

Sermon 31: Don't meet Talhah ...

Before the commencement of the Battle of Jamal Amir al-mu'minin sent 'Abdullah ibn 'Abbas to az-Zubayr ibn al-Awwam with the purpose that he should advise him back to obedience, he said to him on that occasion:

(ومن كلام له (عليه السلام

لَمَّا أَنْفَذَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ الْعَبَّاسِ (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) إِلَى الزُّبَيْرِ

قَبْلَ وَقُوعِ الْحَرْبِ يَوْمَ الْجَمَلِ لِيَسْتَفِيئَهُ إِلَى طَاعَتِهِ

Do not meet Talhah (ibn 'Ubaydillah). If you meet him you will find him like an unruly bull whose horns are turned towards its ears. He rides a ferocious riding beast and says it has been tamed. But you meet az-Zubayr because he is soft-tempered. Tell him that your maternal cousin says that, "(It looks as if) in the Hijaz you knew me (accepted me), but (on coming here to) Iraq you do not know me (do not accept me). So, what has dissuaded (you) from what was shown (by you previously)?"

لَا تَلْقَيْنَ طَلْحَةَ، فَإِنَّكَ إِنْ تَلَقَّاهُ تَجِدُهُ كَالثَّوْرِ عَاقِصاً قَرْنَهُ يَرْكَبُ الصَّعْبَ وَيَقُولُ: هُوَ الذَّلُولُ، وَلَكِنَّ الْقِيَامَ الزُّبَيْرَ، فَإِنَّهُ أَلْيَنُ عَرِيكَةً فَقُلْ لَهُ: يَقُولُ لَكَ ابْنُ خَالِكَ: عَرَفْتَنِي بِالْحِجَازِ وَأَنْكَرْتَنِي بِالْعِرَاقِ، فَمَا عَدَا مِمَّا بَدَأَ

As-Sayyid ar-Radi says: The last sentence of this sermon "*fama 'ada mimma bada*" has been heard only from Amir al-mu'minin.

«قال السيد الشريف: وهو (عليه السلام) أول من سمعت منه هذه الكلمة، أعني: «فَمَا عَدَا مِمَّا بَدَأَ»

Alternative Sources for Sermon 31

- (1) Al-Jahiz, *al-Bayan*, II, 115;
- (2) Ibn Qutaybah, *‘Uyun*, I, 115;
- (3) Ibn ‘Abd Rabbih, *al-‘Iqd*, IV, 314;
- (4) al-Zubayr ibn Bakkar, *al-Muwaffaqiyyat*, see Ibn Abi al-Hadid, I, 171;
- (5) Ibn Khallikan, *Wafayat al-‘a’yan*, biographical account of Ibn al-Mu’allim, see ‘Abd al-Zahra’, I, 412.

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