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Patience

Patience[1] الصَّبر

The Virtue of Patience

فَضلُ الصَّبرِ

.. عيسى (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): إنّكُم لا تُدرِكُونَ ما تُحِبُّونَ إلّا بِصَبرِكُم على ما تَكرَهُونَ[1]

1– Prophet Jesus (a.s.) said, 'Verily you will never be able to attain that which you love until you are able to endure that which you despise.'[Musakkin al-Fu'?d, no. 48]

.. لَمّا سُئلَ عن رسول اللّه (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ) ماالإيمانُ .: الصَّبرُ[2]

2– The Prophet (S) was once asked what faith was, to which he replied, 'Patience.'[Ibid. no. 47]

. . الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): الصَّبرُ يُهَوِّنُ الفَجِيعَةَ[3]

3– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Patience makes light work of calamities.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 533]

. . الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): الصَّبرُ على البَلاءِ أفضَلُ مِن العافيَةِ في الرَّخاءِ[4]

4– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Patience in the face of tribulation is better than well-being in times of comfort.'[Ibid. no. 1821]

5ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): المؤمنُ يُطبَعُ عَلَى الصَّبرِ عَلَى النَّوائبِ . .

5– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘The [true] believer is inherently patient against adversities.’[Mishkat al-Anwar, no. 23]

6ـ الإمامُ الجوادُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): الصَّبرُ عَلَى المُصيبَةِ ، مُصيبَةٌ عَلَى الشامِتِ بها

6– Imam al-Jawad (a.s.) said, ‘Patience in the face of a misfortune is itself a misfortune for the one who gloats over your bad luck.’[Kashf al-Ghamma, v. 3, p. 139]

Patience and Great Things

الصَّبرُ ومَعالِي الأُمورِ

7ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): بالصَّبرِ تُدرَكُ مَعالِي الأُمُورِ . .

7– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Through patience are great things accomplished.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4276]

8ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): مَن صَبَرَ عَلَى اللّهِ وَصَلَ إلَيهِ . .

8– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Whoever patiently endures the path to Allah reaches Him.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 71, p. 95, no. 60]

9ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): الصَّبرُ رَأسُ الإيمانِ

9– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, ‘Patience is the peak of faith.’[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 87, no. 1]

Perseverance and Victory

الصَّبرُ وَالنَّصرُ

10ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): إنّ النَّصرَ مَعَ الصَّبرِ ، والفَرَجَ مع الكَربِ ، وإنّ مَعَ العُسرِ يُسراً

10– The Prophet (S) said, ‘Verily victory comes with perseverance, and deliverance with hardship, and

verily with difficulty comes ease.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 88, no. 2]

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): بِالصَّبرِ يُتَوَقَّعُ الفَرَجُ ، ومَن يُدمِنْ قَرعَ البابِ يَلِجْ11

11– The Prophet (S) said, 'With perseverance, deliverance becomes possible, and whoever knocks at the door persistently will enter it.'[Ibid. v. 71, p. 96, no. 61]

The Reward of the Patient One

ثَوابُ الصّابِرِ

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ في صفةِ المتّقينَ ـ: صَبَرُوا أيّاماً قَصِيرَةً ، أعقَبَتهُم راحَةً طَويلَةً12

12– Imam Ali (a.s.) said in his description of the Godwary ones, 'They endured hardship for a short while, and in consequence they secured comfort for a long time.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 193]

. . الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): مَنِ ابتُلِيَ مِن شِيعَتِنا فَصَبَرَ علَيهِ كانَ لَهُ أجرُ ألفِ شَهيدٍ13

13– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Whoever from amongst our Shi'ah is tried with an affliction and endures it will be granted the reward of a thousand martyrs.'[al-Tamhis, p. 59, no. 125]

. . الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): أيُّما رَجُلٍ اشتَكى فَصَبَرَ واحتَسَبَ ، كَتَبَ اللّهُ لَهُ مِنَ الأجرِ أجرَ ألفِ شَهيدٍ14

14– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Whoever, when suffering from an ailment, patiently endures it and considers it a means of proximity to Allah, Allah writes down for him the same reward as that of a thousand martyrs.'[Tibb al-A'imma (a.s.), p. 17]

The True Meaning of Patience

تَفسيرُ الصَّبرِ

. . رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): الصَّبرُ رِضا15

15– The Prophet (S) said, 'Patience is satisfaction [with Allah's decree].'[Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 6499]

16ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): الصَّبرُ أن يَحتَمِلَ الرجُلُ ما يَنُوبُهُ ، ويَكظِمَ ما يُغضِبُهُ.

16– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Patience is that a man bears whatever afflicts him and swallows his anger.’[Ibid. no,6518]

17ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): الصَّبرُ صَبرانِ: صَبرٌ على ما تَكرَهُ ، وصَبرٌ عمّا تُحِبُّ.

17– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Patience is of two types: perseverance in the face of that which you despise, and enduring restraint against that which you love.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1874]

18ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): الصَّبرُ: إمّا صَبرٌ على المُصيبَةِ ، أو على الطاعَةِ ، أو عنِ المَعصيَةِ ، وهذا القِسمُ الثالثُ أعلى دَرجَةً مِنَ القِسمَينِ الأوَّلَينِ.

18– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Patience comes in the form of either persevering in the face of an affliction, or enduring an act of obedience, or restraining oneself against an act of disobedience. And this third type is of a higher calibre than the first two.’[Sharh Nahjul Balaghah li Ibn Abi al-Hadid, v. 1, p. 319]

19ـ الإمامُ الباقرُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ لَمّا سُئلَ عن الصَّبرِ الجميلِ ـ: ذلكَ صَبرٌ ليسَ فيهِ شَكوى إلى الناسِ.

19– Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) was once asked about graceful patience [graceful patience (al-Sabr al-jamil) – mentioned in the Qur’an 12:18, 12:83 (ed.)], to which he replied, ‘That is the patience that is devoid of complaint to other people.’[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 93, no. 23]

The Patience Possessed by the Shi’ah of the Ahl al-Bayt (a.s.)

(صَبرُ شيعَةِ أهلِ البَيتِ (عَلَيهِم السّلام

20ـ عن الوَشّاء عن بعضِ أصحابِهِ عن الإمامِ الصّادقِ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): إنّا صُبَّرٌ وشِيعَتُنا أصبَرُ مِنّا ، قلتُ: جُعِلتُ فِداكَ، كيفَ صارَ شِيعَتُكُم أصبَرَ مِنكُم ؟ قالَ: لأ نّا نَصبِرُ على ما نَعلَمُ ، وشِيعَتُنا يَصبِرُونَ على ما لا يَعلَمُونَ.

20– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said to one of his companions, ‘Verily we are very patient and our Shi’ah are even more patient than us.’ His companion asked, ‘May I be your ransom, how can your Shi’ah be more patient than yourselves?’ He replied, ‘Because we are patient alongside our knowledge [of everything], whereas our Shi’ah are patient in spite of not knowing.’[Ibid. no. 25]

The Effects of Anxiety

آثارُ الجَزَعِ

21ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): إنّكَ إن صَبَرتَ جَرَت علَيكَ المَقادِيرُ وأنتَ مَأجُورٌ ، وإن جَزِعتَ جَرَت علَيكَ المَقادِيرُ وأنتَ مَأزُورٌ.

21– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Verily if you are patient, the trials of destiny will befall you and you will be rewarded for them, whilst if you are anxious, not only will the trials of destiny still befall you but they will cover you over.’[Jami’a al-Akhbar, p. 316, no. 882]

22ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): إن صَبَرتَ صَبرَ الأكارِمِ ، وإلّا سَلَوتَ سُلُوَّ البَهائمِ.

22– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘You can either have the perseverance of noblemen or be lost in the oblivion of beasts.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 414]

23ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): مَن لَم يَصبِرْ على كَدِّهِ صَبَرَ على الإفلاسِ.

23– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Whoever does not endure his troubles ends up having to endure his own ruin.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 8987]

24ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): مَن لَم يُنْجِهِ الصَّبرُ أهلَكَهُ الجَزَعُ.

24– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘He whose patience gives him no deliverance is destroyed by anxiety.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 189]

Factors That Bring About Patience

ما يورِثُ الصَّبرَ

25ـ رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): مَن يَتَصَبَّرْ يُصَبِّرْهُ اللّهُ ، ومَن يَستَعفِفْ يُعِفَّهُ اللّهُ ، ومَن يَستَغنِ يُغنِهِ اللّهُ ، وما أُعطِيَ عَبدٌ عَطاءً هُو خَيرٌ وأوسَعُ مِن الصَّبرِ.

25– The Prophet (S) said, ‘Whoever tries to be patient, Allah makes him patient, and whoever tries to

remain chaste, Allah keeps him chaste, and whoever suffices himself with what he has, Allah enriches him. No servant can ever be granted something better and more sufficient than patience.’[Kanz al-’Ummal, no. 6522]

26ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): أصلُ الصَّبرِ حُسنُ اليَقينِ بِاللّهِ ـ

26– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The origin of patience is to have strong conviction in Allah.’[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3084]

27ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): عَوِّدْ نَفسَكَ التَّصَبُّرَ (الصَّبرَ) على المَكروهِ ، ونِعمَ الخُلقُ التَّصَبُّرُ في الحَقِّ ـ

27– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Accustom yourself to persevering in the face of adversity, and [you will see] how well persevering with the truth will become part of your natural disposition.’[Nahjul Balaghah, Letter 31]

28ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ): التَّصَبُّرُ على المَكروهِ يَعصِمُ القَلبَ ـ

28– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Perseverance in the face of adversity protects the heart.’[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, no. 207, no. 1]

1. Translator’s Note: The Arabic word sabr denotes ‘patience’ as the ability to tolerate and endure, as well as ‘perseverance’ and ‘endurance’ in the face of adversity and trial. In the text, translation has not been restricted to just one of these terms, in order to best express the purport of each tradition within its context.

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