

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام) في ذم أهل العراق [وفيها يوبخهم على ترك القتال، والنصر يكا د يتم، ثم تكذيبهم له]

In condemnation of the people of Iraq

أما بعد يا أهل العراق، فإذ ما أنتم كالمرأة الحامل، حملت فلما أتمت أملاصت، ومات قيّمها، وطال تأيّمها، وورثها أبعدّها. أما والله ما أتيتكم اختياراً، ولكن جئت إليكم سوقاً، ولقد بلغني أنكم تقولون: [علي] يكذب، قاتلكم الله! فعلي من أكذب؟ أعلى الله؟ فأنا أول من آمن به! أم علي نبيه؟ فأنا أول من صدقه! كلا والله، ولكنّها لهجة غبتم عنها، ولم تكونوا من أهلها، ويل امه، كيلا بغير ثمن! لو كان له وعاء، ﴿ولتعلمن نبأه بعد حين﴾

Now then. O people [1] of Iraq! You are like the pregnant woman who, on completion of the period of pregnancy delivers a dead child and her husband is also dead and her period of widowhood is long while only remote relation inherits her. By Allāh, I did not come to you of my own accord. I came to you by force of circumstances. I have come to know that you say ‘Alī speaks lie? May Allāh fight you! Against whom do I speak lie? Whether against Allāh? But I am the first to have believed in him. Whether against His Prophet? But I am the first who testified to him. Certainly not. By Allāh it was a way of expression which failed to appreciate, and you were not capable of it. Woe to you. I am giving out these measures of nice expression free of any cost. I wish there were vessels good enough to hold them. “Certainly, you will understand it after some time.” (Qur’ān, 38:88)

Footnote :

[1] When after Arbitration the Iraqis displayed lethargy and heartlessness in retaliating the continuous attacks of Mu‘āwiyah, Amīr al-mu‘minīn delivered this sermon abusing and admonishing them. Herein he has referred to their being deceived at Şiffīn and has likened them to a woman who has five qualities :

i) Firstly, she is pregnant. This implies that these people had full capability to fight, and were not like a barren woman from whom nothing is expected.

ii) Secondly, she has completed the period of pregnancy. That is they had passed over all difficult stages and had approached near the final goal of Victory.

iii) Thirdly, she wilfully miscarries her child. That is after coming close to victory they came down to settlement and instead of achieving the coveted goal faced disappointment.

iv) Fourthly, her period of widowhood is long. That is they fell in such a state as though they had no protector or patron and they were roaming about without any

ruler.

v) Fifthly, her successors would be distant persons. That is the people of Syria who had no relationship with them would occupy their properties.