

'Priding over others'

Abbreviations:

azwj: - Az Za Wa Jalla

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

asws: - Allay hay Salawat Wass Salam

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 وَالْعَنُ أَعْدَائَهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ

‘Priding over others’

Priding over others is Abhorred even if its regarding a ‘Naymah’ (a Blessing or Kindness) of Allah^{-azwj} or an act of kindness of Ahl Al-Bayt^{-asws} towards a believer. Two Ahadith are cited below:

عيون أخبار الرضا عليه السلام ابنُ الوليدِ عن الصَّغَارِ عَنْ أَبِي عَيْسَى عَنِ الْبَرْنَطِيِّ قَالَ: بَعَثَ الرِّضَا عِ إِلَى بِيْمَارٍ فَرَكَبْتُهُ وَ أَتَيْتُهُ وَ أَقَمْتُ عِنْدَهُ بِاللَّيْلِ إِلَى أَنْ مَضَى مِنْهُ مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ فَلَمَّا أَرَادَ أَنْ يَنْهَضَ قَالَ لَا أَرَاكَ أَنْ تَقْدِرَ عَلَيَّ الرَّجُوعَ إِلَى الْمَدِينَةِ قُلْتُ أَجَلٌ جُعِلْتُ فِدَاكَ

(The book) ‘Uyoon Akhbar Al-Reza^{-asws}’ – Ibn Al-Waleed, from Al-Saffar, from Abu Isa, from Al Bazanty who said,

‘Al-Reza^{-asws} sent a donkey to me, so I rode it and went to (see) him^{-asws}, and I stayed with him^{-asws} at night there passed from it what Allah^{-azwj} so Desired. When I wanted to get up, he^{-asws} said: ‘I do not see you being able upon returning to Al-Medina’. I said, ‘Yes, may I be sacrificed for you^{-asws}!’

قَالَ فَبِثَّ عِنْدَنَا اللَّيْلَةَ وَ اغْدُ عَلَى بَرَكََةِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ قُلْتُ أَفَعَلَّ جُعِلْتُ فِدَاكَ فَقَالَ يَا جَارِيَةَ افْرِشِي لِي فِرَاشِي وَ اطْرَحِي عَلَيَّ مِلْحَفَتِي الَّتِي أَنَا فِيهَا وَ ضَعِي تَحْتِ رَأْسِهِ مَخَادِي

He^{-asws} said: ‘Spent the night with us and go tomorrow morning upon the Blessings of Allah^{-azwj} Mighty and Majestic’. I said, ‘I shall do so, may I be sacrificed for you^{-asws}!’ He^{-asws} said: ‘O maid! Furnish my^{-asws} bed for him^{-asws} and drop my^{-asws} quilt upon it which I^{-asws} tend to sleep in it and place my^{-asws} pillow under his head!’

قَالَ قُلْتُ فِي نَفْسِي مَنْ أَصَابَ مَا أَصَبْتُ فِي لَيْلَتِي هَذِهِ لَقَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِي مِنَ الْمَنْزِلَةِ عِنْدَهُ وَ أَعْطَانِي مِنَ الْفَخْرِ مَا لَمْ يُعْطِهِ أَحَدًا مِنْ أَصْحَابِنَا بَعَثَ إِلَيَّ بِبِمَارِهِ فَرَكَبْتُهُ وَ فَرَشَ لِي فِرَاشَهُ وَ بَثَّ فِي مِلْحَفَتِي وَ وُضِعَتْ لِي مَخَادُهُ مَا أَصَابَ مِثْلَ هَذَا أَحَدًا مِنْ أَصْحَابِنَا

He (the narrator) said, ‘I said within myself, ‘Who can achieve what I have achieved during this night of mine? Allah^{-azwj} has Made a status to be for me in his^{-asws} presence and Given me from the pride what He^{-azwj} has not Given anyone from our companions. He^{-asws} sent his^{-asws} donkey to me, so I rode it, and he^{-asws} furnished his^{-asws} bed, and I am spending the night in his^{-asws} quilt, and he^{-asws} has placed his^{-asws} pillow for me. No one from our companions has achieved the likes of this!’

قَالَ وَ هُوَ قَاعِدٌ مَعِي وَ أَنَا أُحَدِّثُ فِي نَفْسِي فَقَالَ ع يَا أَحْمَدُ إِنَّ أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَتَى زَيْدَ بْنِ صَوْحَانَ فِي مَرَضِهِ يَعُودُهُ فَأَفْتَحَرَ عَلَى النَّاسِ بِذَلِكَ فَلَا تَذْهَبَنَّ نَفْسُكَ إِلَى الْفُخْرِ وَ تَذَلُّ لِلَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ وَ اعْتَمَدَ عَلَى يَدِهِ فَقَامَ ع.

He (the narrator) said, 'And he^{-asws} was seated with me, and I was discussing within myself. He^{-asws} said: 'O Ahmad! Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws} came to Zayd Bin Sowhan during his illness to console him, and he prided upon the people with that. So do not take yourself to the pride, and humble to Allah^{-azwj} Mighty and Majestic and rely upon His^{-azwj} Hand'. He^{-asws} stood up''¹.

بيح، الخرائج و الجرائح رُوي عن البرزطي قال: إني كنت من الواقفة على موسى بن جعفر و أشك في الرضا ع فكتبت أسأله عن مسائل و نسيت ما كان أهم المسائل إني فجاء الجواب من جميعها ثم قال و قد نسيت ما كان أهم المسائل عندك فاستبصرت

(The book) 'Al Kharaj Wa Al Jaraih' – It is reported from Al Bazanty who said,

'I was from the Waqifites, stopping upon Musa^{-asws} Bin Ja'far^{-asws}, and I doubted regarding Al-Reza^{-asws}. I wrote asking him^{-asws} about issues, and I forgot what questions had been important to me. The answer came regarding its entirety. Then he^{-asws} said: 'And you had forgotten what questions were important in your view, so I^{-asws} have explained'.

ثم قلت له يا ابن رسول الله أشتهي أن تدعوني إلى دارك في أوقات تعلم أنه لا مفسدة لنا من الدخول عليكم من أيدي الأعداء

Then I said to him^{-asws}, 'O son^{-asws} of Rasool-Allah^{-saww!} I am desirous if you^{-asws} could invite me to your^{-asws} house during timings which you^{-asws} know an enemy from the enemies would not spoil for us from entering to see you^{-asws}'.

قال ثم إنه بعث إلي مركوباً في آخر يوم فخرجت و صليت معه العشاءين و قعدت بملي علي العلوم ابتداءً و أسأله فيجيبني إلى أن مضى كثير من الليل

He (the narrator) said, 'Then he^{-asws} sent a transport animal to me during the last day. I went out and prayed the two evening Salats with him^{-asws} and he^{-asws} sat dictating to me the knowledge, initiating from him^{-asws}, and I was asking him^{-asws} and he^{-asws} kept answering me until most of the night had passed by.

ثم قال للعلماء هات الثياب التي أنام فيها لينام أحمد البرزطي فيها

Then he^{-asws} said to the slave: 'Give the clothes which I^{-asws} tend to sleep in, for Ahmad Al-Bazanty to sleep in'.

قال فحظر بيالي ليس في الدنيا من هو أحسن حالاً مني بعث الإمام مركوبه إلي و جاء و قعد إلي ثم أمر لي بهذا الإكرام

He (the narrator) said, 'It occurred in my mind that there isn't anyone in the world who is of better state than me. The Imam^{-asws} has sent his^{-asws} riding animal to me^{-asws}, and he^{-asws} came and sat to me, then he^{-asws} ordered with these honours for me'.

¹ Bihar Al Anwaar – V 49, The book of History – Ali Al Reza^{-asws}, Ch 3 H 18

وَكَانَ قَدْ اتَّكَأَ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ لِيَنْهَضَ فَجَلَسَ وَ قَالَ يَا أَحْمَدُ لَا تَفْخَرْ عَلَى أَصْحَابِكَ بِذَلِكَ فَإِنَّ صَعْصَعَةَ بِنِ صُوحَانَ مَرَضَ فَعَادَهُ أَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ع وَ أَكْرَمَهُ
وَ وَضَعَ يَدَهُ عَلَى جَبْهَتِهِ وَ جَعَلَ يَلَاطِفُهُ فَلَمَّا أَرَادَ النَّهْضَ قَالَ يَا صَعْصَعَةُ لَا تَفْخَرْ عَلَى إِخْوَانِكَ بِمَا فَعَلْتُ فَإِنِّي إِنَّمَا فَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ لِأَنَّهُ كَانَ تَكْلِيفًا
لِي.

And he^{-asws} leant upon his^{-asws} hand to get up. He^{-asws} sat up and said: 'O Ahmad! Do not pride over your companions with that, for Sa'sa Bin Sowhan (a devotee of Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws}) was sick, and Amir Al-Momineen^{-asws} had consoled him and honoured him, and placed his^{-asws} hand upon his forehead, and went on to care for him. When he^{-asws} wanted to get up, he^{-asws} said: 'O Sa'sa! Do not pride over your brother with what I^{-asws} have done, for rather I^{-asws} have done entirety of that because it was a moral obligation for me^{-asws}'.²

² Bihar Al Anwaar – V 49, The book of History – Ali Al Reza^{-asws}, Ch 3 H 48