

SUMMARY OF MAJLIS

Date: 21st Holy Ramadhan 1426 AH / 25th October 2005

Occasion: Holy Ramadhan Weekend Majalis

Topic: Al-Isti'adha – Part 7

“And say: My Lord! I seek Your protection from the promptings of devils; and I seek Your protection, my Lord, from their presence near me”.

(23:97-98)

CONTINUATION ON FOURTH INSTANCE OF AL-ISTI'ADHA

We are looking at the fourth instance when recitation of **Al-Isti'adha** has been recommended, which is when carrying out **Al-'Adl Wal-Insaaf**, meaning 'Fairness & Justice' between the people. Since these days of Holy Ramadhan are dedicated to Imam Ali (as) who was also the Champion and an Icon of Justice & Fairness, we as his followers, are discussing this attribute in the light of the life of this great personality of Islam.

INCIDENT OF ADDI

Addi was the son of Hatim Tai – and Hatim Tai was a non-believer but a very charitable and most generous person of his time. He accepted Islam and became a devoted and sincere companion of Imam Ali (as). Addi had many sons. He, his sons and his tribe were always ready to sacrifice their lives for Ali (as). His three sons namely: Tarfa, Turayf & Tarif were martyred in the battle of Siffeen whilst fighting under the banner of our Imam (as) against Mu'awiya. It is related that:

[After the martyrdom of Imam Ali (as), Addi came face to face with Mu'awiya. To revive his sad memories and make him confess how much harm came to him in the friendship of Ali (as), Mu'awiya said, “What happened to your three sons: Tarfa, Turayf and Tarif?” Addi said, **“They were all martyred in the battle of Siffeen whilst fighting under the banner of Ali”**. Mu'awiya said, “O Addi! Ali did not do justice to you!” **“Why?”** asked Addi. Mu'awiya said, “Because he threw your sons into the mouth of death and preserved his own sons in safety”. When Addi heard this, he said, **“(O Mu'awiya!) I did not do justice to Ali”**. Mu'awiya was shocked. He asked, “Why?” Addi replied, **“Because he was killed and I am alive. I ought to have sacrificed myself for him in his lifetime”**.]

Such was our Imam (as)! People who had sense of Justice & Fairness in their minds, they had recognized the Imam (as) and his struggle towards establishing Justice & Fairness in life – and thus they were willing to sacrifice their lives and that of their children in this noble cause.

THINGS THAT PREVENT JUSTICE

There are three things that prevent one from being 'Just & Fair' in this life towards others, and they are: Greed for the material world; Fear of harm from others & Relationship with the people. If we study the life of Imam Ali (as), we will find that he (as) was particular and assertive on 'Justice & Fairness', because he (as) had overcome all these three hindrances in life.

GREED FOR MATERIAL WORLD

With regard to this material world, Imam (as) led simplest life. Infact, some historians have written that Imam (as), despite being the ruler of Muslims, led a lifestyle that was lower than that of the poorest person. Whenever, he (as) got anything, he (as) never kept it for himself. Rather, he (as) would immediately give it away in the cause of Allah (SWT). It is related:

[Qanbar was the servant of Imam Ali (as). He always saw that whenever Imam (as) got anything, he (as) never kept it for himself; he (as) always distributed them to the needy. Qanbar once came to his master and said, "Maula! Please rise from your place and come with me into the house. I have concealed a significant treasure for you".

Imam (as) asked him what the treasure was but Qanbar insisted that Imam (as) should follow him. Imam (as) entered the house with Qanbar and Qanbar brought a bag, which contained small sacs of gold and silver coins". He then said, "O Master! I have seen that you distribute everything amongst the people and never retain anything for yourself. So I have saved these coins for you". Imam (as) said, **"I would have preferred if you had set fire to this house and burn down everything"**.

Saying this, Imam (as) struck the bag with his sword causing the coins to fall down and he (as) then ordered the coins to be distributed to needy Muslims. After the instruction was carried out, Imam (as) said, **"Bear witness that I have taken nothing from it and I have not been negligent in my duty of distributing everything to the needy. O Gold and Silver! Deceive someone other than Ali".]**

Such was the simplicity of his life! How could therefore the greed of this world come in way of his Justice???

FEAR OF HARM

With regard to having fear of being harmed by others – that was never the concern of our Imam (as). Infact our Imam (as) was so courageous and brave that he (as) believed and indeed openly mentioned that: **"For me, to be cut into pieces on a battlefield with a sword, whilst fighting in the cause of Allah (SWT) is better than dying on the bed"**.

[During the period of his Khilafah, Imam Ali (as) personally attended to the complaints of the people. During the hot days of summer, when all the people rested at their homes, Imam Ali (as) sat by the shadow of a wall – so that if anyone had any complain, he or she could reach him without difficulty.

One very hot day, Imam (as) was sitting by the shadow of a wall. He (as) was profusely perspiring and leaning at the wall when a woman, who looked depressed and disturbed, came and said, "Maula! My husband has committed injustice and ousted me from the house in this hot weather. I wish you to attend to my problem". Imam (as) hung his head down and said, **"O Lady! The weather is hot and can you possibly wait till it becomes better?"** The woman said, "I am afraid that the temper and anger of my husband may shoot up even higher. It is better that you do the needful right away". **"Very well"** said the Imam (as) and accompanied the lady to her house. There, he (as) called out the name of her husband and asked him to come out. The young man came out but did not recognize Imam Ali (as). Imam (as) said to him, **"This woman says you turned her out of the house. I have come to advice you to fear Allah**

and be good, nice and kind to your wife". The man rudely said, "This matter is not your concern. I would do whatever I please. Now that she brought you along, I shall burn her with fire". When the Imam (as) heard this, he (as) laid his hand on his sword to punish the youth. Suddenly, hearing the loud voice – the passer-by's and the neighbours all came out. As their eyes met Ali (as), they respectfully came and greeted him.

The youth realized that he was confronting Ali (as) and began to tremble. He fell down on the ground apologising and making excuses for his behaviour. Then he said, "I will accept whatever you say and hereafter I shall respect my wife and not annoy her". **"I hope you do the same"**, said the Imam (as) and then addressing the woman, said, **"Return to your home and I hope that you would also be a good wife to your husband"**.] **(Lessons from Life)**

So the Imam (as) feared nothing!

RELATION WITH PEOPLE

And finally, with regard to having relation with the people – Imam (as) always gave preference to the pleasure of Allah (SWT) above everything else! He (as) did NOT see his relation with his own relatives, friends or acquaintances when it came to Justice and Fairness!

When a relative came and asked for more money from the public treasury, Imam (as) took out a hot burning iron rod and extended towards him. The man shouted and said, "O Ali! Do you intend to burn me?" Imam (as) said, **"You cannot bear the fire of this world and you expect me to bear the fire of the Hell-fire?"**

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