رسالة الحقوق

The Declaration of Servitude (Tuḥaf al-ʿUqūl, page 255)

# Section One: An Overview of the Rights

اعْلَمْ رَحِمَكَ اللَّهُ أَنَّ لِلَّهِ عَلَيْكَ حُقُوقاً مُحِيطَةً بِكَ فِي كُلِّ حَرَكَةٍ تَحَرَّكْتَهَا أَوْ سَكَنَةٍ سَكَنْتَهَا أَوْ مَنْزِلَةٍ نَزَلْتَهَا أَوْ جَارِحَةٍ قَلَبْتَهَا وَ آلَةٍ تَصَرَّفْتَ بِهَا بَعْضُهَا أَكْبَرُ مِنْ بَعْضٍ وَ أَكْبَرُ حُقُوقِ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكَ مَا أَوْجَبَهُ لِنَفْسِهِ تَبَارَكَ وَ تَعَالَى مِنْ حَقِّهِ الَّذِي هُوَ أَصْلُ الْحُقُوقِ وَ مِنْهُ تَفَرَّعَ ثُمَّ أَوْجَبَهُ عَلَيْكَ لِنَفْسِكَ مِنْ قَرْنِكَ إِلَى قَدَمِكَ عَلَى اخْتِلَافِ جَوَارِحِكَ فَجَعَلَ لِبَصَرِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِسَمْعِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِلِسَانِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِيَدِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِرِجْلِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِبَطْنِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِفَرْجِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً فَهَذِهِ الْجَوَارِحُ السَّبْعُ الَّتِي بِهَا تَكُونُ الْأَفْعَالُ

May Allah have mercy on you! Know that Allah has rights on you that encompass everything of yours. In every movement through which you move, every act of resting through which you rest, every waystation you descend upon, every body part you employ, or every tool you use [Allah has a right on you in all of these]. Some of these rights are greater than others. The greatest of Allah’s rights on you is the right which Allah has made incumbent on you with respect to Himself (the Provider of abundance and the Sublime), and which is the root of all rights. All other rights stem from it. Then, those which He has made incumbent on you in yourself, from your head to your foot, in keeping with the diversity of your body parts. He has given your sight a right on you, your hearing a right on you, your tongue a right on you, your hand a right on you, your leg a right on you, and your private parts a right on you. These are the seven body parts with which actions are performed.

ثُمَّ جَعَلَ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ لِأَفْعَالِكَ عَلَيْكَ حُقُوقاً فَجَعَلَ لِصَلَاتِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِصَوْمِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِصَدَقَتِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِهَدْيِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً وَ لِأَفْعَالِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقّاً ثُمَّ تَخْرُجُ الْحُقُوقُ مِنْكَ إِلَى غَيْرِكَ مِنْ ذَوِي الْحُقُوقِ الْوَاجِبَةِ عَلَيْكَ وَ أَوْجَبُهَا عَلَيْكَ حُقُوقُ أَئِمَّتِكَ ثُمَّ حُقُوقُ رَعِيَّتِكَ ثُمَّ حُقُوقُ رَحِمِكَ فَهَذِهِ حُقُوقٌ يَتَشَعَّبُ مِنْهَا حُقُوقٌ

Then, he (the Invincible and Majestic) gave your actions rights on you. He gave your prayer a right on you, your fasting a right on you, your charity a right on you, your sacrificial offering a right on you, and your [other] actions a right on you. Then these rights extend out from you to others who have rights on you. The most incumbent of them on you are the rights of your leaders, then the rights of your subjects, and then the rights of your womb relatives. From these rights branch out other rights.

فَحُقُوقُ أَئِمَّتِكَ ثَلَاثَةٌ أَوْجَبُهَا عَلَيْكَ حَقُّ سَائِسِكَ بِالسُّلْطَانِ ثُمَّ سَائِسِكَ بِالْعِلْمِ ثُمَّ حَقُّ سَائِسِكَ بِالْمِلْكِ وَ كُلُّ سَائِسٍ‏إِمَامٌ

The rights of your leaders are three. The most incumbent on you is the right of him who seeks your goodness and protection through power, then the right of him who [is your teacher and] seeks your good interests through knowledge, then the right of him who [is your owner and] seeks your good interests through property. And verily, every manager who seeks the good interests of his subject is a leader.

وَ حُقُوقُ رَعِيَّتِكَ ثَلَاثَةٌ أَوْجَبُهَا عَلَيْكَ حَقُّ رَعِيَّتِكَ بِالسُّلْطَانِ ثُمَّ حَقُّ رَعِيَّتِكَ بِالْعِلْمِ فَإِنَّ الْجَاهِلَ رَعِيَّةُ الْعَالِمِ وَ حَقُّ رَعِيَّتِكَ بِالْمِلْكِ مِنَ الْأَزْوَاجِ وَ مَا مَلَكْتَ مِنَ الْأَيْمَانِ

The rights of your subjects are three. The most incumbent on you is the right of those who are your subjects through authority, then the right of those who are your subjects through knowledge—for the ignorant man is the subject and subordinate of the scholar—then the rights of those who are your subjects through property, such as wives and slaves.

وَ حُقُوقُ رَحِمِكَ كَثِيرَةٌ مُتَّصِلَةٌ بِقَدْرِ اتِّصَالِ الرَّحِمِ فِي الْقَرَابَةِ فَأَوْجَبُهَا عَلَيْكَ حَقُّ أُمِّكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ أَبِيكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ وُلْدِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ أَخِيكَ ثُمَّ الْأَقْرَبُ فَالْأَقْرَبُ وَ الْأَوَّلُ فَالْأَوَّلُ

The rights of your womb relatives are many, they are connected to you based on the proximity of their connection to the womb relationship. The most incumbent on you is the right of your mother, then the right of your father, then the right of your child, then the right of your brother. This continues for other relatives based on the closeness of your relationship with them.

ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَوْلَاكَ الْمُنْعِمِ عَلَيْكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَوْلَاكَ الْجَارِيَةِ نِعْمَتُكَ عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ حَقُّ ذِي الْمَعْرُوفِ لَدَيْكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مُؤَذِّنِكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ ثُمَّ حَقُّ إِمَامِكَ فِي صَلَاتِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ جَلِيسِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ جَارِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ صَاحِبِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ شَرِيكِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَالِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ غَرِيمِكَ الَّذِي تُطَالِبُهُ ثُمَّ حَقُّ غَرِيمِكَ الَّذِي يُطَالِبُكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ خَلِيطِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ خَصْمِكَ الْمُدَّعِي عَلَيْكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ خَصْمِكَ الَّذِي تَدَّعِي عَلَيْهِ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مُسْتَشِيرِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ الْمُشِيرِ عَلَيْكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مُسْتَنْصِحِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ النَّاصِحِ لَكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَنْ هُوَ أَكْبَرُ مِنْكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَنْ هُوَ أَصْغَرُ مِنْكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ سَائِلِكَ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَنْ سَأَلْتَهُ ثُمَّ حَقُّ مَنْ جَرَى لَكَ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ مَسَاءَةٌ بِقَوْلٍ أَوْ فِعْلٍ أَوْ مَسَرَّةٌ بِذَلِكَ بِقَوْلٍ أَوْ فِعْلٍ عَنْ تَعَمُّدٍ مِنْهُ أَوْ غَيْرِ تَعَمُّدٍ مِنْهُ ثُمَّ حَقُّ أَهْلِ مِلَّتِكَ عَامَّةً ثُمَّ حَقُّ أَهْلِ الذِّمَّةِ ثُمَّ الْحُقُوقُ الْجَارِيَةُ بِقَدْرِ عِلَلِ الْأَحْوَالِ وَ تَصَرُّفِ الْأَسْبَابِ

Then there is the right of your master who favours you [by freeing you from slavery], then the right of the slave whom your favour reaches [by the fact that you free him], then the right of him who does a kind act toward you, then the right of the *muʾadhdhin* who calls you to prayer, then the right of the imam who leads the prayer, then the right of your sitting companion, then the right of your neighbour, then the right of your companion, then the right of your partner, then the right of your property, then the right of him who has a debt he must pay back to you, then the right of him to whom you owe a debt. Then the right of your associate, then the right of your adversary who has a claim against you, then the right of your adversary against whom you have a claim, then the right of him who asks you for advice, then the right of him whom you ask for advice, then the right of him who asks your counsel, then the right of him who counsels you, then the right of him who is older than you, then the right of him who is younger than you. Then the right of him who asks from you, then the right of him from whom you ask, then the right of him who does something evil to you by his words or deeds, or him who makes you happy by his words or deeds, be it intentionally or unintentionally, then the right of the people of your creed, then the right of the people under your protection, then all the rights that arise due to the coming about of states and the occurrence of events.

فَطُوبَى لِمَنْ أَعَانَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى قَضَاءِ مَا أَوْجَبَ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ حُقُوقِهِ وَ وَفَّقَهُ وَ سَدَّدَه‏

Therefore, happy is he whom Allah aids in fulfilling the rights which He has made incumbent on him and whom He gives success therein and points in the proper direction!

# Section Two: A Detailed Explanation of the Rights

## The right of Allah

فَأَمَّا حَقُّ اللَّهِ الْأَكْبَرُ فَإِنَّكَ تَعْبُدُهُ لَا تُشْرِكُ بِهِ شَيْئاً فَإِذَا فَعَلْتَ ذَلِكَ بِإِخْلَاصٍ جَعَلَ لَكَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ أَنْ يَكْفِيَكَ أَمْرَ الدُّنْيَا وَ الْآخِرَةِ وَ يَحْفَظَ لَكَ مَا تُحِبُّ مِنْهَا

And as for the great right of Allah against you, it is that you worship Him without associating anything with Him. When you do that with sincerity, He has made it binding on Himself to suffice you in your affairs of the world and the hereafter, and to protect for you that which you love therein [in both this world and the hereafter].

## The right of man’s self

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ نَفْسِكَ عَلَيْكَ فَأَنْ تَسْتَوْفِيَهَا فِي طَاعَةِ اللَّهِ فَتُؤَدِّيَ إِلَى لِسَانِكَ حَقَّهُ وَ إِلَى سَمْعِكَ حَقَّهُ وَ إِلَى بَصَرِكَ حَقَّهُ وَ إِلَى يَدِكَ حَقَّهَا وَ إِلَى رِجْلِكَ حَقَّهَا وَ إِلَى بَطْنِكَ حَقَّهُ وَ إِلَى فَرْجِكَ حَقَّهُ وَ تَسْتَعِينَ بِاللَّهِ عَلَى ذَلِكَ

And the right of your self on you is to employ it [completely] in [servitude and] obedience to Allah. Thus [by doing this] you deliver to your tongue its right, to your hearing its right, to your sight its right, to your hand its right, to your leg its right, to your stomach its right, to your private part its right, and you seek help from God in that.

## The right of the tongue

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ اللِّسَانِ فَإِكْرَامُهُ عَنِ الْخَنَا وَ تَعْوِيدُهُ عَلَى الْخَيْرِ وَ حَمْلُهُ عَلَى الْأَدَبِ وَ إِجْمَامُهُ إِلَّا لِمَوْضِعِ الْحَاجَةِ وَ الْمَنْفَعَةِ لِلدِّينِ وَ الدُّنْيَا وَ إِعْفَاؤُهُ عَنِ الْفُضُولِ الشَّنِعَةِ الْقَلِيلَةِ الْفَائِدَةِ الَّتِي لَا يُؤْمَنُ ضَرَرُهَا مَعَ قِلَّةِ عَائِدَتِهَا وَ يُعَدُّ شَاهِدَ الْعَقْلِ وَ الدَّلِيلَ عَلَيْهِ وَ تَزَيُّنُ الْعَاقِلِ بِعَقْلِهِ حُسْنُ سِيرَتِهِ فِي لِسَانِهِ وَ لا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيم‏

And the right of the tongue is to consider it too noble for obscenity, accustom it to good, compel it to have etiquette, and hold it back except at the time of need or for religious and worldly benefits. And you should spare it from unnecessary and ugly speech, as well as that which has little benefit, for you are not protected from the loss and damage of such speech, while its gains are minute. And you should employ your tongue after the testimony and guidance of the intellect. The adornment of a wise person—due to the use of his intellect—lies in the beauty of his tongue’s behaviour. And there is no power except with Allah the Exalted and All-Supreme.

## The right of the ear

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ السَّمْعِ فَتَنْزِيهُهُ عَنْ أَنْ تَجْعَلَهُ طَرِيقاً إِلَى قَلْبِكَ إِلَّا لِفُوَّهَةٍ كَرِيمَةٍ تُحْدِثُ فِي قَلْبِكَ خَيْراً أَوْ تَكْسِبُ خُلُقاً كَرِيماً فَإِنَّهُ بَابُ الْكَلَامِ إِلَى الْقَلْبِ يُؤَدِّي إِلَيْهِ ضُرُوبُ الْمَعَانِي عَلَى مَا فِيهَا مِنْ خَيْرٍ أَوْ شَرٍّ وَ لا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّه‏

And the right of the ear is to keep it pure from making it a path to your heart for anything except honourable speech which brings about goodness in the heart or produces noble character. For indeed the ear is the doorway for speech to enter the heart and deliver meanings, good as well as bad, to the heart. And there is no power except through God.

## The right of the eye

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ بَصَرِكَ فَغَضُّهُ عَمَّا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكَ وَ تَرْكُ ابْتِذَالِهِ إِلَّا لِمَوْضِعِ عِبْرَةٍ تَسْتَقْبِلُ بِهَا بَصَراً أَوْ تَسْتَفِيدُ بِهَا عِلْماً فَإِنَّ الْبَصَرَ بَابُ الِاعْتِبَار

And the right of the eye is that you lower it before everything which is unlawful for you, and you do not employ it or strain it for anything except the areas of taking heed, which cause you to acquire some knowledge or insight. For indeed, the eyes are the doorway of lessons.

## The right of the foot

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ رِجْلَيْكَ فَأَنْ لَا تَمْشِيَ بِهِمَا إِلَى مَا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكَ وَ لَا تَجْعَلَهُمَا مَطِيَّتَكَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ الْمُسْتَخِفَّةِ بِأَهْلِهَا فِيهَا فَإِنَّهَا حَامِلَتُكَ وَ سَالِكَةٌ بِكَ مَسْلَكَ الدِّينِ وَ السَّبْقِ لَكَ وَ لا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّه‏

And the right of your feet is that you do not walk with them towards that which is unlawful for you, and you do not make them your ride on the path that causes contempt for the one who treads it, because they [should] carry you and make you walk on the path of religion and [in this case eventually] the prize shall be yours; and there is no power except through God.

## The right of the hand

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ يَدِكَ فَأَنْ لَا تَبْسُطَهَا إِلَى مَا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكَ فَتَنَالَ بِمَا تَبْسُطُهَا إِلَيْهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ الْعُقُوبَةَ فِي الْأَجَلِ وَ مِنَ النَّاسِ بِلِسَانِ اللَّائِمَةِ فِي الْعَاجِلِ وَ لَا تَقْبِضَهَا مِمَّا افْتَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهَا وَ لَكِنْ تُوَقِّرَهَا بِقَبْضِهَا عَنْ كَثِيرٍ مِمَّا يَحِلُّ لَهَا وَ بَسْطِهَا إِلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّا لَيْسَ عَلَيْهَا فَإِذَا هِيَ قَدْ عُقِلَتْ وَ شُرِّفَتْ فِي الْعَاجِلِ وَجَبَ لَهَا حُسْنُ الثَّوَابِ فِي الْآجِل‏

And the right of your hand is that you do not extend it toward that which is forbidden to you because by doing so you shall earn Allah’s punishment in the hereafter and people’s reproach in this world, and that you do not prevent your hand from that which Allah has made obligatory for it, rather revere it by holding it back from many a permissible act and extending it toward many a recommended act. Thus, if your hand is forced to abstain and becomes honourable in this world, then it will definitely have a good reward in the hereafter.

## The right of the stomach

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ بَطْنِكَ فَأَنْ لَا تَجْعَلَهُ وِعَاءً لِقَلِيلٍ مِنَ الْحَرَامِ وَ لَا لِكَثِيرٍ وَ أَنْ تَقْتَصِدَ لَهُ فِي الْحَلَالِ وَ لَا تُخْرِجَهُ مِنْ حَدِّ التَّقْوِيَةِ إِلَى حَدِّ التَّهْوِينِ وَ ذَهَابِ الْمُرُوَّةِ وَ ضَبْطُهُ إِذَا هَمَّ بِالْجُوعِ وَ الظَّمَإِ فَإِنَّ الشِّبَعَ الْمُنْتَهِيَ بِصَاحِبِهِ إِلَى التُّخَمِ مَكْسَلَةٌ وَ مَثْبَطَةٌ وَ مَقْطَعَةٌ عَنْ كُلِّ بِرٍّ وَ كَرَمٍ وَ إِنَّ الرَّيَّ الْمُنْتَهِيَ بِصَاحِبِهِ إِلَى السُّكْرِ مَسْخَفَةٌ وَ مَجْهَلَةٌ وَ مَذْهَبَةٌ لِلْمُرُوَّة

And the right of your stomach is that you do not make it a vessel for that which is forbidden—be it a little or a lot—and that you be moderate regarding that which is permissible, and that you do not make it fall from the level of strengthening to the level of causing contempt and loss of manliness, and that you control it when it is restless and distressed due to hunger and thirst. For verily, the satiation from hunger which leads man to indigestion causes lethargy, fatigue, and the abandonment of all righteous deeds and nobility, and the satiation from thirst which leads man’s stomach to be bloated with water causes imprudence, ignorance and the abandonment of manliness.

## The right of the private parts

وَ أَمَّا حَقُّ فَرْجِكَ فَحِفْظُهُ مِمَّا لَا يَحِلُّ لَكَ وَ الِاسْتِعَانَةُ عَلَيْهِ بِغَضِّ الْبَصَرِ فَإِنَّهُ مِنْ أَعْوَنِ الْأَعْوَانِ وَ كَثْرَةِ ذِكْرِ الْمَوْتِ وَ التَّهَدُّدِ لِنَفْسِكَ بِاللَّهِ وَ التَّخْوِيفِ لَهَا بِهِ وَ بِاللَّهِ الْعِصْمَةُ وَ التَّأْيِيدُ وَ لَا حَوْلَ وَ لَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِه‏

And the right of your private parts is that you protect them from that which is prohibited for you and seek help in this by casting down your gaze as it is among the best helpers. And [also] take help from abundant remembrance of death, and from threatening and frightening yourself [about the wrath] of God. And from Allah is the protection and help, and there is no power and strength except by Him.