

In Praise of Imam Ali – From Sahih Al-Bukhari

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According to the largest Muslim *ummah* in the world, there are six great books which contain the most authentic reports on the life and times of the Prophet of Islam. They are known as the *Sahah Sitta*, or the six most correct. On the top of that list is the collection of *ahadith* known as *Sahih Al-Bukhari*. The actual title of the book is: *al-Jaami' al-Sahih al-Musnad al-Mukhtasar min Umoor Rasool Allah wa sunanihi wa Ayyamihi*.

Hadith Of Manzilat From Bukhari About Imam Ali

“Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas reports that the Prophet said to Ali: ‘Are you not happy that your status with me is the same as was that of Haroon with Musa?’”

We will, inshallah, explain this hadith from other books as well as from the verses of the Qur'an. Imam Nasa'i reports from Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas in his *al-Khasa'is Fi Fadhael* of Ali bin Abi Talib: In the ninth year of Hijra, the event of Tabuk took place. When the Prophet prepared to leave Medina for that expedition, he left Imam Ali in-charge of the town. Ali said: "Are you going to leave me here?" The Prophet then said: "O Ali, are you not happy that you are on the same status with me as Haroon was with prophet Musa, except that there will not be another prophet after me?"

Some reports give a slightly different version of the event by saying that the Prophet had already left and people of Medina taunted Imam Ali that he was being a burden for the Prophet that is why he left him behind in Medina. Ali immediately left Medina and met with the Prophet and his party post haste, and then asked him the question. In reply the Prophet is reported to have said those words which we have already reported. Whichever report may be more authentic, the point is that the Prophet said to Imam Ali as we described above.

Let us now go to the holy Qur'an and see what the status of Haroon was to Musa at a similar event:

وَلَقَدْ آتَيْنَا مُوسَى الْكِتَابَ وَجَعَلْنَا مَعَهُ أَخَاهُ هَارُونَ وَزِيرًا (٢٥:٣٥)

We certainly gave Moses the Book and appointed his brother Aaron as his helper.
(25:35)

If we take this hadith of Bukhari literally, it says very clearly that Allah appointed Ali as the aider of the Prophet who was his brother (exactly like Haroon was to Musa).

What could be more positive evidence for Imam Ali being the sole deputy of the Prophet, who was actually appointed by no less than Allah Himself? That completely invalidates the election at Saqeefa, the appointment of Umar by Hadhrat Abu Bakr and the selection of Uthman at the Shura committee.

Let us read another series of Qur'anic verses:

اذْهَبْ إِلَىٰ فِرْعَوْنَ إِنَّهُ طَغَىٰ (٧٩:١٧) قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي (٢٥:٢٥) وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي (٢٥:٢٦) وَاحْلُلْ عُقْدَةً مِّنْ لِّسَانِي (٢٧:٢٥) يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي (٢٨:٢٥) وَاجْعَلْ لِّي وَزِيرًا مِّنْ أَهْلِي (٢٩:٢٥) هَارُونَ أَخِي (٣٠:٢٥) اشْدُدْ بِهِ أَزْرِي (٣١:٢٥) وَأَشْرِكْهُ فِي أَمْرِي (٣٢:٢٥) كَيْ نُسَبِّحَكَ كَثِيرًا (٣٣:٢٥) وَنَذْكُرَكَ كَثِيرًا (٣٤:٢٥) إِنَّكَ كُنْتَ بِنَا بَصِيرًا (٣٥:٢٥) قَالَ قَدْ أُوتِيتَ سُؤْلَكَ يَا مُوسَىٰ (٣٦:٢٥)

“Go to Pharaoh, for he has truly transgressed.’ (79:17) Moses prayed, ‘My Lord! Uplift my heart for me, (20:25) and make my task easy, (20:26) and remove the impediment from my tongue (20:27) so people may understand my speech, (20:28) and grant me a helper from my family, (20:29) Aaron, my brother. (20:30) Strengthen me through him, (20:31) and let him share my task, (20:32) so that we may glorify You much (20:33) and remember You much. (20:34) for truly You have [always] been overseeing us.’ (20:35) Allah responded, ‘All that you requested has been granted, O Moses!’” (20:36)

This series of verses shows that Musa actually prayed for a helper who was his brother, and that his prayer was granted. Drawing the parallel from the *hadith*, the Prophet must have

asked Allah to make Ali his helper, in that he too was a brother to the Prophet exactly like Haroon was to Musa.

There is an additional aspect here. Musa prayed for Haroon to share in his mission. Once again, drawing the parallel from the hadith, The Prophet must have prayed for Imam Ali to be sharing in his mission of spreading Islam.

Actually, we have seen that in the hadith of *Da'wat Dhul-Ashira*, when the Prophet declares Imam Ali to be His vizier and his helper in the mission. And if we look at the life of Imam Ali, his sacrifices, his hard work and his knowledgeable sermons in later life, the statement speaks for itself. This is purely an academic exercise based on Qur'an, authentic reports from hadith and common sense. There is no emotion here. We invite our Muslim brothers and sisters to reflect on it.

Citations

Khattab, Mustafa, translator. *The Clear Quran: A Thematic English Translation*.
Al-Furqaan Foundation, 2015.



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