

Chapter Thirteen

Making Use of Knowledge

Tradition 13.1 H 107, Ch. 13, h 1

Muhammad ibn Yahya has narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn 'Isa from Hammed from 'Umar ibn 'Udhayna from Aban ibn abu 'Ayyash from Sulaym ibn Qays al-Hilali who has said the following:

"I heard, Imam Ali^{a.s} narrated from the Holy Prophet^{s.a.w.w} who said, 'The scholars are of two kinds: One kind consists of those who uphold their knowledge and they gain their salvation. The other kind consists of those who disregard their knowledge and they face their destruction. The people of hell will suffer from the bad odor of the scholars who do not act according to their knowledge. Of the people of hell the one who will regret most will be a man who teaches someone and shows him the way of Allah^{swt}. The student accepts and acts according to such teachings and consequently Allah^{swt} takes him to the paradise but the teacher is sent to hell because of ignoring his knowledge, following his desires and entertaining long hopes. Following ones' desires bars one from the truth. And cherishing long hopes causes one to forget the next life.'"

Tradition 13.2 H 108, Ch. 13, h 2

Muhammad ibn Yahya from Ahmad ibn Muhammad from Muhammad ibn Sinan from 'Isma'il ibn Jabir from Abu 'Abdallah^{as} who has said the following:

"Knowledge and work are closely related. One who has knowledge he works and one who works he learns. Knowledge invites work and if it is not accepted knowledge departs from deeds."

Tradition 13.3 H 109, Ch. 13, h 3

A number of our people have narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Khalid from Ali ibn Muhammad al-Qasani from one he mentioned from 'Abdallah ibn Qasim al-Ja'fari from Abu 'Abdallah^{as} who has said the following:

"If a scholar preaches and does not practice, his words bounce away from the hearts of the listeners like rain drops that bounce away off the rocks."

Tradition 13.4 H 110, Ch. 13, h 4

Ali ibn Ibrahim has narrated from his father from al-Qasim ibn Muhammad from al-Minqari from Ali ibn Hashim ibn al-Burayd from his father who has said the following:

"A man came to (Imam) Ali ibn al-Hussain^{as} and asked him certain questions and the Imam^{as} answered his questions. The man then wanted to ask additional similar questions but the Imam^{as} told him, "It is written in the Gospel, 'Do not inquire for knowledge (what you do not know) until you practice what you already know because not practicing what one knows neither bring anything but the disbelief and nor it increases, anything, to one's relation with Allah^{swt} but alienation."

Tradition 13.5 H 111, Ch. 13, h 5

Muhammad ibn Yahya has narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn 'Isa from Muhammad ibn Sinan from al-Mufaddal ibn 'Umar who has said the following:

"I asked Imam Abu 'Abdallah^{as}, 'What are the facts that help one to recognise those who have gained their salvation?' The Imam^{as} replied, "One whose words agree with his deeds you must consider his testimony as valid and one whose words do not agree with his deeds (even if he has faith) it is temporary (which will eventually be lost).'"

Tradition 13.6 H 112, Ch. 13, h 6

A number of our people has narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Khalid from his father in a marfu' manner (*rafa'ahu*) from Amir al-Mu'minin Ali^{as} who has said the following:

"Once Imam Ali^{as} said in one of his sermons, 'O people, if you learn and gain knowledge you must act accordingly so that you may be guided. A learned person who disregards his knowledge is like a lost and ignorant person who never comes to the right path due to his ignorance. In fact, you will find that such a learned person would disregard his knowledge severely and frequently while prolonging his regrets for repentance, as compared with an ignorant person who wonders about his conduct. Both of them are astray and are devoid of goodness.

Do not hesitate lest you subject to doubt and do not doubt lest you under the influence of disbelieve. Do not be lenient to your souls to become lazy. Do not trivialize the truth lest you intend to lose badly. It is of the truth to learn *Fiqh*, (proper understanding of religion). It is of *Fiqh*, (proper understanding of religion) not to suffer deceit. The wisest ones among you are those who are most obedient to his Lord. The most deceitful to himself among you is the disobedient ones to his Lord. One who obeys Allah^{swt} is safe and good news awaits him but the one who disobeys Allah^{swt}, he loses and regrets.'"

Tradition 13.7 H 113, Ch. 13, h 7

A number of our people have narrated from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Khalid from his father from the one mentioned from Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rahman ibn abu Layla from his father who has said the following:

"Imam Abu Ja'far^{as} has said, 'When you acquire knowledge you must make use of it and your hearts should be enlightened by it. When your knowledge increases it becomes harder for Satan to betray you. And when starts attacking you then protect yourself from the enlightenment you have developed from the knowledge. Indeed, the plots of

Satan are weak! I asked the Imam^{as} "What is it that we should know?" The Imam^{as} replied, "Fight him with the Satan with the power/light of Allah^{swt}, the most Majestic, the most Glorious, has showered onto you."

All praise belongs to Allah^{swt} May Allah^{swt} send peace and blessings upon Hazrat Muhammad^{s.a.w.w} and his holy progeny.