

'Alî Ibn Abî Tâlib

Amîr Al-Mu'minîn (Peace Be Upon Him)

From:

The Sayings And Preaching

Including His Replies To Questions & Maxims
Expressed For Various Purposes

A tradition related from **Amir al-mu'minîn**, peace be upon him, says:

When the situation is like this, then the queen-bee¹ (here translated

"Ya'sûb" is the name given to the queen-bee, and the saying of Amîr al-mu'minîn is: "fa idha kâna dhâlika daraba ya'sûb u'd-dîn bî dhanabihî".

The word "daraba" means to beat, strike, hit, etc.; "ya'sûb u'd-dîn" means "the head of religion and the sharî'ah", and "dhanab" means: tail, end, adherent or flower.

In this sentence "ya'sûb-u'd-dîn" stands for the present Imam (al-Imâm al-Mahdî). Although this title was given by the Holy Prophet to Amîr al-mu'minîn specially, as he said:

O' 'Alî, you are the ya'sûb (bead) of the believers while wealth is the ya'sûb of the hypocrites. (al-Isti`ab, vol. 4, p. 1744; Usd al-ghabah, vol.5, p.287; al-Isabah, vol.4, p.171; ar-Riyad an-nadirah, vol.2, p.155; Majma' az-zawa'id, vol.9, p.102; Ibn Abî'l-Hadîd, vol.1, p. 12; vol.19, p.224).

Also the Holy Prophet said to 'Alî:

You are the ya'sûb of the religion. (ar-Riyad an-nadirah, vol.2, p. 177; Taj al-'arus, vol.1, p.381; Ibn Abî'l-Hadîd, vol.1, p. 12; vol.19, p.224)

Also the Holy Prophet said to 'Alî:

You are the ya'sûb of the Muslims (Yanabi' al-mawaddah, al-Qunduzî, p.62)

Again the Holy Prophet said:

You are the ya'sûb of the Quraysh (al-Maqasid al-hasanah, as-Sakhawi, p.94).

Therefore, the reason for giving the Imam this name is that just as the queen bee is pure alone and in the society of other bees, and she collects her nectar from the blossoms and flowers keeping away from pollution, in the same way the present Imam is free from all pollutions and is perfectly clean and pure. This saying has been interpreted in several ways:

Firstly, it means that "when the present Imam settles at his seat after his

as the head of the religion) **will rise and people will gather around him as pieces of rainless cloud collect during autumn.**

316. Amir al-mu'minin, peace be upon him, said: I am the ya'sub (leader) of the believers, while wealth is the leader of the wicked.

As-Sayyid ar-Radi says: It means that the believers follow me while the wicked follow wealth just as the bees follow their "ya'sûb" who is their leader.²

tour and rotation round the world people will gather around him."

Secondly, it means that "when the Imam moves about on the earth along with his friends and associates..." In this case the word "daraba" would mean moving about and the word "dhanab" would mean helpers and associates.

Thirdly, it means that "when the Imam rises with a sword in hand." In this case the word "dhanab" would mean stinging by the bee.

Fourthly, it means that "when the Imam rises for the propagation of true faith with full fervour. . ." In this case the sentence is suggestive of the state of anger and the posture for attack.

2 We have already explained the meaning of the word "ya'sûb" in the footnote of saying No.262-I, and pointed out that this title was given to Amir al-mu'minin by the Holy Prophet himself and we quoted some of his different utterances on this subject.

Here we quote one of the traditions in which this title appears. It is narrated by Abu Layla al-Ghifari, Abu Dharr, Salman, Ibn 'Abbas and Hudhayfah ibn al-Yaman that the Holy Prophet used to say:

Soon after my death there will be discord. When it occurs, adhere to 'Ali ibn Abi Talib since he will be the first person to see me and the first person to shake hands with me on the Day of Judgement. He is the greatest man of truth (as-siddiq al-akbar), and he is the discriminator (faruq) from among this ummah who discriminates between right and wrong, and he is the ya'sûb (leader) of the believers while wealth is the ya'sub of the hypocrites.

(In addition to the references given in the above-mentioned foot-note, see also: Fayd al-qadir, vol.4, p.358; Kanz al-'ummal, vol.12, p.214; Muntakhab al-kanz, vol.5, p.33; Ibn Abi'l-Hadid, vol.13, p.228; Tarikh ash-Sham, Ibn 'Asakir, (on the biography of Amir al-mu'minin), vol.1, pp. 74 - 78; as-Sirah al-halabiyyah, vol.1, p.380; Dhakha'ir al-'uqba, p.56; Yanabi' al-mawaddah, p. 62, 82, 201 and 251)