



Excellent Advice from
Imam Sadiq (a)
To His Followers

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Ismail Bin Jabir says: “Imam Sadiq (a) wrote a letter to his friends and commanded them to go through it. They should make it as a blueprint of their lives.” The friends and followers kept it in their prayer rooms and they would read it after Salat.

Ismail Bin Mukhallad Sarraj also stressed that this letter of advice to the followers is from Imam Sadiq (a).

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Seek from your Lord well being for yourselves and always be calm and peaceful. Be modest, meek, and avoid that which your excellent predecessors used to avoid. Let not your tongue indulge in lying, accusation, and be contaminated with sins. Protecting your tongue from that which your Lord has prohibited is good for you in the eyes of your Lord. Polluting it with that which your Lord has forbidden will bring for you annihilation and cause animosity of your Lord; on the day of Judgment it will make you deaf, dumb and blind, as He has promised in His Holy Book:

«صُمُّ بُكْمٌ عُمَى فَهُمْ لَا يَرْجِعُونَ» “Deaf, dumb, and blind, they will not return”. (2:18)

«صُمُّ بُكْمٌ عُمَى فَهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ» “Deaf, dumb, and blind, they are void of wisdom.” (2:171)

«وَلَا يُؤْتِنُ لَهُمْ فَيَعْتَدِرُونَ؛»

“Nor are they given permission to apologize” (77:36)

Don’t ever allow yourself to do something which is forbidden by your Lord. Be quiet until there is reward from your Lord or you might lose the benefit of the Hereafter.

Praise and glorify your Lord in abundance, cry out in His threshold. Seek the excellence from Him, the excellence which cannot be comprehended by anyone. Occupy yourself in improvement of your tongue in these actions. Keep your tongue away from those utterances that are useless. If a speaker dies without repentance for the false utterances which have been uttered, they will remain in Hell fire for ever. Indulge in abundant supplication; for the seeker of wishes there is no better source like that of supplicating while crying out for their needs. Search and

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attain whatever He encouraged (in His Book), answer to His call so that you may be successful and avoid His chastisement. Do not be attracted to those things which have been prohibited to you; whoever penetrates the barrier of forbidden things the Lord will put a curtain between them and the sustenance and pleasures of Heaven.

How flawed is the person who commits a sin; he follows the pleasures of this fast diminishing, short lived worldly life and prefers it to the everlasting life of the Hereafter.

Shame on such people! Unsuccessful, wrong and judgmental, they will be ill fated in the presence of their Lord on the Day of Resurrection. Seek refuge in your Lord, lest He include you with these kinds of groups on the Day of Judgment. We and you have no power unless our Lord is merciful and bountiful on us.

O People of Salvation! Be careful of your duties towards Allah. Your Lord will never complete your provisions until you bear the pain as the pious people before you have beared; a test of yourselves and your wealth. You will see persecution from the enemies of Allah. Bear it with patience, they will humiliate you, but you should put out the fire of your anger in order to reach the excellence of the Pleasure of Allah and for the Everlasting Abode. To the extent they may call your faith wrong and accuse you of falsehood and in such situations you should be forbearant, as these tidings have been ascended to the Prophet (s) through Gabriel:

فَاصْبِرْ كَمَا صَبَرَ أُولُو الْعَرْشِ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ وَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلْ لَهُمْ،

“Therefore, be patient like the messengers before you who possessed strength and resorted to patience.” (46:35) and says:

«وَلَقَدْ كَذَّبْتَ رَسُولًا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ فَصَبَرُوا عَلَيَّ مَا كُذِّبُوا وَأَوْتُوا حَتَّى أَتَاهُمْ نَصْرُنَا وَلَا مُبَدِّلَ لِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَكَ مِنْ نَبِيِّ الْمُرْسَلِينَ،

“Messengers before you have been rejected, and they steadfastly persevered in the face of rejection. They were persecuted until our victory came to them. Such is Allah's system that will never change. The history of My messengers thus sets the precedents for you.” (6:34)

In such situations always reflect and clearly understand the purpose; whoever neglects these things and all of the commandments of Allah neglects which has been commanded in

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the Holy Quran and thus have forsaken the Religion of Allah. Whoever forsakes His Religion, and disobeys Him has invoked His anger and the Almighty will put his face in Hell disgracefully.

O, those who tasted the Mercy of Allah! Know that He has completed his favors to you. Know that the Almighty has not given anyone permission to seek the commands of religion through desires, self perspective, and analogy (Qiyas). The Almighty has revealed and explained everything in His Book, The Quran. In order to have knowledge of the Quran the Almighty has given some people an ability to interpret this Holy Book; He has not let these people interpret this according to their own desires. The Lord has made them free from this knowledge. These are the very people He has called the “Possessors of the Message” (Ahluz Zikr). He has commanded humanity to follow them. These are those who possess the Knowledge of the Quran and with the permission of their Lord they guide people towards the right path according to the abilities of the seekers. No one has the right to turn their faces against those whom the Lord has given knowledge.

The actions of the Kuffar are the fruits of their caprice, although the Prophet of Allah before his death clearly advised them to follow them (Ahlul Bait). They said: “After the Almighty has taken His Messenger back from us, after all his advice, it is up to us to change according to the need of the demands of people although it might be against the guidelines of the Almighty and His Messenger.” No one openly rebels against the commands of the Almighty like these people do. By Allah, the right of the Lord upon the creatures is that they should follow the commands of Him in the life of the Prophet (s) as well as after. The enemies of Allah could very well argue that those who became the followers of Mohammad (s) also acted upon their own limited intellect with the use of analogy (Qiyas). If anyone says affirmatively to this, by Allah he accused Him of being a liar and he is in an abyss of misguidance; if they say no and accept that no Muslim has the right to follow his own opinion, and analogy (Qiyas), he has accepted his own faults. They accepted the clear argument that after the demise of the Prophet (s) one should follow the command of the Almighty and He also is true in His sayings, says:

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«وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَا أَعْقَابِكُمْ
وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَى عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ»

“Muhammad was no more than a messenger like the messengers before him. Should he die or get killed, would you turn back on your heels? Anyone who turns back on his heels does not hurt Allah in the least. Allah rewards those who are appreciative.”
(3:144)

This ayat makes it clear that one should obey the Almighty during and after the life of the Prophet (s); likewise in the life of the Prophet (s) no one has the right to follow the religion according to his caprice, opinion and analogy (Qiyas), which ultimately contradicts the commands of the Lord and Prophet Mohammad (s). Similarly it is not right to follow his own caprice, opinion and analogy (Qiyas) after the life of Prophet Mohammad (s).

Invoke Allah profusely! The Almighty loves those who invoke Him and He has promised to fulfill their wishes. Supplications of the believers are considered to be an act of worship that results in the increasing of sustenance. During the day and night as much as you can worship Allah; He has promised that those who remember Him He will also remember them. Always strive hard in His obedience! His obedience will make Him available for you. Almighty Allah said: «وَدُّرُوا ظَاهِرَ الْأَعْتَمِ وَبَاطِنَهُ» *“You shall avoid obvious sins, as well as the hidden ones.”* (6:120)

You should know and avoid those things that the Almighty has commanded to be forbidden which are clearly seen and explained in the traditions of the Prophet (s). Don't ever follow your own desires and personal opinion which will lead you towards misguidance. Indeed, the most misguided in the eyes of the Almighty are those who follow their own caprice and opinion and deny His guidance. As much as you can do good: indeed whatever good you do will reflect on to yourself and what ever bad you do will also reflect on to yourself. Be humble with others but never let others control you in such a way that you could be disobeying the commands of Allah.

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Be careful of using foul language against the enemies of the Almighty in the presence of others for if they hear your utterance they may sabotage your Lord to counter your aggression. It is good for you to know the intensity of their animosity towards the Almighty. Whoever blasphemes the guardians of the Almighty indeed has blasphemed the Almighty Himself. Who is worse in the eyes of the Almighty than those who blaspheme the Lord and His guardians? Thus you should deal with them with calmness and obey your Lord; *ولا حول ولا قوة الا بالله* “there is no power and strength but the power of Allah.”

O, our followers! Beware that Allah is watchful of your lives! You should cling to the traditions of the Prophet (s) and the Imams (a) after him. Whoever follows them has guided himself and whoever keeps away from them has gone astray. Our father the Prophet of Allah (s) said: “Keeping up to the true traditions although it might be little, is more dear in the eyes of Allah and also beneficial than struggling a lot in following self made innovations and self desires and caprices. Following innovations, desires and caprices without the guidance of Allah is misguidance and each misguidance is an innovation and the destiny of each innovation is the Hell fire. One will never receive the favors of Allah until following the command of Allah and persevering on His path and seeking His pleasures; these are the proofs of the obeying of your Lord.

You should know and act upon Allah’s commands whether it might be likable or dislikable; you should be pleased with it. The Almighty will never act upon that which is not suitable for Him.

Offer your prayers on time, especially the middle prayer as your Lord has advised you and the believers and to those before you in the Heavenly Books. *“You shall consistently observe the Contact Prayers, especially the middle prayer, and devote yourselves totally to Allah.”* (2:238)

Be good to the needy Muslims, whoever sees them and shows pride over them will go away from the religion of Allah, He will make such a person despised and will be blind to all that is good.

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Our father the Prophet of Allah (s) said: “Allah has bestowed upon me his favors and commanded me to be good to the afflicted Muslims. Know that whoever disgraces a Muslim Allah will afflict him of the disgrace so that people will be despising him. The Lord also despises him.” Be fearful of Allah regarding the needy Muslims; their right on you is that you should be friendly with them; indeed Allah (s) has commanded his Prophet (s) to be friendly with them. Thus Almighty will never be pleased with those who are not friendly with those to whom the Lord has commanded to be respectful, has disregarded the command of Allah and His Messenger (s) and whoever dies in this status will be one of the misguided ones.

Be away from pride and haughtiness, haughtiness (Takabbur) is the embellishment of the Lord. Whoever embellishes himself with his Lord; He will break his back and on the Day of Judgment disgrace him.

Don't ever be cruel to each other for cruelty is not a quality of good people. Whoever transgresses and misbehaves, indeed the Lord will pay him back what he has done. The Almighty lends His hands to the oppressed, and whoever gets the help of the Lord will be successful.

Don't ever be jealous between each other, jealousy is a root of Kufr.

Don't ever be cruel towards an oppressed Muslim, if you are, he will curse you; his curse will be granted by his Lord. The Prophet of Allah (s) many times mentioned that: “No doubt the supplication of an oppressed will be accepted”.

You should help each other; our father the Prophet of Allah (s) has been said: “The help of a Muslim is a greater recompense than one month of Fasting with seclusion (Eitikaf) in the great Masjid al-Haram.”

Don't be hard on a Muslim who cannot pay the debt. The Prophet of Allah (s) said: “A Muslim has no right to be harsh on a person

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who owes a debt, whoever gives respite to a debtor the Almighty will shade them on the day where no shadow exists but the Shadow of the Lord.”

O, the receivers of the mercy of the Lord, you have been gifted a rank above others! Don't ever delay the right of your Lord on you days on days and hours on hours. Whoever hastens to pay the rights of his Lord, the Almighty is capable of paying his due in this world and in the Hereafter. Whoever delays his duty towards his Lord, He is capable of abandoning his sustenance. Whoever abandons his sustenance will never be able to attain it. Pay your due which has been prescribed by your Lord so that your sustenance becomes clean and functional which has been promised by your Lord, there shall be increase in your provisions; no one is aware of the intensity of the favors of the Lord of the worlds.

O people! Be fearful of Allah, so that you may not put your Imam in distress and make his job harder. Whoever makes the duty of the Imam difficult is not amongst the good followers of him; and he is not one of those who know the virtues of the Imam and acknowledges his rights and is aware of his position. Whoever does this in the presence of the Imam has made his job difficult and has placed him in distress. Whenever the Imam curses due to the burden which has been placed on him by the enemies of Allah; his curse will fall on that person from his Lord. The Curse of the Lord from Him and His angels and Messengers will fall on those who became the cause of this curse.

O Shi'as! You should know that the Almighty's tradition upon the pious has been that whoever are friends with the true believers will meet his Lord; he should love his Lord and the Messengers and whoever became closer to them. He should distance himself from their enemies, although he might have received some favors from them. Neither close rank angels, Messenger nor those who are lower in ranks will understand the essence of the favors of their Lord. Don't you hear the virtue which has been given to the followers of the Imams; they are in fact the believers:

«وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ
وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَئِكَ رَفِيقًا؛

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“Those who obey GOD and the messenger belong with those blessed by GOD - the prophets, the saints, the martyrs, and the righteous. These are the best company.” (4:69).

This is the rank of the followers of the guided Imams, thus how can we comprehend the rank of those who have been favored by Almighty?

If anyone wants his belief to be completed and become a true believer, he/she should attain the status of Taqwa (fear of Allah) according to the manner which has been prescribed for the believers such as:

Establish prayers

Pay Zakat

They should support Qarzul Hasanah on the path of Allah.

They should avoid all kinds of filthiness and dirtiness whether it is open or hidden

They should be careful of doing that which the Lord has made unlawful (Haram) open or hidden. Indeed Almighty Allah says:

«وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاجِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَنْ يَغْفِرُ
الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

“If they fall in sin or wrong their souls, they remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins - and who forgives the sins except Allah”. (3:135)

Meaning, the believers before you when they committed sins unknowingly realized they had committed a sin against their Lord and abandoned a good deed, then sincerely sought the pardon of the Almighty and returned back to doing the opposite of what they did. This is the meaning of the words of the Lord: *“and they do not persist in sins, knowingly.” (3:135)* You should know that the commands of prohibitions of the Almighty, whatever He commanded you should be obeyed, and whatever He prohibited should be abandoned. Whoever follows the Almighty is His servant and receives His favors. Whatever has been prohibited by Him and is not followed he has disregarded his commands and if he dies in such a non obeying state the Lord will put him into the Hell fire disgraced and miserable.

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You should know that the Almighty has no association - neither his creatures nor his close rank angels and Messenger but by commanding on them. If you want to become a true believer you should try to follow the commands of the Lord, for surely there is no power but the Power of Allah. «و لا قوة الا بالله»

You should be aware that Islam is submission and submission is Islam. Whoever is submitted to Him is truly a Muslim and whoever is not submitted he is not a Muslim. Whoever wants to reach the peak of excellence he should obey the command of His Lord; whoever has accepted the command he has reached the peak of excellence.

Be careful that you do not commit sins, whoever commits sins he has done harm to himself; between the good deed and bad deed no third person exist. The effect of the good doers in the presence of their Lord is Heaven and the punishment of the bad deeds is the Hell fire. You should make yourself obey your Lord and keep aloof from sins; you should know that no one can defend you in front of the Lord, neither the close rank angels nor the high rank Messenger. Thus whoever desires to receive the intercession of the interceder, he should be seeking the pleasure of the Almighty. None can attain the pleasure of the Almighty unless he obeys Him, obeys His Messenger and the successors of the Messengers from the family of Prophet Mohammad (s). Disobeying them will be counted as disobeying their Lord.

Beware! The deniers are the liars and liars are the hypocrites. The Almighty has said concerning the hypocrites:

«إِنَّ الْمُنَافِقِينَ فِي الدَّرَكِ الْأَسْفَلِ مِنَ النَّارِ وَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُمْ نَصِيرًا

“The hypocrites will be committed to the lowest pit of Hell, and you will find no one to help them.” (4:145)

Those of you who have committed to the command of the Almighty and are fearful of none but Him; should not be fearful of those the Almighty has not recognized as truthful as they do not possess truth. For whom your Lord has not recognized as people of truth and legitimacy, these are without any doubt from amongst Human and the Jinn, devils. Human devils have a lot of

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deceitfulness and treachery. The religion has not been prescribed for the deceived ones. The ones who wish to deceive use the tactic of creating doubt and uncertainty in the hearts of the believers. As The Almighty has said in His Book:

«وَدُّوا لَوْ تَكْفُرُونَ كَمَا كَفَرُوا فَتَكُونُونَ سَوَاءً فَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا مِنْهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءَ حَتَّىٰ يُهَاجِرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَإِن تَوَلَّوْا فَحُذِّهُم وَاَقْتُلُوهُمْ حَيْثُ وَجَدْتُمُوهُمْ وَلَا تَتَّخِذُوا مِنْهُمْ وَلِيًّا وَلَا نَصِيرًا
“They wish that you disbelieve as they have disbelieved, then you become equal. Do not consider them friends, unless they mobilize along with you in the cause of Allah. If they turn against you, you shall fight them, and you may kill them when you encounter them in war. You shall not accept them as friends, or allies.” (4:89)

The Almighty has prohibited His friends to be the friends of His enemies.

The tactics of the deceivers should never make you fearful and stop you from your duties of helping the truth which is in your natural makeup. You should defend skillfully against their wickedness; this should be done with the intention to seek the nearness of your Lord. There is no need to manifest your religious principles onto them, because there is no good from them for you. They will be enemies of you if they hear anything from you; they use their entire pretext to propagate and try their best to annihilate you; whatever little weakness you have they will try to stand against you. You should know your stance when it comes to dealing with people of falsehood. It is not appropriate for the people of truth to follow the customs of falsehood. The Almighty has not made people of truth and people of falsehood equal; don't you understand the clear argument of the holy Quran:

«أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَالْمُفْسِدِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَمْ نَجْعَلُ الْمُتَّقِينَ كَالْفُجَّارِ؛

“Shall we treat those who believe and lead a righteous life as we treat those who commit evil on earth? Shall we treat the righteous as we treat the wicked?” (38:28)

You should be elevating yourself to a higher degree than the people of falsehood; you should never display falsehood to the people. You are greater than that in the presence of the Almighty

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Allah the Exalted to Him belongs the loftiest of similitude, and to your leader (Imam) to whom you believe.

O, people of integrity! You should never distance yourself from the commands of your Lord. Always be His humble servants; to the extent if you disobey Him, He might amend His favors. You should, for the sake of your Lord, be friends with those who possess beliefs like you; you should be enemies for the sake of your Lord of those who are your foes. Don't ever refuse those who are your fellow believers; be away from those who turn their face from your faith and with you and with your fellow believers they show animosity.

This is our method of teaching and the instruction of your Lord; Keep it, reflect and think over it and don't ever put it aside. Whatever is good for your guidance act upon it and whatever goes along with your desires and caprices ignore it. Never feel great against your Lord! You should know that no one is greater than Him; you should be making His religion great, for the sake of Allah you should go on the straight path, don't ever go back otherwise you will be unsuccessful. May Allah protect us from boasting against Him: «وَلَا قُوَّةَ لَنَا وَلَكُمْ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ» “We do not possess any power, all power belongs to Allah.”

Have perseverance against the calamities of this world; it is better for you to show steadfastness in the presence of the continuous trials of this world, there is a greater reward in the Hereafter from the Master of the Worlds in obeying the Almighty and His authority and the authority of those about whom He has commanded to be friends and followers (the Imams (a)). You should be disobeying those who you are forbidden to obey even though you may gain the riches of this fleeting world. The Almighty Allah has guided you in the Quran by conveying signs and commanded you to obey them:

«وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أَئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَةَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ
وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ؛

“We made them imams who guided in accordance with our commandments, and we taught them how to work righteousness,

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and how to observe the Contact Prayers (Salat) and the obligatory charity (Zakat). To us, they were devoted worshippers.”(21:73)

Almighty has commanded to obey those whose friendship and guardianship has been made compulsory. He has commanded us to avoid the guardianship of those who will misguide us. The Almighty Allah has prophesied about the forthcoming government of His deputies (Imams (a)) who are in the progeny of the Prophet of Allah, Mohammed (s); you should obey the Holy Prophet Mohammad (s) and the Messengers before him. You should reflect upon those stories of the Prophets, their followers and their trials in the Quran. You should besiege your Lord to give you perseverance during the duration of trials, calamities and happiness as it has been granted by Him to the Prophets and Messengers. You should never fall into the trap of falsehood nor seek their pleasure. It is upon you to emulate the people of piety and dignity, their tranquility, their forbearance, their humbleness and their modesty from the forbidden things of the Lord; their sincerity and struggle in attaining His pleasures (Riza) by obeying Him. If you don't do this you will not attain the status of those who enjoy a lofty status in the presence of their Lord.

You should know that if Allah wants to bestow upon his servant a favor He guides his heart to the acceptance of the truth of Islam. When this blessing has been given, his tongue will speak only the truth and he will lovingly act upon his beliefs. Once these three things have been given by the Lord, his faith will be protected and if he dies in such a state he will be raised with the virtuous. If Allah does not want a servant to be pious, He will leave him on his own; such a person speaks with his tongue but his heart is not present. He never inspires him to do good deeds; when this status falls upon him and he dies in such a state he will be in the eyes of his Lord regarded as a hypocrite. If you want to be with the virtuous, you should besiege Allah to open your heart for the acceptance of Islam, and your tongue for the utterance of truth, you should keep this status until your last moment of life.

«و لا قوة الا بالله والحمد لله رب العالمين».. There is no power but the Power of Allah and all praises belong to Him the Lord of the worlds. 1

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Al-Kafi Mohammad Bin Yaqoub Kulaini. Vol. 8 page 267-276
(Rawzatul Kafi Vol. 8 page 5-12)