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Sermon 54: Rush towards me ...

On the swearing of allegiance

وَ مِنْ كَلام لَهُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلامُ

فى ذِكْرِ الْبَيْعَةِ

وفيه يصف أصحابه بصفين حين طال منعهم له من قتال أهل الشام

They leapt upon me as the camels leap upon each other on their arrival for drinking water, having been let loose after unfastening of their four legs till I thought they would either kill me or kill one another in front of me.

I thought over this matter in and out to the extent that it prevented me from sleeping. But I found no way except to fight them or else to reject whatever has been brought by Muhammad (S). I found that to face war was easier for me than to face the retribution, and the hardships of this world were easier than the hardships of the next world.

فَتَدَاكُّوا عَلَيَّ تَدَاكَّ الإِبِلِ الْهِيمِ يَوْمَ وِرْدِهَا، قَدْ أَرْسَلَهَا رَاعِيهَا، وَخُلِعَتْ مَثَانِيهَا، حَتَّى ظَنَنْتُ أَنَّهُمْ قَاتِلِيَّ، أَوْ بَعْضُهُمْ قَاتِلُ بَعْض لَدَيَّ، وَقَدْ قَلَّبْتُ هذَا الأَمْرَ بَطْنَهُ وَظَهْرَهُ حَتَّى مَنَعَنِي النَّوْمَ، فَمَا وَجَدْتُنِي يَسَعُنِي إِلاَّ قِتَالُهُمْ أَوِ الْجُحُودُ بِمَا جَاءَ بِهِ مُحَمَّدٌ(صلى الله عليه وآله)، فَكَانَتْ مُعَالَجَةُ الْقِتَالِ أَهْوَنَ عَلَيَّ مِنْ مُعَالَجَةِ الْعِقَابِ، وَمَوْتَاتُ الدُّنْيَا أَهْوَنَ عَلَيَّ مِنْ مَوْتَاتِ الأَخِرَةِ.

Alternative Sources for Sermon 54

(1) Ibn ‘Abd Rabbih, *al-’Iqd,* IV;

(2) Ibn al-'Athir, *al-Nihayah,* II, 128 (*d.k.k*);

(3) Abu Mikhnaf, *al-Jamal,* see Ibn Abi al-Hadid, I, 340;

(4) also the sources mentioned under Sermon:26.

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