At the Burial of Lady Fatima

The words of Imam Ali (a.s.) at the grave of Lady Fatima (a.s.), spoken as he consigned her to the earth beside the Prophet (s) — Nahj al-Balagha, Sermon 202. One of the most quoted passages of Arabic elegy: a grief without end, a sleepless night, and a charge to her father to ask her how his community treated her.

12 lines · 3–4 min · alzair.app/sermons/nahj-al-balagha-202

1

اَلسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ عَنِّي وَ عَنِ ابْنَتِكَ النَّازِلَةِ فِي جِوَارِكَ وَ السَّرِيعَةِ اللَّحَاقِ بِكَ.

O Prophet of Allah, peace be upon you from me and from your daughter who has come to you and who has hastened to meet you.

2

قَلَّ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ عَنْ صَفِيَّتِكَ صَبْرِي وَ رَقَّ عَنْهَا تَجَلُّدِي،

O Prophet of Allah, my patience about your chosen (daughter) has been exhausted, and my power of endurance has weakened,

3

اِلَّا اَنَّ فِي التَّأَسِّي لِي بِعَظِيمِ فُرْقَتِكَ وَ فادِحِ مُصِيبَتِكَ مَوْضِعَ تَعَزٍّ،

except that I have ground for consolation in having endured the great hardship and heart-rending event of your separation.

4

فَلَقَدْ وَسَّدْتُكَ فِي مَلْحُودَةِ قَبْرِكَ وَ فاضَتْ بَيْنَ نَحْرِي وَ صَدْرِي نَفْسُكَ،

I laid you down in your grave when your last breath had passed (when your head was) between my neck and chest.

5

فَ «اِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَ اِنَّا اِلَيْهِ راجِعُونَ».

“Verily we are Allah's and verily unto Him shall we return.” (Qur'an 2:156)

6

فَلَقَدِ اسْتُرْجِعَتِ الْوَدِيعَةُ وَ اُخِذَتِ الرَّهِينَةُ،

Now, the trust has been returned and what had been given has been taken back.

7

اَمَّا حُزْنِي فَسَرْمَدٌ وَ اَمَّا لَيْلِي فَمُسَهَّدٌ، اِلى اَنْ يَخْتارَ اللَّهُ لِي دارَكَ الَّتِي اَنْتَ بِها مُقِيمٌ.

As to my grief, it knows no bounds; and as to my nights, they will remain sleepless till Allah chooses for me the house in which you are now residing.

8

وَ سَتُنَبِّئُكَ ابْنَتُكَ بِتَضافُرِ اُمَّتِكَ عَلى هَضْمِها،

Certainly, your daughter would apprise you of the joining together of your ummah (people) for oppressing her.

9

فَاَحْفِهَا السُّؤالَ وَ اسْتَخْبِرْهَا الْحالَ،

You ask her in detail and get all the news about the position.

10

هذا وَ لَمْ يَطُلِ الْعَهْدُ وَ لَمْ يَخْلُ مِنْكَ الذِّكْرُ.

This has happened when a long time had not elapsed and your remembrance had not disappeared.

11

وَ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُما سَلَامَ مُوَدِّعٍ، لَا قالٍ وَ لَا سَئِمٍ،

My salam (salutation) be on you both, the salutation of one bidding farewell, neither in aversion nor in dislike,

12

فَاِنْ اَنْصَرِفْ فَلَا عَنْ مَلَالَةٍ، وَ اِنْ اُقِمْ فَلَا عَنْ سُوءِ ظَنٍّ بِما وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الصَّابِرِينَ.

for if I go away it is not because I am weary (of you), and if I stay it is not due to lack of belief in what Allah has promised the endurers.

Recitation text courtesy Nahj al-Balagha, Sermon 202 (translation: al-islam.org).

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