



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 23

Topic: The 11th Imam: Imam Hassan al-Askari عليه السلام

- One of Imam al-Askari عليه السلام's primary duties was to prove that he had a son and, at the same time, preserve his life.

Short biography:

Birthday: 232 A.H. in Medina

Martyrdom: 260 A.H. in Samarra

Age: 28

His age when his father Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام was summoned to Samarra: 2

Imamate duration: 6

Mother: Susan (Salil/ Hodayth), known as a great lady of her time.

- All were pure
- Some were free from the beginning
- Some were female slaves made free by the Imam عليه السلام or as an Umm walad

One year before Imam al-Askari عليه السلام was poisoned, he sent his mother to Hajj. Some scholars: she took Imam al-Mahdi عجل الله تعال فرجه الشريف with him.

Imam al-Askari عليه السلام's contributions:

1. *Al-Tafsir*
2. Fathering Imam al-Mahdi عجل الله تعال فرجه الشريف
3. Preparing the Shia for an Imam عليه السلام who will be in occultation
4. Uthman ibn Sa'id, the first special deputy of the Imam عليه السلام of the time, was the deputy of Imam al-Askari عليه السلام.

Imam al-Askari عليه السلام's complexion: dark; beautiful face; high status.

His titles: al-Hadi, al-Askari

Imam al-Askari عليه السلام, according to the majority, had only one son.



- Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام, in many cases, instated Imam al-Askari عليه السلام, like the story of Ali ibn Amr al-Nawfili who thought Muhammad, Imam al-Hadi's son, was the next Imam.
- A third brother, Ja'far al-Kadhab (the liar), claimed imamate after Imam al-Askari عليه السلام.

Abbasid caliphs Imam al-Askari عليه السلام lived during their rules:

1. Al-Mu'tazz
2. Al-Muhtadi
3. Al-Mu'tamid (who murdered the Imam عليه السلام)

- Al-Mu'tamid imprisoned Imam al-Askari عليه السلام for a short while.
- In front of the people, Abbasids showed that Imam al-Askari عليه السلام was free, but they were actually watching him (since they knew that Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام was about to be born).
- The Shia didn't have the freedom even to greet the Imam عليه السلام or point to him. No interaction was allowed.
- The caliph forced the Imam عليه السلام to visit his palace every Monday and Thursday (to monitor the Imam عليه السلام).
- The Imam told his followers not to greet him on his commuting way to protect their lives from danger.

Abbasid caliphs and the Imam

- After poisoning Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام, al-Mu'tazz asked Ibn Sa'id to take Imam al-Askari عليه السلام to the desert and kill him. Some courtiers wrote to Imam عليه السلام to inform him. He said Allah protects him and al-Mu'tazz will die in three days. His Turk officers killed him.

Next caliph: al-Muhtadi

Duration of rule: about one year

His successor: al-Mutamid

- Imam was imprisoned in a dungeon for a while. When al-Mutamid realized that the harsh guards sent to torture the Imam had started following him, he freed the Imam عليه السلام.



Duties Imam al-Askari عليه السلام carried out:

1. One of the most essential duties of an Imam is to preserve Islam and the well-being of the Muslims

- Example 1: Imam al-Askari عليه السلام and the refutation of Abu Ishaq al-Kindi's book on contradictions in the Quran
- Example 2: The story of the drought during Al-Mu'tamid's era, the Christian monk who prayed and it rained; however, Muslims prayed, and it didn't; and how Imam al-Askari عليه السلام solved the problem.
- Imam al-Askari عليه السلام spread knowledge through different ways, such as tafsir (though the existing book *Tafsir Imam al-Askari* عليه السلام is a matter of question due to its narrators and authenticity.)

2. Another duty of an Imam: To protect the Shias

- E.g., Signs of a true believer (Shia) in the Hadith of Imam al-Askari عليه السلام

The five signs of a *Mu'min* (Shia):

1. Praying 51 rak'as in 24 hours
2. *Ziyara al-Arbaeen*
3. Wearing a ring on the right hand
4. Doing sujud on the soil
5. Saying *Bismillah ir-Rahman ir-Raheem* aloud in prayers

- Until Uthman's time, *Bismillah* was said in prayers and was a part of the suras. However, Uthman omitted it.
- Imam al-Askari عليه السلام showed compassion to the Shia, even if the Shia was a sinner, like the story of Ahmad ibn Isa in Qom, who didn't help a sinner Shia.

3. He prepared the Shia for the occultation:

- By telling people that his son is the savior, like the story of Isa ibn Sabih.
- By preparing the believers for the deputies. Uthman ibn Sa'id was Imam al-Askari عليه السلام's deputy.
- The famous hadith of Imam al-Askari عليه السلام on the necessity of following a *Marja'*.
«فَأَمَّا مَنْ كَانَ مِنَ الْفُقَهَاءِ صَائِنًا لِنَفْسِهِ حَافِظًا لِدِينِهِ مُخَالِفًا عَلَى هَوَاهُ مُطِيعًا لِأَمْرِ مَوْلَاهُ فَلِلْعَوَامِّ أَنْ يُقَلِّدُوهُ»

“Among those who are Faqih, one who protects himself, protects his faith, goes against his own desires, follows the orders of his mawla (Imam), the laymen must follow him.”



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

- Writing letters to great Shia scholars, including Ali ibn Babawayh al-Qomi (Sheikh Sadouq's father)
- Al-Mutamid al-Abbasi poisoned Imam al-Askari عليه السلام in 260 A.H. Imam عليه السلام passed away and was buried in his house in Samarra beside his father, Imam al-Hadi عليه السلام.

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