

L20

Topic: Imam Ali's (PBUH) Successorship

Imam Ali's courage, piety and austerity and other outstanding qualities which he possessed were **superior** to those of any other person. Thus, if we assume that the people should select the most superior person, 'Ali (peace be upon him), was the **most deserving**. Most of the Islamic scholars, even those who are among the Sunnis, have directly stated that 'Ali (peace be upon him), was the **most aware of Islamic affairs** and the Traditions. Even the caliphs themselves confessed Imam Ali's greatness; for example, the second caliph is quoted by many as saying, "If there was not Ali, 'Umar would have perished."

The Quran says that imamate is decided directly by God

"And remember that Abraham was tried by his Lord with certain commands which he fulfilled. He said, 'I will make you an Imam to the nations.'" (2/124)

"And we made them leaders, guiding (men) by Our Command and We sent them inspiration ..." (21/73)

The verse of preaching the mission

"O, Prophet, proclaim what (message) has been sent to thee from your Lord. If you do not, you would not have fulfilled and proclaimed His mission." (5/67)

The tone of this verse shows that the assignment of appointing the successor is a heavy one which has been placed upon the Prophet's shoulders.

...إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً...

I am going to place a successive 'human' authority (vicegerent/ khalifa) on earth.

[2–30]

There are many Traditions recorded from a large group of the Companions of the holy Prophet which say that the above verse was about Ali (peace be upon him), and that it was revealed on the day of Ghadir.

The verse on obedience

«أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ...»

"O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Prophet and those charged with authority among you ... "(4/59)

We can infer that the authorities who are mentioned in the verse and to whom unconditional obedience is ordered are infallible leaders who exist in every age i.e., the Imams.

The verse of leadership (wilayah)

"Your (real) leaders are only God, His Apostle and the (fellowship of) believers - those who establish prayer and give charity when they bow down humbly (in worship)." (5/55)

Many of the recorders of the Traditions even those who are famous Sunnites, and their historians and commentators, say that this verse refers to Hadrat 'Ali (peace be upon him).

The event of Ghadir

In the event of Ghadir, in the occurrence of which is no doubt, the Holy Prophet stated that Ali (peace be upon him) is the leader and master of Muslims as God and the Prophet are. There are 110 people among the Companions and followers of the Prophet and 360 famous books in Islam that have recorded this event.