



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 12

Topic: Struggles of Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام

- Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام was martyred in 49 or 50 A.H. Then, Muawiya ruled for another ten years. Collectively, Muawiya led the Muslim ummah for about 20 years; before that, he was the governor of Shaam.
- Sunnis do not consider Muawiya as one of *al-Khulafa al-Rashidun* (Rightly Guided Caliphs), while they consider Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام as one of them.
- Muawiya's rule continued in Damascus, and his oppression and wrongdoings increased daily. Muawiya had to abide by the treaty clause with Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام to keep a positive public opinion about himself. So, he thought it was in his best interests to get rid of Imam عليه السلام.
- Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام knew that Muawiya was not going to abide by the treaty. By signing this treaty, Imam عليه السلام unveiled the real character of Muawiya for generations to come. However, some scholars blindly defend Sahaba regardless of their character.

The persecution of Shias by Muawiya

Muawiya began to abuse and persecute the Shias. He wrote three letters to his governor in Kufa:

1. Erase the name of anyone who loves Ali ibn Abi-Talib عليه السلام from the list of those who receive stipends (*Diwan*).
 2. Demolish their homes over their heads.
 3. Kill them.
- Muawiya removed *Salawat* and started the sunnah of cursing 'Amir al-Mu'minin and *Ahlulbayt* عليه السلام. He had a deep-rooted hatred for the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.
 - *Al-Mughira ibn Shu'ba* was a close friend of Muawiya. His son *al-Mutrif* narrates from his father that Muawiya said, "Why is the Prophet's name repeated every day in adhan? I swear I will bury his name."



- His last and worst crime was putting Yazid in power, a project he had worked on for many years. Yazid, unlike his father, was a person who committed sins in public.
- Muawiya wrote to the governors to start his monarchy and introduced Yazid as his crown prince. However, he asked them to pledge allegiance to Yazid to show that it was Islamic.
- Muawiya had two methods: gold and sword. Most of the Muslim world accepted Yazid right away. However, Hijaz faced fierce opposition, even though Muawiya went to Hajj and tried to convince them.
- Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام refused to accept him. Even though many people came to Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام asking him to revolt, Imam عليه السلام held on to the treaty. However, he kept on criticizing Muawiya.

Difference between fighting a man like Muawiya and someone like Yazid:

- All Muslims had already paid their allegiance to Muawiya, and Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام had abdicated. So, Imam al-Husayn's عليه السلام revolt against him would be considered illegitimate.
- In 58 A.H., Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام held a conference in Mina, where people stayed for three days as a part of the hajj ritual. He called Muawiya *al-Taghiya* (the tyrant) and said he was changing the religion.

Refusal of Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام to Pay allegiance to Yazid

- Muawiya died on the 12th Rajab, 60 A.H., and Yazid wrote to Medina's governor (Al-Walid ibn Utba ibn Abu Sufyan) to take allegiance from the people.
- Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام was summoned to the palace to pledge allegiance to Yazid. Imam Husayn عليه السلام refused by saying: «مِثْلِي لَا يَبَايِعُ مِثْلَهُ» "A man like me can never pledge allegiance to a man like him." Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام left Medina for Mecca the same night.
- In Mecca, Imam عليه السلام was informed that Yazid had sent assassins to kill him so that no one would know the real conspirators and assassins. It would be said that some random person killed him in the crowds of pilgrims. Imam عليه السلام wanted his martyrdom to be known, so he chose Karbala.
- Kufa was the closest and the best choice with most Shias. People like Ibn Abbas and others dissuaded him from going to Kufa, but Imam عليه السلام ignored



their advice. Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام knew exactly what his main purpose was; it was not to be in a position of power but to wake up people like us.

- Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام delivered a speech before leaving Mecca, next to the *Ka'ba*, among thousands of pilgrims. He told them that he would be martyred in Karbala by people who resembled wolves of the deserts. Imam Husayn عليه السلام said: *"I did not move out (of Madinah) for deception, arrogance, corruption, or wronging anyone. I moved out solely to rectify the affairs of my grandfather's nation, Mohammad صلى الله عليه وسلم. My purpose is to enjoin good, forbid evil, and live on the path of my grandfather and father. Whoever wants to follow me through the truth; then the truth belongs to Allah ﷻ and he is the wisest of the wise."*
- Before leaving Mecca, Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام sent his cousin, *Muslim ibn Aqil* to Kufa. Eighteen thousand men pledged allegiance to him, but when Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad was appointed governor of Iraq, they left him alone.
- *Ubaydullah* threw the Shias in dungeons, like al-Mukhtar, and killed many of them, including devout Shias like *Maytham al-Tammar*. Some kept silent since Kufa was under siege, while some, like *Habib ibn Muzahir* and *Muslim ibn Awsaja*, joined Imam عليه السلام in Karbala. Muslim was killed on the 8th of Dhul Hijjah (the same day Imam عليه السلام left Mecca).
- *Farzdaq*, the famous poet, informed Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام about the condition of Kufis: "Their hearts are with you, but their swords are against you." In the army of Umar ibn Sad, all the soldiers that killed Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام were from Kufa (but not the Shias of Kufa; they were the enemies of Ahlulbayt عليه السلام). Some of Imam al-Husayn's عليه السلام companions joined him during his journey to Karbala.