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14. Hajj and the Renewal of the Pledge

قَالَ أَبُو جَعْفَرٍ (ع): وَ الْحَجْرُ كَالْمِيثَاقِ وَ إِسْتِلاَمُهُ كَالْبَيْعَةِ وَ كَانَ إِذَا إِسْتَلَمَهُ قَالَ: أَللَّهُمَّ أَمَانَتِي أَدَّيْتُهَا وَ مِيثَاقِي تَعَاهَدْتُهُ لِيَشْهَدَلِي عِنْدَكَ بِالْبَلاَغِ.

Abu Ja'far [Imam Muhammad Ibn 'Ali al-Baqir] (peace be upon him) has said, "The Hajr (Hajrul Aswad – the Black Stone) is like the pledge (of Allah) and rubbing the hand over it is like making a pledge of allegiance (to Allah)." Whenever the Imam (peace be upon him) would rub his hand over the Hajrul Aswad he used to say:

أَللَّهُمَّ أَمَانَتِي أَدَّيْتُهَا وَ مِيثَاقِي تَعَاهَدْتُهُ لِيَشْهَدَلِي عِنْدَكَ بِالْبَلاَغِ

"O' Allah! I have fulfilled my trust and have renewed my pledge so that it (the Hajr al-Aswad) can bear witness that surely I have fulfilled my responsibility."

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