

**WAHHABISM,
AT THE CROSSROADS**

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قال الله تعالى:

﴿ إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا ﴾

Indeed Allah desires to repel all impurity from you, O People of the Household, and purify you with a thorough purification. (*Sūrat al-Aḥzāb* 33:33).

Prophetic traditions mentioned in both in *Sunni* and *Shī'ah* authoritative reference books of *ḥadīth* and *tafsīr* (exegesis of the Qur'an) have confirmed that this holy verse was revealed to exclusively refer to the People of the Cloak [*ahl al-kisā'*], viz. Muḥammad, 'Alī, Fāṭimah, al-Ḥasan, and al-Ḥusayn ('a) as the *Ahl al-Bayt* (People of the Household).

For instance, refer to the following references:

Sunni

Aḥmad ibn Ḥanbal (d. 241 AH), *al-Musnad*, 1:231; 4:107; 6:292, 304; *Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim* (d. 261 AH), 7:130; Al-Tirmidhī (d. 279 AH), *Sunan*, 5:361 et al.; Al-Dūlābī (d. 310 AH), *Al-Dhiyā'ah al-Tāhirah al-Nabawiyyah*, p. 108; Al-Nasā'ī (d. 303 AH), *Al-Sunan al-Kubrā'*, 5:108; 113; Al-Hakīm al-Nayshābūrī (d. 405 AH), *Al-Mustadrak 'ala' ṣ-Ṣaḥīḥāyn*, 2:416, 3:133, 146-147; Al-Zarkashī (d. 794 AH), *Al-Burhān*, p. 197; Ibn Hajar al-Asqalanī (d. 852 AH), *Fath al-Barī Sharḥ Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, 7:104.

Shī'ah

Al-Kulaynī (d. 328 AH), *Uṣūl al-Kāfi*, 1:287; Ibn Babawayh (d. 329 AH), *Al-Imāmah (or) t-Tahyīyah*, p. 47, *ḥadīth* 29; Al-Maghribī (d. 363 AH), *Da'irah al-Islām*, pp. 35, 37; Al-Ṣādūq (d. 381 AH), *Al-Khiṣāl*, pp. 403, 550; Al-Tūsī (d. 460 AH), *Al-Amālī*, *ḥadīth* 438, 482, 783.

For more details, refer to the exegesis of the holy verse recorded in the following books of *tafsīr*: Al-Jassās (d. 370 AH), *Aḥkām al-Qur'ān*; Al-Wāḥidī (d. 468 AH), *Ashbāḥ al-Nuzūl*; Ibn al-Jawzī (d. 597 AH), *Zād al-Masār*; Al-Qurṭubī (d. 671 AH), *Al-Jāmi' Li-Aḥkām al-Qur'ān*; Ibn Kathīr (d. 774 AH), *Tafsīr*; Al-Tha'labī (d. 825 AH), *Tafsīr*; Al-Ṭabarī (d. 875 AH), *Tafsīr*; Al-Suyūṭī (d. 911 AH), *Al-Durr al-Manthūr*; Al-Shawkānī (d. 1250 AH), *Fath al-Qadīr*; Al-'Ayyāshī (d. 320 AH), *Tafsīr*; Al-Qummī (d. 329 AH), *Tafsīr*; Furt al-Kūfī (d. 352 AH), *Tafsīr* at the margin of the exegesis of *Sūrat al-Nisā'* verse 59; Al-Ṭabarstī (d. 560 AH), *Majma' al-Bayān*, as well as many other sources.

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قال رسول الله ﷺ:

“إني تاركٌ فيكم الثقلين: كتاب الله، وعترتي أهل بيتي، ما إن تمسكتم بهما لن تضلوا أبداً وأنهما كن ينفترقا حتى يردا عليَّ الحوض”

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said:

“Verily, I am leaving among you two precious things [*thaqalayn*]. The Book of Allah and my progeny [*ahālī*], the members of my Household [*Ahl al-Bayt*]. If you hold fast to them, you shall never go astray. These two will never separate from each other until they meet me at the Pond [*hawḍ*] (of Kawthar).”

Some references:

- Al-Ḥākim an-Nayshābūrī, *Al-Mustadrak ‘alā ṣ-Ṣaḥīḥayn* (Beirut), vol. 3, pp. 109-110, 146, 533
- Muslim, *As-Ṣaḥīḥ*, (English translation), book 31, *ḥadīths* 5920-3
- At-Tirmidhī, *As-Ṣaḥīḥ*, vol. 5, pp. 621-2, *ḥadīths* 3786, 3788; vol. 2, p. 219
- An-Nasāʾī, *Khayāʾiṣ Ḥaḍīṣ* *ʿAlī ibn Abī Ṭālib*, *ḥadīth* 79
- Ahmad ibn Ḥanbal, *Al-Musnad*, vol. 3, pp. 14, 17, 26; vol. 3, pp. 26, 59; vol. 4, p. 371; vol. 5, pp. 181-182, 189-190
- Ibn al-ʿAthīr, *Jāmiʿ al-Uṣūl*, vol. 1, p. 277
- Ibn Kathīr, *Al-Bidāyah waʾn-Nihāyah*, vol. 5, p. 209
- Ibn Kathīr, *Tafsīr al-Qurʾān al-ʿAẓīm*, vol. 6, p. 199
- Muṣṣir ad-Dīn al-Albānī, *Silsilat al-Aḥādīth aṣ-Ṣaḥīḥah* (Kuwait: Ad-Dār aṣ-Ṣalāfiyyah), vol. 4, pp. 355-358

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