

EDITORIAL

Great people accomplish tremendous tasks. They do benefit from outstanding companions. The case of the first Infallible Imam Ali and his loyal companion Malik b. al-Harith al-Ashtar is a good example. History shows that impact-making leaders benefit from practically qualified people who firmly believe in the truth of their leaders.

The Prophet Muhammad entrusted Imam Ali both in peace and war. Hence, Imam Ali proved the noblest companion of the Prophet. Likewise, Malik enjoyed being a trustworthy companion of Imam Ali. One may refer to Imam Ali's famous epistle to Malik. This epistle is packed with timeless instructions for the managers who may aspire to run their offices and domains in a just and successful way.

The gist of Imam Ali's epistle can be summarized in a word: a qualified governor ought to treat his subjects in a just and humane way. People are either followers of the manager's religion or simply human beings. With this fundamental principle in view, there would not remain any context for mistreating them, hence there would not be any background for social or psychological imbalance or aggression. Another point to be inferred from the same timeless epistle is that the instructions included therein can be both practicalized and expanded. Insightful policy-makers may apply them to other domains, e.g., economics, education, and management. In terms of education, everybody deserves the best type of lessons, theoretical and applied. In terms of economics, no loss is allowed. The community must move forward, hence each and every member of the community must feel

honored and practically supported by the ruling elite class. A final word, Imam Ali's epistle to Malik is never an ancient text. On the contrary, it has since been a timeless classic, a historic document that shows how a competent manager should behave, both individually and socially.

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