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Home > Mizan al-Hikmah (Scale of Wisdom) > Good > The Worth of One Who Guides Towards Good

Good

الخُير Good

Good

الخَير

1– The Prophet (S) said, 'The one who sows good is bound to reap good.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 76, no. 3]

2- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A good action is an ever-remaining store and a pure yield.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 6545]

3– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The one who plants the tree of goodness will reap the sweetest fruit.' [Ghurar al-Hikam,. no. 6442]

4- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The one who does good will be the first to reap its result.' [Ghurar al-Hikam,. no. 8177]

5- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A good action is easier [to do] than a bad one.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1199]

Actions encompassed by Goodness

6- The Prophet (S) said, 'All of goodness lies in the awe of Allah.' [Tanbih al-Khawatir, v. 2, p. 122]

7– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Three things sum up all of goodness: bestowing of favours, maintaining covenants and pacts, and strengthening blood-kinship.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4675]

8— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'All of goodness is contained in those actions which remain, and in contempt for all that is transient.' [Ghurar al-Hikam,. no. 4735]

9- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'All of goodness is in friendship for the sake of Allah, enmity for the sake of Allah, love for the sake of Allah and hate for the sake of Allah.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4781]

10– Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a.s.) said, 'I saw goodness in its entirety was summed up in cutting off one's greed for other people's possessions.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 73, p. 171, no. 10]

11– Imam Zayn al-Abidin (a.s.) said, 'Goodness in its entirety is man's guarding over himself.'[Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 278]

How the Good of this World and the Hereafter is Obtained

12— The Prophet (S) said, 'There are four things which when given to someone, they have indeed been given the good of this world and the Hereafter: a persevering body, a remembering tongue, a thankful heart and a righteous wife.'[Mustadrak al-Wasa'il, v. 2, p. 414, no. 2338]

13– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The good of this world and the Hereafter has been brought together in the concealing of secrets and the befriending of good people.' [Bihar al–Anwar, v. 74, p. 178, no. 17]

14– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There are three things which if one possesses, they have been endowed with the good of this world and the Hereafter. They are: contentment with [Allah's] decree, patience in the face of tribulation, and thankfulness in times of ease.'[Ghurar al–Hikam, no. 4670]

15– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Allah – glory be to Him – does not give His servant any good of this world or the Hereafter except as a result of his good nature and good intention.' [Ghurar al–Hikam, no. 9670]

16– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There are four things which when given to someone, they have indeed been given the good of this world and the Hereafter: truthful speech, fulfilment of trust, restraint in [filling] one's stomach, and a good nature.' [Ghurar al–Hikam, no. 2142]

Explanation of Good

تَفسيرُ الخَير

17- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Goodness does not lie in the increase of your wealth and of your progeny, rather goodness lies in the increase of your knowledge, and the heightening of your clemency, and in your vying with other people in the worship of Allah. If you do good then you should praise Allah, but if you commit evil then seek forgiveness from Allah.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 94]

18– Imam al-Hasan (a.s.) said, 'Absolute goodness that is untainted with evil is being thankful for bounties and having patience in calamity.'[Tuhaf al-'Uqul, no. 234]

When Allah Wants Good for a Servant

إذا أرادَ اللهُ بعَبدِ خَيراً

19– The Prophet (S) said, 'When Allah wants good for a servant, He makes him proficient in the knowledge of religion, induces him to abstain from the world and gives him insight into his own faults.' [Bihar al–Anwar, v. 77, p. 80, no. 3]

20- The Prophet (S) said, 'When Allah wants good for a servant, He censures him in his dreams.' [Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 30765]

21– The Prophet (S) said, 'When Allah wants good for a servant, He sweetens his affairs', at which he was asked, 'How does He sweeten affairs?' The Prophet (S) replied, 'He opens the way for him to do righteous deeds before his death and causes him to die in the state of doing good.' [Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 30763]

22- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'When Allah wants good for a servant, He inspires him with contentment and gives him a righteous spouse.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4115]

23– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Verily when Allah wants good for a servant, He marks his heart with a white spot so that his heart is occupied with seeking the truth, then He is faster at fulfilling your needs than a bird flying to its nest.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 292, no. 2]

If Allah Wants Good for a Community

24– The Prophet (S) said, 'When Allah wants good for a community, He increases their scholars and decreases their ignorant ones, so when the scholar speaks, he finds supporters, but when the ignorant one speaks, he is defeated.' [Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 28692]

25- The Prophet (S) said, 'Verily when Allah - Blessed and most High - wants a community to remain and thrive, He endows them with aspiration and chastity.'[al-Durr al-Manthur, v. 3, p. 270]

26— The Prophet (S) said, 'When Allah wants good for a household, He makes them proficient in the knowledge of religion, He causes the younger ones from among them to revere the elders, He bestows them with moderation in their livelihood and with economy in their spending, He gives them insight into their faults, thus causing them to repent, and when He wants other than that [i.e. good for them] then He leaves them unattended.'

Enjoinment of Hastening to Undertake Good Deeds

27- The Prophet (S) said, 'He for whom a door of goodness is opened must seize the opportunity for verily he does not know when it will close.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 165, no. 2]

28– The Prophet (S) said, 'Verily Allah loves those good actions which are hastened towards.'[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 142, no. 4]

29– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Rush to undertake good actions before you are preoccupied with other things.'[al-Khisal, p. 620, no. 10]

30- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'My father used to say, 'When you intend to do a good thing, then hasten

to undertake it for you do not know what will happen. [al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 142, no. 3]

The Best of Matters

31– The Prophet (S) said, 'The best of matters are the religious obligations and the worst of them are the innovations.'[al-lkhtisas, p. 342]

32- The Prophet (S) said, 'The best of matters are those with the best outcomes.' [Amali al-Saduq, p. 395, no. 1]

33– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The best of matters are those that are easy to start, pleasant to finish and whose outcome is praiseworthy.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 5032]

34- Imam al-Kazim (a.s.) said, 'The best matters are those of the middle way.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 76, p. 292, no. 16]

Prohibition of Contempt for Little Good

35– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Do good and do not underestimate it at all, for verily a little good is actually a lot and a small amount of it is much.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 422]

.. الإمامُ الصَّادقُ (عَلَيهِ السَّلامُ) : لا تُصنفِّرْ شيئا مِن الخَير ، فإنَّكَ تَراهُ غداً حَيثُ يَسُرُّكَ 36

36– Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Do not belittle anything that is good, for verily you will see it tomorrow and it will make you happy.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 71, p. 182, no. 37]

The Criteria for Good and Evil

ميزانُ الخَير وَالشَّرّ

ـ الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيهِ السَلامُ) : إنّ الخَيرَ والشَّرَّ لا يُعْرَفانِ إلّا بالنّاسِ، فإذا أَرَدتَ أَنْ تَعرِفَ الخَيرَ فَاعْمَلِ الخَيرَ تَعرِفْ أَهلَهُ . وإذا أَرَدتَ أَنْ تَعرِفَ الشَّرَّ فاعْمَل الشَّرَّ تَعرِفْ أَهلَهُ

37– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Verily good and evil can only be known through people, so if you want to know good then do good and you will know its people, and if you want to know evil then commit evil and you will know its people.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 41, no. 26]

The Characteristics of Good People

صِفاتُ أهلِ الخَيرِ

- في حديث المِعراج : يا أحمدُ ، إنَّ أهلَ الخَيرِ وأهلَ الآخِرَةِ رَقيقَةٌ وُجوهُهم، كثيرٌحياؤهُم، قليلٌ حُمْقُهُم ، كثيرٌ 38 نَفْعُهُم ، كثيرٌ 38 نَفْعُهُم ، قليلٌ مَكْرُهُم ، النّاسُ مِنْهم في راحَةٍ ، وأنفسهُم مِنْهم في تَعَب ، كلامُهُم مَوْزونٌ ، مُحاسِبينَ لأنفُسِهِم مُتْعِبينَ لَفُعُهُم ، قليلٌ مَكْرُهُم ، النّاسُ مِن الغافِلينَ كُتِبوا مِن الذّاكِرينَ ... لَهَا ، تَنامُ أَعينُهم ولا تَنامُ قلوبُهُم ، أعينُهم باكِيَةٌ ، وقُلوبُهُم ذاكِرَةٌ . إذا كُتِبَ النّاسُ مِن الغافِلينَ كُتِبوا مِن النّاكِرينَ ... لا يَشْغَلُهُم عَنِ اللهِ شَيَءٌ طَرْفَةَ عَينٍ ، ولا يُريدونَ كَثْرَةَ الطّعامِ ، ولا كَثرةَ الكلامِ ، ولا كَثرةَ اللّباسِ . النّاسُ عِندَهُم حيٌ قَيُومٌ . مَوْتى، واللّهُ عِندَهُم حيٌ قَيُومٌ

38– It is narrated in the tradition recounting the Prophet's Ascension to the Heavens (al-mi'araj) that Allah addresses the Prophet (S) saying, 'O Ahmad, Verily the good people and the people worthy of a good Hereafter have gentle countenances and much modesty, they possess little foolishness, they are of much benefit and they are seldom deceptive. People are at ease when with them whereas their souls are exhausted on account of them. Their words are balanced, they take account of their souls and exhaust them [through making them perform good]. Their eyes sleep but their hearts do not, their eyes weep and their hearts are remembering. When people are recorded as being neglectful, they are recorded amongst the remembering ones... Nothing preoccupies them from Allah for a split second. They do not desire much food, neither wish to speak much nor have many clothes. According to them,

people are dead and Allah is the Living One, the All-Sustainer. [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 24, no. 6]

What is Better Than Goodness

39- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There is nothing better than goodness except its own reward.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 7487]

40- Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Better than truthfulness is the one who practices it, and better than good is its doer.' [Amali al-Tusi, p. 223, no. 385]

41– Imam al-Hadi (a.s.) said, 'Better than good is its doer, more beautiful than beautiful words is the one who says them and weightier than knowledge is the one who carries it.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 370, no. 4]

The Worth of One Who Guides Towards Good

42- The Prophet (S) said, 'The one who guides towards good is just as its doer.' [Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 16052]

43– The Prophet (S) said, 'He who guides towards good has the same reward as the one who does

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