

Justice

الْعَدْلُ Justice

The Importance of Justice

قِيَمَةُ الْعَدْلِ

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الْعَدْلُ أَسَاسٌ بِهِ قَوَامُ الْعَالَمِ1

1— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Justice is the base that supports the whole world.’[Matalib al-Sa’ul, p. 61]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): جَعَلَ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ الْعَدْلَ قَوَاماً لِلْأَنَامِ، وَتَنْزِيهاً مِنَ الْمَظَالِمِ وَالْآثَامِ، وَتَسْنِيَةً لِلْإِسْلَامِ2

2— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Allah, Glory be to Him, made justice a support for mankind, an eliminator of wrongs and sins, and an elevator of Islam.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4789]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الْعَدْلُ قَوَامُ الرِّعْيَةِ وَجَمَالُ الْوَلَاةِ3

3— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Justice is the support of the masses and the beauty [adorning] the governors.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1954]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الْعَدْلُ جُنَّةُ الدُّوَلِ4

4— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Justice is the shield of the nations.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1873]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): بِالْعَدْلِ تَصْلُحُ الرَّعِيَّةُ⁵

5— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The masses behave righteously through justice.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4215]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): بِالْعَدْلِ تَتَّضَاعَفُ الْبَرَكَاتُ⁶

6— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Blessings are multiplied through justice.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4211]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الْعَدْلُ نِظَامُ الْإِمْرَةِ⁷

7— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Justice is the regulatory system of authority.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 774]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): مَا عُمِّرَتِ الْبُلْدَانُ بِمِثْلِ الْعَدْلِ⁸

8— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Nothing can cause nations to flourish like justice.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9534]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) - لَمَّا سُئِلَ عَنْ أَفْضَلِيَّةِ الْعَدْلِ أَوْ الْجُودِ -: الْعَدْلُ يَضَعُ الْأُمُورَ مَوَاضِعَهَا، وَالْجُودُ يُخْرِجُهَا مِنْ جِهَتِهَا، وَالْعَدْلُ سَائِسٌ عَامٌّ، وَالْجُودُ عَارِضٌ خَاصٌّ، فَالْعَدْلُ أَشْرَفُهُمَا وَأَفْضَلُهُمَا

9— Imam Ali (a.s.) was once asked which was better, justice or generosity, to which he replied, ‘Justice puts things in their rightful place, whereas generosity takes them away from their course. Justice is a general predominant state, whereas generosity is a transient characteristic. Justice is therefore the nobler and better of the two.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 437]

.. فَاطِمَةُ الزَّهْرَاءُ (عَلَيْهَا السَّلَامُ): فَرَضَ ... الْعَدْلَ تَسْكِينًا لِلْقُلُوبِ¹⁰

10— Fatima al-Zahra’ (a.s.) said, ‘Allah has made justice incumbent as a source of tranquility for the hearts.’[‘Aellal al-Shara’i’a, p. 247, no. 2]

.. الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الْعَدْلُ أَحْلَى مِنَ الْمَاءِ يُصِيبُهُ الظَّمَانُ¹¹

11— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Justice is sweeter than water to a thirsty man.’[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 146, no. 11]

.. الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): الْعَدْلُ أَحْلَى مِنَ الشَّهْدِ، وَالْيَنُّ مِنَ الرُّيدِ، وَأَطْيَبُ رِيحاً مِنَ الْمِسْكِ¹²

12– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Justice is sweeter than honey, softer than butter and smells more fragrant than musk.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, p. 147, no. 15]

Qualities of a Just Person

صِفَاتُ الْعَادِلِ

- رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ عَامَلَ النَّاسَ فَلَمْ يَظْلِمْهُمْ، وَحَدَّثَهُمْ فَلَمْ يَكْذِبْهُمْ، وَوَعَدَهُمْ فَلَمْ يُخْلِفْهُمْ، فَهُوَ 13
. مِمَّنْ كَمُلَتْ مَرْوَعَتُهُ، وَظَهَرَتْ عَدَالَتُهُ، وَجَبَّتْ أُخُوَّتُهُ، وَحُرِّمَتْ غَيْبَتُهُ

13– The Prophet (S) said, ‘He who treats people in such a way that he never wrongs them, and speaks to them and never lies to them, and when he makes a promise to them he never breaks it, such a person is perfect in his valorous qualities, his justice is manifest, and it becomes obligatory to consider him as one’s brother and prohibited to backbite him.’[al-Khisal, p. 208, no. 28]

.. - رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ صَاحَبَ النَّاسَ بِالَّذِي يُحِبُّ أَنْ يُصَاحِبُوهُ كَانَ عَدْلًا 14

14– The Prophet (S) said, ‘He who associates with people as he himself would like others to associate with him is indeed just.’[Kanz al-Fawa'id, v. 2, p. 162]

Advice to Be Just and Fair with One’s Enemy and When Struck with Anger

الْوَصِيَّةُ بِالْعَدْلِ عَلَى الْعَدُوِّ وَفِي الْغَضَبِ

- الْإِمَامُ عَلِيٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) - فِي وَصِيَّتِهِ لِابْنِهِ الْحُسَيْنِ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) :- أَوْصِيكَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فِي الْغِنَى وَالْفَقْرِ... 15
.وَبِالْعَدْلِ عَلَى الصَّدِيقِ وَالْعَدُوِّ

15– Imam Ali (a.s.) said in his will to his son al-Husayn (a.s.), ‘I advise you to be wary of your duty to Allah in wealth and poverty ... and [I advise you] of being just towards both friend and foe.’[Tuhaf al-Uqul, no. 88]

أَعْدِلُ النَّاسَ

The Most Just of People

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): أَعْدَلُ النَّاسِ مَنْ أَنْصَفَ عَنْ قُوَّةٍ 16

16– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The most just person is he who uses his strength even-handedly.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3242]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): أَعْدَلُ الْخَلْقِ أَقْضَاهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ 17

17– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The most just from all creation is he who fulfils rights most indiscriminately.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3014]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): غَايَةُ الْعَدْلِ أَنْ يَعْدِلَ الْمَرْءُ فِي نَفْسِهِ 18

18– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The peak of justice is that a man be just towards his own self.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 6368]

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