



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Nahj al-Balagha

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Lesson: 20

Topic: Sermon #3: Shiqshiqiyya (Continuance): Describing Uthman

«إِلَى أَنْ قَامَ ثَالِثُ الْقَوْمِ نَافِجاً حِضْنَيْهِ بَيْنَ نَثِيلِهِ وَ مُعْتَلَفِهِ»

Until Uthman stood up with heaving breasts between his dung and fodder

- In «نافجاً حِضْنَيْهِ», *Hidhn* is the area between under arm and side. When Uthman came to power, his belly became bigger because he was concerned about his well-being and eating, consuming the Ummah's wealth: this can be interpreted literally and metaphorically.
- Uthman was the son of Affan ibn Abi al-A'as ibn Umayya—Imam عليه السلام says Uthman brought his Umayyad Family into power, and they consumed the resources of the Muslim treasury.
- Imam عليه السلام describes Uthman and his family by likening them to a camel that goes to a desert area and, after prolonged starvation, gets to green grass and starts devouring it.

« وَ قَامَ مَعَهُ بَنُو أَبِيهِ يَخْضُمُونَ مَالَ اللَّهِ خِضْمَةَ الْإِبِلِ نِبْتَةَ الرَّبِيعِ »

«قضم» means to chew the food with the edges of the teeth;

«خضم» means to take the food with a full mouth and swallow it.

The disturbing legacy of Uthman:

- Many Muslims were impoverished;
- High-ranking companions were mistreated
- Umayyad family now in power
- He favored them by giving them millions

Imam عليه السلام summarizes Uthman's life:

«بَيْنَ نَثِيلِهِ وَ مُعْتَلَفِهِ»

Between his dung and fodder

Imam عليه السلام likens him to a sheep whose only work is eating from fodder and excretes. That's what he was really concerned about.

Ibn Abi al-Hadid: This is a very stinging and painful criticism.



What Uthman did to deserve such a description presented by the Imam عليه السلام and to be killed:

1 (a). Al-Hakam ibn Abi al-As, the Umayyad, who the Prophet ﷺ exiled عليه السلام, was returned to Medina.

Al-Hakam ibn Abi al-As:

1. From Banu Umayya

2. He used to denounce Islam and the Prophet ﷺ when he was in Mecca Sadiq.tv

3. After the conquest of Mecca, he accepted Islam

4. He stayed in Medina with Uthman

5. He spied on the whereabouts of the Prophet ﷺ and sent the information to the enemies.

(a.) threatening the security of the Muslims

(b.) He made fun of the Prophet ﷺ. (He made gestures with his face to ridicule the Prophet (s), so he did a dua that O Allah! Keep his face the way it is right now.

- Because of making fun of the Prophet ﷺ and being a spy, Hakam was sent into exile to Taif.

- Neither Abu Bakr nor Umar returned him to Medina. However, when Uthman came to power, he allowed him to return. Sadiq.tv

1. (b). Uthman gave Hakam 300,000 silver coins from public funds.

2. Uthman paid Walid ibn Uqba, condemned by the Qur'an as *fasiq*, 100,000 dirhams.

3. Uthman had his own daughter (Umm Aban) marry Marwan, the son of Hakam. He gave him 100,000 dirhams from the public funds.

4. Uthman had his daughter (A'isha) marry Harith ibn Hakam and paid him 100,000 dirhams from the public fund.

5. Abdullah ibn Khalid was paid 400,000 dirhams.

6. During the conquest of North Africa, he took the *khums* (one-fifth) of those lands (500,000 dinars) and gave them to Marwan ibn Hakam.

7. Uthman gave Fadak to Marwan ibn Hakam. Sadiq.tv

8. Uthman gave "Mahzun" (a place in Medina's market that was declared by the Prophet ﷺ as a place for the public/waqf) to Harith ibn Hakam. Sadiq.tv

9. Uthman banned any Muslim from bringing his camel into the grass around Medina except for Umayyads.

10. When Uthman was killed, 150,000 dinars and 1 million dirhams were found in his house.



11. About governorship:

- a) Walid ibn Uqba, then another hypocrite Sa'eed ibn al-As, was made the governor of Kufa.
- b) Abd Allah ibn Sa'd ibn Abi Sarh was made the governor of Egypt.
- c) He empowered Muawiya as the governor of Sham.
- d) Abd Allah ibn Amr in Basra.

12. Uthman exiled the Prophet ﷺ's noble companion Abu Dhar (who criticized Uthman for abusing public funds.)

The things Uthman did before his caliphate:

Abusing his wife (Ruqayya - the Prophet ﷺ's step-daughter): He beat her to death because she informed the Prophet ﷺ of a spy protected by Uthman in his house. (al-Kafi)

Sunni sources:

- The night when Ruqayya died, Uthman slept with a female slave
- On the next day, in the funeral procession, knowing that Uthman was behind him, the Prophet ﷺ said the one who slept with his slave girl must leave now. Uthman separated from the crowd.

Troubling way of life of Uthman:

- Not only did he kick his wife, but also, he got Abd Allah ibn Mas'ud beaten to death and Ammar ibn Yasir.
- People constantly complained to Uthman, but he didn't care. In some cases, he had them killed.
- The chief mobilizer and instigator against Uthman was Aisha.
- Uthman stopped favoring Aisha (cut her share of the treasury). Aisha said: "Kill Na'thal because he became kafir".
- Na'thal, a lousy nickname for Uthman: Na'thal was an ugly Jewish Oldman.
- Imam Ali عليه السلام never instigated anyone against Uthman. He neither supported him nor encouraged anyone against him. When Imam عليه السلام came into power, Aisha first initiated a war against Imam (claiming Uthman's blood).