

ALI – THE FOREMOST BELIEVER

A companion was once standing with the Messenger of Allah (S) next to the Ka'bah when they saw Ali bin Abi Talib (AS) coming toward them. The Messenger of Allah (S) said; *My brother is coming toward us*. Then the Prophet (S) faced the Ka'bah and hit it with his hand and said:

I swear to the One who has my life in His hand that Ali and his Shia are the winners on the Day of Judgment. Ali was the first to believe in me. Ali is the most loyal to Allah. Ali is the most serious person in following the orders of Allah. Ali is the most just with his people. Ali is the fairest divider. Ali has the highest status in Allah's eyes.

Then the following verse was revealed:

Verily, those who believe and do good deeds are the best created beings.

(AL-Qur'an – Chapter 98, Verse 7)

(Bihar al-Anwar 35:246)

Imam Husain (AS)'s sermon on the day of Ashura – 10th of Muharram al-Haram:

Now then! Consider my family, and ponder as to who I am and then admonish yourselves. Then do you consider that killing me and plundering my sanctity and respect is lawful for you?

Am I not the grandson of your Prophet and the son of his Vicegerent and cousin, who was the foremost in believing and the bearer of witness upon everything that the Prophet had brought from Allah? ...

When the verse - *and warn your tribe of near relatives* (Qur'an – Chapter 26, Verse 214) was revealed, the Prophet (S) asked Ali to invite the tribe of his near relatives at the house of Abu Talib. Before the leaders of the Quraysh, like Isa, he said:

O Relatives! By Allah, I and I alone can offer you the most precious of gifts, the good of this world and of the hereafter. Allah has commanded me to call you to that which is the best-His worship.

I, therefore, call upon you to come forward and testify to my prophethood. Who among you will help me and join me in my task, and be my brother, my lieutenant, my vicegerent and my successor?

Ali was the only person who came forward in response to the call of the Prophet. Without delay, the Prophet declared:

Verily Ali is my brother, my vicegerent and my successor.
From this day, it has been made obligatory upon every one to obey the superior authority of Ali.

Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) writes that:

The above event has been recorded by a large number of notable scholars and prominent traditionists in their books, for example, Ibn Ishaq, Ibn Jarir, Ibn Abu Hatam, Ibn Marduwayh and Abu Na'im, and Bayhaqi, who has recorded it in both of his books, Sunan and Dala'il, and Tha'labi and Tabari in their great commentaries of surah al-Shu'ara. Tabari has recorded this also in his Tarikh al-Umam wal-Muluk (i.e. the history of the various people and their rulers), Vol. 2, p. 217, in somewhat different words, and Ibn Athir has recorded this among the traditions universally accepted to be genuine in his Tarikh al-Kamil Vol 2, p. 22.

The Messenger of Allah (S) said about this verse,

And the foremost (in faith) will be foremost (in receiving rewards), those are they who will be brought nearest (to Allah), in gardens of bliss.
(Qur'an – Chapter 56, Verse 10-12)

The Prophet (S) replied,

Jibraeel told me they ("the foremost in faith") are Ali and his Shia.

They are the foremost in receiving rewards; they are the ones nearest to Allah and they are honored by Allah.
(Amaali of Tousi 1:70)