

# **VIRTUES OF IMAM ALI (AS)** **CONFIRMING HIS STATUS, AND AS THE** **ORIGINAL AND FOREMOST BELIEVER**

- al-Qummi (in his book Stages of The Hereafter – Manazil al-Akhirah) quotes al-Saduq who quotes from Abdullah, son of Abbas who says that he heard the Prophet Say:

The one who doubts the greatness and high honour of Ali will arise from his grave in a manner that in his neck will be bound a collar with three hundred thorns in it, and on each thorn Shaytan will be seated who will be spitting on his face with rage.

- The Prophet has said:

O Ali, you are to me as Harun was to Musa. You are my brother in this world and the hereafter. Your flesh is my flesh; your blood is my blood.

You and I are from the same light.

- The fifth Shiite Infallible, al-Baqir (AS) says that when the verse (Chapter 36, Verse 12) was revealed:

...And everything We confined into a Manifesting Guide.  
**(Qur'an – Chapter 36, Verse 12)**

There were Abu Bakr and Umar who asked the Prophet if the manifesting guide was the Torah, the Evangel, or the Qur'an – the Prophet replied negative. The Prophet then turned towards Ali, son of Abu Talib, and he said:

Verily! This is the manifesting guide, in whom God has contained the knowledge of everything! The Prophet continued; O group of men! There is no branch of knowledge, which God did not bestow on me and I have conveyed that knowledge to Ali. Verily! God has contained in me knowledge and I have contained it in Ali. I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate.

- Once, Ali, son of AbuTalib (AS) passed by riding the Prophet's mule and Salman was present among the people. So Salman (AR) said:

(O people)! Do you not rise to detain him and ask him questions? By Allah, Who split the grain and created the breathing creatures, no one but he (i.e. Ali) will inform you about the secrets of your Prophet. Indeed, he is the most learned about this earth and its chief element on which it rests. If you miss him, you will miss the knowledge and deny the people (its benefit).

(al-Amali)

He said:

Ask me before you lose me. By Allah, if you ask me about anything that could happen up to the Day of Judgment, I will tell you about it. Ask me about the Book of Allah, because by Allah there is no (Qur'anic) verse that I do not know whether it was revealed during the night or the day, or whether it was revealed on a plain or on a mountain.

(al-Amali)

- In al-Amali by al-Mufid, Saeed, son of al-Musayyib is quoted to have said:

There is no verse between the two covers of the Qur'an, except that I know for whom it was revealed and when it was revealed, and whether on a plain, leveled land or upon a mountain. Surely, here in my breast is abundant knowledge! So, put your questions to me before you do not find me among yourselves, for when you have lost me, you will not find anyone uttering the words I utter.

- Ali says in the Peak of Eloquence (in several of his remarkable sermons):

They (the Aimmah) are the trustees of His secrets, shelter for His affairs, source of knowledge about Him, centre of His wisdom, valleys for His books and mountains of His religion. With them Allah straightened the bend of religion's back and removed the trembling of its limbs.

None in the Islamic community can be taken at par with the Progeny of the Prophet (Alu Muhammad). One who was under their obligation cannot be matched with them. They are the foundation of religion and pillar of Belief. The forward runner has to turn back to them while the follower has to overtake them. They possess the chief characteristics for vicegerency. In their favor exists the will and succession (of the Prophet). This is the time when right has returned to its owner and diverted to its centre of return.

No person in the world can be brought at par with them, nor can any one be deemed their equal in sublimity, because the world is over laden with their obligations and has been able to secure eternal blessings only through their guidance.

They are the corner stone and foundation of religion and the sustenance for its life and survival. They are such strong pillars of knowledge and belief that they can turn away the stormy flow of doubt and suspicion. They are such middle course among the paths of excess and backwardness that if some one goes far towards excess and exaggeration or falls behind then unless he comes back or steps forward to that middle course he cannot be on the path of Islam.

They possess all the characteristics, which give the superiority in the right for vicegerency and leadership. Consequently, no one else in the ummah enjoys the right of patronage and guardianship. That is why the Prophet declared them his vicegerents and successors.

He is the leader (Imam) of all who exercise fear (of Allah) and a light for those who seek guidance. He is a lamp whose flame is burning, a meteor whose light is shining and a flint whose spark is bright. His conduct is upright, his behavior is guiding, his speech is decisive and his decision is just. Allah sent him after an interval from the previous Prophets when people had fallen into errors of action and ignorance. Allah may have mercy on you.

- In al-Amali by al-Mufid, the Prophet has said:

Allah, Most High, created the souls two thousand years earlier than the bodies attached it to the Throne and ordered them to greet me and obey me. So, the first one among men who greeted me and expressed his obedience to me was the soul of Ali.

- Jabir, son of Abdullah al-Ansari reports a tradition that the great al-Mufid (author of more than 190 books and treatises) writes in his book al-Amali, the angel Jibraeel descended unto the Prophet, and said:

Allah commands you to address the people around you, informing them about the excellence of Ali, son of Abu Talib (AS) and has commanded all the angels to listen to what you will say. In addition, He reveals to you that whoever will oppose you about his affair, he shall enter Hell fire, and Paradise is for him who obeys you.

Then, the Prophet caused the announcement, *(join) the congregational prayers*. People assembled and the Prophet climbed the pulpit and commenced first by saying; *I seek refuge from Shaytan, the condemned and I begin in the Name of Allah, Most Merciful*. Then he said:

O People! I am the bringer of good tidings and I am the Warner. I am the Prophet, born in *Ummul-Qura*. I am now conveying to you, from Allah, Most High, about a man whose flesh is from my flesh and whose blood is from my blood; he is treasure house of the knowledge and he is the one who Allah has selected from this community, chosen him, befriended him and guided.

Allah created me and him from one essence and blessed me with the Prophethood and blessed him with the task of purveying on my behalf. He made me city of the knowledge and made him its gate. He made him a treasurer of the knowledge and the source from whom divine laws are received. He blessed him with specific divine appointment, made clear his position, forewarned against animosity to him and made affection towards him obligatory, enjoining all people to obey him.

And He, Most High, says; *Whoever hates him, hates Me and whoever befriends him, befriends Me. Whoever rises against him, rises against Me and whoever opposes him, opposes Me. Whoever disobeys him, disobeys Me and whoever harms him, harms Me. Whoever despises him, despises Me. And whoever loves him, loves Me and whoever obeys him, obeys Me.*

*Whoever pleases him, pleases Me and whoever protects him, protects Me. Whoever fights him, fights Me and whoever helps him, helps Me. Whoever intends foul against him, does so against Me and whoever plots against him, plots against Me.*

O People! Listen to my command and obey it. For I warn you against the severe punishment by Allah. On the Day when every soul will find present before it every good deed, it has done; and whatever evil it has done, it will wish that there be between it and the evil it has done, a great distance. And Allah cautions you of Himself.

Then he took Amir al-Mu'mineen (Ali) and said; *O people! This is the Master of the Believers and the Annihilator of the Infidels and the Proof of Allah to all humankind. O Allah! I have indeed, conveyed and they are your servants. And You are able to reform them so reform them by Your mercy, O Most Merciful.*

Then he came down from the pulpit and the Angel Jibraeel came unto him saying; *O Muhammad, Allah sends you Peace and says, May Allah reward you best for having conveyed. You have indeed conveyed the message from your Sustainer and given your community the correct advice. You have pleased the faithful and constrained the infidels. O Muhammad, your cousin will be stricken with affliction and because of him, some will be surely tried. And those who do wrong shall soon come to know what punishment awaits them.*

- Saeed, son of al-Musayyib has said:

I heard a man ask Ibn Abbas about Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS). Abbas told him; *Surely, Ali is the one who prayed towards both the Qiblah and swore allegiance to the Prophet on both occasions. He never worshipped an idol nor did he divine by the arrows. He was born a Muslim and did not associate any partner to Him, even for a wink.*

The man said; *I did not ask you that! I want to know from you about the sword which he proudly carried over his shoulder, came to Basra and killed forty thousand. Then he went to Syria, confronted the Arab leaders, pitting one against the other and then killed them. Then he came to Nahrawan and killed the Muslims up to the last one.*

Ibn Abbas told him; *Who do you think is more knowledgeable, Ali or myself?* He said: *If I had thought Ali to be more knowledgeable, I would not have come to you!*

Upon hearing this, Ibn Abbas was enraged and he said; *May your mother mourn you! Ali is the one who taught me. And his knowledge is from the Prophet (S) and the Prophet received knowledge from Allah, Most High. So, the knowledge of the Prophet is from Allah, and Ali's knowledge is from the Prophet and my knowledge is from Ali. And the knowledge of all the companions of Muhammad, (S) when compared to Ali's knowledge is just like a drop in the seven oceans.*

(al-Amali)

- The Prophet (S) has said:

The victory of Ali on the day of the battle of the Ditch is much more in worth than the devotional worship performed by the created beings of both the worlds (seen and unseen) till the Day of Judgment.

al-Khumeini (AR) confirms the sincerity Ali's in every second of his life (since the beginnings of creation), that even one strike of his sword on the day of Khaybar was, is and continues to be weightier in the books of Allah than the worship of the entire creation, including the non-living, the angels and the jinn.

I swear by the station of Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) that even if all the Archangels (AS) and all the Prophets of Allah (SWT) (AS), except the Seal of Prophets (S), who is the lord of Ali (AS) and all others, if they try to utter a single Takbir (i.e. Allahu-Akbar - Allah (SWT) is Great) of Ali's, they will not be able to do it!

- *This Ali is the first person to believe in my prophethood and will be the first person to shake hands with me on the Day of Judgment. He is the truest person and the wisest discriminator in this nation. He will differentiate between truth and falsehood and he is the ruler of the faithful.*
- *Ali is from me and I am from Ali and nobody can discharge my duty as a messenger except me or Ali.*
- *Ammar! When you find Ali walking on one path and the people walking on a different track, then follow the path of Ali and leave the people. Ali will never lead you to destruction and will never misguide you.*
- *Fatima! Are you not pleased with this, that Allah cast a glance on the dwellers of earth and selected from them two men; one of them your father and the other your husband?*
- *Ali is the commander of the faithful. Allah, the Mighty and glorious, appointed him wali in His highest heaven and made His angels the witnesses, and certainly Ali is the representative of Allah and His proof, and he is the Imam (leader) of all the Muslims.*
- *There are three foremost persons: Yusha ibn Nun, who was the foremost in believing in the prophethood of Musa, the companion Yasin, who was the foremost in believing in the prophethood of Isa, and Ali ibn Abi Talib, who is the foremost in believing in the prophethood of Muhammad.*