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The Unseen

The Unseen الغَيبُ

The Prophet Knows the Unseen through Allah's Instruction

النَّبِيُّ يَعلَمُ الغَيبَ بِتَعليمِ اللّهِ

1- الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ): ضَلَّت ناقَةُ رسولِ اللّهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ) في غَزوَةِ تَبُوكَ، فقالَ المُنافقونَ: يُحَدِّثُنا عَنِ الغَيبِ ولا يَعلَمُ مَكانَ ناقَتِهِ! فأتاهُ جَبرَئيلُ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) فَأخبَرَهُ بما قالوا، وقالَ: إنَّ ناقَتَكَ في شِعْبِ كذا، مُتَعَلِّقٌ زِمامُها بشَجَرَةِ بَحرٍ . فَنادى رسولُ اللّهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ): الصلاةَ جامِعَةً، قالَ: فاجتَمَعَ الناسُ، فقالَ: أيُّها الناسُ، إنّ ناقَتي بِشِعبِ كذا، فَبادَرُوا إلَيها حتّى أتَوها.

1– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) narrated, 'The Prophet (S)'s she-camel got lost in the battle of Tabuk, so the hypocrites started to say [mockingly], 'He talks to us about the Unseen but does not even know where his own she-camel is!' So the archangel Gabriel (a.s.) came to him and informed him of what they were saying, and told him that his she-camel was in a particular valley, with its reins attached to a large tree. So the Prophet (S) made the call for congregational prayer, and when the people had gathered, he told them, 'O people, verily my she-camel is in such and such a valley', so they ran to bring it for him.'[Qasas al-Anbiya', p. 308, no. 408]

The Imam and the Knowledge of the Unseen

الإمامُ وعِلمُ الغَيبِ

2- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السّلامُ) ـ لَمّا قالَ لَهُ بعضُ أصحابِهِ (وكانَ كَلبِيّاً): لَقَد أُعطِيتَ يا أميرَالمؤمنينَ عِلمَ الغَيبِ،

فَضَحِكَ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ) ـ: يا أخا كَلبٍ، ليسَ هُو بعِلمِ غَيبٍ، وإنّما هُو تَعَلُّمٌ مِن ذي عِلمٍ، وإنَّما عِلمُ الغَيبِ عِلمُ الساعَةِ، وما عَدَّدَهُ اللّهُ سبحانَهُ بقولِهِ: «إِنَّ اللّهَ عِندَهُ عِلمُ السّاعَةِ ويُنَزِّلُ الغَيثَ ويَعْلَمُ ما في الأَرْحامِ».

2– When one of Imam Ali (a.s.)'s companions (from the tribe of Kalb) said to him, 'Indeed you have been given knowledge of the Unseen, O Commander of the Faithful', Imam Ali (a.s.) laughed, saying, 'O brother of Kalb, this is not knowledge of the Unseen, but instruction from the Possessor of Knowledge. Verily the knowledge of the Unseen is the knowledge of the Hour, and what Allah, Glory be to Him, has listed in his verse: "Indeed the knowledge of the Hour is with Allah. He sends down the rain, and He knows what is in the wombs."[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 128]

3ـ الإمامُ الصّادقُ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ) ـ لمّا سُئلَ: هل يَعلَمُ الإمامُ بالغَيبِ ـ: لا، ولكن إذا أرادَ أن يَعلَمَ الشيءَ أعلَمَهُ اللّهُ ذلكَ.

3– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.), when asked, 'Does the Imam know the Unseen?' replied, 'No, but whenever he wishes to know something, Allah makes him know it.'[al-Kafi, v. 1, p. 257, no. 4]

4:ـ الإمامُ الكاظمُ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ) ـ لَمّا سَأَلَهُ رَجُلٌ مِن أهلِ فارِسَ: أتَعلَمُونَ الغَيبَ؟ ـ: قالَ أبو جعفرٍ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ): يُبسَطُ لَنا العِلمُ فَنَعلَمُ، ويُقبَضُ عنّا فلا نَعلَمُ. وقالَ: سِرُّ اللّهِ عَزَّوجلَّ أسَرَّهُ إلى جَبرَئيلَ (عَلَيهِ الّسَلامُ)، وأسَرَّهُ جَبرَئيلُ إلى محمّدٍ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ)، وأسَرَّهُ محمّدٌ إلى مَن شاءَ اللّهُ.

4– Imam al-Kazim (a.s.), when a man from Persia asked him, 'Do you know the Unseen', replied, 'Abu Ja'afar (a.s.) [i.e. Imam al-Baqir] said, 'Knowledge is expounded for us so we know it, and it can be taken away from us so we do not know.' And he said, 'Allah, Mighty and Exalted, entrusted his secret to Gabriel (a.s.), and Gabriel entrusted it to Muhammad (S), and Muhammad (S) entrusted it to those whom Allah willed.'[al-Kafi, v. 1, p. 256, no. 1]

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