



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 9

Topic: Arbitration and Khawarij

### Preparatory to the Battle of Siffin

- Muawiya and *Amr ibn al-Aas* devised a plan to raise the Quran on spears and make Quran the arbitrator.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام knew it was a trick; however, thousands of his men turned their swords against him since not every one of them was his Shia.
- One of the main instigators and perpetrators who forced Imam Ali عليه السلام to stop the battle was *Ash'ath ibn Qays*.

(Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام said: “*Ash'ath ibn al-Qays* was responsible for the murder of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام, and his daughter *Ja'da* poisoned Imam al-Hassan عليه السلام and his son Muhammad participated in the murder of Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام.”).

Ibn Abi al-Hadid, the famous Sunni commentator of *Nahj al-Balagha*, says that the source of all the troubles that occurred during the caliphate of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام was *Ash'ath ibn Qays*.'

### The Arbitration

- They forced the Imam عليه السلام to accept arbitration (*Tahkim*). It took place after several months. They were supposed to introduce arbitrators. Muawiya chose the wily *Amr ibn al-Aas*. The Imam عليه السلام chose Abdullah ibn Abbas, but the people from his army who had turned against him rejected him, then he introduced *Malik al-Ashtar*. They disapproved of Malik too and said he was behind all the problems. They said Muawiya's army had nominated *Abu Musa al-Ash'ari*, and they forced Imam عليه السلام to accept him!
- The Arbitration was held in *Dumat al-Jandal*. *Amr al-Aas* presented a plan to Abu Musa that they should dethrone both Ali and Muawiya. Abu Musa accepted the plan and was asked to make the announcement first. Abu Musa announced that both Ali عليه السلام and Muawiya should leave the caliphate. But when *Amr al-Aas* went to make the announcement, he said that I



agreed with Abu Musa about Ali عليه السلام; however, I differed regarding Muawiya. As he dethroned Ali, I am instating Muawiya as the true caliph.

### Outcome of Arbitration

1. This arbitration (التحكيم) caused more division.
    - a. Immediately Abu Musa started cursing Amr
    - b. His people shamed and ridiculed him
    - c. He dared not return to Kufa and went to Mecca instead.
    - d. He became one of the *Kharijites*
  2. Political outcomes of the arbitration:
    - a. *Kharijites* came into existence
    - b. People in the Levant (Shaam) believed Muawiya was the true caliph.
- As a result of the arbitration, Muawiya began to call himself the true ruler of the Levant and 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام the ruler of the rest of the Muslim territories.

### The *Kharijites*.

- A *Kharijite* group worshipped a lot and rejected the caliphate of Imam Ali عليه السلام and Muawiya.
- They call everyone else *kafir*.
- They consider themselves above the law.
- Some of them were the teachers of the Quran.

'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام said that two groups had broken his back:

1. عالمٌ مُتَهتِك: A knowledgeable person who breaks the boundaries of Allah and does not fear Him.
2. جاهلٌ مُتَنَسِّك: An ignorant who acts as if he knows everything and worships a lot.

- *Kharijites* rebelled against 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام due to the result of arbitration. Their slogan was “لَا حَكْمَ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ”: *There is no rule but for Allah.*
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام told them that it was the word of truth but wrongly interpreted.
- The Prophet ﷺ called them *Mariqeen* (المارقين), which means the group that will leave the religion as fast as an arrow leaves the bow.



- All of them were killed, and only nine survived as foretold. However, their ideology remained. Imam's assassin *Abdur Rahman ibn Muljam* was one of them.
- Fighting Kharijites was not easy because their appearance was deceptive. Consequently, Imam Ali عليه السلام told his followers not to fight them. He foresaid that they would become thieves and killers, though their ideology would remain.

**Two main objections of Kharijites to 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام and their answer:**

1. Why didn't you mention the title (*'Amīr al-Mu'minīn*) for yourself when you wrote to Muawiya?

Imam عليه السلام replied: I did what Prophet ﷺ did in the treaty of *Hudaybiyyah*.

2. Why did the Imam accept arbitration?

His own army forced him; otherwise, they would have killed him as they killed Uthman.

- The army of Kharijites consisted of twelve thousand men, although most were stranded, and only fifteen hundred were left. There were fourteen thousand soldiers in the camp of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام. The battle was fought in a place called *Nahrawan*.