



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

Teacher: Sayed Saleh al-Qazwini

Lesson: 20

Topic: Imam Ali al-Rida عليه السلام

### Short Biography

Father: Musa ibn Ja'far

Mother: Najma Khatun (a concubine gifted to Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام)

Birthday: 148 A.H. (The year Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام was martyred)

Martyrdom: 203 A.H.

Imamate duration: 20 years

### Points regarding the life of Imam al-Rida عليه السلام:

- Waqifi movements started in 183 A.H. when Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام was martyred, and it opposed the other Shias.
- Their leader: Ali ibn Abi Hamza al-Bataini, Ziyad ibn al-Marwan al-Qandi, and Uthman ibn Isa al-Rawasi

### Reasons for *Waqifis'* disbelief in Imam al-Rida

1. Financial greed: They did not want to give back the money they had with them as the *wakeels* of Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام.

2. In their perspective, other Imams عليه السلام were too young to become imams.

3. The ghusl service of a *ma'soum* should be done by another *ma'soum*. Imam al-Rida عليه السلام was in Medina and Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام was martyred in Baghdad.

Imam عليه السلام responded that he went from Medina to Baghdad and buried his father just as Imam Sajjad (as) went from Kufa to Karbala and buried Imam Husain (as) while he was in chains.

4. Imam al-Rida عليه السلام did not have any sons then. Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام was born in 195 A.H., while Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام died in 183.

- The political circumstances were changing. In his will, Harun appointed his younger son al-Amin (with an Arab mother, Zubaidah) and then al-



Mamun (the oldest with a non-Arab mother) as his successors (Al-Mamun as the crown prince).

- Under the Arab Abbasid's pressure, Harun appointed al-Amin as his successor. It was supposed that al-Amin would give authority to al-Mamun in Khurasan (because his mother was Persian and Persians were loyal to him), but he appointed his son as a crown prince instead of al-Mamun. This decision resulted in a civil war, and Al-Mamun came from Khurasan and killed his brother.
- To suppress the riots after he killed his brother, Mamun decided to bring Imam al-Rida عليه السلام into his government. To:
  - Show people that Ahlulbayt عليهم السلام are not that perfect, and if any oppression occurs, their hands will be dirty as well
  - Convince that Ahlulbayt عليهم السلام won't be considered oppressed anymore
  - Quiet all the rebellions down.
- Imam al-Rida عليه السلام did not accept Mamun's offer until he threatened the life of Imam and forced him to leave Medina.

- Mamun ordered to bring Imam عليه السلام with an entourage. Generals and soldiers came to take Imam عليه السلام from Medina to Khurasan. He drew the map of the path for his generals not to bring Imam عليه السلام from Shia cities like Kufa because he was afraid of rebels.
- In Neyshabur (a city about 100 km from Mashhad), when people asked him for a hadith, Imam al-Rida عليه السلام delivered the golden-chain hadith (سلسلة الذهب): quoting from his father Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام, who quoted from his father Imam al-Baqir عليه السلام and... from Rasulullah صلى الله عليه وسلم from Gabriel from Allah (SWT):

«كلمة لإله إلا الله حصني؛ فمَن دَخَلَ حصني أَمِنَ مِن عذابي»

*Saying the word "There is no God but Allah" is my sanctuary and fort; whoever enters my fort will be saved from my punishment."*

Imam added one more thing:

«و لكن بِشَرطِها و شُرُوطِها و أنا مِن شُرُوطِها»

*"However, it has conditions and I am one of the conditions."*

- New coins with the name of Imam al-Rida عليه السلام were made.
- Al-Mamun brought scholars from different religions with different languages to debate with Imam al-Rida عليه السلام.



- Eventually, Al-Ma'mun became extremely jealous of the Imam عليه السلام and poisoned him. Then the Imam عليه السلام was buried next to Harun.

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

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