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Old Age

Old Age الشَّيب

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الشَّيبُ

1ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): الشَّيخُ شابٌّ على حُبِّ أنيسٍ، وطُولِ حَياةٍ ، وكَثرَةِ مالٍ

1– The Prophet (S) said, ‘The old man is a youth when it comes to his love for his intimate one, his long life and his Abundant wealth.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 174, no. 9]

2ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): المَشِيبُ رسولُ المَوتِ

2– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Gray hair is the herald of death.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1202]

3ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): كَفى بالشَّيبِ نَذِيراً

3– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Old age suffices as a warning.’[Ibid. no. 7019]

4ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): وَقارُ الشَّيبِ أحَبُّ إلَيَّ مِن نَضارَةِ الشَّبابِ

4– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The dignified bearing that comes with old age is more beloved to me than the vigour of youth.’[Ibid. no. 10099]

5ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): إذا شابَ العاقِلُ شَبَّ عَقلُهُ ، إذا شابَ الجاهِلُ شَبَّ جَهلُهُ.

5– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘When an intelligent man grows old, his intellect remains young [and sharp], and when the ignorant man grows old, his ignorance too remains young [and more reckless].’[Ibid. nos. 4169–4170]

6ـ الإمامُ الباقرُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): أصبَحَ إبراهيمُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) فَرَأى في لِحيَتِهِ شَيبا شَعرَةً بَيضاءَ ، فقالَ: الحَمدُ للّهِ رَبِّ العالَمينَ الذي بَلَّغَني هذَا المَبلَغَ ولَم أعصِ اللّهَ طَرفَةَ عَينٍ.

6– Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, ‘Prophet Abraham (a.s.) woke up one morning to find old age in the form of a white hair in his beard, and said, ‘Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, Who has brought me to this ripe age in which I have never yet disobeyed Him for even the blink of an eye.’[‘Allal al-Shara’i’a, p. 104, no. 2]

7ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): ما رَأيتُ شَيئاً أسرَعَ إلى شيءٍ مِن الشَّيبِ إلَى المؤمنِ ، وإنّهُ وَقارٌ للمؤمِنِ في الدنيا ، ونورٌ ساطِعٌ يَومَ القِيامَةِ ، بِهِ وَقَّرَ اللّهُ تعالى خَليلَهُ إبراهيمَ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ، فقالَ: ما هذا يا رَبِّ ؟ قالَ لَهُ: هذا وَقارٌ ، فقالَ: يا رَبِّ زِدني وَقاراً.

7– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘I have never seen anything catch up with something faster than old age catches up with a believer, for verily it is a source of dignity for the believer in this world and a brilliant light for him on the Day of Resurrection. Allah, most High, honoured Abraham (a.s.) with it [old age], who said, ‘What is this, my Lord?’ to which Allah replied, ‘This is dignity’, so Abraham said, ‘O my Lord, increase me in dignity then.’[Amali al-Tusi, p. 699, no. 1492]

Enjoinment of Venerating the Old

الحَثُّ عَلى إجلالِ الكَبيرِ

8ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): مِن إجلالِ اللّهِ إجلالُ ذي الشَّيبَةِ المُسلِمِ.

8– The Prophet (S) said, ‘Venerating Allah includes venerating the old from among the Muslims.’[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 165, no. 1]

9ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): إنَّ مِن إجلالِي تَوقيرَ الشَّيخِ مِن أُمَّتي.

9– The Prophet (S) said, ‘Verily venerating me includes honouring the old men of my community.’[Kanz al–’Ummal, no. 6013]

10 ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): عَظِّمُوا كِبارَكُم وصِلُوا أرحامَكُم.

10– Imam al–Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Exalt the old ones from amongst you and maintain relations between your kin.’[al–Kafi, v. 2, p. 165, no. 3]

11 ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): ليسَ مِنّا مَن لَم يُوَقِّرْ كبيرَنا ويَرحَمْ صَغِيرَنا.

11– Imam al–Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘One who neither honours our old nor has mercy on our young is not one of us.’[Ibid. no. 2]

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