

IN HIS NAME & BY THE REMEMBRANCE OF HIS LAST HUJJAT (A.T.F.S)

GHADEER LECTURE SERIES

Lecture 20: QURANIC VERSES ON IMAMAT

VERSE OF MAWADDAH

OBJECTIONS AND QUERIES

1st Question

Ibn Taimiyyah Harrani, the ideological founder of the Wahabi sect, writes in his book,

The ‘Verse of Mawaddah’ cannot be ascribed to the Ahle Bait (a.s). This verse is part of Surah Shura (Surah no 42), which is ‘Makki’ Surah (I.e., revealed in Mecca). At that time Ameerul Momineen (a.s) had not married H Zahra (s.a). Neither were Imam Hasan (a.s), nor Imam Husain (a.s) were born. Hence, there was no possibility of the people being invited to love them.

Reply

According to Qurtubi’s explanation –a recognised scholar of the Ahle Sunnah – the entire Surah Shura is not Makki. Four of its verses are Madani. The ‘Verse of Mawaddah’ is one of them. Many similar instances can be found in the Holy Quran. Some chapters are Makki with a few Madani verses and vice versa.

This point takes care of Ibn Taimiyyah’s objection.

2nd Question

This noble verse exhorts the Muslims to have love and affection for the ‘near relatives of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a). Yet, it does not specify the extent of this love. What is the degree of love expected to be shown towards the ‘near relatives?’ What is the scope of the love that must be shown towards Ameerul Momineen (a.s), Sayed Shohdah (a.s), and today towards Imam Zamana (a.s)? The verse is silent on this.

Reply

We can reply to this question with the help of a Quranic verse, wherein Allah says,

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَتَّخِذُ مِن دُونِ اللَّهِ أَندَادًا يُحِبُّونَهُمْ كَحُبِّ اللَّهِ وَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَشَدُّ حُبًّا لِلَّهِ

“And there are some among men who take for themselves objects of worship besides Allah, whom they love as they love Allah, and those who believe are stronger in love for Allah...”

This verse implies that the extent of our love for Ameerul Momineen (a.s), H Zahra (s.a) and her (s.a) progeny, who are the Hujjat of Allah, should exceed our love for our parents. Therefore, our love for the ‘family’ of Allah should be greater than our love for our spouse and children.

At another place in the Holy Quran, Surah Taubah v 24, we find the words of Allah,

قُلْ إِن كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ

Say: If your fathers and your sons and your brethren and your mates and your kinsfolk and property which you have acquired, and the slackness of trade which you fear and dwellings which you like, are dearer to you than Allah and His Apostle and striving in His way, then wait till Allah brings about His command: and Allah does not guide the transgressing people.¹

Hence our love and attachment for Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) and his Ahle Bait (a.s) should be higher than our fondness for the world and its adornments, of which eight instances have been mentioned in the above verse.

¹ Surah Taubah, v 24

3rd Question

What is the love of Ahle Bait (a.s) that is expected from a person in the light of the Verse of Mawaddah?

Reply

The love of Ahle Bait (a.s) has many aspects. In the general sense, it reflects in a person adopting the manners of Ahle Bait (a.s) in all walks of life. He must be completely obedient and submissive to them. It is for this reason that children have the physical features, views and approach of their parents. These characteristics are due to their love for their parents. This love becomes the catalyst for the children adopting the traits of their parents. It is the love that compels a child to be obedient to his parents. The more a child loves his parents, the more he will be subservient to them.

The Holy Quran says

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ

Say: If you love Allah, then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your faults, and Allah is Forgiving, Merciful

This verse implies that obedience and refraining from sins and disobedience is the natural consequence of love. Therefore, the one who loves the Ahle Bait (a.s) will not go against their wishes and orders and will not sin. We can say that love is two types – *False love* and *True Love*.

Love that leads to compatibility, obedience and submission is true love. Another sign of true love is to detest the enemies of the one we love (i.e. the beloved). If you love the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a) then it is not possible for you to love his (s.a.w.a) enemies.

In a tradition, it has come

وَأَعْدَاؤُكَ عَدُوُّكَ وَعَدُوُّ صَدِيقِكَ وَصَدِيقُ عَدُوِّكَ

And your enemy, (a) your enemy (b) the enemy of your friend (c) the friend of your enemy ²

² Behaar, vol 71, pg 164 (Beirut ed)

In Surah Mujadalah, in the last verse, the Holy Quran says,

لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ أُولَئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُم بِرُوحٍ مِّنْهُ

“Thou wilt not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day, loving those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, even though they were their fathers or their sons, or their brothers, or their kindred. For such, He has written Faith in their hearts and strengthened them with a spirit from Himself.....”³

Based on this verse, the true love of Ahle Bait (a.s) demands the hatred of their opponents and enemies. They were those who usurped their (a.s) rights, killed and poisoned them (a.s) cannot be a friend of those who love the Ahle Bait (a.s). Therefore, it cannot happen that the Shia does not have hatred and loathing against the enemies of Ahle Bait (a.s).

4th Question

How can we prove the Imamatus of Ahle Bait (a.s) by the Verse of Mawwadah?

In the views of all Shia scholars, one of the certain and affirmative conclusions of the ‘Verse of Mawaddah’ is the implicit assertion of Imamatus and caliphate of the Ahle Bait (a.s). The Holy Quran has ordered the entire Muslim nation to love Hazrat Zahra (s.a), Ameerul Momineen (a.s) and their infallible progeny (a.s), right up to Imam Zamana (a.s). Everyone should love them. They are superior to everyone, after Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a). True love demands complete and absolute obedience. As a result, they (a.s) are the rulers and leaders of the Muslim nation. Hence, the Verse of Mawaddah not only urges us to have a love of the Ahle Bait (a.s), but it also conveys their Imamatus, caliphate and complete obedience.

O Allah! For the sake of Mohammad and his progeny (a.s), hasten the reappearance of Imam Zamana (a.s). Increase our love and attachment towards the Ahle Bait (a.s) since this love is a recompense of the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a)

³ Surah Mujadalah, v 22