**بسم الله الرّحمن الرّحیم**

Ayats pertaining to Imamate

Part 11

Dr. Qandehari

The first verses of Surah Ma'arij

The fifth verse of the Holy Qur'an, which deals with the Imamate and guardianship of the Commander of the Faithful, is the first verses of Surah Ma'arij:

سَأَلَ سَائِلٌ بِعَذَابٍ وَاقِعٍ {1}

لِلْكَافِرِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَافِعٌ {2}

مِنَ اللَّهِ ذِي الْمَعَارِجِ {3}

**{Al-Maárij (70): 1-3}** One demanding, demanded the chastisement which must befall
The unbelievers-- there is none to avert it—

(A Penalty) from Allah, Lord of the Ways of Ascent.

One petitioner demanded the torment that occurred. This is a punishment for the disbelievers, and no one can avert it. From the Almighty Allah, whose angels ascend to the heavens.

In the Sha’ne Nozool (honor of the revelation) of this verse, the story of which took place after the end of the Ghadir incident, Sunni scholars have quoted it in their commentary books and history, which is about 30 works, including the great Sunni commentator Abu Ishaq al-Thalabi in his commentary on Al-Kashf and Al-Bayan. :

When the incident of the proclamation of Amir al-Mu'minin (A.S) took place next to Ghadir Khumm, a large crowd pledged allegiance to him. A person whose name has been quoted in history as Harith ibn Nu'man Fahri or Harth ibn Nu'man al-Fahri, Jabir ibn Nadr or Nadr ibn Harith. He is the one whose infidel father was killed by Imam Ali (A.S) in the battle of Badr. This person had a strange grudge and enmity against the Commander of the Faithful. He came to the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A) with a number of his companions. Then, he said:

"O Muhammad, you asked us to say: There is no God but Allah and we said; Then you asked us to say: You are the messenger of Allah, which we said, against our will and desire. Then you said, perform Hajj, we performed it. Then you said, whoever is given two hundred dirhams, gives one-fifth of it annually, we did so. Then you appointed your cousin as your leader and said, "Whoever I am his Mawla, then Ali is his master also. O God, love his lover and be the enemy of his enemy, and help his helper, and humiliate his loser! You made his guardianship obligatory for everyone like your guardianship Is these (these statements) from you or from Allah?”

The Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A) said: "It is from Allah"!

Harith Ibn-e-Nu’man repeated it three times. So, he got up in anger and left, while he said: "O God, if what Muhammad said is true, throw a stone at us from the sky, so that it will be a calamity for the first and a sign and example for the last. Moreover, if the words of Muhammad were false, send down your calamity on him.

Then he opened the knots of his camel, which he had tied it, and rode on it.

And when he came out of Abtah, the Almighty Allah threw a stone from the sky at him, which hit him on the head and came out of his anus. He fell to the ground and died. Then, the Almighty Allah revealed this verse:

سَأَلَ سَائِلٌ بِعَذَابٍ وَاقِعٍ

**{Al-Maárij (70): 1}** One demanding, demanded the chastisement which must befall”

When he met the Holy Prophet (S.A), he tied his camel in a corner; and in the presence of the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A), he said:

"O Muhammad, you ordered and asked us to testify to Monotheism and say: There is no God but Allah and we accepted and said;

Then, you ordered us and asked us to testify to your Prophethood and say: You are the Messenger of Allah, which we accepted and said, although it was against our will and desire.

Then you asked us to perform Hajj, we performed it.

Then you said, whoever is given two hundred dirhams, gives one-fifth of it annually, we did so.

Though we did all that you had ordered us to do, then too, you were not satisfied with all of our works.

Then, you took the hands of your cousin Ali Ibn-e-Abi Talib, raised it, appointed him as the leader, and said, "Whoever I am his Mawla, then Ali is his master also. O Allah, love his lover and be the enemy of his enemy; help him who help him; and abandon him one who forsakes and leaves him! You made his Guardianship obligatory for everyone like your Guardianship!

O Mohammad, tell me, what you said about Ali is from your side or is this a divine command?

The Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A), who had become extremely disappointed and displeased, replied:

“I swear by the Unique Divine Lord. This is the word of the Almighty Allah and not from me”. Moreover, his holiness (S.A) emphasized this matter three times.

The questioner stood up, saying: “God, if what your Messenger says about the Imamate and Guardianship of Ali is true, then send a stone from the sky or send a torment on me so that I do not see the days of the Imamate and Wilayat of Ali."

The narrator says: “I swear by Allah that as soon as he asked for the chastisement, he went towards his camel to ride. At that moment, the Almighty Allah sent a stone from the sky. This stone hit him on the head and came out of his body and he died the death of an infidel.

It was at this moment that this holy verse was revealed. In the Sha’ne Nozool and honor of this Divine Revelation, about thirty Sunni scholars have testified and narrated this narration in various ways. This verse of the Holy Quran is the miracle of the Day of Ghadir.

Therefore, according to the Sha’ne Nozool of the revelation,

1. First, the perception of Nadr Ibn-e-Harith Fahri from what he had heard about the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A) was once again confirmed by his holiness (S.A). It was about the subject of Ghadir and the confirmation and acknowledgement about the Wilayat and Guardianship of the Commander of the Faithful’s, Imam Ali Ibn-e-Abi Talib (A.S).
2. The second point that can be deduced from this verse of the Holy Quran is that one who believes in Monotheism and acknowledges the Prophethood of the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A). He performs the prayers, keeps the fast, performs the Hajj, pays the Zakat and practices all the Ahkam and rules of Islam as has been ordained by the Almighty Allah through His Holy Messenger (S.A). However, he denies and does not believe in the Wilayat and Guardianship of Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (A.S). The Holy Qur'an interprets and defines such a person as a Kafir and an infidel.

It is evidently clear that a person who denies the rulings of the Almighty Allah and the verses revealed on the day of Ghadir;

a) Such as the verse of Tableegh;

b) The verse of Ekmaal (completing and perfecting the religion);

c) The verse of the one who demands to be chastised (Saála Saahel); and

d) The sermon of the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A) in honor of the Commander of the Faithful Ali (A.S).

Thus, such a person is not considered a true Muslim. In fact, he does not believes in the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A) Even though like Harith ibn Nu'man Fahri, he outwardly seems to be a Muslim. Such a person does not really have faith in the Almighty Allah and the Day of Resurrection. About such a person, the Holy Qur'an says in such a case:

**لَلْكَافِرِينَ لَيْسَ لَهُ دَافِعٌ**

**{Al-Maárij (70): 1-3}** The unbelievers; there is none to avert it.

That is, Harith Ibn Nu'man Fahri, who acknowledges and testifies about Monotheism and Prophethood. He apparently follows the rulings of Islam. Nevertheless, a person with such a faith is considered a Kafir and an infidel. The reason is that he denies the verses of the Holy Qur'an and the sermons of the Holy Messenger of Allah (S.A) on the day of Ghadir. The sermon of his holiness (S.A) testifies that one who does not believe in the Wilayat and Guardianship of Amir al-Mu'minin Ali (A.S) is a Kafir and an infidel.

The third point that is evidently clear from the verse of the Holy Quran is that disbelievers to this faith will be subjected to the worst Divine chastisement. Hence, one who does not believe and denies the Divine commandment about the Imamate and Guardianship of the Commander of the Faithful (A.S) will be severely punished by the Divine Lord.

These are the points that can be extracted from this verse of the Holy Quran. It can be confirmed by many other Divine verses and Prophetic narrations.

O Allah. By the Haq of the Commander of the Faithful, hasten the Faraj and advent of Imam Zaman (A.J). Make us thankful and grateful in being under the Wilayat and the Guardianship of Amir-ul-Mu’minin and his pure Progeny. In addition, we express our thankfulness for being under the Wilayat of Imam Zaman (A.J).