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Twenty Seventh Assembly

Met on Saturday, 7th of the month of Ramadhan, in the year 409 Hijrah, from what Abul Fawaris heard alone. Reported to us by the grand Sheikh al-Mufeed, Abu Abdillah, Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn al-Nu'man – may Allah keep him.

1. Dua at dawn and dusk

He said: Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Uman al-Ji'abi reported to me from Muhammad ibn Mudrik ibn Tamam al-Shaybani, who reported from Zakariyya ibn al-Hakam Abu Yahya al-Rasibi, who reported from Khalaf ibn Tameem, who reported from Bakr ibn Hubaish, from Abu Shaibah, from Abdul Malik ibn Umar, from Abu Qurrah, from Salman al-Farsi, may Allah be pleased with him, who said:

The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, told me: "O Salman, when morning dawns, say: 'O Allah, You are my sustainer and You have no associate. We have seen this morning – which confirms that all kingdoms belong to Allah; Who has no associate.'¹ Say this three times. And when it is evening, say it again, for that will expiate your sins committed in between."

2. Dua to avert poverty

He said: Abul Hasan 'Ali ibn al-Khalid al-Maraghi reported to me from Abul Qasim al-Hasan ibn 'Ali ibn al-Hasan al-Kufi, who reported from Ja'far ibn Muhammad ibn Marwan, who reported from his father, who reported from Ahmed ibn Isa, who reported from Muhammad ibn Ja'far ibn Muhammad ibn 'Ali, from his father, peace be upon them all, that:

The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, once missed one of his companions for a time and then, when he saw him again, he asked: "What has kept you from us so long?" He said: "O Prophet of Allah, illness and poverty prevented me." The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, said: "May I not teach you prayers which you would recite so that Allah may keep illness and poverty away from

you?" He said: "Yes, may my parents be your ransom, O messenger of Allah." The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, said:

Say:

"There is no might nor power except that by Allah.

I entrust all my affairs unto the One Who lives

for ever and never dies;

All Praise be to Allah, Who begets no son, and

Who has taken no partners in His Dominion,

nor has He any protector. So magnify Him in the

most Glorious way."

3. The excellence of the month of Ramadhan

He said: Abu al-Tayyib al-Husayn ibn Muhammad al-Tammar reported to me from Ja'far ibn Ahmad al-Shahid, who reported from Abul Husayn Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Abi Muslim, who reported from Ahmad ibn Jalees al-Razi, who reported from al-Qasim ibn al-Hakam al-Irniy, who reported from Hisham ibn al-Waleed, from Hammad ibn Sulaiman al-Saddoosi, who reported from Abul Hasan 'Ali ibn Muhammad al-Sayrafi, who reported from al-Dhahhak ibn Mazahim, from Abdullah ibn Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib, who heard that:

The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, say: "Every year, when the month of Ramadhan enters, the paradise arrays itself ornately and beautifies itself.

So when the first night of that month falls, a gentle wind blows from under the Throne, called al-Mutheerah; and the leaves of the heavenly trees flap and the door shutters clank, to produce a melodious tune, the like of which the hearers have never heard.

And then the houris with beautiful eyes appear, standing on the balcony of the heavenly abode, exclaiming: 'Is there anyone to propose to Allah, so that He may marry him (to the houris)?' Then they say: 'O Ridhwan, what night is this?' He answers them in all readiness and say: 'O good and beautiful ones, this is the first night of the month of Ramadhan. The gates of Paradise have been opened for those who keep the fasts in the Ummah of Muhammad, peace be upon him and his progeny."

(He said): Then Allah, Most High, will say: "O Ridhwan, open the gates of Paradise. O Malik, shut the gates of hellfire from those who observe the fasts in the Ummah of Muhammad, peace be upon him and his progeny. O Jibrael, descend to the earth and put every rebellious Satan into the shackles, fetter them by their necks and throw them into the depth of the seas, so that they may not spoil the fasts of those from the Ummah of My beloved."

He said: And then Allah, Most High, will say three times every night in the month of Ramadhan. "Is there

anyone who seeks so that I may bestow? Is there any repentant, so that I may pardon him? Is there anyone seeking forgiveness so that I may forgive him? Who is there to lend a soft loan (alms and charity for the poor) to One Who is Sufficient, Everlasting and One Who is Just and wrongs no one?"

He said: "In the evening of every day of the month of Ramadhan, Allah frees a million souls from hellfire at the time of Iftar. And when the night of Friday and the day of Friday enter, He frees a million souls every hour. Those were the wretched souls who deserved chastisement. And when the month of Ramadhan ends, the number of souls freed on that day equals the total souls released from hellfire by Allah during the whole month.

And when it is night of Qadr, Allah, Most High and Mighty, commands Jibrael to descend to earth, with a phalanx of angels, carrying a green standard. He fixes it at the rear of al-Ka'bah. And he has six hundred wings, two of which he never spreads except on the night of Qadr. He spreads those two wings on that night, till they go beyond the East and the West. Then Jibrael disperses the angels in that night, so they greet everyone who is standing, sitting, praying and chanting (remembering Allah). They shake hands with them, and say *Amin* to their prayers, till the day breaks.

And when the day breaks, Jibrael, peace be upon him, proclaims: 'O group of angels, it is time to depart.' They say: 'O Jibrael, how has Allah responded to the supplications of the believers in the Ummah of Muhammad?' Jibrael says: 'Allah has looked upon them in this night and has forgiven them all except four.' He said that then the Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, said: 'These four are: persistent boozers of alcoholic drinks, and the one who has incurred displeasure of his parents, and the one who has severed relations with his consanguinal kith and kin, and the one whose heart is filled with rancour and bitter hatred.'

And when the night of al-Fitr enters, the night which is called the night of rewards, Allah bestows His rewards upon the worshippers, without measure. And when the day of al-Fitr dawns, Allah sends His angels to every part of the earth, so they descend and stand at the opening of every lane, saying: 'O Ummah of Muhammad, proceed towards the Benevolent Sustainer, for He (Alone) gives in abundance and forgives the grievous sins.' So when they advance towards the prayers, Allah, Most High and Mighty, addresses the angels: "O My angels, what is the reward of a hired one when he has completed his task?" They reply: "O our Lord and our Master, the reward is to pay him full for his labour."

He said: Then Allah, Most High and Mighty, would say: "Be My witness, O My angels, that as a reward for their fasts and prayers during the month of Ramadhan, they have earned My Pleasure and Forgiveness." Then He would say: "O My servants, seek from Me whatever you wish, for by My Honour, there is nothing which you will seek for the sake of your hereafter or for this world, but that it will be granted.

And by My Honour, I shall conceal your shameful parts, the way you guarded them for My sake. By My Honour, I shall save you and shall not put you to shame before the people of Eternity. Go, with all your

sins forgiven, for you have indeed pleased Me, and I am pleased with you."

He said: The angels will rejoice and express felicitations to each other, for what Allah will bless this Ummah, upon breaking the fast.

4. The love of Ahlul Bayt

He said: Abul Qasim Ja'far ibn Muhammad ibn Qawalawy al-Qummi – may Allah bless him with mercy, reported to me from his father, who reported from Sa'd ibn Abdullah, who reported from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Isa, from al-Hasan ibn 'Ali ibn Faddhal, from Asim ibn Hamid al-Hannat, from Abu Hamza al-Thumali from Hanash ibn al-Mo'tamar, who said:

Once I called upon Amirul Mu'mineen, 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be upon him, while he was at al-Rahbah, reclining. So I said: "Peace be upon you, O, Amirul Mu'mineen and His mercy and His blessing, how are you this morning?" He said: He raised his head and returned the greetings and then said: "I have entered this morning with love for those who love us and patience for those who hate us.

Surely, he who loves us, awaits for repose, happiness and deliverance every day and night. And he who hates us has built a structure whose foundation is laid on the edge of a crumbling bank; which tumbles and tumbles down with him into the fire of hell.

O, Abu Mo'tamar, he who loves us cannot nurse hatred against us in his bosom and he who hates us cannot love us. No doubt, Allah, Most High, created the hearts of the slaves with a propensity to love us and has forsaken those who deviated to hate us. So, those who love us cannot hate us and those who hate us cannot love us; and our love can never be combined with the love of our adversaries in one heart. Allah has not assigned to any man two hearts in his chest – loving one group with this heart and loving those who are their enemies with the other."

5. 'Ali (as) condemns vanity and snobbery

He said: Abu al-Tayyib al-Husayn ibn Muhammad al-Nahwi al-Tammar reported to me from Muhammad ibn al-Hasan, who reported from Abu Naeem, who reported from Saleh ibn Abdillah, who reported from Hisham, from Abu Mikhnaf, from A'amash, from Abu Ishaq al-Sabi'ee, from al-Asbagh ibn Nubatah, may Allah bless him with mercy, who said:

One day Amirul Mu'mineen, peace be upon him, addressed the people and praised Allah, and lauded His glory, and invoked His blessings upon the Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny. Then he said: "O people, listen to what I have to say and assimilate my speech! Snobbery and vanity is a kind of tyranny and self-conceit is a type of arrogance! And Satan is an ever-present enemy, promising you delusion. Be it clear to you that a Muslim is a brother to his fellow Muslim. So do not defame each other and do not betray each other! Surely, the laws of Religion (Islam) are all one, and its ways all head for

one goal. He who follows it reaches, and he who abandons it falls, and he who forsakes it is destroyed.

When a Muslim is entrusted with something, he never acts dishonestly; and when he promises, he does not break it and when he speaks, he never lies.

We are the inmates of mercy; our speech is truth, our acts just. And from us is the last of the Prophets and from among us are the leaders of Islam and the custodians of the Holy Book. We call you unto Allah and His Prophet and to confront His enemies, to struggle strenuously in His affairs and to seek His pleasure. And we invite you to establishing the daily prayers, giving alms, performing the pilgrimage to the sacred House, fasting during the month of Ramadhan and to hasten payment from the surplus of the spoils of war to its rightful owner.

Be it known that it is most surprising to see Mu'awiyah, son of Abu Sufyan al-Umawi and Amru ibn al-Aas al-Sahmi, inciting people to avenge for the blood of their cousin (i.e. Uthman ibn Affan). While I say, with Allah as my witness, that I never acted against the messenger of Allah, peace be upon him and his progeny, and I never disobeyed him in any matter.

I protected him with my soul in situations when the valiants turned on their heels, and writhed with fear. I did it with the might bestowed upon me by Allah and all praise is for Him. And the Prophet (peace be upon him and his progeny) departed from this world, with his head on my laps, and I arranged to wash him with my hands while the noble angels helped me to turn him sideways. And I swear by the name of Allah, falsehood became manifest against truth in the dispute which arose among the Ummah after its Prophet's death – except that which Allah Wills."

He said: Then Ammar ibn Yasir, may Allah be pleased with him, stood up and said: "But Amirul Mu'mineen has clearly intimated to you that the Ummah will not remain steadfast for him." Then people dispersed with their eyes opened.

6. Ibn Abbas speaks about 'Ali (as)

He said: Abul Hasan 'Ali ibn Khalid reported to me from Zaid ibn al-Husayn al-Kufi, who reported from Ja'far ibn Nujayh, who reported from Jandal ibn Waliq al-Taghlabi, who reported from Muhammad ibn Umar al-Mazini, from Abu Zaid al-Ansari, from Saeed ibn Bashir, from Qutadah, from Saeed ibn al-Musayyib, who said:

I heard a man ask Ibn Abbas about 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be upon him. Ibn Abbas told him: "Surely, 'Ali is the one who prayed towards both the Qiblas and swore allegiance to the Prophet on both occasions. He never worshipped an idol nor did he divine by the arrows. He was born a Muslim and did not associate any partner to Him, even for a wink."

The man said: "I did not ask you that! I want to know from you about the sword which he proudly carried over his shoulder, came to Basrah and killed forty thousand. Then he went to Syria, confronted the Arab

leaders, pitting one against the other and then killed them. Then he came to Nahrawan and killed the Muslims upto the last one."

Ibn Abbas told him: "Who do you think is more knowledgeable, 'Ali or myself?" He said: "If I had thought 'Ali to be more knowledgeable, I would not have come to you!"

Upon hearing this, Ibn Abbas was enraged and he said: "May your mother mourn you! 'Ali is the one who taught me. And his knowledge is from the Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, and the Prophet received knowledge from Allah, Most High. So, the knowledge of the Prophet is from Allah, and 'Ali's knowledge is from the Prophet and my knowledge is from 'Ali. And the knowledge of all the companions of Muhammad, peace be upon him and his progeny, when compared to 'Ali's knowledge is just like a drop in the seven oceans."

7. Draw lesson from the departed ones

He said: Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn 'Ali ibn al-Husayn ibn Babawayh – may Allah bless him with mercy, reported to me from Muhammad ibn al-Hasan ibn al-Walid, who reported from Muhammad ibn al-Hasan al-Saffar, who reported from Muhammad ibn al-Husayn ibn Abu al-Khattab, from 'Ali ibn Asbat, from 'Ali ibn Hamzah, from Abu Basir, that:

Abu Abdillah Ja'far ibn Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: Allah, Most High, revealed to Isa son of Maryam, peace be upon them both: "O Isa, give me tears from your eyes, humility from your heart and line your eyes with the kohl of sorrow, while the idle waste away their days laughing; stand by the graveside and call them loudly, perchance you may thus learn from their fate. And then say: Surely, I will soon be joining them, together with the other jokers."

And may Allah bless His Prophet, our master Muhammad and his pure progeny.

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