



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 19

Topic: Imam Musa Kazim عليه السلام

7th Imam عليه السلام:

Name: Musa

Father: Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام

Mother: Hamida al-Barbariyya, who was a concubine (Barbars: people of Andalus/today's Spain)

Known as: Musa ibn Ja'far عليه السلام

Birth Year: 128 A.H.

Martyrdom: 25th Rajab, poisoned in the dungeons of Harun.

- Imams عليهم السلام lived in different circumstances. So, we can't compare one Imam عليه السلام to another.
- First circumstance for Imam al-Kazim (as). He lived in a state of *taqiyya*. Even the narrators could not bring up the name of the Imam explicitly.
- The Imam couldn't come out and announce his imamate publicly; So he followed the methods of Imam al-Sajjad عليه السلام and taught through duas; e.g., *Al-Jawshan al-Sagheer*.
- Even though the people didn't know the Imam عليه السلام, he performed his duty and played his role. He subtly guided the Shia.

Imam lived during four Abbasid caliphs:

1. Al-Mansur
2. Al-Mahdi (al-Mansur's son). For the first time, Imam was imprisoned but set free because of a dream al-Mahdi saw in which 'Amir al-Mu'minin عليه السلام warned him by reciting verse 47:22.
3. Al-Hadi (al-Mahdi's son)
 - The Battle of Fakh occurred then, and many Bani Hashim were killed. The Hashimi leader was al-Husayn ibn Ali ibn al-Hasan.
 - Accusing Imam al-Kazim of rebellion, al-Hadi swore to kill Imam. Imam recited dua *al-Jowshan al-Sagheer*, and al-Hadi died.
4. Harun (Known as al-Rashid, son of al-Mahdi)



- Ruled a vast empire and spoke to the clouds.
- He was jealous of Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام and ordered him to be imprisoned after Imam عليه السلام had replied to him in the *Masjid al-Nabawi*.
- They took the Imam عليه السلام to several prisons. Prisons then were private institutions. The government paid people to keep prisoners. Here are those who kept the Imam عليه السلام in their prisons:
 - a. Isa ibn Ja'far in Basra. He refused to torture the Imam, so Harun changed the prison.
 - b. Al-Fadl ibn Rabi'.
- Imam was kept in the middle of the house, and because he became very skinny when Harun saw him in sujud, he thought a piece of cloth was lying on the floor.
- Al-Fadl tried to torture Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام: He sent a prostitute; however, she repented and became pious.
- c. Al-Fadl ibn Yahya, but he respected the Imam عليه السلام, so Harun changed the house again.
- d. Al-Sindi ibn al-Shahik. It was a dungeon now (a hole deep under the ground). They tied the Imam عليه السلام with 950 shackles and chains so heavy that Imam عليه السلام's arms and legs became pounded and strained.
- Imam عليه السلام wrote a letter from that dungeon to Harun: "No day of tragedy ends for me, but a day of comfort ends for you; until we both reach a day which has no ending [the Judgment Day]. The day that the oppressors will be the losers."
- Harun sent poison to al-Sindi, and he poisoned the Imam عليه السلام by injecting it in dates. He gave them to the fasting Imam عليه السلام and forced him to eat. Before that, they brought many Shias to visit the Imam عليه السلام and confirm his health. Ali ibn Suwayd, a Shia, asked Imam عليه السلام when the *Faraj* (relief) would arrive. Imam عليه السلام answered, "On Friday, on the (Al-Rasafa) bridge." He thought Imam عليه السلام would be set free. Ali was excited and thought that Imam عليه السلام would be set free. So, he informed the Shia, and hundreds of the Shia gathered on the bridge on Friday; however, they found that four porters were carrying Imam's casket.



- They placed the body on the bridge and called out, “This is the Rafidis’ Imam; this is Musa ibn Ja’far عليه السلام.”
- Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام was buried in Baghdad in the cemetery of Quraysh. Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام was buried next to him.
- Al-Shafii, one of four Sunni heads of the school, said, “The grave of Musa ibn Ja’far عليه السلام the antidote (a medicine) that we have experienced for the dua to be answered.” That’s why one of his titles is: باب الحوائج (the door of the needs)
- When Zakaria ibn Adam al-Qumi wrote to Imam al-Rida عليه السلام that he was going to leave the city of Qom because of the large number of ignorant people who resided there, the Imam asked him not to leave the city because Allah protects the people of Qom through him just as he protects Baghdad by the grave of Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام.
- Imam عليه السلام was leading the umma while he was in the chains. It happened through one of his companions called, Ali ibn Yaqteen. He became a minister in the Abbasid government and was promoted gradually until he became the prime minister.
- Ali ibn Yaqteen, a Shia working secretly in the Abbasid government, wrote several times to the Imam that he couldn’t live under the tyrant anymore. However, Imam عليه السلام told him he should stay there and perform his duty to care for the Shia. Imams عليه السلام loved and praised him. He died when Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام was in prison.