# Who is Ali (a.s)?

#### Who is Known As....

- Murtada he with whom God is pleased
- Maula the master
- Haidar-i-Karrar- the brave warrior against whom no one could stand
- Asad Allah the lion of God
- Al-Ghalib the victorious
- Sher-i-Yazdan the bravest man of the age
- Mushkil Kusha whom resolves the difficulties of the people
- Shah-i-Awlia the king of saints
- Shah-i-Mominin the king of the pious
- Abu Turab father of the earth
- Amir-ul-Momineen leader of the faithful
- Amin-ul-Momineen the trustee of the faithful
- Imam-ul-Muttageen the leader of the God-fearing
- Sayyid-ul-Arab the chief of the Arabs
- Al Wasi the beneficiary under the Prophet's 'testamentary statement'
- Al Hadi the guide
- Al Zahid the chaste
- Al Abi the pious
- Al Salah the reformer

- He is the Son of Abū Tālib ibn 'Abd al-Muttalib (The guardian of Holy.Prophet [P.B.U.H])
- He is a cousin of the Muslims last Holy Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H),
- He is also son-in-law of Muhammad (P.B.U.H).
- He is the First Male to accept Islam.
- He is the only person to claim from the Pulpit about absolute knowledge of Earth and Heavens.
- He is the only person in the universe whose birth & martyrdom took place in Mosque (Masjid)
- His name is Ali ibn Abi Talib (علي بن أبي طالب)

# What Non-Muslims Say About

Thomas Carlyle

(1795-1881) Scottish historian, critic, and sociological writer.

"As for this young Ali, one cannot but like him. A noble-minded creature, as he shows himself, now and always afterwards; full of affection, of fiery daring. Something chivalrous in him; brave as a lion; yet with a grace, a truth and affection worthy of Christian knighthood."

[On Heroes, Hero-Worship, And The Heroic In History, 1841, Lecture 2: The Hero as Prophet. Mahomet: Islam., May 8, 1840)]

- He is referred to as the "Maula" [Master] of the Ummah by H. Prophet (P.B.U.H)
- Only he was referred as Amir-ul-Momineen Leader of all the Believers.
- When the holy Prophet left for Medina, he entrusted to Hadrat Ali the task of returning the belongings of the people. They had placed their belongings in the custody of the holy Prophet for safekeeping
- He risked his life for the sake of the holy Prophet and slept on his bed when the holy Prophet left for Medina on the eve of Migration from Mecca to Medina. (When 40 Arabs from different tribes planed to attack the H. Prophet (P.B.U.H) on the bed in the night)
- He has the distinction of being styled as "Brother" by the Prophet on both the occasions of "before Hijrat" at Mecca and after Hijrat at Medina

## What Non-Muslims Say About

#### **Edward Gibbon**

(1737-1794) Considered the greatest British historian of his time.

"The zeal and virtue of Ali were never outstripped by any recent proselyte. He united the qualifications of a poet, a soldier, and a saint; his wisdom still breathes in a collection of moral and religious sayings; and every antagonist, in the combats of the tongue or of the sword, was subdued by his eloquence and valour. From the first hour of his mission to the last rites of his funeral, the apostle was never forsaken by a generous friend, whom he delighted to name his brother, his vicegerent, and the faithful Aaron of a second Moses."

[The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, London, 1911, volume 5, pp. 381-2]

- He is named by the Holy Prophet (s.a.w) himself
- He is the Husband of the Master of all Women's Fatem'a Zehra (p).(daughter of Holy Prophet [s.a.w])
- He is the first to offer prayers after the Holy Prophet.
- He is the first to compile and codify the Quran.
- He is the first person to learn the Qur'an by heart.
- His door, like that of the H.Prophet, that opened in the Mosque was retained while the doors of all others were closed under a Divine Mandate.
- He is the only one named by the Holy Prophet to bathe his body after his death
- He is the one who performed the funeral duties of Holy Prophets (P.B.U.H).

- The honor of the propagation of the Quranic Surah "Al-Baraat" (the Immunity) fell to Ali's lot, the Prophet saying that either he himself or Ali could do it and no one else. Verse 3, Sura 9
- He is Believed to be Supreme GOD by the sect called as Nusairi. (Which is in fact not correct. He is a Divine Leader but this people misunderstood Him by seeing un-imaginable virtues & miracles performed by him. I have quoted this point over here just to ponder, At what level people would believe someone as GOD)
- After the holy Prophet, he is the Chief Judge among the early Muslims. He is regarded as the "father of figh." [jurisprudence]
- He is regarded as the "father of Sufism." All schools of Tasawwuf [authentic Sufism] trace their origin to him.
- When the holy Prophet proposed "Mubahala" [a special kind of debate] with the Christians and the Najran, he chose Hadrat Ali as his "Nafs" (ourselves). [Verse 61, Sura 3]

- As an infant he had the honour of sucking the tongue of the holy Prophet (s.a.w)
- The progeny of the holy Prophet descends through Hadrat Ali.
- After the conquest of Mecca, he had the unique distinction of standing on the shoulders of the holy Prophet and destroying the idols in the Ka'bah.
- He was commissioned by the holy Prophet to write the agreement which came to be known as the Hudaybia Pact. He never liked battles: "I shall not start fighting till they begin the battle themselves".
- He would distribute Gold and silver from public treasury among all the needy and the poor
- He would treat the destitute with patience, respect and mercy

- He would grasp every opportunity to socialize with the poor, the sick, the needy and the homeless
- He would not hesitate to defend any innocent or helpless person
- He would rush to help any sick person in need
- His Judgement was most righteous and correct
- He would speak out for the Truth and issue his Decrees on the basis of Justice.
- He would never think of appeasing or to compromise or to undertermine Justice for anyone
- He would only deal honestly and speak the Truth
- He would never speak ill behind any person's back

This list can continue endlessly, but I just wanted to make the point that in the area of knowledge, Justice, Kindness, bravery, closeness to the prophet there is **NO ONE** who can compare to Imam Ali. There was never a point where he ran away from his duties or prophet missed him.

Its a shame that we Muslims have not learnt from this Master who has so many qualities & Holy prophet prepared himself. He received his training under the loving care and guidance of the holy Prophet

We will now try to know little bit about this Magnificent Personality

#### About His BIRTH

Ali (p) was born on 13<sup>th</sup> of Rajab (Islamic month) some what around 599 CE in Mecca, in the Hijaz region of central western Arabia.

#### SHORT INCIDENT ABOUT HIS BIRTH

- The mother of H.Ali, Hazrat Fatima binte Asad was told to enter the Kaaba (cube to which entire Muslim ummah circumnavigate) NOT through the door but the wall, the wall of the Kaaba tore apart and she entered through the craked wall, then the wall of the Kaaba was closed.
- Three days later the wall of the Kaaba tore again and she emerged out of the Kaaba with infant Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (p) in her arms and then the wall once again was closed.
- This cracked mark is still visible at KAABA.
- The infant Ali had not taken any milk, so his first taste of liquid was the saliva upon Muhammad's (p.b.u.h) lips.

#### About His *BIRTH*

#### **Simon Ockley**

(1678-1720) Professor of Arabic at the University of Cambridge.

"One thing particularly deserving to be noticed is that his mother was delivered of him at Mecca, in the very temple itself; which never happened to any one else."

[History of the Saracens, London, 1894, p. 331]

#### About His COURAGE

- He partook in all the battles of Muhammad's time, save the Battle of Tabuk, as he was left In-charge of Medina.
- He is the flag-bearer in every battle that he partook in.
- He is the one who Lifted the Door of the Fort of Khaibar on two fingers and used as a shield.
- He never used back shield in battlefield as he never ran from the battle.
- During his lifetime, he killed over 1000 enemies. In the Battle of Badr alone killed two dozen people.
- In the Muslim World as a whole, none but Ali is called Asad-ullah' (The Lion of God) and it is Ali in whose praise the Muslims sing even to this day

#### About His COURAGE

- Such a brave fighter who never had a parallel, He never used his bravery against his enemies.
- Enemies who were all united against him and spoke with one voice and had come with one mission to kill him -yet he confined himself to verbal condemnation only, though he could have easily slain them.
- He goes before them bareheaded and unarmed. While they are fully armed and their bodies fully covered with armor.
- He meets them and reminds them of their old friendship.
- He also moans for their adopting the wrong path. But when they refuse to hear him and he realizes that mere good words are not going to have any effect on them and that their only purpose of coming there was to kill him, he just alerts his soldiers and does not order them to fight. But when the enemies begin to attack him and his soldiers, he finished them all in no time, and when he sees them lying dead before him he weeps on their corpses though they deserved no sympathy as they were all greedy and selfish people and had made his life miserable

   George Jordach

#### About His COURAGE

- Have you come across such a brave fighter in the history, who loves his own enemies and wishes to see in them good human qualities and who treats them with kindness. He instructed his own people not to start the war till they are attacked first, and when the enemies lose the battle by the will of Allah and are on the run he orders them not to kill the fleeing soldiers nor even chase them or attack the injured soldiers or harass the women.
- When his eleven thousand blood-thirsty enemies prevented him from drawing drinking water from the river so that he and his soldiers may die of thirst, and when he conquers the river after a bloody fight he invites them (his enemies) to draw water just as he and his people were drawing. He even allows them to carry with them as much water as they like and then says, "A person who dies fighting for the cause of Allah will not be rewarded as much as the man who forgives his enemies, and does not take revenge."

Philip Khuri Hitti (1886-1978) Professor of Semitic Languages at Princeton University

"Valiant in battle, wise in counsel, eloquent in speech, true to his friends, magnanimous to his foes, he became both the paragon of Muslim nobility and chivalry (futuwah) and the Solomon of Arabic tradition, around whose name poems, proverbs, sermonettes and anecdotes innumerable have clustered."

[History of the Arabs, London, 1964, p. 183]

- Do you know any religious head who gave orders to his officers in these words, "People are your brothers either because of your religion (followers of Islam) or are equal to you as they too are the inhabitants of this earth like you. Therefore forgive them and overlook (their mistakes) as you expect the same attitude from your Lord."
- Do you known such a king who gave away his kingdom to establish truth, or a rich person who chose only a bread of barley for his survival, and life to him was meant to be spent for the benefit of the mankind.

In giving love and kindness he surpassed all the lovers of the world. As renouncer of the world no person could compete with him, and as a reformer he has surpassed all the reformers of the world. A sharer of griefs of all the grief stricken people. In calamities he was a companion of the sufferers. A man who taught morals to the moral teachers of the world and to the brave he taught the art of fighting and for speaking truth he always risked his life. He crossed the highest peak of all human greatness and qualities and in all qualities his preaching and practice was the same.....

This personality is so tall that you cannot accommodate him with ordinary people, and his intellectual sight so deep that you cannot compare it with the thinking and wisdom of other people. Can you find such an enlightened person who himself suffered sorrows and pains to see that others may draw comfort and benefits from him? Who paved the way of happiness and content for his friends and foes alike?

Haroon Bin Antara narrates that his father went to see Ali (A.S.) during winter and found him shivering with cold as he was without a shirt and had covered himself with a bed sheet.

Haroon's father asked, "O leader of the faithfuls, Allah has provided you a share in the Baitul Maal (National Exchequer) then why are you suffering like this." Ali (A.S.) replied, "By Allah I do not take anything from Baitul Maal, and this bed sheet too is the one that I brought from Madina."

Baitul Maal = Public Treasury ..

#### Sir William Muir

(1819 - 1905) Scottish scholar and statesman. Held the post of Foreign Secretary to the Indian government as well as Lieutenant Governor of the Northwestern Provinces.

"Endowed with a clear intellect, warm in affection, and confiding in friendship, he was from the boyhood devoted heart and soul to the Prophet. Simple, quiet, and un-ambitious, when in after days he obtained the rule of half of the Moslem world, it was rather thrust upon him than sought."

[The Life of Mahomet, London, 1877, p. 250]

He was the Leader of entire Muslim world but the asceticism of Imam Ali (AS) was:

- His food was two loaves of bread
- His clothes had been patched up
- and at the time of his death, 700 dirhams were his personal property
- And by living simple life, he had easily prepared himself for the death.

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[i] Nahjul-Balagha, Letter 45, p. 417.[ii] Ibid., p. 229).[iii] Bihar- ul-Anwar, vol. 43, p. 359)
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If you examine the happenings of the world through your heart and mind, you will be attracted by such a splendid personality and his high ideals that everything in this world will look humble, you will lose the charm of this world and life in it

- He is the most learned man of his age. He was a living encyclopaedia of knowledge and learning.
- After the holy Prophet, he was the most eloquent person of the age.
- Because of his knowledge and wisdom he is known as the "Second Solomon."
- His wise sayings and aphorisms have attained the status of classical proverbs.
- He is the first person to write a grammar of the Arabic language.
- Among the early Muslims, he is the only person whose collections of writings have come down to us and this collection [is] preserved under the title of Nahj-ul-Balagha.
- He is a distinguished poet.
- He enjoys fame as the "father of rhetoric."
- He is an authority on Mathematics.
- He is a master of the science of Physics.
- He had a deep medical knowledge.
- After the holy Prophet, he is regarded as the greatest philosopher of Islam.
- He is a calligrapher and has written in beautiful hand

**Washington Irving** (1783-1859) Well-known as the "first American man of letters".

"He was one of the last and worthiest of the primitive Moslems, who imbibed his religious enthusiasm from companionship with the Prophet himself, and followed to the last the simplicity of his example. He is honourably spoken of as the first Caliph who accorded some protection to Belles-Lettres. He indulged in the poetic vein himself, and many of his maxims and proverbs are preserved, and have been translated in various languages. His signet bore this inscription: 'The kingdom belongs to God'. One of his sayings shows the little value he set upon the transitory glories of this world, 'Life is but the shadow of a cloud - the dream of a sleeper'."

[Lives of the Successors of Mahomet, London, 1850, pp. 187-8]

Elaborating further George Jordach writes, "If he has opened his tongue for the purpose of condemning something then even a storm or a hurricane cannot bear it..... When he advises you he talks like a father to you and gives you immeasurable love. His eloquence is greater than all eloquences. All the qualities of Arabic language which existed then or were born later have been used to describe its content and finally it was accepted and declared by the world that his literary work is below the word of God and above the work of all human beings

# About His *KNOWLEDGE*On Ant – 1400 yrs ago

Over 1400 years ago, Hazrat Ali (A.S.) was giving a sermon in Kufa, in which he was describing the beauties of creation in various forms of life. He was referring to small creatures and asking man to study how God made them so small yet so sturdy and strong. He described the ant in these words:

"Look at an Ant. How tiny is its body and how delicate are its features! It is such a small creature that it often escapes the eye, and few people care to attach any importance to it among the living beings found on this Earth. Look at it and study its ways of life; How it crawls, how it attacks its food; how it lifts a grain so many times heavier than its body, carries it to its hole; How it stores grains; and how in summer, it gathers and stocks food for winter and rainy days."

(Nahjul Balagah sermon 185)

- Such a vast knowledge of high standard with great eloquence and perfect bravery with such love and gratitude that no limit can be visualized. If from all these qualities a man would have received even one it would have been enough to blind man. And when all these qualities are found in one person then what must be his condition......
- According to him (ALI), "He is poor who has no friends; do not feel happy over others misfortunes; get closer to the people through kindness and favours; forgive your oppressors; do not disappoint the person from your obligations who does not want to oblige you; if a person severs his relations with you form new relations with him; befriend the person who keeps grudge against you."

# About His *KNOWLEDGE* On Bat – 1400 yrs ago

He (Almighty God) granted to a bat wings of flesh (not of feathers) and whenever it so desires, it can rise and fly with their help. They appear as if they are parts of its ears, having neither feathers nor bones but you can very easily see the line of arteries and veins running in them. These two wings are neither so thin as to snap nor so thick as to be too heavy. When it flies its young one adheres and attaches itself to its mother's body, taking shelter under its expanding wings, it goes up and comes down along with mother and never parts from its parent unless it grows strong and its wings get powerful and sturdy enough to bear the weight of its body, and unless it develops enough animal instinct to recognize its food and the factors of its safety and well-being."

(Nahjul Balaghah sermon 155)

- Holy Prophet has said: "I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate"
- There is only one man who cried out from the pulpit to claim that he knows more of heavens than earth and said: "ask me what ever you want before you lose me forever", and that was Imam Ali.
- His knowledge can not be imagined but we can still know some about His knowledge by seeing His Judgment, Decision, Leadership, intellect from the History books and many of Historian Muslim as well no-muslim have accepted this fact.
- You can read the Book called as Nahjul Balagahin which it has the collection of Sayings, Sermons and Letters of Ali ibn Abutalib...
- While reading you should keep in your mind that this was been told somewhat 1400 yrs back where people where knowing nothing about the earth and heaven and inhabitant of the world.

#### **About His Patience**

- Now you know, how Helpful, Kind, brave, courageous, knowledgeable Judge was Ali. Can you ever Imagine? Some one would dare to attack him?
- Yes! His house was attacked after the demise of H. Prophet (s.a.w) for taking the oath of allegiance from him.
- His door was burnt by fire by the order of Caliph.
- Burning door was pushed on her wife (i.e Daughter of H. Prophet [p]) due to which his six month fetus Mohsin was martyred in her womb.
- Her wife was been beaten by lashes by the people.
- Ali was dragged by rope in his neck till the mosque.
- But Ali was patience and did not fought and caused bloodshed.
- There was no one who would dare to challenge Ali but He was silent due to promise He made to H.Prophet (s.a.w) for being patient and forbearance. Ali fought so many battles for Islam but He never fought for his personal rights.

#### **About His MORALS**

#### **Robert Durey Osborn**

(1835-1889) Major of the Bengal Staff Corps.

"With him perished the truest hearted and best Moslem of whom Mohammadan history had preserved the remembrance."

[Islam Under the Arabs, 1876, p. 120]

# His Saying About Animals

- Before you ride the riding animals for a journey, you should feed and water them. Do not whip the animals on their faces because they praise their Lord
- Imam Ali (A.S.) had some ducks under his care in his house. At the time of his death, he had given particular advice to his sons to take good care of those dumb Animals, or to set them free if it was not possible to look after them properly

# About Him – *In words of Hazrat Umar*Whom Majority Muslims believe as 2nd Caliph

Muhammad Bin Talha Shafi'i in his Matalibu's-Su'ul and Sheikh Sulayman Balkhi Hanafi in Yanabiu'l-Mawadda, Chapter 14, narrating from Tirmidhi, record a detailed report from Ibn Abbas at the end of which he says: "The companions of the Prophet used to seek religious judgments from Ali, and they accepted his decisions. Thus, Umar Bin Khattab said on various occasions, 'If it were not for Ali, Umar would have been ruined."

# About Him – *In words of Hazrat Umar* Whom Majority Muslims believe as 2<sup>nd</sup> Caliph

#### "HAD ALI NOT BEEN THERE, UMAR WOULD HAVE BEEN RUINED"

Qazi Fazlullah Bin Ruzbahan, the fanatic, in his Ibtalu'l-Batil; Ibn Hajar Asqalani in his Tihdhibu'l-Tahdid, printed in Hyderabad Daccan, page 337; Ibn Hajar in Isaba, Volume II, printed in Egypt, page 509; Ibn Qutayba Dinawari in Ta'wil-e-Mukhtalafu'l-Hadith, page 201-202, Ibn Hajar Makki in Sawa'iq-e-Muhriqa, page 78; Hajj Ahmad Afindi in Hidayatu'l-Murtab, page 146 and 152; Ibn Athir Jazari in Usudu'l-Ghaiba, Volume IV, page 22; Jalalu'd-Din Suyuti in Ta'rikhu'l-Khulafa, page 66; Ibn Abdu'l-Birr Qartabi in Isti'ab, Volume II, page 474; Seyyed Mu'min Shablanji in Nuru'l-Absar, page 73; Shahabu'd-Din Ahmad bin Abdu'l-Qadir A'jili in Zakhiratu'l-Ma'al; Muhammad bin Ali As-Saban in Is'afu'r-Raghibin, page 152; Nuru'd-Din bin Sabbagh Maliki in Fusulu'l-Muhimma, page 18; Nuru'd-Din Ali bin Abdullah Samhudi in Jawahiru'l-Iqdain; Ibn Abi'l-Hadid Mu'tazili in Sharhe Nahju'l-Balagha, Volume I, page 6, Allama Qushachi in Sharh-e-Tarid, page 407,

Khatib Khawarizmi in Manaqib, page 48, 60, Muhammad bin Talha Shafi'i in Matalibu's-Su'ul sub-Chapter 6, page 29, Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal in Faza'il as well as Musnad; Sibt Ibn Jauzi in Tadhkira, page 85, 87, Imam Tha'labi in Tafsir Kafshu'l-Bayan, Allama Ibn Qayyim Jauzi in Turuqi'l-Hakim, recording Ali's judgments from page 41 to page 53; Muhammad bin Yusuf Ganji Shafi'i in Kifayatu't-Talib, Chapter 57; Ibn Maja Qazwini in Sunan, Ibn Maghazili Shafi'i in Manaqib; Ibrahim bin Muhammad Hamwaini in Fara'id; Muhammad bin Ali bin Hasani'l-Hakim in Sharh-e-Fathi'l-Mubin, Dailami in Firdaus, Sheikh Sulayman Balkhi Hanafi in Yanabiu'l-Mawadda, Chapter 14, Hafiz Abu Nu'aim Ispahani in Hilyatu'l-Auliya as well as in Ma Nazala'l-Qur'an fi Ali, and a host of other great ulema of your sect, with slight variation in words, have narrated Umar's saying, "If there were no Ali, Umar would have been ruined."

- It is common sense that any Leader when leaving a post puts in to position an individual to succeed him and administer the affairs of the State.
- Failure to do so will lead to insecurity in the State, uncertainty, confusion and worse still leaves the nation to the mercy of an enemy nation that might take the opportunity and seize power over a leaderless people.
- Appointment of a successor is the first thing that any 'sensible' leader will do

- How is Possible that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) left the entire Muslim Ummah without any Leader or Guide ???
- Then ???? Can You Believe or accept that there was no Successor of Holy Prophet (s.a.w) ? When even a small place or organization needs a Leader to lead.
- Can we imagine that Allah the Almighty who had send 1,24,000 prophets for the guidance from the start of the world would finally leave the people in chaos? Who had send a Guide (Adam) first & then other people so that no one can have an argument of being without a guidance.

In Fact not only Holy Prophet (s.a.w) appointed his successor but also Allah the Almighty made an arrangement for the declaration in Holy Quran.

"O ye who believe! obey God, and obey the Apostle and those among you invested with authority."
<u>QURAN: 4: 59</u>

Now we know God and The Prophet but who are these persons invested with authority whose obedience has been conjoined to that of God and yourself? Definitely He would also be from side of Allah the Almighty as we can easily see that the question of "obeying Ignorant, tyrant and unjust rulers" does not arise at all. This is for someone who is divine leader.

"Verily, your Master is but Allah and His Apostle and those who believe, who establish prayers, and pay the Zakat while bowed in worship (Ruku)."

**QURAN: 5: 55** 

From the above verse which clearly shows that there are three Masters for believers. Firstly Allah, secondly His Prophet, and thirdly Ali.

The Muslim scholars (Sunni and Shia alike) are agreed that this verse was revealed in honour of Imam Ali Ibin Abe Taleb(as) when Ali gave his ring to the beggar while he was in Ruku offering his Salat.

- As usual, now you may start thinking...
- There is now where name of ALI is written in this verses. Why did not Allah named Ali in this verse.
- To this there is a simple Answer:
- Allah the Almighty said pray Salaat but its no where written offer 2,4,4,3,4 units of prayers a day and how to pray. Similarly In all the matters we got all the detailed information of the Holy Quran from Holy Prophet (s.a.w)
- So we will now see to whom did Holy Prophet (s.a.w) had appointed his Successor.

- Holy Prophet (s.a.w) appointed Ali Ibn Abu Talib as his successor on many occasions just to note a few.
- At the time of First Declaration of Prophethood known as Dawat-e-Asheera - "my brother. my successor and my Caliph amongst you. Listen to him and obey him."

(al-Tabari, al-Ta'rikh, part 2, pages 319-21)

At the time of Battle of Tabuk "Would you not be pleased to be to me like Aaron was to Moses, but there shall be no Prophet after me?" (al-Bukhari in his Sahih reported this through his channel to Sa'd Ibn Abi Waqqas, part 6, page 3). Muslim also reported this in his Sahih, part 15, page 176.

... And more...

"Ali was the cousin-germain of Muhammad and husband of Fatema, his beloved daughter. The right of succession in order of consanguinity, lay with Ali; and his virtues and services eminently entitled him to it. On the first burst of his generous zeal, when Islamism was a derided and a persecuted faith, he had been pronounced by Mohammad his Brother, his Vicegerent; he had ever since been devoted to him in word and deed, and had honoured the cause by his magnanimity as signally as he has vindicated it by his valour". W. Irving

#### FORMAL DECLARATION

When on his way home, after finishing his last pilgrimage, on 18<sup>th</sup> of Dhu'l-Hijjah of 10 AH [632 CE] Jabraeel the Archangel brought this urgent command of God to the Prophet

"O Apostle! proclaim what has been sent down to thee from thy Lord: and if thou do it not, thou has not proclaimed His Messaage (at all); and God will protect thee from (evil) men." - QURAN: 5: 67

#### Revelation of the above verse of Quran in Ghadir Khum:

- Tafsir al-Kabir, by Fakhr al-Din Mohammad Ibn Umar al-Razi, Egypt (1357/1938), v12, pp 49-50, narrated on the authorities of Ibn Abbas, al-Bara Ibn Azib, and Muhammad Ibn Ali
- ∠ Durr al-Manthur, by al-Hafiz al-Suyuti, under commentary of verse 5:67
- Umdatul Qari fi Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari, by al-Ayni
- Tafsir al-Nisaboori, v6, p194 ... And more...

- The Prophet stopped at pond known as Khumm (near Juhufa) which was a junction point and extremely hot.
- Then he sent for all people who have been ahead in the way, to come back and waited until all pilgrims who fell behind, arrived and gathered.
- He ordered Salman (RA) to use rocks and camel toolings to make a pulpit (mimbar) so he could make his announcement.
- Then He gave a Long Sermon to over 1,20,000 Muslims there.
- What was that important message for whom Allah the Almighty is emphasizing (and if thou do it not, thou has not proclaimed His Messaage) and Holy Prophet is making all this arrangement?

The Messenger of Allah declared: "It seems the time approached when I shall be called away (by Allah) and I shall answer that call.

I am leaving for you two precious Symbols and if you stick both of them, you will not go astray after me. They are the Book of Allah and my Ahlul-Bayt (Family of Holy Prophet[s.a.w]). They shall never separate from each other until they come to me by the Pool (of Paradise)."

- Then the Messenger of Allah continued & taking 'Ali by the hand: "Do I not have more right over the believers than what they have over themselves?" People cried and answered: "Yes, O' Messenger of God." Then Prophet (PBUH) held up the hand of Ali and said:
  - "Whoever I am his leader (Mawla), Ali is his leader (Mawla).
- O' God, love those who love him, and be hostile to those who are hostile to him."
- Sahih Tirmidhi, v2, p298, v5, p63 Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, v1, pp 84,118,119,152,330, v4, pp 281,368,370, 372,378, v5, pp 35,347,358,361,366,419 (from 40 chains of narrators!!!) Bukhari volume 5, Book 59 Number 637
- Muslim Volume 2 Number 362... And more...
- A modern scholar. Husayn 'Ali Mahfuz, in his penetrating researches on the subject

After the Prophet (PBUH&HF) finished his long speech, the following verse was revealed:

"Today I have completed your religion and my bounty upon you, and I was satisfied that Islam be your religion." (Quran 5:3)

Revelation of the above verse of Quran in Ghadir Khum:

- al-Durr al-Manthur, by al-Hafiz Jalaluddin al-Suyuti, v3, p19
- Tarikh, by Khatib al-Baghdadi, v8, pp 290,596 from Abu Hurayra
- Yanabi' al-Mawaddah, by al-Qudoozi al-Hanafi, p115 ... And more...

The above verse clearly indicates that Islam without clearing up matter of succession and leadership after Prophet was not complete, and completion of religion was due to announcement of Prophet's immediate successor

After his speech, the Messenger of Allah asked every body to give the oath of allegiance to Ali (AS) and congratulate him. It is narrated that H.Umar and H.Abu Bakr said:

"Well done Ibn Abi Talib! This morning you became the leader (Mawla) of all believing men and women."

#### References:

- Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, v4, p281
- Tafsir al-Kabir, by Fakhr al-Razi, v12, pp 49-50
- Tarikh, by Khatib al-Baghdadi, v8, pp 290,596 from Abu Hurayra
- Al-Musannaf, by Ibn Abi Shaybah ... and more...

# 'Ali

THE FIRST SUCCESSOR

OF

PROPHET MUHAMMAD

(Peace and Blessings be Upon Them Both)

# Reminder About His Successor ship

Imam Ali (AS), in person, reminded others who witnessed the event of Ghadir and the tradition of the Messenger of Allah; these are some of the events

- On the day of Shura (Election Day for Uthman)
- During the days of Uthman's rule
- The Day of Jamal (the War of Camel, year 36): he reminded Talha
  - [al-Mustadrak, by al-Hakim, v3, p169]
- 4. The Day of Rahbah (year 35): 24 companions stood up and swore that they attended and heard the tradition of the Prophet (PBUH) first hand, twelve of whom were the warriors of Badr.
  - [Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, v4, p370, see also v5, p366]
  - Hilyatul Awliya', by Abu Nu'aym, v5, p27
  - Musnad Ahmad Ibn Hanbal, v1, p199, where he testifies about the curse befall on them who denied, as he says: "All stood up except three persons who came under the curse of Ali."
- The Day of the Riders: 9 witnesses

### THINK !! AND ACT WISELY

- After being so much virtues and declaration unfortunately majority of Muslims have not given priority to Him and considered Him equal to other Caliphs and Companions.
- If we have to gain success in any matter (Company/Organizations/Politics/Team) then intellect say's we should have a Superior Leader. i.e.. Most Knowledgeable, Most Experienced, Most Kind, Most Courageous, More Friendly, Most Confident, Just & Great Leader.
- Then why are we not looking for the same in the matter of Religion ???

### About His *MARTYDOM*

Khawāriji named Abd al-Rahmān ibn Muljim assassinated him with a strike of a poison-coated sword on Grand Kufa Mosque in the morning of the 19th of the month of Ramadan, 40 A.H. He remained suffering from the attack for three days during which he handed over the Imāmate to his son al-Hasan (a), older grandson of the Prophet (s), so that he might carry out after his own demise the duties in leading the nation. Ali died on the 21st of Month of Ramzan 40 A.H in the city of Kufa-IRAQ in 661 CE

### **About His Kindness**

Have you ever heard of somebody recommending his successors to treat his murderer well? Certainly not but Ali!

He said to his son Imam Hasan: "Look at him (ibn Muljim, Imam Ali's murderer) how upset he is! Give him from the same milk that I used to drink and feed him from what you yourselves eat. If I restore to health, I myself know better how to deal with him and if not, forgive him if you can endure to see him, otherwise kill him with only one stroke of sword. Be careful not to mutilate him because I heard the Prophet saying: "Avoid mutilation even with a rabid dog." He made a little pause and then said: "My dear sons, be careful not to punish any one else and not to make any bloodshed in avenging the caliph's murder."

George Jordach, the famous Christian writer from Egypt in his book Ali (A.S.) speaker of Human Rights asks, Have you heard about any king among the kings of the world, who had all the wealth and resources at his disposal which no other ruler could get and then too he chooses for himself a life of sufferings and sorrows though he belongs to the noblest of all the clans and his gynecology was accepted as the most pious among the world and He (Ali) says,

"No honour is nobler than humility and kindness." Advising his friends he said, "If you are my friend then wear the dress of a destitute."

- "While he punished his admirers for calling him god, he gave brotherly advice to his enemies, he did not approve of its and reprimanded them for their misbehaviors.
- His opponents created enmity with him, wronged him, spoke ill of him and came to fight with him still people heard him saying, "Oblige your brothers by warning them, correct them by showing favours and giving them favours."
- He said, "You should tie the knot of love and affection with your brother, remembering that your brother is not strong enough to break the knot nor is he capable of harming you."
- When the people advised him to treat the oppressors (who had become very strong in the previous regimes) kindly, so that they may not weaken his government, Ali (A.S.) replied, "Your friend is he who saves you from ills and your enemy is he who induces you to do bad deeds. Adopt truthfulness even if you are the loser, and avoid telling lies even if you are profited by it."

The French orientalist, Gebriel Enkiri, in his book 'Le Chevalier de Islam' says of Hazrat Ali as follows:

"In the extremely superfine, grand and noble character of Ali, there are two traits which it is difficult to believe can be united in one man. Besides Ali, history cannot show any other who has displayed these two qualities at one and the same time, and each one in such a marked way, that none could surpass him and few could reach him. He was the greatest Marshall of his time (even of all times) and he was the wisest man who could explain and expound upon religion, philosophy, science, sociology and ethics, in a style which cannot be improved upon. What is more he was such a speaker that his speeches enchant you even thirteen centuries after his death".

Another French scholar, in his book, 'Les Effets de la Religion de Muhammad', Oelsner says

" Pure, gentle and learned, without fear and reproach, he set the world the noblest example of character".

Shebly Shmayyil, another Christian scholar states: "Ali ibn Abi Talib is the leader and guide for mankind, and the East and West has never seen anyone like him, neither in the past nor in the present".

Christian scholar George Geordac comments:
"There is nothing the in the United Nation Human Rights declaration except that you would find its equivalent in the constitution of Ali ibn Abi Taleb, but then you would find in his constitution greater values and of higher essence."

- Indeed, his reputation seems to have traveled into Europe at the time of the Renaissance; for we find that Edward Powcock (1604-1691) a professor at the University of Oxford, published the first English translation of his "Sayings" and delivered in 1639 a series of lectures on his "Rhetoric".
- Kofi Annan, the UN secretary states:

"The words of Ali ibn Abi Talib, 'O Malik! The people are either brothers in religion or your equal in creation' must be adhered to by all organizations and it is a statement that all humanity must embrace."

UN Legal Committee, member states voted that the order of Ali to Malik al-Ashtar (Nahj Al-Balagha letter 53) should be considered as one of the sources of International Law. The United Nations urged the Arab nations to use that letter as a model.

Ref: http://www.al-islam.org/nahjul/commentaries.htm

The UNDP in its 2002 Arab Human Development listed six sayings of Imam Ali about the importance of knowledge and establishment of ideal governance.

Ref: http://www.miftah.org/Doc/Reports/CompleteEnglish.pdf

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# One of his Incident of Judgement

Zarr Bin Hobeish relates this story.

Two travellers sat together on the way to their destination to have a meal. One had five loaves of bread. The other had three. A third traveller was passing by and at the request of the two joined in the meal.

The travellers cut each of the loaf of bread in three equal parts. Each of the travellers

ate eight broken pieces of the loaf.

At the time of leaving the third traveller took out eight dirhams and gave to the first two men who had offered him the meal, and went away. On receiving the money the two travellers started quarelling as to who should have how much of the money.

The five-loaf-man demanded five dirhams. The three-ioaf-man insisted on dividing the

money in two equal parts.

The dispute was brought to Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib (the Caliph of the time in Arabia) to be decided.

Imam Ali (a.s.) requested three-loaf-man to accept three dirhams. The man refused and said that he would take only four dirhams. At this Imam Ali (a.s.) returned, "You can have only one dirham. You had eight loaves between yourselves. Each loaf was broken in three parts. Therefore, you had 24 equal parts. Your three loaves made nine parts. Out. of which you have eaten eight portions, leaving just one to the third traveller.

Your friend had five loaves which divided into three made fifteen pieces. He ate eight pieces and gave seven pieces to the guest. As such the guest shared one part from your loaves and seven from those of your friend.

So you should get one dirham and your friend should receive seven dirhams."

### **About His VIRTUES**

- In the end what to say about Him? Whose virtues were been curbed by his enemies in due of jealousy and by his friends and followers in fear of death till many centuries but even after this we find enormous merits available massive amount.
- If we want to read about him there are 1000 of books available about his knowledge, Judgments, Superiority, Kindness, Morality, Courage etc...
- All this were just the few highlight points & not all the virtues and points of His life.

# REQUEST TO ALL BRETHREN

- Muslim has to call his brethren to the right path, only by love and sweet words: (16:125)
- The Holy Qur'an declared: "Verily, We have shown him (man) the (Right) way, be lie grateful (and follow it) or be he ungrateful (and reject it)" [76:3]
- There is no compulsion in Religion". [2:256].

# HIS Burial Place - Najaf - IRAQ

