

'Preparing for the death'

Table of Contents

'Preparing for the Death'	3
What is the Preparedness for the Death?.....	4
Allah ^{-azwj} Says: Do not Forget your Death	6
Allah ^{-azwj} Considers the latest Status of a Believer:	7

Abbreviations:

saww: - Sal lal la ho Allay hay **Wa** Aal lay he **Wasallam**

azwj: - **Az Za Wa** Jalla

asws: - Allay hay **Salawat Wass Salam**

AJFJ: Ajal Allah hey wa Fara Jaak

ra: - **Razi Allah**^{-azwj}

La: - **Laan Allah**^{-azwj}

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ, وَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِهِ الطَّاهِرِينَ, وَسَلَّم تَسْلِيمًا.

In the Name of Allah^{-azwj} the Beneficent, the Merciful. The Praise is for Allah^{-azwj} Lord^{-azwj} of the Worlds, and Blessing be upon our Chief Muhammad^{-saww} and his^{-saww} Purified Progeny^{-asws}, and greetings with abundant greetings.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَجِّلْ فَرَجَهُمْ وَالْعَنْ أَعْدَاءَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

‘Preparing for the Death’

ين، كتاب حسين بن سعيد و النوادر علي بن النعمان عن ابن مسكان عن داود بن أبي يزيد عن أبي شيبه الزهري عن أبي جعفر ع قال قال رسول الله ص الموت الموت جاء بالروح و الراحة و الكرامة المباركة إلى جنّة عالية لأهل دار الخلود الذين كان لهم سعيهم و فيها رغبتهم

The book of Husayn Bin Saeed, and ‘Al Nawadir’ – Ali Bin Al Numan, from Ibn Muskan, from Dawood Bin Abu Yazeed, from Abu Shayba Al Zuhry,

‘From Abu Ja’far^{-asws} having said: ‘Rasool-Allah^{-saww} said: ‘The death! The death! The death comes with whatever is in it, with the comfort and the rest and the Blessed turning to the lofty Garden for people of the eternal house, those who had their striving for them, and in it are their desires!’

وَ قَالَ إِذَا اسْتَحَقَّتْ وَلَايَةُ الشَّيْطَانِ وَ السَّقَاوَةُ جَاءَ الْأَمَلُ بَيْنَ الْعَيْنَيْنِ وَ ذَهَبَ الْأَجَلُ وَرَاءَ الظُّهْرِ.

And he^{-saww} said: ‘When the wilayah of the Satan^{-la} and the wretchedness expire, the wishes come in front of the eyes and the death goes behind the back’.¹

قَالَ وَ قَالَ: سُئِلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ص أَيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَكْبَسُ

He (the narrator) said, ‘And he^{-asws} said: ‘Rasool-Allah^{-saww} was asked, ‘Which of the Momineen is the cleverest?’

قَالَ أَكْثَرُهُمْ ذِكْرًا لِلْمَوْتِ وَ أَشَدَّهُمْ لَهُ اسْتِعْدَادًا.

He^{-saww} (Rasool Allah^{-saww}) said: ‘The ones most frequent in remembering the death, and their most intense in preparation for it’.²

¹ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 13 a

² Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 13 b

What is the Preparedness for the Death?

عيون أخبار الرضا عليه السلام المُفَسِّرُ بِإِسْنَادِهِ إِلَى أَبِي مُحَمَّدٍ الْعَسْكَرِيِّ عَنْ آبَائِهِ ع قَالَ: قِيلَ لِأَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ع مَا الْإِسْتِعْدَادُ لِلْمَوْتِ

(The book) ‘Uyoon Akhbar Al-Reza^{-asws}’ – The interpreter, by his chain to Abu Muhammad Al-Askari^{-asws}, from his^{-asws} forefathers^{-asws} having said: ‘It was said to Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws}, ‘What is the preparedness for the death?’

قَالَ أَدَاءُ الْفَرَائِضِ وَاجْتِنَابُ الْمَحَارِمِ وَ الْإِشْتِمَالُ عَلَى الْمَكَارِمِ ثُمَّ لَا يُبَالِي أَنْ وَقَعَ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ أَوْ وَقَعَ الْمَوْتُ عَلَيْهِ وَ اللَّهُ مَا يُبَالِي ابْنُ أَبِي طَالِبٍ أَنْ وَقَعَ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ أَوْ وَقَعَ الْمَوْتُ عَلَيْهِ.

He^{-asws} said: ‘Fulfilling the Obligations, and shunning the Prohibitions, and inclusion upon the noble needs. Then he should not care if he falls upon the death or the death falls upon him. By Allah^{-azwj}! The son^{-asws} of Abu Talib^{-asws} does not care whether he^{-asws} falls upon the death or the death falls upon him^{-asws}!’³

لي، الأمايلي للصدوق ن، عيون أخبار الرضا عليه السلام المُفَسِّرُ عَنْ أَحْمَدَ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ الْحُسَيْنِيِّ عَنْ أَبِي مُحَمَّدٍ الْعَسْكَرِيِّ عَنْ آبَائِهِ ع قَالَ: قِيلَ لِأَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ع مَا الْإِسْتِعْدَادُ لِلْمَوْتِ

(The book) ‘Al Amaali’ of Al Sadouq, (and) ‘Uyoon Akhbar Al-Reza^{-asws}’, may the greetings be upon him^{-asws} – Al Mufasssir, from Ahmad Bin Al Hassan Al Husayni,

‘From Abu Muhammad Al-Askari^{-asws}, from his^{-asws} forefathers^{-asws} having said: ‘It was said to Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws}, ‘What is the preparation for the death?’

قَالَ أَدَاءُ الْفَرَائِضِ وَاجْتِنَابُ الْمَحَارِمِ وَ الْإِشْتِمَالُ عَلَى الْمَكَارِمِ ثُمَّ لَا يُبَالِي أَوْ وَقَعَ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ أَمْ وَقَعَ الْمَوْتُ عَلَيْهِ وَ اللَّهُ مَا يُبَالِي ابْنُ أَبِي طَالِبٍ أَوْ وَقَعَ عَلَى الْمَوْتِ أَمْ وَقَعَ الْمَوْتُ عَلَيْهِ.

He^{-asws} said: ‘Fulfilling the obligations, and shunning the Prohibitions, and the inclusion upon the honourable (manners), then he should not care whether he falls upon the death, or the death falls upon him. By Allah^{-azwj}! The son^{-asws} of Abu Talib^{-as} does not care whether he^{-asws} falls upon the death or the death falls upon him^{-asws}!’⁴

يَا أَبَا ذَرٍّ أ تُحِبُّ أَنْ تَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ

In a lengthy Hadith, Rasool Allah^{-saww} said to Abu Zarr^{-ra}: ‘O Abu Zarr^{-ra}! Would you^{-ra} love to enter the Paradise?’

قُلْتُ نَعَمْ فِدَاكَ أَبِي

I^{-ra} said, ‘Yes, may my^{-ra} father be sacrificed for you^{-saww}!’

³ Bihar Al Anwaar – V 40, The book of History – Amir Al Momineen^{-asws}, Ch 99 H 9

⁴ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 1

قَالَ فَاقْصِرْ مِنَ الْأَمَلِ وَاجْعَلِ الْمَوْتَ نُصَبَ عَيْنَيْكَ وَ اسْتَحْ مِنَ اللَّهِ حَقَّ الْحَيَاءِ

He^{-saww} said: 'Shorten your wishes and make the death to be in front of your eyes and be embarrassed from Allah^{-azwj} as is the right of being embarrassed!'

قَالَ قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ كُنَّا نَسْتَحِي مِنَ اللَّهِ

He (Abu Zarr^{-ra} said), 'I^{-ra} said, 'O Rasool-Allah^{-saww}! All of us are embarrassed from Allah^{-azwj}!'

قَالَ لَيْسَ ذَلِكَ الْحَيَاءَ وَ لَكِنَّ الْحَيَاءَ مِنَ اللَّهِ أَنْ لَا تُنْسَى الْمَقَابِرَ وَ الْبَلِي وَ الْجُوفَ وَ مَا وَعَى وَ الرَّأْسَ وَ مَنْ حَوَى وَ مَنْ أَرَادَ كِرَامَةَ الْآخِرَةِ فَلْيَدْعُ زِينَةَ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا كُنْتَ كَذَلِكَ أَصَبْتَ وَ لَا يَنَالُكَ اللَّهُ -

He^{-saww} said: 'That isn't the embarrassment, but the embarrassment from Allah^{-azwj} is that you don't forget the graves and the decay, and the interior (stomach) from what it contains, and the head from what it whims, and the one who wants the honours of the Hereafter, let him leave adornments of the world. When you were to be like that, you will attain the Wilayah of Allah^{-azwj}'.

Also in a similar Hadith:

ب، قرب الإسناد مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ عَيْسَى عَنِ الْقَدَّاحِ عَنْ جَعْفَرٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ ص اسْتَحُوا مِنَ اللَّهِ حَقَّ الْحَيَاءِ

(The book) 'Qurb Al Asnaad' – Muhammad Bin Isa, from Al Qaddah,

'From Ja'far^{-asws}, from his^{-asws} father^{-asws} having said: 'The Prophet^{-saww} said: 'Be embarrassed from Allah^{-azwj} as is the right of embarrassment!'

قَالُوا وَ مَا نَفْعُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

They said, 'And what shall we do, O Rasool-Allah^{-saww}!'

قَالَ فَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فَاعِلِينَ فَلَا تَبِيتَنَّ أَحَدُكُمْ إِلَّا وَ أَجْلُهُ بَيْنَ عَيْنَيْهِ وَ لِيَحْفَظِ الرَّأْسَ وَ مَا وَعَى وَ الْبُطْنَ وَ مَا حَوَى وَ لِيَذْكُرِ الْقَبْرَ وَ الْبَلِي وَ مَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ فَلْيَدْعُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا.

He^{-saww} said: 'If you were to do, then not one of you should spend a night except and his death should be in front of his eyes and let him preserve the head and what it has retained, and the belly and what it contains, and let him remember the grave and the decay; and the one who wants the Hereafter, let him leave adornments of the worldly life'.⁵

ما، الأماالي للشبخ الطوسي فيما كتبت أمير المؤمنين ع إلى أهل مصر عباد الله إن الموت ليس منه قوت فاحذروا قبل وفووعه و أعدوا له عدته فانكم طرد الموت إن أقمت له أحدكم و إن قررت منه أذركم و هو ألزم لكم من ظلكم

(The book) 'Al Amaali' of the sheykh Al-Tusi –

⁵ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 77 H 11

‘Among what Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws} wrote to the people of Egypt: ‘Servants of Allah^{-azwj}! The death, there isn’t any escape from it, therefore, be cautious before its occurrence and prepare for it - its preparation, for you will be expelled by the death (from the world). If you were to stand for it, it will seize you, and if you were to flee from it, it will catch-up with you, and it will stick more with you than your shadows (do).

الْمَوْتُ مَعْقُودٌ بِبَوَاصِيحِكُمْ وَ الدُّنْيَا تُطْوَى خَلْفَكُمْ فَأَكْثِرُوا ذِكْرَ الْمَوْتِ عِنْدَ مَا تُتَارِعُكُمْ إِلَيْهِ أَنْتُسِكُمْ مِنَ الشَّهَوَاتِ وَ كَفَى بِالْمَوْتِ وَاعِظاً

The death is tied to your forelocks and the world is folding up behind you, therefore, frequently remember the death during whatever from the lustful desires snatches you to it and suffice with the death as a preaching.

وَ كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ص كَثِيراً مَا يُوصِي أَصْحَابَهُ بِذِكْرِ الْمَوْتِ فَيَقُولُ أَكْثِرُوا ذِكْرَ الْمَوْتِ فَإِنَّهُ هَادِمٌ اللَّذَاتِ حَائِلٌ بَيْنَكُمْ وَ بَيْنَ الشَّهَوَاتِ.

And Rasool-Allah^{-saww} used to frequently advise his^{-saww} companions to remember the death and he^{-saww} would say: ‘Frequently remember the death for it is a demolisher of the pleasures, a barrier between you and the lustful desires’.⁶

– وَ رُويَ أَنَّ يَحْيَى بْنَ زَكَرِيَّا ع كَانَ يُفَكِّرُ فِي طُولِ اللَّيْلِ فِي أَمْرِ الْجَنَّةِ وَ النَّارِ فَيَسْهَرُ لَيْلَهُ وَ لَا يَأْخُذُهُ نَوْمٌ ثُمَّ يَقُولُ عِنْدَ الصَّبَاحِ اللَّهُمَّ أَيْنَ الْمَقَرُّ وَ أَيْنَ الْمُسْتَقَرُّ اللَّهُمَّ إِلَّا إِلَيْنِكَ.

And it is reported,

‘Yahya^{-as} Bin Zakariya^{-as} was thinking in the length of the night regarding the matter of Paradise and Fire. He^{-as} stayed awake his^{-as} night and the sleep did not seize him^{-saww}. Then he^{-as} said in the morning: ‘O Allah^{-azwj}! Where is the fleeing and where is the staying, O Allah^{-azwj}, except to You^{-azwj}!’⁷

Allah^{-azwj} Says: Do not Forget your Death

دَعَاوَاتِ الرَّاَوْنَدِيِّ، قَالَ أَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ع فِي قَوْلِهِ تَعَالَى وَ لَا تَنْسَ نَصِيْبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا أَيَّ لَا تَنْسَ صِحَّتَكَ وَ قُوَّتَكَ وَ فِرَاعَكَ وَ شَبَابَكَ وَ نَشَاطَكَ وَ غِنَاكَ أَنْ تَطْلُبَ بِهِ الْآخِرَةَ

(The book) ‘Dawaat’ of Al Rawandy –

‘Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws} said regarding Words of the Exalted: **and do not forget your share from the world, [28:77]:** ‘I.e., do not forget your health, and your strength, and your free time, and your youth, and your activeness, and your riches in seeking the Hereafter with it’.

وَ قِيلَ لِزَيْنِ الْعَابِدِينَ ع مَا خَيْرٌ مَا يَمُوتُ عَلَيْهِ الْعَبْدُ

⁶ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 4

⁷ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 8 d

And it was said to Zayn Al-Abideen^{-asws}, 'What is the best of what the servant can be dying upon?'

قَالَ أَنْ يَكُونَ قَدْ فَرَّغَ مِنْ أَبِيئْتِهِ وَ دُورِهِ وَ فُصُورِهِ

He^{-asws} said: 'If he happens to be free from his buildings, and his houses, and his castles'.

قِيلَ وَ كَيْفَ ذَلِكَ

It was said, 'And how is that so?'

قَالَ أَنْ يَكُونَ مِنْ دُتُوبِهِ تَائِباً وَ عَلَى الْحَيْرَاتِ مُقِيماً يَرُدُّ عَلَى اللَّهِ حَبِيباً كَرِيماً.

He^{-asws} said: 'That he happens to be repentant from his sins, and staying upon the good deed, he will return to Allah^{-azwj} as Beloved, Honoured'.⁸

- وَ قَالَ أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ع إِذَا أُوَيْتَ إِلَى فِرَاشِكَ فَانظُرْ مَا سَلَكَتَ فِي بَطْنِكَ وَ مَا كَسَبْتَ فِي يَوْمِكَ وَ اذْكُرْ أَنَّكَ مَيِّتٌ وَ أَنَّ لَكَ مَعَاداً.

'And Abu Abdullah^{-asws} having said: 'Whenever you go to your bed, then look at what has gone into your belly, and what you have earned in your day, and remember, you will be dying and that there is a Hereafter for you!''⁹

Allah^{-azwj} Considers the latest Status of a Believer:

- لي، الأمايلي للصدوق ابن إدريس عن أبيه عن أيوب بن نوح عن محمد بن زياد عن غياث بن إبراهيم عن الصادق جعفر بن محمد ع عن أبيه عن آبائه ع قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ص مَنْ أَحْسَنَ فِيمَا بَقِيَ مِنْ عُمْرِهِ لَمْ يُؤَاخَذْ بِمَا مَضَى مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ وَ مَنْ أَسَاءَ فِيمَا بَقِيَ مِنْ عُمْرِهِ أَخَذَ بِالْأُولَى وَ الْآخِرِ.

(The book) 'Al Amaali' of Al Sadouq – Ibn Idrees, from his father, from Ayoub Bin Nuh, from Muhammad Bin Ziyad, from Giyas Bin Ibrahim,

'From Al-Sadiq Ja'far^{-asws} Bin Muhammad^{-asws}, from his^{-asws} father^{-asws}, from his^{-asws} forefathers^{-asws} having said: 'Rasool-Allah^{-saww} said: 'One who is good in what remains from his life span (becomes pious) will not be Seized with (by Allah^{-azwj}) what has passed from his sins, but one who is worse in what remains from his lifespan would be Seized (by Allah^{-azwj}) with the former and the latter (deeds)''¹⁰

⁸ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 17 a

⁹ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 76 H 17 c

¹⁰ Bihar Al-Anwaar V 68 - The book of Eman and Kufr - Ch 90 H 1