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الشَّر Evil

Evil

مِعيارُ الخَيرِ وَالشَّرِّ

The Yardstick of Good and Evil

ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَلامُ): ما خَيرٌ بِخَيرٍ بَعدَهُ النارُ ، وما شَرٌّ بِشَرٍّ بَعدَهُ الجَنَّةُ ، وكُلُّ نَعيمٍ دُونَ الجَنَّةِ فهُو مَحقورٌ ،1 . وكُلُّ بَلاءٍ دُونَ النارِ عافِيَةٌ

1– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'That good whose end consequence is the Fire is not good, and that hardship whose end consequence is Paradise is not bad. Every bliss other than Paradise is inferior, and every calamity other than the Fire itself is a comfort.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 387]

2– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Allah, Glorified be He, has sent down a guiding Book wherein He has explained good and evil, so adopt the course of good so that you be rightly guided, and turn away from the direction of evil so that you remain focused on the right way.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 167]

Worse than Evil

شَرٌّ مِنَ الشَّرّ

3– The Prophet (S) said, 'There are two virtues unexcelled by anything better: faith in Allah, and being of benefit to Allah's servants. And there are two iniquities unsurpassed by anything worse: associating something with Allah, and causing harm to Allah's servants.'[Bihar al–Anwar, v. 77, p. 137, no. 2]

4– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There is nothing worse than an evil deed except for its own punishment, and there is nothing better than a good deed except for its own reward.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 114]

5- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The doer of evil is worse than the evil itself.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 32]

The Keys to All Evils

6- Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, 'Verily Allah, Mighty and Exalted, created locks for all evils, and he made the keys to those locks to be alcohol; and lying is worse than alcohol.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 72, p. 236, no. 3]

7- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Anger is the key to all evils.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 73, p. 263, no. 4]

The Merging of Evils

8– The Prophet (S) said, 'Verily Satan addresses his devils saying, 'Avail yourselves to meat, intoxicants and women, for verily I do not see the merging together of more evils except through these.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 62, p. 293]

Man's Natural Tendency for Evil

9- The Prophet (S) said, 'Force yourselves to do good, and exert yourselves therein, for verily evil is something man naturally tends towards.' [Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 2, p. 120]

10- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Compel yourself to good virtues, for verily vices are something you have a natural tendency for.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 2477]

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