



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

Teacher: Sayed Saleh al-Qazwini

Lesson: 11

### Topic: Struggles faced by Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام

- During the leadership of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام and after the three civil wars, the identity of Shias was defined, and they were segregated from the rest.

#### Caliphate of Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام

- Forty thousand men paid allegiance to Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام after the martyrdom of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام. Sunni historians call him the fifth wise caliph (*Khulafa al-Rashidun*). Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام also faced the same struggles which were faced by his father previously. His leadership was well acclaimed by the people in Mecca, Medina, and Yemen, who paid their allegiance to Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام as they had pledged their allegiance to 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام. Muawiya did not pay allegiance to Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام; in the pretext of the Arbitration, he called himself the caliph. Now, he wanted his own rule and sent an army to fight.

#### Leadership qualities of Imam al-Hassan عليه السلام.

- Those who do not have in-depth knowledge of history might think that Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام was a weak leader since he did not stand against Muawiya as Imam Husayn عليه السلام did against Yazid. But this was not the case; his circumstances differed from Imam al-Husayn's عليه السلام. He was fearless and was the right hand of 'Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام.
- In the battle of Jamal: he brought down the camel.
- Before that battle, he went to Kufa and gathered a huge army.
- His speech in the battle of Jamal.
- Several Fridays, he led the prayers instead of his father.
- In *Siffin*, he and his brother Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام led the right army flank.



## The Pretext of the Peace Treaty

- Muawiya did not pay allegiance to Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup> and sent a huge army to Iraq. Some people say that: “Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup> rebelled against the legitimate caliph of his time,” but it was Muawiya who rebelled against Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup>.
- Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup> sent an army under the command of Ubaydullah ibn Abbas (Prophet’s cousin) to stop Muawiya’s army, and a battle took place.
- Muawiya lied to *Ubaydullah* that Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> had suggested a peace treaty to him. Hence there is no reason to fight. He sent a letter to Ubaydullah and promised him a million dirhams along with the letter.
- While Imam’s army was about to win, *Ubaydullah* took the letter and joined Muawiya’s army. *Qays ibn Sa’d ibn Ubadah* became the commander-in-chief instead. Muawiya applied the same trick with *Qays*. However, *Qays* refused and held on to the army.
- While Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup> camped in *Sabat* of *al-Mada’in*, Muawiya sent negotiators and, at the same time, started spreading the rumor that Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> was going to make a peace treaty.
- Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> told the negotiators that he would continue fighting. However, when they left the camp of Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup>, they shouted that Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> had agreed to a peace treaty. Under the impression of the rumors and what the negotiators yelled, some of his soldiers looted Imam’s<sup>ؑ</sup> tent.
- While Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> was in *al-Mada’in*, some of the leaders in Kufa secretly wrote to Muawiya that they would not fight with him and were willing to hand over Imam al-Hasan<sup>ؑ</sup>. When Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> found out about the secret letters and how the generals of his army had betrayed him, he concluded that if he went to war, his people would betray him like they betrayed ‘Amīr al-Mu’minīn<sup>ؑ</sup> or even worse; so, it is better to make peace with Muawiya, who was persistent on a peace treaty.
- Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> told people around him that Muawiya had asked me to make a treaty, and I am asking you, “Do you want to fight or make a treaty with him?” They were all willing to make a treaty with him. Then he left his official power.
- By accepting the treaty, Imam<sup>ؑ</sup> kept the glory to himself and the believers; otherwise, his corrupt army would have arrested him and handed him to Muawiya. Then Muawiya would set him free by doing him a favor and destroying his self-esteem.



### Some of the clauses in the treaty mentioned by Imam عليه السلام

- Muawiya must rule based on the book of Allah ﷻ and the sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ
- He must stop killing the Muslims, including the Shia
- He must not call himself Amir al-Mu'minīn
- He must pay a stipend to the children of those killed in Jamal and Siffin.
- The Caliphate must go back to Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام after Muawiya
- He must give five million dirhams to Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام

### Duties of Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام after the peace treaty

- Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام gave up the right to leadership while he stayed the imam; devout Muslims referred to him and showed respect and loyalty. He was the head of Bani Hashim.
- He moved back to Medina after the treaty and continued performing his duties as an imam. Some people, who were close to him, began to accuse him of taking away the dignity and glory of the believers.
- Imam عليه السلام answered that he was not the one who disgraced the believers. Instead, he felt that people were not ready to support him, so he accepted the treaty to protect their lives just like the **'alim who punctured the boat**.
- Muawiya always saw Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام as a threat to his kingdom, and till he was alive, Muawiya felt that his hands were tied.
- Muawiya poisoned Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام through his wife *Ja'da* bint al-Ash'ath. Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام married the daughter of *Ash'ath* for political reasons. When Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام wanted to bury Imam al-Hasan عليه السلام next to Prophet's ﷺ grave, Aisha hindered. Thus, Imam عليه السلام was buried in *Al-Baqi*.