



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 18

Topic: How Imams Dealt with The Abbasids and Trained Their Students

- Umayyads ruled their wicked time for 1000 months from 40 to 132 A.H.
- Then Abbasids came to power with a new tactic. They ruled from 132 to 656 A.H. They came to power using the name of Ahl al-Bayt عليه السلام. When their first caliph (Abd Allah ibn Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Abd Allah ibn Abbas, the Prophet's uncle) came into power, he recited the verses that praised Ahl al-Bayt عليه السلام and claimed to be Ahl al-Bayt himself.
- As soon as they took power, their corruption and persecution of Ahl al-Bayt عليه السلام started and worsened daily. That's why Imam Sadiq عليه السلام urged his companions not to participate in their government.
- They called their first caliph *al-Saffah* because he killed a lot of people. Then his brother al-Mansur came into power (and poisoned Imam Sadiq عليه السلام). Then al-Mahdi, al-Hadi, and then Harun, who killed Imam Kazim عليه السلام.
- At the beginning of the Abbasid dynasty, some Shias began to congratulate Imam Sadiq عليه السلام. However, he asked his followers not to fall into the trap and remained aloof from the uprising and the government.
- An Abbasid tactic: They claimed that they were not different from the Imams of Ahlulbayt عليه السلام; as Harun told Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام that just as you are the sons of the Prophet's عليه السلام uncle, Abu Talib, we are the sons of the other uncle, Abbas.

Imams عليه السلام tactics against Abbasids:

1. To educate their students
2. To teach them how to care for each other: Rights of Mu'mins on one another.
3. Taqiyya: Concealing your faith in times of fear for your life to preserve your religion.

Taqiyya has roots in the Quran:

«مَنْ كَفَرَ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ إِيمَانِهِ إِلَّا مَنْ أَكْرَهَ وَقَلْبُهُ مُطْمَئِنٌّ بِالْإِيمَانِ...»



“Whoever disbelieves after believing, Except for someone who is compelled [to recant his faith] while his heart is at rest in it.” (6:106)

- The story of Ammar ibn Yasir, when his parents were tortured to death. Taqiyya was allowed in terms of faith, let alone in terms of Shia-Sunni issues.

4. Educate them not to isolate themselves from their communities. E.g.,

Imams عليه السلام ordered us to participate in their funerals and visit their patients. However, maintain your identity and, in danger, practice taqiyya.

5. They made sure that their followers don't involve in politics, like not being supporters of an oppressor [إعانة الظالم], e.g., the story of Safwan al-Jammal.

Wikala Network:

- Sometimes, Imams عليه السلام had their students or others as their intermediaries with people.
- It existed during all Imams عليه السلام, but as a network, it started at the time of Imam Sajjad عليه السلام during the era of Imam Askari عليه السلام and after that, it became the only way to contact the Imams عليه السلام.

Types of the Wakeels (intermediaries):

1. For personal issues in the houses of the Imam عليه السلام like buying something.
2. Representatives of the Imam عليه السلام; like Aban ibn Taghlib; Yunus ibn Abd al-Rahman; Jabir al-Ju'fi; whom the Imam عليه السلام orders to sit in the masjid and give fatwa.
3. Due to circumstances, the only way to reach Imam عليه السلام was through these deputies. So, Imams عليه السلام trained their Shias gradually to get used to the representation system: through students, through letters until Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام.

As Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام went into occultation, in the beginning, there were four deputies:

1. Uthman ibn Sa'id al-Amri;
2. Muhammad ibn Uthman
3. Al-Husayn ibn al-Ruh
4. Ali ibn Muhammad al-Samuri.