In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. The Praise is for Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and Blessing be upon our Chief Muhammad and his Purified Progeny, and greetings with abundant greetings.

Summary:

In all Ahadith books followed by Muslims, it is agreed that at the place of Ghadeer (after the last Hajj) Rasool-Allah - in fulfilment of a Divine Commandment - delivered a sermon and announced the Message regarding the authority Ali. So at the top of the podium (built from the saddles of camels) Rasool-Allah asked:

Is my life not worthier one over all of your lives?

They said: Of course

Then He grabbed the hand of Ali, and said:

Whoever’s Master I was now Ali is his Master. O Allah! Protect him who accepts him as his protector and Be inimical to the one who is inimical to him.

In some narrations ‘So This’ is found meaning ‘Whoever’s Master was Ali is his Master’. (Moula)

1 O you Rasool! Deliver what has been Revealed unto you from your Lord; and if you don’t do so, then you have not delivered His Message, and Allah will Protect you from the people. Surely Allah does not Guide the Kafir people [5:67]

2 Bashaarat Al Mustafa Li Shia Al Murtaza - P 8 H 13
Whoever’s Master I was مَوْلََهُ (Moula), so This Ali is now his Masterمَوْلََهُ (Moula)

The disagreement among the Muslim Ummah (Nation) is, however, not on these Ahadith and the small variations, but on the meaning of the word مَوْلََهُ (Moula). Some Muslims trivialise the meaning of مَوْلََهُ and say it means ‘friend’ so as per their interpretation, Rasool-Allahsaww said: As you have befriended mesaww so you should also befriend Aliaisws. However, if one compare this to what Al-Quran is saying about our Holly Prophetsaww will be able to understand whether is it right to call the holly prophet our friend or not!

Whoever was in my service, is now in Ali’s service.

The question arises, who is/was in prophetsaww’s service? In order to understand that, we will present an Amazing verse from Al-Quran.

Say (O Prophet) If Al-Rahman were to take someone as a Son, Then I should the one as I was the first of his obedient (43:81).

This verse was revealed to denounce the ideology of people who took prophet Jesus as the son of Allahazwj. In other words, this verse is saying that Al-Rahman doesn’t have any blood relationships and if he had any, our holy Prophetsaww would be the one because he is the first from the obedient ones. There are numerous Holy Verses and Ahadith in the praise of Rasool-Allahsaww, thereby establishing the status of Rasool-Allahsaww second to none, among the ‘Abd’ of Allahazwj.

Therefore, when people look up the word in Arabic dictionary, the confusion persists as there are multiple meanings for the word مَوْلََهُ, as it has been used in different cultures for over 1400 years giving a list of its possible usage. Therefore, one has to turn to the Holy
Quran and see in which context and meanings Allah azwj has Revealed it and what are its meanings in the context of what Rasool-Allah saww said in the sermon of Ghadeer:

من كنت مولاه فهذا علي مولاه

As Rasool-Allah saww would always be instructing believers in accordance with what had been Revealed to him saw with the Words of Allah azwj.

In most of Holy Verses, where the Word ‘Moula’ is Revealed, it is in the meanings of ‘Master’ and/or ‘Guardian’ and is mainly used for Allah azwj. e.g.,

هو مولانا وأن الله مولانا، مولاه الحق، الله مولانا، أن مولانا. Allah azwj has Used the Word Moula in the meanings of Master (to be Obeyed as being His azwj Messengers as) His azwj Angels as and His azwj Selected (Divine) Prophet/Imams. Moula is also used in Holy Quran when denouncing the fake imams and sins leading to Fire as well as those destined to Fire trying to looking for assistance from their associates, without success, from the wrath of Allah azwj (22:13, 44:41 and 57:15).

In summary, Moula either means Master/Guardian (Allah azwj and His azwj Divine Authorities as) or when Allah denounces the fake imams and sinners who will try to assist each other against the Decree of Allah azwj.

Introduction:

We will try to better understand the meanings of the word ‘Moula’ as Revealed in the Holy Quran in order to eliminate the ambiguity caused by its, linguistic use, as found in the Arabic dictionaries. There are about 13 Holy Verses which refer to the word ‘Moula’ and its derivative (i.e., singular, plural forms), we will review these Verses in the following paragraphs:

آنت مولانا (Chapter 2, Verse 286)

لا يكمل الله نفسه إلا وسعها ۚ لا ما أكتب وعليها ما أكتب ۚ ربي لا نؤخذنا إن نسيبنا أو أخطاننا ۚ ربي ولا تحمل علينا إصرًا مما حمله على الدين من قبليا ۚ ربي ولا تحملنا ما لا طاقة لنا به واعف علينا وأغفر لنا وأرحمنا ۜ آنت مولانا قلصرنا على القوم الكافرين {286}
(Allah Said): “Allah does not Encumber a soul except to its capacity. For it would be what it earned and against it would be what it earned”. (The Rasool said): ‘Our Lord! Do not Seize us if we forget or we make a mistake. Our Lord! And do not Load upon us a burden like what You Loaded upon those from before us. Our Lord! And do not Load upon us what we have no strength for us with it; and Pardon (our sins) for us and have Mercy on us.

مَوْلََّانَا أَنْتُمْ مَوْلََّائِنَا’ [2:286]

مَوْلََكُمْ (Chapter 3, Verse 150)

بَلِ اللَّهُ مَوْلََكُمْ وَهُوَ خَيْرُ النَّاصِرينَ {150}

But, ‘(Allah is your Guardian) and He is the best of the helpers [3:150]

مَوْلَهُمَُالْحَقَ (Chapter 6, Verse 62)

ثَُّ رُدُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ مَوْلَهُمَُالْحَقَ أَلََ لَهُ الحُْكْمُ وَهُوَ أَسْرَعُ الحَْاسِبِينَ {62}

Then they are returned to Allah, ‘their True Master; Indeed, for Him is the Decision and He is the swiftest of the Reckoners [6:62]

أَنََّ اللَّهَ مَوْلََكُمْ (Chapter 8, Verse 40)

وَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَوْلَأَكُمْ نِعْمَ الْمَوْلىَٰ وَنِعْمَ النَّصِيرِ {40}

And if they turn back, then know that ‘(Allah is your Guardian); most excellent is the Guardian and most excellent the Helper [8:40]
(Chapter 9, Verse 51)

قُلْ لَنْ يُصِيبَنَا إِلَّا ما كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَنَا هُوَ مَوْلََانَا ۖ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلُوا ۖ وَلَيْسَ غَيْرُ اللَّهِ مُسْلِمًا {51}

Say: ‘It will never befall us except what Allah Ordains for us. ‘He is our Master’, and upon Allah do the Momineen rely’ [9:51]

(Chapter 10, Verse 30)

هُنَالِكَ تُبَلُّو كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَا أَسْلَفَتْ ۖ وَرُدُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ مَوْلََهُمُ الحَْقِّ ۖ وَضَلَّ عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَفْتَرُونَ {30}

That is where every soul shall become acquainted with what it sent before, and they would be returned to, Allah their true Master, and it be lost from them what they had been fabricating [10:30]

(Chapter 22, Verse 13)

يَدْعُو لَمَنْ ضَرُّهُ أَقْرَبُ مِنْ نُفْعِهِ ۖ لَبِئْسَ الْمَوْلىَٰ وَلَبِئْسَ الْعَشِيرُ {13}

He supplicates to one whose harm is nearer than his benefit. Evil is ‘the guardian’ and evil is the associate [22:13]

(Chapter 22, Verse 78)

وَحَاجَنَّاهُمْ فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ ۖ هُوَ اجْتَبَاكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِِ الدِّينِ مِنْ حَرَجٍ ۖ مِلَّةَ أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ ۖ هُوَ سَمَاحُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِ وَفِِ هَٰذَا لِيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْكُمْ
And strive hard in (the Way of) Allah, with a striving which He is Rightful of. He Chose you and did not Make any hardship upon you in the Religion, being a sect of your father Ibrahim. He named you all as the Muslims from before. And regarding this, the Rasool happens to be a witness upon you, and you happen to be witnesses upon the people. Therefore, establish the Salat and give the Zakat, and adhere with Allah, He is 'مَوْلََكُمْ' (your Master). So, Excellent is 'الْمَوْلُى' (the Master), and Excellent is the Helper! [22:78]

مَوْلَى عَنْ مَوْلىٰ (Chapter 44, Verse 41)

مَوْلًى عَنَْمَوْلىِ (Chapter 47, Verse 11)

مَوْلََكُمَْ (Chapter 57, Verse 15)

That is because Allah is the Guardian of those who believe, and that the Kafirs, there is no Guardian for them [47:11]
So today, neither will ransom be taken from you nor from those who committed Kufr. Your abode is the Fire. It is your guardian, and evil is the destination [57:15]

(Chapter 66, Verse 2)

مَوْلََكُمَّ

قد فرض الله لكم حللاً أبنائكم ووالله مولاكم وهو العليم الحكيم {2}

Allah has Imposed for you all a dissolution of your oaths, and Allah is your Guardian, and He is the Knowing, the Wise [66:2]

(Chapter 66, Verse 4)

اللَّهَ هُوَ مَوْلَاهُ

إِنْ تَتُوبَا إِلى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ صَغَتْ قُلُوبٌ وَإِنْ تَظَاهَرَا عَلَيْهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ مَوْلَاهُ وَجِبِْْيلُ وَصَالِحُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۖ وَالْمَلََئِكَةُ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ ظَهِّرُ وَصَالِحُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۖ وَالْمَلََئِكَةُ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ ظَهِّرُ {4}

If you both repent to Allah, then He has Inclined both your hearts, and if you back each other against him, then surely Allah, He is his Guardian, and (so are) Jibraeel and the corrector of the Momineen; and the Angels after that are backers [66:4]
APPENDIX I:

Allah azwj Commands Believers to Respect His Prophet saww

{49:1} يا أَيَّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَْ تَرْفَعُوا أَصْوَاتُكُمْ فَوْقَ صُوْتِ النَّبِِِّ وَلَا تََْهَرُوا لَهُ بِالْقَوْلِ

{49:2} إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُغُضُّونَ أَصْوَاتَهُمْ عِنْدَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ امْتَحَنَ اللَّهُ قُلُوبَهُمْ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ

{49:3} إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُنَادُونَكَ مِنْ وَرَاءِ الحُْجُرَاتِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لََ يَعْقِلُونَ

{49:4} وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمْ صَبَرُوا حَتََّّٰ تََْرُجَ إِلَيْهِمْ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لََُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

{49:5} وَلَوْ أَنَّهُمُ صَبَّرُوا حَتََّّٰ تََْرُجَ إِلَيْهِمْ لُكَانَ خَيْرًا لََُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ