

Hadith Unwan al-Basri (حديث عنوان البصري)

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حديث عنوان البصري

In the Name of Allah

Instruction of Imam Sadiq (as) for the wayfarers towards Allah

Source Bihar Al-Anwar, vol.1 p.226

Al-Sheikhul Baha'i (may the mercy of Allah be upon him) has narrated in his Kashkul

روى الشيخ البهائي (رحمه الله) في كشكوله

Al-Sheikh Shamsul Din Muhammad ibn Makki said 'I have transcribed from the writings of Sheikh Ahmad al-Farahani, (may the Mercy of Allah be upon him), who narrated from Unwan al-Basri, an elderly man of 94 years, who said "For a number of years, I frequently visited Malik ibn Anas, and so when Ja'far al-Sadiq (as) came to Madina, I also visited him frequently as I wished to learn from him in the same way I learned from Malik

قال الشيخ شمس الدين محمد بن مكي نقلت من خط الشيخ احمد الفراهاني رحمه الله

عن عنوان البصري وكان شيخا كبيرا قد اتي عليه اربعون وتسعون سنة قال كنت اختلف الى مالك بن انس سنين فلما قدم جعفر الصادق (ع) المدينة اختلفت اليه واحببت ان آخذ عنه كما اخذت عن مالك.

One day Ja'far Al- Sadiq (as) said to me 'People demand much from me, however I also have many important rituals to perform. Therefore please do not distract me from my rituals, rather .go to Malik and continue to visit and learn from him

فقال لي يوما إني رجل مطلوب ومع ذلك لي ايراد في كل ساعة من آناء الليل والنهار فلا تشغلني عن وردي وخذ عن مالك واختلف اليه كما كنت تختلف اليه.

I was disappointed by this. I left Ja'far Al-Sadiq and said to myself 'If he had seen any good in'

me he would not have prevented me from visiting and learning from him.' So I entered the Mosque of the Messenger (S) and sent my greetings to him. I returned to the shrine and prayed two rak'at there, asking 'O Allah, O Allah, make the heart of Ja'far (as) kind towards me .and bless me with his knowledge through which I will be guided to Your Straight Path

فاغتممت من ذلك وخرجت من عنده وقلت في نفسي لو تفرس فيّ خيرا لما زجرني عن الاختلاف اليه والاخذ عنه فدخلت مسجد الرسول (ص) وسلّمت عليه ثم رجعت من الغد الى الروضة وصلّيت فيها ركعتين وقلت اسألك يا الله يا الله ان تعطف على قلب جعفر وترزقني من علمه ما اهتدي به الي صراطك المستقيم

I returned straight to my house not visiting Malik ibn Anas, despondent from what my heart had tasted from the love of Ja'far. I did not leave my house except for the obligatory prayers, until I could stand it no longer. It was after the Afternoon Prayer that I put on my clothes, sandals and .set out to see Imam Ja'far

ورجعت الى داري مغتما ولم اختلف الى مالك بن انس لما أشرب قلبي من حبّ جعفر. فما خرجت من داري الا الى الصلاة المكتوبة حتى عيل صبري. فلما ضاق صدري تنعلت وترديت وقصدت جعفرا وكان بعد ما صليت العصر.

When I reached the door of his house I asked for permission to enter. His servant came out and asked 'What is your need' I answered 'Greeting the honorable one'. He said 'He is standing in his place of prayer'. So I sat near his door. It was not long before the servant came to me .saying 'Enter with the blessing of Allah

فلما حضرت باب داره استأذنت عليه فخرج خادم له فقال ما حاجتك؟ فقلت السلام على الشريف. فقال هو قائم في مصلاه فجلست بحذاء بابه فما لبث الا يسيرا اذ خرج خادم فقال ادخل على بركة الله.

I entered, relayed my greetings to Ja'far Al-Sadiq (as) which he returned. He (as) then said 'Please be seated. May Allah forgive you.' I sat and he was silent for a long time. Then he (as) raised his head and said 'What are you known as' 'Abu Abdullah,' (the father of the slave of God) I replied. He (as) said 'May Allah affirm your name and give you success. O Abu Abdullah, what is your need' I said 'I asked Allah to make your heart kind towards me and to bless me with knowledge from you. I hope that Allah, the Exalted, has answered my request with regards .(to the honorable one (as

فدخلت وسلّمت عليه فردّ السلام وقال اجلس غفر الله لك. فجلست فاطرق مليا ثم رفع راسه وقال ابو من؟ قلت أبو عبد الله. قال تثبت الله كنيته ووفّقك يا أبا عبد الله! ما مسألتك؟ فقلت سألت الله ان يعطف قلبك عليّ ويرزقني من علمك وأرجو انّ الله تعالى اجابني في الشريف ما سألته.

The Imam (as) said 'O Abu Abdullah! Knowledge is not obtained by learning. Rather, it is a light which enters the heart of whoever Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, wishes to guide. So if you want knowledge, first find in yourself the reality of slavery. Seek knowledge by utilizing it and ask Allah to make you understand, then He will make you understand

فقال (عليه السلام) يا أبا عبد الله ليس العلم بالتعلم انما هو نور يقع في قلب من يريد الله تبارك وتعالى ان يهديه فان اردت العلم فاطلب اوّلا في نفسك حقيقة العبودية. اطلب العلم باستعماله واستفهم الله يفهمك.

'I said 'O honorable one, what is the reality of slavery

قلت يا شريف! ما حقيقة العبودية؟

He (as) said 'Reality of slavery has three strands

Firstly, a slave does not see ownership for himself of the things that Allah has entrusted to him, because slaves do not possess ownership. Slaves see wealth as that of Allah and place it wherever He has commanded them to

Secondly a slave does not plan his own affairs, being entirely occupied with what Allah, the Exalted has planned

Thirdly, he is entirely occupied with what Allah, the Exalted, has commanded him to do and prohibited him from doing

قال (عليه السلام)

ثلاثة اشياء ان لا يرى العبد لنفسه فيما خوّله الله ملكا لان العبيد لا يكون لهم ملك يرون المال مال الله يضعونه حيث امرهم الله به، ولا يدبّر العبد لنفسه تدبيرا، وجملة اشتغاله فيما امر الله تعالى به ونهاه عنه.

So if a slave does not see any ownership for himself of that which Allah has entrusted to him, it would be easy for him to spend only in the way that Allah, the Exalted, has commanded him to

spend, and if a slave leaves the management of his self to his Manager then the afflictions of this world become easy on him, and if a slave occupies himself with what Allah, the Exalted, commanded him to do and prohibited him from doing he will not have the free time to engage in futile debate and boasting with people

فإذا لم ير العبد لنفسه فيما خوّله الله تعالى ملكا هان عليه الانفاق فيما امره الله تعالى ان ينفق فيه وإذا فوّض العبد تدبير نفسه على مدبّره هان عليه مصائب الدنيا وإذا اشتغل العبد بما امره الله تعالى ونهاه لا يتفرغ منهما الى المراء والمباهاة مع الناس.

So if Allah honors the slave with these three, the world, Iblis and all creation would become low in the eyes of the slave and he would not yearn after this world, its wealth or personal pride. He would not seek what people have, for glory or superiority (amongst them) and would not leave his days to pass away in vain. This is the first stage of piety. Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, said

فإذا أكرم الله العبد بهذه الثلاثة هان عليه الدنيا وابليس والخلق ولا يطلب الدنيا تكاثرا وتفاخرا ولا يطلب ما عند الناس عزا وعلوا ولا يدع ايامه باطلا. فهذا اول درجه التقى. قال الله تبارك وتعالى

As for) that future abode, We assign it to those who have no desire to exalt themselves in the)' (earth nor to make mischief and the good end is for those who guard (against evil)'(2883

تلك الدار الآخرة نجعلها للذين لا يريدون علوا في الارض ولا فسادا والعاقبة للمتقين.

I said 'O Abu Abdullah, advise me further on this matter. He (as) said 'There are nine things to advise for those seeking the path to Allah, the Exalted and I ask Allah to guide you in putting this advice into practice. Three of them are with regards to self- asceticism, three of them are with regards to forbearance and three of them are with regards to knowledge. Maintain them ".and guard against taking them lightly

قلت يا ابا عبد الله اوصني. قال (عليه السلام)

اوصيك بتسعة اشياء فإنها وصية لمريدي الطريق الي الله تعالى والله اسال ان يوفقك لاستعماله، ثلاثة منها في رياضة النفس وثلاثة منها في الحلم وثلاثة منها في العلم فاحفظها واياك والتهاون بها.

Unwan said 'so I gave him my full attention, and he (as) continued

قال عنوان ففرغت قلبي له.

Regarding the self-asceticism, be wary of eating that which you do not crave for because this leads to stupidity and imbecility. Do not eat unless you are hungry and if you eat, eat that which is halal, mentioning the name of Allah, and remember the narration of the Messenger (S) where he says 'No human has filled a cavity worse than his stomach. Let him leave a third for his food, a third for his drink, and a third for the air he breathes

فقال (ع) اما اللواتي في الرياضة فيايبك ان تأكل مالا تشتهييه فانه يورث الحماسة والبله ولا تأكل الا عند الجوع وإذا اكلت فكل حلالا وسم الله واذكر حديث الرسول (ص) ما ملاء آدمي وعاء شرا من بطنه فان كان ولا بد فثلت لطعامه وثلث لشربه وثلث لنفسه.

With regards to forbearance; if someone says to you 'if you say one thing (of insult to me), you will hear ten things' you should say to him 'if you say ten (insulting) things, you will not hear even one from me'. If someone swears at you, say to him 'if you are truthful in what you say then I ask Allah to forgive me, and if you are lying in what you say, then I ask Allah to forgive you'. Finally, if someone promises you obscene language then promise him advice and care

واما اللواتي في الحلم فمن قال لك ان قلت واحده سمعت عشرة. فقل ان قلت عشرة لم تسمع واحده. ومن شتمك فقل له ان كنت صادقا فيما تقول فأسال الله ان يغفر لي وان كنت كاذبا فيما تقول فأسال الله ان يغفر لك. ومن وعدك بالخنى فعده بالنصيحة والرعاء.

With regards to knowledge, ask the scholars that which you do not know, and avoid asking them if it will cause embarrassment or trial. Be wary of acting on your own opinion and take precaution in all matters that you can find a way (for precaution). Avoid giving religious edicts just as you would avoid a lion, and do not make your neck a bridge for people. (Don't carry the burden of people's sins

واما اللواتي في العلم فاسأل العلماء ما جهلت، واياك ان تسألهم تعنتا وتجربة واياك ان تعمل برأيك شيئا وخذ بالاحتياط في جميع ما تجد اليه سبيلا واهرب من الفتيا هربك من الاسد ولا تجعل رقبتك للناس جسرا.

Now that I have advised you, you may leave O Abdullah! And don't interrupt my rituals, for I am a man covetous regarding my spiritual self. May peace be upon the one who follows True Guidance

قم عني يا أبا عبد الله فقد نصحت لك ولا تفسد عليّ وردي فاني أمرئ ضنين بنفسي والسلام على من اتبع الهدى.