

**In the Name of Allah
The Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful**

A powerful indulgence
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In the Name of Allah
The Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

1- Heavens is under the mother's feet

Hazrat-ē Ali [as] had been reported to say:
"To show benevolence and kindness to your parents is the greatest duty." [Extract from the book: "1000 Gems" - Number 351]

Once upon a time,
Someone asked a great man, "How and in what way did you reach such eminence and high position?"
He replied, "This was because of my mother's Blessing!"
He was asked, "How?"
He replied, "One night, past midnight, my mother woke up and she called me to her. She wanted me to bring her a glass of water... Now, the weather was very cold outside. However, I took a jar and went out of her room, to go outside and fetch her some water..."

When I came back, my mother had already fallen asleep, once more. I could not bring myself to wake

her up. Therefore, I stood by the foot of my mother's bed, until dawn, without moving an inch, from where I was standing. Finally, the call to Prayer came and Azān was heard.

My mother woke up for the Morning Prayer.

She then saw me at her bedside and asked me, "Why are you standing here?"

I told her.

She rose from her bed, performed her Morning Prayer and then, raised her two hands in the air and spoke in this way, before Allah's Threshold:

"O God, just as this boy revered and honored me in such way, Make him become a great and eminent person, in his turn, among the people...!"

And this eminence is given me, only because of my mother's prayer for me!

2- Indulgence is shown, by great men

The lord of the believers [Ali *as*] had declared, "Indulgence and lenience is the summit of all generosity!" [Ghorar Al-Hekam-1/140]

Mālik Ash'tar was one of the most distinguished high commanders of the Army of the lord of the believers, Ali [*as*].

One day, he was passing through Kufah's marketplace. He wore a garment, made of coarse fabric. Now, a man, devoid of any politeness began to scrutunize Mālik's external appearance with insistence. He had never seen Mālik before and therefore, he did not recognize him. He thought to himself that the garment of the individual before him was indeed very simple and devoid of any elegance or richness...

He told himself that it would be a good distraction if he were to play some game with him and mock him in public. Thus, he threw him something he had in his hand. Mālik ignored the man's apparent rudeness and without showing any anger or annoyance, kept on walking.

Some of the people present in the marketplace saw what the man had done and told him,

"Woe betide you! Do you not really know who this man was?! And to whom, you showed such rudeness and disrespect?!"

He answered them, "No!"

They informed him,

"He was Mālik Ash'tar! Hazrat Ali's friend, close companion, and high commander of his Army!"

The man was terribly afraid and regretted deeply his impoliteness. He decided to reach Mālik as quickly as possible and to apologize for his bad behavior, hoping that by doing this, Mālik would soon forgive him in his turn.

He went in search of Mālik, and he asked everyone, his whereabouts. He kept on searching for him, until he found him finally. He was inside a Mosque, performing his Prayer. After he finished it, the man

threw himself at his feet, asking him for his mercy, by apologizing to him profusely. Mālik asked him,

"What are you doing?!"

The man said,

"I have come here to apologize for my very bad behavior, so that you forgive me!"

With an open, smiling face, Mālik said kindly to him,

"Do not worry, for I swear to God Almighty that I came in this Mosque to perform a two rakat prayer, so that I may ask God to forgive you..."

3- He was indeed, The "Eloquent Tongue" of Islam

The illustrious Imām Sādiq [*as*] had been reported to say, "It is incumbent upon every believer to wish

well for any believer, and to be benevolent towards him, whether in his presence or in his absence..."
[Ussul Kāfi – Volume 2 – 208]

In the city of Medinah, no one could suffer Abouzar's presence among them, for he was indeed, the "Eloquent Tongue" of Islam, and he could not ignore the misconduct of those, who worked in the Government. That was why they exiled him finally and made him go to Shām, where Muā'viyah held his Court.

Now, one of Abuzar's friends wrote him a letter and begged him to listen to reason and to pay heed to his advice. Abuzar wrote him back, "Do not show oppression and injustice to he, who is your most beloved friend and whom you dearly love more than anyone else does!"

When Abuzar's friend opened his letter, he was extremely astonished at what he was reading! Now, what did that mean?! He was asked not to show injustice to he, who was dearest to him?! He therefore wrote a second letter to him, asking Abuzar to explain more about his strange request.

Abuzar wrote him back, "The most beloved person in your eyes is your own self; and everyone loves his own self more than anyone else does! Therefore, do not be unjust to your own self! That is: do not be hostile against yourself, and do not sin, in order not to be afflicted by God's Wrath..."

4- Seek Knowledge from infancy until death

The lord of the pious, Ali [as] had declared, "Knowledge is life and aliveness; and Faith will bring on Salvation and Deliverance!" [Ghorar Al-Hekam - page 263]

The late Mirzāye Ghommi was one of the most erudite Shiite Ulemas and a great man.

One day, Mirzā went to the Royal Bathhouse, along with the King, Fath'Ali Shāh Ghādjār.

One should note that in bygone days, one had to go to public bathhouses and the people used to go together in such places to keep company to each other.

Mirzā turned to his royal companion and asked him,

"Where is your Army, now, Sire? Where is your wealth and where is your Government?!"

The King replied,

"Dear Sir, I cannot bring my Army, my wealth and my Government to the bathhouse with me! You know the answer! They are outside here!"
The late Mirzā said,

"Now, I for myself, I have my Knowledge with me, which is buried in my bosom, and I always have it with my person! And it will never part with me, until Resurrection Day..."

5- How God shall give you back your due

The illustrious Imām Sādiq had been reported to say, "Benevolence and kindness increase one's

Provision and daily sustenance!" [Extract from the book "1000 Hadith" - page 213]

It was a year of drought. Rain had not fallen for a very, very long time and nothing had grown in any land... The people were deep in misery and they were afflicted by famine. Even the animals had nothing to eat... On that day, that student in Theology [i.e. called Talabah or Seeker] was going to attend his class; he reached his master's house. He had placed his book inside a handkerchief, placed under his arm. He suddenly saw a bitch, which was sleeping languidly in the street. The little, cute puppies were huddled and snuggled up to their mother, in order to feed themselves with their mother's milk, but the poor mother had eaten nothing to be able to feed them properly... The little puppies whimpered and moaned pitifully, while the mother had no force to rise itself. The young student watched that scene for a while, without moving. He was heartbroken for those hungry puppies and that poor, suffering mother. He began to think for a way to save those animals from certain death...

Suddenly, an idea came to his mind.

It was indeed, a good idea!

He quickly took out his book from inside his handkerchief and sold it to a man. With the sale of his book, he could now buy some bread [or a little piece of sheep's liver from a butcher]; he returned to where the bitch was lying in the alley and threw it kindly before the bitch. The poor animal began to eat it quickly and then raised its head and two big tears rolled down its face. It seemed as though the animal was rending grace to God and asking Him to grant that student His Generous Bounties...

The student, most happy, went on his way.

At nighttime, while he was fast asleep, someone came in his dream and told him, "We just granted you Knowledge and Science...!"

The interesting thing is that that same student, when he woke up the next morning was endowed with great Knowledge and his comprehension and his intelligence had vastly improved and increased in their degree! Soon, that student became of the most prominent man among other scholars!

O, Allah...! Grant me Knowledge!

6- How will you respond to all that tyranny?

The lord of the believers, Ali [*as*] had announced, "He, who does not feel any compassion for the others, God Almighty in His turn, will stop granting him His Infinite Marcy!" [Extract from the book "1000 Gems" - Number 9330]

Boh'lul had the Royal permission from Hārun Ar-Rashid to enter the Palace, whenever he wanted to. On that particular day, he was passing in front of the Palace. The King's Throne was empty of its unjust and tyrannical occupant...

Boh'lul ran towards it and sat down on the special place, reserved only to the Caliph. However, after a while, when the Royal slaves and guards saw Boh'lul, sitting on the Throne, which only belonged to the great Caliph, they ran towards him and hit and attacked him with their whips and threw him out of the Palace, unceremoniously.

In that very moment, Hārūn Ar-Rashid entered his Palace. He saw Boh'lul, who was crying desperately and tragically. He asked his servants the cause of Boh'lul's sadness.

They told him,

"Boh'lul was sitting on your Throne with great insolence and impertinence! Upon seeing him there, we began hitting and attacking him, and then we threw him out..."

Hārūn reproved them harshly and asked them why they had upset Boh'lul in such way? He then went to comfort him. Boh'lul said,

"O Hārūn...! Do not think for one moment that I am crying for myself! My tears were for you...!
I only sat for a few minutes on the Throne of tyranny and oppression, and I was tormented in such violent way...! Now, you, who are sitting everyday on that Throne, by occupying this position of injustice and tyranny, and by doing so many oppression to the people, how **can you be** without any fear in your heart?!"

7- If only they had shown some gratitude!

The illustrious Imām Hassan-e Mudj'tabā [*as*] had been reported to say, "Vileness is when you show your ingratitude before God's Blessings!" [Tohaf Ul-Ughul - page 333]

On one occasion, the illustrious Imām Sādiq [*as*] had declared, "In bygone days, there lived a nation [i.e. the people of Sabā], to whom, Allah had granted many a Blessing... They had green lands, green pastures and numerous springs and abundant lands to work on them. They prepared their daily bread with the abundant wheat they had. However, little by little, they began to forget their True Provider, who had granted them all that Bounties and Blessings.

They forgot their Creator, Allah... They turned to all kinds of misbehavior and began spending selfishly their Bounties. It has been reported that they went so far in their ingratitude as using to clean their children with bits of bread...

However, after a while, outside their city, a big mountain was formed, made of all those dirty breads, thrown to garbage...

One day, finally, a benevolent man told them,

"Woe betide you all! Fear God Almighty! Do not destroy God's Blessings and Bounties with your own hands! For in that case, you shall meet His Wrath, and will face the calamity of drought!"

Those people did not take him seriously and mocked him, with great arrogance and impertinence:

"Look at this man, here! He is warning us of calamities, such as drought and famine...! But as long as all these limpid springs are flowing and all these lands and vast pastures are accessible to us, nothing bad will threaten us, whatsoever!"

However, little by little, God's Wrath manifested its signs and soon after, there was no sign of any rain and nothing grew anymore from lack of rainfall... Drought came at last, and they soon were forced to eat those same dried, hardened bread, which had

been stained. The strangest of all is that they made long, long queues, in order to be able to have a very small ration of that same bread; and this was the result and the consequence of their pride, ignorance and profligacy...

8- A powerful indulgence

The lord of the Martyrs [i.e. Sēyyēdo Shohadā], his illustrious Imām Hussēyn [*as*] had declared, "The most indulgent and forgiving person is he, who is indulgent and forgiving in his most powerful time!" [Dorrat Ul-Bāhēreh - 29]

The late Sheikh Djafar Kāshef Ul-Ghotā was one of the greatest Shiite Ulemās and renowned for his erudition. It has been reported that this illustrious man of God used to sit, each day, in a particular place in the Mosque. This was done before the Prayer of Midday and that of the Afternoon. The people came to him and gave him large sums of money, which was considered as the "Part of the Imām *as* and the noble descendants of the Imām *as* and he would divide them then, among the poor

descendants of the Imāms [as] or even those, who were not related to any illustrious Imām [as].

One afternoon, just after the Prayer of Midday, he was performing his supplementary religious rituals, when suddenly a student in Islamic Theology, who also happened to be a descendant of an Imām [as] came to him and told him with a very harsh and rude tone,

"O Sheikh! Give me my share of the money, which belongs to my ancestor!"

The Sheikh said,

"Son, there is nothing left, I am afraid... You came too late, alas..."

The student became angry and proffered wild things to him. Then, because he had not received anything, he threw his saliva on the face of the poor old Sheikh. The others witnessed this unbelievable scene and rose with a menacing way to go and punish that most impolite young man...

However, the Sheikh ordered them to sit in their places. He then left his "Abā" [i.e. Islamic mantle] on the floor, rose from his place, took a piece of his long robe in his hand, grasped it tightly, and walked towards the people, who were here and there. He said,

"The saliva of one of the progeny of the holy Prophet may Allah's Greetings and Blessings be upon him and his holy Family has been thrown on the beard of this poor Sheikh, here! Whosoever likes this humble beard may very well help him!"

It has been reported that the noble Sheikh went here and there, among the people. Soon, the piece of robe, which he had grasped tightly with his hand, was full of money. The Sheikh went back towards the student and told him,

"Come son, come now... Take the tail of your robe, and grasp it tightly the way I am grasping mine."

He then gave all the money to the young man, by placing all the money on his lap. He then approached his mouth to his ear and told him,

"Son, take that money, and go then, as quickly as possible from here, so that the others may not see you! I am afraid for your safety and fear that maybe someone may attack you..."

The young student, after seeing such kindness and generosity was deeply ashamed. He took the money and left that place without saying anything more, and no one ever saw him again...

9- Let us learn a few things from Loqmān, the wise

The lord of the believers, Ali [as] had been reported to say, "The human tongue is the instrument of evaluation for the human being." [Ghorar Ul-Hekam - Number 1282]

Loqmān the wise was the contemporay of Prophet David [as]. He was at first a slave, belonging to one of the prominent figures, among the tribe of Bani Isrā'il. One day, his master ordered him to behead a

sheep and bring him the best parts of the animal to him.

Loqmān killed the sheep and brought him its tongue and its heart. A few days passed, and once again, the master ordered him to slay another sheep and bring him this time, the worst parts of the animal. Loqmān obeyed again; he killed a sheep and once again, he brought his master, its tongue, and its heart. His master told him,

"I told you to bring me the best parts of the sheep and you brought me its tongue and its heart; then again, I ordered you to bring me the worst parts, and I see now that you have brought me, once again, its heart and its tongue! How is it possible that the tongue and the heart be the best and the worst parts?!"

Loqmān replied,

"If the tongue and the heart are agreeing with each other and are truthful, then they become the best parts, and if it happens that they are disagreeing with each other and are not truthful, then they really are the worst parts!"

Upon hearing such wise words, the master was extremely pleased and for that very matter, he set him free...

10- If you take patience, you can do everything!

Hazrat Issā [as] had been reported to say, "You shall not reach that which you desire most, except by taking patience in front of all the things that do not please you..." [Moskan Al-Fo'ād - Number 48]

On that particular day, King Anushir'vān had gone hunting. After he finished his sport, he was on his way back to his Palace, when he met an old man: he was shoeless and his clothes were torn and extremely worn out.

He had placed a heavy load of wood on his back and was going back to the city...

The sun was shining strongly and he was sweating profusely. Suddenly a sharp bone on his way entered his foot and blood gushed forth. The old man sat down patiently, and put some dirt on the wound. While doing this, he was rendering thanks to God Almighty.

Without paying any attention to King Anushir'vān, he rose again and continued his walk, by limping badly... The King's heart was moved with this scene and he advanced with his horse. He greeted the old man and said,

"O, old man! I believe, now is the time when you should rest a bit... Why do you give yourself so much trouble?"

The old man, who knew not the King, answered him, "O stranger, I have four motherless, orphan daughters, and I have to provide for their clothes and their food...! How can I rest then?!

Each time I bring wood, I sell it at one and a half dirham. I buy a loaf of bread with the half dirham and we eat it together; as for the remaining dirham, I buy some wool or cotton, so that my daughters may weave it and transform it into a fabric; they then make themselves some clothes..."

King Anushir'vān asked him,

"Tell me, old man, where is your whereabouts?"

"In a ruin, near that village, over there..."

"Would you like me to offer you that village with all its revenues as a reward to you?"

"You are most kind, Sire..."

The King offered his Royal ring as a sign of good will to the old man, so that he in his turn, show it to the notables of the village; in that way, everyone was forced to obey him from then on, and pay him all the taxes. Soon, the old man became very rich.

A long time passed. One day, King Anushir'vān was passing near that village. He remembered the old man with his wounded foot; he turned the bridle of his horse and entered the village. He asked where the old man lived...

He reached a very beautiful mansion. A group of servants was waiting for him to arrive. They greeted him politely. He answered their greeting and said, "Where is your master?"

They said,

"He is not feeling well today... He is resting."

He asked them,

"What ails him?"

They said,

"Today, he walked a little in the garden and became very tired, afterward..."

King Anushir'vān smiled knowingly. It was very strange for him to hear such things. He said,

"Tell him there is a guest here, waiting to see him..."

They informed the old man and asked permission to let the guest enter in his room. The old man gave his permission and the King entered.

The old man, who used to bring heavy loads of wood from the forest, was now resting in a huge

bed, with a mattress, made of the swan's feathers...
When he saw the King in person, he got out quickly from his bed and stood up. He greeted him with all the marks of great and deep politeness. The King said,

"I have a question for you, old man..."

The old man said,

"I am at your disposal, Sire..."

Anushir'vān said,

"On that fateful day, a bone in your way wounded your foot in the desert. Blood gushed forth... However, you did not groaned or moaned. On the contrary, you rendered Grace to God. And now, after a very light sport, you are resting in your bed...!"

The old man replied,
"Sire, a worthy man should always take patience in front of hardship and show his gratitude to God, so that in time of ease, he may be able to use well his

wealth; but then again, he should always render grace to God...!"

The King rejoiced very much from the words, uttered by the old man. He gave him another village as a reward, so that he may live even more comfortably and be more thankful and grateful to God Almighty.



Al'hamdulillāh Rabbēl Ālamīn

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Translation Movement



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