



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 5

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Topic: The Revolt against Uthman

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The Revolt against Uthman and the Aftermath.

- Uthman came to power through the plan laid by Umar, which was to prevent 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام from coming to power.
- Not only the people of Madinah rebelled against the injustice of Uthman but also the people of other cities, namely Kufa, Basra, and Cairo, stood against him.

Reasons behind the revolt

- The era of Uthman was an era of corruption, extravagant spending, and abuse of the companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. The Companions broke their ties with Uthman; even Abd al-Rahman ibn Awf dissociated from him.
- He allowed some murderers to get away, like Ubaidullah, the son of Umar ibn al-Khattab.
- He defied the decree of the Prophet ﷺ and brought back his uncle *Hakam ibn al-Aas* (Marwan's father) to Medina and paid him 100,000 dirhams.
- He made *Marwan ibn Hakam* his son-in-law and gave him one-fifth of the zakat from Africa.

The role of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام during the revolt:

- When Uthman found out a rebellion was taking place, he asked Imam Ali عليه السلام to intervene because the people loved him, and they knew that the Imam was not involved in corruption, and no one could accuse him of dirty politics.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام advised him to fix his ways. He عليه السلام urged him not to be an assassinated leader for this nation as it would open the way for killing and oppression till the Day of Judgment, and he will be answerable for all



the injustice. He told Uthman not to be like a camel to Marwan, who could pull him wherever he wanted.

- Then 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام went to people telling them that Uthman had apologized and he was going to give back their rights and fix things.
- When people went to his house to take their rights, Marwan rebuked them and rejected all their demands.
- People went to the Imam عليه السلام again, and he was upset with Uthman. He condemned him and said that Marwan was leading him to the slaughterhouse.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام was a peacemaker; he did not cry for Uthman as he did not consider his murder wrong, but he did not want *fitna* to take place. He felt that Uthman should be held accountable, but not in this way.
- 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام was a man of principles. What differentiates him from other leaders is that, in his ideology, the end never justifies the means.

The Final Mistake of Uthman

- People wanted to kill Uthman, but Imam عليه السلام urged them to return to their cities. They listened to him, but on their way back, they suddenly saw a messenger coming out of 'Uthman's home riding his camel and carrying his sword. The messenger was carrying a letter which was addressed to the governor of Basra ordering him to kill Abd al-Rahman ibn Udayy, Amr ibn Hamiq al-Khuzai, Urwa ibn Bayya,' etc., and execute others as soon as they arrive.
- They turned back to Medina and opened the letter to the public. 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام asked Uthman whether the camel, sword, servant, and stamp were his. He admitted, but he swore that he had not written the letter. It was Marwan's handwriting.
- The *Sahaba* and *Tabieen* asked Marwan to hand over 'Uthman, but he refused. They took 'Uthman's house under siege. While one of the *Sahaba* was yelling at 'Uthman, one of 'Uthman's supporters shot *Sahabi* dead, and the first drop of blood was spilled. People asked Uthman to hand over the murderer, but he refused. Then people surrounded the house for 40 days until they entered the house and killed Uthman.



The Death of Uthman - An Excuse to Fight against 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn

- When Imam took power, the real instigators of Uthman's murder refused to pledge their allegiance blaming 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn for his death.
- While Marwan and Muawiya did not care about Uthman and wanted him to be killed, they used his murder as an excuse to fight 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn.
- When Uthman asked Muawiya for his army, he did not move his army into Medina to help Uthman.

Burial of Uthman

The people of Madinah did not allow anyone to bury Uthman for three days until 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn issued a decree to bury him. His body was buried in the Jewish cemetery.