



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 17

Topic: The Formation of Sects (2)

### 6. Al-Fathites (فطحية):

- Caused more division than Ismailis.
- Claimed to follow Abdullah al-Aftah (Imam Sadiq عليه السلام's eldest son, probably).
- *Aftah* means someone who is flat-footed. Some Shias knew that one of the signs of an Imam عليه السلام is that he shouldn't have any physical defect. His followers didn't know.
- Some narrations reproached him because he called people to follow him.
- Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام wrote his (public) will to 5 people one of whom was Abdullah (the others were: Imam Kazim عليه السلام, al-Mansur al-Abbasi, Medina's governor, and his wife, Hamida) to protect the next Imam. In his private will, he announced Imam Kazim عليه السلام as the next Imam.
- Some of the Imam عليه السلام's closest followers, like Abu Hamza al-Thumali, knew who the next Imam was.
- Fatahi movement died very soon, and Abdullah died 70 days after Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام.
- Zurara asked Abdullah al-Aftah several questions and understood he was not the Imam. When he returned to Kufa, and people asked him, he pointed to Imam. He said that the Quran is the Imam until we know who he is. After Abdullah died, everyone had already turned to Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام.

### 7. The Waqifite:

- They stopped at Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام; they didn't believe in Imam al-Rida عليه السلام.
- It was the last of the sects then—those who believed in Imam al-Rida عليه السلام, believed in the next Imams عليهم السلام.
- They believed that Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام had gone into occultation.



- Their heads were Imam's *wakeels* (representatives) dealing with his financial orders. They had money in their hands. When Imam عليه السلام passed away, they refused to hand it over to the next Imam عليه السلام.
  - When Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام was in the dungeon, he had specific representatives who then deviated. Like
    - Ali ibn Abi Hamza al-Batai'ni, the founder of *Waqefite*, had 30,000 dinars.
    - Ziyad ibn al-Marwan al-Qandi had 70,000 dinars and refused to hand them to Imam al-Rida عليه السلام.
  - Imam al-Rida عليه السلام was asked who the Imam was. He answered me. They were astonished that your fathers didn't claim this way (due to *taqiyya*). Aren't you afraid? Imam عليه السلام said that I'm telling you. And if Haroun touches a strand of hair from my head, I'm not an imam.
  - Each Imam has his own role. Imam al-Kazim عليه السلام practiced *taqiyya*. However, when Imam al-Rida عليه السلام saw many Shias were being misled, he publicly announced his *imamate*.
  - Those who opposed Imam Rida عليه السلام asked him where his father was. He replied that he was martyred in Baghdad. Imam Rida (as) went from Medina to Baghdad by the will of Allah (swt), just as Imam al-Sajjad went from Kufa to Karbala to bury his father.
  - Others objected to Imam Rida (as) for not having a son. When Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام was born, Imam al-Rida عليه السلام invited those who had rejected him and his companions to see him. Hundreds came back to follow Imam al-Rida عليه السلام.
- Imam al-Rida عليه السلام:
- «هذا المولود الذي لم يولد أعظم بركة على شيعتنا منه»
- The greatest *baraka* on our Shia is the birth of Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام.
- Some of them, like Ali ibn Abi Hamza, remained on their belief and died not accepting Imam Rida عليه السلام. Imam was in Marw (مرو) when he died, informing others of his death and what happened to him after they buried him.