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Thirty Seventh Assembly

Met on Saturday, 17th of the month of Ramadhan in 410 Hijrah. The grand Sheikh al-Mufid, Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn al-Nu'man, may Allah increase his capabilities, narrated:

1. Always remember Allah

He said: Al-Muzaffar ibn Muhammad al-Balkhi al-Warraaq informed me from Abu 'Ali Muhammad ibn Hammam al-Iskafi al-Katib, who reported from Abdullah ibn Ja'far al-Himyari, who reported from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Isa, who reported from al-Hasan ibn Mahboob, from Abu Hamza al-Thumali, from Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir, peace be upon him, who said:

A believer is in his prayers, as long as he remembers Allah, while standing, sitting or lying down. Surely, Allah says (in Qur'an):

***'Those who remember Allah, standing, sitting, or lying on their sides, and reflect on the creation of the heavens and the earth: Our Lord, You have not created this in vain, glory be to You! So save us from the chastisement of the fire.'* (3:191).**

2. Three Major Sins

He said: Abul Qasim Ja'far ibn Muhammad ibn Qawlawayh, may Allah be pleased with him, reported to me from his father, from Sa'd ibn Abdillah, from Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Isa, from al-Husayn ibn Saeed, from Yasir, from Abdul Hasan al-Ridha, 'Ali ibn Musa, peace be upon him, who said:

"When the rulers utter lies, the rains are withheld. And when the monarch is oppressive, the country is weakened and when Zakat is withheld, the livestock (upon which Zakat has been due) suffer death."

3. People will be called by their mother's names

He said: Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Umar al-Ji'abi, reported to me from Abu Abdillah Ja'far ibn Muhammad al-Hasani, who reported from Ahmad ibn Abd al-Mon'em, who reported from Abdullah ibn Muhammad al-Fazari, from Ja'far ibn Muhammad, from his father, peace be upon them all. And he said that Ja'far ibn Muhammad al-Hasani reported from Ahmad ibn Abd al-Mon'em, who reported from Amru ibn Shimr, from Jabir al-Jofi, from Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, from Jabir ibn Abdillah al-Ansari, who said:

The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, said to 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be upon him: "May I not give you glad news? May I not award you?" He said: "Yes, O messenger of Allah." He (i.e. the Prophet) said: "Surely, I and you are created from one clay, and from what remained, our Shi'ahs were created. When the Day of Reckoning will dawn, all people will be called by their mother's names, except your Shi'ahs, who will be called by the names of their fathers, confirming their legitimacy."

4. The fate of those who disown Ahlul Bayt

He said: Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Umar al-Ji'abi, reported to me from Muhammad ibn Abdillah ibn Abu Ayyub at the Syrian coast, who reported from Ja'far ibn Harun al-Masisi, who reported from Khalid ibn Yazid al-Qisri, who reported from Umay al-Sayrafi, who said:

I heard Abu Ja'far Muhammad ibn Ali al-Baqir, peace be upon him, say: "Allah will disown those who disown us, and may Allah curse those who curse us; and may Allah destroy those who are our adversaries. O Allah! You know that we are the cause of their guidance, and yet they take us as their enemies. So You be the sole One to inflict punishment upon them."

5. The event of advancing Abraha

He said: Abul Hasan 'Ali ibn Bilal al-Mahlabi reported to me from Abdul Wahid ibn Abdullah ibn Yunus al-Rabee, who reported from al-Husayn ibn Muhammad ibn Amir, who reported from Mualla ibn Muhammad al-Basri, who reported from Muhammad ibn Jamhoor al-Ammi, who reported from Ja'far ibn Bashir, who reported from Sulaiman ibn Sam'ah, from Abdullah ibn al-Qasim, from Abdullah ibn Sinan, from Abu Abdillah Ja'far ibn Muhammad, peace be upon him, from his father, from his grandfather, peace be upon them, who said:

When Abraha ibn al-Sabbah, the king of Abyssinia, advanced towards Makkah to demolish the House (of Allah, i.e. Ka'bah), the Abyssinians hastened to raid it and they captured the grazing camels of Abdul Muttalib ibn Hashim. Then Abdul Muttalib came to the King, seeking permission to see him, and he was granted. The king was sitting under a silken cupola on his throne. He greeted him, and Abraha returned the greeting, staring at his face.

He was impressed by his (Abdul Muttalib's) grace, handsomeness and appearance. The king said: "Did your ancestors have the same light as this which I see in you and the same comeliness?" He said: "Yes, O king, all my ancestors had this light, comeliness and radiance." So Abraha said to him: "You have indeed superceded the kings in your glory and nobility! And you deserve to be the chief of your people."

Then he made him sit with him on his throne, and he sent for the groom, who looked after his huge elephant. The elephant was white and huge, having two tusks studded with pearls and gems, and the king prided over other kings because of it. He said: "Bring the elephant." The groom came with the elephant, flourished with beautiful adornments. When it came to face to face with Abdul Muttalib, it bowed before him, and it had never bowed before the king. And then Allah made it utter in Arabic, so it greeted Abdul Muttaliibn

When the king saw this, he was disturbed and considered it a magic. So he said: "Take back the elephant to its place." Then he turned to Abdul Muttalib and asked: "What have you come for? For I know of your generosity and your magnanimity, and I have observed your dignified appearance and comeliness which prepares me to fulfil your need. So ask of me whatever you wish." He thought Abdul Muttalib would ask him to return from Makkah.

But Abdul Muttalib said: "Your people have captured my grazing camels and taken them away. So order them to return them to me." He said: The king was furious at this and said: "You have fallen in my estimate. You come to me to ask for your camels, while I am here to destroy your glory and the glory of your people, and to demolish your distinction, which distinguishes you from every other people, and that is the House which people of all lands come for pilgrimage. You did not ask me about it and your are calling for your camels?"

Abdul Muttalib said: "I am not the Lord of the House, which you intend to wreck. I am the master of my camels which have been taken away by your people! I have come to ask for that which I own, and as for the House, it has a Lord Who is All-Powerful and mightier than all His creatures, and has more authority over it than others."

The king said: "Return his camels, and attack the House, breaking it stone by stone." Then Abdul Muttalib took his camels and preceded to Makkah. The king followed him with his huge elephant and the army to demolish the House. When they pushed the elephant to enter the sanctuary (of Kabah) it stopped, and when they left him, it hurriedly drew back. So Abdul Muttalib told his servants: "Bring me my son." They came with al-Abbas. He said: "I did not mean him. Bring me my son."

They came with Abu Talib. He said: "I did not mean him, call my son for me." So they came with Abdullah, the father of the Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny. When he arrived, he (i.e. Abdul Muttalib) said: "O my son, go and climb the mountain of Abu Qubais, and cast your glance towards the sea, and see what is coming from there and inform me."

He said: Abdullah climbed Abu Qubais. After a short while, he saw flights of birds coming, like a storm

and darkness of the night, and descended on Abu Qubais. Then they proceeded towards the House, and circled around it seven times. Then they came to al-Safa and al-Marwah, and went to and fro seven times. Abdullah, may Allah be pleased with him, returned to his father and gave him the news.

He said: "O my son, go and see what has become of those people, and then inform me." So he went, and saw them directed towards the army of Abyssinia. He informed Abdul Muttalib about it. Then Abdul Muttalib, may Allah bless him with mercy, proceeded exclaiming: "O people of Makkah! Go towards the army and pick up your share of the spoils." He said: They came upon the army who had become like whittled wood.

And every bird had three pebbles in its beak and hands, killing every one of the army with every single pebble. As they came to see all of them, the birds had gone. And nothing like it had ever been seen before or after. When all had perished, Abdul Muttalib came to the House, and clinging to its curtains said:

"O One who held back the elephant from al-Mughammas
(i.e. a place on the road of al-Taif where Abraha's guide lived),
You indeed held it back, as if it were topsy-turvy.
In a strait in which men lose their breath."

Then he went away, commenting on the runaway Quraish, and their anxiety over the invading Abyssinians:

"The Quraishites flew when they saw the army,
and I remained alone, finding no one for comfort,
and I never heard even a whisper from them
except from my honoured and distinguished brother
(who was) made a chief and a leader among his people."

6. Things which corrupt

He said: Abul Hasan 'Ali ibn Khalid al-Maraghi reported to me from Thawabah Ibn Yazid, who reported from Ahmad ibn 'Ali al-Muthanna, from Muhammad ibn al-Muthanna, from Shababah ibn Sawwar, from al-Mubarak ibn Saeed, from Khaleel al-Farrà, from Abu Al-Mujabbar, who said:

The Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny, said: "Four things corrupt the heart; to be alone (in privacy) with women, to listen to (the advice of) women, and to seek their opinion, and to be in company of the dead." So someone asked: "O messenger of Allah! What is the company of the dead?" He said: "To be in company of anyone who leads astray from the faith and the one who is unfair in the judgements."

7. Give time to those in hardship

He said: Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Umar al-Ji'abi, reported to me from Abul Abbas Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Saeed, who reported from Abdullah ibn Kharash, who reported from Ahmad ibn Bard, who reported from Muhammad ibn Ja'far ibn Muhammad, from his father, Ja'far ibn Muhammad, from his father Muhammad ibn 'Ali, peace be upon them, from Lababah ibn Abd al-Munzar, that he went to collect his debt from Abu al-Yasar. He heard him say:

"Tell him, he is not here." So Abu Lababah exclaimed: "O Abu Yasar, come out." He came out. Abu Lababah asked: "What makes you act like this?" He said: "Hardship, O Abu Lababah." Do you say that in the name of Allah?" Abu al-Yasar said: "Yes, by His name." Then Abu Lababah said: "I heard the Prophet, peace be upon him and his progeny ask: "Who likes to be sheltered from the outburst of hellfire?" We said: "All of us would like that, O messenger of Allah." He said: "Then he should give respite to his debtor – or he should redeem the financial difficulty."

8. A brother in the name of Allah

He said: Abu Hafs Umar ibn Muhammad al-Zayyat reported to me from 'Ali ibn Mahrawayh al-Qazwini, who reported from Dawood ibn Sulaiman al-Ghazi, who said:

I heard al-Ridha 'Ali ibn Musa, peace be upon him, say: "Whoever has been able to acquire a brother in the name of Allah, has indeed found a house in Paradise." He said: Abul Hasan al-Rahbi al-Nahwi recited the following verse by Al-Hajjaj ibn Yusuf al-Tamimi:

"If a man lives for fifty years
then he indeed is quite near the fountain of his return,
And when you pass a day of your life, do not say
I have passed, but say I have an observer over me!
And when a decade elapses in which you lived,
and are back to join in an ensuing decade, then you are a stranger."

All praise to Allah, and His blessings upon our master Muhammad, the Prophet, and his pure progeny.

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