



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 4

Topic: Era of the first three caliphs

Political events following the demise of the Prophet ﷺ

- *Imamate* and *Khilafah* were supposed to be with the same person. However, after the demise of the Prophet ﷺ, the caliphate was taken unduly from 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ؑ, and they got separated. We believe that the *Imamate* remained with 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ؑ.
- Many innovations (بدع) were introduced in the religion because the *Ummah* ignored the Prophet's ﷺ will, which stated, "I leave behind two weighty things: The Book of Allah ﷻ and my Ahlulbayt ؑ." During this period, a huge gap occurred in the real religion of Islam brought by the Prophet ﷺ and the Islam practiced by most Muslims.

What happened to the Shias during that time?

During the two years of Abu Bakr's reign, he opened the door of assault to anyone who defended Ahlulbayt ؑ. When Umar came to power, many innovations were introduced for ten years, and the Shias continued to be marginalized.

Types of Shias:

1. By heart but without actions
2. By heart and action (very few, like Salman)
3. Some became Shia after discovering the truth that 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ؑ was right.
4. Some were with him but left him due to their worldly desires, like Talha and Zubair.

The closest disciples of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ؑ

1. **Miqdad:** Died in 33 (A.H.) during the reign of 'Uthman and was buried in Medina. He defended 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ؑ on several occasions, like *Saqifa*;



against Umar; and before the council of six members when they chose 'Uthman.

2. **Salman:** He was older than the Prophet ﷺ and was appointed governor of Madain (southern Baghdad). He took the position only after Imam Ali ﷺ allowed him to do so. He died in 36 (A.H.) and was buried in Madain. 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn offered his funeral prayer ﷻ.
3. **Abu Dharr al-Ghifari:** He was the 4th Muslim. He went to South Lebanon and built the Shia community there. Muawiya wrote to Uthman that if you wanted any followers in the Levant, take Abu Dharr out of there. Uthman answered, "Send him to me the fastest and most brutal way." Uthman excommunicated Abu Dharr to al-Rabadha, a desert between Mecca and Medina, where he died in 32 A.H.
4. **Ammar:** He was the only one among the four who made it to the time of the apparent caliphate of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ and was martyred in the battle of *Seffin* by the army of Muawiya, and as the famous hadith of the Prophet ﷺ mentions, "O Ammar! A rebellious group will kill you."

The procedure of choosing a Caliph

- According to Sunni historians, Prophets ﷺ do not have the right to appoint their successor. Still, when it comes to accepting the caliphs, they do not seem to have any specific criteria.
- A handful of people in Saqifa chose Abu Bakr, and then others were forced to accept it.
- Abu Bakr appointed Umar.
- The will of Umar appointed Uthman through the committee of six members chosen by Umar.
- This shows that the caliphate was never chosen on the parameters of the Quran and the traditions of the Prophet ﷺ, nor was it chosen democratically.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ was chosen by both the divine decree and by the unanimous selection of all the people of that time.

Reasons why Muslims revolted against Uthman, rebelled, and killed him:

1. Widespread corruption and lavish lifestyle of Uthman.
2. Bringing the Umayyads to power.
3. Defying the Holy Prophet's ﷺ orders and bringing back Hakam bin al-Aas and his son Marwan to Medina, while the Prophet exiled them ﷻ