

THE BALANCED & CORRECT POSITION OF THE AHL-US-SUNNAH WAL JAMA'AH ON SAYYIDUNA ALI IBN ABI TALIB AL-MURTADA رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

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Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said (to him), “You are similar to Isa – the Jews hated him to such an extent that they accused his mother (Maryam رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا) of adultery. The Christians loved him to such a level which he was not, i.e. they raised him to the level of divinity.” Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ then said, “Two types of people concerning me will be destroyed. (i) The one who transgresses the bounds in his love for me. He will praise me with qualities that are not in me. (ii) The one who hates me. His enmity towards me will cause him to slander me.” [Musnad Ahmad]

These words of Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ ‘Two types of people concerning me will be destroyed. (i) The one who transgresses the bounds in his love for me. He will praise me with qualities that are not in me. (ii) The one who hates me. His enmity towards me will cause him to slander me’ have been narrated through several chains of narration. **In fact, they are also found in the books of the Shia.** It is mentioned with different words in Nahj-ul-Balagha. **One narration has the following words, ‘The group that adopts the middle way regarding me is the group that is correct.’** Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ also said, “You must follow (the belief) which the majority of the Muslims hold with regard to me.”

We learn from this statement that the belief of the Ahl-us-Sunnah wal Jama'ah with regards to Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ is the correct one because this is the group that follows the middle path. It is the Khawarij (who hated Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) and the Shia (who transgressed the bounds in their love for Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ). These are the two groups that are headed for destruction in the light of the statement of Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

The Khawarij are so antagonistic towards Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ that they even reject his being a Muslim. The Shia have transgressed the bounds in their love for him to such an extent that a group of them consider him to be divine.

The Ithna Ash'ariyya Shia consider Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ to be equal to Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ in every characteristic and attribute. **Hidden in this is their rejection of the Khatm-e-Nubuwwah, i.e. the finality of the Nubuwwah of Rasulullah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.** They also consider Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ to be superior than the Ambiya عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ.

The similarity of Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ with Sayyiduna Isa عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ is to the degree that just as the enemies of Sayyiduna Isa عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ came first and those who transgressed in their love for

him gained ascendancy later on. The enemies of Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, i.e. the Khawarij, came first, and the Shia came later. The relationship between the Khawarij and the Shia is exactly like that between the Jews and the Christians. In other words, just as the Jews reject a true Nabi of Allah and the Christians take the Nabi of Allah to be the son of Allah (thereby committing polytheism), the Khawarij reject a true Sahabi of Rasulallah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ, whilst the Shia are engulfed in polytheism, where some of them consider Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ to be a divine being and others consider him to be a Messenger.

We must also bear in mind that the Shia of Kufa had fabricated reports about Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. **Some Hadith scholars have counted up to three hundred thousand fabricated reports about Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ and the Ahl-ul-Bayt.** Hence, it is of utmost importance to verify the reports about the Sahabah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ and the Ahl-ul-Bayt. May Allah be pleased with them all.

The Muslims follow the middle path, away from the excesses of the Jews and the Christians. In the same way, the Ahl-us-Sunnah wal Jama'ah follows the middle path between the excesses of the Khawarij and the Shia. All praise is for Allah for including us amongst the Ahl-us-Sunnah wal Jama'ah.

May Allah keep us steadfast on the straight path and guide all those who have fallen into extremes. Amīn.

Sources:

1. The Khulafa e Rashidin – Their Lives & Achievements, Maulānā Abdush-Shakur Lucknowi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ
2. Talbis Iblis, Ibn Jawzi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ

