



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Nahj al-Balagha

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### Lesson: 22

#### Topic: Sermon #3: Shiqshiqiyya (Continuance): The Battle of Jamal and what happened afterward.

- According to Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام (sermon 172), Talha and Zubayr manipulated Aisha to achieve their political means.
- In 36 A.H., Talha, Zubayr, and Aisha settled in Basra.
- In his speech in Basra, Talha said they didn't want power. Instead, they wanted to reform the ummah.

**Objection:** It was three months that Imam عليه السلام was in power. Why didn't they give time to Imam Ali عليه السلام? It's clear that it was about power.

- Imam Ali عليه السلام commented on their intention and said that none of the two had anything to do with Allah SWT in their effort. (sermon148) Don't be fooled. They did it for politics and power.
- The story of the *Dogs of Haw'ab*, a region near Basra, and that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم urged his wives, especially Aisha, to avoid being there.
- To convince Aisha to stay, Talha, Zubayr, and 50 other people swore by Allah that the place was not Haw'ab. Imam عليه السلام and historians called it the first time 50 people committed perjury by swearing by Allah.
- Imam عليه السلام wrote to Abu Musa al-Ash'ari to mobilize Kufis for what was happening in Basra; however, he didn't respond to Imam عليه السلام's letter.
- First, 9000 and then an additional 7000 soldiers were mobilized in Kufa.
- The armies met in *al-Khurayba* in Jamadi al-Thani. Imam عليه السلام tried to talk them out of fighting. They refused and even killed the one who was carrying the Quran.
- Ya'qubi and other historians: the battle was fought for 4 hours, but 10,000 to 20,000 were killed.



- After the Army of Talha and Zubayr got defeated, Aisha herself started to mobilize and instigate people on her camel. Imam عليه السلام commanded to strike the camel down. When it happened, the battle ended.
- Marwan killed Talha because he was the chief instigator in Uthman's murder.
- Amir al-Mu'minin reminded Zubayr عليه السلام of an incident in which the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم told him: "One day you will fight Ali عليه السلام, and you will be the oppressor." He remembered, regretted, made an oath not to fight, and retreated. Imam عليه السلام told his army to let him go.
- Zubayr's son, Abd Allah, rebuked him for leaving the war as he was the one who started it. He said that he had made an oath in front of everyone.

Two versions of what happened then:

1. Abd Allah told him to break it and pay its Kaffarah
2. He refused to fight and fled the battlefield (most narrations), then he was chased and killed (without Imam عليه السلام's order)
  - Shia scholars don't consider Zubayr's withdrawal his repentance because it was not proportionate and enough repentance for starting such a war with 10,000 to 20,000 murders.
  - Imam Ali عليه السلام sent Aisha to Medina with 30 women dressed in men's clothes and her brother Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr.
  - Ibn Taymiyyah claims they all repented, and Aisha didn't want to fight. He justifies that some mobs started to fight, and Talha and Zubayr thought Imam عليه السلام had started, so they fought back.

Two sins Aisha committed:

1. Imam Ali عليه السلام was the Imam of his time, and she had no excuse to mobilize people to Basra, and it wasn't for the well-being of the ummah.
2. The Quran ordered Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم's wives to stay in their homes. She violated the Quran.

Aisha never repented because:

1. She never apologized to Imam Ali عليه السلام.
2. Umm Salama rebuked Aisha and took an oath not to talk to her again (Sunni sources)
  - The same thing happened when the Quran in chapter *Tahreem (66)* exposed Aisha and Hafsa for their conspiracy, but it never mentioned whether they repented.



- After the Battle of Jamal, Imam عليه السلام reintegrated Basra and gave it a new order. Then he appointed Abd Allah ibn Abbas as the governor and moved to Kufa on Rajab 12<sup>th</sup>, 66 A.H. because he saw Muawiya's threat as a more significant problem.

The reason Imam عليه السلام transferred the capital from Medina to Kufa:

1. Medina's environment was toxic and chaotic, and Imam عليه السلام had no place to rule.
2. He faced the biggest threat of the Muslim world, i.e., Muawiya, with his army of 120,000 soldiers.

Why Kufa was strategically more feasible and liable to stand against Muawiya:

1. Imam Ali عليه السلام had supporters and lovers in Kufa;
2. More population and fighters;
3. Having natural resources to fund the army;
4. Strategic place to block Muawiya's offense.

In Kufa, Imam عليه السلام settled in his nephew's humble house (Ju'da ibn Hubairah al-Makhzoumi, Umm Hani's son).