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1) Admonition to Kinsmen and Nomination of Imam ‘Ali (‘a)

Ahmad bin Hanbal says:

Aswad bin ‘Amir has related to us from Sharik from A‘mash from Minhal from ‘Abdullah bin Asadi, that (Imam) ‘Ali (‘a) said:

When the ayah ***“And warn your relatives of nearest kin”*** (26:214) was revealed, the Prophet gathered his family around him and treated 30 of them to a meal and then said:

“Who is willing to guarantee my debts and commitments so that he should be with me in paradise and should be my successor from among my family.”

A person whom Shurayk did not name, answered:

O Messenger of Allah you are like a sea,[1] who can take charge of this responsibility.

The Prophet repeated his statement to his relatives, and (Imam) ‘Ali (‘a) replied:

“I will undertake this responsibility.”[2]

Ahmad Muhammad Shakir the annotator of the Musnad has enumerated the isnad of this hadith as ha Ahmad bin Hanbal, al-Musnad, annotated by Ahmad Muhammad Shakir in 15 volumes, Dar al-Ma‘arif, Cairo, 1949-1958, hadith no. 883. san or fair. The same event has been narrated in greater detail in the words of Imam ‘Ali (‘a) in hadith no. 1371 of the Musnad (vol. 2, pp. 352-353) and the annotator has termed its isnad as sahih (authoritative).

1. Reference to the great generosity and munificence of the Prophet, Ahmad Shakir’s explanation on the margins of this hadith.
2. Ahmad bin Hanbal, al-Musnad, annotated by Ahmad Muhammad Shakir in 15 volumes, Dar al-Ma‘arif, Cairo, 1949-1958, hadith no. 883.

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