

**COMPANY OF THE
TRUTHFUL**
[Suhbat-e-Sadiqin]



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*Meaning of the word Sadiq, the perpetuity of the
command "...kunu maAas Sadiqeen" is discussed
in this paper by the author from his Tauzihat work.*

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Allah says, “*O believers! Be mindful of Allah and associate with the truthful.*”¹ Some of the commentators of Quran say that *The Truthful* purports to mean the companions and the migrants. But the meaning of the Verse is general. People will continue to obey this command till the Day of Resurrection; and they should! Otherwise, the perpetuity of the command of the Arabic term, ‘*kuunuu*’, will not survive. Hence, the Quranic Commentator of *Tafsir-e-Kashshaf* writes: “These are the same people who are truthful [*sadiq*], in the religion of Allah, in their intentions [*niyat*] and in their word and deed.”

For those who were in the company of Imam Mahdi^{AS}, the Imam^{AS} was the *Sadiq* [the Truthful]. And for the people who were in the company of his vice-regents or companions, the vice-regents and companions were the *Sadiqin*. Similarly, the term *Sadiq* or *Sadiqin* has been applied and will continue to be applied to the *Salihin* and *Rashidin* [the Truthful and the Rightly Guided] among the followers and the followers of the followers up to the Day of Resurrection. Besides, one should ponder over the command, *taqul-laaha*² in the Verse cited above. It means “*Fear Allah.*” *Shauq* [eagerness] is related to gain and *Khauf* [fear] is related to damage. *Shauq* and *Khauf* are two feelings, which need to control the *nafs* [lust] and be guided by a *murshid* [spiritual guide]. Otherwise, there is the possibility of overstepping the limits. This may cause one to go astray from the right path. For instance, if a person were so overwhelmed with the described merits of the pre-dawn prayers [*namaz-e-fajr*], that he begins to say four cycles [*rak’at*] instead of the obligatory two cycles, obviously this would be a cause of going astray. Particularly, the *taqwa* [piety, fear of Allah and etcetera] is related to the deeds of the heart. Hence, the company of the people of immanence [*arbab-e-batin*] is necessary for a person to protect himself from erring in overstepping the limits in precepts, principles, meditation, beliefs and deeds. It is for this reason, that Allah has ordered association with the Truthful immediately after the command, “Fear Allah” in the foregoing Quranic Verse. Hence, as fearing Allah is obligatory on every believer [*momin*], the Company of the Truthful too is obligatory on every believer. It is for this reason that Imam Mahdi^{AS} made the Company of the Truthful also obligatory on the believers under the command of Allah. Allah says, “*O ye who believe! If ye listen to a faction among the people of the Book, they would [indeed] render you apostate after ye have believed!*”³ This shows that bad company will affect the faith of a believer also. It is for this reason that it is said, “The companionship of the virtuous will turn you into a virtuous man and the company of an evil person will turn you into an evil person.”

¹ Quran, S. 9: 119 SAL. AYA translates the Verse as, “*O ye who believe! Fear Allah and be with those who are true [in word and deed].*”

² Quran, S. 9: 119 AYA.

³ Quran, S. 3: 100 AYA.

Iqbal says, “Until a Musalman does not adopt the way of [Divine] Love, his faith will not become perfect. The religion of Islam is the name of being in love with Allah and His Prophet. But the way of [Divine] Love cannot be achieved by reading books. It can be achieved only by remaining in the company of the Lovers.”

And Imam Mahdi^{AS} too has said, “Be in conformity [*muafiqat*] with a group of people so that the remembrance and the path of Allah become easy [for you].”

After the companions of the Imam^{AS}, their followers and the followers of their followers, this group of people is the group of the *fuqara* [the indigent] who are in a *silsilah* [chain] of the companionship, bounty, *tarbiat* [instruction, initiation], and imparting of [divine] knowledge from hand to hand and from chest to chest [that is, from heart to heart]. Remaining in the company and instruction [*tarbiat*] of such people, one easily learns the etiquette of Divine Love and pious deeds. It is for this reason that the chain of fealty [*bai'et*] and companionship is given great importance in the Mahdavia religion.

The author of *Shawahid al-Vilayat* has prescribed the following eleven items of etiquette for the people who intend to remain in the company of their *murshid* [spiritual guide]:

- [1] One should not take the initiative in doing any work, major or minor.
- [2] One should not talk in a loud or violent voice, as is done when in anger.
- [3] The speech should be soft, neither very low nor very high in tone. It should be humble and prayerful.
- [4] One should not call or say anything in a loud voice violating the etiquette just in front of the room or residence of the spiritual guide.
- [5] One should not order that something should or should not be done.
- [6] One should not ask questions often.
- [7] One should increase the love for Faith [*iman*].
- [8] One should develop strong desire and esteem for Faith and its commandments.
- [9] One should avoid *kufr* [infidelity].
- [10] One should give up evil deeds.
- [11] One should refrain from disobedience.

For the companions of Prophet Muhammad^{SLM}, Allah Most High has prescribed similar guidelines. They are:

[1] *“O ye who believe! Be not forward in the presence of Allah and His messenger, and keep your duty to Allah. Lo! Allah is Hearer, Knower.”*⁴

[2] *“O ye who believe! Lift not up your voices above the voice of the Prophet, not shout when speaking to him as ye shout to one another, lest your works are rendered vain while ye perceive not.”*⁵

[3] *“Lo! Those who call thee from behind the private apartments, most of them have no sense.”*⁶

[4] *“And know that the messenger of Allah is among you. If he were to obey you in much of the government, ye would surely be in trouble; but Allah hath endeared the faith to you and hath beautified it in your hearts, and hath made disbelief and lewdness and rebellion hateful unto you. Such are they who are rightly guided.”*⁷

⁴ Quran, S. 49: 1 MMP.

⁵ Quran, S. 49: 2 MMP.

⁶ Quran, S. 49: 4 MMP.

⁷ Quran, S. 49: 7 MMP.