



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 21

Topic: The 9th Imam: Imam Muhammad al-Jawad عليه السلام

- Name: Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Musa ibn Ja'far ibn Muhammad al-Baqir, ibn Ali al-Sajjad, ibn al-Hussain, ibn Ali, ibn Abu Talib عليه السلام

Unique Features:

1. The youngest Imam before the Imam of our time عجل الله فرجه. He became Imam when he was 7 or 8.
2. The least-aged Imam: Martyred at the age of 25
3. Duration of imamate: 17 years

- His mother: Sabika (who belonged to the family tree Maria al-Qibtiyya, the Prophet's wife); other names: al-Khayzuran and Rayhana.
- His teknonym: Abu Ja'far al-Thani
- His title: al-Jawad
- His birthday; was a tremendous blessing for the Shia (esp. For those who didn't believe in Imam al-Rida عليه السلام for not having a son), as Imam al-Rida عليه السلام said.
- Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام lived during the caliphate of al-Mamun and his brother al-Mutasim who poisoned him.
- He عليه السلام was Imam from 203 to 220 A.H. when he was poisoned.

Many Shias found it difficult to accept his imamate at that young age. Since Allah appointed him, he managed to prove his imamate for them through the following proofs:

1. Imamate is just like prophethood. If Allah gives a prophet his position at a young age, it can also be given to an imam. E.g., Prophet Yahya, son of Zakaria (John the Baptist son of Zachary), was given his position when he was a young child. (19:12)
 - Imam عليه السلام also reminded them of the prophethood of Isa (Jesus Christ), a prophet when he was a newborn. (19:31)



2. People referred to Abdullah ibn Musa (Imam Rida عليه السلام's brother) and tested him with questions. However, Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام came out to answer them to prove his imamate.
 3. Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام told them that Prophet Dawud عليه السلام appointed his son Sulayman (Solomon) عليه السلام as his successor while he was very young.
 4. Being appointed by Imam al-Rida عليه السلام; as mentioned in the hadith of Safwan ibn Yahya.
 5. By his knowledge. Imams are the most knowledgeable, and common sense tells us to follow the most knowledgeable. Others need them, and they need no one.
- An Imam's knowledge differs from ours: ours is acquired, but theirs is *Ladunni knowledge*.
 - One of al-Mamun's tactics is: Keep your friends close but your enemies closer. He used this tactic with Imam al-Rida and Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام and the following caliphs did the same. Al-Mamun married his daughter, Umm al-Fadl, to Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام forcefully. She didn't bring any baby, used to trouble the Imam عليه السلام and had a hand poisoning him.
 - Sunni scholars and judges were unhappy with the young Imam عليه السلام being close to the caliph. Al-Mamun wanted them to test him. In a gathering of scholars, Yahya ibn Aktham, a great scholar of his time, asked the Imam about hunting in Ihram. Imam عليه السلام's answers stunned him.
 - Some tried to put Imam عليه السلام into trouble by asking him special questions in front of the caliph. Yahya ibn Aktham asked him about two hadiths regarding the virtues of Abu Bakr and Umar, and Imam عليه السلام cleverly (by applying taqiyya) answered them using the Quran.
 - After al-Mamun died, Imam عليه السلام went to Medina, but al-Mutasim, the new Abbasid caliph, summoned him to Baghdad, and despite Imam عليه السلام's wish that he'd rather be next to Rasulullah ﷺ's grave than in a palace, he was forced to leave Medina.
 - Like his fathers, Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام prepared the Shia for disconnection with Imam عليه السلام by using the *Wikala network* and writing letters to different cities worldwide.

Number of companions: 120
Number of narrations: 240



Notable companions:

- Ali ibn Mahziar al-Ahvazi
- Ahmad ibn Abi Nasr al-Bazanti
- Zakaria ibn Adam
- Muhammad ibn Ismail
- Hasan ibn Sa'id al-Ahvazi
- Ahmad ibn Abd Allah al-Barqi
- Shah Abd al-Azim al-Hasani (buried in Rey, Tehran)
- Ibrahim ibn al-Hashim al-Qomi

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