

**In the Name of Allah
The Compassionate, the Merciful**

The Bliss Pond

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Introduction

There is only one Creator and therefore, Jews, Christians and Muslims actually worship and love the same Compassionate God; but they call him with different names and pronunciations. According to Qur'an, all Prophets from Adam to Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Them, PBUT) were chosen by the one and only Merciful Creator, and they were all manifestations of sincere benevolence and pure love, and their Divine teachings were based upon the principles of Monotheism and Justice for all. The Good News about the Appearance of the final Holy Prophet, in the Mount Paran area- the Anticipated Ruler of the world, not being from descendants of the Prophet Jacob, Israel, (Peace Be Upon Him, PBUH), , rather from the brethren of his descendants, i.e. from the children of Ishmael (PBUH)- and many more undeniable signs regarding him, were given by all previous Prophets (PBUT); traces of these facts can still be found in the current book of Genesis, book of Deuteronomy, gospel of John, gospel of Matthew and In addition, Qur'an clearly indicates that Islam- as presented by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him & His Progeny, PBUH&HP)- is the most final and complete Divine religion for all humankind. Qur'an confirms the Divine teachings of previous Prophets (PBUT) but at the same time, informs humankind that many of their original teachings have been changed and distorted, and invites humankind to think, evaluate their beliefs and research, and when hearts, souls and minds are convinced that the absolute Truth is presented, then freely, intelligently and wisely, Submit to the Benevolent, Knowing and Loving Almighty; for this matter, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH&HP) has re-invited humankind to the Right Path of all Divine Prophets (PBUT), I.e. to Islam. Historians also verify that the original words of previous Prophets (PBUT) have not been fully saved; for instance, if a Gospel was written by Jesus (PBUH) while he was living on this earth, that Gospel is not available, and in the fourth century A.D., over one hundred gospels- written years after Jesus (PBUH), by various writers, under the influence of dominant people, governments, cultures and civilizations of the time and with significantly different texts- were available and at that time, i.e. centuries after Jesus, the

four gospels of the New Testament were chosen by Romans who based on ancient Egyptian, Greek, Roman and... cultures, used to worship many imaginary gods; and the other gospels- which did not conform to their ancient cultures -were declared as unlawful! History also indicates that similar circumstances surrounded the Old Testament. While, Qur'an was written at the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH&HP), exactly as It was directly revealed to the Prophet from the Almighty Creator, and in Itself, in Surah Hejr and..., promises that God shall protect It from distortions; this Divine promise has already been fulfilled and all Muslims around the world have been reading the same Qur'an for over one thousand and four hundred years. Qur'an repeatedly commands the Faithful to absolutely obey the final Prophet, and considers the infallible Prophet's obedience the same as God's obedience, and states that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH&HP) is the one to teach, explain and clarify Qur'an for the people (Surahs Baqarah, Nesa', Nahl and...). But, after the Prophet, some people disobeyed God and the Prophet and therefore, the governments of Muslims after the Prophet, were taken over by other than the Prophet's God-chosen Successors. The Prophet's words and Qur'an, and other historical proofs, clearly confirm the rightfulness of the Prophet's God-chosen Successors, the twelve infallible Imams (PBUT). History indicates that the governments of Muslims after the Prophet, declared the writing of the Prophet's words as unlawful! For about one hundred years, no one was allowed to write the Prophet's words- which, according to the Surah Najm and... in Qur'an, were absolutely nothing but Divine Revelations-; and what have been available in the non-Shi'ah documents as the Prophet's words, were initially written after that delay and under the influence and control of wrongful governments and politicians. As the result, many false interpretations of Qur'an and definitions of the Path to Salvation, were created by mankind, i.e. history repeated itself and the Religion of God was once again distorted. It is only the Shi'ah who with no delay, through the Prophet-taught teachings and Divine Guidance of twelve infallible God-chosen executors after the Prophet throughout the ages, have written and saved the Prophet's words, i.e. the genuine Divine teachings which lead humankind to everlasting Salvation and Blissfulness; it is noteworthy to mention that the Shi'ah along with their leaders, have experienced many persecutions, tortures and martyrdoms in this Divine cause.

Finally, with the Emergence of the twelfth Imam and the Second Coming of Jesus (PBUT), added impurities to the priceless treasure of Divine teachings will be purified, and history shall witness the most magnificent and beautiful moments of human life; As Qur'an promises, in the Surahs A'raaf and Anbia' and..., at the end the earth shall belong to the righteous and virtuous servants of the one and only Creator. Let us sincerely pray and strive for those wonderful and beautiful Days. ...

This book narrates the summarized story of one of the most delightful and important events of history of humankind which happened by the pond of Ghadir... . After translation to English, editorial notes as footnotes have been added for better understanding of readers.

If you sincerely love the one and only God, and truly believe that God's Way is the only way to happiness and everlasting Salvation, and honestly seek the Truth, do more research from different sources and while seeking God's help, decide for yourself.

Mojganeh Saffarnia

Editor

Mirror of God's grace

Ghadir, It is, and the world is filled with happiness;
Existence is immersed in gladness and eagerness.

Singing melody of beings in heavens;
reaches down to earth, from up in heavens.

Pleased, Shi'ah is, among the earthlings;
because, Shi'ah is Doubt-free in its believings.

The Doubt-free whose way is, God to love and obey;
the Doubt-free whose lords are Ali's chosen Progeny.

O' the honor of God-lovers, Ghadir!
O' the Pond of overflowing guidance, Ghadir!

Fountain of life which Alexander found not;
it is you and towards you, hurry must.

Zamzam and Kothar(؁), when better than you?
They gain their respect from you.

Created, when God, the Universe;
from your drops, was, its essence.

That which brings everything to life, it is water;
not from any mirage, but from Ghadir's water.

It's been here, this Pond, from the beginning;
it's been the mirror of God's grace and blessing.

By this Pond of Garden of Heavens;
formed, Adam's clay, hands of Angels,.

Pond not, but ocean of life;
vessel of Salvation, at its side.

Washed to pray, in this Pond, love;
gained respect, from this Pond, love.

Flew away, when a drop of it, from Love's hand;
it became martyrs' blood and fell on the land.

Sanctity of this Pond, knows no one;
but the Prophet and his chosen one!

Ah! if, has any gnosis, humankind!
Will never forget this Pond, humankind!

Poetess: Taahereh Moosavy Garmaaroody

Towards happiness

The most beloved by God

It has been ten years that the people of Medina have been hosting a dear guest. He is the most beloved by Allah (God). Ever since the day that this newcomer has come to their city, not only the fires of old evils and conspiracies have been put out but they have also been replaced by friendship, goodness and brotherhood.

City of the Prophet

As if it was just yesterday when the citizens of "Yathreb" had come to "Qoba"(ﻯ) for welcoming him and were counting the seconds in anticipation of his arriving. This Divine Prophet- who, for thirteen years, had experienced persecutions and unkindness, from polytheists in his birthplace (Mecca)- was coming towards "Yathreb."

Since then, by his continuous efforts and management, and his few faithful disciples' endeavors, hearts have become closer and people, united. Servitude of wooden and stony idols has been replaced by worshiping and praising the Compassionate Allah. Under the light of his blissful precepts, the era of darkness and ignorance has been on the wane, and Monotheism, gnosis and admirable manners have spread.

"Yathreb" is no longer the city of "Ansaar"(ﻯ) but it is the city of God's chosen Messenger, the Lord's Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him and His Progeny, PBUH&HP), and ever since, it has been called the "Madinat-o-Rrasool"(ﻯ) -Medina.-

Start of the journey

Today again, after ten years, Medina seems to feel just like the welcoming day. Commotion is every where. Crowds come and go. Some are preparing themselves for the journey. Others are, hastily, saying goodbye to their relatives and catching the caravans towards Mecca.

They know that the Prophet (PBUH&HP) intends to go to Mecca this year. Prior to this trip, the Holy Prophet had invited Muslims for pilgrimage of Ka'bah(ﻩ) and people, from far and near distances, have been proceeding to Hajj(ﻯ). The sincere disciples of the

Prophet are joyful that in this journey the Master of their caravan is the most beloved by God, Muhammad (PBUH&HP), who at the age of ٦٣ and after years of separation from his home town, is going to travel along with his family, to his birthplace for performing Hajj ceremonies. He knows that this memorable journey is not a repeatable one, and this year is the last year of his blessed life. Yes, ... the sun of his life will soon set.

On the way to Mecca

There is not but a few days left to the beginning of the month of Dhel-Hajjah(٧). The Prophet- while two pieces of simple and white cloths, are what he has on(^)- is leaving Medina, together with his family. Following him, the caravans of peoples are also going on the journey, from far and near places.

It is said that one hundred and twenty four thousand persons form the population of caravans accompanying the Prophet. When they get to a certain distance away from Medina- at a place where, later on, is going to be called the Mosque of Shajarah- the Prophet and accompanying Muslims become Mohrem and while reciting Labbayk, continue on the journey toward Mecca(٩). On the way, every now and then- due to the fact that he is going for pilgrimage of Ka'bah- a smile appears on the Holy Prophet's face and other times, the great responsibility which he has on this journey, occupies his thoughts. He knows that, among these people, there are those who are only saying that they have accepted Islam, and they absolutely, do not care for him and his Progeny. Today that he is alive, he is seeing their enmities, tomorrow when he'll pass away, what are they going to do to Qur'an, the religion and his Progeny? He is thoughtful and worried.

On his mother's grave-site

To reach Mecca, this great caravan must travel ten days and rest in suitable areas. They have almost gone half of the way. Abwa' is a resting place that they have reached. After the morning prayer, the Prophet (PBUH&HP) visits a grave that he knows here, a grave which he has been hoping to visit for a long time.

Here is the sanctified burial ground of his mother Aamenah. The kind and loving mother who, when passing away, trusted him with the Great God, while he was only a small child. Now, that orphan is the Prophet of God who, on his mother's grave, is wishing her peace and thankfully appreciating her motherly affections. He wishes to stay besides her for many more hours. But pilgrimage of Ka'bah and the profound obligation and responsibility which he has, convince him to say goodbye... . He continues on toward Mecca.

Enthusiasm for pilgrimage

The caravan of Muslims [accompanying the Prophet] arrives in Mecca on the sixth of Dhel-Hajjah. Tears are falling from the Prophet's eyes because of enthusiasm for pilgrimage of Ka'bah. Ka'bah- where, in the past, had become a place for man-made

gods- is now the House of Monotheism and the Qeblah(١٠) of theists. Wasting no time, he goes on pilgrimage of Ka'bah. While reciting Takbir(١١), he circumambulates seven times around Ka'bah and then performs specified prayers behind the Maqaam of Ibrahim(١٢) and

The population of pilgrims of Ka'bah is growing day by day. It is one of these days when Imam Ali (PBUH)- returning from a mission to Yemen, commanded by the Prophet, along with many pilgrims- arrives in Mecca and makes the Prophet (PBUH&HP) very happy. The Prophet adores Ali (PBUT). Just like two caring brothers, they love each other and God is also pleased with this friendship.

Two Reminders

During these days of the Hajj period, the Prophet (PBUH&HP) performs all its ceremonies and teaches people every ritual. He invites them to faithfulness, virtuousness, brotherhood and kindness, and tells Muslims his last recommendations, to prevent any division and disagreement after his passing away.

On the last day, the loving Prophet of Islam says goodbye to Ka'bah and in the gathering of Muslims, he does say:

This is my last pilgrimage journey and I may never see you here again. I shall soon leave you and the world. Know that I have left two precious [inseparable] Reminders among you which if you cling to both of them, you will never ever lose the Right Path. Those two priceless, are the Book of God, Qur'an, and my Progeny[the infallible Ahl-Ol-Bait].

The Prophet continues his speech. His true disciples are crying quietly. They have felt that the Prophet (PBUH&HP) will not be among them much longer and he shall soon leave them to their loneliness. They are going to lose the most loving and affectionate leader and guide who has led them from aberration and ignorance to blissfulness and guidance. To them, the Prophet is the manifestation of every goodness. All which they know of him are compassion, friendship, generosity, devotion, forgiveness, courage, strength, patience, self-sacrifice, grace and mercy. On the one hand, drawing closer the setting of the sun of the Prophet's life and losing that perfect manifestation of Godly love, and on the other hand, becoming lonely and without a Divine Guardian, and wandering in the deserts of aberrations and confusions break their hearts into pieces and their eyes into tears. This may be the last time that they see him. They may never get another chance to look at his Heavenly being, standing in the altar of the Masjid-O-Nnabi(١٣), and the sweet fragrance of his existence, may never touch them again. They feel in their hearts that certain things are going to happen.

Now this magnificent journey and the rituals of Ka'bah have come to an end. The Prophet asks Belaal, his Mo'adhhen(١٤), to announce to the people that: tomorrow... everyone except the ill must leave Mecca and be present at a certain day by the Pond of Ghadir(١٥), before the separation junction of caravans.

Divine Successor

It is now a few days that the Prophet (PBUH&HP) has been traveling from Mecca toward Medina and along with him, other caravans are also continuing on their ways. Even the caravans of Yemen are following him. They have reached to a wide region called Johfah, a dry desert where there are nothing but hot sands and a few trees.

The faithful Muslims, along the way, keep remembering the recommendations of their loving Prophet, and his heart-touching voice is still in their minds. While, the Prophet (PBUH&HP) is thinking about the future of the people. He knows- after he leaves the center stage of this world- who is worthy of his Succession and the people's Guardianship, in order to guide them towards Paradise. He also knows that not all of these people are true believers and some of them are in fact enemies of him and his Progeny. Considering these, how can he introduce his Divine Successor- who is the wisest, kindest, fairest, and the most honest, courageous and faithful of them all and [the most important of it all] is confirmed by God- to the people(ﷺ). He is thinking about the conspiracies which will entangle Muslims after his passing away. Reflecting upon the enmities and cruelties which will be done against his beloved brother, Ali, and his darling daughter, Faatemah (Fatima) Zahra' (PBUT), fill his loving heart with sadness and sorrow .

A Message from God

The sun of the eighteenth day of Dhel-Hajjah intensifies the burning heat of the Hejaaz desert. The caravans have gotten near a place called the Ghadir-E-Khom.(ﷺ) The people of different regions, after passing this spot, will separate from each other and continue their ways towards their own cities and regions.

Suddenly the people around the Prophet notice something especially different on the Holy Prophet's face, and that his camel has stopped moving. Sweat drops have appeared on the Prophet's rosy face and his loving heart felt the intensity of the state of Revelation. At his signaling, his camel is lowered. Gradually they hear with their own ears that the Prophet, with his Heavenly melody, recites the Lord's command which has been sent upon him by His Revelation Angel:

O' Prophet! convey that message which has been sent upon you from your Lord and if you not do so, then you have not delivered the Divine Prophetic Mission; and God keeps you safe from (the conspiracies and evil doings of) the people; God does not guide the group of unbelievers(ﷻ), i.e. He does not let them achieve their purpose.

The Prophet (PBUH&HP)- in order to do as God has commanded and introduce Ali son of Abi-Taaleb (PBUT) as his Successor and the absolute Guardian and Authority of Muslims after his passing away- lands by the Pond of Ghadir. Still not all the peoples of caravans know what has happened. Commanded by the Prophet, the caravans gone ahead are told to come back and the ones not yet arrived, are asked to come sooner. It does not take long before the advanced caravans return and the delayed ones arrive by the Pond of

Ghadir. The sun is midway in sky. The heat is intolerable. Every person, by some means, protects him/herself from the unendurable heat of the sun. Men's turbans and women's veils have become sunshades for their faces and are blocking the burning radiation of the sun. It is gradually becoming clear to every person that the Prophet, for an important issue, has given the stop command in this desert.

Praying and speaking

Allah-O-Akbar! Allah-O-Akbar ...!

This is the sound of Belaal's Adhaan(أذان) which is echoing in the Johfah desert. The Holy Prophet, with the people, performs the noon Prayer in the vicinity of the Pond of Ghadir and then he stands on a prepared high place so that every person can see him and hear his voice better. At his request, the people gather around him. They are quiet and waiting to hear his speech, and this is the Prophet (PBUH&HP) who, after Praising the Lord of the Universe, says:

O' people! surely the one and only God has announced to me that if I do not convey what He has sent upon me, I have not delivered His Prophethood Mission ...

Know that the loving God, three times through the Revelation Angel, has commanded me to rise in this assembly and introduce Ali son of Abi-Taaleb (PBUH)- who is my brother, executor, successor and is the Imam(إمام) after me- to all of you. After me, he is your lord(رب) and Guardian ... God has ordained the incumbency of obedience and submission to him [Ali] by all human beings and until the Judgment Day, the Imamship [Imamate] and Guardianship shall be upon Ali and his [specified eleven God-chosen infallible] descendants. I have entrusted to Ali, what my Lord has taught me from His Book and Divine precepts; and there exists no gnosis or knowledge, unless I have taught it to Ali...

O' people! deviate not from Ali's Path; turn not your backs to Ali; and refuse not Ali's "Wilayat" [lordship] and guardianship. It is he who guides to the Truth, and performs based upon it. It is he who obliterates the vanity and forbids from it...

O' people! Ali is the Imam and Guardian chosen by God, and whoever denies his leadership [Imamate], his/her repentance [for sins] will never be accepted by God and shall not be forgiven... After me, he is superior to and more worthy than, every man and woman...

Moon next to the sun

At this point, the Prophet (PBUH&HP) holds and raises Ali's hand, and with a clear and loud voice does say:

Whomever I am his/her lord, this Ali is his/ her lord...

O' people! Ali and the infallible ones of my Progeny are A-Ththeql-Ol-Asghar and Qur'an is A-Ththeql-Ol-Akbar(۲۲).

Each one of these two, provides information regarding the other, and confirms and verifies it. These two are inseparable until the Judgment Day when they shall come to me ...

Know that the believers' Imam is no one but my brother Ali!

Know that, after me, the rulership and guardianship of believers is rightful upon no one but him...!

O' God! love whoever loves Ali and be the enemy of whoever is Ali's enemy.

Keep Your Mercy away from whoever rejects Ali, and detest whoever denies Ali's Right...

O' people! In order to be safe, listen to Ali's commands, and to go on the Right Path, obey him...

Know that Ali's enemies are hard-hearted and transgressive persons, and they are the devil's brothers... But his friends shall abide in Heavens forevermore.

Know that the last Imam of my Progeny will be Mahdi, the Qaa'em(۲۳). He will be fully knowledgeable about God's religion... He shall help God's religion ... He shall be whom no one will overcome... He shall be the lord and Authority from God on earth...

O' people! Qur'an makes it known to you that the Imams after Ali are his children who are my descendants. I have told you: If you cling to Qur'an and my Ahl-Ol-Bait, you will never lose the Right Path...

O' people! whoever obeys God, His Prophet, Ali and the Imams whom I have introduced, he/ she has certainly attained the great Salvation...

O' God! forgive those who believe, and detest those who believe not. All Praise and Glory be to the Lord of the worlds.

The speech of the loving Prophet of Islam- who said nothing but Divine Revelations- is the guiding light to blissful life for humankind. He invited them to obey Ali, and commanded them to avoid going against him, and acknowledged their [the people's] greatness and respectfulness under the light of Ali's obedience .

Imamate and Guardianship of the Amir-Ol-Mo'menin(۲۴) perfected the religion of Truth, and fully completed the bestowal of Divine blessings, and caused the Lord to be pleased; and the Revelation Angel brought this verse down to the Prophet from God :

"Today I have perfected for you your religion, and fully completed My blessings upon you, and I am pleased that "Islam" is your religion."(۲۰)

Standing in front of the crowd, the loving Prophet of Islam (PBUH&HP) took a deep breath, because he was pleased that he had accomplished his important duty. With Ali at his side, he stepped down from his high place [which was prepared for his speech] and in the midst of the true believers' joy and happiness, he walked toward the separate tents prepared for them .

The Holy Prophet asked the present people- who were perhaps over one hundred thousand- to come to him and after pledging their loyalty, go to Ali's tent and Shake his hand as their leader and guardian after the Prophet, and make a commitment with him, and offer him their good wishes in this Divine Position(۲۱).

Black-hearted enemies

Among this large crowd, there were black-hearted enemies who were hiding their anger and jealousy about this event, and were gnashing their teeth from fury, but were pretending to be happy. The desert-like hearts of hypocrites could never accept the seed of Ali's love, and the tribal prejudice and ignorance of the pre-Islamic Arab era could never find a way out of their narrow minds. These hypocrites were the first ones who shook the Prophet's and Ali's hands in loyalty, and offered them their best wishes. Abu-Bakr and Omar said:

Excellent, O' son of Abi-Taaleb! congratulations to you who have become our lord and every faithful man's and woman's lord.

Pledging loyalty to the Amir-OI-Mo'menin (PBUH) by the Pond of Ghadir- the Pond where blissfulness of all humans throughout history was going to originate from- took three days time.

At the presence of the Prophet (PBUH&HP) every single man and woman promised their loyalty to that leader of the pious [Ali], and congratulated his Succession and Guardianship after the Holy Prophet. That day was the destiny-making day for the nation of Islam [the Ommah], and the absolute separation of the Truth from the falsehood, and the Fact became clearly manifest. The believers got to know their Divine leader and guardian after the Prophet. Although, they had heard about the succession of the hero of battlefields [Ali], from the loving Prophet, many times not long before that day, this time the Imamate of the Amir-OI-Mo'menin became officially and firmly confirmed, and everyone made a commitment to be loyal.

On the joyfulness of this day, Hasan son of Thaabet composed a poem in praising the king of mankind [Ali], and recited it in front of the Prophet and the crowd.

Ghadir of bliss and happiness

Finally the passengers of the great caravan of Muslims- who, by God's and His beloved Prophet's command, had stopped three days and nights besides Ghadir, the bliss pond- after perfection of the religion, and attainment of the strong and powerful blessing of Wilayat and Imamate, departed for their cities and regions in different groups, to narrate the Message of Ghadir, from God and His Prophet, to those who were not present. They were going to commemorate Ghadir every year as the greatest celebration of Muslims, and express their happiness for the Imamate of the lord of the virtuous -PBUH-(ﷺ), and follow his behavior and way of living, in order to move on the Path to bliss and happiness.

This is why Ghadir is ever-remembered, and always new and fresh, it is unforgettable; it is eternally alive within the hearts of believers and the minds of those who seek the Truth and justice. Ghadir is not just the clear pond of spring rainfalls in the Johfah desert; Ghadir is not only the reminder of the Prophet's and one hundred and twenty thousand Haaji(ﷺ) Muslims' three days and nights staying... . Ghadir is the last point for perfection of religion and completion of God's blessings(ﷻ). Ghadir is the artery of human's spiritual life.

Ghadir is the last place where God and the Prophet introduced "Imam" to humankind, so that the most complete proof and reasoning would be presented to every human being. Ghadir is the day of making commitment with Prophethood and Imamate, and accepting their Wilayat [lordship] with hearts and souls. Ghadir is the testing field of all people.

Ghadir is the beautification day of the world of existence by Ali's Wilayat. Ghadir is the place of finding Ali and the Path of Ali, and it is the shelter of loving Ali, and the seeking of shelter with Ali. Ghadir is the day of presenting the Straight Divine Path towards blissfulness and Paradise, for the entire history. Ghadir is the bliss Pond of humankind and humanity. This is why, it shall always be green and ever-living, fresh and everlasting.

Yes... this is God's Will that humans are to receive bliss and happiness from the Ghadir Pond of the Amir-Ol-Mo'menin.

Mirror of the Ever-existing's [God's] beauty

Appeared, when manifestation of the Beloved, from the face of Ali;
found brightness, every particle, from the beautiful face of Ali.

Rose, when his face, like the rising sun, from the invisible;
became, every creation of both worlds, stare-full of Ali.

Looking at the mirror of the Ever-existing's beauty, if you wish;
open your eyes, and look at the shining face of Ali.

Lives forever, he or she who loves him;
means, Fountain of life, the love of Ali.

From the earth, rises, and steps up into skies;
he who becomes aware of the high-mindedness of Ali.

Carefree, he is, of both worlds and gains and losses;
he who, in his mind, nurtures the love of Ali.

The drink of love, saaqi of Kothar [Ali], gives to friends;
blissful is, he who is deeply touched by the love of Ali.

The way to the fountainhead of secrets, Ali found;
fascinated and astonished, thus the world is, from the words of Ali.

In his description, that which is said by masters of eloquence;
a small drop, that is, next to the ocean of Ali.

Like a candle, he is, and all in love are like butterflies;
watch the world, offer bodies and souls in the cause of Ali.

O' Seemeen! afraid no more, I am, from life's darkness;
brightened, my heart has become, by heart-warming light of Ali.

Poetess: Seemeen-dokht Vahidi

Epilogue

The Shi'ah believe that Ghadir is the Heart of humankind.
But, why Ghadir is so important?!

Throughout history, the heavenly tradition of all Holy and
Infallible Prophets (PBUT) had been that they -by Allah's
command- introduced their God-Chosen Infallible Successors
(PBUT) to people before their departure from this world.

This tradition started with Adam (PBUH) who introduced his
son, Shaith (Seth) as his God-Chosen Successor

In Qur'an Surah Taa-Haa, we read that Moosa (Moses) asked God to appoint Haaron (Aaron) -PBUT-, his brother, as his minister. The Bible, Old Testament, book of Exodus, states that the Divine command of crowning Haaron and appointing his two sons was given to Moosa (PBUT) on the mountain, and that this Command was executed in front of the children of Israel. But Haaron passed away, while Moosa was still alive. By God's command, then Moses introduced Yoosha' (Joshua) as his Allah-Chosen Successor.

In the Bible, the Old Testament, book of Numbers, chapter 27, it is written that Allah chose Joshua as Moses' Successor and commanded Moses to take **Joshua** the son of Nun and set him before all the congregation and lay his hand upon him, so that all the congregation of the children of Israel **may** obey Joshua after Moses (PBUT).

I.e. the Successors of Prophets -just like the Prophets themselves- are to be chosen by Allah, not by the people. But history indicates that most people did obey neither Haaron nor Yoosha', as God and Moses had commanded them to do so. Similarly, the succeeding Prophets and Successors after Moses (PBUT) were not fully obeyed. These

events led to severe distortions of the Old Testament, including the Torah, to the point that God has been portrayed as a human-like weak being, and Prophets as sinners and fallible people.

Also, in the Bible, the New Testament, gospel of John, chapter 1, statement 27, And gospel of Matthew, chapter 16 statements 18-19 and ..., it is written that Jesus gave the nickname Cephas which in Hebrew means Rock (equivalent of Peter in English, and Safa in Arabic), to Simon, and said that upon that Rock, he would build his church, and that he would give unto Simon Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and that whatsoever Peter would bind on earth would be bound in heaven; also Jesus set Peter to be the shepherd of his people. As we see, 'Eesa son of Maryam - Jesus son of Mary- (PBUT) commanded Sham'oon Safa (Simon Peter) to be his Successor and the leader to his people.

History indicates that Peter was forsaken and his true personality and character misrepresented in the Bible- as were the true personalities of other Prophets and their Successors (PBUT) too- and his God-Bestowed position,

usurped by a self-confessed Jewish plotter named Paul ...; and as the result, the Word of God as spoken by Jesus (PBUH) was distorted to the point that the unlimited God was said to have come out of the limited Mary and killed on the cross and buried!!! These and other imported concepts (from distorted Judaism, and Greek, Egyptian and Roman ancient idolatrous cultures) such as Trinity, Crucifixion and ..., were taught, and over one hundred gospels were then written by different fallible and even malevolent people throughout years after Hazrat 'Eesa (PBUH). Unfortunately even those who have claimed to have loved Peter, also have actually followed Paul's false teachings and the many later distortions afterwards.

Here, it is also noteworthy to mention that in spite of all distortions, still traces of Divine Light are found in the current Bible; as Allah has said in Qur'an, people have always wished to put out the Light of Allah, but Allah does not allow that and shall finally let His Light shine fully and completely, and His Religion -Islam- will spread in the entire world (Qur'an Surah Tawbah, verses ٢٢ & ٢٣; Surah Saf, verses ٨ & ٩, ...).

The Prophet Mohammad (PBUH&HP) -the final holy Prophet and the most perfect creation of God- has said that God had chosen Successors for all Divine Prophets to protect the Word of God from distortions, and to lead people to everlasting salvation, but in every case, people did not remain faithful to the Covenant. The holy Prophet has emphasized that he, by God's command and based on all Prophets' traditions, was establishing the Covenant with the people in regard to Ali son of Abi-Taaleb and his Infallible offspring (PBUT), as his God-Chosen Successors. But the Prophet prophesied that most people were not going to remain faithful to this Covenant either (Ma'aani-Of-Akhbaar, ...)

Ghadir was in fact the Ever-Anticipated goal and continuation of an Allah-Ordained Prophetic Tradition from the beginning of creation; while in some ways it was similar to Moses' appointment of Haaron and his announcement of the Successorship of Yoosha', yet it is narrated that the angel Gabriel has said that he had never witnessed a covenant so firmly established that only a disbeliever to Allah would break it. (Behaar-Of-Anwaar, ...)

If humankind's destination is toward Eternity, then human obviously has to find the Way to Eternity. Since Eternity is an unknown phenomenon for humankind, therefore, he has to approach it by following and obeying someone with Divinely bestowed Knowledge, someone whom God has shown him the Way.

This time if Ali and his descendants were not obeyed, the Word of Allah would have been distorted until the Last Days, because there was not going to be another Prophet. As Mohammad had prophesied, history repeated itself, and certain undeserving ones usurped the Heavenly bestowed Right of the deserving Successors, and imposed themselves to people as successors of the holy Prophet in place of the twelve God-chosen ones. Just like the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH&HP) had said, only a few remained faithful to the Covenant and obeyed the Allah-chosen Successors; the true Shi'ah are those who have been upholding the Covenant.

Today, we are living in the era of the 12th Successor of the final Divine Prophet, Imam Mahdi (PBUT). In the Last Days, Mahdi, followed by Jesus, (PBUT) shall return and many previous Prophets and blessed ones will also come back, and the Truth shall become manifest for every one.

... And this is why, the Shi'ah believe that Ghadir is the heart of humankind; Ghadir is the heart of the Word of Allah, the Word which guides humankind to Eternity; the heart which started to beat from the beginning of creation, and on Ghadir, its beating was tuned towards the celestial Path to

the Everlasting harmony of perfection, and with Appearance of Mahdi (PBUH), it shall achieve the perfect Ever-Anticipated harmony, and will beat in everyone's soul, and shall not stop beating until Eternity

Editor

Footnotes

١) Zamzam and Kothar are both blessed waters respected by all Muslims, Zamzam is in Mecca, and Kothar, in Heavens.

٢) Qoba was a village outside the city of Yathreb (Medina).

٣) Ansaar were the Prophet's followers in "Yathreb."

٤) Madinat-O-Rrasool" in Arabic means the city of the Messenger.

٥) Ka'bah, located in Mecca, is the sacred symbol of Monotheism which, as commanded by God, was built by the Prophets Abraham (Ibrahim) and his son Ismael (PBUT).

٦) Hajj is a religious journey to Mecca which all Muslims, if able, are ordained to take at least once in their lives.

٧) Dhel-Hajjah is the twelfth Arabic lunar month.

٨) Hajj is a spiritual journey which its rituals, as taught by the Prophet (PBUH&HP), guide pilgrims through a brief spiritual and educational period of separation from worldly values and ties so that humankind may learn thankfulness, humbleness and... before the one and only Creator. Therefore, the clothes that pilgrims wear during Hajj are also a manifestation of this deep and meaningful Divine goal.

٩) Before entering the limits of the city of Mecca, a pilgrim must become Mohrem which means- in addition to the simple pilgrimage garb that the pilgrim puts on and...- he/she makes a commitment with God and promises to avoid sins and certain defined worldly actions while in Hajj. As part of this procedure, the pilgrim also recites a specific prayer called Labbayk through which obedience of the one and only Almighty is announced.

١٠) Qeblah is the direction to which (Ka'bah) all Muslims unitedly around the world turn in praying times and in performing other religious rituals.

١١) Takbir or Allah-O-Akbar means God is Glorified, Greater than and beyond descriptions by His creations.

١٢) The Maqaam of Ibrahim is the Prophet Ibrahim's(PBUH) standing place, and his footprints, by the Will of God and as a miracle, have been preserved from ancient times.

١٣) Masjid-O-Nnabi, the Mosque of the Prophet, is located in Medina and the Prophet himself took part in its original construction. It is now the sanctified burial place of the Prophet (PBUH&HP) .

١٤) Mo'adhdhen is one who calls people to daily prayers at specified times, and in the older days, he also had the responsibility to announce special events .

١٥) As you will read shortly, this special time and place were chosen by God and announced later to the returning pilgrims and Mecca residents accompanying them.

١٦) The prophet, many times since the beginning of his Prophethood, had introduced to certain people his God-chosen Successor, but this was going to be the final formal public announcement before his departure from this world. The Holy Prophet was fully aware of the jealousy, anger and... of the undeserving power hungry.

١٧) Ghadir-E-Khom is the name of a pond in the Johfah desert where spring rainstorms used to fill it with water, and with a few trees around it, it used to attract thirsty passersby to itself.

١٨) From the Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Maa'edah, verse No. ٦٧.

١٩) Adhaan is a set of specified statements, starting with Allah-O-Akbar, for calling people to daily prayers.

٢٠) In general, the word Imam in Arabic, means leader. In Islamic societies, the title Imam is widely used for different religious leaders, chosen by the people or by other religious personalities. But in the Shi'ah belief, based on the teachings of Qur'an and the Prophet (PBUH&HP) himself, Imam also has a specific meaning, and that is when this position and title is bestowed by God upon an infallible person. In this case, a key point is the Imam's God-given infallibility and therefore, the God-chosen infallible Imam is to be fully obeyed by all believers who love and trust the benevolent, wise and loving Almighty. The infallible-ones' Divinely bestowed gnosis, wisdom, insight, faith, piety, love of God and... are so that they freely, absolutely never commit sins and mistakes.

٢١) When the title Lord is used for the Almighty God, it indicates His Absolute Lordship, but when the title lord is used for Prophet or Imam, it is a bestowal from God and God

can take it away if He wishes. The infallible Prophets and Imams are in fact the most perfect, obedient, humble and beloved creations, and servants of God.

۲۲) As mentioned before, the Prophet (PBUH&HP) had repeatedly stated that he would leave two precious inseparable reminders among people after his passing away. The first priceless one of the two, is Qur'an, and the second, is his infallible progeny, the Ahl-Ol-Bait (PBUT) who possess Qur'anic gnosis.

۲۳) Qaa'em (the Riser) is one of the most important and meaningful titles given to the twelfth Imam by the Almighty God. It reminds humankind that Mahdi (PBUH)- the Divine Savior who is living on earth and no one but God knows where he is- shall Rise against all evil and Save the entire world. When the title Qaa'em is mentioned, the Shi'ah- in order to show love and respect and eagerness, respond to their infallible Imam's attention, and announce their readiness for being at his service- turn towards Ka'bah and rise on their feet. After Mahdi's Appearance, Jesus (PBUH)- who is alive and waiting in heavens- shall also be given permission by God to descend on earth, and assist Mahdi (PBUH) in achieving their Divine goal. It is vital to remember that, Ghadir clearly specifies the only Path to Salvation, and that also its final Promise is yet to be fulfilled and therefore, Ghadir is not yesterday's forgettable issue.

۲۴) Amir-Ol-Mo'menin, the Commander of the Faithful, is a title chosen by God, only for Ali and no one else. Many people have used this title for themselves throughout history, but only in Ali's case, the title is God-chosen, and it indicates that only Ali has the God-given superiority to command the Faithful. Allah has emphasized that this title should only be used for Ali, and not even for the eleven infallible Imams after Ali; the eleven Imams themselves, in fact have obeyed Ali- I.e. Ali is their Amir also-, and Ali obeyed the Prophet, and the Prophet obeyed God.

۲۵) The Holy Qur'an, Surah Al-Maa'edah, verse No. ۳.

۲۶) The benevolent and loving Prophet, based on his God-bestowed Divine gnosis, tried his very best to make it clear to that large crowd- who were most of the Muslims at that time- that in order to avoid different false interpretations of Qur'an and Islam- which are either generated intentionally to achieve worldly purposes, or unknowingly due to lack of true gnosis- it was vital for their faith and attainment of everlasting Salvation, to follow the Prophet's God-chosen infallible Ahl-Ol-Bait (PBUT). Of course we all have the freedom to decide, but we must also remember that the consequences of our right or wrong decisions are also ours, to attain, everlasting Salvation and Bliss, or not, Heaven or Hell, and... !

۲۷) The lord of the virtuous, is another one of Ali's meaningful titles. The believers' happiness is because of the heavenly fact that Imamate is Divinely ordained leadership, and the God-chosen infallible Imams are the true and pure manifestations of sincerity, honesty, perfection, love and... and know the way to Salvation and therefore, they can be trusted and- with peace of mind- followed all the way to Eternity; unlike the money and power hungry leaders whom human beings have experienced throughout the ages .

٢٨) After performing the Hajj rituals, a Muslim is then given the title Haaji.

٢٩) The word Islam, means Submission. Islam, as the Divine religion, has clearly expressed the Word and Will of God; the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH&HP) has corrected the distortions which mankind, for worldly purposes, had entered into the previous Prophets' Divine teachings and therefore, Islam has re-invited all of humankind to the Right Path. In fact, Ghadir is the perfection point of all divine religions- which in essence and principles, prior to human distortions, were the same-, because the precious collection of genuine Divine teachings, from Adam to Muhammad (PBUT), have been entrusted to twelve infallible and Promised Successors who, one after the other, have protected and saved the True Divine teachings from distortions (as for instance, it is read in the current Old Testament, Book of Genesis, ch. ١٧, statement ٢٠, that the promise of twelve lords from descendants of the Prophet Ismael, was given from God to the Prophet Ibrahim (PBUT); the Light of God always shines, even in the midst of the darkness of distortions, for those who are willing to see). Any deviation from the Path of the twelve Imams, means following human's will, and not God's Will and therefore, shall not lead to everlasting Bliss and Salvation. Thus, Imamate is the insurance for the Divine Path to Salvation and therefore, Imamate is the most complete blessing of the one and only God, the Almighty Allah.
