EDITORIAL

In any school of thought, there are certain pioneering figures whose ideas and doctrines make the cornerstones of those basic tenets. Such is the situation regarding the Islamic religion. The original thoughts and tenets of Islam can be found out in the Divine revelations sent to the Prophet Muhammad. Parts of these Divine revelations are accessible in the form of the Holy Quran.

Like any great or foundational text, the Holy Quran needs interpretations. As a Divine scripture, it has got various levels of readings and meanings. These readings and meanings should be clarified for others who are unable to do it themselves for various reasons.

The same holds true in the case of purely Islamic teachings and history. It follows that the authentic version of Islam is available from only two sources: the Holy Quran and the Ahl al-Bayt. Here, the Ahl al-Bayt never implies whoever had any blood or family relation with the Prophet Muhammad. Rather, when it comes to sound and certain teachings, the Ahl al-Bayt refers only to the Infallibles whose names, designations, and

careers had been mentioned by the Prophet.

Based on the above premises, it is essential to grasp and learn the tenets of the Islamic religious only from the Infallibles. Nobody else, however erudite they might seem, can prove qualified to carry out this responsibility.

Right from the dawn of Islam, the opponents of the Islamic religion found out that the Prophet Muhammad and his Ahl al-Bayt, and particularly the Infallibles, are insurmountable barriers on their ways. To marr their personalities, the opponents started developing their conspiracies. As they never had any figure comparable to the Infallibles, they fabricated several pseudo-religious/ Islamic pathways. Doing so meant leading the Muslim community astray.

The first step of misleading the Muslim community was overlooking and neglecting the historic event of Ghadir Khumm. They have done so to underestimate both the whole Prophetic mission and Imam Ali. On the other hand, the opponents of Ghadir Khumm and its pivotal persona, Imam Ali, started re-creating some figures whose animosity against the Prophet Muhammad was as clear as plain truth.

Despite their conspiracies and futile efforts, the historic event of Ghadir Khumm cannot be hidden or denied. Thousands of scholarly sources, written by both Shiis and Sunnis, endorse the point that the opponents of Ghadir Khumm were never able to deny the merits of Imam Ali and his successorship to the Prophet Muhammad.

The papers collected in this issue of Safineh are worthwhile contributions to this field. May you study and enjoy them.

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