



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## History and Development of the Shia

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Lesson: 24

Topic: The Birth of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام

- The birth of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام was in secret circumstances because due to hundreds of hadiths regarding his birth, Abbasid caliphs were afraid and waiting for al-Mahdi. They knew that he would be the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam and 9<sup>th</sup> of the children of Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام.

There is a lot of proof in the Quran that there will be a savior at the end of time.

﴿وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزَّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ﴾

“Certainly, We wrote in the Psalms, after the Torah: ‘Indeed My righteous servants shall inherit the earth.’” (21:105)

﴿هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ﴾

It is He who has sent His Apostle with the guidance and the religion of truth that He may make it prevail over all religions, though the polytheists should be averse. (9:33)

Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام has some unique features:

Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام:

﴿قَالَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ أَدَارَ فِي الْأَقَائِمِ مِمَّا ثَلَاثَةٌ أَرَهَا فِي ثَلَاثَةِ مِنْ الرُّسُلِ..﴾

Allah chose for our Qaim three features that He chose for three of the messengers.

... قَدَّرَ مَوْلَدَهُ تَقْدِيرَ مَوْلِدِ مُوسَىٰ...

He made his birth similar to the birth of Prophet Musa عليه السلام

- The Pregnancy was hidden to protect him from Pharaoh.

.. وَ قَدَّرَ غَيْبَتَهُ تَقْدِيرَ غَيْبَةِ عِيسَىٰ...

The occultation of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام is like the occultation (we cannot see) of Prophet Isa عليه السلام

وَ قَدَّرَ إِبْطَاءَهُ تَقْدِيرَ إِبْطَاءِ نُوحٍ



*Allah prolonged his life the same way He prolonged the life of the prophet Noah ﷺ.*

### **Imam al-Mahdi ﷺ's short biography:**

- Birth: 15<sup>th</sup> Sha'ban, 255 A.H.
- Father: Imam al-Askari ﷺ
- Mother: Lady Narjis ﷺ
- Martyrdom of his father: 260 A.H.

### **Opinions about Imam al-Mahdi ﷺ's mother:**

1. She was a slave from Africa (Sudan)
2. She was a princess from the Roman Empire by the name of *Melika (Malika)*

### **The story of how Lady Narjis ﷺ got to Samarra**

Sources on Lady Narjis's story:

- The oldest: *Kamal al-Din wa Tamam al-Ni'mah* by Sheikh al-Saduq.
- *Muruj al-Dhahab (Meadows of gold)* by al-Masudi

- The Story of *Lady Narjis ﷺ* is according to a hadith by al-Saduq (*riwaya of al-Shaibani*). Bishr ibn Sulayman al-Nakhas was the one sent by Imam al-Hadi ﷺ to buy her, and her name was *Malika*.

Disagreements about this narration:

1. There wasn't such a battle between Muslims and Romans at that particular time;
2. If a Roman princess were missing, it would be big news then.

- Al-Mufid and al-Kulayni pushed for another account that she was a slave in Hakima ﷺ (Imam al-Hadi ﷺ's sister)'s house.

Some scholars pushed for al-Saduq's account:

1. Because of many relations and similarities between the Imam ﷺ and Prophet Isa ﷺ
2. It is an old account narrated by Sheikh al-Saduq

- Some names of Lady Narjis ﷺ, according to Sheikh al-Tusi: Rayhana, Narjis, Saqeel, Susan



- Al-Kulayni's hadith about Lady Narjis عليها السلام: She was an Umm-wald from al-Nawba.

#### Lady Narjis's death:

- Al-Saduq: She passed away before Imam al-Askari عليه السلام
- Al-Najashi: She passed away after Imam al-Askari عليه السلام
- She was buried near Imam al-Askari عليه السلام.

- Whoever she was, we, the Shia, believe that mothers of Imams were all pure and untouched by the highest levels of faith because Allah would not allow someone impure to carry someone so pure.
- Imam al-Mahdi عجل الله تعالي فرجه الشريف was born on the eve of Sha'ban 15, 255 A.H.
- A hadith narrated by Lady Hakima عليها السلام:
  - Imam al-Askari عليه السلام called for her
  - Invited her for Iftar on the eve of half of Sha'ban
  - "Allah will reveal His ultimate Hujja this night."
  - No sign of pregnancy was visible in Lady Narjis عليها السلام
  - Hakima عليها السلام informed Lady Narjis عليها السلام about what would happen that night.
- Nothing happened till midnight.
  - Near the time of Fajr, she began to doubt in her heart.
  - Imam عليه السلام told her not to rush and that the birth was near
  - Near Fajr, lady Narjis عليها السلام felt something.
  - They both fainted for a while until Imam عليه السلام awakened them.
  - She saw the young lady in sujud.
  - She hugged him and found him clean with no sign of filth.
  - Then Imam al-Askari عليه السلام took him.
  - The new-born Imam عليه السلام spoke
  - Imam عليه السلام told Sayyida Hakima عليها السلام to return in 7 days.
- He wasn't there when Hakima عليها السلام wanted to see the baby before leaving. Imam al-Askari عليه السلام told his aunt that he had put him under the protection of the one to whom the mother of Prophet Musa عليه السلام left his baby.
- Imam عليه السلام recited these verses on the 7<sup>th</sup> day:

﴿وَنُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ. وَنُتِمِّكُنَّ لَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنُرِي  
فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا مِنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوا يَحْذَرُونَ﴾

(28: 5-6)



**IMAM SADIQ** peace be upon him  
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