

LET'S LEARN ABOUT KAZIMAYN

Let's learn about Kazimayn



Written for children
By Sakina Hasan Askari

For my grandchildren

Muhammad Ali

Nur-Fatima

Sakina Zahra

Mohsin

Zahra

Aadil

Fatimah

Mehdi

Hasan

And many more to come

InshaAllah

This book is to help you

learn about

Kazimayn

About the Author

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Introduction



Two of our twelve Imams are buried in Kazimayn. They are our seventh Imam Musa al Kazim (AS) and our ninth Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS). The holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) himself told his companions about his twelve holy successors and named each of them.

The twelve Imams come from the family of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW): they are his Ahlulbayt. Imamat starts with Imam Ali (AS) and ends with Imam Mahdi (AS), the leader of our time. Allah made them Imams. They are the lanterns

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in darkness, the most excellent guides for mankind. They show us the Right Path towards Allah and are the people of the Quran. Allah has made the Imams infallible, perfectly pure so that they establish Allah's rule and put into practice His commands. They establish the prayer, give the poor rate, enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. They strive in the way of Allah and act out His orders.



Whoever loves the Imams has in fact loved Allah and whoever hates them has in fact hated Allah. He who has obeyed them has obeyed Allah. Whoever follows the Imams will get Paradise and whoever leaves them will get Hellfire. We cannot count their excellent merits or realise their greatness.

This book has two sections. The first section gives details about Imam Musa al Kazim (AS) and in the second section we will learn about Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS).



Imam Musa
Ibn Jafar
Al Kazim (AS)



Birth



Imam Musa Kazim's father was our sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) and his mother was Hadhrat Hamida Khatoon (AS). Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) described her as "praiseworthy (Hamida) in this world and the praised (Mahmooda) in the hereafter." She was righteous and the sixth Imam trained her in knowledge, piety and faith. She was able to teach the women of her time in religion.

When Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) went for Hajj, he took Hadhrat Hamida Khatoon with him. After performing Hajj, they were on their way back to Madinah. When they reached Abwa*, Hadhrat

Hamida gave birth to our seventh Imam Musa al Kazim (AS) on 7th Safar 128 A.H. When Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) was informed, he received the baby with great happiness and recited the azaan in the baby's right ear and the iqama in his left ear. He said "Allah has given a boy to me, he is the best of those Allah has created." He informed them that his son would be among the Imams of AhlulBayt to whom obedience is binding. He advised them, "Follow him, by Allah he will be your Imam." When he arrived back in Madinah, the Imam celebrated and gave food in charity to the people for three days to honour the baby.

*Abwa is a place where Hadhrat Amina bint Wahab, who was the mother of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), is buried.



Titles



Imam Musa e Kazim (AS) had many titles:

Kazim (One who subdues his anger). He always treated even his enemies with kindness.

Abd Saleh (Pious Servant) He spent hours in Allah's worship.

Nafs Zakia (Pure Soul). He kept away from sins and material benefits.

Sabir (Patient). He bore hardships and pain with forbearance.

Babul Hawaej (Gate of Needs). Prayers are accepted by Allah at his door, during his lifetime and even today.



Childhood



Imam Musa al Kazim (AS) spent his childhood under the care of his father who was a great example of wisdom and knowledge. From an early age he showed his deep understanding and divine knowledge of hidden things.

One day, Saffwan Jamaal came to Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) and asked "Who will be the Imam after you"? The Imam replied, "Wait here and you will see a child come out of my house, fully endowed of the knowledge of Allah". Soon after Imam Musa e Kazim (AS), then only three years old, emerged with a

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lamb saying to it "Offer sajda to Allah."

Abu Hanifa once came to Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) and was critical of his young son, Musa al Kazim praying, while people were walking in front of him. When the young Imam was questioned about it, he replied quoting the holy Quran that doing so will not affect the prayer as Allah is closer to his creation than his jugular vein. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) hugged his son.



Abu Hanifa wanted to find out whether man himself or Allah is responsible for actions. He came to Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) and asked, "Does man have

full control over his actions or are his actions controlled by Allah?"

Imam Musa al Kazim, who was just five years old, explained clearly the answer to his question. He said that there are three possibilities: Either it is Allah, or Allah and man or man alone.

In the first instance it cannot be because if it is Allah, then He as the Just One cannot punish man. In the second instance, if it is both Allah and man, both are involved. Allah will not punish the weak partner. So, man is himself wholly responsible for his actions. Allah will punish him if He wills. Hearing this clear explanation, Abu Hanifa praised the young Imam and went away satisfied.



His Merits



When a Shia asked Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) who would be the Imam after him, he told his follower that the seventh Imam is the namesake of the owner of the Torah, meaning Musa. He had inherited the love of Allah from his forefathers. He was the best of those who spent his nights in prayer.

Knowledge

His knowledge was God given. His father said of him "if you ask this son of mine about what is between the two covers of the Quran, he will give you an answer



to it with knowledge” His abundant knowledge included what men need and the affairs of religion. He was called the Scholar (Al Aalim).

Worship

Imam Musa al Kazim (AS) inherited from his forefathers the love of Allah, faith and loyalty. The most valuable time for him was the time he was alone with Allah. He was completely devoted and spent all his nights in prayer. He spent long hours in sajda without raising his head. He



fasted by day and thanked Allah in every condition. He

performed the Hajj on foot many times and kept away from the main

road to Makkah, so that he could concentrate on Allah, withdrawing himself from people. He recited the Quran, pondering over its words carefully; considered its teachings and rules, its commands and guidelines.

Generosity

He was generous and open handed in giving. He spent all he had secretly to help the poor and needy. He went out in the dark nights and sent purses containing money for the poor. He gave a banquet in which food was served to all the people in Yathrib (Madinah) for three days. Some, who were jealous, criticised him, but he reminded them that "One of

the things that brings about forgiveness is the giving of food."

Guidance

One day, when the Imam was passing by a man called Bishr's house in Baghdad, he heard loud music. He saw a servant girl coming out from the house to throw away rubbish. He turned to her and asked "Is the owner of the house a freeman or a slave? She replied, "He is free." The Imam said "You are right If he was a slave he would fear his Lord." When she went inside Bishr asked her "What delayed you?" She told him what the Imam had said. Bishr immediately, without even waiting to wear his shoes, went to the Imam and repented of his bad

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ways. He became known as Bishr the Barefooted, Bishr Haafi, as he had accepted guidance when he was barefoot and devoted himself to Allah. Imam Musa e Kazim (AS) guided people to the right way.





Loss of his father



Mansur, the cruel Abbasid ruler, was extremely jealous of the AhlulBayt and the popularity of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS). He tried many times to assassinate the sixth Imam and destroy his family. His house in Madinah was set on fire. The people of Yathrib (Madinah) were terrorised. The Imam was brought to Baghdad several times and attempts were made on his life.

Imam Sadiq's elder son Hadhrat Ismail had died during his lifetime. The sixth Imam buried his son Ismail in Baqee and stopped his son's coffin many times on the way

so that people knew that his eldest son had died. He repeatedly told them that the Imam after him will be his son Musa Kazim (AS)

Finally, our sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) was poisoned on the orders of Mansur Abbasi. When death was close, the Imam called all his family around him and said, "Surely our intercession does not include him who makes light of prayers." He secretly entrusted his son Musa Kazim with his affairs. It was on the 25th of Shawwal 148 A.H. Imam Musa e Kazim (AS) buried him next to his father Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) in Jannatul Bagee in Madinah.



Abbasid Tyrants



During the period of his Imamat (35 years) Imam Musa Kazim (AS) spent 10 years during the time of Mansur Dawanaqi, 10 years when Mehdi Abbasi was in power; 1 year during the rule of Hadi Abbasi and 15 years when Harun was in power.

Mansur Dawaniqi

Imam Musa Kazim (AS) was twenty years old when his father was martyred. The Shias followed him as their spiritual leader and met him. People who came looking for knowledge found their queries answered by him. He felt deeply sad when he saw all the disasters that the Muslims suffered under

Mansur. Many members of the Prophet's progeny were mercilessly killed and persecuted. During these ten years Imam Musa Kazim (AS) did not take part in any of the political affairs. When Mansur died in 158 A.H. our seventh Imam was thirty years old.

Mehdi Abbasi

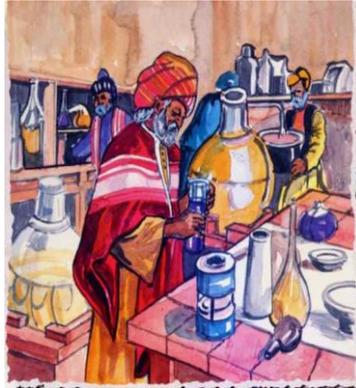
Mansur's son Mehdi took power and in the beginning released prisoners and gave back property that had been wrongfully taken from them. But soon he started to spend the wealth of the state on pleasures and amusements. He spent lavishly on extravagant celebrations and neglected the affairs of his people. He was full of hatred for the AhlulBayt. He had the Imam put

under intense supervision. He sent for the Imam to leave Madinah and come to Baghdad. Then he ordered that the Imam be thrown into prison. When Mehdi slept one night, he saw the Commander of the Faithful in his dream; displeased and sad. Mehdi Abbasi woke up in fear and decided to release the Imam and sent him back to Madinah.

During the reign of Mehdi, for twenty years the Imam spent spreading knowledge and teaching different sciences and arts. The Imam renewed the learning for the Muslims and continued to teach his

father's students. For example, Jabir ibn Hayyan one of the sixth Imam's students, the father of Chemistry

became famous in Kufa. Mehdi died in 169 A.H. and was replaced by his son Hadi.



Hadi Abbasi

The next ruler was twenty five year old Hadi, the son of Mehdi Abbasi. He was reckless and wasted the riches of the Muslims in pursuing his own pleasures and vices. He spread fear among the Alawids, the family of the Prophet's household. Many Sadaat

were brutally killed in Fekh and their property looted. They were put in shackles with ropes and chains. He threatened Imam Musa Kazim (AS) but the Imam prayed to the Almighty to save him from the wicked ruler. Hadi's days did not last long and he was killed by his enemies.

Harun Abbasi

Harun, who was Mehdi's brother, then took complete control of the state and assumed power in 170 A.H. He adopted as legitimate many practices that were forbidden in Islam. He gave his minister full powers and devoted himself to pleasures and singing. He gave lavish gifts to slave girls, singers and poets, wasting the

money that was for the Muslims. He spent a great deal of money on the food he ate. He was like



Yazeed, who was fond of drinking and gambling. The tyrant Harun hated the Shias and was an open enemy of the

Alawids, the family of the Prophet's grandchildren. Some were killed, others exiled, sent away from Baghdad. They were in fear of their lives.

Harun was angry when he saw the Muslim masses going on pilgrimage to Karbala. He ordered that his

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officers be strict with those who visited the shrine of Imam Husayn (AS). He then ordered that the shrine and the neighbouring houses be destroyed. He also uprooted the cedar tree that grew near the holy grave so that people did not know where it was.



Helping Shias



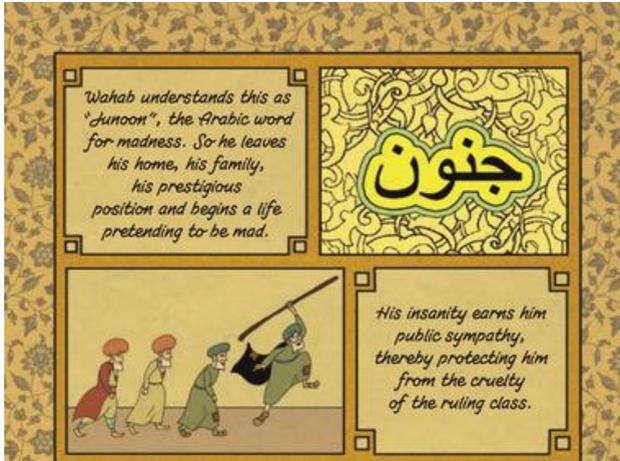
Imam Musa e Kazim (AS) advised his followers to keep away from taking part in Harun's government. He did not want them to cooperate in the unjust ways of the tyrant.

One of his sincere Shias, named Saffwan, used to hire out his camels to Harun, when he went for Hajj. When he realised that this was wrong, he sold his entire stock of camels and gave up this business.



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Some of the harassed Shias approached the Imam for advice. The Imam wrote the letter Jeem which was interpreted in three different ways by his followers.



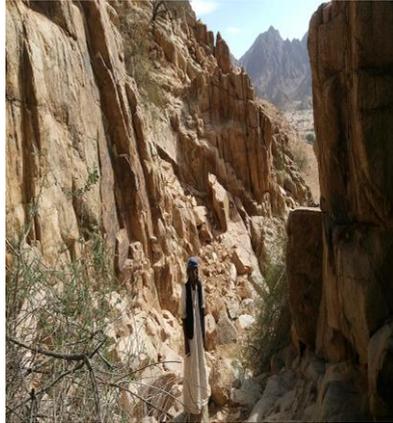
Bahlol, who was very clever and rich, took Jeem to mean Junoon, and now pretended to be mad. He left his rich life and went out to live in the streets of Baghdad but never missed an opportunity to give

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the Right message to the people. There are many stories of how he would not spare even the tyrant Harun from listening to his advice.

Another follower of the Imam took it to mean Jabl, which in Arabic means

mountain and went to live up there, away from the comfortable life in the city. A



third man took it to mean Jila watan, exile, and left to go to another country, far away from Harun's clutches.

But those who through their jobs could save Shias from oppression and tyranny, for example, Ali ibn Yaqteen, were advised by the Imam to work in the government in order to help the Shias.

Ali ibn Yaqteen was a sincere follower of the Imam. He held high office in the Abbasid government. His aim was to help the Shia and repel misfortunes from them. He sent from his money, many people for Hajj on his behalf and did many charitable acts. He supported many Shia families. He sent large gifts to the Imam, who used to remember him in his duas.

The Imam guided him so that Ali ibn Yaqteen remained safe from his

enemies. When he wrote to the Imam asking him to clarify about masah (wiping the feet during wudhu) the Imam wrote a detailed letter that surprised him. This was to protect him from enemies as Harun was spying secretly on him. After this incident the Imam wrote another letter advising him to come back to the correct method, as ordered by Allah. The danger from Harun had passed for some time.

When once Harun had gifted some expensive clothes to him, Ali bin Yaqteen forwarded it for the Imam. The Imam sent the cloak back to him and advised him to keep it safe. Ali ibn Yaqteen kept the cloak, sealed and safe. Men who were jealous of Ali ibne

Yaqteen told Harun that Ali ibn Yaqteen was so friendly with Imam Musa Kazim (AS) that he had given away the expensive gift that Harun had given to the minister. Harun immediately summoned Ali ibn Yaqtin and demanded an explanation. Ali ibn Yaqteen gave precise instructions and the garment was brought and placed before Harun. Harun calmed down and said "After this we will believe no informer against you!"





Life in Prison



Imam Musa Kazim (AS) was sent to prison many times by the Abbasi rulers. He was taken from Madinah to Baghdad by the order of Mehdi Abbasid. During the rule of Harun, he spent many years in prison. The rulers knew that Imam Musa Kazim was an Imam, the Proof of Allah's mercy to his creation. But they loved this world and wanted to keep power in their own hands.

Three years after assuming power in Baghdad, Harun went to Makkah in 173 A.H. and then visited Madinah. Harun tried to publicly boast about his close relationship with the Holy Prophet; and proudly

called him the son of his great uncle. The Imam who was present there addressed the Holy Prophet as his grandfather. Harun burned with jealousy. He also could not bear the Imam's popularity among the people. He arrested the Imam while he was in the holy Masjid e Nabi. The Imam was not even given the chance to meet his family and children, some as young as six years old (For example his daughter, Fatimah Masooma).

Two litters on camels were brought. The Imam was sent in one and the other empty one was sent to Baghdad. This was to create confusion, so that people did not know where he had been sent. The family of the Imam wept.

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At the end of the long journey to Basra, the Imam was handed over to Isa ibn Jafar who was the governor. Isa kept him in the prison for a year but could find no fault with the Imam. The more he observed the Imam, the more



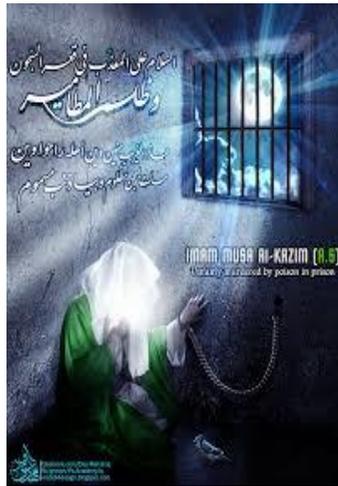
convinced he was of the Imam's nobility.

One of Harun's spies said he heard the Imam say "O Allah you know I used to ask you to give me time to worship You. O Allah you have done

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that. Praise be to You.” Isa wrote to Harun “his stay under my detention has gone on for a long time. I have not found him do anything, except open his mouth in worship. He has never prayed against you or against me. Either you send someone who I can hand him over to or I will set him free.”

The Imam was then sent to Baghdad and handed over to Fadhl Rabi. Then he was sent to Fadhl ibn Yahya. When they observed the Imam closely, they found that



he spent all his time in prayer and worship. His face never turned away from the mihrab (direction of the Kaaba).

The attitude of his jailor softened and Harun sent word that the Imam should be killed. But they saw that the Imam was the most wonderful model of piety and faith in Allah. They refused to carry it out which made Harun very angry.

Harun had no confidence in the spies he set for the Imam so he imprisoned the Imam in the palace dungeon and watched him closely. One day he looked down and saw a garment on the floor "What is that piece of cloth on the floor?" Harun asked

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Fadhil replied, "That is not a piece of cloth. That is Musa ibn Jafar" Harun was astonished and said "Surely he is among the Hashimite monks!" Fadhil asked "Then, why do you harass him in prison?" Harun had no reason and merely said



"There is no escape from that"

Imam Musa Kazim (AS) spent long years in dark prisons, away from his family and children. He prayed to Allah for release. Allah granted

his prayer. Harun let the Imam free in the dark night. The Imam was however not allowed to return to Madinah. He could not see his 19 sons and 18 daughters who missed him very much.. He left a will declaring his beliefs in the manner of his grandfather Imam Ali (AS).

Harun sent the Imam to prison again and handed over to Sindhi Shahik, a wicked man who was known for his cruelty.



Martyrdom



Harun had kept Imam Musa Kazim (AS) in prison for fourteen years but now decided to kill him. He sent orders to Sindhi Shahik to harass the Imam and to poison him. Sindhi was wicked and neither respected Allah nor believed in the Hereafter. He spared no effort to harass the Imam. Sindhi put the Imam in heavy chains, which cut into his ankles and bruised them. He treated the Imam very harshly. But Imam Musa Kazim (AS) restrained his anger and was patient.

Imam Musa Kazim (AS) called Musayyab, one of Harun's officers.

Musayyab had once been an enemy but had changed his attitude after he saw how virtuous the Imam was.

The Imam said to him, "Musayyab, I am going to Madinah tonight so that I may entrust my son Ali Ridha as my successor and next Imam." Musayyab was afraid. "How can I unlock the doors while the guards are here?" He wondered. The Imam then prayed "O Allah through your great name which Asif had prayed with, when he brought the throne of Bilqees and put before Suleyman in the twinkling of an eye, let me meet my son Ali in Madinah." He entrusted his son Imam Ali Ridha (AS) with the office of Imamate after him, so that Shias continued to be guided

after him. Musayyab relates that " I heard him praying then I did not see him I was still standing on my feet until I saw him return and back in chains. I thanked Allah for making me recognise my Imam"

Harun sent poisoned dates and ordered Sindhi to offer them to Imam Musa Kazim (AS), who was forced to eat them. The Imam suffered severe pain and knew his meeting with Allah was near. Sindhi called some people to see that he had not harmed the Imam. But when they approached the Imam, he said to them, "I have been given poison in nine fresh dates. I will turn yellow tomorrow. I will die after tomorrow."

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Musayyab relates that, " I saw a person who looked like him sitting beside him. I knew my master Imam Ridha." Imam Musa-Kazim's soul returned to his Creator. It was the 25th of Rajab 181 A.H. The Imam was fifty-five years old.

When the Prophet's grandson, the Imam of the Muslims died, his holy body was left on the bridge.



The enemies tried to slander him and degrade his dignity. Harun attempted to insult the Shias and their Imam. They called the people

to come and slander the Imam and left his body there for three days.

Suleyman, who was a cousin of Harun, had a palace near the river. When he found out that the coffin on the bridge was of Imam Musa Kazim, he was angry and called his sons and men to take the coffin. He himself came and announced to the Shias to come to the funeral.

Mussayab relates that he was present and said "By Allah they thought they were washing him (Musa Kazim) but their hands did not reach him. It was his son Imam Ridha (AS). It was he who washed, perfumed and shrouded him."

Thousands gathered. The pious, the sinful, the righteous and the

wicked went out to escort the grandson of the Prophet to his final burial place. The masses surrounded the holy coffin. The Imam's body was taken and buried in a land that he had purchased earlier; the cemetery of Qureish, outside Baghdad. It is now known as Kazimayn, meaning the two Kazims- the seventh Imam Musa Kazim (AS) and the ninth Imam, his grandson Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS).



Sayings



Learn of knowledge that which you do not know. Teach the ignorant of what you learn.

Stick to gentleness. Most surely gentleness, piety and good manners make houses flourish and increase daily bread.

Beware of pride for whoever has in his heart a little bit of pride does not enter the Garden.

Little speech is great wisdom.

The generous and the polite is under the protection of Allah.

The best thing to seek nearness to Allah, after knowledge of Him, is performing prayers, obedience to parents and giving up envy and pride.



Lessons learnt



Imam Musa Kazim (AS) at every stage of his life showed patience. We must be patient too when we face any problems.

The Imam was thankful to Allah even in the most difficult times in prison. We must not forget to thank Allah for all His bounties.

He protected the Shia and guided them. We must be sincere to the true followers of the Imam.

The Imam spent his time in prayer and worship of Allah. We must not miss our prayers.

He spread knowledge and guided the people through his good example. We must learn and teach others about Islam



Quiz



1. When and where was the 7th Imam born?
2. Who were his parents?
3. Name three of his titles and explain what they mean.
4. How did the Imam explain Abu Hanifa's question?
5. Why did he ask Saffwan to sell his camels?
6. Why did the people come to him when he replied using the letter Jeem?
7. Name the Abbasid tyrants of his time.
8. How long was Imam Musa-Kazim in prison? Why?
9. Why did they put his coffin on the bridge?
10. Who is the next Imam after him?



**Imam
Muhammad
Taqi
Al Jawad (AS)**



Birth



Our ninth Imam Muhammad Taqui Jawad (AS) was the only son of the eighth Imam Ali Ridha (AS). His mother was called Sabika, who came from the family of Maria Qabtia, Ummul Momineen, the wife of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). She was also known as Khaizarun.

He was born in Madinah on Friday, 10th Rajab 195 A.H. Imam Ridha (AS) was then about 45 years old and was being taunted by some people asking him who would be the next Imam. He replied "by Allah, few days and nights will pass before Allah provides me with a

male child who will distinguish the Truth from Falsehood."

Imam Musa Kazim (AS) had told one of his companions that his daughter in law Sabika would be one of the most pious women and sent her his salams. Hakeema Khatoon the sister of Imam Ridha (AS) relates that he invited her to come to his house as his son would be born that night. She happily went and that very night a baby boy was born.

There was radiance all around. She wrapped the baby in a cloth and gave him to his father. Imam Ridha (AS) recited the azaan in the baby right ear and the iqama in the left ear. He kissed the child on the

head and eyes and said "the newborn is "Hujjatullah (Allah's authority) and the "Wasi e Rasool (The Successor of the Prophet).

Imam Ridha (AS) loved his son very much. He would call him Abu Jafar and talk to him even when he was in the cradle. For example before leaving for Toos (Mashad), he told his followers that even though so young, the Imam after him would be his son Muhammad Taqui al Jawad (AS).





Titles



Our ninth Imam was known for his character and virtues and had many titles.

Taqi (The Pious)

The Imam spent a simple life and refused to stay in the royal palace and chose to live in a small house. He feared Allah and never responded to any desire.

Jawad (The Generous One)

He distributed all of the money given to him among the poor. He was called Jawad because of his charity towards the people.

Babul Murad (Gate of Desires)

He is the door of Divine mercy where needy people's problems are solved and their needs granted

Qaneh (The Satisfied)

He maintained excellent values and was not impressed by pomp and vanity of the Abbasid rulers.

Zaki (The Pure)

He lived a pure life, sinless.

Abu Jafar (father of Jafar)

His father gave him this title and used to call him Abu Jafar, even when he was a baby.



Infancy

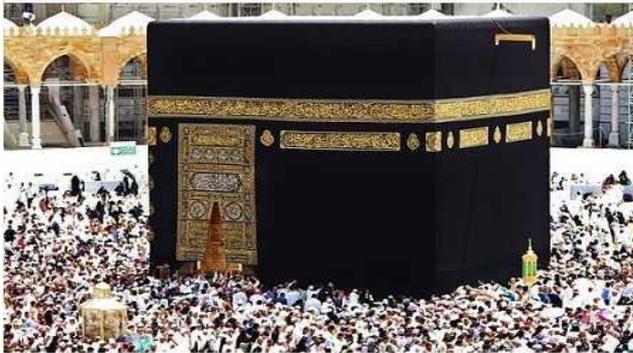


Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) was the delight of his father's eyes. Imam Ridha (AS) used to call him Abu Jafar even in infancy and talk to him while he was still a baby in the cradle. He would feed him with his own hands.

One of Imam Ridha's companions saw him peeling a banana and feeding it to his son. When he was asked "Is this the blessed newborn?" Imam Ridha (AS) replied, "Yes. This is the newborn that no one in Islam has been born for our Shia more blessed than him.

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When Imam Ridha (AS) went to Makkah before his journey to Khurasan, he took his infant son with him. After his tawaf, Imam Ridha bid farewell to the Kaaba and went to pray by the Place of Ibrahim. His son was so young that



he was carried by one of Imam Ridha's servants. When the servant asked Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS) to get up so they could leave, he refused and was very sad. The servant went to Imam Ridha (AS) and told him.

Imam Ridha (AS) then himself came to his son who said, tearfully, "O father how can I get up while you have bid farewell to the House in such a way that you will never come back!" Even at such a young age, Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) could sense his father's grief and sadness.

The Imam suffered the absence of his father Imam Ali Ridha (AS), who was forced to leave his family in Madinah and go to Toos (Mashad). When Imam Ridha (AS) was in Khurasan, he sent a letter to his son, which said, "O Abu Jafar, I hear that your companions (mawali) make you leave from the small gate. It is because of their stinginess that they fear others

receive alms from you. I ask you not to enter or leave except through the main gate. Whenever you go out, keep some gold and silver with you. No one should ask you for anything without your giving it to him."

A year later Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) witnessed his aunt Hadhrat Masooma (AS) leave Madinah and go towards Toos, unable to bear the absence of her brother. She too never returned home and was martyred in Qum. After the martyrdom of his father, the young Imam, who was only nine years old, was summoned from Madinah to Baghdad.



As Imam



Imam Muhammad Taqui al Jawad (AS) was only nine years old when Allah appointed him as the Imam. When Imam Ridha (AS) was asked, "O Master if something happened to you, who should we refer to?" He pointed to his infant son and replied "To my son Abu Jafar."

When people were surprised Imam Ridha (AS) explained: "We are the family of the House (AhlulBayt). Our young inherit from the old, like one feather followed by the next." He reminded them: "Allah appointed Isa (Jesus) ibn Maryam to Prophethood and gave him new

teachings at an even younger age than Abu Jafar,"

When the news of the martyrdom of Imam Ridha (AS) reached the people of Madinah they hurried to Imam al Jawad to console him, Some were confused as the Imam was only six years old and a group went elsewhere to look for answers. But they did not get satisfactory answers. When they approached the young Imam, he was able to explain correctly the answers they were looking for.

Many learned men and scholars returning from Hajj used to come to Madinah. They approached Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) and put questions to him. He answered

them perfectly and correctly. They were happy, gave thanks and praised the Imam. His replies convinced them of his wonderful knowledge. He was able to clarify their doubts and his detailed answers showed them his amazing ability.

People saw how Ali, the son of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS), though much older than him, stood up in respect when Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) came into the room. He kissed his hand and glorified the young Imam. When people asked why, he replied "It is Allah who has not qualified this beard for the Imamat and has qualified this young man. I am just a slave to him."

Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS) turned away from the pleasures of this life and did everything to be closer to Allah. Mamoon the Abbasid ruler failed in his attempts to lure the young Imam away. He was in the prime of youth but did not spend any of his wealth on himself. He did not like the life of luxury and ease. He was always merciful to people and fulfilled their needs. He comforted them in their joys and sorrows. He was the best example of virtues and perfection. He was the most knowledgeable, the most virtuous and pious of all the people.

Imam Muhammad Taqi (AS) narrated many Hadith from his grandfather the Holy Prophet. He answered 30,000 questions put to

him in his short life of 25 years. He clarified doubts people had about the Oneness of Allah and gave precise directions on Hadees and Fiqh (Jurisprudence).

He explained people's doubts about the final Hujjat of Allah saying, "He is the third of my progeny. His name and surname are like those of the Messenger of Allah. The number of his companions after reappearance is as the number of the Prophet's companions on the day of Badr (313)." The awaited Imam will change the way of life and spread political and social justice all over the Earth.



Knowledge



Mamoon Abbasi had written to Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) to come to Baghdad but before seeing the Imam, he set off hunting. On his way he saw children playing on the road. When they saw him coming all the children ran away. The Imam did not move from his place. Mamoon was puzzled and stopped to ask,

“Why didn't you run away like the rest?”

Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) replied, “The road was not narrow for you and me. Nor have I done any wrong.”

Mamoon then asked “ Who are you? What is your name?”

"I am Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Musa Ridha" replied the Imam.

On his way back, Mamoon saw the young Imam standing on the road again. The children ran away once more but the Imam did not move. Mamoon decided to test him. So he asked him a question, with his fist closed, "What have I got in my hand?"

Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) replied, "Allah has created the seas. Clouds rise up from the seas. Fish come up with the clouds. The rulers go hunting and their hawks hunt and catch the fish. The rulers take them in their hands and



test the knowledge of the Ahlulbayt of the Prophet." The nine-year-old Imam not only answered Mamoon's question but gave all the details of how he had procured it. "You are truly the son of al Ridha" said the tyrant. Mamoon realised that the Imam had all the virtues of his father. To keep a watchful eye on the Imam, Mamoon desired to marry his daughter Umm Fazl to the Imam.

The Bani Abbas did not like this and protested saying that Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) was still a child. They did not like Mamoon preferring him over their "learned" Ulema. They thought the young Imam needed direction and was still

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a boy without knowledge and understanding. They wanted to test his knowledge in the court.



Mamoon agreed and the court assembled. There were 900 learned men, who attended the meeting. There was pin drop silence. Then the most learned of them, Yahya Aksam, who was the Chief Judge, stood up arrogantly to ask the Imam a question. "What is the kaffara (atonement) for someone in ehram who killed an animal while hunting?"

Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) said, "Yahya, your question is vague. You need to clarify it.

Was it hunted inside or outside the Holy Area (Haram)? Was the hunter aware or ignorant? Was he a slave or a freeman? Was he an adult or minor? Did he do it for the first time or had he hunted before? Was the hunted game a bird or animal? Was it small or big? Was the sinner sorry or insisting on the sin? Did he hunt by day or night? Was the ehram for Hajj or Umra?

This meant that there were 22 conditions to be clear before the correct answer could be given. All the people were amazed at the young Imam's depth of knowledge.

Yahya was embarrassed. Later the Imam himself gave all the answers.

Then the Imam posed a question for Yahya, who was unable to give an answer and he requested the Imam to tell them the answer. The entire audience was dumbfounded and agreed that no one could match the knowledge that Allah had given to the Holy Household of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).



Marriage



Mamoon desired to celebrate the marriage of his daughter Umm Fazl to the Imam. There was a grand celebration and gifts of money and property were given to all the guests. The Imam read the Nikah and the same sermon is recited at weddings even today.



Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) as part of the dowry (mehr) gave a gift of ten whispered prayers (munajat). These prayers he had received from his father Imam Ridha (AS) who had received from his father

Imam Musa Kazim (AS), who had heard them from his father

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS), who had heard them from his father

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), who heard from them from his father

Imam Zainulabideen (AS) who heard them from his father

Imam Husayn (AS) who heard from his brother

Imam Hasan (AS); who heard from his father

Imam Ali (AS) who heard from his brother

Prophet Muhammad (SAW); who heard from the angel Jibraeel, who received them from Allah the Almighty who said

"Muhammad, the Almighty Lord conveys His greetings to you and says that He is giving the keys of

the treasures of this world and the next world. Through these prayers you can attain your desires. Do not use them for this world so you don't lessen the value of your next world. You can knock on the doors of your desires and they will be opened for you."

Mamoon gave lavish gifts to impress the Imam, but the Imam immediately distributed it among the poor. Tables were set up and a feast was prepared. Fragrance was provided for the rich and poor. Mamoon ordered a hundred slave girls to welcome the Imam with pomp and glory but the Imam neither looked right nor left. Much to the annoyance of the Imam, Mukhariq a famous musician was

called. The Imam looked at the musician and admonished him. "Fear Allah o you man with the long beard!" The instrument fell from his hands. The young Imam forbid the evil by telling the old man to fear Allah and keep away from music.

Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) showed Mamoon that he was not tempted by all the display of wealth. He guided the people by showing the way to Allah's pleasure is through dua and supplication. Like his father Imam Ridha (AS) in Neishapour (near Mashad, Iran), he showed his direct connection with the holy Prophet, the Messenger of Allah.



Miracles



Dead tree turns green

Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) refused to live in the palace and moved to a simple dwelling. After living for a year in Baghdad, the Imam moved back to Madinah. Umm Fazl went with him. On their way to Madinah they passed through the Kufan Gate. The Imam stayed

at the house of Musayyab, one of his Shia. He went for the Maghrib prayer



to a nearby masjid. The Imam asked for water and performed wudhu near the trunk of a dead lote tree. Immediately the dead tree became lush with green leaves

and fruit. People were amazed to see this miracle from the grandson of the Holy Prophet.



The White Turban

One of the Imam's followers called Qasim ibn al Hassan was once travelling between Makkah and Madinah. He met a very poor man who was begging for help. Qasim gave him a piece of bread to satisfy his hunger. Shortly after this, there was a sandstorm. A strong gust of wind came and took



away his turban. He searched everywhere but could not find it. Qasim continued

his journey and reached Madinah. When he went to see the Imam, he said, "O Qasim, the wind took away your turban!" He replied, "Yes my Maula". The Imam asked his servant to fetch Qasim's turban. The servant brought the same lost turban and gave it to Qasim. "How did the turban reach here?" Qasim asked.



The Imam replied "Allah accepted the piece of bread you gave to the beggar. Allah does not want the person, who gives charity (sadaqa) in His way to suffer any loss."

Amazing Journey

Imam Muhamad Taqui (AS) once went from Madinah to Syria. There he saw a Syrian man praying in the mosque in Damascus, where the head of Imam Husayn (AS) had been placed.



The Imam asked him to come along with him. The man followed him. They walked a few steps and in a few minutes found that they had reached the Masjid e Koofa.



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After offering prayers in Masjid Kufa, they arrived at the Masjid Nabi (SAW) in Madinah. They did the ziarat of the Holy Prophet and in a few moments they were in the Masjid ul Haram in Makkah near the Kaaba.



They made the tawaf, going round the Kaaba, completed other aamaal and returned back to the masjid in Syria. The Imam then returned to Madinah.

The next year the Imam again went to the masjid in Damascus and took the same person on the same amazing journey like he had done the previous year. When they returned, the man caught the Imam's robe and pleaded, "Who are you that can have such miraculous powers?" The Imam replied to him "I am Muhammad Taqui."

The man thanked him with respect and soon everyone heard about the miracle. The governor of Syria found out and was angry. He arrested the follower of the Imam and sent him to prison in Iraq.

The man protested his innocence and said he had done no wrong. He was told "The one who can take you

from Syria to Koofa on to Madinah and Makkah, ask him to take you out of the prison." When the next day the prison guards went to look for the momin, they found no trace of him and just the empty chains remained.

Hirz Jawad

Umm Fazl the daughter of Mamoon was very disobedient. She constantly complained against the Imam while they lived in Baghdad. She was angry that the Imam was not impressed by the lavish life of the Abbasids. She was also extremely jealous to find out that he had another wife in Madinah, who was pious and had a son. She realised that her father's plan had failed.

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She complained to Mamoon who in a fit of rage made a frenzied attack on the Imam's life. Both Umm Fazl and a servant saw the attack and thought that the Imam had been killed.

But, when Mamoon went the next morning to arrange for the disposal of the Imam's body, he was shocked to find that nothing had happened to the Imam and there was not a scratch on him. He was confused and the Imam told him that the dua given by his grandmother Hadhrat Fatima Zahra (AS) had kept him safe. It became known as Hirz Jawad.





Martyrdom



Mamoon had his daughter Ummul Fazl married to Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) so that he could closely watch the Imam. He also tried his best to make the Imam leave his pious ways and get busy in worldly pleasures. His daughter also did not bear a child through the marriage. Mamoon failed in his cunning plans.

After returning to Madinah, Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) married a virtuous lady named Samana Khatoon. She was from the progeny of Ammar Yasir, a famous and noble companion of the Prophet. She gave birth to Imam Ali Naqui

(AS), who is our 10th Imam. He had another son called Musa and two daughters named Fatima and Imama.

The Imam preferred eating bread and salt and wearing coarse clothes and living in Madinah near the grave of his grandfather Prophet Muhammad (SAW). After returning to Madinah, Umm Fazl kept writing letters of complaint against the Imam to her father, but he did not respond to them. When Mamoon died in 218 A.H., his brother Mutasim became the ruler. Umm Fazl continued to complain against the Imam to her uncle, Mutasim. He forced the Imam to come to Baghdad. Mutasim was deeply jealous of the Imam's merits and

kept Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) under house arrest for nearly a year and inflicted great hardships on him. The young twenty-five-year-old Imam felt fed up with his life. Mutasim Abbasi encouraged and helped Umm Fazl to poison the Imam, who suffered greatly and died of the poison on 29th Zeeqad 220 A.H. His young son Imam Ali Naqui (AS) came by a miracle from Madinah and buried his pure body next to his grandfather, Imam Musa e Kazim (AS). It became known as Kazimayn, the place of the two Kazims, who subdued their anger to please Allah. They have been rewarded by the Almighty to be the Doors of the fulfilment of prayers



Sayings



Whoever trusts in Allah, Allah makes him happy and whoever relies on Allah, Allah suffices his needs.

Know that you are always under the eye of Allah.

Be merciful to the weak and ask for mercy from Allah.

Good health is the best of blessings.

Noble is the one who has knowledge and intelligent is the one who is pious.

Be kind to your elders and seek Allah's kindness with kindness towards them.

With supplication every calamity is dispelled.

One who sows the seed of piety will reap the fruit of his heart's wishes.



Wordsearch



| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | U | H | A | M | M | A | D | T | A | Q | U | I |
| A | W | R | N | A | N | M | A | I | L | S | M | P |
| M | H | J | A | D | A | J | W | M | O | L | M | H |
| O | Q | N | M | I | B | B | A | B | I | S | F | Y |
| O | B | Y | A | N | U | A | J | T | Z | A | A | M |
| N | A | A | S | A | J | G | O | M | | B | Z | N |
| F | K | M | D | H | A | H | D | I | R | I | L | A |
| A | A | I | U | I | F | D | I | A | Y | K | H | Q |
| T | Z | Z | A | R | A | A | O | S | A | A | P | U |
| I | I | A | S | Z | R | D | Z | U | H | Q | J | I |
| M | M | K | T | R | J | B | L | M | Y | P | Z | Y |
| A | M | A | M | A | F | M | I | S | A | T | U | M |

Can you find these words?

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Muhammad | Kazimayn | Taqi |
| Umme Fazi | Madinah | Mamoon |
| Jawad | Naqui | Mutasim |
| Ali Ridha | Abu Jafar | Baghdad |
| Sabika | Samana | Yahya |

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Use the words to complete the sentences.

Imam Muhammad ----- was born in ----- on the 10th of Rajab. His father was Imam --- ----- and his mother was named ----- His father used to call him --- -----.

After his father was martyred, the young Imam was called to ----- by Mamoon.

The old man who asked the Imam a question was called -----

One day ----- tried to kill the Imam but Allah saved him.

His wife --- ----- gave him poison which was sent by -----

The Imam was buried next to his grandfather in -----

His son imam Ali ----- is our tenth Imam.



Salams ya Imams



This salam is for both Imam Musa Kazim (AS) and Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS)

**Salam on you o my Masters
O Proofs of Allah
Salam on you O Lights in the
darkness of the earth
Salam on you O sons of the
Messenger of Allah
Salam on you on you both and your
ancestors
Salam on you on you both and your
sons
Salam on you both and your
friends
Salam on you both and may Allah
confer His mercy and Blessings on
you both.**

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