



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 22

Topic: The 10th Imam: Imam Ali al-Hadi عليه السلام

From the time of Imam al-Jawad, عليه السلام we see that our Imams عليهم السلام prepared the Shias for the time of occultation.

- The last Imams عليهم السلام were all young, so people understood that a five-year-old Imam of the time عند الغيبة was possible.
- Selecting wakils who interact with the people. (Wikala network)
- The way of transmitting knowledge was very different. The caliphs were not patient with Imams عليهم السلام.
- Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام was martyred when he was around 65 years old, Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام was poisoned when he was 25, and Imam al-Askari عليه السلام was 28.

Short biography

Name: Ali ibn Muhammad al-Jawad

Titles: al-Naqi (the pure one)/ al-Hadi (the guide)/ al-Askari (because they were forced to live in Samarra, which was a *Garrison town*)

Mother: Samanah al-Maghribiyah (al-Maghrib: northwestern Africa), who was purchased as a slave.

Birth year: 212 A.H. (9th century)

Starting of Imamate: 220 A.H. (when he was 8)

Duration: 34 years

- Before being taken to Baghdad, Imam al-Jawad عليه السلام knew it was his last trip, so he appointed his son Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام. People decided to follow Musa al-Mubarka' for a short while, but he immediately rejected them and told them he was not an imam.
- Al-Mutasim sent a high-ranking teacher (al-Junaidi) to Medina to convince Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام and bring him under Abbasids. However, he became a true



Shia and confessed that he was the one who was learning from Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام every day.

- He was martyred when he was 42, most of which was spent in Samarra.

Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام's main contributions:

a. Increased the ma'rifa of his followers regarding the Imam عليه السلام and imamate.

Ziyara al-Jami'a teaches us the true qualities and attributes of an Imam.

b. Fought against the Ghulat.

- Ghulat have harmed Shia more than benefited them.

c. Removed misconceptions

d. Strengthened the Wikala network

Sayyid (Shah) Abd al-Azim al-Hasani:

- One of the well-known representatives of the Imam عليه السلام

- Buried in Shar-e-Rey, southern Tehran

- A grand scholar

- It is narrated that whoever visits him is as if he visited Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام.

- After al-Mutasim, his brother al-Wathiq (d. 231) became the caliph. After him, al-Mutasim's son, al-Mutawakkil, took power when Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام was 20.

Al-Mutawakkil's characteristics:

- Different from other caliphs

- Very cruel

- Ruled for 15 years

- Destroyed Imam Husain عليه السلام's grave four times (once because his maid visited there)

- Tried to dig Imam Hussain عليه السلام's grave.

- Rerouting the Euphrates' streams to drown the grave (the water started circulating the grave, and that's why the place is called *al-Hair*).

Putting Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام under house-arrest

- Medina's governor advised al-Mutawakkil to take Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام out of Medina, accusing Imam عليه السلام of preparing for rebellion, a lie.

- Al-Mutawakkil ordered Yahya ibn Harthama, one of his army generals, to check Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام's house for weapons and take him to Samarra.



- Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام stopped in Baghdad (in order not to let the waiting Shias visit Imam عليه السلام, they postponed his arrival till night).
- Al-Mutawakkil placed Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام in rundown parts of Samarra. Then Imam عليه السلام shifted to his house, where his shrine is located today.
- The place is Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام's private inheritance and house.

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Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام was disrespected several times:

- Al-Mutawakkil rode his horse and made Imam عليه السلام walk, following him.
- One midnight, he summoned the Imam عليه السلام to a party and asked him to drink and sing. Imam عليه السلام rejected and gave them advice by reciting a poem of Amīr al-Mu'minīn عليه السلام describing those in power.
- Al-Mutawakkil brought clowns to ridicule and make fun of Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام.
- Al-Mutawakkil's son (al-Muntasir) hated what his father was doing to the Imam عليه السلام and killed him and became caliph for six months.
- Al-Mu'tazz poisoned Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام in 254 A.H. The Imam was buried in Samarra; Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام prepared the Shia for the occultation.

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