"Faith rests on four pillars: patience, certitude, justice, and struggle.

"Patience, furthermore, is based on four disciplines:

yearning, apprehension, abstinence, and expectation.

So one who yearns for Paradise forgets desires,

and one who is on guard against Hellfire turns aside from forbidden things.

One who is abstinent in this world thinks lightly of misfortunes,

and one who expects death hastens to good deeds.

"Certitude is also based on four disciplines:

enlightenment of intelligence, elucidation of wisdom,

spiritual counsel on what is important, and following original norms.

Wisdom becomes clear to whoever reflects on intelligence,

and whoever has wisdom become clear knows what is important.

And whoever knows what is important is in accord with original norms.

"Justice is also based on four disciplines:

immersion in understanding, penetration of knowledge,

brightness in judgment, and firm establishment of thoughtfulness.

For one who understands knows with penetrating knowledge,

and one who knows with penetrating knowledge proceeds judiciously from the start.

And one who is thoughtful has not been negligent of his trust
and lives a benign life among the people.

"Struggle is also based on four disciplines:

the imperative to do what is right, prohibition of wrong,

speaking truth at the appropriate times and places, and attacking the vicious and iniquitous.

For one who commands what is right strengthens the back of the faithful,

and one who forbids what is wrong defies scoffers and oppressors.

And one who speaks the truth at the appropriate times and places

has carried out his obligation, and one who attacks the vicious and iniquitous in defense of God,

will be defended by God and fulfilled by God on the day of resurrection."

-- Hazrat Ali

Living and Dying with Grace • Counsels of Hadrat Ali • pp 66

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References

1. Please visit our wall
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