

Eleventh Rule

OBSERVING THE RULES OF VENERATION AND DEDICATION

According to Allamah Taba Tabai (AR), this stage involves,

An absolutely dutiful devotee who always considers himself to be present before Allah (SWT) and observes all the rules of property and deference while doing anything such as talking, keeping quiet, eating, drinking, sleeping, and so forth.

What needs to be religiously followed here is the estimation and evaluation (of vices and virtues). We should carefully scrutinize the effects and demerits of each one of moral vices and bad deeds under the control of Shaytan, The Accursed. We must also compare them with the benefits and blessings of good deeds, moral and spiritual excellences, which are under the guidance of reason and religious laws set by Allah.

The scholars have warned us that despite most of our wishes being fulfilled, we will still nurture countless new desires that are yet to be fulfilled. It is just not possible in this world that all the desires and ambitions that we cherish be fulfilled here, since this world is the abode of obstacles and struggle, and not comfort and luxury.

Anyhow, even if man attains his goals and his desires fulfilled, for how long could he or she be benefited from them? How long his or her youthful years are to continue? This world is transient and all in it are transient. We need to be careful of what we ask for. al-Taba Tabai (AR) makes this suggestion,

When the spring of youth fades, ability to get pleasure declines. Then hosts of ailments make him an easy prey. Nothing but deep sighs, displeasure, regret and remorse are left to accompany him. What would be in store for this man in the next world? What will you present on The Day of Judgment, and how would you face Allah (SWT), His Angels, and His Chosen Servants and Prophets (AS)?

Everything that you have heard about The Judgment Day and thereafter, you measured them with the worldly fire and worldly pains. What a gross error you committed! Fire and horrors of this world are easy to bear. Your estimation of the other world based on this one is imperfect and faulty. According to some traditions, even if the fire burning throughout the world is accumulated at one place, it will not be hot enough to burn the human soul. In the next world, besides burning and roasting the body, it will burn the soul and incinerate the heart.

Imam Ali's (AS) last will to his sons Imam al-Hasan (AS) and Imam al-Husayn (AS) after the attempt on his life by a stab from Ibn Muljam (Allah's Curse be on him forever),

My advice to you is to be conscious of Allah (SWT) and steadfast in your religion. Do not yearn for the world, and do not be seduced by it. Do not resent anything you have missed in it. Proclaim the truth, work for the next world. Oppose the oppressor and support the oppressed.

I advise you, and all my children, my relatives, and whosoever receives this message, to be conscious of Allah (SWT), to remove your differences, and to strengthen your ties. I heard your grandfather (S) say, 'Reconciliation of your differences is more worthy than all prayers and all fasting.'

Fear Allah (SWT) in matters concerning orphans. Attend to their nutrition and do not forget their interests in the middle of yours.

Fear Allah (SWT) in your relations with your neighbors. Your Prophet (S) often recommended them to you; so much, so that we thought he would give them a share in inheritance.

Remain attached to The Qur'an. Nobody should surpass you in being intent on it, or more sincere in implementing it.

Fear Allah (SWT) in relation to your prayers. It is the pillar of your religion.

Fear Allah (SWT) in relation to His House. Do not abandon it as long as you live. If you should do that, you would abandon your dignity.

Persist in jihad in the cause of Allah (SWT), with your money, your souls, and your tongue.

Maintain communication and exchange of opinion among yourselves. Beware of disunity and enmity. Do not desist from promoting good deeds and cautioning against bad ones. Should you do that, the worst among you would be your leaders, and you will call upon Allah (SWT) without response.

O' Children of Abdul Mattalib! Do not shed the blood of Muslims under the banner. The Imam has been assassinated! Only the assassin should be condemned to death.

If I die of a stab of his, kill him with one similar stroke. Do not mutilate him! I have heard The Prophet (S) say, 'Mutilate not even a rabid do.'