

## GHADEER LECTURE SERIES

### Lecture 9: QURANIC VERSES ON IMAMAT

#### VERSE OF COMPLETION OF RELIGION

We are discussing about the Imamatus of Ameerul Momineen (a.s) in the light of the verses of Holy Quran. We have spoken about the **Verse of Wilayat**, **Verse of Ulil Amr** and **Verse of Tableegh**. In continuation of that discussion, today we speak about the fourth verse, which famous as the **Verse of Completion of Religion**.

الْيَوْمَ يَكْفُرُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنْ دِينِكُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِ الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

*“.... **This day** have those who disbelieve despaired of your religion, so fear them not, and fear Me. **This day** have I perfected for you your religion and completed My favor on you and chosen for you Islam as a religion....”<sup>1</sup>*

#### Important points from the above verse

1. The word **“this day”** has been used twice in the above verse. It shows the significance of the event that occurred on that day. Which is that day which Quran has mentioned twice in this verse and has spoken so highly about? It is the day when,
  - the polytheists have lost all hope of the downfall of Islam. They are now demoralised about the destruction of Islam.
  - Allah has perfected His religion
  - Allah has completed His bounties
  - Allah is satisfied with Islam as His religion

Then the word “this day” that is used twice in this verse bears these four characteristics.

2. Who are the “polytheists” who are being implied in this verse? Because, everyone is unanimous that this verse was revealed during the final pilgrimage of Holy Prophet

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<sup>1</sup> Surah Maidah, v 3

(s.a.w.a). Besides the fact that this Surah is a Madani, all scholars agree that this verse is related to the last days of the life of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) – when the entire Arab Peninsula – was following Islam. Thus, the “polytheists” in this verse does not point to those who deny Allah or His Messenger. Rather, they are those who object (and deny) the orders of Allah.

This group of dissenters were secretly wanting the decline of Islam. Right from the beginning of Islam, by waging wars and creating obstacles, they have tried to prevent the progress of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) and the expansion of Islam. But they were hopeful that with his advancing age, Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) would leave this world one day and then they would get the opportunity to destroy Islam. As the Holy Quran says

أَمْ يَقُولُونَ شَاعِرٌ نَّتَرَبَّصُ بِهِ رَيْبَ الْمُنُونِ

*“Or do they say: A poet, we wait for him the evil accidents of time.”<sup>2</sup>*

They were wishing (and waiting) for the demise of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a). But on the day of Ghadeer, when Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) announced the successorship of H. Ali (a.s), and then asked the people to give allegiance to him (a.s) in his (s.a.w.a) presence, these ‘polytheists’ became despaired. They knew that H. Ali (a.s) was no less than Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) in his firmness and determination. If they could not harm Islam in the life of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) due his steadfastness, then after his death too, due to the presence of H. Ali (a.s), they would never be able to destroy Islam. Hence, it was this wish of the polytheists that turned into despair by the appointment of H. Ali (a.s) as the caliph of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) on the day of Ghadeer.

3. All scholars and historians are unanimous that this verse - which was revealed at the place of Ghadeer Khum, and which was revealed at the end of the sermon in which Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) announced the successorship of H. Ali (a.s) - indicates the completion of religion on that day. It means that the Prophethood of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) was perfected by the Wilayat of Ameerul Momineen (a.s).

This is an essential part of belief. That any person who is need of something, after the demise of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a), should turn to H. Ali (a.s) since he is the heir of the

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<sup>2</sup> Surah Tur, v 30

knowledge of Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) and has all power and authority. In this way the religion of Islam, by the appointment and Wilayat of H. Ali (a.s) had been perfected and completed

4. The greatest Divine bounty, after Tauheed and Nabuwat, is the Wilayat of Ameerul Momineen (a.s). In fact without this Wilayat, even Tauheed, Quran etc are unacceptable to Allah. There are many ahadees on this topic, one of which is ***'The one who dies without recognising the Imam of his time, has died the death of ignorance.'***
5. ***'I am satisfied with Islam as a religion'*** It means that a religion devoid of Wilayat of Ameerul Momineen (a.s) is not liked by Allah and is against His satisfaction. Over here we would like to mention verse 55 of Surah Noor, which speaks about the reappearance of Imam Zamana (a.s) and for whom both Shias and Sunnis are keenly awaiting. This verse speaks about the sacred government of Imam and it's attributes. The Hq says in this verse

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَ  
لِيُبَيِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلِيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا وَمَنْ  
كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

*"Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them...."*<sup>3</sup>

In this verse, Allah has promised three things. The first is universal caliphate, which is presently not our discussion. The second is that He will grant power and authority to that religion with which ***"He is satisfied"***. Then which is the religion with which He is satisfied? He has introduced that religion in the Verse of Completion of Religion.

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<sup>3</sup> Surah Noor, v 55