ أَعْرَاقًا<sup>7</sup>

8. The scholar is a living [person] among the dead.

.. أَلْعَالِمُ حَيٌّ بَيْنَ الْمَوْتَى<sup>8</sup>

9. Be careful not to disparage scholars, for indeed this will degrade you and make others think ill of you and expect evil from you.

.. إِيَّاكَ أَنْ تَسْتَخِفَّ بِالْعُلَمَاءِ، فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ يُزْرِي بِكَ، وَيُسِيءُ الظَّنَّ بِكَ، وَالْمَخِيلَةَ فَيْكَ<sup>9</sup>

10. The most learned among you are the most fearful of you.

.. أَعْلَمُكُمْ أَخَوْفُكُمْ<sup>10</sup>

11. The people who are most deserving of the [guidance of the] Prophets are those who have the most knowledge about what they came with.

.. أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ، أَعْلَمُهُمْ بِمَا جَاءُوا بِهِ<sup>11</sup>

12. The most learned person is the one who is most infatuated with knowledge.

.. أَعْلَمُ النَّاسِ الْمُسْتَهْتَرُ بِالْعِلْمِ<sup>12</sup>

13. The most learned of people about Allah, the Glorified, are the most fearful of Him.

.. أَعْلَمُ النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ سُبْحَانَهُ أَخَوْفُهُمْ مِنْهُ<sup>13</sup>

14. The most learned of people about Allah, the Glorified, are the most satisfied with His decree.

.. أَعْلَمُ النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ أَرْضَاهُمْ بِقَضَائِهِ<sup>14</sup>

15. The greatest of people in knowledge are the most intense in [their] fear of Allah, the Glorified.

.. أَعْظَمُ النَّاسِ عِلْمًا أَشَدَّهُمْ خَوْفًا لِلَّهِ سُبْحَانَهُ<sup>15</sup>

16. The most learned of people about Allah are those who are most fearful of Him.

.. أَعْلَمُ النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ خَشِيَةً لَهُ<sup>16</sup>

17. The most hated of servants in the sight of Allah is the haughty scholar.

.. أَبْغَضُ الْعِبَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ سُبْحَانَهُ الْعَالِمُ الْمُتَجَبِّرُ<sup>17</sup>

18. Those with the greatest burden among the people are the scholars who exceed the limits.

.. أَعْظَمُ النَّاسِ وِزْرًا الْعُلَمَاءُ الْمُفْرِطُونَ<sup>18</sup>

19. The most regretful of all people at the time of death are the scholars who don't act on their knowledge.

.. أَشَدُّ النَّاسِ نَدَمًا عِنْدَ الْمَوْتِ الْعُلَمَاءُ غَيْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ<sup>19</sup>

20. The most learned of people is one whose doubt does not dispel his certainty.

.. أَعْلَمُ النَّاسِ مَنْ لَمْ يُزَلِّ الشَّكُّ يَقِينَهُ<sup>20</sup>

21. The person who is most learned about Allah is he who asks from Him the most.

.. أَعْلَمُ النَّاسِ بِاللَّهِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَهُ مَسْئَلَةً<sup>21</sup>

22. Verily the narrators of knowledge are many, but those who are careful of [acting upon] it are few.

.. إِنَّ رِوَاةَ الْعِلْمِ كَثِيرٌ، وَرِعَاتَهُ قَلِيلٌ<sup>22</sup>

23. Verily the people who are most deserving of the [guidance of the] Prophets – peace be upon them – are those who have the most knowledge about (or act upon) their teachings.

.. إِنَّ أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِالْأَنْبِيَاءِ - عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ - أَعْلَمُهُمْ (أَعْمَلُهُمْ) بِمَا جَاءُوا بِهِ 23

24. The scholar is honoured because of his knowledge, the elderly because of his age, the doer of good because of his goodness and the king because of his kingship.

.. يُكْرَمُ الْعَالِمُ لِعِلْمِهِ، وَالْكَبِيرُ لِسِنِّهِ، وَذُو الْمَعْرُوفِ لِمَعْرُوفِهِ، وَالسُّلْطَانُ لِسُلْطَانِهِ 24

25. The scholars are judges over the people.

.. الْعُلَمَاءُ حُكَّامٌ عَلَى النَّاسِ 25

26. The scholar is alive even when he is dead.

.. الْعَالِمُ حَيٌّ، وَإِنْ كَانَ مَيِّتًا 26

27. The scholar is one who knows his [own] status [and worth].

.. الْعَالِمُ مَنْ عَرَفَ قَدْرَهُ 27

28. The scholar sees with his heart and his mind while the ignorant one sees with his eyes and his eyesight.

.. الْعَالِمُ يَنْظُرُ بِقَلْبِهِ وَخَاطِرِهِ، الْجَاهِلُ يَنْظُرُ بِعَيْنِهِ وَنَاطِرِهِ 28

29. The scholar is a person who does not get weary of gaining knowledge.

.. الْعَالِمُ الَّذِي لَا يَمُلُّ مِنْ تَعَلُّمِ الْعِلْمِ 29

30. Scholars live on as long as the day and night remains.

.. الْعُلَمَاءُ بِأَقْوَانِ مَا بَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ 30

31. The concealer of knowledge is not certain of being correct in it.

.. أَلْكَاتِمُ لِلْعِلْمِ غَيْرُ وَاثِقٍ بِالإِصَابَةِ فِيهِ 31

32. Only he is a scholar whose knowledge calls him to piety and God-woriness, to abstinence from the pleasures of the transient world and to infatuation with the heavenly abode.

.. إِنَّمَا الْعَالِمُ مَنْ دَعَاهُ عِلْمُهُ إِلَى الْوَرَعِ وَالتَّقَى، وَالتَّوَهُدِ فِي عَالَمِ الْفَنَاءِ، وَالتَّوَلَّاهُ بِجَنَّةِ الْمَأْوَى 32

33. The bane of scholars is love for leadership [and authority].

.. آفَةُ الْعُلَمَاءِ حُبُّ الرِّيَاسَةِ 33

34. When you see a [true] scholar, be a servant to him.

.. إِذَا رَأَيْتَ عَالِمًا فَكُنْ لَهُ خَادِمًا 34

35. Congratulations to the scholar who knows and thus restrains himself [from sin], and who fears the sudden coming [of death] so he prepares himself and gets ready. If he is questioned he articulates, and if he is left he remains silent; his speech is accurate and his silence is not because of his inability to give an answer.

- بَخَّ بَخَّ لِعَالِمٍ عِلْمَ فَكْفٍ، وَخَافَ الْبَيَاتَ فَأَعَدَّ وَاسْتَعَدَّ، إِنْ سُئِلَ أَفْصَحَ، وَإِنْ تَرَكَ سَكَتَ (صَمَتَ)، كَلَامُهُ صَوَابٌ، 35  
وَسُكُوتُهُ عَنْ غَيْرِ عَيٍّ عَنِ الْجَوَابِ.

36. Sit in the company of scholars and you will be felicitous.

.. جَالِسِ الْعُلَمَاءَ تَسْعَدُ 36

37. Sit in the company of scholars and you will increase your knowledge.

.. جَالِسِ الْعُلَمَاءَ تَزِدُّ عِلْمًا 37

38. The beauty of a scholar is [in] his acting upon his knowledge.

.. جَمَالُ الْعَالِمِ عَمَلُهُ بِعِلْمِهِ 38

39. Sit with the scholars and your knowledge will increase, your etiquette will improve and your soul will become purified.

.. جَالِسِ الْعُلَمَاءِ، يَزِدُّدُ عِلْمُكَ، وَيَحْسُنُ أَدَبُكَ، وَتَزَكُّ نَفْسُكَ 39

40. Be close to the scholars and you will perceive.

.. جَاوِرِ الْعُلَمَاءِ تَسْتَبْصِرُ 40

41. Many a scholar is killed by his knowledge.

.. رُبَّ عَالِمٍ قَتَلَهُ عِلْمُهُ 41

42. Many a person who claims to have knowledge is not a scholar.

.. رُبَّ مُدَّعٍ لِلْعِلْمِ لَيْسَ بِعَالِمٍ 42

43. Many a scholar does not benefit [from his knowledge].

.. رُبَّ عَالِمٍ غَيْرٌ مُنْتَفِعٍ 43

44. The rank of a scholar is the highest of ranks.

.. رُتْبَةُ الْعَالِمِ أَعْلَى الْمَرَاتِبِ 44

45. The lapse [and misguidance] of a scholar corrupts entire worlds.

.. زَلَّةُ الْعَالِمِ تُفْسِدُ عَوَالِمَ 45

46. The lapse of a scholar is like the breaking up of a ship, it sinks and causes others to sink along with it.

.. زَلَّةُ الْعَالِمِ كَأَنْكِسَارِ السَّفِينَةِ، تَغْرُقُ، وَتُغْرَقُ مَعَهَا غَيْرَهَا46

47. The lapse of a scholar is a serious offence.

.. زَلَّةُ الْعَالِمِ كَبِيرَةُ الْجِنَايَةِ47

48. It is upon the scholar to learn that which he does not know and to teach the people what he has learnt.

.. عَلَى الْعَالِمِ أَنْ يَتَعَلَّمَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ، وَيُعَلِّمَ النَّاسَ مَا قَدْ عَلَّمَ48

49. It is the duty of the scholar to act upon what he knows and then seek to learn that which he does not know.

.. عَلَى الْعَالِمِ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ بِمَا عَلِمَ، ثُمَّ يَطْلُبُ تَعَلُّمَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ49

50. A scholar who opposes you is better than the ignorant person who assists you.

.. عَالِمٌ مُعَانِدٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ جَاهِلٍ مُسَاعِدٍ50

51. Every scholar is fearful [of Allah].

.. كُلُّ عَالِمٍ خَائِفٌ51

52. How many a scholar is corrupt and [how many] a worshipper is ignorant, so be wary of the corrupt among the scholars and the ignorant among the worshippers.

.. كَمْ مِنْ عَالِمٍ فَاجِرٍ وَعَابِدٍ جَاهِلٍ، فَاتَّقُوا الْفَاجِرَ مِنَ الْعُلَمَاءِ، وَالْجَاهِلَ مِنَ الْمُتَعَبِّدِينَ52

53. It is enough of ignorance for a scholar that his actions contradict his knowledge.

.. كَفَى بِالْعَالِمِ جَهْلًا أَنْ يُنَافِيَ عِلْمَهُ عَمَلُهُ53

54. Be either a knowledgeable speaker or a keen listener, and beware of being the third type.

.. كُنْ عَالِماً نَاطِقاً، أَوْ مُسْتَمِعاً وَاعِياً، وَإِيَّاكَ أَنْ تَكُونَ الثَّالِثَ 54

55. Be knowledgeable about the truth and act upon it, [and through this] Allah, the Glorified, will save you.

.. كُنْ عَالِماً بِالْحَقِّ، عَامِلاً بِهِ، يُنْجِكَ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ 55

56. If the people of knowledge were to carry it as it deserves to be carried, Allah and His angels would surely love them, but they bear it in order to seek worldly gain, so Allah, the Exalted, is displeased with them and they are thus abased by it.

.. لَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْعِلْمِ حَمَلُوهُ بِحَقِّهِ لَأَحَبَّهُمُ اللَّهُ وَمَلَائِكَتُهُ، وَلَكِنَّهُمْ حَمَلُوهُ لِطَلَبِ الدُّنْيَا، فَمَقَتَهُمُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى وَهَانُوا عَلَيْهِ 56

57. One who has knowledge asks good [and pertinent] questions.

.. مَنْ عِلْمَ أَحْسَنَ السُّؤَالِ 57

58. One who knows must act upon his knowledge.

.. مَنْ عِلْمَ عَمِلَ 58

59. One who gains knowledge (or acts [upon his knowledge]) is rightly guided.

.. مَنْ عِلْمَ (عَمِلَ) هْتَدَى 59

60. One who wastes his knowledge [by not acting upon it] faces turmoil.

.. مَنْ أَضَاعَ عِلْمَهُ اِلْتَطَمَ 60

61. One who reveres a scholar has revered his Lord.

.. مَنْ وَقَرَ عَالِماً فَقَدْ وَقَرَ رَبَّهُ 61

62. Whoever does not nurture his knowledge in solitude, it humiliates him among the people.

.. مَنْ لَمْ يَتَعَاهَدْ عِلْمَهُ فِي الْخَلَا فَضَحَهُ فِي الْمَلَا 62

63. One who claims to have reached the end of knowledge has manifested the highest level of ignorance.

.. مَنْ ادَّعى مِنَ الْعِلْمِ غَايَتَهُ فَقَدْ أَظْهَرَ مِنْ جَهْلِهِ نَهَايَتَهُ 63

64. It is necessary for every scholar to secure his sides with piety and to extend his knowledge to the one who seeks it.

.. مِنَ الْمَفْرُوضِ عَلَى كُلِّ عَالِمٍ أَنْ يَصُونَهُ بِالْوَرَعِ جَانِبَهُ، وَأَنْ يَبْذُلَ عِلْمَهُ لِطَالِبِهِ 64

65. Considering your knowledge (or action) as little is from the excellence of your knowledge.

(. مِنْ فَضْلِ عِلْمِكَ إِسْتِقْلَالُكَ لِعِلْمِكَ (لِعَمَلِكَ 65

66. He who does not act upon his knowledge has not truly gained knowledge.

.. مَا عَلِمَ مَنْ لَمْ يَعْمَلْ بِعِلْمِهِ 66

67. How many are those who gain knowledge but do not follow it!

.. مَا أَكْثَرَ مَنْ يَعْلَمُ الْعِلْمَ وَلَا يَتَّبِعُهُ 67

68. Allah, the Glorified, did not make it incumbent upon the ignorant one to learn until He had made it incumbent upon the learned to teach.

.. مَا أَخَذَ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ عَلَى الْجَاهِلِ أَنْ يَتَعَلَّمَ حَتَّى أَخَذَ عَلَى الْعَالِمِ أَنْ يُعَلِّمَ 68

69. Only two [types of] people have broken my back: the impudent scholar and the ignorant worshipper. One drives people away from the truth by his immorality and the other invites people to falsehood with his devotion.

.. مَا قَصَمَ ظَهْرِي إِلَّا رَجُلَانِ: عَالِمٌ مُتَهَنِّكٌ وَجَاهِلٌ مُتَنَسِّكٌ، هَذَا يُنْفِرُ عَن حَقِّهِ بِهَتِكِهِ، وَهَذَا يَدْعُو إِلَى بَاطِلِهِ بِنُسْكِهِ 69

70. The competition (or argumentation) of the scholars results in their gaining benefit and their earning merits.

.. مُنَاقَسَةٌ (مُنَاقَشَةٌ) الْعُلَمَاءِ تُنْتِجُ فَوَائِدَهُمْ، وَتَكْسِبُ فَضَائِلَهُمْ 70

71. The keepers of material treasures are annihilated while they are [still] alive while the scholars remain as long as the nights and days remain. Their bodies are lost but their examples [and teachings continue to] remain in the hearts.

- هَلَكَ خُزَانُ الْأَمْوَالِ وَهُمْ أَحْيَاءُ، وَالْعُلَمَاءُ بَاقُونَ مَا بَقِيَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ، أَعْيَانُهُمْ مَفْقُودَةٌ وَأَمْثَالُهُمْ فِي الْقُلُوبِ 71  
مَوْجُودَةٌ.

72. Never disrespect a scholar, even if he is lowly.

.. لَا تَزْدَرِينِ الْعَالِمَ وَإِنْ كَانَ حَقِيرًا 72

73. There is no lapse more serious than the lapse of a scholar.

.. لِأَزَلَةٍ أَشَدَّ مِنْ زَلَّةِ عَالِمٍ 73

74. A scholar is not a true scholar until he stops being jealous of one who is above him, does not demean one who is below him and does not take in return for his knowledge anything of the vanities of this world.

.. لَا يَكُونُ الْعَالِمُ عَالِمًا حَتَّى لَا يَحْسُدَ مَنْ فَوْقَهُ، وَلَا يَحْتَقِرَ مَنْ دُونَهُ، وَلَا يَأْخُذُ عَلَى عِلْمِهِ شَيْئًا مِنْ حُطَامِ الدُّنْيَا 74

75. The knowledge of a man should surpass his speech and his intelligence should prevail over his tongue.

.. يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يَكُونَ عِلْمُ الرَّجُلِ زَائِدًا عَلَى نَطْقِهِ، وَعَقْلُهُ غَالِبًا عَلَى لِسَانِهِ 75

76. The bane of the masses is a corrupt scholar.

.. آفَةٌ الْعَامَّةِ الْعَالِمُ الْفَاجِرُ 76

1. Meaning there is no good in anyone other than the scholar and the student.

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