

In the Light of Quran & Hadith

1

VERSE OF PURIFICATION

By

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Translation : **Al-Qalam Translators & Writers
Bureau**

Publisher : **World Islamic Network (WIN)**

Title : **Verse Of Purification**

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 åÁó,æÄä§ äKêÇæhåîê»
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*‘Allah only desires to keep away
 uncleanness from you O people
 of the House and to purify you a
 (thorough) purifying?’*

(Sura Ahzaab : 33)

PREFACE

In the Name of Allah The Compassionate, the Merciful.

May Allah shower His blessings upon Muhammad (s.a.w.s.) and his Purified Progeny (a.s.)

Imam Jafar as-Sadiq (a.s.) says:

'Write (down the traditions) and propagate the knowledge among your brothers. When you die, bequeath these books as your legacy to your sons. Verily, there will come on the people a time of disturbance, when nothing will give them any satisfaction and to nothing will they pay any heed except to their books.' (Al-Kafi)

In the light of the above tradition, World Islamic Network (WIN) has taken up the task of diffusing Islamic teachings according to the School of Ahlul Bayt (a.s.). This booklet is the first of the series titled : IN THE LIGHT OF QURAN AND HADITH.

Compiled by the great scholar Allama Sayyid Murtaza Askari these booklets deal with some of the important issues of faith. We pray that Allah

give us the *tawfeeq* to continue this noble endeavour.

WORLD ISLAMIC NETWORK

INTRODUCTION

In The Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Praise be to Allah the Lord of the worlds. Benedictions be upon Muhammad (s.a.w.s.) and his Purified Progeny (a.s.).

Peace be upon the righteous companions.

Some of the controversial issues have divided the Muslims. These issues have been misused by the enemies of Islam to divide the Muslims and to weaken them. Therefore in order to unite the Muslims and to defend the boundaries of Islam it is necessary to clear the misunderstandings regarding these differences. In sorting out these issues we have been ordered to confine ourselves within some limits. As the Almighty Allah says: **'And obey Allah and His Apostle and do not quarrel for then you will be weak in hearts and your power will depart...'** (Sura Anfal 8 : 46)

It is a must for us today, and for all times to refer to Quran and Hadith in case of any difference of opinion. As the Almighty Allah says: **'...then if you quarrel about anything, refer it to Allah and the Apostle...'** (Sura Nisa 4 : 59).

In these series we shall refer to the Quran and Hadith to guide us on the correct path in various controversial topics. We seek the help of the Almighty in this.

Al Askari

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In The Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

REVELATION OF THE VERSE

In his book entitled 'Mustadrak Sahihayn' Hakim quotes from son of Ja'far son of Abu Talib¹ as saying :

'When the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) observed that the Divine blessing was forthcoming he said, 'Call for me! Call for me!' Safia asked 'O Prophet of Allah! Whom should I call for you? He said, '*Call for me the members of my family, namely, Ali, Fatima, Hasan, and Husain*' (May peace and benediction be upon them). They were thus called to come close to the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) and when all of them were gathered, the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) placed his cloak on them and thereafter raised his hands in supplication and said, '*O Allah! These are the members of my family. Send your kind blessings*

¹ The mother of Abd Allah son of Ja'far son of Abu Talib was Asma daughter of 'Umais Khasamayya.' He was born in Ethiopia and saw the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.). He died at the age of 80 years. His biography is recorded in Usud Al-Ghaba (Vol. 2 Page 33)

on me and my progeny'. In the meantime Almighty Allah revealed the verse: '**O people of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.**' (Sura Ahzaab : 33)

After quoting this hadith Hakim says, 'This hadith is authentic and correct as regards its sources.'

TYPE AND KIND OF KISA

(a) According to the hadith quoted by Umm al-Momineen Ayesha:

Muslim (in 'Sahih'), Hakim¹ (in 'Mustadrak'), Baihaqui (in 'Sunan al-Kubra') and Tabari,

IbneKathir and Suyuti (in their 'Tafsirs') quote from Ayesha¹ with regard to this verse as having said :

¹ Abu Abd Allah Muhammad son of Abd Allah of Nishapur, popularly known as Hakim, is one of the traditionalists and is held in much esteem by the Sunnites. He passed away in 405 A.H.

¹ Ayesha was the daughter of the first Caliph Abu Bakr. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) married her seventeen months after his migration to Medina. She

'One day the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) came out of the house² carrying a printed cloak on his shoulder. At that time Hasan (a.s.) came upto him and the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) accommodated him under the cloak. Then came Husain (a.s.) and the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) accommodated him, too, under the cloak. Thereafter, Fatima (s.a.) approached and was accommodated under the cloak. Ali (a.s.) was the last to come and the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) accommodated him also under the cloak. Thereafter, he (the Holy Prophet) recited this sacred verse: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.' (Sura Ahzaab : 33)

(b) According to the hadith quoted by Umm al-Momineen Umme Salma.¹

passed away in 57,58 or 59 A.H. (exact year is not known) and Abu Hurayrah led her funeral prayer. She was buried in Baqi. For her biography please refer to the book entitled 'Ahadis-i-Ayesha'.

² Perhaps Ayesha meant to say that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) came out of her house with the cloak and went to the house of Umme Salma.

¹ Umme Salma Hind, daughter of Ubi Omayyah Qurayshi Makhzumi had the honour of marrying the Holy prophet (s.a.w.s.) after the death of her husband Abu Salma son of Abd al-Asad. Her husband Abu

In his 'Tafsir', Tabari has quoted Umme Salma as having said in connection with the sacred verse in question as under: -

'When the verse, 'O People of the Prophet's House!' was revealed the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) called Ali, Fatima, Hasan, and Husain (May peace and benediction be upon them) to himself and covered them under his cloak.'

In another hadith Umme Salma is reported to have said: 'He placed his cloak on them.' This hadith has also been quoted by Suyuti in his 'Tafsir' and has similarly been narrated by Ibn Kathir in his 'Tafsir'.

POSITION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PROPHET'S FAMILY UNDER THE CLOAK

(a) As narrated by Umar son of Abu Salma:

Salma died as a result of a wound sustained by him in the Battle of Ohad. She passed away after the martyrdom of Imam Husain (a.s.). The life history of Umme Salma is recorded in 'Usud al-Ghaba' and 'Tehzib al-Tehzib'.

Tabari and IbneKathir (in their 'Tafsirs'), Tirmizi (in his 'Sahih') and Tahavi (in 'Mushkil al-Athar') have quoted 'Umar¹ son of Abu Salma as having said:

'The verse, 'O People of the Prophet's House! ...' was revealed to the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) in the house of Umme Salma. After the revelation of this verse the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) called Hasan, Husain, and Fatima (s.a.) and made them sit in front of himself. Then he called Ali (a.s.) as well and made him sit behind his back. Then he covered himself and all of them with his cloak and said: 'These are the People of my House. O Allah! Keep uncleanness away from them and make them clean and pure!'

(b) As narrated by Wasilat son of Asqaa¹ and Umme Salma:

¹ Umar was the son of Umm al-Momineen Umme Salma from her first husband (Abu Salma). He (Umar) was born in Ethiopia. He was one among the followers of Imam Ali (a.s.) in the Battle of Siffin and was also appointed by him as the Governor of Bahrain and Fars. Umar passed away in Medina in 83 A.H. For his biography please refer to 'Usud al-Ghaba' (Vol.V page 79).

¹ For his biography refer to 'Usud al-Ghaba' (Vol. V, page 77).

Hakim (in 'Mustadrak') and Haithami (in 'Majma al-Zawaid') have quoted from Wasilat son of Asqaa that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) made Ali (a.s.) and Fatima (s.a.) sit in front of himself and placed Hasan (a.s.) and Husain (a.s.) on his knees or took them in his arms. And this hadith had also been quoted by Ibne Kathir and Suyuti (in their 'Tafsirs') and Bahiqui (in 'Sunan') and Ahmad bin Hanbal (in 'Musnad').

PLACE WHERE MEMBERS OF THE HOLY PROPHET'S HOUSE ASSEMBLED TOGETHER

(a) As narrated in the hadith quoted by Abu Saeed Khudri:¹

Suyuti has quoted Abu Saeed in 'Durr al-Manthur' as having said, 'The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) was in the house of Umme Salma when Jibraeel descended and brought the verse, 'O People of the Prophet's House.....'

¹ Abu Saeed Khudri Khazraji. His name was Saeed son of Malik Ansari. He participated in the Battle of the Ditch and in other battles. He died in Medina when he was above 60 years or 70 years of age. His biography appears in 'Usud al- Ghaba' (Vol. II, page 289).

Abu Saeed says, 'At that time the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) called Hasan, Husain, Fatima, and Ali (Peace be upon them) and made them come near him and spread his cloak on them when Umme Salma too, was sitting behind the curtain. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: 'O Allah! These are the members of my family. Keep uncleanness away from them and make them pure'.

(b) As narrated in the hadith quoted by Umm al-Momineen Umme Salma:

Ibne Kathir, Suyuti, Bahiqui, Tahavi and Khateeb in 'Tareekh al-Baghdad' have quoted Umme Salma as having said, 'The verse, 'O People of the Prophet's House.....', was revealed in my house and Fatima, Ali, Hasan, and Husain (a.s.) were in the room. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) spread his cloak on them and said: 'These are the members of my family. (O Allah!) Remove uncleanness from them and make them pure'. And Hakim too has quoted Umme Salma in 'Mustadrak' as having said, 'This verse was revealed in my house'.

Umme Salma has been quoted in the following books:-

Tirmizi narrated in his 'Sahih' in the chapter relating to the attainments of Fatima (s.a.) and similarly in 'Riaz al-Nuzrah' and 'Tehzib al-

'Tehzib' that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said, 'O Allah! These are the members of my family. Ward off uncleanness from them and make them pure.'

Ahmad also narrates in his 'Musnad' that Umme Salma said, 'I put my head into the room and asked, 'Am I also among you?' The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said, 'You have a good future'.

Hakim, too, narrates that Umme Salma said, 'O Prophet of Allah! Am I not one of the members of your family?' The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) replied: 'You have a good future but only these are the members of my family. O Lord! The members of my family are more deserving.'

HOW MANY PERSONS WERE PRESENT IN THE HOUSE WHEN THE VERSE WAS REVEALED?

In the 'Tafsir' of Suyuti and in 'Mushkil al-Athar' Umme Salma has been quoted to have said: 'The verse, 'O People of the Prophet's House!.....' was revealed in my house and at that time there were seven persons present in the room namely (besides the Holy Prophet)

Jibraeel, Mikaeel, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (May peace and benediction be upon them) and I was standing at the door of the house and said:

‘O Prophet of Allah! Am I not one of the members of your family?’ He replied, ‘You have a good future and you are one of the wives of the Prophet (s.a.w.s.).’

IN WHAT POSITION AND POSTURE WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE HOLY PROPHET’S FAMILY WHEN THE VERSE WAS REVEALED?

In ‘Tafsir’ of Tabari, Abu Saeed Khudri is reported to have narrated that Umme Salma had said, ‘This verse was revealed in my house and I was sitting at the door of the house.’ It has also been narrated in the same ‘Tafsir’ that Umme Salma said, ‘The members of the Holy Prophet’s family gathered around him and he covered them with a cloak which he was carrying on his shoulder and said, ‘These are the members of my family. Ward off uncleanness from them and make them pure’. And this verse was revealed when they were sitting on the ground. I said, ‘O

Prophet of Allah! Am I not also one of the members of your family?’ I swear by the Almighty that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) did not grant me any distinction and said: ‘You have a good future’.

EXPLANATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE WORDS OF THE VERSE

In his book entitled ‘Mufradat al-Qur’an’ Raghīb says under the root ‘Rawada’. When it is said, ‘Arad Allah’ it means that the Almighty Allah ordered that such and such thing should take place or should not take place. And under the root ‘Rijs’ he says: ‘Rijs’ means something which man hates. He adds that ‘Rijs’ is of four kinds, namely: natural, intellectual, legal or combination of all these three in one. For example, a dead body, an act of gambling and a profession of polytheism are repulsive from the viewpoint of nature, intellect and law. The statement of Raghīb ends here.

In the 30th verse of Sura al-Hajj, the Almighty Allah says, ‘Shun the abomination of idols.’ And in the 125th verse of Sura al-An’am Allah says, ‘Thus does Allah heap ignominious chastisement

on those who believe not.’ And in the 145th verse of Sura al-An’am He says, ‘Unless it be dead meat, or blood poured forth, or the flesh of swine, for it is an abomination’. And in Sura al-Tauba, He says about the hypocrites, ‘Keep aloof from them for they are hypocrites.’ And in the 71st verse of Sura al-A’raf Allah says, about the people of Noah, ‘Noah said, “Punishment and wrath have already come upon you from your Lord”’.

The meaning of the word ‘Tathir’ in this verse is the same as in the remarks about Mary (s.a.) in the 42nd verse of Sura Aal-i-Imran when the angels said, ‘O Mary! Allah has chosen you and purified you above all the women’.

And ‘Kisa’ mentioned in the hadith was an upper garment like ‘Aba’ (a cloak).

THE VERSE AS INTERPRETED IN THE NARRATIONS

In his ‘Tafsir’ Suyuti quotes Ibne Abbas¹ as saying:

¹ Abd Allah son of Abbas and cousin of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) was born three years before the

‘The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: ‘Almighty Allah divided His creation into two parts and placed us in the best of them! Later he said: ‘Then He subdivided tribes into families and placed us among the best of those families. And Almighty Allah means this when he says: ‘O People of the Prophet’s House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification’. Hence myself and the members of my family are free from all sorts of sin and contamination.’

Suyuti narrates from Zahhak son of Muzahim¹ that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: ‘We are the family whom Allah has declared to be pure, and He has created us from the trunk and the centre of Prophethood. Ours is the house which is frequented by the angels and is the seat of

Holy Prophet’s migration to Medina and passed away at Taif at the age of 68 years. For his biography please refer to ‘Usud al-Ghaba’.

¹ Abu al-Qasim or Abu Muhammad Zahhak son of Muzahim Hilali. Ibn-Hajar says: ‘He is truthful in narrating hadith and has narrated many hadith by way of receiving it from correct sources. ‘Zahhak is considered to be belonging to the fifth group and died after attaining the age of 100 years. His biography appears in ‘Tehzib al-Tehzib.’

blessings and the spring of knowledge and wisdom.'

Tabari (in 'Tafsir') and Muhib-i-Tabari (in 'Zakhair al-Uqba') quote from Abu Saeed Khudri that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said, 'The verse has been revealed about five persons namely, myself, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain. In 'Mushkil al-Aathar' Umme Salma has been quoted as saying: 'This verse was revealed with regard to the Holy Prophet, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain' (May peace and benediction be upon them all).

In the previous narrations it has been stated as to how the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) explained and interpreted this verse and threw light upon the subject by words and conduct.

According to Sahih Muslim, Zaid bin Arqam, a distinguished companion of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) was asked as to who were meant by members of the Holy Prophet's family and whether his wives were also included among them. He replied: 'Wives do not belong to the family. By Allah! A woman lives with her husband for some time and is then divorced and returns to her father and other relatives. The members of the Holy Prophet's family are those who have family ties with him and who are forbidden to take alms.'

In 'Majma al-Zawaid' Haithami reports Abu Saeed Khudri as saying: 'Members of the Holy Prophet's family are those whom Almighty Allah has purified of all filth and impurity and declared them to be clean and pure.' Thereafter, Abu Saeed Khudri counted them on his fingers and said: 'They are five persons, the Holy Prophet, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain' (May peace be upon them all).

In his 'Tafsir' Tabari quotes Qatada¹ who interpreted the sacred verse of Tathir that People of the Holy Prophet's family are those whom Almighty Allah has purified from every sin and showered special blessings on them. He also said in explanation of the verse, 'It is this and nothing else that Allah willed to ward off every evil and indecency from the people of the family of Muhammad (s.a.w.s.) and to purify them from every contamination and sin!'

¹ There are four persons by the name 'Qatada' (viz. Saddusi, Rihawi, Qaisi and Ansari) and all of them are reliable. It is not known as to which one of them is referred to here. For their biographies please refer to 'Tehzib-al-Tehzib'.

WHAT DID THE HOLY PROPHET DO AFTER THE REVELATION OF THE VERSE?

In 'Majma al-Zawaid' Abu Barza¹ has been reported to have said: 'I performed my prayers alongwith the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) for seven months.

As and when he left his house, he went to the house of Fatima (s.a.) and used to say: 'Peace be upon you! O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.'

In the 'Tafsir' of Suyuti, Ibne Abbas is reported to have said: 'I noticed for nine months that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) went to the door of Ali's house every day when it was time for prayers and used to say: 'Peace and blessings be upon you! O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough

¹ Abu Barza Aslami was one of the companions of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.). He passed away at Kufa at the age of 60 or 64 years. His biography is given in 'Usud al-Ghaba' (Vol.V, page 146).

purification. And he repeated this act five times a day.'

In 'Sahih' of Tirmizi, 'Musnad' of Ahmad, 'Musnad' of Tialsi, 'Mustadrak Sahihain', 'Usud al-Ghaba' and in the 'Tafsirs' of Tabari, Ibne Kathir and Suyuti, Anas bin Malik¹ is reported to have said that for a period of six months the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) used to pass by the door of Fatima (a.s.) and say: 'O People of the House, it is time to perform prayers'. And then added: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.'

In 'Isti'ab', 'Usud al-Ghaba', "Majma al-Zawaid", "Mushkil al-Athar" and "Tafsirs" of Tabari, Ibne Kathir and Suyuti, Abu al-Humra has been reported to have said: "I noticed in Medina that for a period of eight months whenever the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) came out of his house to perform morning prayers he went to the house of Ali (a.s.) and placed his hands on the two sides of the door and used to say, 'Prayers! Prayers! O

¹ Anas bin Malik Khazraji. It has been reported that he remained in the service of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) for ten years. He passed away in Basra after attaining the age of 90 years. For his biography please refer to 'Usud al-Ghaba'.

People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification."

In one of the narrations the period is stated to be six months, in another seven months, in the third eight months and in fourth, nine months.

In 'Majma al-Zawaid' and 'Tafsir' of Suyuti it has been quoted from Abu Saeed Khudri with a variation in words that for forty days the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) approached the house of Fatima (s.a.) every morning and used to say: 'Peace be upon you O' People of the House! The time for the prayer has arrived'. And thereafter he used to recite this verse: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.' And then said: 'I am in a state of war with him who fights with you and am in a state of peace with him who is at peace with you.'

THOSE WHO RELIED ON THIS SACRED VERSE TO PROVE THE VIRTUES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE HOLY PROPHET'S HOUSE

(a) Imam Hasan (a.s.)

Hakim (in 'Mustadrak') in connection with the attainments of Imam Hasan (a.s.) and Haithami (in connection with the excellence of the People of the Holy Prophet's House) have narrated that Imam Hasan (a.s.) addressed the people after the martyrdom of his father Imam Ali (a.s.), and said during his speech:

'O People! Whoever knows me, knows me and whoever does not know me should know that I am Hasan bin Ali. I am the son of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) and of his successor (wasi). I am his son who invited people to Allah and warned them of the torture of His hell-fire. I am the son of the Luminous Lamp. I belong to the family upon whom Jibraeel used to descend and from there ascend to heavens. I belong to the family from whom Allah has removed all impurities and made them pure.'

It has been narrated in 'Majma al-Zawaid' and 'Tafsir' of Ibne Kathir that after his father's martyrdom Imam Hasan (a.s.) attained the Caliphate and one day, while he was performing his prayers, a man attacked him and thrust a sword in his thigh. He remained confined to bed for some months. Thereafter, he recovered and delivered a sermon and said: "O people of Iraq! Fear Allah. We are your Amirs and your guests and belong to the family about whom Almighty Allah has said: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you to purify you with a thorough purification'. Imam Hasan (a.s.) dwelt on this subject so much that all those present in the Masjid began to cry.' This hadith has also been quoted by Tibrani and all the narrators are reliable.

(b) Umm al-Momineen Umme Salma

In 'Mushkil al-Athar' Tahavi has quoted Umra Hamdania as saying: 'I went to Umme Salma and said Salaam to her. She enquired: 'Who are you?' I replied: ~I am Umra Hamdania'. Umra says, 'I said, O Mother of the Faithful! Say something about the man who has been killed among us today. One group of the people likes him and another group is inimical towards him. (Meaning Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib). Umme Salma said, Do you like him or are hostile to him?' I replied, 'I neither like him nor am hostile to him.'" Here the narrative is defective and thereafter it is like this: 'Allah revealed the verse: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.' There was none in the room at that time, except Jibraeel, the Holy Prophet and Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (May peace be upon them). I said: 'O Prophet of Allah! Am I too one of the People of the House? He replied: 'Allah will reward you and recompense you.' I wished that he might have said 'Yes' and would have valued such a reply much more than anything else in the world.'

(c) Sa'ad bin abi Waqas

In 'Khasais' Nasai has quoted Amir bin Sa'ad¹ son of Abu Waqas as saying: 'Mua'wiyah said to Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas: 'Why do you refrain from abusing Abu Turab?' Sa'ad said, 'I don't abuse Ali (a.s.) for three reasons which I heard from the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.). If even one of them had been in my favour I would have valued it much more than anything else on earth. I heard from the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.):

'When he left Ali (a.s.) as his representative in Medina and proceeded to fight a battle, Ali (a.s.) said, 'Are you leaving me with the women and the children in Medina?' The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) replied: 'Don't you like that your position vis-a-vis myself should be like that of Haroon with Musa. (May peace be upon them)? You enjoy the same position with reference to me as Haroon enjoyed with reference to Musa.' (May peace be upon them).

On the fateful day of Khyber, too, I heard the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) as saying: 'Tomorrow I shall give the standard to one who loves Allah and His Prophet (s.a.w.s.) and Allah and His

¹ 'Amir bin Sa'ad son of Abi Waqas. His hadith has been recorded by all the compilers of 'Sihah'. Ibne Hajar says: 'He is considered to be one of the reliable narrators of the third group. He died at the age of 104.(Taqrīb at-Tahzīb Vol I Page no.387.)

Prophet (s.a.w.s.) also love him.' All of us were keen to be graced and singled out in the face of this declaration and that the standard might be in our hands. In the meantime the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: 'Bring Ali (a.s.) to me.' Imam Ali (a.s.) came in such a condition that he had some trouble in his eyes. The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) applied his saliva to Ali's eyes and gave the standard in his hand.

Moreover, when the verse of 'Tathir'. 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove (all sorts of) uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification', was revealed, the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) called Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (May peace be upon them all) near himself and said: 'O Allah! These are the people of my family.'

Ibne Jarir, Ibne Kathir, Hakim (in 'Mustadrak') and Tahavi (in 'Mushkil al-Athar') have quoted from Sa'ad bin Abi Waqas that at the time of the revelation of the verse, the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) called Ali (a.s.) with his two sons and Fatima (s.a.) and accommodated them under his own cloak and said: 'O Lord! These are the members of my family.'

(d) Ibne Abbas

(1) It has been narrated in 'Tarikh-i-Ibne Athir' that Umar, while conversing with Ibne Abbas said: 'Fie be upon you, O Bani Hashim! You have nothing in your hearts except envy, fraud and rancour which do not leave your hearts and are not exterminated, Ibne Abbas said in reply: 'Be calm O' Commander of the Faithful! Don't attribute envy to those hearts which have been cleansed from all the filth by Allah and made pure and clean, because the heart of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) too, is one of the hearts of Bani Hashim.'

(2) Imam of the Hanblis, Ahmad (in his 'Musnad'), Nasai (in 'Khasais') Muhibbe Tibri (in 'Riaz al-Nuzra') and Haithmi (in 'Majma al-Zawaid') have reported 'Amr bin Maimun¹ as having said: 'I was with Ibne Abbas when nine persons came to him and said: 'O son of Abbas! Either come out with us or provide us privacy.' He said: 'I shall go out with you.' The narrator says: 'In those days the eyes of Ibne Abbas were all right and he could see. The narrator says: They had mutual conversation and I am not ware as to what they talked about.' After some time

¹ 'Amr bin Maimun is considered to be one of the reliable Tabaeen. His hadith have been included in the 'Sihah'. He passed away in Kufa at the age of 74. ('Taqreeb al Tehzeeb' Vol.II page 80)

Ibne Abbas returned to us. He was then shaking off his dress² and saying: 'Fie be upon them! they are talking about the man who enjoys ten excellences. Later in the narration Ibne Abbas details the virtues of the Imam till he says: 'The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) spread his cloak upon Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (Peace be upon them) and said: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.'

(c) Wasilat son of Asqaa

Tabari (while commenting on the verse), Ibne Hanbal (in his 'Musnad'), Hakim (in 'Mustadrak'), Bahiqui (in 'Sunan'), Tahavi (in 'Mushkil al-Athar') and Haithami (in 'Majma al-Zawaid') quote Abu Ammar¹ as having said: 'I was sitting with Wasilat son of Asqaa when a discussion took place about Ali (a.s.) and the people abused him. When those present rose to leave he said to me:

² In those days shaking off the dress was considered to be a sign of disgust for what had happened and as the nine persons had used unbecoming language for Imam Ali (a.s.) Ibne Abbas spoke thus.

¹ Abu Ammar Shiddad son of Abd Allah al-Qarshi of Damascus. He is included in the fourth group of reliable narrators and his hadith are available in the 'Sihah'. ('Taqreeb al- Tehzib' Vol.1, page 347).

'Keep sitting so that I may talk with you about the man whom they had been abusing. I was with the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) when Ali (a.s.), Fatima (s.a.), Hasan (a.s.) and Husain (a.s.) approached him and the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) spread his cloak on them and said: 'O Allah! These are the members of my family. Remove uncleanness from them and make them clean and pure.'

In 'Usud al-Ghaba' Shiddad son of Abd Allah has been quoted as saying: 'I heard from Wasilat son of Asqaa that when the head of Husain (a.s.) was brought, one of the Syrians abused Husain (a.s.) and his father. Wasilat stood up and said: 'I swear by Allah that ever since I heard the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) say about them: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sort of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.' I have always liked Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (Peace be upon them).'

ANOTHER NARRATION FROM UMME SALMA

Ahmad (in 'Musnad'), Tabari (in 'Tafsir') and Tahavi (in 'Mushkil al-Athar') have quoted Shahr bin Haushab to have said: 'When the news of the

martyrdom of Husain (a.s.) reached (Medina) I heard Umme Salma, wife of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.), saying: 'They have killed Husain (a.s.)! I myself observed that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) spread his Khyber cloak on them and said: 'O Allah! these are the members of my family! Remove uncleanness from them and make them clean and pure!'

(f) Ali bin al-Husain (a.s.)

Tabari, Ibne Kathir and Suyuti have stated thus in their 'Tafsirs' while commenting on this sacred verse: Ali bin al-Husain (a.s.) said to a Syrian: 'Have you read this verse in Sura al-Azhab, 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification.'

The Syrian said: 'Does this verse pertain to you?' The Imam replied: 'Yes, it pertains to us.'

Khwarizmi has quoted this very narration in his 'Maqatal' in the following manner:

'When after the martyrdom of Husain (a.s.), the grandson of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.), Sajjad (a.s.) and other prisoners belonging to the House of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) were carried to Damascus and stationed in the jail located by the side of the Jama Masjid of Damascus, an old

man approached them and said: 'Praised be Allah who killed you and annihilated you and relieved the people from your men and provided the Commander of the Faithful (Yazid) with authority over you.' Ali bin al-Husain (a.s.) said: 'O old man! Have you read the Holy Quran? He replied: Yes. Then the Imam (a.s.) said: have you read this verse: **'No reward do I ask you for this (the toils of the office of Prophethood) except the love of those near of my kin.'** Qur'an (42 : 23)

The old man said: 'Yes. I have read it' The Imam said: 'Have you read the verse: 'So give what is due to kindred (near ones), the needy and the wayfarer. That is best for them who seek the countenance of Allah, and it is they who will prosper' and the verse: 'They ask you concerning (things taken as) spoils of war say: such spoils are at the disposal of Allah and the Prophet, so fear Allah and keep straight the relations between yourselves: Obey Allah and His Prophet, if you do believe in the Holy Qur'an. The old man replied: 'Yes. I have read them'. The Imam said: 'I swear by Allah that the word 'near ones' refers to us and these verses have been revealed about us. (The Imam added): And have you read this verse in the Holy Qur'an and wherein Allah says: 'O People of the Prophet's House! Allah intends but to remove all sorts of

uncleanness and blemish from you and to purify you with a thorough purification'?

The old man said: 'Yes. I have read it.' The Imam said: 'What is meant by People of the Prophet's House! We are whom Allah has especially associated with the verse of 'Tathir'.

The old man said: 'By Almighty Allah! Are you of the same family?' The Imam replied: 'I swear by my grandfather the Prophet of Allah (s.a.w.s.) we are the same people.'

The old man was stunned and expressed regret for what he had said. Then he raised his head towards the sky and said: 'O Allah! I apologize for what I have said and forsake enmity against this family and hate the enemies of the Progeny of Muhammad (s.a.w.s.) from the Jinn and the men.'¹

Other traditions on the subject have also been narrated but we have desisted from quoting them.² This suffices for our purpose of proving our assertions.

¹ Maqatal of Khwarizmi Vol 2 Page 61, printed at Najaf.

² For example the narration about the biography of 'Atiyya' as detailed in 'Usud al- Ghaba' (Vol.III, page 413) and in 'Asaba' (Vol.II, page 479) and 'Tarikh-i-Baghdad' (Vol.X, page 278), and the narration of

And the Holy Qu'ran says: Most surely there is a reminder in this for him who has a heart or he gives ear and is a witness. (Sura Qaf 50 : 37)

THE VERSE OF PURIFICATION IN SHIA SOURCES

THE REVELATION OF THE VERSE OF PURIFICATION

(a) Tradition of Ummul Momineen Umme Salma.¹

(i) Shahar Bin Hoshal says: I came to Umme Salma the wife of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) and after salaam said: 'Have you seen this verse, O mother of believers, 'Allah only desires to keep

Hakim son of Saeed in 'Tafsir-i-Tabari' (Vol.22, page 5) and other narrations quoted in 'Musnad' of Ahmed (Vol.VI, page 304) and 'Usud al-Ghaba' (Vol.II, page 12 and Vol.IV, page 29) and 'Majma al-Zawaid' (Vol.IX, pages 206 and 207) and 'Zakhair al Uqba' (page 21)

¹ Tafseer of Furat bin Ibrahim Al Kufi, page 21

away the uncleanness from you, O people of the House! and to purify you a (thorough) purifying?" She said: 'I and the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) were upon the bed and under the cloak of Khyber when Fatima (s.a.) came with Hasan and Husain (a.s.).

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: Where is your cousin?" she said, 'at home.'" He said: "call him." she called him. Then he took all of them under the cloak and raised up his hands (in prayer) saying: 'O Allah these are my Ahle bayt (a.s.). So remove from them the impurity and purify them a thorough purification.'" I was sitting opposite the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.). I said, 'O Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) may my parents be sacrificed upon you, and what about me?" He replied, "You have a good future." And the Verse descended, 'Allah only desires to....' It concerned the Prophet (s.a.w.s.), Ali, Fatima, Hasan, and Husain (a.s.)

Another reference:

There is another narration of Umme Salma which states that the following verse was revealed for the Prophet (s.a.w.s.), Ali, Fatima, Hasan, and Husain (a.s.)¹

¹ Tafseer Furat Pg. 126

Umme Salma says: The verse of **“Allah only desires.....”**

was revealed in my house. And that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) covered them with the cloak, raised his hands (in prayer) and said: “O Allah, These are my Ahle Bayt (a.s.) so remove from them uncleanness like You removed it from the progeny of Ismail, Ishaq and Yaqoob and purify them from the uncleanness like You purified the progeny of Lut, progeny of Imran and progeny of Haroon (a.s.).

(ii) From Abi Abdullah Al Jalali¹

He said: I came to Ayesha and asked, “where did the verse **“Allah only desires.....”** descend?”

she said: “It descended at the house of Umme Salma.”

But Umme Salma said that if Ayesha is asked concerning this, she will say that it descended at her house.

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) said: “Is there any one who will call for me Ali, Fatima and their two sons?”

She said, “Who is there other than me?”

He said, “Then do as I say.”

¹ Tafseer Furat Pg. 124

So they all came and sat. Ali (a.s.) between his hands, Husain (a.s.) on his right, Hasan (a.s.) on his left and Fatima (s.a) opposite him. The Prophet covered them with the cloak of Khyber and said thrice, “May the fire never approach you, you are my soul, my progeny, my Ahlul Bayt from my flesh and my blood.”

Umme Salma said, “O Prophet of Allah! Can I enter with you?”

The Holy Prophet said, “O Umme Salma you are from my righteous wives.”

Then the following verse of Quran was revealed:

“Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.”

(iii) From Abdulla Ibne Moeen, the slave boy of Umme Salma¹

In this tradition also Umme Salma says that the verse: "Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O People of the House!" was revealed in my house.

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) ordered me to send Ali (a.s.), Fatima (s.a.), Hasan (a.s.) and Husain (a.s.). Then they came and seated with him. The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) said: 'O Allah these are my household, my progeny, so remove uncleanness from them and purify them a (thorough) purifying.' He repeated this thrice.

I said, "And I, O, Messenger of Allah?"

He replied, "You shall have a good future Insha Allah."

(iv) From Imam Reza (a.s.)

Umme Salma said, "On the day the verse of purification was revealed at my house the Messenger of Allah summoned Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.). When they all gathered Jibraeel (a.s.) came. The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) prayed, "O Allah these are my Ahle

¹ Al Amaali of Shaykh Sadooq, Vol.1, Pg. 270

Bayt, O Allah remove uncleanness from them and purify them a (thorough) purifying."

Jibraeel (a.s.) said," And am I from you, O Muhammad?"

The Prophet (s.a.) replied," You are from us O Jibraeel."

Umme Salma asked, "O Messenger of Allah am I from your Ahle Bayt?" And moved forward to enter the cloak.

The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) said, "Stay in your place O Umme Salma, You are on the good and you are from the wives of the Messenger."

Then Jibraeel (a.s.) said: **"Recite O Muhammad! Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying."**

(b) Tradition of Al Husain ibne Ali (a.s.)

From Zaid¹ bin Ali from his father from his grandfather, He said: The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) was at the house of Umme Salma when she served a dish of Harira. He called Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) and they ate from it. Then he covered them with the cloak of Khyber and said: "Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying." Umme Salma said: 'And am I one of them O Messenger of Allah?'

He (s.a.w.s.) said, 'You have a good fortune.'

(c) Tradition of Abu Saeed Khudri

(i) From Abu Saeed Khudri²

He says: The Verse of Purification was revealed when the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) had collected Fatima, Ali, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) in the cloak and prayed "O Allah these are my Ahle Bayt so keep away uncleanness from them and purify them a (thorough) purifying." Umme Salma

¹ Jame al Fawaid, Pg. 203

² Behaarul Anwaar, Vol. 25, Pg. 212, 213

asked, "O Messenger of Allah! Am I included in them?" He said, 'And you have a good fortune.'¹

(ii) From Atiyya:

Atiyya says that he asked Abu Saeed Khudri about the holy verse: 'Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.'

Abu Saeed Khudri said that it was revealed for the Messenger of Allah, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.)

(d) From Abu Jafar²

Regarding the Quranic verse, 'Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.' he says that this verse was revealed for the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) It was revealed at the house of Umme Salma the wife of the Prophet (s.a.). The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) called Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) and covered them with the cloak of Khyber. Then he said, O Allah! these are my Ahle Bayt regarding whom you have promised me whatever you promised.

¹ Behaarul Anwaar Vol. 35, Pg. 208

² Behaarul Anwaar Vol.35, Pg. 206

O Allah keep away the uncleanness from them and purify them a (thorough) purification.”

Then the above verse was revealed.

Umme Salma said: ‘And am I included in them?’

He said,” I give you glad tidings that you shall have a good future.”

WHAT DID THE HOLY PROPHET (S.A.W.S.) DO AFTER THE REVELATION OF THIS VERSE?

(a) From Abu Saeed Khudri¹

He says, ‘The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) used to come at the door of Ali and Fatima for forty days and say, “Peace be upon you and the Mercy of Allah and His Blessings, O Ahlul Bayt. Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O people of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying. I am at war with the one who makes war on you and peace at the one who is at peace with you.”

(b) From Abu Humra²

He says that I was in the service of the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) for nine or ten months, nine months to be sure. I used to see that everyday the Prophet (s.a.) came out from his house in the morning and knocked at the door

¹ Tafseer Furat, Pg. 122

² Tafseer Furat, Pg. 123, 124

of Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) saying; “Peace be upon you and the Mercy and Blessings of Allah. Rise up for prayers that Allah may have mercy on you.”

They replied, “And Peace be upon you and the Mercy and Blessings of Allah, O Messenger of Allah.”

Then the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) said, **“Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O people of the house and purify you a (thorough) purifying.”**

The above tradition has been recorded with a slight variation also.

(c) From Amirul Momineen Ali (a.s.)

Ali (a.s.) said¹, “The Messenger of Allah came to us every morning and said, “Prayers! May Allah have Mercy on you, Prayers! Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you, O People of the House and purify you a (thorough) purifying.”

(d) From Abu Jafar (a.s.)¹

He narrated from his father Imam Sajjad (a.s.) that he said regarding the holy verse, **“And enjoin prayer on your household and steadily**

¹ Amaali of Shaykh Sadooq, Pg. 55

¹ Behaarul Anwaar Vol.25, Pg. 220

adhere to it...” (Taha 20 : 132). It was revealed for Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.). The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) came to the door of Fatima (s.a.) every morning and said, “Peace be upon you, O Ahlul Bayt and Mercy of Allah and His blessings be upon you. Prayers! May Allah have Mercy on you.”

“Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.”

Moreover, in Tafsir of Furat² the exegesis of the verse “And enjoin prayer on your household, and steadily adhere to it...” is as follows:

Allah certainly ordered the above for the people of every household. However, it was necessary to show the superiority of the Prophet’s household over that of the common people. Thus when this verse was revealed the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) approached the door of Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) everyday before the morning prayers and said, “Peace be upon you and the Mercy of Allah.”

² Tafseer Furat Pg. 530,531

“Peace be upon you (too), O Messenger of Allah.” replied Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.).

Then the Messenger of Allah knocked at the door and said, “Prayers! Prayers! May Allah have mercy on you. “Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you, O People of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.

He continued with this practice till his last days.

(e) From Imam as-Sadiq (a.s.)

Imam Sadiq (a.s.) narrates from his forefathers: Everyday at the time of dawn the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) approached the door of Ali and Fatima and said, “Praise be to Allah the best of the benevolents, the greatest bestower of bounties, One by Whose blessings we achieve righteousness, One Who listens to those who praise Him. May we receive the best of His bounties. We seek refuge in Allah from the fire, We seek refuge in Allah from the day of the fire and the night of fire. Prayers! O Ahlul Bayt. Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you, O people of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.”

It has also been recorded from Abu Saeed Khudri that he said: When this verse was revealed the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) came

to the door of Fatima and Ali for nine months at the time of every prayer and said, “Prayers! May Allah have mercy on you. Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you. O people of the House! and to purify you a (thorough) purifying.”

Allama Majlisi says that this tradition has been narrated through many chains of narrators.

THOSE WHO RELIED ON THIS VERSE

(a) Amirul Momineen Ali (a.s.).¹

Ali (a.s.) says:” Certainly Allah the Almighty raised the status of us, Ahlul Bayt. And why not when Allah the Great and Mighty has mentioned in His book, “**Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you. O people of the House! and to purify you a (thorough) purifying.**”

Thus He purified us from every impurity, external and internal and we are at the pinnacle of truth.”

(b) Al Hasan ibne Ali (a.s.)

¹ Behaarul Anwaar, Vol. 25, Pg. 213, 214

(i) Imam Hasan (a.s.) addressed the people after the martyrdom of his father Imam Ali (a.s.) and said during his speech: 'O people! whoever knows me, knows me and whoever does not know me should know that I am Hasan bin Ali. I am the son of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) and of his successor. I am the son of the giver of good tidings and the warner. I am his son who invited people to Allah and warned them of the torture of His hell-fire. I am the son of the Luminous Lamp. I belong to the house upon where Jibraeel used to descend and from there ascend to heavens. I belong to the family from whom Allah has removed all impurities and made them pure."¹

(ii) At the time of the Peace Treaty with Muawiya.

And I tell this to the gathering of men, so listen to me. You possess hearts as well as hearing, so pay attention. We are the Ahlul Bayt whom Allah honoured with Islam. He exalted us and raised our status and kept every impurity away from us and purified us with a thorough purification. And one of the impurity is doubt. And we have no doubt that Allah is the truth. And that His religion is forever. Allah has purified us from every infamy and bestowed us with His bounties since the time of Adam (a.s.) till He said, "Allah only desires to

¹ Behaarul Anwaar, Vol. 25, Pg. 214

keep away uncleanness from you O people of the House! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying." So when the Verse of Purification was revealed the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) took me with him, and my brother, and my mother, and my father under the Cloak of Khyber, taken from Umme Salma, and it was in the house of Umme Salma. On that day he (s.a.w.s.) said: "O Allah these are my Ahle bayt (a.s.) and my Progeny. So remove from them the impurity and purify them with a thorough purification." Then Umme Salma said, "Can I also enter (the Cloak) with you?" The Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) told her, "May Allah have Mercy upon you, you are upon the right and you have a good future, but you are not allowed (to enter), this is (only) for me and for them (the Ahlul Bayt).

From that day onwards the Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.) used to approach our door every day at dawn and say, "Prayers! May Allah have Mercy on you. Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O people of the House! and to purify you a (thorough) purifying."¹

¹ Behaarul Anwaar Vol.10, Pg. 141,142

(c) Umme Salma

The following narration has been recorded in the Tafsir of Furat, Al Khisaal and Amaali of Sadooq, and Behaarul Anwaar from Umratul Hamadania binte Afaai : Umme Salma said, "Are you Umra?". "Yes", replied Umra. Then Umra requested Umme Salma, "Tell me about this man who is amongst you, who is loved by some and hated by others." Umme Salma asked, "Do you love him?" Umra said, "I neither love him - that is Ali (a.s.) - nor hate him." Umme Salma said, "The Almighty Allah has revealed, 'Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O people of the House and to purify you a (thorough) purification.' And there was no one in the house except Jibraeel, Mikaeel, Muhammad, Ali, Fatima, Hasan and Husain (a.s.) and myself. And I said, 'O Messenger of Allah (s.a.w.s.), am I also from the Ahlul Bayt?' He (s.a.w.s.) said, 'You are from my righteous wives.' O Umra if he (s.a.w.s.) had said 'Yes', it would have been more loved by me than anything on which the sun shines." (more than anything in the world.)¹

(d) Ali Ibne Husain al-Sajjad (a.s.)

¹ Behaarul Anwaar Vol.25, Pg.214

The given tradition has been recorded in the Amaali of Sadooq, Ihtejaaj of Tabarsi and Behaarul Anwaar:

When the prisoners belonging to the House of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) were carried to Damascus and stationed in the prison opposite the Jama Masjid an old man approached them and said: "Praise be to Allah who killed you and annihilated you and relieved the people from your mischief."

Imam Sajjad (a.s.) said, "O old man! Have you read the Holy Quran?" He replied, "Yes." Then the Imam (a.s.) said, "Have you read the verse: 'No reward do I ask for this except the love of those near of my kin'?"

The old man said, "Yes I have read it."

The Imam (a.s.) said, "It is us!"

Then he (a.s.) said, "Have you read the verse, 'So give what is due to kindered... (Sura Isra : 26)'?"

The old man said, "Yes."

Imam (a.s.) told him, "It refers to us."

Then he (a.s.) asked, "Have read the verse, '**Allah only desires to keep away uncleanness from you O people of the House and to purify you a (thorough) purifying**'?"

The old man replied, "Yes, I have read it."

The Imam (a.s.) said, "We are those referred to in this verse."

The old man said, "By Almighty Allah! Are you of the same family?"

The Imam (a.s.) replied, "Yes."

The old man raised his hands towards the sky and said, "O Allah! I apologize for what I have said, (he repeated this thrice) and forsake the enmity against this family and hate the enemies of the Progeny of Muhammad (s.a.w.s.) I had certainly recited the Quran but I did not understand this before this day."¹

(e) Zaid bin Ali bin Husain

Abul Jarood says that Zaid Ibne Ali has mentioned:

'Those people are ignorant who think that Allah only intends by this verse the wives of the Prophet (s.a.). They lied and sinned. If Allah had intended to mean the wives of the Prophet (s.a.) He would have said, 'Le yudheba a'nkunnarrijsa wa yutahherakunna tatheera' like He had used the female gender in the verse, 'wadkurna maa yutla fi buyootekunna...'.'

¹ Al Ihtejaaj of Tabarsi, Pg. 157