



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

Teacher: Sayed Saleh al-Qazwini

Lesson: 28

Topic: The Letters of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام

**Tawqi'at:** Letters of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام

- Writing letters to Imams عليهم السلام existed in the time of the other Imams عليهم السلام as well. It is narrated that Imams عليهم السلام advised the Shias who were in trouble to write a letter to the Imam of their time and sometimes asked them to throw it in a running water or well.
- Writing a letter to Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام is one of the methods of Dua and turning toward Ahlulbayt.

The Tawqi'at:

- Were handwritten
- With Imam's handwriting
- The companions knew that handwriting.
- They didn't mention the name of the Imam عليه السلام. Instead, they said the letter was from *al-nahiya al-muqaddasa* (holy direction).

**'Ariza:** Letter written by others to the Imam عليه السلام

Various subjects of these letters:

1. To solve disagreements between the Shia
2. Refuting Ja'far al-Kadhab
3. Fiqhi issues
4. Ideological questions

**The first letter** to be addressed here: Imam's letter to Uthman ibn Sa'id al-Amri on the dispute between Ibn Abi Ghanim al-Qazwini and others about the Imam عليه السلام.

Some points in the letter:

- Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام said he is sad for people, not for himself.
- God is with him and the faithful.



- Some people not being with us doesn't matter if we are on the right path.
- Imam عليه السلام reproached them on their doubt and referred them to the verses of the Quran (4:59), hadiths, and practices of previous Imams عليهم السلام; and the existence of a *hujja* on the earth at all times until the *Resurrection* continues.
- Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام said that Sayyida Fatima عليها السلام is his exemplar in standing against oppression.

ImamSadiq.tv

ImamSadiq.tv

ImamSadiq.tv

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter:

- Ja'far al-Kadhab wrote to some Shias that he is their guardian after his brother. Ahmad ibn Ishaq wrote a letter to Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام and attached Ja'far's letter. Imam عليه السلام replied.
- In this letter, Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام refuted Ja'far and brought up another reason for his imamate: from Adam to Imam al-Askari عليه السلام, all the appointed leaders of Allah SWT had a sign. So, test Ja'far.

Some points in this *Tawqi'*:

- Allah's creation and his Wisdom
- The prophets and their signs
- The Imams عليهم السلام
- The Imam's difference from their cousins: they are infallible/knowledge/secrets of God; otherwise, no difference between the Imam عليه السلام and others
- Ja'far has no reason for his claim: No fiqh, knowledge, fear of God, no verse of the Quran.

So, the Imam عليه السلام brought some necessary characteristics of the Imam that Ja'far missed all of them.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Letter: Answers to several questions

- Some scholars: Ja'far and his sons repented, so the Imam عليه السلام said they are like Yusuf's brothers.

Other points in the third *tawqi'*:

- Fuqqa': (perhaps beer) a drink taken from barley
- About Faraj and his reappearance, Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام says it is in Allah's hands.
- Those who believe Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام wasn't killed are liars.
- Some questions regarding *Khums*



This *Tawqi'* is narrated by Sheikh al-Kulayni in *al-Kafi*.

Text of the third *Tawqi'*

- The letter was in Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام's handwriting
  - Duas for his companions
  - He talks about his cousins and the mistakes they have done
  - No one is God's relative
  - The one who refutes me is like the son of Noah
  - My cousins from Ja'far are like Yusuf's brothers
  - Drinking beer is haram
  - Rye water is permissible
  - Haram properties won't be accepted unless be purified
  - The Imam عليه السلام does not need our property
  - *Faraj* time is in God's hands
  - Those who mark a time for *Faraj* are liars.
  - Whoever believes that Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام is not martyred is Kafir.
  - For the new events, one must refer to the narrators of the Imam's narrations.
  - They are *Hujjah* for everyone
  - Muhammad ibn Uthman and his father are trustworthy
  - His writings are mine
  - May Allah guide and remove the doubt of Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Mahziar al-Ahvazi
  - A female singer's income is haram
  - Muhammad ibn Shazan is a Shia
  - Abu al-Khattab and his followers are cursed, don't befriend them
  - Those who are eating Imams' properties are eating fire
  - *Khums* [of war spoils and enslaved women] is halal for the Shia to have their children of legitimate birth because wars in those days were not legitimate. So, not all *Khums* is halal; it talks about the *Khums* of she-slaves taken from wars.
- Reason for *ghayba*:
- Don't ask questions that, if answered, would hurt you
  - The previous Imams عليهم السلام happened to be forced to pledge their allegiance to the tyrants, while his *ghayba* took place without doing allegiance to anyone.
- People benefit from the Imam عليه السلام in his *ghayba* as they benefit from the sun behind the clouds.
  - Imam provides the safety of people on the earth, as the stars in the sky.



**IMAM SADIQ** peace be upon him  
**ONLINE SEMINARY**

- Asking people to increase supplications more and more for *Faraj*, which is their own *Faraj*.
- Sending Salam upon Ishaq ibn Yaqub.

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)

🌐 [ImamSadiq.tv](http://ImamSadiq.tv)