

Letter 48: To Mu'awiyah

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام)

إلى معاوية

Surely, revolt and falsehood abase a man in his religious as well as worldly matters and manifest his shortcomings before his critic. You know that you cannot catch what is destined to remain away from you. Many people had aims other than right (ones) and began to swear by Allah (that they will attain their goal) but He falsified them. Therefore, fear the Day when happy is he who made his end happy (by good actions) while repentant is he who allowed Satan to lead him and did not resist him. You called us to a settlement through the Qur'an although you were not a man of the Qur'an, and we responded to the Qur'an through its judgement, and not to you; and that is an end to the matter.

وَإِنَّ الْبَغْيَ وَالزُّورَ يُوتِغَانِ الْمَرْءَ فِي دِينِهِ وَدُنْيَاهُ، وَيُبْدِيَانِ خَلْلَهُ عِنْدَ مَنْ يَعْيبُهُ، وَقَدْ
عَلِمْتُ أَنَّكَ غَيْرُ مُدْرِكٍ مَا قُضِيَ فَوَاتُهُ، وَقَدْ رَأَى أَقْوَامٌ أَمْرًا بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ، فَتَأَوَّلُوا
عَلَى اللَّهِ فَأَكْذَبَهُمْ، فَاحْذَرْ يَوْمًا يُغْتَبَطُ فِيهِ مَنْ أَحْمَدَ عَاقِبَةَ عَمَلِهِ، وَيَنْدَمُ مَنْ أَمَكَنَ
الشَّيْطَانُ مِنْ قِيَادِهِ فَلَمْ يُجَازِبْهُ. وَقَدْ دَعَوْتَنَا إِلَى حُكْمِ الْقُرْآنِ وَلَسْتَ مِنْ أَهْلِهِ،
وَلَسْنَا إِيَّاكَ أَجَبْنَا، وَلَكِنَّا أَجَبْنَا الْقُرْآنَ إِلَى حُكْمِهِ، وَالسَّلَامُ.

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