

Blessed is the mumin who is the true *shi'a* of Maulana Ali (SA), by being the follower of Maulana Ali's (SA) Dai, Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (TUS). He need not have any fear as the tribulations and the vicissitudes of this world cannot constrict him. The intercession of Maulana Ali (SA) and his Dai is enough to deliver him from all confinements.

This was amply proved in the case of the slave of Bani Riyah, who died in captivity and was being taken away for burial. Rasulullah (SAW) intercepted and asked Maulana Ali (SA) to identify him. Maulana Ali (SA) immediately recognized him as the one who, whenever he met Maulana Ali (SA) always expressed his intense *mohabbat* in the following words, "*Ana Wallahe Ohibboka Ya Maulaya.*" This benefited him immensely. Rasulullah (SAW) ordered that his manacles be removed, prayed on his *janaaza*, accompanied by Maulana Ali (SA), a few other mumineen and seventy tribes of angels, each tribe containing seventy thousand angels. Aqa Maula (TUS) annotated that the slave's master did not show any mercy and had held him in captivity; even when he died the master did not relent and instead ordered him to be buried in his shackles. It was Maulana Ali's (SA) *mohabbat* that freed him from all kinds of shackles. "If you ever feel cramped due to circumstances, and wish to be relieved then call out the name of Ali" Maula concluded.

Maulana Ali (SA) had alleviated every difficulty that befell Islam. He did so in the battles of Badr, Ohod, Khaibar and Khandaq. Aqa Maula (TUS) described the battle of Khandaq providing insights into the *hikmat* of Rasulullah's (SAW) strategy to dig a trench around the city of Medina. It was not to confine the people but to protect them and create vastness.

Similarly, the *Shariat* of Rasulullah (SAW) doesn't restrict but in fact bestows protection and vastness. Every action of Rasulullah (SAW), Aimmat and Doat is replete with *hikmat*. If one doesn't comprehend it then it is because of his inability to do so. It doesn't mean that there isn't any *hikmat*. *Shariat* is relevant in every age, including the modern age. It is always new and will remain fresh forever. *Shariat* protects in this world and guarantees freedom from this physical imprisonment. *Mawaali Tahereen* always desire our welfare and well being. Men should grow beards and women should wear *rida* and guard their dignity. Warning against interest, Aqa Maula (TUS) said, "Stay away from interest as it only constricts you. If you find this difficult to follow then I shall show you the way. Say "*Ya Ali madad,*" while seeking succour from him.

Remember Husain in these days. Enemies tried to constrict him in every way: detained him at Karbala and did not allow him to proceed; deprived him of water; and on the

day of *Ashura* surrounded him. But Husain went ahead with his intentions and prayed in *sajda* thereby ensuring the salvation of Mumineen.

With only two days remaining before the day of Ashura, Aqa Maula (TUS) beseeching succour from Imam uz Zaman (SA) entreated, "O Maula provide me with such *faiz* and *taaeed* that I recite the *shahadat* of Imam Husain, weep and make mumineen weep in such a way that tears rain down from their eyes. O mumineen! Muminaat! Shed copious tears on Imam Husain (SA). If I succeed in making you shed at least one tear then I consider my task done.

Today, the eighth of Moharram, was the *ziker* of Maulana Ali (SA) and Aqa Maula (TUS) narrated his *wilaadat* and *shahadat*: the former in detail and the latter with fervour. Maulana Ali (SA) lived the final days of his life in extreme austerity. He partook only of barley flour and wore tattered clothes patched at so many places, that when he took it to the tailor for repair, the tailor refused, "There is no place left for more patches."

Referring to Maulana Ali's (SA) affection for his ducks, Aqa Maula (TUS) said, "Such was his concern for the ducks; so is his concern for you O mumineen!"

When Maulana Ali (SA) was felled by Ibne Muljim, Jabraeel wailed, "O the inhabitants of the heavens, O angels, Rasulullah's (SAW) *wasi* has been slain; the pillars of guidance have tumbled; my prompter, my teacher, my Maula has been killed."