



Today, we are here in remembrance of Martyred Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws}, Ali bin AbiTalib^{asws}, the Divine light of Allah^{asws}, which may never be extinguished. When Ali^{asws} introduces God^{azwj}, listeners wonder who else could be their Lord^{azwj} but when Imam Ali^{asws} introduces himself, listeners are again bewildered who else may be their Lord^{azwj} but Ali^{asws} clarifies again and again I am not Him^{azwj} but His^{azwj} first creation, take me as His^{azwj} reflection, His^{azwj} power, His^{azwj} authority but Not Him^{azwj}. Prophet Mohammed^{saww} says, Ali you and me are directly connected to God^{azwj} like sun's rays to the sun. Lets listen to few words from Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws}'s rarely touched sermons:

Tariq bin Shihab, once asked: "Ya Ameer al-Momineen^{asws}", please explain the virtues of an Imam, Ameer al-Momineen^{asws} replied:

"O Tariq! The Imam is the 'Kalima-tul-Allah' words of Allah; 'Hujat-u-Allah' the proof of Allah; 'Waj-Allah' the direction to Allah; 'Noor-Allah' the light of Allah; 'Hijab-Allah' the veil of Allah and 'Aiat-Allah' the sign of Allah. He^{asws} is chosen by Allah^{azwj} who bestows onto him whatever qualities He^{azwj} chooses, and Makes it compulsory on all His creatures to obey him-the Imam. Thus, he is Allah^{azwj}'s appointed ruler in the heavens and on the earth. Allah^{azwj} has taken a covenant regarding this from all His servants. Whosoever, precedes the Imam has denied established kingdom of Allah^{azwj}. An Imam can act as he finds it appropriate, however his actions only corresponds to the will of Allah^{azwj}.

Inscribed on his upper limb is the- declaration: 'The words of Allah^{azwj} are accomplished with truth and justice'. A column of light (stretching) from the earth to the sky is created for him, in which he witnesses the actions of mankind. He is enrobed in the cloak of power and dignity; he knows what is in the minds and has access to the unseen-al-Ghayb.

The Imam^{asws}, is the guide for the seekers of the truth, an inspiration for the rightly guided, an established path for the travellers to Allah^{azwj} and a radiant sun in the hearts of al-Arifoon- the devotees of Allah^{azwj}. His 'Wilayah' is the vehicle leading to salvation. Wilayah is to safeguard followers from danger and disasters and the management of their all affairs, even down to demarcating the days and the months.

In another Sermon Ali^{asws} says: I am the 'Lohay-Mahfooz' – the Divine Register, I am the 'one' about whom Rasool Allah^{saww} says, 'Ya! Ali your conduct is the 'Sirat-e-Mustaqeem' and your judgement is, in fact, the verdict of the Lord^{azwj}. I am the companion of 'First Adam' and I am the helper of 'first Nuh'.

I am the Symbol of Allah^{azwj}, Commands and treasurer of Allah^{azwj}. I give life to the dead and I take them to the valley of death, and again life stems from my commands. I provide sustenance and I listen to the calls of all creatures. Rasool Allah^{saww} depicted me as 'Zulqarnain' of his nation. I am the master of that camel which was sent to Prophet Saleh^{as}. I am the 'one' who will blow the whistle on Doom's day, which will be diabolical for the non-believers and there will not be any

moment of relief. I am the 'Ism-e-Azam' which, is 'Kaf-ha-ya-ain-suad' . I am the 'one' who conversed from the cradle of Jesus^{as}. I am the 'one' who spoke with righteous Josef^{as} while he was very young, I am inimitable and there is no one to bear resemblance to me. I am the severe wrath of Allah^{azwj} -for His enemies. I will remain until the end and will be glorified by my Lord^{azwj} and assemble everyone and bring about the final day of judgement. I am one of those branches of 'Olive', for which Allah^{azwj} Says: By the Fig tree and the Olive.

I am the 'one' who should be acknowledged (by a believer), without accepting my Divine authority; the deeds of worshipers are worthless. I am that 'Aiat-ul-Kubra' which was shown to Pharaoh when he was among the wrong doers. I am the 'one' who enjoys 'seventy-two' names of Allah^{azwj}. I am the 'Kabah, Bait-ul-Haram and bait-ul-Tayaq' , for which Allah^{azwj} says, 'worship the 'Rab' of these houses'. I am the Mohammed Mustafa^{saww} and I am the Ali Murtaza^{asws}, just as Mohammed^{saww} has said, 'Ali^{asws} is from me'. I am the praiseworthy of 'Ruh-ul-Quds' , I am the 'one' who cannot be represented by a name or resembled with any entity.

The faith –Aiman, of a believer will not attain the level of perfection unless and until he would recognise me as a Noor - the Light. When someone knows me as Noor, only then he would truly attained faith; he is the one whose heart has been tested with the true faith, whose chest is dilated in true Islám and whose faith is based on discernment. Thus, he becomes an Arif –staunch believer and embraces faith with peace of mind. But that, He who fell short of this cognition -- he will be a doubter, immersed in disbelief.

Amir-ul-momaneen says to his close disciples: O Salmán! O Jandáb! A 'Momin' who has been tested by Allah^{azwj} is that who instantly accepts our 'Amr' -attributes and he does not reject any matter pertaining to ourselves, Allah^{azwj} helps him through opening up his 'heart'. He will not exhibit an element of doubt or suspicion. However, he who quibbles with 'why and how' becomes a disbeliever. Thus be submissive to 'Amr-e-Allah' we are, verily, the 'Amr Allah' – the Cause of Allah^{azwj}! O Salmán! Allah^{azwj}, Says: "do not seek Allah^{azwj} 's help but through patience and prayer: it is indeed hard except for those who possess a humble spirit." "Patience" is Muhammad^{saww} and "Prayer" is my Wilayat.

O Salmán! we are those 'Secrets' of Allah^{azwj} that will not remain hidden. We are His light that can never be extinguished, And we are His those 'bounties' which can never be matched. Among us, our first is Muhammad, our median is Muhammad, in fact, we are all Muhammad! He who recognises us in this manner, surely, attains Faith.

O Salmán! The slain among us is not dead and can never be eliminated. The one who is in occultation- is amongst us and performs his duties as we did. We do not come to the world through maternal/paternal relationship and no one is comparable to us. I am the one who spoke through the voice of Jesus^{as} when he was born. I am the Noah^{as}. I am the Abraham^{as}. I am the Sálíh^{as} who possessed the She-Camel, as one of Allah's^{azwj} Signs.

I am the one who caused the commotion. I also bring the trembling and would cause the 'final quake'. I am the 'Protected Tablet' (Lowhay Mahfooz) and its all

knowledge has originates from me. I appear in any appearances as per wish of Allah^{azwj}. Whoever, observed these manifestations, has seen me, and by looking at me one observes the signs of Allah^{azwj}. In essence, we-the Masomeen^{asws} are the Noor of Allah^{azwj} that can never be consumed or be subjected to evolution.

O Salmán! all Prophets have gained honour due to us. You can praise us with whatever titles and attributes but do not ascribe 'Rabuviat' to us (we have been created). People find salvation through us and reach destruction due to us (for bearing animosity to us).

O Salmán! he who firmly believes in all what I presented and explained, is that 'Momin' whose 'Qalab' -heart has been tested by Allah^{azwj} with 'Aiman'. And he is pleased with our attributes. But whoever doubts and hesitates, he has reneged on the Faith, although he may pronounce that he believes in my Wiláyat.

O Salmán! myself, and the Divine guides from my family, the Imáms, are the hidden mystery of Allah^{azwj} and His^{azwj} nominated guardians. We are all one, our 'Amr' (cause/wish) is one, our mystery is one. Thus do not try to find distinctions among us or you will loose faith. We will keep on appearing in all times and have our manifestation in every age as per Allah^{azwj}'s will. Woe be onto the one who denies us! None shall refute these, except the one whose heart, eyes and hearing have been sealed.

Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws} reports, Prophet Mohammed^{saww}, delivered an eloquent sermon on the blessings of the month of Ramazan. After offering my prayers, I^{asws} asked from Prophet^{saww}: Ya messenger of Allah^{saww} what should be our conduct, to reap the blessings of this month? Prophet^{saww} replied Ya Abul Hassan^{asws} the better conduct in this pious month would be to refrain from prohibitions of Allah^{azwj}, and then started crying out of intense grief. I asked: Ya Rasool Allah^{saww} what has brought you to this state of crying and mourning? Prophet^{saww} replied: Ya Ali^{asws}! I am crying because your guiltless blood will be shed in this sacred month, I can foresee, you are praying to Lord^{azwj} and the most cruel person, among the earlier and subsequent comes out to strike you on your forehead and your beard is dyed red in your blood. Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws} asked: Ya Rasool Allah^{saww} Will that occur in the protection of my religion? Prophet^{saww} replied: Indeed, in fulfilment of your religion. And added: Ya Ali^{asws}! Who killed you is like the one who has killed me, and whoever holds grudges against you, he has animosity against me, and whoever is disrespectful to you, he has insulted me, this is because you are from me and I am from yourself. Your soul is from my soul and Allah^{azwj} has created your flesh and my body out of the same clay and has awarded both of us with unique distinctions, Allah^{azwj} chose me for the communication of His^{azwj} message and you for its implementation and protection (Prophet hood and Immamat). Whoever denies your Guardianship, he denies my prophet hood, Ya Ali^{asws}! You are my son-in-law and the custodian and saviour of my descendants. In my life and after me, my successor for my nation, Your commands are my instructions and your forbiddance is my forbiddance. I say it by the One that awarded me with the Prophet-hood and made me the Best among His Creation, You are Allah^{azwj}'s proof for Lord's^{azwj} creatures, And trustee of His^{azwj} secrets, and guardian of His^{azwj} slaves.

Alas! Muslims of Sakifa conspired again to extinguish the light of Allah^{asws}. Early on the morning of the 19th of Ramazan¹ almost 1400 years ago, in Kufa, Iraq, Son of Muljim was hired to assassinate Ali^{asws} with a poison-treated sword. Whilst at prayer the malicious sword of Ibn Muljam^{L.A.2} descended on Ali^{asws}. Despite receiving a very deep cut to his head and bleeding profusely, Imam Ali^{asws} completed the remaining two prostrations of his morning prayer. His blood-drenched lips parted into thanks giving supplications and he said; *'By the Lord of Qa'ba! I have succeeded! I thank You for rewarding me with martyrdom, how Kind and Gracious You are: May Your Mercy further lead me to the realm of Your Grace and Benevolence'*.³

It is the same sacred night in which Jesus, Moses and Yahya bin Zakaiya were taken back from this mortal world.

Mohammed bin Hanfia narrates, according to Imam Ali^{asws}'s will, Imam^{asws} was enshrouded in five garments. AlHassan^{asws} and Hussain^{asws} lifted their father's coffin from the front and no one was allowed to go at rear, angels Gabriel and Michael raised it from the rear. As we were heading towards Najf, everything on earth, including palm trees and gate of Kufa, were observed to be bowing down in respect of martyred Ali^{asws}. Upon reaching Najf, we found a grave was already prepared for Ali^{asws} with a message: We welcome you 'Ya Amir-ul-Momaneen^{asws}', Prophets Nuh^{as} and Adam^{as}. Amir-ul-momaneen^{asws} was buried there before the dawn.

The narrator says, the first mourner who visited Ali^{asws}'s grave was Sasa Bin Souhan Al Abdi^{fa}, he put one hand on his heart and lifted a stone from the other and hit it on his head while crying out of immense grief, blood started flowing, he exclaimed May I be sacrificed in your way! He was the first who did Tatbeer, he continued to observe Tatbeer later in his life.⁴

¹ Also spelled Ramadhan

² L.A.-May Allah's curse be upon them

³ Bihar Vol-42 Page 239

⁴ Bihar VOL-42 Page 294