

Wretchedness

Wretchedness الشَّقَاوَة

Characteristics of a Wretched Person

خَصَائِصُ الشَّقِيِّ

.. الإمامُ عليُّ (عليه السَّلامُ): الشَّقِيُّ مَنْ انْخَدَعَ لِهَوَاهُ وَغُرُورِهِ1

1– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The wretched one is he who lets himself be deceived by his whims and his delusion.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 86]

.. الإمامُ عليُّ (عليه السَّلامُ): إِنَّ الشَّقِيَّ مَنْ حُرِمَ نَفْعَ مَا أُوتِيَ مِنَ الْعَقْلِ وَالتَّجَرِبَةِ2

2– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Verily the wretched person is he who is deprived of drawing any benefit from his intellect and the experiences that he has been granted.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Letter 78]

.. الإمامُ عليُّ (عليه السَّلامُ): تَوَقَّؤُا الْمَعَاصِيَّ وَاحْبِسُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ عَنْهَا ؛ فَإِنَّ الشَّقِيَّ مَنْ أَطْلَقَ فِيهَا عِنَانَهُ3

3– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Be on your guard against sins and restrain yourself from them, for verily the wretched one is he who gives himself free rein to them.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4499]

The Wretched One Was Wretched As a Foetus in His Mother’s Womb

الشَّقِيُّ شَقِيٌّ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): السَّعِيدُ مَنْ سَعِدَ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ ، وَالشَّقِيُّ مَنْ شَقِيَ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ4

4— The Prophet (S) said, ‘The prosperous one is he who prospered from when he was in his mother’s womb, and the wretched one is he who was wretched from when he was in his mother’s womb.’[Kanz al-’Ummal, no. 491]

- الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّوَجَلَّ خَلَقَ السَّعَادَةَ وَالشَّقَاوَةَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يَخْلُقَ خَلْقَهُ ، فَمَنْ عَلِمَهُ اللَّهُ سَعِيداً لَمْ يُبْغِضْهُ أَبَداً ، وَإِنْ عَمِلَ شَرّاً أَبْغَضَ عَمَلَهُ وَلَمْ يُبْغِضْهُ ، وَإِنْ كَانَ عَلِمَهُ شَقِيّاً لَمْ يُحِبَّهُ أَبَداً ، وَإِنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحاً أَحَبَّهُ . عَمَلُهُ وَأَبْغَضُهُ لِمَا يَصِيرُ إِلَيْهِ .

5— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Verily Allah, Mighty and Exalted, created prosperity and wretchedness before He even created His creation. So whoever Allah knows will be prosperous, He will never despise, and even when he commits an evil deed, He will despise the deed but not the person. And if He knows that someone will be wretched, He will never love him, and even when he performs a good deed, He will love the deed but despise the person because of what he is to become.’[al-Tawhid, p. 357, no. 5]

- الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى يَنْقُلُ الْعَبْدَ مِنَ الشَّقَاءِ إِلَى السَّعَادَةِ ، وَلَا يَنْقُلُهُ مِنَ السَّعَادَةِ إِلَى الشَّقَاءِ .

6— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Verily Allah, Blessed and most High, may transfer a servant from wretchedness to prosperity, but He never transfers anyone from prosperity to wretchedness.’[al-Tawhid, p. 358, no. 6]

- عن مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ أَبِي عُمَيْرٍ: سَأَلْتُ أَبَا الْحَسَنِ مُوسَى بْنَ جَعْفَرٍ (عَنْ مَعْنَى قَوْلِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): «الشَّقِيُّ مَنْ شَقِيَ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ ، وَالسَّعِيدُ مَنْ سَعِدَ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ» ، فَقَالَ: الشَّقِيُّ مَنْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ أَنْ تَعْمَلَ أَعْمَالَ الْأَشْقِيَاءِ ، وَالسَّعِيدُ مَنْ عَلِمَ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ فِي بَطْنِ أُمِّهِ أَنْ تَعْمَلَ أَعْمَالَ السَّعْدَاءِ .

7— Imam al-Kazim (a.s.) was once asked by Ibn Abi ‘Umayr about the Prophet (S)’s saying, ‘The prosperous one is he who prospered from when he was in his mother’s womb, and the wretched one is he who was wretched from when he was in his mother’s womb’, to which he replied, ‘The wretched one is he who, from when he was in his mother’s womb, Allah knew would commit acts characteristic of wretched people, and the prosperous one is he who, from when he was in his mother’s womb, Allah knew would perform acts characteristic of prosperous people.’[al-Tawhid, p. 356, no. 3]

That Which Brings About Wretchedness

ما يوجبُ الشَّقَاءَ

.. الإمامُ عليُّ (عليه السَّلَامُ): سَبَبُ الشَّقَاءِ حُبُّ الدُّنْيَا

8– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The cause of wretchedness is love of this world.’[Ghurar al–Hikam, no. 4499]

.. الإمامُ الحسينُ (عليه السَّلَامُ) - في دعاءِ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ -: اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي أَخْشَاكَ كَأَنِّي أَرَاكَ ، وَأَسْعِدْنِي بِتَقْوَاكَ ، وَلَا تُشَقِّنِي بِمَعْصِيَتِكَ .

9– Imam al–Husayn (a.s.) said in his supplication of ‘Arafa, ‘O Allah, make me fear you as if I see you, let me prosper through being conscious of my duty to You, and keep me from becoming wretched as a consequence of Your disobedience.’[Bihar al–Anwar, v. 98, p. 218, no. 3]

The Most Wretched of All People

أشَقَى النَّاسِ

.. عيسى (عليه السَّلَامُ): أَشَقَى النَّاسِ مَنْ هُوَ مَعْرُوفٌ عِنْدَ النَّاسِ بِعِلْمِهِ مَجْهُولٌ بِعَمَلِهِ

10– Prophet Jesus (a.s.) said, ‘The most wretched of people is he who is reputed amongst people for his knowledge but not known for his action thereof.’[Bihar al–Anwar, v. 2, p. 52, no. 19]

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): أَشَقَى الْأَشْقِيَاءِ مَنْ اجْتَمَعَ عَلَيْهِ فَقْرُ الدُّنْيَا وَعَذَابُ الْآخِرَةِ

11– The Prophet (S) said, ‘The most wretched of all wretched people is he who faces both poverty in this world as well as punishment in the Hereafter.’[Kanz al–’Ummal, no. 16683]

.. الإمامُ عليُّ (عليه السَّلَامُ) - وقد سُئِلَ عن أَشَقَى النَّاسِ -: مَنْ بَاعَ دِينَهُ بِدُنْيَا غَيْرِهِ

12– Imam Ali (a.s.) when asked who the most wretched of all people was, replied, ‘He who sells his Hereafter for someone else’s profit in this world.’[Amali al–Saduq, p. 322, no. 4]

The Symptoms of Wretchedness

عَلَامَاتُ الشَّقَاءِ

- رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مِنْ عَلَامَاتِ الشَّقَاءِ: جُمُودُ الْعَيْنِ ، وَقَسْوَةُ الْقَلْبِ ، وَشِدَّةُ الْحِرْصِ فِي طَلَبِ الرِّزْقِ ، وَالْإِصْرَارُ عَلَى الذَّنْبِ .

13- The Prophet (S) said, ‘Among the symptoms of wretchedness are: a look of apathy in the eyes, hardness of the heart, intense greed in seeking out one’s livelihood, and persistence in committing sins.’[al-Khisal, p. 243, no. 96]

.. الإِمَامُ عَلِيُّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): مِنْ عَلَامَةِ الشَّقَاءِ غِشُّ الصَّدِيقِ 14

14- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘One of the symptoms of wretchedness is swindling one’s own friend.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9297]

.. الإِمَامُ عَلِيُّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): مِنْ عَلَامَاتِ الشَّقَاءِ الْإِسَاءَةُ إِلَى الْأَخْيَارِ 15

15- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Among the symptoms of wretchedness is maltreatment of good people.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9307]