"Once when he heard someone finding fault with the world, Hadrat Ali said:

'O you who revile the world, blinded by its deceit, duped by its falsehood!

Do you rebuke the world after having been deluded by it?

Are you accusing it, or IS it accusing you?

When did it seduce you, when did it beguile you?

Was it by the battlegrounds where your fathers rot,
or the couches of your mothers under the ground?

How much have you kept busy seeing to their needs,
and how much have you personally nursed them in illness?

You seek a remedy for them and consult doctors for them.

On the morrow your treatment will fail to benefit them,
your lament of no use to them, your solicitude of no avail to any of them.

Your wish has not been granted, and your power cannot defend them.

The world has given you thereby an example of what will happen to you,
showing you your death by means of the death of another.

In fact, the world is an abode of truth for one who is truthful with it
and an abode of well-being for one who understands it.

It is an abode of riches for one who learns from it.
and an abode of counsel for one who takes a warning from it.

It is the house of worship for those who love God,

the place of prayer of God's angels,

the place of descent of God's inspiration,

and the place of business of God's saints.

Therein is Mercy earned. and therein is Paradise gained.

So who reviles it when it has already announced its departure and declared it would leave?

It has announced its own death and that of its people;

by its trials it has given them an example of tribulation,

and by its pleasures filled them with longing for pleasure.

It started out with well-being and created misfortune,

awakening desires and fears, causing alarm and alert.

So some people revile it on a morning of remorse,

while others will praise it on the day of resurrection,

for the world reminded them

and they bore it in mind,

and it spoke to them

and they verified what it said,

and it cautioned them

and they took the warning.'"

-- Hazrat Ali

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