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Chapter 56: On Ar-Ridha"s Answer to Abi Qorrah – a friend of the Catholic Archbishop

56–1 Ahmad ibn Ziyad al-Hamadani, Al-Husayn ibn Ibrahim ibn Ahmad ibn Hashem al-Mokattib and Ali ibn Abdullah al-Warraq – may God be pleased with them – narrated that Ali ibn Ibrahim ibn Hashem quoted on the authority of his father, on the authority of Safwan ibn Yahya – Al-Saberi's friend, "Abu Qorrah – a friend of al-Jaseliq – asked me to take him to the meeting held by Ar-Ridha' (a.s.). I requested permission to do so. Then the Imam (a.s.) (granted permission and) said, 'Bring him in.' Then when Abu Qor'rah entered, he kissed the rug beneath the Imam's (a.s.) feet and said, 'This is how our religion has instructed us to treat the noble ones of our era. May God keep you healthy. What is your opinion about one group who has a claim and another group that are known to be just and acknowledge their claim?' The Imam (a.s.) said, 'Their claim is right.' Then Abu Qorrah asked, 'What about another group who have a claim, but they cannot find any witnesses to prove their claim other than themselves?'

The Imam (a.s.) replied, 'Their claim is rejected.' Abu Qorrah man said, 'Now we claim that Jesus is the Spirit of God and His Word which He induced into (the Blessed Lady) Mary (a.s.). The Muslims agree with us regarding this claim. However, the Muslims claim that Muhammad is a Prophet of God, but we do not acknowledge their claim. Therefore what both groups agree upon is better than what they disagree upon.' Then Ar–Ridha' (a.s.) asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'John.' The Imam (a.s.) replied, 'O John! We believe in Jesus (a.s.) – the son of (the Blessed Lady) Mary (a.s.) and the Spirit of God – and His Word who believed in Muhammad (a.s.). Jesus (a.s.) gave the glad tidings of Muhammad's (a.s.) coming, and Jesus (a.s.) himself confessed that he was a servant who has a Lord. Then if the Jesus in whom you believe is not so, and he does not believe in Muhammad (a.s.) and does not believe in being a servant of God and does not accept God the Honorable the Exalted to be his Lord, then we reject such a Jesus. Then how could we reject him and you claim that we agree with each other?' Then (John) Abu Qorrah stood up and told me (i.e. Safwan ibn Yahya), 'Stand up. This meeting was not beneficial for us."

حَدَّتُنا أَحْمَد بْنِ زِياد بْنِ جَعْفَر الهَمْدانِيَّ وَالحُسَيْنِ بْنِ إِبْراهِيم بْنِ هَاشِم الْمُكتب وَعَلِيّ بْنِ عَبْدِ اللَّه ـ 1 الوَرَّاقُ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ قَالُوا حَدَّثَنا عَلِيّ بْنِ إِبراهِيم بْنِ هَاشِمِعَنْ صَفُوانَ بْنِ يَحْيَى صَاحِبَ السَابِرِي قَالَ سَأَلَنِي أَبُو لَوَيَّ أَبُو لَكَ فَقَالَ أَدْخِلُهُ عَلَيٌّ فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهِ قَبَّلَ قُرَّةَ صَاحِبُ الْجَاثِلِيقِ أَنْ أُوصِلَهُ إِلَى الرِّضَا عَلَيْهِ السَّلامُ فَاسْتَأْذَنْتُهُ فِي ذَلِكَ فَقَالَ أَدْخِلُهُ عَلَيَّ فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهِ قَبَّلَ بِسَاطَهُ وَقَالَ أَدْخِلُهُ عَلَيْ فَلَمَّا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهِ وَبُوهَ وَقَالَ هَكَذَا عَلَيْنَا فِي دِينِنَا أَنْ نَفْعَلَ بِأَشْرَاف أَهْلِ زَمَانِنَا ثُمَّ قَالَ لَهُ أَصْلَحَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقُولُ فِي فِرْقَة إِدَّعَتْ دَعْوَى فَشَهِدَتْ لَهُمْ فِرْقَةٌ أُخْرَى مُعَدِّلُونَ قَالَ الدَّعُوى لَهُمْ قَالَ فَادَّعَتْ فِرْقَةٌ أُخْرَى دَعْوَى فَلَمْ يَجِدُوا شُهُوداً مِنْ غَيْرِهِمْ قَالَ لا عَلَيْكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقُولُ فِي يَعِيمَى رُوحُ اللَّهِ فَشَهِدَتْ لَهُمْ قِرْقَةٌ أُخْرَى مُعَدِّلُونَ قَالَ الدَّعُوى لَهُمْ قَالَ فَادَّعَتْ فِرْقَةٌ أُخْرَى دَعْوَى فَلَمْ الْحَالَ الْدَعْوَى لَهُمْ قَالَ لَهُمْ قَالَ فَإِنَّا نَصْنُ ادَّعَتْ رُقِهُ اللَّهُ مَا تَقُولُ فَي عَلَى اللَّهُ مَا يَعْمِونَا مَنْ عَيْرِهِمْ قَالَ لا

وَكَلِمَتُهُ فَوَافَقَنَا عَلَى ذَلِكَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ وَادَّعَى الْمُسْلِمُونَ أَنَّ مُحَمَّداً نَبِيٍّ فَلَمْ ثُتَابِعْهُمْ عَلَيْهِ وَمَا أَجْمَعْنَا عَلَيْهِ خَيْرٌ مِمَّا افْتَرَقْنَا فِيهِ فَقَالَ لَهُ الرِّضَا عَلَيْهِ السَّلامُ مَا اسْمُكَ قَالَ يُوحَنَّا قَالَ يَا يُوحَنَّا إِنَّا آمَنَّا بِعِيسَى رُوحِ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتِهِ الَّذِي كَانَ عِيسَى الَّذِي هُوَ عِنْدَكَ رُوحُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ لَيْسَ هُوَ يُؤْمِنُ بِمُحَمَّد وَيُبَشِّرُ بِهِ وَيُقِرُّ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ عَبْدٌ مَرْبُوبٌ فَإِنْ كَانَ عِيسَى الَّذِي هُوَ عِنْدَكَ رُوحُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ لَيْسَ هُوَ يُؤْمِنُ بِمُحَمَّد وَيُبَشِّرُ بِهِ وَيُقِرُّ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ أَنَّهُ عَبْدٌ مَرْبُوبٌ فَإِنْ كَانَ عِيسَى الَّذِي هُو عِنْدَكَ رُوحُ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتُهُ لَيْسَ هُوَ الَّذِي آمَنَ بِمُحَمَّد وَيَبَشَّرَ بِهِ وَلا هُوَ الَّذِي أَقَرَّ لِلَّهِ بِالْعُبُودِيَّةِ وَالرُّبُوبِيَّةِ فَنَحْنُ مِنْهُ بِرَاءٌ فَأَيْنَ اجْتَمَعْنَا فَقَامَ فَقَالَ لِصَفْوَانَ اللّذِي آمَنَ بِمُحَمَّد وَبَشَّرَ بِهِ وَلا هُوَ الَّذِي أَقَرَّ لِلَّهِ بِالْعُبُودِيَّةِ وَالرُّبُوبِيَّةِ فَنَحْنُ مِنْهُ بِرَاءٌ فَأَيْنَ اجْتَمَعْنَا فَقَامَ فَقَالَ لِصَفْوَانَ اللّذِي آمَنَ بِمُحَمَّد وَبَشَّرَ بِهِ وَلا هُوَ الَّذِي أَقَرَّ لِلَّهِ بِالْعُبُودِيَّةِ وَالرُّبُوبِيَّةِ فَنَحْنُ مِنْهُ بِرَاءٌ فَأَيْنَ اجْتَمَعْنَا فَقَامَ فَقَالَ لِصَفْوانَ

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