

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَمَا هُوَ أَهْلُهُ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى سَيِّدِ وَدِدِ أَدَمَ كَمَا يُحِبُّ وَيَرْضَى بِأَنْ يُصَلَّى عَلَيْهِ

Allah Almighty, in Whose Name we begin, The Most Compassionate,

The Most Merciful

All Praise is due to Allah Almighty, Countless Peace and Blessings be upon  
His Beloved Messenger – *may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him* – his family & his  
companions – *may Allah be pleased with them all*

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## Four Pillars of a Government

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Once the Abbasi Khalifah mentioned to his court and those present, “If I had four types of people at my door, then I would have no need for anyone else.”

When they asked him what type of people he was talking about, he replied, “As a matter of fact, these four types of people are actually considered to be the main pillars of any government. No government would be able to survive without them. As a matter of fact, they are the like the four posts of a bed. If one of them is missing, then the bed would not stand upright.

“The first is that judge who is able to be give fair and honest decision and also a correct one. In the path of Allah Allah he is not afraid of the complaints or accusations of anyone if they are directed at him. He is also firm and steadfast on truth and remains committed to this.

“The second in that police officer who is able to deliver justice even against a strong person in favour of a weak person. He is also able to fulfil his duties with complete faith and conviction.

“The third is that person who collects the revenue for the government. He also completes his task and responsibility without oppressing the people of the country.”

After saying this, the Khalifah then bit his finger as if in a show of regret. The people then asked him who the fourth person was and he replied, “The fourth person is that officer of the government who is able to verify the activities of the above three secretly and then place his stamp of approval on each of them.” (Taarikh Tabari/57)