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Expectation

الأمَل Expectation

Expectation is a Mercy

الأمَلُ رَحمَةٌ

رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ) : الأملُ رَحمةٌ لأُمّتي ، ولَوْلا الأملُ ما أَرْضَعَتْ والِدَةٌ وَلَدَها، ولا غَرَسَ غارِسٌ -1 . شَجَراً

1– The Prophet (S) said, 'Expectation is a mercy for my community; without expectation no mother would nurse her child, nor would anyone plant a tree.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 173, no. 8]

2- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectation is an amiable companion.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1042]

بينما عيسَى بن مريم (عَلَيهِ السَلامُ) جالِسٌ وشَيخٌ يَعملُ بِمِسْحاةٍ ويُثيرُ بهِ الأرضَ ، فقالَ عيسى (عَلَيهِ السَلامُ): -3 اللَّهُمَّ انْزعْ عنه الأملَ . فَوَضَعَ الشَّيخُ المِسْحاةَ واضْطَجَعَ، فَلَبِثَ ساعةً فقالَ عيسى (عَلَيهِ السَلامُ): اللَّهُمَّ ارْدُدْ إليهِ اللَّهُمَّ انْزعْ عنه الأملَ . فَوَضَعَ الشَّيخُ المِسْحاةَ واضْطَجَعَ، فَلَبِثَ ساعةً فقالَ عيسى (عَلَيهِ السَلامُ): اللَّهُمَّ ارْدُدْ إليهِ . الأملَ، فقامَ فَجَعَلَ يَعملُ .

3- It is narrated in Tanbih al-Khawatir: 'While Jesus son of Mary (a.s.) was sitting, he saw a man working the land with a shovel. Jesus (a.s.) said, 'O Allah, take his expectation away from him!' The man put his shovel down and rested on the ground for an hour. Then Jesus (a.s.) said, 'O Allah, give him back his expectation!' The man stood up and returned to work.'[Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 1, p. 272]

Expectations Never Cease

4- The Prophet (S) said, 'A man who expects to be alive tomorrow is a man who expects to be alive forever.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 73, p. 167, no. 31]

5- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There is no end to expectation.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1010]

6- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectations never cease.' [Ibid. no. 639]

Warning Against False Expectations

7- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Guard yourselves against false expectation, for many a person who begins the day does not live to see its end, and many a one is envied at the beginning of the night while his mourners have assembled by the end of it.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 2572]

8- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectation is like the mirage - it deceives those who view it and leaves behind those who place their hope on it.'[Ibid. no. 1896]

9- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Wishes blind the eyes of insight.' [Ibid. no. 1375]

10- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectation is the sultan of the Satans over the hearts of the oblivious.'[Ibid. no. 1828]

11- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The fruit of expectation is the spoilage of deeds.' [Ibid. no. 4641]

12- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectation causes the heart to forget, breaks promises, increases oblivion, and brings about grief.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 35, no. 117]

13– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectation drives reason away, breaks promises, encourages oblivion, and brings about grief. So distrust expectation, for it is deceitful and its addict is a sinner.'[Ibid. v. 77, p. 293, no. 2]

14- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'How many a favor Allah grants His servant without his having expected them, and how many a hopeful one entertains high hopes when [Allah's] choice favours others.'[Ibid. v. 71, p. 152, no. 55]

Expectation and Death

الأمَلُ وَالأَجَلُ

رُويَ أَنّهُ [رسول الله] (صَلَّيَ اللهُ عَلَيهِ وَ آلِهِ) أَخَذَ ثلاثةَ أَعْواد فَغَرَسَ عُودا بين يَدَيْهِ والآخَرَ إلى جَنْبِهِ ، وأمّا -15 التّالثُ فأَبْعَدَهُ وقالَ : هذا الإنسانُ، وهذا الأجلُ ، وهذا الأملُ التّالثُ فأَبْعَدَهُ وقالَ : هذا الإنسانُ، وهذا الأجلُ ، وهذا الأملُ . يَتَعاطاهُ ابنُ آدمَ ويَخْتَلِجُهُ الأجلُ دُونَ الأمل

15– It has been narrated that the Prophet (S) took three sticks and set one of them in front of him, another one next to it, and the third far away from the two. He then asked, 'Do you know what this is?' to which they replied, 'Allah and His Messenger know better.' He said, 'This one is man, and this is death [next to it], while that one is expectation, which man entertains [about his long life], but death falls upon him prior to his expectation.'[Tanbih al–Khawatir, v. 1, p. 272]

16- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'If man were to see his death [approaching] and the speed at which it draws near to him, he would despise expectation.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 73, p. 95, no. 79]

17- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Expectation makes one forget death.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 874]

18- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The closest thing is death, and the remotest thing is expectation.' [Ibid. no. 2920–2921]

19- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A soul does not depart from his expectation until it enters the realm of death.'[Ibid. no. 10844]

20- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Indeed you are in the days of expectation that is followed by death. So he who works in the days of his expectation before death arrives will benefit from his work and will not be hurt by death.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 333, no. 21]

21- Imam al-Kazim (a.s.) said, 'If times of death were revealed, expectations would be debunked.'[A'alam al-Din, p. 305]

The Results of High Expectations

22- Part of what Allah, the Exalted, told Prophet Moses (a.s.): 'O Moses! Do not extend your expectation in this world's life lest your heart become hard, for the hard-hearted is far from Me.'[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 329, no. 1]

23– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man who has high expectations is deficient in his action.' [Bihar al–Anwar, v. 77, p. 421, no. 40]

24- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'As for high expectation, it causes you to forget the Hereafter.'[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 336, no. 3]

Low Expectation

25- The Prophet (S) told Ibn Mas'ud, 'Lower your expectation such that when you wake up in the

morning, you say, 'I will not see the night' and when you go to sleep at night, you say, 'I will not see the morning.' And be prepared to depart from this life and yearn to meet Allah.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 101, no. 1]

26- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man who is sure about leaving his loved ones, dwelling under the earth, facing the final Account, and that he will be needless of what he leaves behind, and needy of what he has sent forth [for the Hereafter] deserves to shorten his expectation and lengthen his action.'[Ibid. v. 73, p. 167, no. 31]

27- Imam al-Baqir (a.s.) said, 'Equip yourself with low expectation for this world's life.'[Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 286]

Prohibition of Placing One's Expectation in Other than Allah

28– The Prophet (S) said, 'Allah, Mighty and Exalted says, 'I will cut off the expectation of every believer who places it in someone other than Me [and replace it] with despair.' [Sahifat al-Imam al-Ridha(a.s.), p. 276, no. 20]

29- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'He who places his expectation in a human is indeed fearful of him.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 79, no. 61]

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