

(From the waaz mubarak of Aqa Maula (TUS) 8th Moharram ul Haram, 1428 H)

History is witness to the glories of Maulana Ali (SA); and the verses of Quran speak of his maqam. Today, describing the *shaan* of Maulana Ali (SA), Aqa Maula (TUS) elaborated one such verse from the Quran: "*He is the first and the last, the zahir and the batin: and He has full knowledge of all things.*"

Maulana Ali (SA) is the first among all mumineen, just as Rasulullah (SAW) was the first among all Muslemeen. Maulana Ali (SA) remained with Rasulullah (SAW) from the moment the latter took him under his patronage from a very young age till his final moments when Rasulullah's (SAW) soul departed on his hands.

Once, while Maulana Ali (SA) was delivering a sermon a man stood up and asked, "You say your knowledge is all encompassing; so tell me where Jibraeel is at this moment?" Amir ul mumineen (SA) deliberated for a while, and then looking up, said, "I searched for Jibraeel in the skies and the heavens but could not find him. Then I looked for him all around the earth but could not find him. If my assumption is correct; (and indeed it is) then you are Jibraeel."

The four rivers of *Jannat*: water, milk, wine and honey, signify Maulana Ali's (SA) *ilm*. The river of water in *Jannat* remains fresh: it doesn't stagnate. Aqa Maula (TUS) explained that stagnant water may not necessarily be impure. If the taste, odour, or colour of the water hasn't changed, then the water is *paak* and fit for *wuzu* even though it may be old. However, change in any of the three qualities will make it unusable for *wuzu*, though it may be fit for consumption, for example rose water. Muslims in general consider it acceptable to do *wuzu* even with broth.

The river of milk in *Jannat* doesn't spoil, the river of wine doesn't intoxicate and the river of honey is pure. These rivers signify the different kinds of *uloom* present in Dawat.

Maulana Ali (SA) was the true successor of the Nabi and Rasulullah (SAW) demonstrated many a time that none else was eligible to be his heir. During the marking of Masjid e Quba's boundary the camel moved only when Maulana Ali (SA) sat on it.

Once two thugs approached a rich but gullible woman and left with her the custody of their money with the condition that she should hand over the money only when both presented themselves together. Later, one man went to her and retrieved the money after providing proof of his companion's authorization. Soon after, the second man came and demanded the money. The case was presented to Umar, who failed to give any judgement, and directed them towards Maulana Ali (SA). It was a simple case, and Maulana Ali (SA) asked the man to come with his companion as per their original condition. The man's fraud was exposed and he retreated with humiliation.

Imparting invaluable words of advice, Aqa Maula (TUS) said, "Do not neglect the upbringing of your children. Wash them, clothe them and feed them. Do not hit them. Explain to them gently according to their age and understanding. Do not nag them constantly as it will make them immune to your words. Do not rebuke one child in front of others lest they ridicule him. Companionship has a profound influence on children; therefore restrain them from bad company. If you use foul language at home, the children will imitate you. Do not educate them just for the sake of acquiring degrees. Many degree holders run pillar to post unemployed and many, without any degrees, do business successfully. We are not against education, but on the pretext of education people promote ulterior

things. Do business with *halaal* and learn whatever skills you require to advance your business. Maulana Ali (SA) advises, 'Divide your life into three parts: one for earning through *halaal*; one for recreation through *halaal*; one for the *ibadat* of Allah. An important part of *ibaadat* is doing good for mankind. The aim of your business should be to benefit as many people as you can. Our forefathers have taught us to do so and our forefathers were taught by Hodaat Kiraam. Rasulullah (SAW) says that Allah has made ten portions of *rizq*: nine out of the ten for business, and the remaining one for others.