

Sermon 145: O people, you are, in this world....

About this world

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام)

فناء الدنيا

O people, you are, in this world, the target for the arrows of death. With every drinking there is choking and with every eating there is suffocation. You do not get any benefit in it except by foregoing another (benefit) and no one among you advances in age by a day except by the taking away of a day from his life. Nothing more is added to his eating unless it reduces what was there before. No mark appears for him unless a mark disappears. Nothing new comes into being unless the new becomes old. No new crop comes up unless a crop has been reaped. Those roots are gone whose off-shoots we are. How can an off-shoot live after the departure of its root?

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، إِنَّمَا أَنْتُمْ فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا غَرَضٌ تَنْتَضِلُ فِيهِ الْمَنَايَا، مَعَ كُلِّ جَرَعَةٍ شَرَقٌ، وَفِي كُلِّ أَكْلَةٍ غَصَصٌ! لَا تَتَأَلَوْنَ مِنْهَا نِعْمَةً إِلَّا بِفِرَاقٍ أُخْرَى، وَلَا يَعْمُرُ مَعْمَرٌ مِنْكُمْ يَوْمًا مِنْ عُمُرِهِ إِلَّا بِهَدْمٍ آخَرَ مِنْ أَجَلِهِ، وَلَا تُجَدِّدُ لَهُ زِيَادَةٌ فِي أَكْلِهِ إِلَّا بِنَفَادِ مَا قَبْلَهَا مِنْ رِزْقِهِ، وَلَا يَحْيَا لَهُ أَثَرٌ إِلَّا مَاتَ لَهُ أَثَرٌ، وَلَا يَتَجَدَّدُ لَهُ جَدِيدٌ إِلَّا بَعْدَ أَنْ يَخْلُقَ لَهُ جَدِيدٌ، وَلَا تَقُومُ لَهُ نَابِتَةٌ إِلَّا وَتَسْقُطُ مِنْهُ مَحْصُودَةٌ، وَقَدْ مَضَتْ أُصُولٌ نَحْنُ فُرُوعُهَا، فَمَا بَقَاءُ فَرْعٍ بَعْدَ زَهَابِ أُصْلِهِ!

A part of the same sermon censuring innovation (bid`ah)

منها: في ذمّ البدعة

No innovation is introduced unless one *sunnah* is forsaken. Keep away from innovations and stick to the broad road. Surely the old tested ways are the best and the innovated ones are bad.

وَمَا أُحْدِثَتْ بَدْعَةٌ إِلَّا تُرِكَ بِهَا سُنَّةٌ، فَاتَّقُوا الْبِدْعَ، وَالزَّمُوا الْمَهْيَعَ، إِنَّ عَوَازِمَ
الْأُمُورِ أَفْضَلُهَا، وَإِنَّ مُحَدَّثَاتِهَا شِرَارُهَا.

Alternative Sources for Sermon 145

- (1) Al-Harrani, *Tuhaf*, 73;
- (2) al-Mufid, *al-'Irshad*, 139 as well as *al-'Amali*;
- (3) al-Tusi, *al-'Amali*, I, 220;
- (4) al-Qali, *al-'Amali*, II, 67.

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/nahjul-balagha-part-1-sermons/sermon-145-o-people-you-are-world>