



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

History and Development of the Shia

Teacher: Sayed Saleh al-Qazwini

Lesson: 27

Topic: The Minor Occultation (2)

- We benefit from the Imam in his Occultation just as we benefit from the sun behind the clouds (Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام himself wrote it to Sheikh al-Mufid.)

Reasons why Allah placed the Imam in *Ghayba*:

1. To preserve the life of the Imam.
2. To test the people.

The purposes of the Minor Occultation:

1. To prepare people for the Major Occultation (the preparations started from the other Imams عليهم السلام)
2. Not to have an immediate disconnect from the people

Opinions on the starting point of the Occultation:

1. From his birth (255 A.H.)
2. When Imam al-Askari عليه السلام passed away (260 A.H.).

Imam al-Mahdi's description during his Occultation:

1. Stayed in his twenties; (When he emerges, according to narrations, he will be in his 40s. So, his aging process is slow, while this process was fast before the *ghayba*)
2. He is *Asmar* (not completely light-skinned, but he has a tan).
3. One of the trusted friends of Muhammad ibn Uthman who saw the Imam describes him as very beautiful, well-smelled, and dressed like a business person.
4. Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام was seen in holy places.
5. When Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام emerges, he will seem to be in his 40s. Imam al-Hussain عليه السلام said al-Mahdi will be so young that some people will reject him.



His interactions with the people:

- Initially, there were no interactions, but later on, the interactions with not only the deputies but others started; because then the authorities were looking for the Imam عليه السلام to arrest him.
- Among the places Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام was seen: in Hajj and Karbala; he would teach people some things like duas (such as dua of Iftitah), etc.

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Attempts to arrest Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام in his *ghayba*:

1st. By al-Mutamid on the day Imam al-Askari عليه السلام passed away;

2nd. By al-Mutadhid before moving the capital to Baghdad (It is narrated that the Imam عليه السلام was in the house then.)

3rd. By al-Mutadhid again

- Imam is not invisible, but Allah (SWT) chooses to protect him.
- Since the caliph was not anymore after his arrest, he showed himself to many people.
- The purpose of seeing the Imam عليه السلام was to remove the doubts
- Among those qualified to visit the Imam عليه السلام in 268 A.H.: Isa ibn Mahdi al-Jawhari, who was searching for the Imam عليه السلام for a while. He finally had the honor of visiting the Imam عليه السلام.
- The story of another visitor of Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام: al-Hasan ibn Wajna' al-Naseebi.
- Another visitor: Abi Sura and his story
- We believe that interaction with Imam al-Mahdi عليه السلام is possible today.

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