



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 10

Topic: Struggles 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام Faced

The Faithful are Always Tested

The three battles were the three difficult tests that defined the true Shia.
The Quran says:

﴿أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ﴾

“Do the people suppose that they will be let off because they say, ‘We have faith,’ and they will not be assessed?” (29:2)

Aftermath of Arbitration

- After *Nahrawan*, 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام returned to Kufa; however, he received unwelcoming news every day.
- Muawiya was recognized as the legitimate caliph of the Prophet ﷺ once after the arbitration. He started expanding his territories by sending armies. Egypt, Hijaz, and many other places fell under him.
- The Imam عليه السلام kept calling his people for war, but they ignored and disrespected him.
- They did not respect 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام even when he was the apparent caliph, but the Imam عليه السلام gave them the freedom of speech.

Governance of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام

- Some analysts say that 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام was great in everything, but he did not know how to rule. 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn's عليه السلام response to them was that Muawiya was a person who betrayed and turned against people, and that was something forbidden in Islam.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام sent Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr to govern Egypt, but Muawiya managed to assassinate him. Then Imam عليه السلام sent *Malik al-Ashtar* as the governor to Egypt with a famous letter about how to govern a state. But he was poisoned by Muawiya's people on his way to Egypt. 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام said *Malik* was to me as I was to the Prophet ﷺ.



- Muawiya took control of Egypt, Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula, and other places. The Muslim territories that 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ was ruling kept shrinking until they got near Kufa. Imam ﷺ told them to fight, but people refused.

The Grievance of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ

- He said: "*Jihad* is one of the doors to Paradise that Allah has opened for special *awliya'* (those close to him). I called upon you every night and day, in private and public, to fight them before they fight you."
- Imam received news that in Al-Anbar, a Muslim lady and a believing lady (a Jew or Christian under the Islamic government's protection) were attacked. The attackers pulled out her necklace and jewelry, and she could not defend herself. The Imam said, "If a person hears of this and dies out of anguish, I will not blame him."
- The Imam expressed astonishment that his enemies were united despite being on the wrong side, and his people were divided despite being on the side of righteousness.
- Addressing the people of Kufa, who did not follow him, the Imam said: **"You look like men, but you are not men..."** "Wish I had not seen you..."
- Historians: By delivering sermons in the last few months of his life, 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ managed to gather forty thousand people.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn's ﷺ last sermon (#182) was narrated by *Nawfal-Bukali*, reproaching people and encouraging them to jihad. Groups of people were mobilized, but the Imam ﷺ was assassinated.
- The real Shias and followers were shocked and cried upon his death, but Muawiya, Kharijites, and Aisha were incredibly happy.