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Pardon

Pardon العَفوُ

The Virtue of Pardon

فَضيلَةُ العَفوِ

1ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): إذا عَنَّت لَكُم غَضبَةٌ فَادرَؤوها بِالعَفوِ ؛ إنَّهُ يُنادي مُنادٍ يَومَ القِيامَةِ: مَن كانَ لَهُ عَلَى اللّهِ أجرٌ فَلْيَقُمْ ، فَلا يَقومُ إلّا العافُونَ ، أَلَم تَسمَعوا قَولَهُ تَعالى: «فَمَن عَفا وأصلَحَ فَأجرُهُ عَلَى اللّهِ»؟!

1– The Prophet (S) said, 'If you are faced by anger, avert it through pardon, for verily a caller will call out on the Day of Resurrection 'Whoever has a claim for a reward from Allah should stand up', and none will stand except the pardoners. Have you not heard the verse of Allah, most High, "So whoever pardons and conciliates, his reward lies with Allah"! [A'alam al-Din, no. 337]

2ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): إنَّ اللّهَ عَفُوٌّ يُحِبُّ العَفوَ

2– The Prophet (S) said, 'Verily Allah is all-pardoning and loves pardon.'[Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 7005]

3ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): عَلَيكُم بِالعَفوِ ؛ فَإنَّ العَفوَ لا يَزيدُ العَبدَ إلّا عِزّاً ، فَتَعافَوا يُعِزَّكُمُ اللّهُ

3– The Prophet (S) said, 'Pardoning is incumbent upon you, for verily pardoning [others] only increases the servant's honour, so pardon each other's faults and Allah will grant you honour.'[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 108, no. 5]

4ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): مَن كَثُرَ عَفوُهُ مُدَّ في عُمرِهِ

4– The Prophet (S) said, ‘He who pardons much is given an increase in his lifespan.’[A’alam al-Din, no. 315]

5ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): تَجاوَزوا عَن عَثَراتِ الخاطِئينَ يَقيكُمُ اللّهُ بِذلكَ سُوءَ الأقدارِ.

5– The Prophet (S) said, ‘Excuse the lapses of those who make mistakes frequently and Allah will protect you against misfortunes.’[Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 2, p. 120]

6ـ الإمامُ الباقرُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): النَّدامَةُ عَلَى العَفوِ أفضَلُ وأيسَرُ مِنَ النَّدامَةِ عَلَى العُقوبَةِ.

6– Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, ‘Regret for having pardoned someone is better and easier to bear than regret for having punished them.’[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 108, no. 6]

7ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): ثَلاثٌ مِن مَكارِمِ الدّنيا والآخِرَةِ: تَعفو عَمَّن ظَلَمَكَ ، وتَصِلُ مَن قَطَعَكَ ، وتَحلِمُ إذا جُهِلَ عَلَيكَ.

7– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Three of the noble characteristics in this world and in the Hereafter are to pardon one who has wronged you, to reconcile with one who has cut you off, and to be clement with one who has been rash towards you.’[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 107, no. 3]

Enjoinment of Graceful Consonance

الحَثُّ عَلَى الصَّفحِ الجَميلِ

8ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): ما عَفا عَنِ الذَّنبِ مَن قَرَّعَ بِهِ.

8– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘He who rebukes [someone for] a sin cannot pardon it.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9567]

9ـ الإمامُ الرِّضا (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ في قَولِه تَعالى: «فَاصْفَحِ الصَّفْحَ الْجَمِيلَ» ـ: عَفوٌ مِن غَيرِ عُقوبَةٍ، ولا تَعنيفٍ ، ولا عَتبٍ.

9– Imam Ar-Ridha’ (a.s.), with regards to Allah’s verse in the Qur’ an “So condone with a graceful condonance”, said, ‘It is to pardon without punishing, censuring or scolding.’ [A’alam al-Din, p. 307]

Enjoinment of Pardon In Spite of One's Power (to Punish)

الحَثُّ عَلَى العَفوِ عِندَ القُدرَةِ

10ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): مَن عَفا عِندَ القُدرَةِ عَفا اللّهُ عَنهُ يَومَ العُسرَةِ.

10– The Prophet (S) said, 'He who pardons when having the power to punish, Allah will pardon him on the Day of great difficulty [i.e. the Day of Resurrection].'[Kanz al–'Ummal, no. 7007]

11ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): إذا قَدَرتَ عَلى عَدُوِّكَ فَاجعَلِ العَفوَ عَنهُ شُكراً لِلقُدرَةِ عَلَيهِ.

11– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'When you are empowered to vanquish your enemy, let your pardon of him act as thanks for having been given power over him.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 11]

12ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): العَفوُ زَكاةُ الظَّفَرِ.

12– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Pardon is the zakat of triumph.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 211]

13ـ الإمامُ الحسينُ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): إنَّ أعفَى النّاسِ مَن عَفا عِندَ قُدرَتِهِ.

13– Imam al–Husayn (a.s.) said, 'Verily the most forgiving of people is he who pardons when having the power to punish.'[al–Durra al–Bahira, p. 29]

Pardon and Improvement

العَفوُ وإستِصلاحُ القُلوبِ

14ـ مستدركُ الوسائل: شَكا رَجلٌ إلى رَسولِ اللّه (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ) خَدَمَهُ، فقال له: أُعفُ عَنهُم تَستَصلِحْ بِهِ قُلوبَهُم ، فَقالَ: يا رَسولَ اللّهِ ، إنَّهُم يَتَفاوَتونَ في سُوءِ الأدَبِ، فَقالَ: أُعفُ عَنهُم، فَفَعَلَ.

14– The Prophet (S) said to a man who came to him complaining about his servants, 'Pardon their faults and through it their hearts will improve.' So he replied, 'O Prophet of Allah, verily they vary in their bad behaviour', so he replied, 'Pardon them', so he did.[Mustadrak al–Wasa'il, v. 9, p. 7, no. 10041]

15- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) - في وَصِيَّتِهِ لِابنِهِ الحَسَنِ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) -: إذا استَحَقَّ أحَدٌ مِنهُم ذَنباً فأحسِنِ العَذلَ؛ فإنَّ العَذلَ مَعَ العَفوِ أشَدُّ مِنَ الضَّربِ لِمَن كانَ لَهُ عَقلٌ.

15– Imam Ali (a.s.) in his will to his son al–Hasan (a.s.), said, 'If any of them deserves punishment for a sin, then censure gracefully, for verily censure accompanied by pardon is more severe [i.e. more effective] than striking when carried out by a reasonable person.'[Tuhaf al–'Uqul, no. 87]

That Which Must Not Be Pardoned

ما لا يَنبَغي مِنَ العَفوِ

16- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): العَفوُ يُفسِدُ مِنَ اللَّئيمِ بِقَدرِ إصلاحِهِ مِنَ الكَريمِ.

16– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Pardon spoils a sinful man just as much as it can reform a decent man.'[Kanz al–Fawa'id li al–Karajaki, v. 2, p. 182]

17- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): جازِ بِالحَسَنَةِ وتَجاوَزْ عَنِ السَّيِّئَةِ ما لَم يَكُن ثَلماً في الدِّينِ أو وَهناً في سُلطانِ الإسلامِ.

17– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Reward the good deed and condone the misdeed as long as it is not a breach of religion or does not weaken the authority of Islam.' [Ghurar al–Hikam, p. 4788]

Allah's Pardon

عَفوُ اللّهِ

18- رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ) - لَمّا سَأَلَتهُ عائشَةُ عَنِ الدُّعاءِ في لَيلَةِ القَدرِ -: تَقولينَ: اللّهُمَّ إنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ العَفوَ ، فَاعفُ عَنّي .

18– The Prophet (S), when 'Aa' isha asked him about what to supplicate on the grand Night of Ordainment (laylat al–qadr), replied, 'You should say O Allah verily you are all–pardoning and You love to pardon, so pardon me.' [Sunan Ibn Maaja, no. 3850]

19- تنبيه الخواطر: قالَ أعرابيٌّ: يا رَسولَ اللّهِ ، مَن يُحاسِبُ الخَلقَ يَومَ القِيامَةِ ؟ قالَ: اللّهُ عزَّوجلَّ ، قالَ: نَجَونا

ورَبِّ الكَعبَةِ ! قالَ: وكَيفَ ذاكَ يا أعرابِيُّ؟! قالَ: لأِنَّ الكَريمَ إذا قَدَرَ عَفا.

19– It is narrated in Tanbih al-Khawatir that a bedouin once asked the Prophet, 'O Prophet of Allah, who will hold creation to account on the Day of Resurrection' to which he replied, 'Allah, Mighty and Exalted.' He said, 'By the Lord of the Ka' ba, we will be saved indeed!' The Prophet asked, 'And how is that O bedouin friend' He replied, 'Because the Generous One will pardon since He has the power to do so.' [Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 1, p. 9]

20ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): إنَّ اللّهَ تَعالى يُسائلُكُم مَعشَرَ عِبادِهِ عَنِ الصَّغيرَةِ مِن أعمالِكُم وَالكَبيرَةِ ، والظّاهِرَةِ والمَستورَةِ ، فإن يُعَذِّبْ فأنتُم أظلَمُ ، وإن يَعفُ فهُوَ أكرَمُ.

20– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Verily Allah, most High, will certainly interrogate you, O community of His servants, about your actions, be they small or big, and be they open or secret. If He punishes you, then it because you have wronged yourselves, and if He pardons, then it is because He is too generous.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Letter 27]

21ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ) ـ في المُناجاةِ ـ: إلهي أُفَكِّرُ في عَفوِكَ فتَهونُ عَلَيَّ خَطيئَتي ، ثُمَّ أذكُرُ العَظيمَ مِن أخذِكَ فتَعظُمُ عَلَيّ بَلِيَّتي.

21– Imam Ali (a.s.) said in his intimate supplication, 'My Lord I think about Your pardon and my mistakes seem insignificant to me, then I remember the awesomeness of Your chastisement and my tribulation seems great indeed.'[Amali al-Saduq, p. 73, no. 9]

22ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): اَللّهُمَّ احمِلني عَلى عَفوِكَ ولا تَحمِلْني عَلى عَدلِكَ.

22– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'O Allah expose me to Your pardon but do not expose me to Your justice.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 227]

23ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): مَن تَنَزَّهَ عَن حُرُماتِ اللّهِ سارَعَ إلَيهِ عَفوُ اللّهِ . .

23– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'He who keeps himself aloof from Allah's prohibitions is quickly embraced by Allah's pardon.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 90, no. 95]

24ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): ولكِنَّ اللّهَ يَختَبِرُ عِبادَهُ بِأنواعِ الشَّدائدِ ، ويَتَعَبَّدُهُم بِأنواعِ المَجاهِدِ ، ويَبتَليهِم بِضُروبِ المَكارِهِ ؛ إخراجاً لِلتَّكَبُّرِ مِن قُلوبِهِم ، وإسكانا لِلتَّذَلُّلِ في نُفوسِهِم ، ولِيَجعَلَ ذلكَ أبواباً فُتُحا إلى فَضلِهِ ، وأسباباً ذُلُلاً لِعَفوِهِ .

24– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘But Allah tries His servants with various tribulations, renders them to worship Him through struggles, tests them with various types of distresses, all in order to extract pride out from their hearts, and to settle humbleness in their souls, and in order to make all these open doors to His grace an easy means to His pardon.’ [Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 192]

25ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ كانَ يَقولُ ـ: اللّهُمَّ إنَّكَ بِما أنتَ لَهُ أهلٌ مِنَ العَفوِ ، أولى مِنّي بِما أنا لَهُ أهلٌ مِنَ العُقوبَةِ .

25– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) used to say, ‘O Allah verily the fact that You are worthy of pardoning [sins] gives You the upper hand over me because of my being worthy of punishment.’[Kashf al-Ghamma, v. 2, p. 418]

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