



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Nahj al-Balagha

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Lesson: 21

Topic: Sermon #3: Shiqshiqiyya (Continuance): What happened after Uthman (Paying allegiance to the Imam عليه السلام and breaking it)

Imam عليه السلام continues explaining what happened after Uthman:

«فَمَا رَاعِنِي إِلَّا وَ النَّاسُ كَعُورِ الضَّبُعِ إِلَيَّ يَنْتَالُونَ عَلَيَّ مِنْ كُلِّ جَانِبٍ»

Something unprecedented: The Muslim ummah flocked to Imam عليه السلام demanding him to be the caliph in Zul-Hijja 35 A.H.

«فَمَا رَاعِنِي»: **Nothing frightened me...**

...but flocks of people coming to me in large crowds wanting to pledge allegiance.

The reasons why this crowd flocking to Imam عليه السلام frightens or surprises him:

1. Big responsibility (repairing the destructions and mess made by the three previous caliphs and the things that would happen later)
2. Being accused of assassinating Uthman.

- Imam عليه السلام's description of how people flocked to him: "like the mane of a hyena," an Arabic expression that means a large quantity of something (a hyena on its neck has a lot of hair).
- Imam عليه السلام said: from every direction, they flocked to me.
- «يَنْتَالُ» in Arabic is originally used for the bees that are flocking to their hives.

Shocking words: They flocked to Imam عليه السلام in a way, the two *Hasans* were trampled upon.

How «حسنان» (two hasans) were interpreted:

1. Most common opinion: Imam Hassan and Imam Hussain عليهما السلام
2. The big toes are called *hasan*: It was too crowded, and people were too close to the Imam عليه السلام in a way that his big toes were being stepped on!

«وَسُقَّ عِظْفَايَ»

It was crowded to the point that both ends of my shoulder garment were torn.

The reasons why the Imam عليه السلام is giving these technical descriptions:



1. The ones before him plotted to get power, but Imam عليه السلام was democratically elected.
2. People forced him by their crowd, and in three months, they betrayed him.

The final description Imam عليه السلام gives of people paying allegiance to him:

«مُجْتَمِعِينَ حَوْلِي كَرَبِضَةِ الْغَنَمِ»

Imam عليه السلام They gathered around me like crowds of sheep and goats that would go to their shepherd.

1. Either people saw Imam عليه السلام as their shepherd now seeking protection from the wolves there (people ruled them for three decades)
2. Or people's rush to Imam عليه السلام was very chaotic, like a herd of sheep

People's allegiance to Imam عليه السلام: The only genuine movement sparked by people's desire.

Those who didn't pledge allegiance to Imam عليه السلام in Medina:

1. Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas
2. Abd Allah ibn Umar

- Imam عليه السلام didn't force them for allegiance.
- Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام, the mountain of patience, was so mistreated by people then that he wished he had never known them.

«فَلَمَّا نَهَضْتُ بِالْأَمْرِ»: When I rose to be caliph and establish the justice;

«نَكثَتْ طَائِفَةٌ وَ مَرَقَتْ أُخْرَى وَ قَسَطَ آخَرُونَ»: Three groups resisted: one broke away, the other turned disobedient, while the rest began to act unjustly and unlawfully.

The three groups who fought Imam عليه السلام:

1. «ناكثين» those who broke their allegiance (people of Jamal);
2. «مارقين» (*Mariq* is technically something that is released.) Those who turned disobedient. (Khawarij)
3. «قاسطين»: the unjust ones (Muawiya)

The reason Imam عليه السلام used these general terms to refer to these people was that these names were used by the Prophet ﷺ.

These words used in Sunni sources:



- Hakim Neyshaburi narrates that the Prophet ﷺ instructed Ali عليه السلام to fight three groups: the breaker of their allegiance (Nakethin), the disobedient (Mariqin), and the unjust transgressors (Qasitin)
- Khatib Baghdadi in *History of Baghdad*: When Abu Ayyub Ansari was asked why he was fighting against Muslims in Ali عليه السلام's Army, he reminded them that the Prophet ﷺ had instructed them to fight *Nakethin*, *Qasitin*, and *Mariqin*.

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The main reason why these groups rose against Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام: Ali عليه السلام's justice

- Imam عليه السلام refers to this issue when citing this verse (28:83) that it is as if they never heard this verse in the Quran: that abode in the Hereafter We assigned it for those who intend not to exalt themselves on the earth. In the end, these are the pious ones.
- Imam عليه السلام comments: "I swear by God they read this verse and they clearly understand it, but this world became appealing to them with its glitter, with its embellishment they were seduced."
- Imam Ali عليه السلام here in Nahj al-Balagha and other places teaches us that the root cause of war and destruction is greed and the lure of this world.
- Imam عليه السلام said: I swear by God, if I were to be given seven heavens and they would be put on my hand at the expense of oppressing an ant by taking the food from its mouth, I would not.
- Imam Ali عليه السلام deposed Muawiya from power, and he didn't pledge allegiance to the Imam عليه السلام.

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What Talha and Zubayr did

- Talha and Zubayr considered themselves equals to Ali عليه السلام because Umar fooled them through Shura. They wanted power and money from the Imam عليه السلام, but he refused to give them. They decided to turn against him.
- Ibn Qutaybah, the Sunni scholar, says after Talha and Zubayr pledged allegiance to Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام they told him that the reason they pledged their allegiance was not to follow him; instead, they did it because they considered themselves his partners in power (شريكاً في الأمر).
- Zubayr wanted governorate of Iraq and Talha wanted Yemen. When Imam عليه السلام rejected, they withdrew their allegiance.
- After three months from their allegiance, they went to Imam عليه السلام and asked permission for Umrah—Imam عليه السلام swore by Allah that they wanted to betray (أرادا الغدر), and they betrayed.

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In Mecca, Talha, Zubayr, and Aisha started their conspiracy.

The reasons why Zubayr was driven against Imam Ali عليه السلام:

1. He was the husband of Aisha's sister

2. Being influenced by his son Abd Allah (Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام said Zubayr continued to be one of us Ahlulbayt عليه السلام until his despicable son Abd Allah grew up).

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- While in Mecca, when Talha and Zubayr were asked why they have broken their allegiance, and it was a major sin, they said they were compelled to!
- In Mecca, they were thinking about how to break off the caliphate of the Imam عليه السلام. Together with Aisha, they decided to plot by not recognizing Ali عليه السلام as caliph and mobilizing people against him.
- Aisha suggested mobilizing people and attacking Medina. Talha and Zubayr rejected the idea, believing breaking their allegiance in Medina was awkward and that Medina was Ali عليه السلام's stronghold. They agreed to go to Basra.
- Abusing Aisha, they managed to mobilize 3000 Meccans. They mobilized people in Mecca to seek revenge for Uthman's assassination.

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