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In the Company of the Caliph

Taken from: **Anecdotes of Pious Men** by Murtadha Mutahhari,
Contributed by Mahwash Hirmendi, mhirmend@opal.tufts.edu [1].

When ‘Ali (as) was coming to Kufa, he entered the city of Anbar populated by Iranians. The Iranian farmers were very happy to see their beloved caliph passing through their town. They came to his visit. When it was time for ‘Ali (as) to leave, they started running in front of his horse. ‘Ali (as) inquired about this behaviour.

“This is one way that we extend respect to our leaders and respectful individuals. This is our custom that has been practiced for years.”

“This behaviour puts you in discomfort in this world, and brings about humiliation in the next world. Always stay away from practices that humiliate you. After all what benefit is there in such a practice to the recipients?”¹

¹. Nahj al Balagha. Kalamat-e Qhisar (Short words), # 37.

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