

Infallibility

العصمة Infallibility

Infallibility

تفسير المعصوم

. الإمام علي عليه السلام : من أُلهم العِصمة أَمِنَ الزَّلَل -1

1— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘He who is divinely granted infallibility is safe from error.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 8469]

- معاني الأخبار عن الإمام الكاظم عن آبائه عن الإمام زين العابدين: الإمام منا لا يكون إلا معصوماً، وليست العِصمة في ظاهر الخلقة فيعرف بها ، ولذلك لا يكون إلا منصوصاً. فقيل له: يابن رسول الله ، فما معنى المعصوم؟ فقال: هو المعتصم بحبل الله ، وحبل الله هو القرآن، لا يفترقان إلى يوم القيامة، والإمام يهدي إلى «القرآن، والقرآن يهدي إلى الإمام ، وذلك قول الله عز وجل: «إن هذا القرآن يهدي للتي هي أقوم

2— Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a.s.) said, ‘An Imam from among us can only be infallible. Infallibility is not an outward physical feature that can be noticed which is why it must be documented [in the Qur’an or traditions].’ He was then asked, ‘O son of the Prophet, and what does infallible mean’ to which he replied, ‘It refers to one who clings fast to the rope of Allah, and the rope of Allah is the Qur’an. They do not separate from each other until the Day of Resurrection, and the Imam guides to the Qur’an and the Qur’an guides to the Imam, which is the purport of Allah’s saying [in the Qur’an] **“Verily this Qur’an guides to what is most upright”[Qur’an 17:9].**’ [Ma’ani al-Akhbar, p. 132, no. 1]

- الإمام الصادق (عليه السلام) - لما سأله هشام عن معنى المعصوم :- المعصوم هو الممتنع بالله من جميع محارم الله ، وقال الله تبارك وتعالى: «ومن يعتصم بالله فقد هدي إلى صراط مستقيم

3— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.), in reply to Hisham's question about the meaning of infallible, said, 'The infallible [Imam] is prevented by Allah from all acts which Allah has prohibited, and Allah, Blessed and most High, says **"And whoever takes recourse in Allah is certainly guided to a straight path"**[*Qur'an* 3: 101]. [Ibid. no. 2]

Factors that Bring About Sinlessness

موجباتُ العِصْمَةِ

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ ذِكْرُهُ يَعِصِمُ مَنْ أَطَاعَهُ، وَلَا يَعْتَصِمُ بِهِ مَنْ عَصَاهُ4

4— The Prophet (S) said, 'Verily Allah, Exalted be His remembrance, protects [from sin] whoever obeys Him, and whoever disobeys Him does not benefit from His protection.' [al-Kafi, v. 8, p. 82, no. 39]

.. الإمامُ عليّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الِاعْتِبَارُ يُنْمِرُ العِصْمَةَ5

5— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Drawing lessons [from past experiences] gives rise to sinlessness.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 879]

.. الإمامُ عليّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِنَّ التَّقْوَى عِصْمَةٌ لَكَ فِي حَيَاتِكَ ، وَزُلْفَى لَكَ بَعْدَ مَمَاتِكَ6

6— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Verily Godwariness is a protection [against sin] for you in your life, and a great profit for you after your death.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3466]

.. الإمامُ عليّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): بِالتَّقْوَى قُرِنَتِ العِصْمَةُ7

7— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Sinlessness is fastened with Godwariness.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4316]

.. الإمامُ عليّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الحِكْمَةُ عِصْمَةٌ ، العِصْمَةُ نِعْمَةٌ8

8— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Wisdom is sinlessness, and sinlessness is a bounty.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 12]

.. الإمامُ عليّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) - فِي مُنَاجَاتِهِ -: إِلَهِي ، لَا سَبِيلَ إِلَى الْاِحْتِرَاسِ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ إِلَّا بِعِصْمَتِكَ ، وَلَا وُصُولَ إِلَى عَمَلِ الْخَيْرَاتِ إِلَّا بِمَشِيئَتِكَ ، فَكَيْفَ لِي بِإِفَادَةِ مَا أَسْلَفْتَنِي فِيهِ مَشِيئَتَكَ ؟! وَكَيْفَ لِي بِالْاِحْتِرَاسِ مِنَ الذَّنْبِ مَا إِنْ لَمْ تُنْذِرْكَنِي فِيهِ عِصْمَتُكَ؟

9— Imam Ali (a.s.) said in his intimate supplication, ‘My God, I have no way to guard myself from sin except through Your protection, and no way to attain good deeds except by Your will. So how can I ever benefit from that which You have preceded with Your will! And how can I ever guard myself from sins as long as Your protection does not cover me therein!’[al-Balad al-Amin, p. 315]

.. الإمام الباقر (عليه السلام): إِذَا عَلِمَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى حُسْنَ نِيَّةٍ مِنْ أَحَدٍ اِكْتَنَفَهُ بِالْعِصْمَةِ¹⁰

10— Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, ‘When Allah, most High, knows the good intention of a person, He encompasses him with His protection from all sides.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 188, no. 41]

The Infallibility of the Imam

عِصْمَةُ الْإِمَامِ

The Infallibility of the Imam¹

.. الإمام الصادق (عليه السلام) - فِي صِفَةِ الْإِمَامِ -: مَعْصُوماً مِنَ الزَّلَّاتِ ، مَصُوناً عَنِ الْفَوَاحِشِ كُلِّهَا¹¹

11— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, describing the Imam, ‘He is immune from committing all errors, well-protected from all acts of indecency.’[al-Kafi, v. 1, p. 204, no. 2]

.. الإمام الصادق (عليه السلام): نَحْنُ تَرَاجِمَةُ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ ، نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ مَعْصُومُونَ¹²

12— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘We are the interpreters of Allah’s command, we are the infallible people.’[al-Kafi, v. 1, p. 269, no. 6]

.. الإمام الرضا (عليه السلام): الْإِمَامُ: الْمُطَهَّرُ مِنَ الذُّنُوبِ ، وَالْمُبَرَّرُّ عَنِ الْعُيُوبِ¹³

13— Imam Ar-Ridha’ (a.s.) said, ‘An Imam is purified from sins, immune from all flaws.’[al-Kafi, v. 1, p. 200, no. 1]

.. الإمام الرضا (عليه السلام): . . . فَهُوَ مَعْصُومٌ مُؤَيَّدٌ مُؤَفَّقٌ مُسَدَّدٌ ، قَدْ أَمِنَ مِنَ الْخَطَايَا وَالزَّلَلِ وَالْعِثَارِ ، يَخْصُهُ¹⁴ . اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ لِيَكُونَ حُجَّتَهُ عَلَى عِبَادِهِ وَشَاهِدَهُ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ .

14— Imam Ar-Ridha’ (a.s.) said, ‘He [i.e. the Imam] is therefore infallible, divinely supported, aided, and

shielded; being immune from all mistakes, errors and lapses. Allah has endowed him that in order to make Him His proof on the servants and His witness over creation.’[al-Kafi, v. 1, p. 203, no. 1]

¹. The word ‘Imam’ in this sub-section refers specifically to the Imams from the Prophet’s household, from the progeny of Imam ALI (a.s.) (ed.)

Source URL: <https://www.al-islam.org/mizan-al-hikmah-scale-wisdom/infallibility#comment-0>