

THE EVENT OF ṬAFF

**THE EARLIEST HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE TRAGEDY
OF KARBALĀ'**

**ABŪ MIKHNAF
LŪṬ BIN YAḤYĀ AL-AZDĪ AL-GHĀMIDĪ
AL-KŪFĪ**

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**The Event of Ta'if: The Earliest Historical
Account of the Tragedy of Karbala'**

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قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى:

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا

Indeed, Allah desires to repel all impurity from you, O People of the Household, and purify you with a thorough purification.

(Sūrat al-Aḥzāb 33:33)

Prophetic traditions, mentioned in both Sunni and Shiite most reliable reference books of Hadith and Tafsir (Quranic Exegesis), have confirmed that this holy verse was revealed to exclusively involve the five individuals of the Cloak; namely, Muḥammad, Ali, Fatimah, al-Ḥasan, and al-Ḥusayn, peace be upon them, to whom the term 'Ahl al-Bayt (People of the House)' is solely dedicated.

For instance, refer to the following reference books:

(1) Ahmad ibn Hanbal (d. 241 AH), *al-Muḥad*, 1:331; 4:107; 6:292, 304. (2) *Sahih Muslim* (d. 261 AH), 7:130. (3) Al-Tirmidhi (d. 279 AH), *Sunan*, 5:361 et al. (4) Al-Dulabi (d. 310 AH), *al-Dhurriyyah al-Tahirah al-Nabawiyyah*, pp. 108. (5) Al-Nassa'i (d. 303 AH), *al-Sunan al-Kubra*, 5:P108, 112. (6) al-Hakim al-Naysaburi (d. 405 AH), *al-Mustadrak ala al-Sahihayn*, 2:416, 3:133, 146, 147. (7) al-Zarkashi (d. 794 AH), *al-Burhan*, pp. 197. (8) Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani (d. 852), *Fath al-Bari Sharh Sahih al-Bukhari*, 7:104. (9) Al-Kulayni (d. 328 AH), *Usul al-Kafi*, 1:287. (10) Ibn Babawayh (d. 329 AH), *al-Imamah wa'l-Tahsil*, pp. 47, H. 29. (11) Al-Maghribi (d. 363 AH), *Da'aa'im al-Islam*, pp. 35, 37. (12) Al-Saduq (d. 381 AH), *al-Khisal*, pp. 403, 550. (13) Al-Tusi (d. 460 AH), *al-Amaali*, H. 438, 482, 783.

For more details, refer to the exegesis of the holy verse involved in the following reference books of *tafsir*: (1) Al-Tabari (d. 310 AH), *Book of Tafsir*. (2) Al-Jassass (d. 370 AH), *Ahkam al-Qur'an*. (3) Al-Wahidi (d. 468 AH), *Asbaab al-Nuzul*. (4) Ibn al-Jawzi (d. 597 AH), *Zaad al-Maseer*. (5) Al-Qurtubi (d. 671 AH), *al-Jami' li-Ahkam al-Qur'an*. (6) Ibn Katheer (d. 774 AH), *Book of Tafsir*. (7) Al-Tha'alibi (d. 825 AH), *Book of Tafsir*. (8) Al-Suyouti (d. 911 AH), *al-Durr al-Manthour*. (9) Al-Shawkani (d. 1250 AH), *Fath al-Qadeer*. (10) Al-Ayyashi (d. 320 AH), *Book of Tafsir*. (11) Al-Qummi (d. 329 AH), *Book of Tafsir*. (12) Furt al-Kufi (d. 352 AH), *Book of Tafsir*; in the margin of the exegesis of verse 4:59. (13) Al-Tabrisi (d. 560 AH), *Majma' al-Bayan*, as well as many other reference books of Hadith and Tafsir.

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***THE EVENT OF TAFF
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ACCOUNT
OF THE TRAGEDY OF KARBALA'***

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ:

إِنِّي تَارِكٌ فِيكُمْ الثَّقَلَيْنِ: كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَعِترَتِي أَهْلَ بَيْتِي، مَا
إِنْ تَمَسَّكْتُمْ بِهِمَا لَنْ تَضِلُّوا بَعْدِي أَبَدًا، وَإِنَّهُمَا لَنْ يَفْتَرِقَا
حَتَّى يَرِدَا عَلَيَّ الْحَوْضَ.

The Messenger of Allah (s) said:

"Verily, I am leaving among you two precious things [Thaqalayn]: The Book of Allah and my progeny [ʿItrah], the members of my Household [Ahl al-Bayt]. If you hold fast to them, you shall never go astray. These two will never separate from each other until they meet me at the Pond [ḥawḍ] (of Kawthar)."

Some of its references

Al-Ḥākim an-Nayshābūrī, *Al-Mustadrak ʿalā al-Ṣaḥīḥayn* (Beirut), vol. 3, pp. 109-110, 148, 533

Muslim, *Al-Saḥīḥ*, (English translation), book 31, *ḥadīths* 5920-3

At-Tirmidhī, *Al-Saḥīḥ*, vol. 5, pp. 621-2, *ḥadīths* 3786, 3788; vol. 2, p. 219

An-Nassaʿī, *Khaṣāʾiṣ ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib*, *ḥadīth* 79

Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal, *Al-Musnad*, vol. 3, pp. 14, 17, 26; vol. 3, pp. 26, 59; vol. 4, p. 371; vol. 5, pp. 181-182, 189-190

Ibn al-Athīr, *Jāmiʿ al-Uṣāl*, vol. 1, p. 277

Ibn Kathīr, *Al-Bidāyah waʾn-Nihāyah*, vol. 5, p. 209

Ibn Kathīr, *Tafsīr al-Qurʾān al-ʿAẓīm*, vol. 6, p. 199

Nāṣir ad-Dīn al-Albānī, *Silsilat al-Aḥādīth aṣ-ṣaḥīḥah* (Kuwait: Ad-Dar as-Salafiyyah), vol. 4, pp. 355-358

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PREFACE

In the Name of Allah, the All-beneficent, the All-merciful

The invaluable legacy of the Household [*Ahl al-Bayt*] of the Prophet (may peace be upon them all), as preserved by their followers, is a comprehensive school of thought that embraces all branches of Islamic knowledge. This school has produced many brilliant scholars who have drawn inspiration from this rich and pure resource. It has given many scholars to the Muslim *ummah* who, following in the footsteps of Imāms of the Prophet's Household ('a), have done their best to clear up the doubts raised by various creeds and currents within and without Muslim society and to answer their questions. Throughout the past centuries, they have given well-reasoned answers and clarifications concerning these questions and doubts.

To meet the responsibilities assigned to it, the Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly (ABWA) has embarked on a defense of the sanctity of the Islamic message and its verities, often obscured by the partisans of various sects and creeds as well as by currents hostile to Islam. The Assembly follows in the footsteps of the *Ahl al-Bayt* ('a) and the disciples of their school of thought in its readiness to confront these challenges and tries to be on the frontline in consonance with the demands of every age.

The arguments contained in the works of the scholars belonging to the School of the *Ahl al-Bayt* ('a) are of unique significance. That is because they are based on genuine scholarship and appeal to reason, and avoid prejudice and bias. These arguments address scholars and thinkers in a manner that appeals to healthy minds and wholesome human nature.

To assist the seekers of truth, the Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly has endeavored to present a new phase of these arguments

contained in the studies and translations of the works of contemporary Shī'ah writers and those who have embraced this sublime school of thought through divine blessing.

The Assembly is also engaged in edition and publication of the valuable works of leading Shī'ah scholars of earlier ages to assist the seekers of the truth in discovering the truths which the School of the Prophet's Household ('a) has offered to the entire world.

The Ahl al-Bayt World Assembly looks forward to benefit from the opinions of the readers and their suggestions and constructive criticism in this area.

We also invite scholars, translators and other institutions to assist us in propagating the genuine Islamic teachings as preached by the Prophet Muhammad (S).

We beseech God, the Most High, to accept our humble efforts and to enable us to enhance them under the auspices of Imām al-Mahdī, His vicegerent on the earth (may Allah expedite his advent).

We express our gratitude to Professor Ayatullah Muḥammad Taqī Miṣbāḥ Yazdī, the author of the present book, and Mansoor Limba, its translator. We also thank our colleagues who have participated in producing this work, especially the staff of the Translation Office. ❧

Cultural Affairs Department
Ahl al-Bayt ('a) World Assembly

PREAMBLE

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the worlds. Blessings and peace be on the noblest of His creation, the seal of His messengers, Muḥammad, and upon his pure and distinguished household.

The narration of the lord of the martyrs, Abū ‘Abdillāh, (‘a), is one of the greatest historical events and the everlasting recollections, which has served as a beacon for mankind. This event teaches that true honour and life lies only in confronting the tyrants, even though it may lead to sacrificing lives and being killed at the hands of the oppressors. Such was the slogan of Imam al-Ḥusain (‘a) when he said: “I consider death to be nothing but martyrdom, and living with the tyrants as disgusting.”

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the seekers of eternal felicity to keep this event before their eyes and to deal with the despotic rulers of their time in the manner Imam al-Ḥusain (‘a) dealt with them.

Because of the importance of this great event, [different] researchers have written numerous books on the martyrdom (maqtal) of the lord of the martyrs (‘a). The first of these researchers is Lūṭ bin Yaḥyā bin Sa‘īd, [famously known as] Abū Mikhnaf. He compiled a book in this regard, recounting the events that occurred to al-Ḥusain, his children, brothers and companions (‘a). Shaikh al-Najjāshī describes him in his Rijāl as “The

master of the narrators in Kūfah and a leading figure among them.”¹

The eminent scholar, Shaikh Muhammad Hadi al-Yusufi al-Gharawi has undertaken the research and editing of [Abū Mikhnaf's] work. This institute has endeavoured to publish this work for the benefit of the seekers of knowledge and virtue. We are grateful to Allah, the Glorious, for granting us success in this regard. We would also like to extend our thanks to the honourable researcher of this work for his great efforts. We pray to Allah to grant this institute and him the tawfīq in spreading the teachings of Islam, as He is, indeed, the Hearing, the Responsive.

*The Institute of Islamic Publications Under
The Association of the Instructors
(jāmi'ah al-mudarrisīn)
The Holy City of Qum*

¹ See Introduction for his biography.