"To someone who asked for counsel, Hadrat Ali said:

'Do not be one of those who hope for the Hereafter without work,
and postpone repentance by exaggeration of hope;
who speak in this world the speech of the abstemious,
but work therein the work of the covetous;
who when given anything from it are not satisfied,
and when forbidden anything from it are discontent;
who are incapable of gratitude for what they have been given,
and perpetually seek more and more;
who restrain others but do not themselves abstain,
and command others to do what they themselves do not;
who love the good but not their works,
and despise sinners while being sinners themselves;
who abhor death because they have sinned too much,
yet persist in that for which they abhor death;
who become ruefully repentant when sick
and heedlessly confident when well;
who are proud when carefree
and despondent in times of trial;
who are demanding when tribulation comes upon them,
and are blinded and conceited when comfort gives them latitude;

whose self overcomes them with imaginations,

and who do not master the self by certainties;

who fear for others on account of relatively insignificant misdeeds,

while expecting more for themselves what they have done;

who are seduced into wantonness if they become rich,

and become despondent and lose hear if they become poor;

who are inadequate when they work,

and overdo it when they ask;

who are first to be refractory whenever a craving occurs to them,

and put off repentance and turning away from that;

who jump the track of religion when tribulation strikes them;

who extol exemplars but do not take a lesson from them,

and deliver sermons without taking them to heart,

and thus are presumptuous in speech but short on action;

who compete for what perishes

and give up what endures;

who see gain as loss and loss as gain;

who are afraid of death

yet do not hasten to escape;

who attach great importance to insubordination from others

where they think little of even more from themselves,

and make a big thing of their own obedience where they scorn the obedience of others,
so they discredit others while flattering themselves;

who prefer diversion with the rich

to prayer with the poor;

who judge against others in their own favour,

but never judge against themselves in favour of others;

who give directions to others while misguiding themselves,

so they command obedience but are themselves astray,

and they demand in full

but do not give in full;

and who fear creation for other than its Creator,

and do not fear the Creator for the sake of the creation.""

-- Hazrat Ali

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References

1. ^ Please visit our wall
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