

Al-Furqān

the bi-weekly newsletter from the office of
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*In the name of Allāh, the Beneficent, the Merciful
O Allah, bless Muhammad & his Progeny*

**“Today I have perfected for you your religion,
completed upon you My blessing, and I am pleased with Islam as religion for you.”
(The Qur’an 5:3)**

This was the verse sent down by Almighty God at the conclusion of the event of Ghadir Khumm in which the last and best of all the Messengers of Allah, Muhammad al-Mustafa, declared ‘Ali bin Abi Talib as his successor and the *wali* of all the Muslims after him.

The Shi‘as celebrate this event as an eid — Eid al-Ghadir. Is this “eid” cultural or religious? It is only an expression of devotion by the Shi‘as towards their first Imam or is there a religious basis for this celebration?

Eid al-Ghadir is an eid on religious basis. Whenever the circumstances allowed, the Imams of Ahlul Bayt used to celebrate it in a grand scale. Shaykh at-Tusi (385-466 AH) narrates from al-Fayyaz bin Muhammad bin ‘Umar at-Tarsusi that he visited Imam ‘Ali ar-Riza (a.s.) on the day of Ghadir and saw that the Imam had organized a major feast for the *iftar* on that day in which he also distributed money and gifts among his servants and followers. In that gathering, Imam ‘Ali ar-Riza (a.s.) narrated (through his father and fore-fathers) the following event from Imam Husayn (a.s.):

Once, during the caliphate of Imam ‘Ali (a.s.), the anniversary of Ghadir occurred on a Friday. Imam ‘Ali (a.s.) ascended the *mimbar* for the Friday *khutba*, and after praising Almighty Allah and the Blessed Prophet, he said,

“Almighty Allah has combined, O the Believers, on this day two great and major eids... He has made the Juma’ (Friday: literally it means the gathering) double...”

Then Imam ‘Ali (a.s.) briefly described the event of Ghadir and said,

“Therefore, a person’s [belief in] God’s *tawhid* will not be accepted unless he/she affirms the *nubuwwat* of the Prophet (s.a.w.), and the religion will not be accepted unless he/she affirms the *wilayat* of one whose *wilayat* has been ordered...”

After the *khutba* and the Friday prayer, Imam ‘Ali (a.s.) went with his family members to the house of Imam Hasan bin ‘Ali who had arranged a major feast for the whole family and the companions —rich and poor alike— for that special occasion. (See Shaykh Muhammad bin Hasan at-Tusi, *Misbah al-Mutahajjid* [Beirut: Mu’assasa Fiqhis Shi’a: 1411 AH] p. 752-754)

This shows that the day of Ghadir is indeed a religious eid declared and celebrated by our Imams.

Eid al-Ghadir is celebration of Islam’s perfection; with the *wilayat* (leadership) of ‘Ali, Almighty Allah completed His most important blessing on us—guidance; and through that *wilayat* Islam became *the* preferred religion.

Eid al-Ghadir is an annual renewal of our commitment and loyalty to Islam as a religion. We pledge to follow Islam as taught by the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) and as preserved by the Imams of Ahlul Bayt (a.s.).

***Al-hamdu lil-lahil-lazi ja’alani
minal mutamassikin bi wilayati ‘Ali bin Abi Talib
All praise be to Allah who made me among
those who hold on to wilayat of ‘Ali bin Abi Talib.***

Salaam upon you,
O Chief of the believers,
Leader of the heirs [of the Prophet],
Heir of the wisdom of the prophets,
Friend of the Lord of the universe,
my Master and Master of the believers,
& may Allāh's mercy & blessings be upon you...

Salaam upon you,
O the upright religion of Allāh
and His straight path.

Salaams upon you,
O the great news about whom they disputed
and about whom they will be questioned
[on the day of judgement].

Salaams upon you, O Chief of the believers,
you believed in Allāh
while the others were still idol-worshippers,
you testified to the truth
while others were still denying it,
you struggled [in jihad]
while they were retreating [from jihad],
and leader of the Muslims, chief of the believers,
and guide of the pious.

I bear witness, O Chief of believers,
that the person who doubts about you
has not believed in the trustworthy Messenger.
And the one who equates you to others
has strayed from the upright religion
that the Lord of the Universe has chosen for us
and that He has perfected through your wilāyat
on the day of Ghadir.

I bear witness, a true witnessing,
and I swear by Allāh a true oath that:
Muhammad and his Family
are leaders of the people;
and that you [‘Ali]
are my Master and Master of the believers;
and you are the servant of Allāh and His friend;
and that [you are]
the Prophet's brother, his successor, and heir.

And the Prophet said about you:
“I swear by the God
who sent me with the truth that
a person who rejects you
has not truly believed in me,
and one who rejects you
has not truly accepted Allāh.”

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