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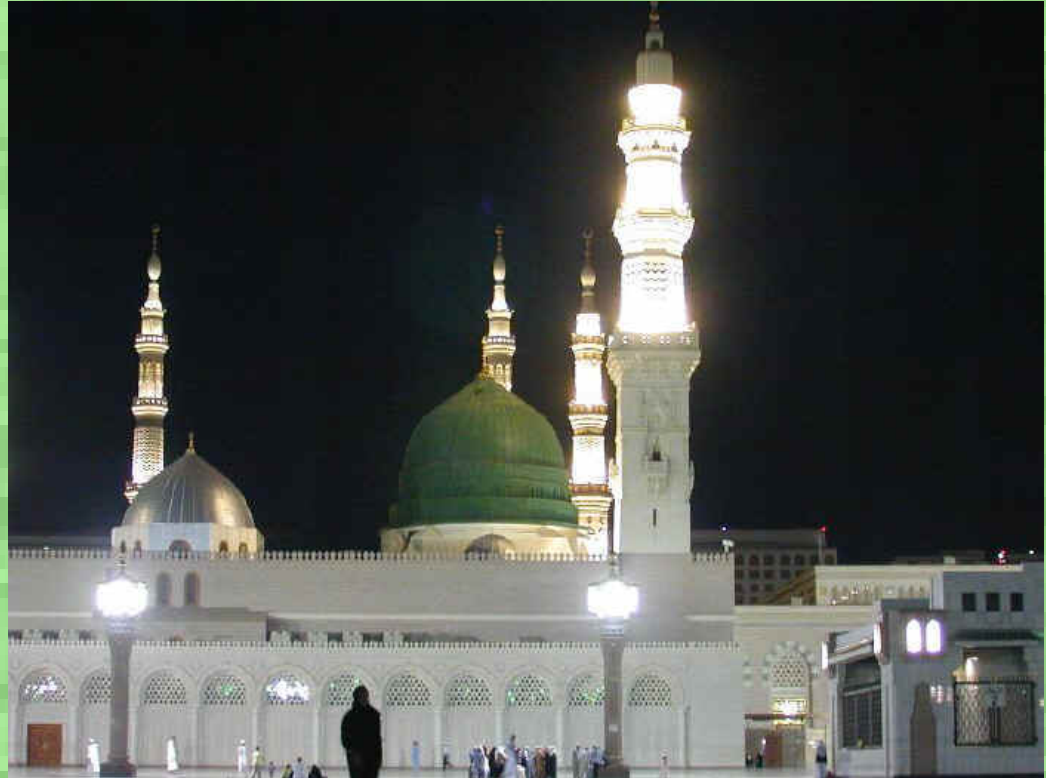


THE CALIPHATE OF IMAM ALI (A.S.)

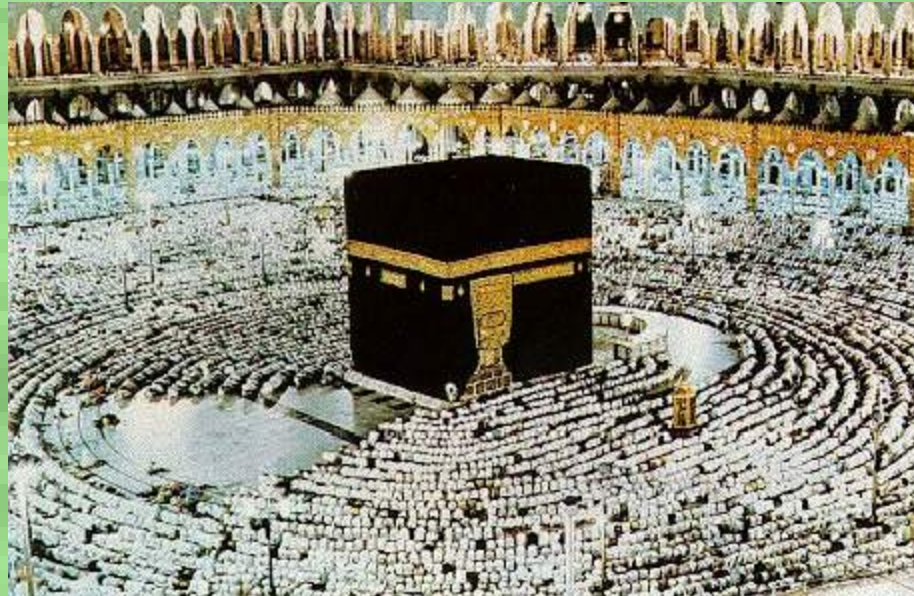
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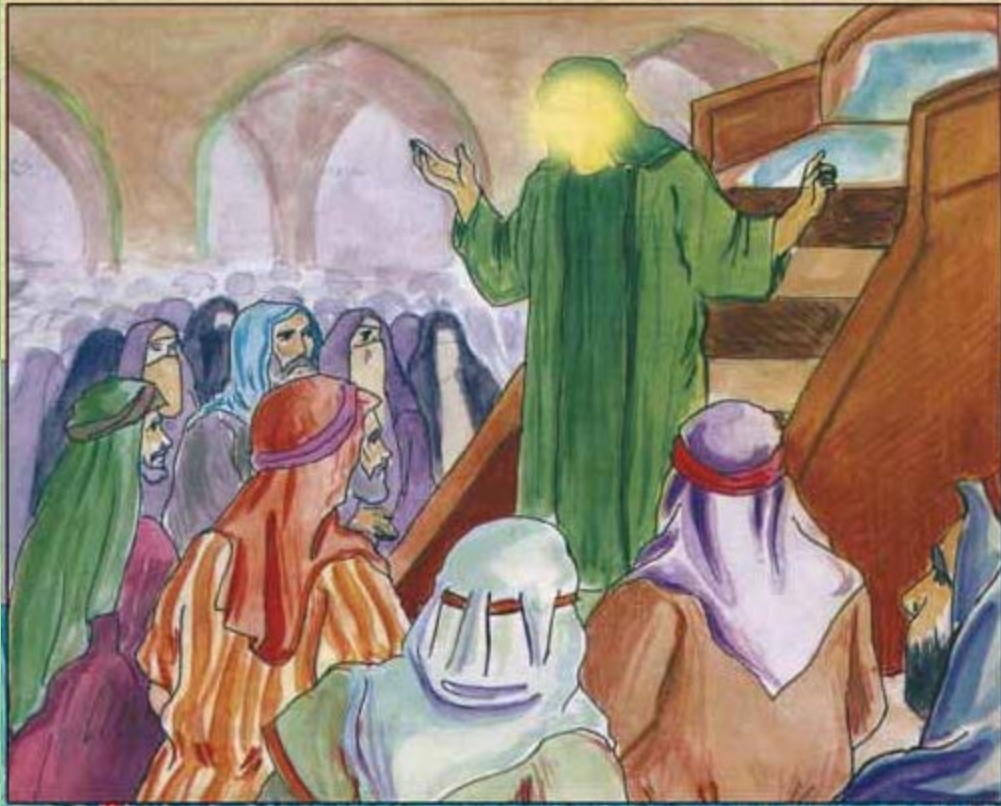
French version approved by Moulla Nissarhousen Rajpar

After the murder of Uthman, there was great unrest in the city of Madina due to the absence of any government. The main citizens of the city called for the immediate election of a Caliph to end the danger of a civil war.



Two men had ambitions to become Caliph. They were Talha and Zubayr, both brothers-in-law of Ayesha, the widow of the Holy Prophet (S). However, to the great disadvantage of these two candidates, she was in Makka for pilgrimage at the time.





The people of Madina, however, wanted Imam Ali (A) to be their Caliph. He was a man admired by his friends and enemies alike for his courage, piety, eloquence, wisdom and kinship to the Holy Prophet (S).

After having been ruled by weak men the people now turned to the man who had been nominated to lead them in the first place. However, Imam Ali (A) refused their offer and said that he would rather remain as an advisor to any Caliph they elected.



The people of Madina insisted that they would follow none but him and at last he reluctantly agreed. He said,

I must say frankly at the outset that I shall deal with you according to the Holy Qur'an and to the best of my knowledge and judgement.



This condition was accepted, but Imam Ali (A) asked that his nomination be made in public so that if anyone had anything to say, they would have an opportunity to do so.





Next day in the mosque of Madina most of the Muslims were present to pay allegiance to Imam Ali (A), including Talha and Zubayr. Imam Ali (A) thus took over as the fourth Caliph of the Muslims.

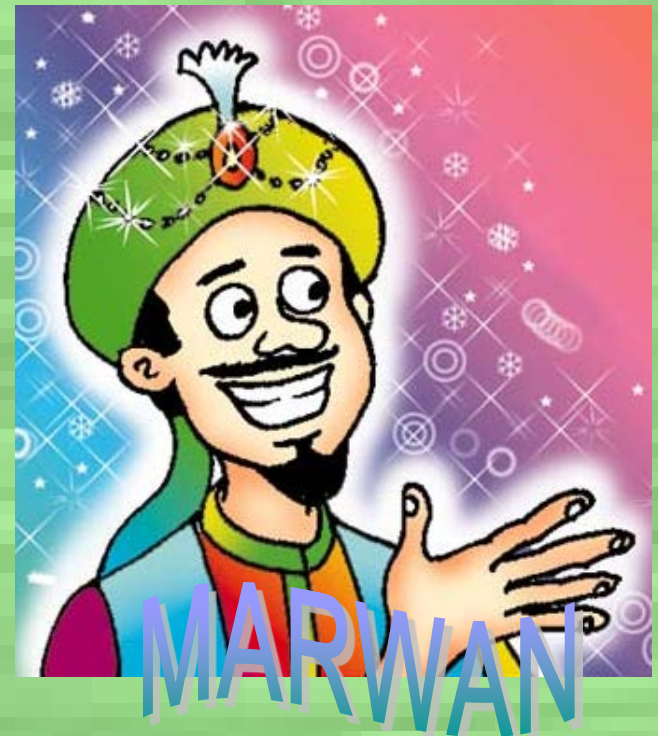
After a few days Talha and Zubayr and a few others came to Imam Ali (A) asking that the murder of Uthman be avenged.





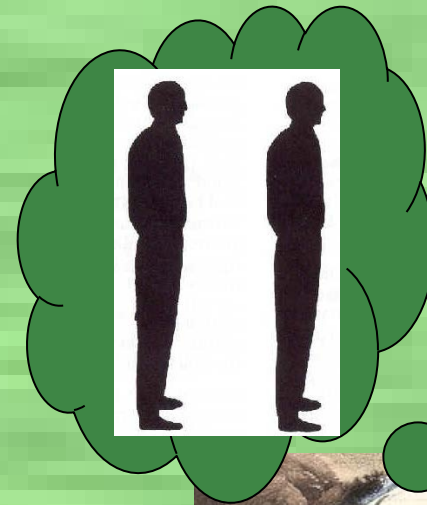
Imam Ali (A) knew fully well that some of these same people had been responsible for the riots that led to Uthman's death, and now they just wanted to stir up trouble.

However, he told them that he had called Uthman's wife Naila and his secretary Marwan and asked them if they could identify the culprits since they had been with Uthman at the time of his death.





Marwan did not come



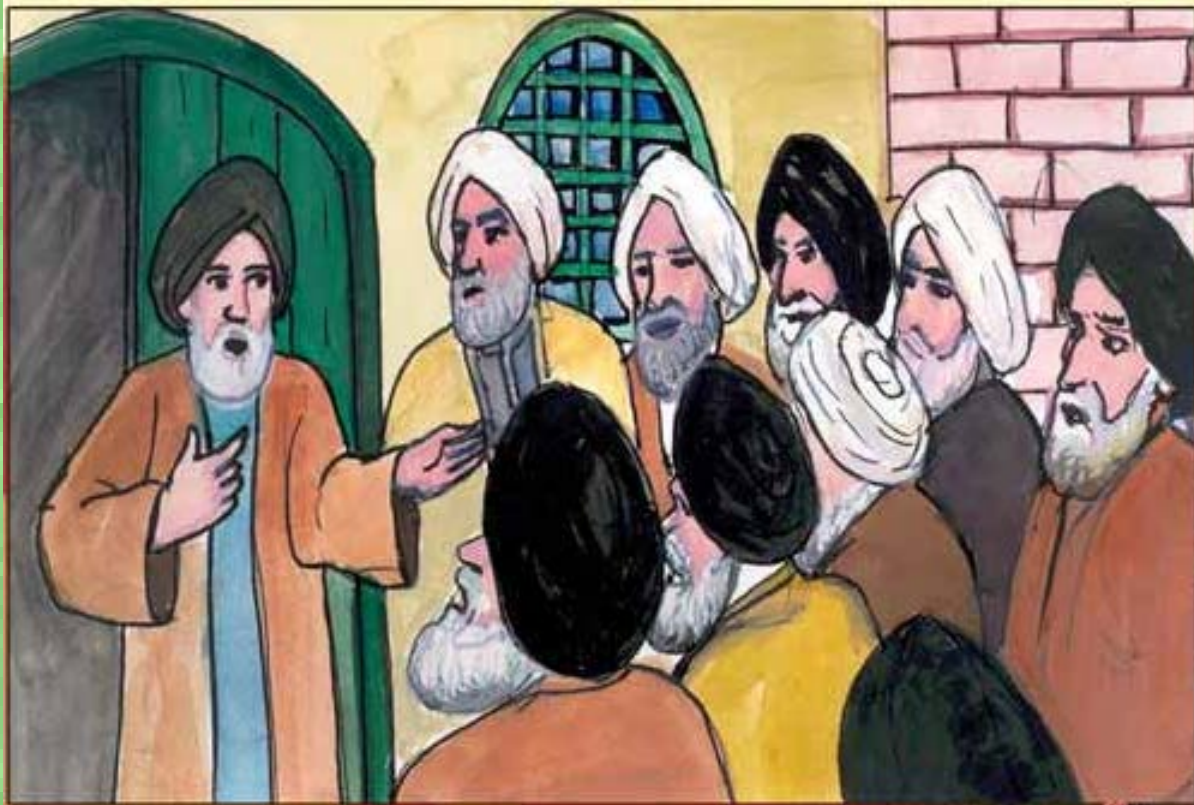
and Naila said that Uthman was killed by two men who she did not recognise. Under the circumstances Imam Ali (A) could do nothing more unless further evidence came to light.





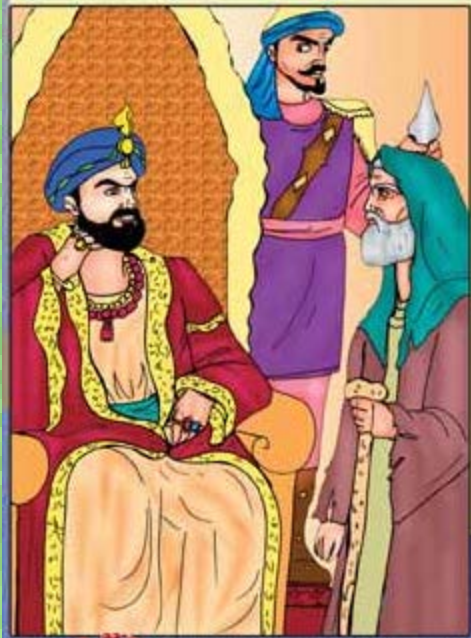
Meanwhile, the members of Bani Umayyah, most of whom had not paid allegiance to Imam Ali (A), began to leave Madina.

Imam Ali (A) knew that they were up to no good and in anticipation of future trouble, he began to secure the good will of the Quraish and Ansar in Madina.





The first matter that Imam Ali (A) attended to was replacing the worthless governors of Uthman. Most of the governors took over their new posts...

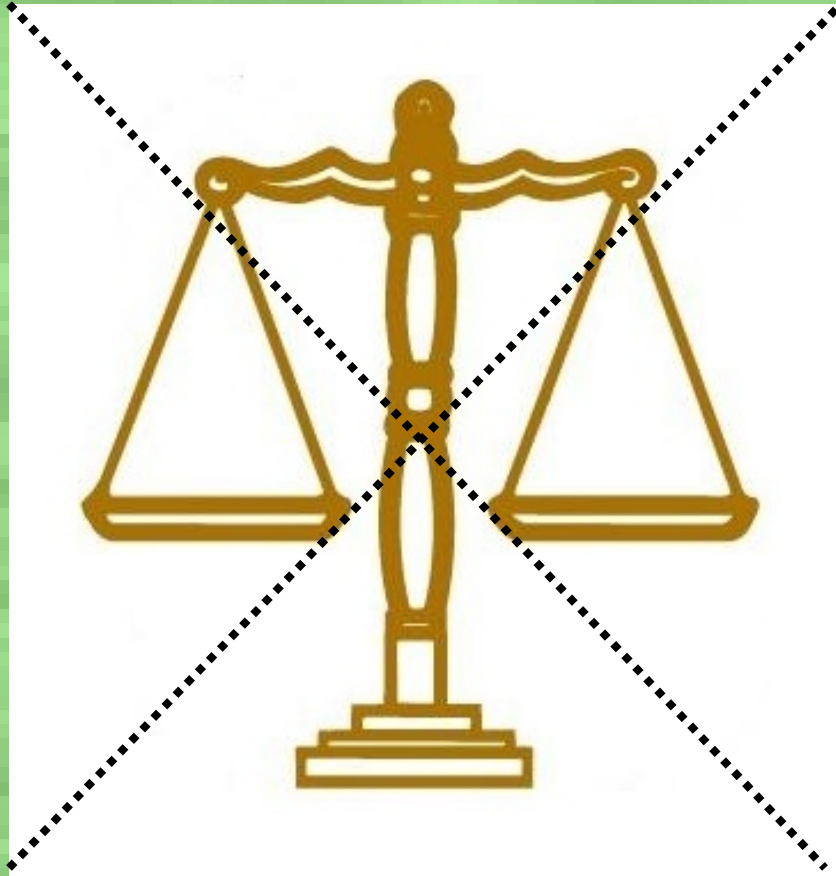


...but the governor to Kufa was stopped from entering that city while the governor to Syria was stopped by Muawiya's men and both had to return to Madina.



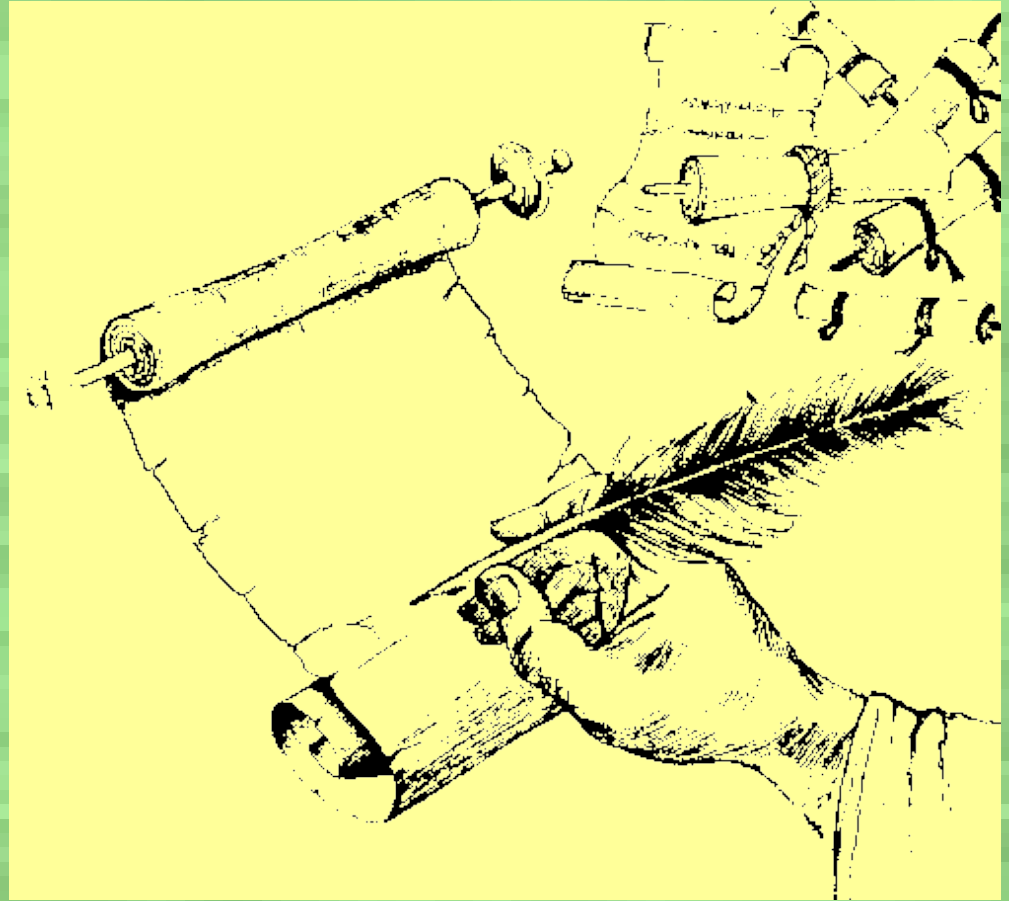
The Bani Umayyah, with the help of their leader Muawiya, began to stir up trouble for Imam Ali (A) and his government. In the mosque of Damascus, Muawiya displayed the blood-stained shirt of Uthman and the chopped-off fingers of his wife Naila, to incite the anger of the people.

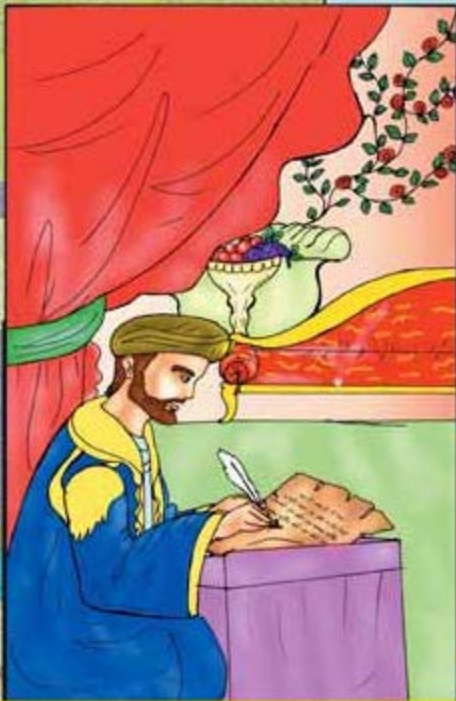




They swore that they would take revenge for Uthman's death and Muawiya began to blame Imam Ali (A) for doing nothing to bring the murderers to justice.

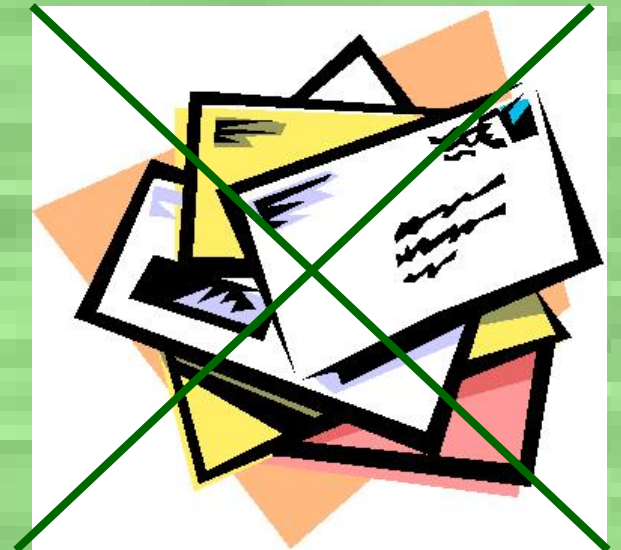
When his governors returned from Kufa and Syria, Imam Ali (A) wrote letters to Abu Musa Ash'ari in Kufa and Muawiya in Syria demanding that they give way to the new governors.



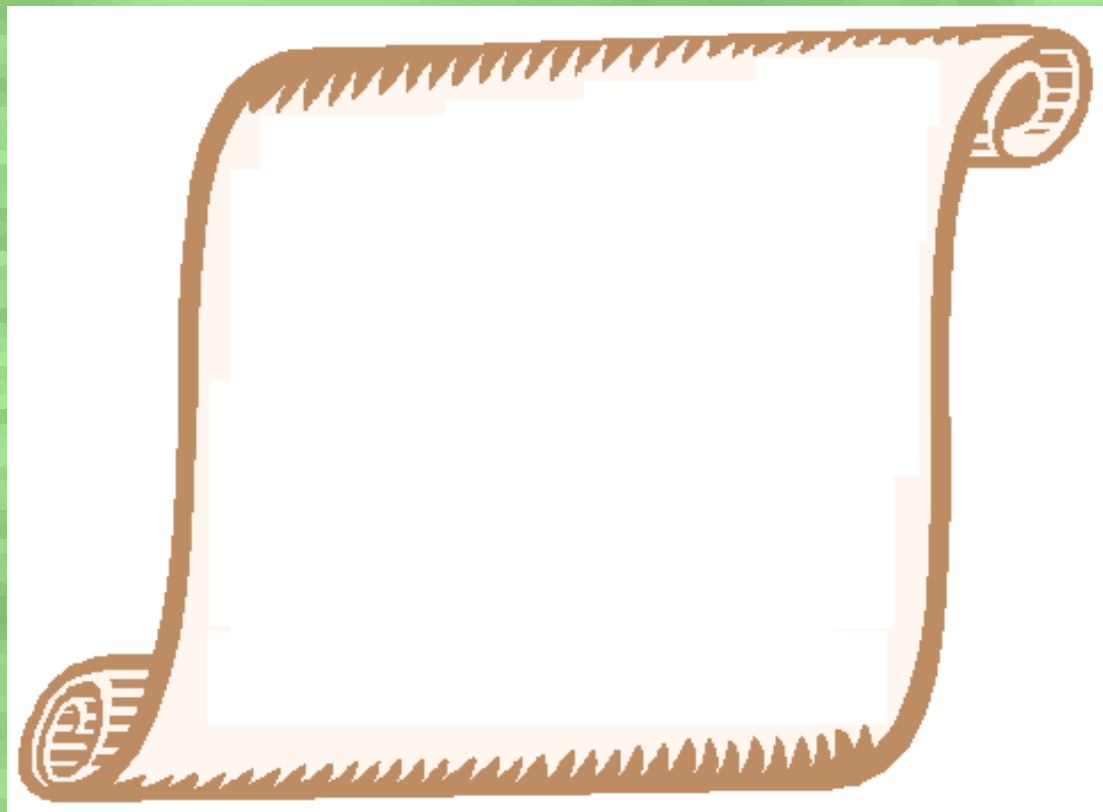


Abu Musa wrote back from Kufa, stating that the Kufans were at the service of the new Caliph,

but Muawiya did not send a reply for three months.



Finally, his messenger arrived with a letter. When Imam Ali (A) opened the letter it contained no words at all and was a gesture of outright defiance.





In addition the messenger informed him that Muawiya had gathered 60,000 men ready to avenge the murder of Uthman on Imam Ali (A).

This news astonished Imam Ali (A) and he said,



I call God to witness that I am not guilty and that it is a false charge.

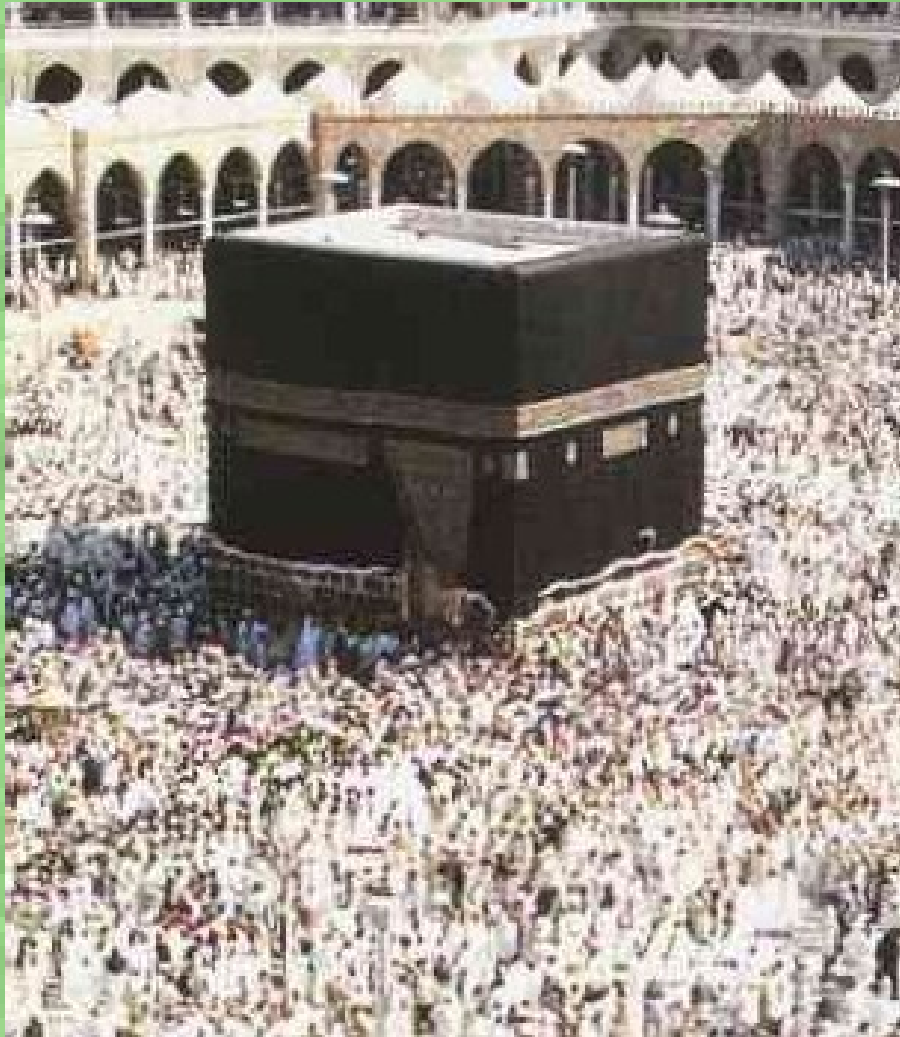


The cunning Muawiya had managed to rouse the hatred of the people of Syria against Imam Ali (A) by using Uthman's murder as an excuse.



However, Imam Ali (A) declared that only the sword would decide matters between Muawiya and himself and he gave orders for an army to be gathered to march to Syria.





Meanwhile, Talha and Zubayr had plans of their own and proceeded to Makka on the excuse of performing Umrah.

On the way they joined Ayesha the widow of the Holy Prophet (S) who was also using the death of Uthman to create trouble for Imam Ali (A), whom she had always hated.



AYESHA



MUAWIYA

Thus, Imam Ali (A) was faced with a double threat to the security of his government - from Ayesha in Makka and from Muawiya in Syria.