

Sermon 218: Abu Muhammad (Talhah) lies.....

When Amir al-mu'minin passed by the corpses of Talhah ibn 'Ubaydullah and 'Abd ar-Rahman ibn 'Attab ibn Asid who were both killed in the battle of Jamal, he said:

(ومن كلام له (عليه السلام

لَمَّا مر بطلحة وعبدالرحمن بن عتاب بن أسيد وهما قتيلاَن يوم الجمل

Abu Muhammad (Talhah) lies here away from his own place. By Allah, I did not like that the Quraysh should lie killed under the stars. I have avenged myself with the descendants of 'Abd Manaf, but the chief persons of Banu Jumah¹ have escaped me. They had stretched their necks towards a matter for which they were not suited, and therefore their necks were broken before they reached the goal.

لَقَدْ أَصْبَحَ أَبُو مُحَمَّدٍ بِهَذَا الْمَكَانِ غَرِيبًا! أَمَّا وَاللَّهِ لَقَدْ كُنْتُ أَكْرَهُ أَنْ تَكُونَ فُرَيْشٌ قَتْلَى تَحْتَ بُطُونِ الْكَوَاكِبِ! أَدْرَكْتُ وَتَرَى مِنْ بَنِي عَبْدِ مَنَافٍ، وَأَفْلَتَنِي أَعْيَانُ بَنِي جُمَحٍ، لَقَدْ أَتَلَعُوا أَعْنَاقَهُمْ إِلَى أَمْرٍ لَمْ يَكُونُوا أَهْلَهُ فَوُقِّصُوا دُونَهُ.

Alternative Sources for Sermon 219

(1) Abu al-Faraj, *al-Aghani*, XXI, 246;

(2) al-Mubarrad, *al-Kamil*, I, 126;

(3) al-Bayhaqi, *al-Mahasin*, II, 53;

(4) Ibn 'Abd Rabbih, *al-Iqd*, II, 279;

(5) Ibn al-'Athir, *al-Nihayah*, I, 192;

(6) al-Baladhuri, *Ansab*, II, 261;

(7) al-Mas'udi, *Muruj*, II, 371.

1. In the battle of Jamal a group of Banú Jumah was with `Á'ishah, but the chief men of this group fled away from the battle-field. Some of them were: `Abdulláh al-Tawíl ibn Safwán, Yayá ibn Hakím, `Ámir ibn Mas`úd and Ayyúb ibn Habib. From this group (Banú Jumah) only two persons were killed.

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