



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

History and Development of the Shia

Teacher: Sayed Saleh al-Qazwini

Lesson: 34

Topic: al-Sayyid al-Murtadha and al-Sayyid al-Radhi

Al-Sharif (al-Sayyid) al-Radhi (younger brother)

Name: Muhammad ibn al-Husayn ibn Musa

Birth: 359 A.H.

Death: 406 A.H.

Age: 47

Al-Sharif (al-Sayyid) al-Murtadha (older brother)

Name: Ali ibn al-Husayn ibn Musa

Birth: 355 A.H.

Death: 436 A.H.

Age: 81

Students of Shaykh al-Mufid

- The story of Shaykh al-Mufid and his dream: Sayyida Fatima عليها السلام came to him and told him, 'O Sheikh! Teach my children Fiqh'; the next day, the Sayyids' mother, a Sayyida herself, came to al-Mufid and asked him to teach them.
- Their father, al-Husayn ibn Musa ibn Muhammad ibn Musa ibn Ibrahim ibn Imam Musa al-Kazim عليه السلام was a great scholar. He was al-Sharif and held a position in the then government.
- He was the patriarch of Sayyids (*Naqeeb ul-Talibiyeen*) and was given the position of *Amir al-Hajj (the manager of the hajj caravans)* by the government.
- Al-Husayn ibn Muhammad was imprisoned for a period, and their mother brought them to al-Mufid.
- They were called al-Sharif because they were *Sayyids*.
- For a short time (more than a century), within the weakened Abbasid rule, there was a Shia dynasty known as **Buyid Dynasty**. They were



overthrown by Sunni Seljuks, by whom many scholarships were destroyed.

Al-Radhi

- Sayyid al-Radhi is known for compiling *Nahj al-Balagha*, a book important even to Sunnis. *Ibn Abi al-Hadid*, a Mutazilite, wrote a commentary on it.
- Unlike his brother, a great Quranic exegete and poet, after *Nahj al-Balagha*, Al-Radhi is known more for his poem. It is said, "If al-Radhi wasn't there, al-Murtadha was the best poet. And if it was not for al-Murtadha, al-Radhi was the most knowledgeable."
- Al-Radhi's contemporary famous poets in the Arab world were *al-Mutanabbi* and *Abu al-Alaa al-Maarri*.
- *'Adhud al-Dawla al-Daylami*, the Buyid king, imprisoned Al-Radhi's father. But the king after him freed him. However, then al-Husayn was old and wasn't the head of Sayyids anymore. So, Sayyid al-Radhi took on that role (*'amid al-Talibiyyin*).
- Al-Radhi started one of the first and most important public schools called *Dar ul-Ilm*.
- About a hundred years later, when the *Seljuk* dynasty came into power, their high minister *Khajeh Nizam ul-Mulk* started public schools called *Nizamiyyah*, known today as the first public schools; while al-Radhi's was the first.
- Al-Radhi's contribution: *Nahj al-Balagha [Peak of Eloquence]* (in three parts: sermons, letters, and wise sayings of Amir al-Muminin عليه السلام)
- His motive for writing this book was to show the extraordinary eloquence of Imam Ali عليه السلام.

Why is Nahj al-balalgha genuine?

Reasons to prove the genuineness of *Nahj al-Balagh* (delivered by Ibn Abi al-Hadid al-Sunni and others):

1. Its eloquence demonstrates that it is not by an ordinary man;
2. The same level of eloquence and non-fluctuation shows that others can't edit or distort it.
3. The content can be found in other authentic books.



- His place of burial is unclear. Some say that he was buried in Karbala, but others believe that he lived in Baghdad and was buried with his brother in the same place.

Al-Murtadha

- Sayyid al-Murtadha is also known as *Alam al-Huda* and *Sanad al-Shia*. The backbone of the Shia. After his brother's death, he became Naqib al-Talibiyyin and was in charge of hajj caravans and judge, paying a stipend to the students and a Marja' after Al-Mufid.
- Al-Murtadha is known for various scientific fields, including theology, *tafsir*, *fiqh*, etc.
- Just like his teacher al-Mufid, Sayyid al-Murtadha relied more on intellectual reasoning.
 - Sayyid al-Murtadha is also known for not accepting the authority of *Khabar al-Wahid (solitary hadith)*.

Al-Murtadha's most famous teachers:

- Shaykh al-Mufid
- Al-Husayn ibn Ali ibn Babawayh al-Qummi (al-Saduq's brother)

Al-Murtadha's students:

- Shaykh al-Tusi
- Hundreds of students whom he taught in his house

Al-Murtadha's books:

- *Al-Intisar*: a *Fiqhi* book including laws that differentiate the Shias from Sunnis
- *Al-Shafee fi al-Imama*: a Kalami book to refute Qadhi abd al-Jabbar, his contemporary Sunni theologian
- *Inqhadh ul-Bashar min al-Jabr i wa al-Qadar* (Saving humanity from predestination and full-delegation)
- *Tanzih al-Anbiya'* (defending the prophets ﷺ)
- *Al-Usul al-I'tiqadiyya*
- *Muqaddama fi al-Usul* (about theology)
- *Diwan* (hundreds of lines of poetry)
- *Al-Dharia ila Usul il-Sharia*: on Usul al-fiqh (methodology of fiqh)

Al-Sayyid al-Murtadha's death: 436 A.H.

Buried in: al-Kazimiyya Bagdad