

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام) في معنى الانتصار قالوا: لما انتهت إلى أمير المؤمنين (عليه السلام) أبناء السقيفة بعد وفاة رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله)، قال (عليه السلام): ما قالت الانتصار؟ قالوا: قالت: منا أمير ومنكم أمير، قال (عليه السلام):

When after the death of the Prophet news reached Amīr al-mu'minīn about the happening in Saqīfah of Bani Sā'idah, [1] he enquired what the anṣār said. People said that they were asking for one chief from among them and one from the others, Amīr al-mu'minīn said:

قال (عليه السلام): فهلاً احتججتم عليهم: بأن رسول الله (صلى الله عليه وآله) وصى بأن يحسن إلي محسنهم، ويتجاوز عن مسيئتهم؟ قالوا: وما في هذا من الحجة عليهم؟ فقال (عليه السلام): لو كانت الامارة فيهم لم تكن الوصية بهم. ثم قال: فماذا قالت قريش؟ قالوا: احتجت بأنها شجرة الرسول (صلى الله عليه وآله). فقال (عليه السلام): احتجوا بالشجرة، وأضاعوا الثمرة.

“Why did you not argue against them (anṣār) that the Prophet had left his will that whoever is good among anṣār should be treated well and whoever is bad he should be forgiven.” People said : “What is there against them in it?” Amīr al-mu'minīn said : “If the Government was for them there should have been no will in their favour.” Then he said : “What did the Quraysh plead?” People said : “They argued that they belong to the lineal tree of the Prophet.” Then Amīr al-mu'minīn said : “They argued with the tree but spoiled the fruits.”

Footnote :

[1] From what happened in the Saqīfah of Bani Sā'idah it appears that the greatest argument of muhajirun against anṣār and the basis of the former's success was this very point that since they were the kith and kin of the Prophet no one else could deserve the Caliphate. On this very ground the big crowd of anṣār became ready to lay down their weapons before three muhajirun, and the latter succeeded in winning the Caliphate by presenting their distinction of descent. Thus in connection with the events of Saqīfah aṭ-Ṭabarī writes that when the anṣār assembled in Saqīfah of Bani Sā'idah to swear allegiance on the hand of Sa'd ibn 'Ubadah, somehow Abu Bakr, 'Umar and Abu 'Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh also got the hint and reached there. 'Umar had thought out something for this occasion and he rose to speak but Abu Bakr stopped him, and he himself stood up. After praise of Allāh and the immigration of the muhajirun and their precedence in Islam he said: They are those who worshipped Allāh first of all and accepted belief in Allāh and his Prophet's friends and his Kith and Kin. These alone therefore most deserve the Caliphate. Whoever clashes with them commits excess.

When Abu Bakr finished his speech al-Ḥubāb ibn al-Mundhir stood up and, turning

to the anṣār, he said : “O group of anṣār! Do not give your reins in the hands of others. The populace is under your care. You are men of honour, wealth and tribe and gathering. If the muhajirun have precedence over you in some matters you too have precedence over them in other matters. You gave them refuge in your houses. You are the fighting arm of Islam. With your help Islam stood on its own feet. In your cities prayer of Allāh was established with freedom. Save yourselves from division and dispersion and stick to your right unitedly. If the muhajirun do not concede to your right tell them there should be one chief from us and one from them.”

No sooner al-Ḥubāb sat down after saying this then ‘Umar rose and spoke thus : This can’t be that there be two rulers at one time. By Allāh, the Arabs will never agree to have you as the head of the state since the Prophet was not from amongst you. Certainly, the Arabs will not care the least objection in that the Caliphate is allowed to one in whose house Prophethood rests so that the ruler should also be from the same house. For those who dissent clear arguments can be put forth. Whoever comes in conflict with us in the matter of the authority and rulership of Muḥammad (S) he is leaning towards wrong, is a sinner and is falling into destruction.

After ‘Umar, al-Ḥubāb again stood up and said to the anṣār, “Look, stick to your point and do not pay heed to the views of this man or his supporters. They want to trample your right, if they do not consent turn him and them out of your cities and appropriate the Caliphate. Who else than you can deserve it more?”

When al-Ḥubāb finished, ‘Umar scolded him. There was use of bad words from that side also, and the position began to worsen. On seeing this Abu ‘Ubaydah ibn al-Jarrāh spoke with the intention of cooling down anṣār and to win them over to his side and said : “O anṣār! You are the people who supported us and helped us in every manner. Do not now change your ways and do not give up your behaviour.” But the anṣār refused to change their mind. They were prepared to swear allegiance to Sa’d and people just wanted to approach him when a man of Sa’d’s tribe Bashir ibn ‘Amr al-Khazraji stood up and said:

No doubt we came forward for jihād, and gave support to the religion, but our aim in doing thus was to please Allāh and to obey His Prophet. It does not behoove us to claim superiority and create trouble in the matter of the caliphate. Muḥammad (S) was from Quraysh and they have a greater right for it, and are more appropriate for it.

As soon as Bashir uttered these words division occurred among the anṣār, and this

was his aim, because he could not see a man of his own tribe rising so high. The muhajirun took the best advantage of this division among the anṣār, and 'Umar and Abu 'Ubaydah decided to swear allegiance to Abu Bakr. They had just got forward for the act when Bashir first of all put his hand on that of Abu Bakr and after that 'Umar and Abu 'Ubaydah swore the allegiance. Then the people of Bashir's tribe came and swore allegiance, and trampled Sa'd ibn 'Ubadah under their feet. During this time Amīr al-mu'minīn was occupied in the funeral bath and burial of the Prophet. When afterwards he heard about the assemblage at the Saqīfah and he came to know that the muhajirun had won the score over anṣār by pleading themselves to be from the tribe of the Prophet he uttered the fine sentence that they argued on the lineal tree being one but spoiled its fruits, who are the members of his family. That is, if muhajirun's claim was acceded for being from the lineal tree of the Prophet, how can those who are the fruits of this tree be ignored? It is strange that Abu Bakr who connects with the Prophet in the seventh generation above and 'Umar who connects with him in the ninth generation above may be held of the tribe and family of the Prophet and he who was his first cousin, he is re-fused the status of a brother.