

Ummat-e-Wasat (أُمَّةٌ وَسَطًا)

- By Syed Nadeem Ahmed Jafri

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Iblees became Satan when he disobeyed Allah (SWT)'s Command to prostrate before Aadam (as). And by doing so he rejected the duly appointed authority of Allah (SWT) above him and hence was kicked out of the heavens. Thus Kufr doesn't mean rejecting Allah (SWT) alone as our Supreme Authority; but it also includes rejecting the authority of those who are entrusted by Allah (SWT) as our guardians. Similarly, then 'Shirk' is to include those as our guardians, who aren't appointed by Allah (SWT). Hence to avoid such a case, it is essential for us to **differentiate the duly appointed authority above us from the fake ones**. The following verses of Quran endorse our above claim:

- “(Follow what has been revealed to you from your Lord and **do not follow guardians besides Him**, how little do you mind.)” – (Surah-e-Airaf, ayah 3)
- “(And they serve besides Allah that for **which He has not sent any authority**, and that of which they have no knowledge; and **for the unjust there shall be no helper**.)” – (Surah-e-Al Hajj, ayah 71)

The result we get from the above verses is that only **those guardians need to be followed who are chosen as authority above us by Allah (SWT)**. Following those who aren't authorised as our guardians results in 'Shirk' – a sin which is detested by Allah (SWT) in the holy Quran on various occasions. Allah (SWT) punishes such sinners as per the below mentioned ayah:

- “(He said: "**Punishment and wrath have already come upon you from your Lord: dispute ye with me over names which ye have devised - ye and your fathers, - without authority from Allah?** then wait: I am amongst you, also waiting.")” – (Surah-e-Airaf, ayah 71)

In all the above ayahs, Allah (SWT) has warned us against following the **unauthorised guardians**, while in the below mentioned ayah He (SWT) has clearly stated **the presence of noble people amongst us, who are the bearers of witness to the mankind**. Those are the **appointed guides and authority** above us.

- “(And thus, We have made you a **medium (just) nation (أُمَّةٌ وَسَطًا)** that you may **be the bearers of witness to the people** and (that) **the Apostle may be a bearer of witness to you**)” – (Surah-e-Baqra, ayah 143)

In Surah-e-Aale Imran, ayah 3:102, Allah (SWT) has commanded us **to hold His Rope firmly to remain guided**. Thus the mentioned Rope of Allah (SWT) is **the chosen authority of Allah (SWT) above us and they are the ummat-e-wasat (just nation)** mentioned in the above ayah.

→ This article attempts to contemplate on verses of Quran to find **this appointed Chain of Authority – Ummat-e-Wasat**, that **connects us to Him (SWT)**. If we strive to follow their guidance and hold their guardianship firmly, we would remain steadfast on the chosen path of Allah (SWT). Insha'Allah.

Allah (SWT) is all Knowing, Omnipresent and Unseen. No vision can grasp Him. Hence the only connecting link between us, the creation of Allah (SWT) and Him (SWT) - the Creator, is the presence of holy Prophet (pbuh). It is through him (pbuh) that we have known Allah (SWT) and understood His Ways. To further reflect upon this we will see the following ayahs:

- “(He is the knower of the Unknown, and **He does not divulge His secret to anyone other than an apostle He has chosen**, when He makes a sentinel walk in front of him and a sentinel behind.)” – (Surah-e-Jinn, ayah 26-27)

Allah (SWT) has empowered **His Chosen Prophets with the knowledge of His Secrets**, so that they can guide the believers to the right path. Let us also check the following ayahs from Surah-e-Najam:

- “(I swear by the star when it goes down. Your companion does not err, nor does he go astray; Nor does he speak out of desire. **It is naught but revelation that is revealed, The Lord of Mighty Power has taught him**)” – (Surah-e-Najam, ayah 1-5)

Allah (SWT) is **the Mentor of the holy Prophet (pbuh)**. He (SWT) **tutored the Prophet (pbuh)** and imparted him with the knowledge and the guidance such that the Prophet (pbuh) has never erred nor he went astray.

The holy Prophet (pbuh) is the seal of Prophethood. He is the leader of every Prophet, sent by the Almighty Allah. Quran mentions that Khizr (as) was bestowed upon the part of Allah (SWT)'s Mercy and Knowledge (*Ilm-e-Laduni*) and by virtue of these blessings he foresaw what was going to happen next. Quran also mentions that holy Prophet (pbuh) is ‘**Mercy to the Worlds**’ and the above ayah is a proof that the Prophet (pbuh) was **tutored by Allah (SWT) Himself**, thus it may be inferred that because of these virtues the holy Prophet (pbuh) is closer to Allah (SWT) than anyone else, and he (pbuh) is more worthy to have access to the Allah (SWT)'s Knowledge and His Secrets.

➔ The holy Prophet (pbuh) is **the first connecting link** between us and Allah (SWT). He has been **mentored by Allah (SWT)** and has been **created as the Mercy for the mankind**. He has been provided with the Divine Knowledge and his (pbuh) benign presence amongst us has guided us to strive in the right direction. He (pbuh) is **an example created by Allah (SWT) for us to emulate for our salvation**. If we wish to know Allah (SWT)'s expectations from us, we should follow his (pbuh) teachings and life.

Imam Ali (pbuh) was the brother, the son-in-law and the successor of the holy Prophet (pbuh). He fought wars for the cause of Allah (SWT) and the Prophet (pbuh). He remained steadfast in the battlefield, defended and protected the Prophet (pbuh) even when many of the Prophet (pbuh)'s companions chose to desert him (pbuh). Along with all these virtues, he (pbuh) was also amongst the most knowledgeable persons in the history of Islam. The following ayah throws light on his knowledge:

- “(Yet those who are disbelievers say: "You are not the apostle sent (by God)."
"God is sufficient as witness between me and you, and **he who has knowledge of the Book.**")” - (Surah-e-Ra'ad, ayah 43)

As per the Islamic scholars **the witness mentioned in the above ayah** who has the **complete knowledge of the book is Imam Ali (pbuh)** (Ref: *Tafseer-e-Suyuti, Vol 4, P 69, Ahteyaj-e-Tabresi, Tafseer-e-Ayashi*)

Imam Ali (pbuh) not only **had the complete knowledge of the book** but to his virtue, he was also a **chosen witness** of the Prophethood of the holy Prophet (pbuh) **along with Allah (SWT) Himself** as per the above ayah.

Let us see one more ayah on the virtue of Imam Ali (pbuh)

- “(Surely We give life to the dead, and We write down what they have sent before and their footprints, and We have **recorded everything in Imam-e-Mubeen**)” – (Surah-e-Yasin, ayah 12)

In the above ayah Quran says that **every good or bad deed of mankind is recorded in “Imam-e-Mubeen”**.

When this ayah was revealed, Abu Bakr and Umar were standing beside the Prophet (pbuh) they asked whether Imam-e-Mubeen was ‘*Tauret*’? He (pbuh) said ‘No’, then they asked whether it was ‘*Injeel*’ to which he again said ‘No’, they further asked whether it was ‘*Quran*’ he again replied in the negative. At that moment Imam Ali (pbuh) appeared from the front, **the Prophet (pbuh) said pointing towards Imam Ali that he is “Imam-e-Mubeen.”** (Ref: *Durr-e-Mansoor, Vol 5 P 261, Jalaluddin Suyuti, Ubaid bin Hamid bin Jureira, Ibn-e-Abi Hakim*)

As a child Imam Ali (pbuh) was mentored by the holy Prophet (pbuh) and inherited the knowledge from him. In the following two sermons Imam Ali (pbuh) confirms about his kinship with the holy Prophet (pbuh) and he being mentored him:

- “You do know my position of close kinship and relationship with the Messenger of Allah. **When I was only a child he took me over.** He found neither lies in my speaking, nor weakness in any act. From the time of his weaning Allah had put a great angel with him to take him along the path of high character and good behaviour throughout day and night, while **I used to follow him like a young camel following in the footsteps of its mother.** **Every day he used to demonstrate to me some of his high traits and commanded me to follow.** Every year he used to go in seclusion to Mount Hira where I saw him but no one else saw him... I used to see and watch the effulgence of divine revelation and the fragrance of prophethood.” – (Ref: *Nahajul Balagha, Sermon 192*)
- “I swear by Allah, **I am the Imam-e-Mubeen (Obvious Imam), I state clearly what is right and wrong,** and I got **this designation in inheritance from the holy Prophet (pbuh).**”

And the holy Prophet (pbuh) further confirms Imam Ali (pbuh)’s claim about his relationship with him in the following manner:

- The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: “O Ali! You are the owner of **my stream (Al-Hawd), the holder of my banner, my beloved, my custodian, the inheritor of my knowledge, my successor, and the holder of the prophets' inheritances before me.** You are **the guardian of Allah in His land, the argument of Allah for His creations,** the basis of **faith and the pillar of Islam.** You are the **Light in darkness,** the guiding light, and the

raised flag for the people of this world. **O Ali! He who follows you shall be saved** and who leaves you shall be doomed. **You are the apparent path and the right way (Al-Sirat).** You are **the leader of those who shine with light** and **the King of believers.**

(Ref: *Amali Al-Sadouq* p.382, *Al-Bihar* vol.38 p.100, *Ghayat Al-Maram* vol.3 p.78, *Bisharat Al-Mostafa* p.95, *Al-Bihar* vol.40 p.53, *Yanabe'a Al-Mawadda* vol.1 p.39)

- The holy Prophet (pbuh) said:” **O Ali, you see all that I see and you hear all that I hear,** except that you are not a Prophet, but **you are a Vicegerent and you are surely on (the path of) virtue.**” (Ref: *From Sermon 192, Nahajul Balagha*)

➔ The way Prophet (pbuh) was mentored and tutored by Allah (SWT), **Imam Ali (pbuh) received his mentorship from the holy Prophet (pbuh)** and thus became **inheritor of the Prophet (pbuh)’s knowledge.** He (pbuh) is **successor and custodian of the Prophet (pbuh)** and **holder of inheritances of rest of the prophets.** He spent his life as per the Commands of Allah (SWT) and Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh) and thus **his life is a guiding light for us to understand the ways of Allah (SWT).** Under his guardianship lies our salvation, as Prophet (pbuh) in one of his famous ahadith, said that **Imam Ali (pbuh) is the distributor of Heaven and Hell.** Imam Ali (pbuh) is **the second connecting link between us, the holy Prophet (pbuh) and Allah (SWT).**

Syeda Fatema (sa), the only daughter of our beloved Prophet (pbuh), is **the most purified lady and epitome of piety** as per Quran. The Prophet (pbuh) respected her a lot and as a mark of his respect for her, he (pbuh) stood up from his position and vacated his place for her, whenever he (pbuh) saw her (sa) approaching. As per the hadith of the holy Prophet (pbuh), **Fatema (sa) is the leader of women of Paradise.** Let us see the following ayahs to understand her (sa) closeness with Allah (SWT).

- “*(Surely We have given you Kausar, Therefore pray to your Lord and make a sacrifice. Surely your enemy is the one who shall be without posterity) - (Surah-al Kausar, ayah 1-3)*

In *Majma’al Bayan*, Tabarsi has commented on the *Surah*: “It was said that ***Kausar*** means **abundant benevolence**, it has also been said that it means **the multiplicity of a given person; and the descendants of Fatema (sa) have enormously multiplied** in a way that they will exist until the Day of Resurrection.”

Fakhruddin Razi has quoted comments of few scholars: “Since this chapter was revealed to refute the claim of an infidel who attempted to denounce the Prophet (pbuh) for not having sons, it becomes clear that the meaning given here is that **Allah (SWT) gave the Prophet (pbuh) offspring, which will be everlasting.**”

Thus **Syeda Fatema (sa)** is the **abundant benevolence** bestowed upon the holy Prophet (pbuh) by Allah (SWT) and it is **through her lineage, the progeny of the holy Prophet (pbuh) would continue to multiply and grow.** The holy Prophet (pbuh) has confirmed this in the following hadith:

- “Surely Allah made every Prophet’s progeny proceed from his own loins and **made my progeny proceed from Ali’s loins.**” (Ref: *Khawarazmi in Manaqib*, p 229, *Muhib Ad-Din-Tabari in Dhakhaer al-Uqbi*, *Hamueeni in Faraed As-Semtain*, *Dhahabi in Mizan al-*

Etedal, Ibn Hajar in al-Sawa'iq al-Muhriqa p.74, Mirza Hindi in Muntakhab Kanz al-Umal, Zarqani in Sharh Mawahib Ladonyyah, and Qandouzi in Yanabi' al-Mawaddah p.138.)

The holy Prophet (pbuh) in the following hadith mentions **the nearness of Syeda Fatema (sa) with Allah (SWT)**. He (pbuh) addressed his uncle Al-Abbas and said:

- "O uncle, Allah the most High originated the Light of my daughter Fatema by which He created the light of the skies and earth and the Light of my daughter Fatema is from the Light of Allah, so the Light of my daughter Fatema is greater than the light of the skies and earth.

Allah took from the Light of my daughter Fatema (pbuh) lanterns hanged to the Throne. Thus, the skies and earth shined and brightened by her Light. Thus she was named Al-Zahraa (The Radiant One). The angels said: "O our God and Master! Whose bright light that brightened the skies and earth is this?" Allah send a revelation upon them that says: "This is the Light that I originated from the Light of My Majesty for My servant Fatema, the daughter of My beloved and the wife of My custodian who is My Prophet's brother and the father of My arguments over My lands. My angels, you bear witnesses that I have made the rewards of your exaltation and glorification for this lady and her followers and then for her lovers until the Day of Resurrection." (Ref: *Madinat Al-Maajiz vol.3 p.419, Al-Bihar vol.25 p.16, Ta'weel Al-Ayat vol.1 p.137, Tafseer Kanz Al-Daqa'iq vol.2 p.424*)

- In one of the other hadith the holy Prophet (pbuh) has said **"O Fatema, verily Allah is angry when you are angry."** (Ref: *Mustadrak Al Hakim*)
- Imam Askari (pbuh) has said that we **Imams are the argument of Allah (SWT) upon His creations and our grand mother Syeda Fatema (sa) is the argument of Allah (SWT) upon us.**

➔ The light of Syeda Fatema (sa) is from the Light of Allah (SWT), she (sa) is the argument of Allah (SWT) upon the Imams (pbuh) from her lineage. Quran says she (sa) is abundant benevolence for the holy Prophet (pbuh); her immaculate lineage is the pious progeny of the Prophet (pbuh). She (sa) is the wife of Amirulmomineen, Maula e Kainat – Imam Ali (pbuh). She (sa) is mother of two Imams and grandmother of rest of 9 Imams from the Ahlulbait (as). Apart from all these merits at her side, such is her closeness with Allah (SWT) that whatever angers her, angers Allah (SWT); this further means that if she (sa) remains happy with us, Allah (SWT) would remain happy with us. Hence She (sa) is the third connecting link between us, Imam Ali (pbuh), the holy Prophet (pbuh) and Allah (SWT) in this Chosen Chain of Authority.

In the following ayah from *Surah-e-Tur*, Allah (SWT) has promised that He (SWT) would unite **the righteous progeny with its forefathers** and wouldn't deprive them of their deeds :

- **"(And those who believed, and whose progeny also followed them in their faith, will be united with their offspring. We will not deprive them of their labour in the least. Every man is bound to what he does.)"** – (*Surah-e-Tur, ayah 21*)

Quran is a witness to the virtues of the Prophet (pbuh) and Imam Ali (pbuh), they both had immaculate characters and unmatched qualities. **Their pious and righteous progeny** unites them in **character, virtues, knowledge and deeds**, as **promised by Allah** (SWT) in the above mentioned **ayah of Surah-e-Tur**. And hence Imam Ali (pbuh) has said:

- “The first one of us is Mohammed, the last one of us is Mohammed, the middle one of us is Mohammed and **all of us are Mohammed**. So do not differentiate between us. **If we will be doing a matter, Allah Wills it and if we dislike it Allah dislikes it**. The Wayl (deepest layer of Hell) and all its torment is for those who reject our virtues, private matters and what Allah has given us, because **whoever rejects anything Allah gave us has rejected Allah’s might and will within us**.” (Ref: *Bihar ul Anwar*, vol 26, p 1, *Mashareeq Anwarul Yaqeen*, p 255, *Ilzan al Nasib*, vol 1 P 32)

The progeny of the Prophet (pbuh) – The Ahlulbait (as), are the best of the nations raised up for the benefit of mankind, as per the following ayah from *Surah-e-Aale Imran*:

- “(You are ***the best of the nations raised up for (the benefit of) men; you enjoin what is right and forbid the wrong and believe in Allah; and if the followers of the Book had believed it would have been better for them; of them (some) are believers and most of them are transgressors.***)” – (*Surah-e-Aale Imran*, ayah 110)

Ibn-e-Abi Hakim has quoted *Hazrat Abu Ja’far* that this group of people are **Ahlulbait (as) of the Prophet (pbuh)**. (Ref: *Tafseer-e-Suyuti*, Vol 2, P 64)

In the introductory section, at the beginning of this article, we have seen ayah 2:143 of *Surah-e-Baqra*, which mentions *ummat-e-wasat*, who are the witness to the mankind and the holy Prophet (pbuh) is witness to them. The following ayah further elaborates the point discussed in 2:143 with details:

- “(And strive in His cause as ye ought to strive, (with sincerity and under discipline). **He has chosen you, and has imposed no difficulties on you in religion; it is the cult of your father Abraham. It is He Who has named you Muslims, both before and in this (Revelation); that the Messenger may be a witness for you, and ye be witnesses for mankind!** therefore keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate and hold fast by Allah; He is your Guardian; how excellent the Guardian and how excellent the Helper!)” – (*Surah-e-Al Hajj*, ayah 78)

They are **strivers in the cause of Allah (SWT)**. They are **the chosen ones from the lineage of Ibrahim (as)** and they are born Muslims. Hence **they are pure from Kufr and Shirk**. Allah (SWT) has **appointed them as witness for the mankind**, while the holy Prophet (pbuh) is witness for them.

It has been recorded by *Salim-bin-Qais* that Imam Ali (pbuh) has mentioned that **we are the Just People (Ummat-e-wasat) and bearer of witness to the people**. And the holy Prophet (pbuh) is our witness. (Ref: *Shawahid Tanzil*, *Hakim Abul Qasim*).

Let us now go through few ahadith of Imams (as).

- Imam Ali (pbuh) said :

‘In every generation of my followers there are going to be **just and righteous members of my Ahlulbait to counteract the alterations and corruptions** which the misguided people will try to make in my religion, **to remove false allegations of the untruthful and to contradict the misinterpretations of the ignorant.** Beware ! **Your Imams (pontiffs) shall be your representatives before Allah.** So, be careful whom you adopt as your representatives.” (Ref: Recorded by Mulla (Jami) in his Seerat and also by Ibn-e-Hajar in Sawaiq-e-Mohriqa, P. 90)

“We the **people of the house** (of the Prophet - Ahlulbait) **possess the doors of wisdom and light of governance.**” (Ref: Nahjul Balagha, Sermon 120)

- Imam Al-Sadiq (pbuh) said:

"Allah created us in beautiful forms. **He created us to be His Eye on His servants, His Spoken Words to all mankind, His Giving Hand that bestows mercy and sympathy upon His servants, His Face by which He is worshiped, His Gate that leads to Him and His treasurers on earth and in the skies.** By us, trees gave its fruits, crops were harvested and rivers flowed. By us, skies rain and seeds grow. **By our worshiping, Allah is worshiped and if it wasn't for us, Allah would have never been worshiped."**

(Ref: Al-Kafi Vol 1 Page 144, Al-Mohatazir Page 154, Al-Tawheed Page 151, Al-Bihar-ul-Anwar Vol 24 Page 197, Al-Saqlain Noor Tafseer Vol 1 Page 650)

→ The **12 Imams** from the household of the holy Prophet (pbuh) **are the ummat-e-wasat – the Just Nation, mentioned in the ayah 2:143 of Surah-e-Baqra.** They are strivers in the cause of Allah (SWT) and **are purified from all kind of filth** be it - *Kufr, Shirk* or any other vice. They are **appointed witness above us.** They are **the best of Nations created to benefit and guide the mankind.** They are **inheritor of Prophet (pbuh)'s knowledge, wealth of his character and his virtues.** Hence, we can infer that **these 14 infallible – 12 Imams (as), Syeda Fatema (sa) and the holy Prophet (pbuh) form a complete Chain of Authority that binds us with Allah (SWT).** They are the Gate that leads us to Allah (SWT) and His treasures. If we lose them, we will lose Allah (SWT)'s path and eventually lose Him (SWT). Hence, **they are the Rope of Allah (SWT) for us to hold tightly so that we remain united and don't deviate from Him (SWT).**

To believe in and follow *wilayah* of Imam Ali (pbuh) and rest of the 11 Imams, is the matter of honour and privilege. This is possible only with the Will of Allah – The Most Merciful. And it is because there are limitless merits attached once a believer becomes a part of the group of followers of Imam Ali (pbuh). In this concluding section we will discuss this aspect.

First and foremost, he gets closeness of Allah (SWT) Himself. The following verses of Quran confirm this:

- “(Verily your leader is only Allah and His messenger and those who believe; those who establish worship and **pay the poor-rate while they bow down in prayer.** And whoever

takes Allah and His apostle and those who believe for a guardian, then surely the party of Allah are they that shall be triumphant.” – (Surah-e-Maida, ayah 55-56)

It was Imam Ali (pbuh), who gave his ring to a beggar while bowing down in the prayer, as mentioned in the above ayahs. (Ref: *Imam Nasai in Saheeh-e-Nasai, Aljam'a Bain-ul-Sihah-ul-Sittah, Sa'labi*).

Once a believer accepts and follows **the guardianship of Allah (SWT), the holy Prophet (pbuh) and 12 Imams (as)** he gets inducted into Allah (SWT)'s triumphant party and achieves His (SWT) nearness. And if this is achieved what more does he want!

And as per the hadith of Imam Reza (pbuh) a righteous follower of the Imams (as) has **higher ranks amongst the saints as his spiritual ascension is better than the angels:**

- “In Ghadir-e-Khum the ‘*Wilayah*’ of Imam Ali (as) was similar to the *sajda* of Aadam (as), those **who accepted were better than the angels** while **those who rejected were worse than Iblees.**” (Ref: *Awalim, vol 15 P 224*)

As per the hadith of Imam Al-Sadiq (pbuh), a righteous follower of *wilayah* of Imams (as) is closer to Ahlulbait (as) such that **visiting and connecting with him is considered as visiting and connecting with the Ahlulbait (as).** Expressing this he (pbuh) has said:

- “Whoever is unable to visit us, may **visit the righteous adherents of us**. If he does so, he will be **endued with the reward of visiting us.** Likewise, whoever is unable to connect us, **may connect the righteous adherents of us**. If he does so, he will also be **endued with the reward of connecting us.**”

The righteous **followers of the Ahlulbait (as) are missionaries** who work openly, or sometimes hide themselves from the public gaze, under fear of harm, **to preserve knowledge and wisdom as demonstrated by the holy Prophet (pbuh). Their mission is to call people to Allah's religion and they are greatest in their rank with Allah (SWT).** Imam Ali (pbuh) spoke at length about them to *Kumayl ibn Ziyad al-Nakha'i* in the following sermon:

- “If sensible **trustees of knowledge and wisdom totally disappear from human society** then both **knowledge and wisdom** will suffer severely, may bring harm to humanity and **may even die out**. But **this earth will never be without those persons who will prove the universality of truth as disclosed by Allah,** they may be well-known persons, **openly and fearlessly declaring the things revealed to them** or they may, under fear of harm, injury or deaths hide themselves from the public gaze and **may carry on their mission privately** so that the reasons proving the reality of truth as **preached by religion and as demonstrated by His Prophet may not totally disappear.**”

.....“By God, these (**true Knowers**) are the fewest in number, but the **greatest of all in their rank with God!** Through them **God preserves His Evidences and His Illuminating-manifestations,** so that **these (Knowers) may entrust them to their (true) peers and sow them in the Hearts of those like them.** Through (those Knowers) Knowing penetrates to the inner reality of true Insight (*haqīqat al-basīra*). They are **in touch with the Spirit of Certainty (*rūh al-yaqīn*).** They make clear what the lovers of comfort had obscured. They are **at home with what distresses**

the ignorant. And their bodies keep company with this world, while their **spirits are connected to the Loftiest Station.** Those are the ones **who are (truly) God's Stewards** on the earth, who are **calling (the people) to His Religion.** Oh, how I long to see **them!**" – (Ref: *Nahjulbalagha, saying 146*)

→ We may conclude then:

- Faith is to believe in Allah (SWT) as a Supreme Authority and follow those who are duly authorized as our guardians by Allah (SWT) – 14 infallible, the Ahlulbait (as)
- They form a Chain of Authority, A Rope that reaches Allah (SWT).
- They are best of Nations created to be our guides and witness above us. Following their guidance shall keep us clean from the filth of *Kufr* and *Shirk* and we might gain purity of faith.
- And lots of merits await if someone is a righteous follower of the Ahlulbait (as). The righteous followers of Ahlulbait (as), just by their closeness to Allah (SWT) and the Ahlulbait (as), achieve spiritual ascension and are the trustees of knowledge and wisdom of Allah (SWT) and visiting them and seeking guidance from them is endowed with the reward of visiting the Ahlulbait (as). What an honour!

→ This article has been written after a hiatus of three years and I am extremely grateful to the Almighty for it. I humbly request you to join me in praying for this world which is bruised by pandemic, injustices and atrocities. May the world see the advent of its healer – the 12th Imam Mehdi (pbuh) soon. May Allah (SWT) hasten his reappearance from the occultation and may we all get respite. May we all remain guided by following the life and teachings of Ahlulbait (as). May Allah (SWT) remain Kind and Merciful to all of us. Aamin