

## **O BELIEVERS IN AL-QUR'AN**

When asked to comment on al-Qur'an, Chapter 36, Verse 20 - *and from the remote part of the city there came a man running, he said: O My People! Follow the messengers ...*, the Prophet (S) said about this Believer from the people of Ya Sin:

There were three persons who, without a moment of hesitation, responded to the call of three prophets: believer from the people of Firaun (Qur'an – Chapter 40, Verse 28), believer from the people of Yasin (Qur'an – Chapter 36, Verse 20), and Ali ibn Abi Talib (Qur'an – Chapter 26, Verse 214); and they never worshipped any god save Allah even for *the twinkling of an eye*, they are the most truthful and Ali is the best amongst them.  
(Tafsir Thalabi)

And the best of believers, *it is Ali*, the Prophet has said and reported in al-Dur al-Manthur.

Chapter 3, Verse 7, Mir Ahmed Ali (AR) comments further:

It is a historical fact that all the companions of the Prophet, before embracing Islam, for a long time in their lives, were idolworshippers. The Prophet, Bibi Fatima and Ali ibn Abi Talib and their children were the only ones who were free from the impurity of polytheism right from the day they were born. All Muslims, in every age, add *Karamallahu Wajhu* (Allah graced and honoured his face above others) after the name of Ali, because he never worshipped any *ghayrallah* (other than Allah).

Ikrimah narrates from Ibn 'Abbas that he said:

No verse was revealed (with the words); O You Who Believe!, but Ali is its chief and its head. Allah has admonished the companions of Muhammad (S) in more than one place, but He has never mentioned Ali except with good (words).  
(at-Tafsir al-Ayyashi)

Allamah Taba Tabai (AR) says that the same hadith up to the words *its head* has been narrated in Tafsirul-Burhan from Muwaffaq ibn Ahmad from Ikrimah from Ibn Abbas; al-Ayyashi also has narrated it from Ikrimah; and we have quoted this hadith earlier from ad-Durrul-Manthur. Some traditions quote ar-Ridha (AS) as saying:

There is not in the Qur'an: O You Who Believe!, except about us.

al-Hajj Mujahid has narrated in many traditions concerning the virtues of Amir al-Mu'minin Ali (AS). He writes:

Whenever in any place the phrase O Believers! occurs in the Qur'an Amir al-Mu'minin Ali (AS) is to be considered the foremost of them and the most meritorious, as he has surpassed them all in embracing Islam.

Furat al-Kufi, Tafsir Furat al-Kufi (Tehran: 1410/1990), p. 49.

In his exegesis of the verse 274, in the Chapter of al-Baqarah of al-Qur'an.

- *The tafsir (exegesis) of Abu al-Hajjaj Mujahid, son of Jabr (or Jubayr), a Makki and Makhzumi (21-104 or 105/642-722 or 723), is the work of a leading commentator of an Iranian origin and belonging to the Tabi'un, the generation following that of the Prophet (S) and his companions.*
- *He had studied the sciences of the Qur'an and the arts of Qur'anic hermeneutics (tafsir and ta'wil) under Amir al-Mu'minin Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) and Ibn Abbas, Jabir al-Ansari, Umm Salamah, Umm Hani bint Abu Talib, and others.*
- *Ibn Asakir (d. 571/1175), in Ta'rikh Dimashq, has given an elaborate biographical account of him and describes him in these words - Sufyan Thawri would say; One should learn the exegesis of the Noble Qur'an from four persons: Sa'id ibn Jubayr, Mujahid, Ikrimah and Dahhak ibn Muzahim. Qatadah would say; Mujahid is the most learned of the Tabi'un in the exegesis of the Qur'an.*

Ibn Abbas reports:

We were sitting with the Prophet when Ali entered.

Ali said; *Peace be on you, O Messenger of Allah.*

The Prophet replied; *Peace be on you too, O Commander of the Believers.*

Ali responded; *O Prophet, you call me the Commander of Believers while you are still alive?*

The Prophet answered; *Yes, while I am alive.*

Then the Prophet continued; *O Ali! You passed by Jibraeel and I yesterday and did not say Salaam. So Jibraeel said; Why did the Commander of the Believers not say Salaam to us. I swear to Allah, we would have been pleased if he had said Salaam to us and we would have responded.*

Ali answered; *It looked like you and Dehya were in a private meeting so I did not want to interrupt.*

The Prophet said; *He was not Dehya, he was Jibraeel. I asked Jibraeel why he called you the Commander of the Believers. Jibraeel told me that in the Battle of Badr, Allah told Jibraeel to come to me (the Prophet) and tell me to order the Commander of the Believers to ride his horse in front of the army lines because the angels love to watch him do that. So Allah named you the Commander of the Believers that day in the heavens.*

Then the Prophet said; *O Ali! You are the commander of everyone in the heavens and the commander of everyone on earth. You are the commander of those who have passed away and the commander of those who are yet to come. There is no commander before you and no commander after you. It is forbidden for anyone who has not received this title from Allah to be called by this name.*

Harithbin al-Khazraj the holder of the flag of Ansar, oncesaid, I heard the Messenger of Allah telling Ali:

No one precedes you after me except a *Kafir* (unbeliever), and no one disobeys you except a *Kafir*. The people of the seven skies call you the Commander of the Believers by the order of Allah.