



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Nahj al-Balagha

Teacher: Sayed Mohammad-Baqer al-Qazwini

Lesson: 24

**Topic: Sermon #3: Shiqshiqiyya (Continuance): Last Paragraph: Why Imam عليه السلام accepted the caliphate**

The root cause of the evil that pushed these people to commit these crimes against Imam Ali عليه السلام: "As if they did not hear this verse: (28:83)

«تِلْكَ الدَّارُ الْآخِرَةُ نَجْعَلُهَا لِلَّذِينَ لَا يُرِيدُونَ عُلُوًّا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَلَا فُسَادًا وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ.»

Imam عليه السلام comments:

بلى والله لقد سمعوها ووعوها، ولكنهم حليت الدنيا في أعينهم، وراقهم زبرجها.

- They have heard it, but the root cause was that the world became appealing to them. The lure of the world was what distracted them.
- Imam عليه السلام describes how the world has the power to seduce people.
- Imam عليه السلام answers the possible objection that he himself pursued the power and became caliph.

Imam عليه السلام mentions two qualities of Allah in his oath:

1. I swear by Allah who split the grain to grow.
2. And He created a being who has a soul.

- Imam عليه السلام chose these two qualities out of all the qualities of Allah because they demonstrate to you the power of Almighty God and that He was the Intelligent Creator and Designer.

The reason why the Imam accepted the caliphate:

Imam answers by mentioning two fundamental points:

1. Unlike others before him, he did not pursue the caliphate. Some people were present and forced him to be the caliph.
2. Imam عليه السلام had supporters; and had no excuse (the *Hujjah* (proof) was against him)



- To understand the life of Ahlulbayt عليه السلام, their stands, and the philosophy of their roles, the term *hujjah* is the key. Allah has the full proof (*hujjah*) on Judgment Day, which means no one has an excuse.
- Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام mentions that he accepted the caliphate to cut off people's excuses, not because he was interested in power.
- In Siffin, Imam عليه السلام was about an hour away from victory and could have ended Muawiya, and history could have changed. He didn't do that because of the *Hujjah* factor and because Imam عليه السلام could be judged as a transgressor.
- After *hujjah*, the 2<sup>nd</sup> reason Imam عليه السلام mentions for accepting the caliphate was that Allah had made an oath with knowledge and power holders that if there is a transgressor who is full and the oppressed ones are deprived of their rights, one must act as per his capacity.
- He said that if it wasn't for this *hujjah* and his ability to save the starved and the oppressed, he would have put the reigns of the caliphate on its back and would act as he did in the past.

«وَلَأَلْفَيْتُمْ دُنْيَاكُمْ هَذِهِ أَرْهَدَ عِنْدِي مِنْ عَفْطَةِ عَنزٍ.»

The value of the world for Imam عليه السلام, "Your world in my eyes is like the water that drips from a goat's nose."

عطفة عنز: two interpretations; water dripping from its nose or its sneeze.

A man from Iraq (called the land of darkness because of dense dark green palm trees) interrupted the Imam عليه السلام with some questions. Imam عليه السلام answered the questions and refused to resume his speech despite the request of Ibn Abbas.

Those questions, according to a *Mursal* (broken-chain) hadith:

1. What is the thing that came out of the stomach of a being but was not its offspring? Prophet ﷺ Yunus who came out of a whale.
2. Tell me about something, a bit of which was halal but more haram. It was the river water from the story of Talut; only a handful was halal.
3. The act of worship that would result in punishment even if a person commits it or leaves it? Praying while intoxicated.