



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 6

Topic: Beginning of Imam Ali's ﷺ Reign

### Aftermaths of the Uthman's Assassination and how it shaped the Shia identity:

Different factions within the Ummah blamed 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ for the murder of Uthman not because of their love for Uthman but because either they wanted to take power in their own hands, like Zubair, or they had a personal vendetta against 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ like Aisha or both like Muawiya and Talha.

### Abdullah ibn Saba - A Made-up Character.

- Some biased Sunni historians allege that Shi'ism was a fitnah started by Abdullah ibn Saba' to divide the Ummah.
- The story of this fake, made-up character started by a storyteller known as *Saif ibn Umar al-Tamimi*. He lived in the era of the Umayyads and made-up stories to please them.
- Shia and Sunni moderate thinkers believe that either Abdullah ibn Saba' did not exist or was insignificant.

### The real reason behind the story of Abdullah ibn Saba.'

The idea of Abdullah ibn Saba' was promoted to implicate that:

1. The Prophet ﷺ did not appoint anyone as his successor.
2. There was no conflict amongst the companions of the Prophet ﷺ.
3. 'Uthman did not commit errors.
4. Shi'ism has Jewish roots.



### Events that occurred right after the death of 'Uthman:

1. He was not buried for three days until 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام ordered them to bury him.
2. For five days, there was no official caliph.
3. Muslims gathered in the mosque to discuss that they must have a leader, and Ammar ibn Yasir, Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, and Abu Haitham al-Tayyihan nominated 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام.
4. People rushed to the house of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام, asking him to accept their allegiance, but he refused it. When people insisted on pledging allegiance to the Imam عليه السلام, he said it must occur in the mosque and public.

### Allegiance of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام

- The first one to pledge allegiance was Talha, and then Zubair. Shias were with him the whole time. All Muslims pledged allegiance to 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام except a few.
- He said, "The crowd surrounded me in a way that, **حتى إذا وطئ الحسانان**."  
Two interpretations:
  1. Imam al-Hassan عليه السلام and Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام got pushed.
  2. '*Hasanan*' means fingers were pushed.
- Soon after paying allegiance to 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام, they turned their back on him, and as the Prophet ﷺ said, they were divided into three groups: ***Al-Nakithun*** (People of Jamal), ***Al-Qasitun*** (Muawiya and his followers) and ***Al-Mariqun*** (Khawarij).
- Since 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام ruled with justice, those who could not withstand justice stood against him and hence waged war against their caliph, who was appointed by Allah ﷻ and His Prophet ﷺ.

### Rebellion against 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام

- Talha and Zubair told the Imam عليه السلام that they wanted to go to *Umrah*. The Imam عليه السلام replied, "You do not want to do *Umrah*; you want to betray me."
- Aisha (one of the instigators of 'Uthman's murder) left Medina when Uthman was under siege. She provoked people to kill 'Uthman and went to Mecca, saying she wanted to do *Umrah*.



- They blamed 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ for the killing of 'Uthman. The top three instigators of the killing of Uthman suddenly became his staunch defenders.
- Aisha planned to fight 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ near Medina. Talha and Zubair rejected her idea due to their earlier allegiance to him, and they knew that the people of Madinah would not support them.
- Abdullah ibn 'Amer suggested going to Basra. An army of three thousand left Mecca for Basra. Talha and Zubair convinced Aisha to go with them.
- On the way to Basra, they passed by an area called *Haw'ab*, a place where the Prophet ﷺ had warned Aisha of its dogs and then she refused to go with them, but Zubair brought fifty men to swear by the Quran that the place was not *Haw'ab*.

#### **Battle of Basra and the differences amongst the rebels.**

- Basra's governor, Uthman ibn Hunaif, tried to stop them, but they captured him, plucked all his hair, and sent him to Medina.
- Although Talha and Zubair came together against 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn ﷺ, they were divided on who will be the next leader.