

## Chapter – 64

## Pledge of Allegiance

(بيعت)

❖ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُبَايِعُونَكَ إِنَّمَا يُبَايِعُونَ اللَّهَ يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَمَنْ نَكَثَ فَإِنَّمَا يَنْكُثُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِمَا عَاهَدَ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ فَمِنْ فَسِيحَاتِهِ أُجْرًا عَظِيمًا يَتَّقُونَ -

*Those who swear faithfulness to you (O Muhammad PBUH) do indeed swear faithfulness to Allah; The Hand of Allah is above their hands; so whoever breaks the agreement, breaks it to his own promise; and whoever fulfils the agreement, that he made with Allah, He will grant on him a great reward. (48:10)*

Dear People! **بيعت** means to sell out. This word is also used as a pledge of loyalty for any important agreement. It is a custom of Arabs that when they do any agreement they shake their hands. All the countries of the world take oath for faithfulness with the person posted on any key position of the state, similarly Arabs also used to take oath for all the important matters.

During Prophet's time when any person wished to be a Muslim, he had to swear in. When he had to seek repentance he had to swear in. Oaths for the righteousness and repentance were taken with women as well. Sometimes oath administered to fight in war till last blood, as has done on the occasion of Hudaibiyah war. Sometimes the Noble Prophet has taken oath on not to borrow money with anyone as well. Sometimes the Prophet has also taken oath to remain firm for the love of God and His Messenger. Anyways, going through swear in for all the important matters is called **بيعت**.

Look! 2 plus 2 is equal to 4. If 2 are subtracted from 4, then the remaining figure is 2. In this way, Mathematics is so definite

subject that no other subject can be so sure. Yet, for this, one has to go to school right from Class-1 to Class-10. After that he gets some know-how on it. The fact is no one can catch his own mistakes. So a teacher is essentially required for this. Only teacher can guide about the mistakes of his pupil and he has to constantly monitor them for a reasonable time as well. Now think it that when such a plain and self-evident subject demands guidance then why any assistance would not be required for the actions in the way of Allah ﷻ? Whereas, the ways towards God are sensitive and delicate, so there are more chances of mistakes.

Now, there is a question that why you should bound yourself to follow only one Sheikh (Spiritual Guide)? Its first answer is, if you pay your attention for too many thoughts you will defiantly be confused. Hence, you choose your guide only to that person on which you have your full confidence.

Give consideration to this point that if you are facing any case in the court and if you change your lawyer every day then none of them could be able to plead your case properly, and there would be least hopes of any success in it.

Look! Law books are available in Urdu language. But would it be possible for you to plead your case on your own by simply referring to these books? No! Every subject demands expertise in it, and one has to consult that expert and have confidence in him and then required to handover all your cases and problems.

Some people raise this question that, would it not be sufficient to recite verses of sorrow and regret and do repentance (توبه)? Such objections and questions indicate that these people are not fully aware of Quran. Quran says:

وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ إِذْ ظَلَمُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ جَاءُوكَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا اللَّهَ  
وَاسْتَغْفَرَ لَهُمُ الرَّسُولُ لَوَجَدُوا اللَّهَ تَوَّابًا رَحِيمًا

{When they have wronged their own souls, come to you (Prophet) and seek forgiveness from Allah, and the Noble Messenger intercedes for them, they will certainly find Allah as the Most Acceptor of Repentance, the Most Merciful. (04:64)}

By this Verse it clearly appears that simply the recitation of verses of sorrow and regret and do repentance would not be enough, but seeking prayers from some bright-heart person is also required.

Look! During the physical presence of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم he used to ask God for His forgiveness for all the sinners. But, at present he is physically not available to us, so now his successors, his continuators, or his deputies take oath / swear in. As such, following this custom, the existing Spiritual Guides (شيوخ) used to take oath from their followers. This oath (بيعت) is virtually a form of repentance (توبة).

How Sheikhs generally administer the Oaths? They commonly take men's hand in their hands and take oath that they will obey the orders of God and His Noble Prophet, and they will try their utmost to get rid of evils and will execute good deeds. After taking this oath Sheikhs used to recite the following Verse of Quran:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُبَايِعُونَكَ إِنَّمَا يُبَايِعُونَ اللَّهَ يَدُ اللَّهِ فَوْقَ أَيْدِيهِمْ فَمَنْ نَكَثَ فَإِنَّمَا يَنْكُثُ عَلَىٰ نَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ أَوْفَىٰ بِمَا عَاهَدَ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ فَمِنَّا أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

{Indeed those who swear allegiance to you (O Prophet) in fact they do swear allegiance to Allah; Allah's Hand of Power is above their hands; so whoever breaches his oath, has breached his own greater promise; and whoever fulfills the pledge he has with Allah, so Allah will bestow upon him a great reward. (48:10)}

And some Sheikhs say that I also advise you to follow this Quranic Verse as well:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

{Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and of giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression; He advises you so that perhaps you may be reminded. (16:90)}

After this, the Sheikh always keeps his adherent (مريد) under his observation. All the time, with his personal attention, special guidance, and with his spiritual power, he tries to keep his adherent away from any bad deed. And he always keeps his follower right minded and on good deeds.

As regards taking oath with women, swear in only by mouth is sufficient. However, (instead of taking each other's hands) some Sheikhs keep one end of a sheet of cloth in their hand and give the other

end of sheet to women and say to hold. Some Sheikhs keep a wide open pot filled with water, wherein Sheikh dips his hand in water at one end and the woman dips her hand on the other side.

Few older women do not observe their covering (حجاب) in front of sheikhs, but this practice is absolutely unwanted, no matter the Sheikh may be too old. ---- Sometimes, young boys also go through بیعت procedures. This is called 'Oath for Blessing' (بیعت البرکة).

How a Sheikh (مرشد) should be? A Sheikh should be capable to fulfill all the essentially required objects and purposes of his follower. Some say that Sheikh must also have the basic knowledge of Quran, Hadith, Fiqh and other related information. He should have spent some time with the experienced Sheikhs as well. Some intellectuals told that the main distinction of a good Sheikh is that after sitting with him for some time you should feel that your anxieties, worries, tensions and bad thoughts are all closed. One should feel connected with God and His Noble Prophet, and then he is really a good Sheikh.

دیکھ سبھ کر دینا ہاتھ ورنہ پیچھے ندامت ہے  
غیر سے جو کر دے آزاد لازم اس کی صحبت ہے

(Give your hand to someone after full consideration otherwise there will be regrets behind you  
You are needed that companionship which should help in making you totally free from diversity)

Look! Man's eye is a main tool to examine any right or a wrong. One whose heart is on a right path then his eyes will also remain stable on one point. If anyone's thoughts are disturbed then his eyes will also never stay focused. ---- Some people say that if anybody recites the words of blessings on the Noble Prophet behind a capable Sheikh, he will turn his face and look to the reciter. If he asks any question, Sheikh will respond immediately.

This point has to be kept in mind that from every person his thoughts and the effects of his companionship would reflect and vibrate all around. Good companionship will reflect good things and bad companionship would produce bad effects. ---- look! In a water-pool if you throw a piece of gravel, then as a result there will be vibration in water and some small waves may be seen at the water surface. But if you throw a big stone in the pool then more vibration

will be created and bigger waves may also be seen at the water surface. And if a piece of gravel and a bigger stone is thrown in water at a time then the bigger vibrations and the larger waves will diminish all the small vibrations and the thinner waves. Exactly alike, if a person with simple thoughts and weak belief will sit in the companionship of perfect Sheikh his weaker thoughts and less firm belief will die out altogether. --- This example establishes the requirement of a Good Sheikh.

Is it really essential for everyone to become an adherent (مريد)? Look! One man feels it vital to get rid of evils and adopt the ways of goodness and wants to follow it with his best of abilities as well. But, if you do not consider such things important then it is your own affair. This may be good for you. Elders say that:

مَنْ لَّا شَيْخَ لَهُ فَشَيْخُهُ الشَّيْطَانُ

(One who has no Spiritual Guide then Shaytan will guide him)

Why these Qadriyah, Chistiyah, Naqshbandiyah chains have been formed ---? The answer of this is, as the Quran and Hadiths are interpreted by various Islamic Jurists (فقيه), like Hanafi, Shafi'i, Maliki and Hanbali, similar to this, those who make progress by striving in the way shown by Sufism (تصوف) are Qadri, Chisti and Naqshbandi etc.

One thing is to be remembered that, 'beautiful' is that person who is attractive from head to feet. If anyone is missing an eye or is crop-eared then he will not be considered as beautiful. Similarly, the Sheikhs of Sufi path are all lovely, from head to feet. But simultaneously some have beautiful eyes, some have lovely smile, some are very good in conversation, some have playfulness, and some have soberness. Exactly in the same way they have different degrees of love, belief on oneness, and obedience. Everyone has his own taste, own likings. However, all these chains have correct faith, refined soul and permanent remembrance of God.

What is Khilafat (خلافت)? --- The word Khalifah has been derived from Khalf (situated behind). Any person who follows his guide and acts accordingly then he is his Khalifah (خليفة) or successor. This is a certification that the adherent is now capable to guide others. When any student completes his education he is given a certificate of graduation. The institute awards him a 'Degree' or a 'Certificate'. --- But remember that neither any 'Formal Adherence' works nor a 'Formal Khilafat' is beneficial. --- 'Faith' and 'Action' both are the blessings of God, awards from Allah سبحانه و تعالی. Always try to deserve for God's bestows.

Quran and Hadiths have reached to the Muslims through Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم. On account of his companionship, our souls are trained and purified. --- Look! That person who recites Quran and gives others its training to recite correctly, he is a *Qari*, he is Khalifah. That person who interprets and explains the verses of Quran, he is a *Mufasssir*, he is Khalifah. That person who narrates and extends his research for hadiths is a *Muhaddis*, he is Khalifah. That person who infers and deduces the orders of Quran and Hadiths, he is a diligent (*مجتهد*) and *Faqeeh*, he is Khalifah. That person who gives the right direction of faith and defends the opponents of Islam he is a *Theologian* (*متكلم*), he is Khalifah. In the last days of Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, he was having a nation, state and its leadership. Therefore, that honest *Muslim Ruler* who strictly follows the rules and regulations of Islam and also instructs others to obey them, he is also Khalifah. That person who *train soldiers* and war affairs, he is also Khalifah. And that person who describes the important matters of religion, and gives the right directions of faith and provides a clean-up of thoughts and teaches things related to spirit, of course he is Khalifah and a *best Khalifah*.

Anyways, that person who goes all-out for the orders of Prophet Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم, and would preach maximum and goes as per following Quranic verse, he will be considered Khalifah as per his strives:

يَا أَيُّهَا الرَّسُولُ بَلِّغْ مَا أُنزِلَ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ رَبِّكَ

{O Noble Messenger! Convey all what has been sent down upon you from your Lord. (06:67)}

And that person who will serve for the works of the Noble Prophet, right from the beginning to the end, then what to talk of him! He is the “*Real Khalifah of Prophet*” and he is the “*Image of Prophet*”, like Abu Bakar Siddique, Omer Farooq, Othman Ghani, and Ali Murtaza (رضوان الله عليهم أجمعين).

In our days, there were many types of Sheikhs (*مرشد*). The adherents (*مريد*) used to go to Sheikh’s place only for education and training. They used to stay at their own houses. They used to arrange their own food and other essentials. Sheikh had no responsibility other than education and training.

Some Sheikhs used to take care of their family expenditures and all personal requirements were fulfilled with their personal income.

Outside, there is a school (مدرسة) and a convent (خانقاه), where there are residential arrangements for them as well. Whatever money collected, it is spent entirely for outside expenditures. The personal expenses always remained separate and personal. In the house, simple food, but outside there are special food and special ceremonies.

Some Sheikhs used to keep with them the money collected from adherents and students, but its account always maintained separately. With this money, Sheikhs used to manage all expenses related to school and convent. Moreover, orphans were taken care-off. Marriages of poor girls were arranged. Steps were also taken for the employments of youths. Those days, there were no separate orphan houses and no fund-raising system on national level. The adherents were generous to contribute and the Sheikhs never show reluctance to take care of everybody's need.

Now the time has changed. Now no such Sheikhs remained nor do the adherents exist. At present, where all the religious substances became customary, the matter of oath (بيعت) has also become customary. Nobody cares for action. Taking an oath for doing fine deeds and over it making a Sheikh as witness and in future doing nothing is an added fault and a greater evil.

Now very few persons are available who are truly seeking for God. Either they fulfill a customary oath or constrained to go through it so that they may make themselves safe from calamity, satanic effects, and mystic powers. With this oath, they also want to get rid of various sicknesses.

Everywhere unhappiness is noticeable and contribution of fund prevails, but no solid actions are visible. It looks as if success and happiness have closed themselves in a room. Nowadays funds are collected for widows and orphans. But who is the widow? The Sheikh's wife ---! And who is orphan? The sons and daughters of Sheikh ---! My eyes have seen these displays. I am now weeping with heart and regretting with tongue!

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

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