



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

History and Development of the Shia

Teacher: Sayed Saleh al-Qazwini

Lesson: 8

Topic: The Battle of Siffin

- When Imam Ali عليه السلام came to power, he removed Muawiya and appointed Abdullah ibn Abbas, but Muawiya refused the orders and denied ibn Abbas to enter the Levant and falsely accused Imam Ali عليه السلام of instigating against 'Uthman. Therefore, he marched towards the Levant (*Shaam*) before marching for the Battle of Jamal.
- After the Battle of Jamal, 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام changed the capital from Madinah to Kufa.

History of Kufa

According to some narrations, Kufa is a historical city that existed before Islam, and prophets Adam and Noah were buried there. It is the same place where the ark of Noah settled after the flood ended. Being a garrison town, Kufa had indigenous people like the Persians and Arabs, e.g.:

- The tribe of *Hamdan* (همدان), a Yemeni tribe.
- *Tayy* (الطيّ)
- The tribe of *Ash'ari* (الأشعري) a Yemeni tribe that migrated to Qom, Iran, during the time of Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام.

Reasons 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام made Kufa his capital.

- He needed to stay closer to Shaam.
- Stronger economy than Medina.
- A garrison town is more fit for war.
- Bigger population than Medina.
- More supporters in Kufa.
- Many of the sahaba had migrated to Kufa



- It was a historic city.
- It was going to be the capital of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام.

A Paradox

- Some deluded historians claim that Shias lived in Kufa. Therefore, Shia turned against Imam Ali عليه السلام, betrayed Imam Hasan عليه السلام, and martyred Imam Husayn عليه السلام.
- We have previously mentioned that Kufa had an indigenous population. Thus, being from Kufa does not necessarily imply that all the residents were Shia.
- Just as the Shias of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام lived in Kufa, the Shias of Muawiya also lived there, and it was the Shias of Muawiya who turned against 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام, betrayed Imam Hasan عليه السلام and martyred Imam Husayn عليه السلام.

Shifting of the Capital

- After moving to Kufa, the Imam (as) lived with his nephew, Ju'ada ibn Hubaira al-Makhzoumi, the son of his sister Umm al-Hani.
- After the Battle of Jamal, people were scattered, and 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام unified them, but Muawiya refused to come under the banner of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام.
- They exchanged letters. Imam delayed the answer when he عليه السلام sent a messenger, Jarir ibn Abdullah al-Bajali, to take allegiance from Muawiya. He fooled people by propagating against the Imam عليه السلام and eventually prepared them to fight against him.
- Exchanging letters continued. Muawiya responded by saying that he would fight the Imam (as) unless he handed over the murderers of Uthman.

Dispelling a doubt

Why didn't Imam عليه السلام just hand over the murderers of Uthman?

- Imam عليه السلام had nothing to do with the killing of Uthman. Those who sought revenge were the actual culprits. They made the demand to create an



environment of doubt in people's minds that they were not involved in the killing of Uthman.

- Muawiya's actions later revealed that he wanted to set up his kingdom by laying the foundation of the first monarchy in Islam. He began mobilizing his army, and the Imam عليه السلام prepared himself for the second civil war in Islam for the sake of unity in the Muslim nation.

The Battle with the *al-Qasiteen* (القاسطين)

- The Battle took place in *Siffin*, an area near *al-Raqqa*, Syria.
- Muawiya and his son's army blocked the Euphrates River. Imam Ali's عليه السلام army took control over the Euphrates in a short battle, but he did not block the water and let his enemy drink from it.
- The month of Muharram (36 A.H.) started with a cease-fire for one month, and negotiations began.
- On the first day of Safar, Muawiya's army resumed the Battle. There were a hundred thousand soldiers in the camp of 'Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام, including *Muhajirun* and *Ansar*, while there were seventy thousand in the army of Muawiya.
- The martyrdom of Ammar ibn Yasir caused controversy in Muawiya's camp.
- On *Laylat al-Harir* (the Battle continued even through the night), Muawiya discovered he was losing, and *Malik al-Ashtar* was about to reach his tent. His wily adviser, *Amr ibn al-Aas*, told him to raise the Quran on the spears and ask them to let the Quran be the judge.

The army of the Imam عليه السلام was divided into two major factions:

1. Imam Ali عليه السلام and his loyal Shias knew that it was Muawiya's trick to save himself.
2. Around twenty thousand fickle-minded people were adamant about stopping the Battle and threatened the Imam عليه السلام that they would do to him what they did to Uthman.