



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 15

### Topic: The Companions of the Imams

Imam al-Sadiq's influence grew very significant because of the following:

1. His knowledge; attracted even non-Muslims and non-Believers;
2. Teaching different subjects
3. His tolerance (accepting all)

- Imam is a universal teacher in all fields. When Imam saw that Jabir ibn Hayyan was ready and his mind could bear the knowledge, he taught him chemistry.
- Imam not only trained people with general, vague knowledge, but he trained experts in different fields: **Jabir ibn Hayyan** an expert in sciences, and **Hisham ibn al-Hakam** in the field of theology (kalam).
- Some companions of Imams were cursed, criticized, or accused on some occasions (e.g., Hisham or Zurarah) because although some got deviated, Imam wanted to preserve their lives through taqiyya.

**Q:** It is said that after the martyrdom of Imam al-Sadiq, Zurarah didn't believe in Imam al-Kazim, and he died not knowing Imam of his time. Is it true?

**A:** The demise of Imam al-Sadiq left a lot of Shia not knowing who's the next Imam. To protect Imam al-Kazim, Imam Sadiq appointed five people as his will-executors including Mansur Dawaniqi (the evil ruler), Medina governor, his wife (Hamida), Abdullah al-Aftah, and Imam al-Kazim.

- In this chaotic situation, people didn't know how to reach the next Imam. However, Zurarah tested (and disqualified) Abdullah and brought hundreds of the Shia to Imam al-Kazim.



- A contrary example is the case of *Ali bin Abi-Hamza al-Bataini* who refused to accept Imam Rida عليه السلام and led the *Waqifi* sect (due to attachment to *Dunya*).
- In the chain of narrations, some narrators are counted as *muwaththaq*, although they didn't have sound beliefs after the narrating time.

### The Imam's students who became experts:

1. In kalam: Hisham ibn al-Hakam, Ali ibn Yaqteen, Zurarah ibn al-A'yun, Hisham ibn Salim, al-Mufaddal ibn Umar (book: Tawhid al-Mufaddal)
2. In sciences: Jabir ibn Hayyan
3. In fiqh: Zurarah ibn al-A'yun, Aban ibn Taghlib, Hariz ibn Abdullah, Jabir ibn Yazid al-Ju'fi, Muhammad ibn Muslim (about 16000 hadiths from Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام), Yunus ibn Abd al-Rahman, al-Fadl ibn al-Shadhan, Abu Basir, etc.

Q: When was the grave of 'Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام revealed?

A: It was revealed during the time of Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام. He told al-Khurasani I would announce it during al-Mansur's rule while al-Mansur was a very poor man. When al-Mansur was informed during his rule, he said he was truly *al-Sadiq*.

- It was illegal to mention Imams عليهم السلام names during the Umayyads and Abbasids. Al-Bukhari (compiler of Al-Sahih) was asked why he hadn't narrated hadith from Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام. He replied, 'Something in my heart stopped me.' Either political situation or jealousy and grudge.
- Some companions were persecuted for not narrating hadiths (but they still brought us Shiism as we have it today). Even a deviated person like Hassan Basri, who lived during the time of Imam al-Sajjad, عليه السلام used to refer to 'Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام as "Abu Zainab" out of fear.

- This group of students who received knowledge from Imams عليهم السلام and transmitted it to us, started to form from the time of Imam Zayn al-Abidin عليه السلام onto Imam al-Askari عليه السلام and Imam al-Mahdi عجل الله تعال فرجه.

E.g., during the time of

- Imam al-Sajjad عليه السلام: Abu Hamza al-Thumali, Abu Khalid al-Kabuli ...
- Imam Al-Baqir عليه السلام and Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام: The number grew



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- Then the list became smaller once again due to persecution.
- Al-Mualla ibn Khunays, a student and hadith narrator of Imams عليه السلام, was killed as soon as al-Saffah came to power. Abbasids came to power under the slogan: “the satisfaction from of the family of Rasulullah,” but as they took power, they started killing them.
- The first group of Ahlulbayt عليهم السلام killed by Abbasids were the children of Imam Hassan عليه السلام (as they rebelled). That’s one of the reasons why there was a lot of propaganda against Imam Hassan عليه السلام.
- Abbasid came to power in 132 A.H. (750 C.E.). Saffah was the first one, and he appointed his uncle, Dawood bin Ali bin Abbas, as the governor of Medina.
- One of the first orders of Dawood: He arrested Mu’alla bin Khunays, one of the servants of Imam Sadiq عليه السلام, and asked him to disclose the list of the Shia. He rejected it and was killed.
- Due to that situation and to save the Shia, the Imam’s tactic عليه السلام was that he came out opposing them but not by carrying arms. Instead, he said, “I will do dua against you.” Imam عليه السلام did it, and the governor didn’t wake up the next day.
- Many Shias thought that now because Abbasids were in power, Bani Hashim was in power, and they joined their government. The story of Safwan al-Jammal is an example, or the one who sewed clothes for them.