

Chapter Fourteen

Chapter related to the dream of Sayyiduna ‘Abdul Muttalib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ

Imam Abu Nu’aym (d. 430 AH) رَحِمَهُ اللهُ عَلَيْهِ extracted a narration from the chain of ‘Abu Bakr bin ‘Abdullah bin Abu Jaham from his father and he from his grandfather, who stated, “I heard Abu Talib mention from (Sayyiduna) ‘Abdul Muttalib (رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) who stated, “Whilst I was sleeping near the black stone (Hajar al-Aswad), I saw a dream that frightened me, so I become very scared because of it. I visited a female soothsayer from the Quraysh. I said to her, ‘Indeed I saw a dream in the night as though a tree had grown and its tip had reached the sky and it was striking the East and West with its branches. I have not seen any light clearer than it. It is greater than the light of the sun seventy times. I saw the Arabs and non-Arabs in prostration and every moment, it was increasing in its greatness, light and height. One moment it would become hidden and one moment it would become apparent. I saw a group from Quraysh who were holding onto its branches and I saw a group from Quraysh intending to cut it. When they came close to it, a young man grasped them. I have not seen anyone more beautiful than him in countenance nor more fragrant than him. I saw him breaking their backs and plucking their eyes. I raised my hands so that I could attain some share from it, but I did not manage so I said, ‘For whom is the share?’ He said, ‘The share is for these people who are holding on to it and who have preceded you towards it.’ So I woke up terrified and in a state of panic.”



I saw the face of the soothsayer had changed. She said, “Your dream is true. A man will come from your loin who will have kingdom over the East and the West and the people will follow him.” Then she said to Abu Talib, “Perhaps you are this personality who has been born.” Abu Talib used to mention this narration when the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ) had arrived and he would say, “By Allah (عَزَّوَجَلَّ), this tree is Abul Qasim Al-Ameen.” So it would be said to him, ‘Do you not believe in him?’ He would respond, “Out of fear of being insulted and being shamed.”¹

¹ The Quraysh will say that he has left the way of the leaders of the tribe and adopted the religion of his nephew. There is a difference of opinion regarding the Iman (faith) of Abu Talib. There is difference of opinion in the books of Seerah. Shaykh Muhaddith Dehliwi in Madarij-un-Nabuwwah states that due to the fear of the people he did not accept faith (Iman). This is the opinion of many scholars of the Ahle Sunnah. Allah عَزَّوَجَلَّ and His Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ know best.