

The Founder of the N'aat Legacy

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As a member of a highbred family, Syedna Abu Talib completed his education under his father, Syedna Abd al Mutallib. His glorious background groomed his personality and made him an image of a bright past. He achieved all the qualities of his predecessors. It was destiny that made Abu Talib adopt his orphan nephew, Mohammad, who was a perfect image of an ideal human. History has not seen a literate like Ali, nor will it see again, who has simultaneously equal command on each section or branches of literature. When Ali approached Allah through the faculty of Doa it seemed that a person was talking to someone who was aware of him. When he recited Munaj'at, in the darkness of night, it felt that a child was crying for his feed. When he delivered sermons among the masses, his listeners were spell bound by his miraculous wordings. He provided Arabi prose a new spirit, in short and precise words, he communicated comprehensively.

As per tradition, the Arabian region experiencing vulgar poetic literatures, due to poets' degraded approach. The arrogance of Arab is famous and this disease was at its peak in the Arabian Peninsula at the time of Ali. During his era, vulgar poetry was considered a master piece of literature. They proudly maintained their collection of poems in "Diw'an". Qur'an also guided the poets in this regard, and advised them to correct their approach. The Poetic rhythm of the Aya't mesmerized the linguist of Hijaz, and Arabia, at large. People of Arabia had observed the poetic command of Syedna Abd al Mutallib and his son, Syedna Abu Talib, grandfather and father of Ali respectively. That era is remembered in history as the period of "Jahiliyah". Ali was the son of Abu Talib, a matchless poet, whose poetries had fixed an indelible impression in history. His contribution towards promotion of Dawat of Islam is an undeniable fact, the evidence of which is his poetic collection: "Diw'an Abu Talib", which is the primary poetic collection; and which provides us Aqidah of Tawhid, in length.

For understanding of Islam, "Diw'an Abu Talib" is the early poetic collection; provide us Aqidah of Tawhid, in length. [1] In following poetic text, I have referred book: "Ghayat al Matalib Fi Shareh Diwane Abi Talib", which was diligently prepared, by the learned scholar of Jame al Azhar, Ustad Mohammad Khalil al Khatib. [2] What was the reason that Syedna Abu Talib totally ignored the powerful enemies of Rasulullah (S), and declared open protection for his orphan nephew, of whom he was the sole-guardian?

When Mushrikin created hurdles in the early days of Dawat, and Rasulullah (S) had to established it privately, Syedna Abu Talib advised him as follows: [3]

"Wal'lahey Layn Yasallu ilaiyka Bey'jamihim;

Hatta O Was'sada Fit Turabey Dafina"

Wallah! They (Mushrikin of Quraysh) will never hurt you even if they have large force and power, till the time I am buried in the grave.

**"F'asd'a Bey Amreka Ma Aliyka Ghizazah;
W'abshir Bey'zaka Waqarra Minka Uyuna"**

You continue Dawat with full force, no one has power to stop you; be happy and may Allah always cool your eyes.

He sent a message to the Emperor of Ethiopia and introduced Rasulullah (S) perfectly.

He introduced his nephew as Nabi, like Musa (A.S) and Essa (A.S).

**"A' T'alamu Malik'ul Habash Anna Mohammadan;
Nabiyun Ka-Musa Wal Mashia ibn Maryami"**

O Emperor of Ethiopia! You must know that as Musa (A.S) and Essa (A.S) son of blessed Mariyam were from the Anbiya, likewise Mohammad is Nabi. [4]

**"Ata Bey Huda Masalul'Iazi Atiya'beyhi;
Wa Kullun Bey Amrillahey Yahdi Wa Yasimi"**

As they came with the message of guidance (warning and tidings) similarly he (Mohammad) has come with the message and it is obvious that all Anbiya guide the people under instructions of Allah and protected them.

**"Wainnakumu Tatlunahu Fi Kitabeykum;
Bey Sidqe Hadisin La Bey Sidqit Taraj'jami"**

And you have already read prophesies and tidings about him in your sacred books 'Injil'- New Testament.

**"Fala Tajalu Ghaiyriil'lahey Nida Wa Aslamu;
Wa Inna Tariqal Haqqey Laiysa Beymazlami"**

So do not believe any one partner of Allah and call him, but accept Islam and path of Haq is so lightening where darkness is not found.

One group alleges that he never recited the Kalimah in an assembly, while a second group argues that he clearly recited the Kalimah and was a Muslim. Beside these two opinions a third group believed firmly he was "Mumin" and as per valid reason given by Ibn Abil Hadid, in "Shareh Nahj al Balagha" Syedna Abu Talib concealed his faith only to protect Rasulullah (S) in his difficult task of Dawat. It is regretful that the prejudiced discussed the Im'an of that dignitary who was "Kamil-il-im'an"- perfect in faith. More than 500 verses, divided in 66 poems, are available in the poetic collection of Syedna Abi Talib.

Famous Scholar of the Ahl al Sunnat, Allamah Ibn Abil Hadid has praised the unforgettable contributions of Syedna Abu Talib and his son Amir al Mumineen Ali for the establishment of Islam. In one of his famous Qasaid, available in "Shareh Nahj al Balagha" he says: [5]

**"Wa Lavla Abu Talibin Wabnuhu;
Lama Masalad'dinu Shakhsan Wa Qama"**

If Abu Talib and his son Ali were not supported Rasulullah(S), Islam would not have survived as a religion, nor would have flourished.

**“Fa Zaka Bey Makkata Aawa Wa Hama;
Wa Haza Bey Yasriba Jassal Hamama”**

Syedna Abu Talib had protected and supported Rasulullah (S) in Makkah fully; likewise his son Ali divides in the whirlpools of death in Yasrab for him.

**“Takaffala Abdu Manafin Bey Amrin;
Wa Awda Fakana Aliyun Tamama”**

He had accepted the responsibility for the defense of Rasulullah (S) on the death bed of his father, Syedna Abd al Mutallib; Ali had fulfilled this assigned duty (after departure of his father, Syedna Abu Talib with perfection). Another name of Syedna Abu Talib is Imran, while his Kuniyat is known as Abd Manaf.

Except the forefathers of Rasulullah (S) and Ali, no one was a believer of Tawhid, purely and correctly. Will of Syedna Abu Talib, which he announced amongst his children, is an evidence of his faith:

"I recommend Mohammad to you, because he is the trusted one of Quraysh, and the truthful one of Arabia, and possesses all the virtues. He has brought a religion, which has been accepted by the hearts, but the tongues have chosen to deny it on account of fear of taunts. I can see that the weak and the helpless of Arabia have got up to support Mohammad and believe in him, and he has also risen to help them breaking the ranks of Quraysh. He has humiliated the chiefs of Quraysh and devastated their homes, and has made the helpless strong, and given them status". He concluded his remarks with these words: "O my kinsmen! Become the friends and supporters of his faith (Islam). Whoever follows him becomes prosperous. If death had given me some more time, I would have warded off all the dangers that came to him". [6]

Those who spend their full energy only in proving Syedna Abu Talib as a Kafir, due to their genetically inherited animosity of Bani Hasim, can not see light in the darkness. If a blind can not see the radiance of Sun, it is not the fault of the Sun. Is it not hostility that Abu Sufiyan who waged the wars of Badar, Uhud and Khandaq, and who tormented Rasulullah (S) in Makkah to such an extent that forced him for Hijrat-Migration to Madinah and who then accepted Islam after the conquest of Makkah just to save his skin, and protection from the sword of Ali, is very much remembered and honored? And Syedna Abu Talib, who fulfilled the responsibility of fostering, upbringing and training of Rasulullah (S) more honestly than his own sons and provided him full protection to institute Dawat of Islam, is acknowledged as a Kafir?

It is worth mentioning, that all the Anbiya from Adam(AS) to Mohammad(S) were born in a pure state, and their upbringing was bestowed to those who themselves were pure, and were protected from anything Har'am. Allah protects them from anything that is impure. Thus Syedna Abu Talib was born a Muslim, lived as a Muslim and died as a Muslim with the Kalimah on his lips.

Who performed the Nikah of Rasulullah(S) with Syedah Khudaijah? It was Syedna Abu Talib. Tawhid in the Khutbah is self explanatory evidence of the faith of Abu Talib. Does it mean that the Nikah become null and void? It only proves that Syedna Abu Talib was a true believer.

Qur'an appreciated his contribution in following terms: [7]

"Did he not find you an orphan-"Yatim" and gave you shelter"?

Isn't it amazing that protection was provided by Syedna Abu Talib and Qur'an says:

"He (Allah) gave you Protection?"

Thus the refuge and shelter bestowed by Allah to Rasulullah (S) was through Syedna Abu Talib; and so when the pagan Arabs joined hands to oppose Rasulullah (S), in the process of their hostile plotting they included Syedna Abu Talib also. Someone discussed in the presence of Imam Ali Zain al Abideen regarding the faith of Syedna Abu Talib. The Imam responded:

"I wonder why people doubt the faith of Syedna Abu Talib, when a woman cannot continue her matrimonial alliance with a non-Muslim husband after she has embraced Islam, then and Fatimah, daughter of Asad, was amongst those women who embraced Islam at a very early stage and still remained his wife till he breathed his last".

Imam Mohammad al Baqir says:

"The faith of Abu Talib was superior to the faith of many people, and Ali, Amir al Mumineen ordered that Haj should be performed on his behalf." [8]

Imam Jafar Assadiq says:

"Syedna Abu Talib was like "Ash'ab al Kahaf"-the People of the Cave. They had faith in their hearts but pretended to be polytheists. For this reason they will be rewarded twice". [9]

The word "Yatim-orphan used by Qur'an in the above Ayat means 'lonely' and 'unattended'. Allah then made His Rasul (S) financially sound through the wealth of Syedah Khudaijah. Study and think in what ever manner, Allah rewarded both of them. He made compulsory upon each Muslim to offer Salaw'at on the son of Syedna Abu Talib and daughter of Syedah Khudaijah. The founder of famous Sunni Shafae School of thought says: [10]

"Ya Ahle Baiti Rasulillahe Hubbikum;

Farazun Minallahe Fil Qur'ane Anzalahu"

"O Ahl al Bait of Rasulullah (S)! Your love is obligatory, which Allah has declared in the Qur'an".

"Kafakum Min Azimal Fakhre Innakum

Man Lam Yusalli Aliyikum La Sal'aata Lahu"

"To understand your high status it is enough that no Sal'at is complete without reciting Salaw'at upon you".

Commentators of Qur'an have ignored to interpret the word of the Ayat No. 54, Surat A'li Imr'an: "Makarullah," and concluded that it means "Trick", "Trap", while its real sense is "Divine-Hidden-Planning". [11] Syedna Abu Talib hold exalted status, in fact, he was "Divine-Hidden-Planning" of Allah, for the forthcoming Dawat of Islam. It was Syedna Abu Talib who extended Wasilah of Rasulullah (S) for rain during famine, in Makkah. It is noteworthy to mention a famous verse of "Qasidah L'amiyah" of Syedna Abu Talib, which he recited for rain. [12] The historians write unanimously: "He offered Doa for rains when there was not a single patch of cloud in the sky, but clouds then appeared immediately from the horizon. A part of the cloud began to spread in the sky above Makkah and the places round it. There was thunder and lightening and all the places were flooded with water, and everyone was happy." [13]

**"Wa Abyazu Yustasq'al Ghimamu Bey Wajhehi;
Simalul Yatama Ismattun Lil'aramile"**

The person of the shimmering forehead, through which (from the Maudabir) the request for rain was submitted, (is my nephew Mohammad) he is guardian of orphans and protector of the rights of widows.

Above verse shows that Syedna Abu Talib was not only an orator of high repute but simultaneously held exemplary command over poetry. This event not only certified the significance of Wasilah but also confirmed the exalted status of Syedna Abu Talib, as **"Mustaj'ab al Daw'at"**-one whose Doa was responded quickly. This happening also showed reverence of people for Syedna Abu Talib, as he was the successor of the previous Anbiya.

It is amazing that in the long Muslim history, no one had showed doubt on the faith of any other person, even not on a single person among those, who were under house arrest with Rasulullah(S) in "Sh'abi Abi Talib". To set a side the argument of reciting Kalimah or not, entire life of Syedna Abu Talib is an open book. He spent his entire life for the propagation of Islam. Prologue of "Sirat al Nabavi" can not be completed without the discussion of the magnificent and valiant contribution of Syedna Abu Talib

**"Assal'amu Alaiyka Ya Moulaya Ya Aba Talibin wa Ya Mutiyal Matalibi.....
Assalamu Alaiyka Ya Waj'halla-hil-Baqi wa Ya Sullaman-Najaati Lil'raqi '....
Assalamu Alaiyka Ya Moulana Aba Talibin wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuhu". [14]**

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