

Khalifa Ali bin Abu Talib - Anecdotes of Ali

He had no ambition for the caliphate

It is related that when on the way to Basra, Ali and his troops were camping at Rabdha, Ibn Abbas came to see him. At that time Ali was mending his shoe. Ali asked Ibn Abbas as to what would be the value of the shoe. Ibn Abbas said that the old shoe had hardly any value and its value would at the most not exceed a quarter of a dirham. Ali thereupon said, "By God, this shoe is more valuable to me than the caliphate. I have no ambition to rule."

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Source : Alim.org-Ali bin Abu Talib History