

Chapter – 17

Imam Hassan

(624 - 670 AD)

His name is Hassan, Abu Mohammed is Kunniya, Rihan-an-Nabi (*Sweet smelling herb of the Prophet*) is his title, and his identification is "*Copy of the Messenger of Allah*". He was born in the month of Ramazan of 3AH/624AD. He is the maternal grandson of the Noble Prophet, and the son of 'Ali and Fatima. He was raised in the love of his grandfather for 8 years. The Noble Prophet extremely loved him and his brother Hussein. After the departure of his grandfather, Hazrat 'Ali had taken care of all his education and training.

Besides the knowledge of religion, Hassan had a great acquaintance and deep interest in various prevailing arts of his time. He was a great poet. As regards sermons/speeches, he got this ability from the inheritance. His sermons can be found in numerous places of literature. Hassan's virtues are a source of contentment and gratification. Patience and tolerance was also among his distinguished attributes.

In the last days of Hazrat 'Ali people asked about his successor. He replied, "*For this matter, I do not order nor prevent, you people understand better*". However, Qais bin Sa'ad Ansari first raised his hand for the allegiance towards Hassan. Immediately afterwards almost all the Iraqis pledged

their allegiance to him. Thus he became the Caliphate in Ramazan, 40AH/661AD.

From the beginning, Amir Mu'awiya wanted to rule the entire Islamic States. But 'Ali's presence confined him to Syria and Egypt. After Ali's martyrdom, his long-awaited wish seemed to be fulfilled. So he immediately invaded Iraq. When Hassan received the news, he sent Qais bin Sa'ad Ansari to Madain with 12,000 troops to fight. After arrival of the Iraqi troops to Madain, someone rumored that Qais bin Sa'ad Ansari had been killed. As soon as the news broke, the Iraqi army came into chaos. On the other side, some people also attacked Hassan's tent and looted them.

Actually, the Syrian army was fighting on two fronts. Hassan himself was commanding one of them, while the other was combating under the control of Qais bin Sa'ad. On this second front there was a bloody war, but the army of Hassan himself refused to fight in the battlefield. Seeing this mood of his army, Hassan was forced to go for compromise. Since he did not want to have a Caliphate at the cost of the blood of the Muslims, he reached to Qais bin Sa'ad and ordered him to cease the war. Hassan laid down some conditions for reconciliation in front of Amir Mu'awiya, whom he accepted without any hesitation. After this, Hassan announced his withdrawal in favor of Amir Mu'awiya.

If we look at that, the results of this reconciliation by Hassan proved to be very useful for the nation. In fact, initiation of peace and tranquility was seen in the country. From the last period of the 'Uthman era, the power which the Muslims were losing by the internal confrontation, it began to reform and reorganize the country and deal with its enemies. That is why this treaty is called "*Common Consensus year*", means the year of unity and consensus.

Nevertheless, it also happened that after the declaration of Hassan's withdrawal, the Shi'a people started condemning Hassan and using abusive language for him. Hassan endured all these things with great patience. The Kharijees were so enraged with this reconciliation that they declared Hassan as Kafir (*a disbeliever*). They even assassinated on him. Hassan was seriously injured in this attack.

After the announcement of withdrawal, he left Kufa and arrived in Madinah, and spend the rest of his life there. His term of Caliphate was for 6 to 7 months only.

The biggest tragedy was that his spouse herself also proved to be his enemy. It is said that his wife, Ja'dah Bint 'Ash'ath had poisoned him, and as a result his heart and liver was so damaged that excessive bleeding occurred. Despite all the efforts, he was not be able to recover. Finally, Hazrat Hassan left this world in the month of Rabi-ul-Awwal, 50AH/670AD.

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