

# Imamate as Envisaged in the Verse of Aulu al-Amr

“O, you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Apostle and those in authority from among you; then if you quarrel about anything, refer it to Allah and the Apostle, if you(truly) believe in Allah and the last day; this is better and fairer in the end”. (4:59)

In the above Qur’anic verse, God, the Most Exalted, orders people to obey Him and to obey the Prophet (saws) and those in authority. It is clear that obedience to God primarily includes obedience to the commands that God has revealed in the Qur’an and imparted to the people through the Prophet (saws) as in the verse, “Keep up prayers and pay the poor-rate”. (2:43)

**Obeying the commands of Prophet (saws) can be discussed under two headings:**

1. The Prophet’s Commands handed Down to us as his Sunnah

These are Divine commands inspired to the Prophet, who imparted them to the people, but in case they begin with such phrases as “I command you to...” and “I forbid you from”, abundantly found in fiqhi sources, they are called Prophetic orders. Obeying them means obeying the Prophet. Acting according to them means obeying God’s commands since they are ascribed to the Divine.

2. Commands Issued by the Prophet as a Wali and Ruler of the Muslims

These commands are not classified as “Divine commands”, but they are commands issued by the Prophet as a wali, guardian and ruler of the Islamic community, such as the commands concerning war, peace, administration of the Islamic government and community. The Qur’anic words, “... and obey the Apostle”, in the verse includes both kinds of commands.

## The Impeccability of the Prophet (saws) in All Commands and Prohibitions

The irrefutable reasons raised in theology (kalam), prove that the Prophet (saws) is divinely protected against error when issuing any commands or prohibitions. He never orders others to commit sins, nor does he issue erroneous commands or prohibitions.

In the above mentioned Qur’anic verse a mention is made that the obedience to the Prophet is absolute. Had there existed a possibility of his issuing any erroneous command or prohibition, the holy Qur’anic verse would have restricted the obedience to the Prophet (but it has not.)

When ordering that parents should be obeyed which is far less important than obeying the Prophet, God the Most Exalted says, “And we have enjoined on man goodness to his parents, and if they contend with you that you should associate (others) with me, of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them”. (29:8)

Because the parents might enjoin (their children) to associate someone with God they must not be obeyed if it comes to association with God. In the verse of Aulu al-Amr, however, obeying the Prophet (saws) is not restricted to any circumstances or situations.

Yet another evidence confirming and emphasizing the unrestricted obedience to the Prophet (saws) is that in many verses the phrase “obedience to the Prophet” comes directly after the phrase “obedience to God”, without repeating the verb اطيعوا meaning “obey”.

For example, in, “And obey Allah and the Apostle, that you may be shown mercy” (3:132) the verb “obey” is used only once before the words “Allah” and “the Apostle”, indicating that one has to obey the Prophet in all commands and prohibitions he issues, just as one has to obey God’s commands and prohibitions. Therefore, the obedience to the Prophet (saws) is undoubtedly absolute.

## Obedience to Those in Authority Aulu al-Amr

**When we want to examine the issues of imamate and inerrancy of the Imams, God bless them all, in the verse of Aulu al-Amr we need to consider the following:**

1. What the term Aulu al-Amr means.
2. To whom it is ascribed.
3. Aulu al-Amr, in the traditions of “Manzilah”, “Ita’ah” and “Thaqalayn”.
4. The traditions on “Aulu al-Amr” in Shi’ite and Sunnite sources.

## What the Term Aulu al-Amr Means

This word is made up of two words “اولي”, meaning “possessor,” and “الامر” meaning “command”, and “affair, authority”, the latter sense is more distinct, because Aulu al-Amr is mentioned in the following verse, which refers to the second meaning “And when there comes to them news of security or fear, they spread it abroad; and if they had referred it to

the Apostle and to those in authority among them, those among them who can search out the knowledge of it would have known it" (4:83)

Thus Aulu al-Amr "اولي الامر" means the possessors of authority who have the right to manage the affairs of all aspects of life, who naturally have the qualifications of becoming guardians of the affairs (of people) and it is God, the Owner of Authority and the Guardian of everything, who has entrusted this responsibility to them, and He has not given it to those who illegitimately and forcibly come to power. It is quite obvious that the owner of a house is the real possessor of the house, not the one who has occupied it by force, deceptions and tricks.

### To Whom Aulu al-Amr Is Ascribed

The commentators of the Qur'an introduce various views about the meaning of this word including the following:

1. Commanders.
2. The Companions of the Prophet (saws)
3. The Immigrants (Mahajrun) and the Helpers (Ansar).
4. The Companions (Sahabih) and the second generation of the Companions (Tab'in).
5. The four Caliphs.
6. Abu Bakr and Umar.
7. The knowledgeable people.
8. Army commanders.
9. The Imams from the family of the Prophet, Ahl al-Bayt, God's peace and blessing on them all.
10. Ali (as), peace on him
11. Those whom the Shariah has somehow entrusted with guardianship (over people)
12. Ahl al-Hill wa al-Akd "اهل حل و عقد"
13. The rulers of justice "امرا الحق" 1

We will ponder into the points and indications in the Qur'anic verse before judging and evaluating the above statements.

### The Status of Aulu al-Amr (As Stated) in the Verse

Here it is worth considering how the quoted Qur'anic verse sketches obedience to "Aulu al-Amr".

#### One: Absolute Obedience to Aulu al-Amr

The obedience to "those in authority", as mentioned in the verse, is absolute, that is, it is restricted by no condition, just as is the case the of obeying the Prophet we already discussed. This absolute obedience indicates that no particular command or circumstance has confined it. Rather, obeying their commands and prohibitions is obligatory.

#### Two: Obeying Aulu al-Amr is the same as Obeying God and the Prophet

Obeying these three entities knows no bound, as the layout of the verse indicates.

#### Three: Verb "Obey" is not mentioned preceding the Words Aulu al-Amr

Before the word God and the word Prophet, the verb "obey" is mentioned: "Obey Allah and Obey the Apostle", whereas the words Aulu al-Amr come directly after to "the Prophet"; thus the same verb embraces both the Prophet and Aulu al-Amr, which shows that the verb "obey", preceding the word the Prophet, applies to Aulu al-Amr, too.

Just as the Prophet has to be obeyed, so have the Aulu al-Amr, which is a clear proof indicating that the obedience to Aulu al-Amr is identical to the obedience to the Prophet in all commands and prohibitions (they issue). The unavoidable conclusion is that, will be: like the Prophet, "Aulu al-Amr" are inerrant in all their commands and prohibitions.

To expound this point, it can be said that the verb "obey" has been used only once to refer to both the Prophet and to Aulu al-Amr. Logically, it cannot be absolute and a conditioned at the same time i.e. absolute for the Prophet, and conditioned for "Aulu al-Amr" because these two opposites do not go together.

Inasmuch as the verb "obey" which refers to the Prophet is absolute, rendering obedience to Aulu al-Amr must to be absolute, too, with no conditions to restrict it, otherwise, the verb will mean two contradictory things.

Thus, the verse clearly indicates that, like the Prophet (saws) Aulu al-Amr (those in authority), are infallible. Rendering obedience to Aulu al-Amr, who have the mentioned particularities, signifies their inerrancy which has attracted the attention of a number of Sunni commentators of the Qur'an, such as Fakhr al-Razi<sup>2</sup>, whose argument is briefly stated below.

### **Fakhr al-Razi's Comment on the Verse of Aulu al-Amr**

**Fakhr al-Razi, too has recognized the inerrancy of "Aulu al-Amr", as shown in the summary that follows:** "God, the Most Exalted, has definitely made it obligatory to obey "those in authority". Those to whom obedience is thus made obligatory must be infallible.

If they were not, and if they were liable to err, they according to the verse ought to be obeyed which justifies obeying an erroneous act, whereas it is forbidden to commit wrong deeds. Therefore, such a supposition does not observe the difference between these two opposing points".<sup>3</sup>

**Having advanced his argument for the inerrancy of those in authority, Fakhr al-Razi refers to the Qur'anic verse, and says about these who are meant to be Aulu al-Amr:** "This Aulu al-Amr cannot be taken to mean the Imams, the Shi'ites hold to be infallible. Rather, it denotes the People of Hal and Aqd **اهل حال و عقد** those who are responsible for taking decisions in important social questions.

These people are free from sin in their decisions and their decisions are absolutely correct and in accordance with reality".

### **Responding to Fakhr al-Razi's Claim**

**Fakhr al-Razi's phrase "those in authority" means people of Hal and Aqd, who are free from sin in decisions, is not correct for the following reasons:**

1) The phrase "Aulu al-Amr", in the Qur'anic verse, is plural in form, inclusive of individuals (whose decisions ought to be obeyed; that is, each one of them pronounces a decision that ought to be obeyed). If, on the other hand, it means the People of Hal wa Aqd, it will be a collective unit, which opposes the apparent meaning of the verse.

The verse obviously indicates the necessity of obeying those in authority, each of whom has to be obeyed by a special command. They are not a "group" whose members have to be obeyed through a joint decision.

2) Ismah (inerrancy) is a divinely-bestowed immunity, a real spiritual quality, requiring a real referent (to match) who must undertake a genuine affair "the People of Hall and Aqd", is a collective unit and collective unit is an arbitrary group. It is thus impossible to apply a genuine affair to an arbitrary one.

3) All Muslims agree that other than the Imams of the Shiites and the prophets there are no infallible (m'asum) ones.

### **Fakhr al-Razi's Objections to the Idea of the Imamate of the Infallible Imams (as)**

**As regards Imamiyyah Shi'ites' views that by Aulu al-Amr they mean the twelve infallible Imams, Fakhr al-Razi has raised the following objections:** The first objection: The necessity of obeying these infallible Imams is either absolute and does not require true knowledge of them or the ability to know them and this would be too demanding, for it would be beyond one's capacity, i.e. it is impossible for us to obey them if we, presumably, cannot know them or requires true knowledge of them which is not correct, either. It is incorrect to limit their obedience because Qur'anic verse confirms that it is unconditioned".

**Answer:** Obedience to the infallible Imams, does not require having true knowledge of them and so one cannot shoulder it aside on the excuse of lack of true knowledge of them, because the obedience to them is, conditioned. It is thus ones duty to know them in order to be able to obey them. These are two different cases.

### **An Explanation**

**Conditions are of two kinds:** a condition that renders something wajib (obligatory), and a condition which is itself wajib. For example, Hajj becomes obligatory when one can afford it; so, affording it is called wujub condition. Hajj will not be wajib, if one cannot afford it, but, in order to perform prayers, one has to be ritually pure. This means performing prayer, a religious duty, depends on being ritually pure.

Therefore, one cannot perform his prayers without being ritually pure. If one does not get ritually pure, one cannot perform prayer and is said to have sinned because it is incumbent on one to be purify (beforehand). As regards Hajj one cannot afford the expenses it is not wajib (incumbent) on him to go on Hajj, if and such a thing is not an offence.

In the same way, obedience to both the Prophet and the Imams is dependent on knowing them. Therefore, one has to know them in order to obey them. Thus, the necessity of obeying them is an absolute one, but the very obedience to them is dependent (on other factors).

By giving irrefutable arguments, God, the Exalted, has prepared the way for acquiring this knowledge. Just as the Prophet is known by indisputable proofs, so are the Infallible Imams, who are the successors to the Prophet. They are made known to people through detailed conclusive and convincing reasons in Shiite theological books and narrations. Therefore,

acquiring knowledge about them is very necessary.

**The second objection:** “According to Imamiyyah Shi’ites there is only one Imam for every period, but (as we know) the term “Aulu al-Amr” refers to more than one person.

**Answer:** Although there is only one Imam for every period the obedience to Imams extends to various periods. This, however, does not oppose (the idea that) obedience to an Imam is obligatory during a certain time. The believers are, therefore, bound to obey, in various periods, the infallible Imams, who are made known to them.

**The third objection:** “If Aulu al-Amr were to mean the Infallible Imams, the verse would read like this: ‘then if you quarrel about anything, refer it to Allah and the Apostle and those in authority’ but the verse does not say so.

**Answer:** Since settling disputes and quarrels by the Infallible Imams is according to the Qur’an and the Sunnah and because they are fully versed in the Book and the Sunnah, referring a problem to them is, in fact, referring it to God and His Messenger. So, it is not necessary to have the phrase “Aulu al-Amr” in the verse.

### Further Explanation: The Letter “أ” (fa’) in the a Conditional Sentence

Another important point in explicating the meaning of “Aulu al-Amr” is the significance of letter fa أ that has the function of, producing an effect. This is clear in the conditional sentence after the statement: “Obey Allah and Obey the Apostle and those in authority”; which reads: then if you quarrel about anything refer it to Allah and the Apostle”.

This sentence means that the necessity of referring cases of dispute to Allah and the Apostle originates from the necessity of obedience to Allah, the Apostle and Aulu al-Amr. The use of the letter fa’ in the conditional sentence reveals two fundamental things: “inerrancy of those in authority” and “their extensive knowledge of the whole Book and the Sunnah”.

#### 1) Inerrancy of those in authority

Some claim that if “those who are in authority”, err and sin or take wrong decisions on a case of dispute, their judgment will have nothing to do with the Book and the Sunnah.

But, the idea which the Qur’anic verse conveys by using the letter fa’ أ, is that just as the obedience of those “in authority” is obligatory the dispute must be referred to God and Apostle.

#### 2) Extensive knowledge of the whole Book and the Prophet’s Sunnah.

Those who are in authority ought to have extensive knowledge of the Book and the Sunnah because if they issued even one particular command which is not according to the Book and the Sunnah, and the command was deviating, this would mean that the principle of “referring the dispute to Allah and Apostle” had, not been put into effect.

The use of the fa’ to express consequence shows, that obedience to those in authority is always the cause of referring disputes to Allah and Apostle. Therefore, the fa’, أ, in the stated verse, is a clear indication that those in authority applies to none except the Infallible Imams.

**We can conclude from the above-mentioned observation that:**

- “Aulu al-Amr”, those in authority, in the stated verse, are liable to no sin and error when they issue a command or prohibition.
- The term “those in authority” does not include Ahl al-Hall and Aqd, though Fakhr al-Razi claims that it does.
- According to what has been proved, if we reconsider the eleven points about Aulu al-Amr we find that the only plausible meaning of “those in authority” inferred from the Qur’anic verse, is the Shiites’ Infallible Imams and there is a consensus about that: no one other than the Imams is included in Aulu al-Amr.

### Unjust Rulers are not Part of Aulu al-Amr

In explaining the meaning of Aulu al-Amr it was started that this term includes only those who have the right to be guardians and owners of the affairs of the community, and they continue having this right even if they are deprived of it, just as in the case of usurping one’s house and driving its owner out.

Yet, another indication of the dignified position and eminent rank of those in authority is their being mentioned next to God and the Messenger in the Qur’anic verse, thus making absolute obedience to them incumbent on others, a rank assigned to no one except those who are worthy of it.

These two important points (i.e. the meaning of “those in authority”, and their being mentioned next to God and the Messenger with regard to the necessity of obedience to them) tyrants and unjust rulers from the domain of Aulu al-Amr, referred to in the Qur’anic

verse.

In his **Kashaf**,<sup>4</sup> a commentary of the Qur'an, referring to the above verse Zamakhshari says: "God and His Messenger are averse to those who rule with an iron fist; they are not worthy of being related to God and the Messenger as regards the obedience. The most fitting name to them would be "the conquering bandits".

The above quotation is an answer to Al-Tabari, who includes "those who rule with an iron fist" under Aulu al-Amr, and claims that it is incumbent on people to obey them. Thus his view proves to be groundless.

### Tabari's Perspective of Aulu al-Amr

The following is Al-Tabari's words: The best thing said in this regard is, "they (Aulu al-Amr) are the commanders and rulers, as it has been soundly reported from Prophet (saws), and that obedience has to be rendered to imams and governors in things to be obeyed and in things that bring benefits to the Muslims"

Which corresponds to the words of Ali ibn Muslim al-Tusi, who relates from, ibn Abi Fadayik from Abdullah ibn Mohammad ibn Urwah from Hisham ibn Urwah, on the authority of Salih al-Samman on the authority of Abu Hurayrah, who said, "The Prophet (saws) has said, 'There will come after me, good governors, with all good, and evil-governors, with all evil. Listen to them and obey them in all that agrees with truth, pray behind them and if they do good, it will do you and them good, and if they do you ill, it will be to your benefit and against them".

Ibn al-Mothna has reported from Yayha ibn Ubaydillah from Nafi' ibn Abdullah, who has quoted the Prophet (saws) as saying: "It is incumbent on a Muslim to obey what he likes and dislikes, except if it comes to committing sins. If one commands you to commit a sin, do not obey him". Ibn al-Mothna relates from Khalid ibn Ubaydillah, on the authority of Nafi, on the authority of ibn Ummar who has quoted a similar account from the Prophet (saws).<sup>5</sup>

Tabari refers to the above mentioned narration and concludes that "the commanders" in general whether righteous or wicked, are meant by Aulu al-Amr and considers obedience to governor as obligatory.

Besides the real meaning of Aulu al-Amr and its coming next to the Messenger in the Qur'anic verse, other objections are directed to Al-Tabari's view, which are as follows: The first objection: The traditions (Tabari has cited) are not authentic because in the chain of transmission of the stated narration we find the name of ibn Abi Fadayik, concerning whom ibn Sa'd, a leader of ilm rijal and hadith, says, "He is said to have reported a large number of traditions, but he is not authentic".<sup>6</sup>

Ibn Habban considers him (ibn Abi Fadayik) to be the narrators who make errors.<sup>7</sup>

Abd Allah ibn Mohammad ibn Urwah says that there is no evidence in the well-known books of rijal, which confirms that he is "authentic".

The chain of transmission of the second tradition also contains (name of some)weak and unknown narrators, such as Yahya ibn Ubaydillah whom leaders of ilm rijal, such as Abu Hatim, ibn Ayyinah, Yayha al-Qattan, ibn Moeen, ibn Abi Shaybah, Nisa'i and Darquotni consider weak and unreliable.<sup>8</sup>

The second objection: The traditions have nothing to do with the verse of Aulu al-Amr, nor are they concerned with the interpretation of the Qur'anic verse in question.

The third objection: This Al-Tabari's interpretation is not consistent with other Qur'anic verses, including the following: "And do not obey the bidding of the extravagant, which make mischief in the land and do not act aright". (26:151-152)

### Religious Scholars are not Meant by "Aulu al-Amr"

The term "Aulu al-Amr" implies "guardianship", whereas the function of "religious scholars" is simply to clarify things to people.

a) The term "Aulu al-Amr" does not convey the idea of "jurists", unless there is an indication from outside that assigns them such a position. This, however, has not been referred to by the verse. The reason why some say that by Aulu al-Amr ulama are meant is because regarding their daily affairs, people usually follow and obey ulama.

b) The Qur'anic verse preceding the one we have started (at the beginning of this chapter) says: "...when you judge between people, you have to judge with justice", which clearly delineates the duties of rulers.

The Qur'anic verse in question points out to the people's duties towards Aulu al-Amr, which clearly indicates that Aulu al-Amr refers to governors not ulama.

c) If by Aulu al-Amr it means ulama, then two questions will have to be asked: "does it mean ulama in general or every individual (religious scholar) whose opinion has to be accepted and decisions obeyed?

If the first one is meant, then the answer will be the same as that we have given while



commenting on Fakhr al-Razi's objections (pages 52–3 concerning the people of Hal and Aqd). If the second one is meant, then, "how can the Qur'anic verse say that absolute obedience to them is obligatory?" Were it really so, the Qur'an and traditions would have specified the (relevant) conditions.

As we already stated about the effect of the letter (ثـ i.e. then) in the previous verse, the other part of this verse is: "...then if you quarrel about anything refer it to Allah and the Apostle".

This (part of the verse) shows clearly that the necessity of referring the cases of quarrel to God and the Apostle is undoubtedly related to the necessity of obeying God, the Apostle and Aulu al-Amr.

The reason why word Aulu al-Amr is not reiterated in other part of the verse is because Aulu al-Amr are fully-versed in the Book and in the Sunnah, and so "referring cases of quarrel" to them is actually referring them to God and the Apostle. We know, however, that except for those who are divinely protected from sins and errors, others, are not free from mistakes.

#### Other notes in the Verse

As regards supposing that the term "Aulu al-Amr" means religious scholars there are yet other comments that are worth considering. A deliberation on these comments discloses further problems:

- a) "You" in "then if you quarrel" and those addressed in "O you who believe" refer to the same people, and this shows that "the believers" who are thus addressed and Aulu al-Amr are (two) different groups. "Aulu al-Amr" means those who issue commands and "the believers" means those who have to obey.
- b) It is thus understood that "the quarrel" eluded to in the aforementioned verse means the quarrels between different groups of believers, not the quarrels between believers and Aulu al-Amr.
- c) The assumption that there is a change in address from "believers" to "Aulu al-Amr", opposes the context of the verse. Besides, there is no evidence for it in the verse.

#### Criticism of Some Theories

a) Qortubi and Jasses hold that the verse "then if you quarrel about anything, refer it to Allah and the Apostle..." indicates that religious scholars are meant be Aulu al-Amr, because common people do not know how to refer things to God and the Messenger. Taken this, God addresses religious scholars in the verse ordering them to refer the disputes which may occur to God and the Messengers.<sup>9</sup>

Abul So'ud has quoted the above mentioned Qur'anic verse in his commentary, but has given a quite different view from what the above mentioned two commentators hold.

He says, "The phrase 'then if you quarrel' indicates that Aulu al-Amr cannot mean religious scholars because the followers of a jurist are not qualified enough to argue with him over juridical verdicts, unless we say that the Qur'anic phrase 'then if you quarrel' does not concern the followers and only the jurists are addressed which is also impossible.<sup>10</sup>

a) Qortubi and Jessas both maintain that the jurists are addressed in the phrase "if you quarrel". But it is obvious that the verse addresses all believers. So, their view stands groundless.

b) Abul So'ud believes that if jurists are meant by Aulu al-Amr, then the word "quarrel" will mean the quarrel between jurists and their followers, whereas it is the believers who are addressed in the verse.

c) Inasmuch as both the "believers" and "Aulu al-Amr" are mentioned in the verse, it can be understood that the quarrel is between the believers themselves not between the believers and Aulu al-Amr if we take Aulu al-Amr to mean ulama.

So far, it has become clear that on the basis of what has been already stated, Aulu al-Amr cannot mean ulama and so Qortubi and Jasses' claims are not correct and it is clear that Abul So'ud's statement is unsound.

#### Aulu al-Amr does not mean the Companions or the Tab'in

A deliberation on the holy Qur'anic verse makes it clear that Aulu al-Amr does not mean the Companions, the Tab'in, or the Immigrants, (Muhajirun) and the Helpers (Ansar):

a) The holy Qur'anic verse addresses the believers in general, specifying those whom the believers have to pledge absolute obedience.

The believers are thus ranked among those who obey and submit, while God, His Messenger and Aulu al-Amr, give commands and possess absolute authority. A juxtaposition of these two groups clearly shows that "those who believe" are different from Aulu al-Amr, "those in authority" the believers merely obey God, the Messenger and Aulu al-Amr give commands.

The thing which confirms that they are different is that "Aulu al-Amar" is mentioned next to

God and the Messenger, who have to be obeyed. This requires that Aulu al-Amr cannot be the Companions, the Tab'in, the Immigrants, or the Helpers. The believers who were addressed when the verse was revealed were the Companions, the Immigrants and the Helpers.

b) In case Aulu al-Amr is taken to mean the Companions, then the following question will arise: Does this mean that each one of the Companions has authority as a guardian, or all the Companions have such a position? If we accept the second view their words will not be valid unless they all reach a consensus. This opposes the truth of the verse, as we already explained in response to Fakhr al-Razi's observations.

The first option and that is each one of the Companions has an authority as a guardian also opposes the truth and is not consistent with the life style of the Companions, for in the time of the Companions none of them was so superior to others that the others had to (absolutely) obey them.

In addition, the Companions differed widely in as far as knowledge and practice are concerned and many of them lacked scholarly and morally qualifications so that concerning these people, including Walid ibn Auqba, the Qur'anic verse "O you who believe! If an evil-doer comes to you with a report, look carefully into it, lest you harm a people in ignorance, then be sorry for what you have done" (49:6)

Was revealed. So, how can Aulu al-Amr mean all of the Companions, or the Immigrants and the Helpers?

### **Aulu al-Amr Does Not Mean Military Commanders**

Aulu al-Amr does not mean military commanders of serriyahs, in which the Prophet was not personally present. Besides the already-mentioned proofs -i.e. having in the verse, the phrase Aulu al-Amr next to the Messenger which indicates that obeying Aulu al-Amr is obligatory, the use of the letter **لَٰ**, meaning "then", in the Qur'anic statement: "then if you quarrel about anything..."

Which requires an absolute obedience to God and the Messenger and Aulu al-Amr and confirms that Aulu al-Amr are infallible and finally reaching the conclusion that military commanders are not inerrant- what the Companions and the Tab'in have left behind confirms this idea. Here are some of what they have left:

1. Ibn Abbas is quoted to have said that the Qur'anic verse of Aulu al-Amr concerns a person whom the Prophet (saws) had assigned as a military leader of one of the campaigns.<sup>11</sup> In the chain of transmission of this hadith mention is made of the name of Hajjaj ibn Mohammad concerning whom ibn Sa'id says, "He suffered from a failing memory in the final stage of his life". Ibn Hajar says, "He (Hajjaj) was narrating while he was in this condition".<sup>12</sup> Naturally, his reports are not valid.

2. Maymoon ibn Mehran is reported to have said "Aulu al-Amr are those who led campaigns".<sup>13</sup> In the chain of transmission of this hadith, mention is made of the name of Anbas ibn Sa'id Zarees concerning whom ibn Habban says, "He often erred".<sup>14</sup>

Tabari has quoted Sadi to have said that<sup>15</sup> the verse of Aulu al-Amr refers to the story of the army in which Khalid ibn al-Walid was appointed as a leader and Ammar Yassir, who was present, had disputed with Khalid ibn al-Walid over a promise of protection Khalid had given to one of the Muslims.<sup>16</sup>

### **Comment:**

This report is not sound (saheeh) firstly because it is a mursal report and secondly because Yahya ibn Mo'in and 'Aqili say that Sadi is "weak" (in his reporting narrations) while Jowzjani considers him a big liar.<sup>17</sup>

### **3. Below is Bukhari's account of the interpretation of the verse of Aulu al-Amr**

"Sadaqat ibn al-Fazl has reported on the authority of Hajjaj ibn Mohammad, on the authority of ibn Joraij, on the authority of Y'ali ibn Muslim, on the authority of S'aeed ibn Jubayr, that ibn Abbas, may God be pleased with both of them, has said, "the verse Obey God and Obey the Messenger and those in authority from among you" refers to Abdillah ibn Hozafat ibn Qays ibn 'Adi whom the Prophet (saws) assigned as a military leader to fight a war".<sup>18</sup>

### **Comment:**

As is understood from Fath al-Bari, a book by ibn Hajar, this narration has probably been quoted on the authority of Saneed ibn Dawood Musaysi as is stated by ibn Sekan, not on the authority of Sadaqat ibn Fazl, as most narrators have mentioned and confirmed by Bukhari's Saheeh. Now, both Abu Hatem and Nisa'i consider Saneed ibn Dawood to be "weak".<sup>19</sup>

a) So we can conclude that: We are not sure that this tradition has been reported by Sadaqat ibn Fazl. It may have been reported by Saneed, who is regarded to be "weak".

b) In the chain of transmission, mention has been made of the name of Hajjaj ibn Mohammad, concerning whom ibn Sa'd says, "He suffered from a failing memory in the final stage of his life". Ibn Hajar says, "He (Hajjaj) reported traditions while his condition was like that.<sup>20</sup>

### **Aulu al-Amr" Does Not Apply to Abu Bakr and Umar**

From the discussions previously presented it is clear that Abu Bakr and Umar cannot be regarded as "Aulu al-Amr". Also, their manifest inability to give (appropriate) answers to questions they were asked and their views which were contrary to the Divine injunctions, as it is recorded in history and hadith literature, confirm our claim. For further elucidation, the reader may refer to volumes 6 and 7 of al-Ghadir.

**In some Sunni books of traditions we can find this narration:** "Follow those after me: Abi Bakr and Umar" ordering people to follow them. This tradition is open to dispute.

In the chain of transmission of this narration mention is made of the name of Abdul Malik ibn Umayer about whom Ahmad ibn Hanbal says, in his Tahdhib al-Kamal<sup>21</sup> "Abdul Malik ibn Umayer is (a person who relates) really confused hadiths".

Ahmad ibn Hanbal considers him to be "weak", and Abu Hatim says, "He does not have a good memory; his memory failed him in the final stage of his life".

In his chain of transmissions of Tirmidhi<sup>22</sup> mention is made of the name of salim ibn 'Ala Moradi, whom ibn Mo'in and Nesaii consider to be "weak"<sup>23</sup>. In the same source the name of Sa'id ibn Yahya ibn Sa'id al-Omawi is mentioned. Ibn Hajar quotes Salih Mohammad to have said, "He (Yahya ibn Sai'd al-Omawi) often made mistakes".<sup>24</sup>

If such traditions had existed, Abu Bakr and Umar would have cited them in the consultative assembly at Saqifah as evidence of their competence to hold the position of caliphate. But it is definite that this tradition had not been quoted. This confirms that the tradition (in question) cannot be attributed to (the Prophet -S.A.W.-), and it is a faked tradition.

### **Those "Given Authority" by Shariah (such as One's Father) Are Not Meant be "Aulu al-Amr"**

Based on the aforementioned evidence, it is clear that those given authority by Shariah, such as one's father and grandfather, are not considered as "absolute Aulu al-Amr".

#### **Notes:**

1. – Bahr al-Moheet, vol. 3, p. 278; Al-Tafseer al-Kabeer.
2. – Nayshaburi's Qara'ib al-Qur'an, vol. 2, p. 434, Dar al-Kutub al-Ilmiyyah, Beirut; Mohammad Abdah and Rasheed Rida's Tafseer al-Minar, vol. 5, p. 181, by Dar al-Ma'rifah, Beirut.
3. – Al-Tafseer al-Kabeer, the las part of the Qur'anic verse in question.
4. – Al-Kashaf, vol. 1, pp. 276–277, Darl-Ma'rifah, Beirut.
5. – Tabari, Tafseer, vol. 5, p. 95; Dar al-Ma'rifah, Beirut.
6. – Al-Tabaqat al-Kobra, vol. 5, p. 437, Dar Beirut Liltiba'a wa al-Nashr.
7. – Kitab al-Thiqat, vol. 9, p.42, Al-Kotob al-Thaqafiyyah Institute.
8. – Tahdhib al-Tahdhib, vol. 11, p. 221, Dar al-Fikr.
9. – Jami' Ahkam al-Qur'an, vol. 5, p. 260, Dar al-Fikr; Ahkam al-Qur'an, by Jasses, vol. 2, p. 210, Dar al-Kitab al-Arabi.
10. – Irshad al-'Aqil al-Saleem, Abul So'ud's commentary, vol. 2, p. 193, Dar Ihya' al-Turath al-Arabi, Beirut.
11. – Tabari's Tafseer, vol. 5, p. 92, Dar al-Ma'rifah, Beirut.
12. – Tahdheeb al-Tahdheeb, vol.2, p. 181.
13. – Tabari's Tafseer, vol. 5, p. 92, Dar al-Ma'rifah, Beirut.
14. – Tahdheedb al-Tahdheeb, vol. 8. p. 138.
15. – Tabari's Tafseer , p. 92, Dar al-Ma'rifah, Beirut.
16. – Ibid, p. 92.
17. – Tahdheeb al-Tahdheeb, vol. 1, p. 273.
18. – Bukhari's Saheeh, vol. 3, p. 376, al-Tafseer, the section on "Obey Allah..., tradition 1010; Beirut.
19. – Fath al-Bari, vol8, p. 253.
20. – Tahdheeb al-Tahdheeb, vol. 2, p.181.
21. – Tahdhib al-Kamal, vol. 18, p. 373, Al-Risalah Institute.
22. – Tirmidhi's Sunan, vol. 5, p. 570, tradition 3663.
23. – Mizan al-I'tidal, vol. 2, p. 112, Dar al-Fikr.
24. – Tahdheeb al-Tahdheeb, vol. 4, p. 86.