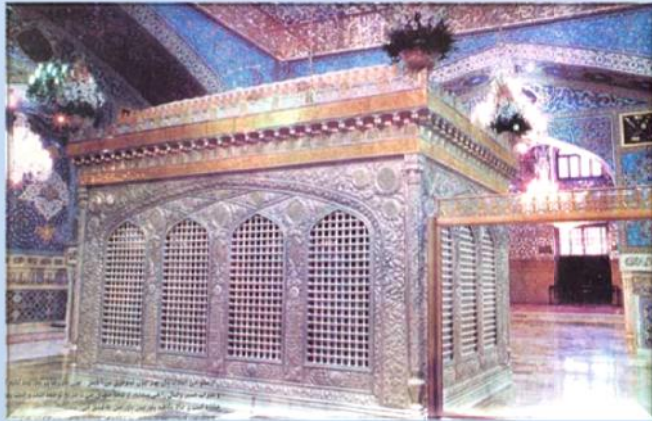


Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Let's learn about  
Imam Ridha (AS)



Written for children  
By Sakina Hasan Askari

# Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

## For my grandchildren

Muhammad Ali

Nur-Fatima

Sakina Zahra

Mohsin

Zahra

Aadil

Fatimah

Mehdi

And many more to come

Inshaallah

This book is to help you  
to learn about

## Imam Ridha(AS)

### About the Author

Sakina Hasan Askari (nee Sakina Nurul Hasan Jafri) completed her M.A. (English) with honours from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. She then obtained M.A. in English Literature from the University of Leeds, U.K. She taught for many years within the U.K. school system and is a prolific author. Raising her children and grandchildren in the West, she had felt a need for books for children to learn about Islam.

## Contents

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Introduction.....       | 4  |
| Titles.....             | 6  |
| His Parents.....        | 7  |
| In Madinah.....         | 10 |
| The Long Journey.....   | 14 |
| Regent Heir.....        | 26 |
| In Khurasan.....        | 30 |
| Noble Traits.....       | 41 |
| Eid Prayer.....         | 47 |
| Praying for Rain.....   | 52 |
| Poisoned Grapes.....    | 58 |
| Masooma e Qum.....      | 66 |
| His Brave Brothers..... | 78 |
| Mashad Muqadas.....     | 82 |
| Wise Sayings.....       | 85 |
| Ziarat.....             | 86 |
| Can you remember.....   | 87 |

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Introduction



Hadhrat Ali Ridha (AS) is our eighth holy Imam from the Household of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Allah blessed him with knowledge and chose him to guide and lead us in every sphere of life. He is pure and infallible, never committing any sin throughout his life. He established right from wrong and is the Light from Allah, the means to reach His Mercy.

Imam Ridha (AS) was the best of his time, the wisest and most patient. He spent his nights in prayer and reciting the Holy Quran.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Imam Ridha (AS) devoted his life to Allah and cared nothing for the false glitter of this world. He helped the weak and the poor. Even when he was the heir regent, his life remained simple with rough mats on the floor and simple food which he shared with his servants.

Like his grandfather, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), our Eighth Imam Ridha (AS) had excellent manners. He was courteous to all and welcomed people with a smile. He never interrupted others and was always polite.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### **Titles**



**Ridha-** the Pleasure of Allah

**Sabir,** the Patient one

**Zaki,** the Pure

**Siraj Allah,** the Lamp of Allah

**Siddeeq,** the Truthful one

**Fadhil,** the Superior

**Gharib al-Ghuraba,** the Lonely among all  
those who are lonely

**Moeen-uz-Zoafa-e-wal-Fuqara,** the  
Helper of the Weak and the Poor

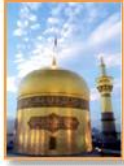
**Shah-e-Khurasan,** the King of Khurasan

**Aalim e Ahlebait,** the Learned Scholar of  
the Ahlebait

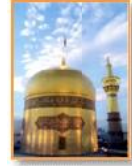
**Imam Zamin** the Guarantor

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### His Parents



Imam Ridha's father was our seventh Imam Hazrat Moosa e Kazim (AS). His mother was Taktum, also known as Najma Khatoon, Khayzaran and Ummul Baneen.

Imam Moosa Kazim (AS) spent his time in spreading knowledge and the worship of Allah. He was kind even to his enemies and always generous. He would go out in the dark night carrying gifts for the poor. He helped those in distress. Haroon the Abbasid ruler was jealous of Imam Moosa Kazim (AS) and arrested him while he was visiting the Holy Prophet's tomb. The Imam was sent to Basra then later to

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Baghdad. Cruel and harsh men were appointed to be his jailors. Some of these jailors later became his admirers when they saw his noble qualities. He was held in Haroon's prison for long periods but even under these conditions, he thanked Allah saying "O Allah I used to ask for free time to worship you. To you be praise." The Imam was finally killed



through poison on the 25<sup>th</sup> Rajab 183 A.H. Imam Moosa Kazim (AS) had 37 children, eighteen sons and nineteen daughters. They were known for their virtue and excellence. The best of them is Imam Ali Ridha (AS).



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

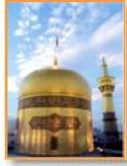
---

Bibi Najma Khatoon, the mother of Imam Ridha(AS) was from North Africa. She was chosen for her piety by Bibi Hamida the mother of the seventh Imam, who said to her son "I have never seen one better than her." She was pure and noble and devoted herself to the worship of Allah. She heard the sound of Tasbeeh and Tahleel while the Imam was in her womb. When Imam Ridha (AS) was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Zeeqad in 148 A.H. the seventh Imam said "I congratulate you Najma. It is a mark of nobility for you from your Lord. "He gave azan and iqama in the baby's ears then returned the baby to the mother saying "This is Baqiyat Allah"

This pious lady gave birth to another special baby-Hazrat Fatimah (AS) Masooma e Qum.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### In Madinah



Imam Ali Ridha (AS) lived in Madinah. He was brought up by his affectionate father under whose supervision he passed his boyhood and youth. Imam Moosa Kazim (AS) could foresee that the hostile Abbasid ruler would not allow him to live peacefully. He called upon his sons and his family to submit to Imam Ridha (AS) in all matters after him. In Madinah he introduced his successor to his followers. He also wrote his will on which 60 respected elders of Madinah signed as witnesses.

Imam Moosa Kazim (AS) was poisoned while he was still in prison on 25th Rajab

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

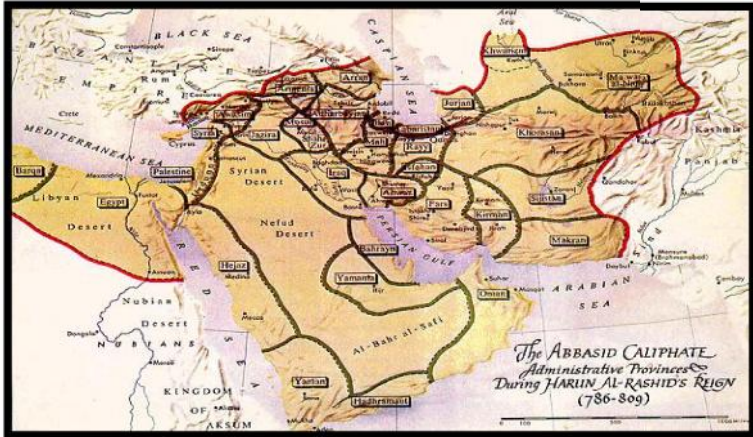
---

183 AH, and on the same day Imam Ridha (AS) was declared as the Eighth Imam of the Muslim world.

During the time of Haroon after the martyrdom of the 7<sup>th</sup> Imam, people could not visit Imam Ridha (AS) to freely seek his knowledge and he had little chance to teach his followers openly, The agents of of the Caliph kept a close watch on the Imam. His followers were sent to prison and those who were free were harassed.

Haroon sent his troops under Juloodi to loot the family of the Imam in Madinah. The Imam persuaded Juloodi not to enter the holy house and went inside himself and brought out the jewellery, even the earrings of the small daughters which Juloodi then took back to Baghdad.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)



When Haroon died, his two sons Ameen and Mamoon started to fight for power. Ameen who had an Arab mother had the support of the Arabs while Mamoon had a Persian mother and was supported by the Persians. Haroon took a pledge from both his sons that after his death Ameen will rule the Arab part of the Empire while Mamoon will rule the Persian side. When Haroon died in Toos, Iran. Mamoon was

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

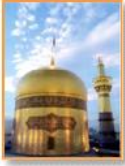
---

with him and buried him there. Ameen in Baghdad immediately proclaimed himself the Caliph of the whole empire and deposed Mamoon.

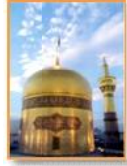
Mamoon realized that the majority of Persians favoured the teachings of the Ahlul Bayt. If he could persuade the Imam Ridha (AS) to side with him, he could confirm his rule there. So orders were sent out for the Imam to leave his home in Madinah and go to the Abbasid ruler in faraway Toos.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### The Long Journey



Mamoon sent an armed force with Juloodi, (a cruel commander who hated the Ahlulbayt) with an order that Imam Ridha (AS) should leave Madinah immediately and come to Toos (also called Marv). Orders included details of the route the Imam must take.

The Imam knew what was to come. He went to bid farewell to the grave of his grandfather, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He also called many elders of Madinah and told them that he would not be able to return back to his family and homeland. He appointed his son

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Muhammad Taqui (AS) as the next Imam.  
It was the month of Rajab 200 A.H.

It was the longest journey taken by any of the Imams. Imam Ridha (AS) set out on this journey with some of his friends who were loyal to him throughout his life. The main roads in those days were the roads to Kufa, Jabal, Kermanshah, and Qum, which were all mainly Shiite cities. Mamoon thought that Shiites may get excited when they see the Imam and prevented him from using this route.

The Imam's journey began from Madinah to Makkah where he performed the Umra. He took almost the same route as Imam Hussain (AS) had taken in 61 A.H. Half way through the hills of Hejaz, his route changed. Imam Ridha (AS)'s caravan

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

moved towards the east and reached the town of Basra in the month of Shawwal.

From Basra he crossed over the Shatt-al-Arab and reached the Persian soil heading towards the town of Qum. During his stay in Qum, Iran, he established Majalis e Aza e Hussain (AS) in the first ten days of Muharram to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS). Then the Imam continued his journey.

### Zamin e Ahoo

As he passed through a forest he saw a hunter chasing a deer. The panting animal came to Imam Ridha (AS) and pleaded. It wanted to go and feed its young and then promised to return. The Imam told the hunter to let the deer go and guaranteed that it would come back. The hunter was



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

not sure but accepted the request. Would an animal that has escaped from a hunter come back? He was amazed when the deer returned, this time with its young ones. The hunter let the deer go free. No wonder that the Imam became famous as the Zamin e Ahoo. **the Guarantor of the Deer.**



The Imam continued his journey.

### Eighteen Dates

On his way he passed through a city where a man called Muhamad ibn Eesa ibn Habeeb relates he had a dream that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was in the masjid. He greeted the Prophet (SAW) and

noticed  
that there  
was a large  
dish of



dates kept near him. The Prophet took a handful of dates and gave it to him. When Muhammad ibn Eesa counted, there were 18 dates. A few days later, Imam Ridha (AS) arrived and stayed in the same masjid where he had seen the Prophet in his dream. People ran to greet him and

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Muhammad ibn Eesa went too. He found that the Imam was seated in the same place and had a dish of dates next to him. When he greeted, the Imam called him closer and picked up a handful of dates and gave it. When he counted, he found there were 18! Muhammad ibn Eesa requested the Imam to give him more. To his amazement, Imam Ridha (AS) said "If the Prophet had given you more, I too would have given you more!"

The Imam then proceeded towards Nishapour, Iran. People there came out to welcome him and knelt to kiss the stirrup of the mule he was riding. Thousands came out to greet the Imam. They all wanted to see him and learn from him. He was wearing a turban in the style of his grandfather the Prophet

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Muhammad (SAW). Cries of Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! went up. Scholars and reciters of the Quran waited to hear the Imam. They asked him to narrate a hadees. The Imam said:

My father **Imam Moosa Kazim (AS)** has told me he heard his father **Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)** say he heard his father **Imam Muhamad Baqir (AS)** say he heard his father **Imam Ali Zainulabideen (AS)** say he heard his father **Imam Hussain (AS)** say he heard **Imam Hasan (AS)** say he heard their father **Imam Ali (AS)** say he heard **Prophet Muhammad (SAW)** say he heard Jibraeel say that Allah said: **The declaration, La ilaha illalallah (there is no Allah except Allah) is My Fortress; whoever enters My fortress is safe**

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

from **My punishment** "This is known as the **Silsilatul Dhahab**, (the Golden Chain).

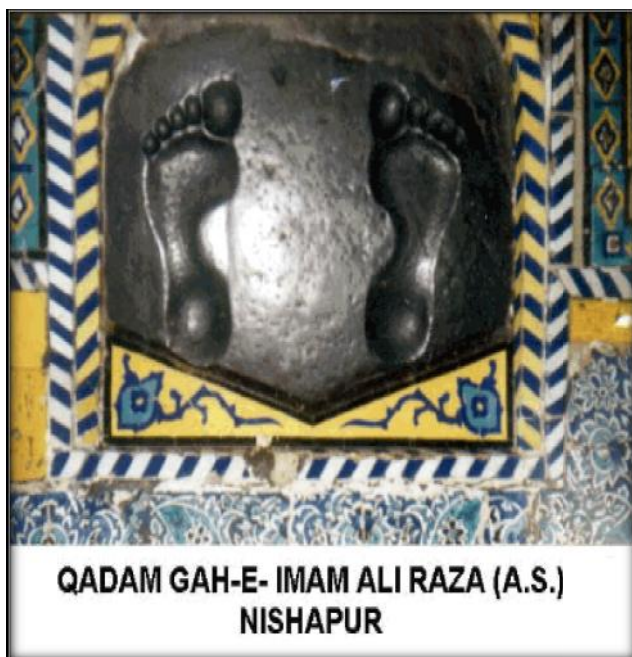
More than 20000 people wrote down the hadees. Then he added" **But the Kalima has conditions, and I am (accepting my Imamatus and obeying my wilayat is) one of those conditions**". The Imam showed that there was a vital and clear link between Touheed, Nabuvat and Imamatus.



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Then the Imam went towards Sanabad passing the place now known as Qadamgaah. Here to this day we can see the imprint of the Imam's footprints in stone. Abu Salt Harvi reports that the Imam left Nishapour, Iran and reached a village called Din-Surkh, it was the time of Zohr prayers.



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Imam descended from the horse he was travelling and asked for water to perform the Zohr prayers. No water was found. Then the Imam with his holy hands dug some earth and a spring gushed out Imam and all his companions performed the wudhu. Water from the the spring still



gushes and people drink from the spring for blessing and for obtaining cures from sickness and skin diseases.

Arriving in Sanabad the Imam saw Haroon's grave. He marked a spot saying: "I will be buried here and Almighty Allah will make this place a site of



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



pilgrimage for my Shia. Whoever comes for my pilgrimage and recites ziyarat upon me will be guaranteed divine mercy and forgiveness through the intercession of the progeny of the Holy Prophet (SAW)."

Two days later, Imam Ridha (AS) left Sanabad passing through a mountain called Kohe Sangi on his way to Toos. Here he prayed to Allah to bless the



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

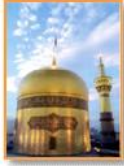
mountain for the benefit of the local people. He then called for carving a pot from the stone and even today with the blessings of the Imam handicrafts are made from the mountain stone.

The Imam reached Marv, one of the biggest cities with over 300000 people. The city was decorated and people celebrated and welcomed him with great excitement, showering him with cries of salawat.



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Regent-Heir



Mamoon the Abbasid Khalif was cunning and ambitious. He desired power and was like his father Haroon and grandfather Mansoor, who were arch enemies of the Household of the Prophet. He had sent for Imam Ridha (AS) to join him in Marw to pursue his own ambitions in gaining total power over the Abbasid Empire. He wanted to gain the support of the Shias and tried to do this through appointing the Imam as his Regent.

At the beginning Mamoon said he wanted to offer the Khilafat to the Imam. When the Imam arrived in Marw, Mamoon said "O son of Allah's Messenger I have realised your excellence and know you are

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

more worthy of Khilafat and give it to you." The Imam knew Mamoon's real intentions and refused. The Imam replied "If Khilafat belongs to you from Allah, then you are not allowed to pass it to another and if it is not from Allah, you cannot give what is not yours."

This silenced Mamoon but he then forced the Imam to accept being the Heir, under threats that he would kill the Imam if he refused. Sadly the Imam accepted with the condition that he would not be part of the government.

He would not appoint anyone as a governor

He would not dismiss anyone

He would not abolish any rite

He would be a distant advisor in affairs of state

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

These conditions were accepted and signed by the Imam and Mamoon in a written document witnessed by high ranking statesmen.

Mamoon held a popular festival attended by the rich and poor, by the powerful commanders and the rest of the people. Mamoon was seated and two great cushions were placed for the Imam. Mamoon's son was the first to give allegiance to the Imam followed by the people. The Imam's hand was at the top as they took the pledge. It was on the 27th of Ramadan, 201A.H,

The Imam's name was included on gold and silver coins. Imam Ridha(AS) was dressed in robes of honour. The



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

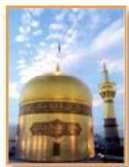
---

colour of the Abbasi regime was changed from black to green. But when his close associates smiled feeling happy, the Imam whispered to them that this would not happen.

Once succession was announced, Mamoon secured the help of the Persians fully behind him. Some criticised him and refused homage to the Imam. Juludi was one of them. He was wicked and had been sent by Haroon to loot the Ahlulbayt in Madinah. Imam Ridha (AS) had persuaded him not to enter the house. Imam Ridha (AS) asked Mamoon to spare his life but Juloodi thinking that the Imam was avenging himself said to Mamoon: "Do not accept his statement." Juludi was killed by Mamoon's orders.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### In Khurasan



Merv the capital of the Islamic Empire, was the meeting place of people from all walks of life and all corners of the earth. Mamoon kept the Imam under constant watch and arranged many sessions of debates and discussions in his court. Scholars from many parts of the world, like Greece, Italy and India came to seek answers and the Imam always was ready to answer the queries. Jews and Christians came to the court with questions; Muslims needed details about matters of Fiqh. The Alim e Aale Muhammad (SAW), the Scholar of the Ahlebayt, satisfied all.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

A number of poets visited the Imam and congratulated him. De'bal was one of them. He was a follower of the Imam, who awarded him coins and his own shirt on the poet's request. De'bal's poem, in praise of the Ahlebayt, is still regarded as a masterpiece of Arabic literature.

**"When I saw the ruined house of the  
sons of the Prophet. I wept**

**The house whose owners were ousted  
and hypocrites took their place**

**The house where tafseer of Quran was  
explained.....**

**I salute the stars of the sky of  
Imamat**

**who are sleeping in Kufa and Madinah  
and Karbala**

**Who have laid down their lives for  
Islam**

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

**There is a grave in Baghdad wherein a  
pure soul is lying**

**The grave which is one of the palaces  
of Paradise**

The Imam was moved to tears and added  
the following lines, foretelling his own  
martyrdom

**"There is a grave in Toos too which has  
a tragedy and grief**

**It burns the hearts till the Day of  
Judgement and raises the lament and  
weeping of people. "**

Imam Ridha (AS) gave the majlis e Aza e  
Hussain a new impetus by encouraging  
poets who wrote about the moral aspects  
of the tragedy and the suffering of Imam  
Hussain and his companions. The sight of  
the crescent of Muharram would bring



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

tears to the Imam's eyes. People would join the azadari of Imam Hussain (AS) in sorrow, The Imam would say

"Indeed it has made our eyes sleepless, our tears flow ...

O land of grief and tribulation,

Karb o bala,

You have made us inherit grief and tribulation

Till the Day of Resurrection. So the weepers should weep for Hussain

for weeping for him erases great sins"

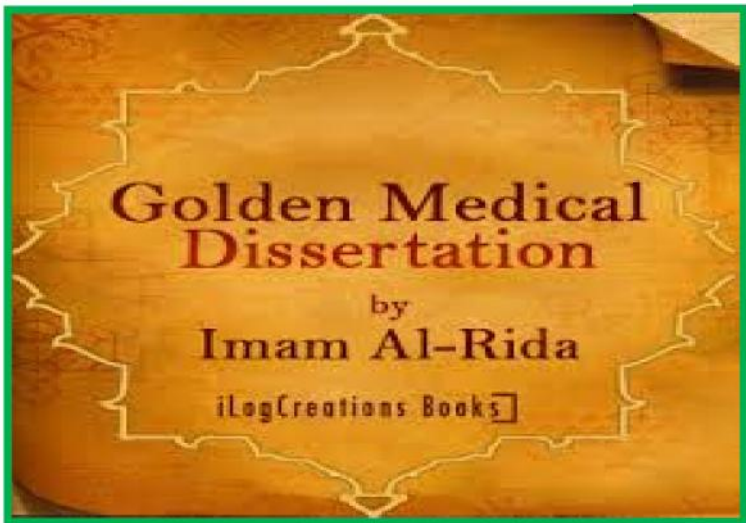
The Imam himself convened these Majalis in which sometimes he himself recited, and also encouraged others. He said

"Weep for al Hussain as angels weep for him by his grave till the time of the Qaim's rising."

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

On Mamoon's request, Imam Ridha(AS) compiled books on Islamic Law, the traditions of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and on Medicine. Such was the impact of the knowledge of the Imam that it was copied



on gold leaves and multiple copies were made.

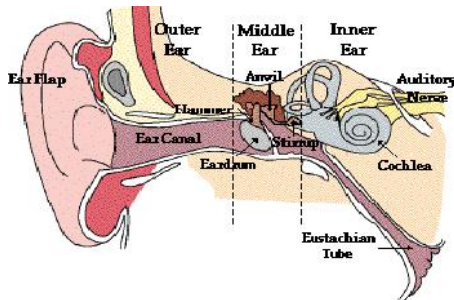
Here are a few excerpts from his teachings; The Imam described man's

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

body as a kingdom. The heart is the king of the body; the blood vessels, the limbs and the brain are workers. The heart pumps the blood to all parts of the body and the blood conveys nutrients and oxygen to all parts of the body. The heartbeat is one of the secrets of creation and beats 73 times per minute. The brain dominates the whole body, controls its movements and is a world of wonders. The hands and legs carry out commands from the brain.

The ear has three parts: outer ear, middle ear and inner ear. The outer ear has the lobe and the canal which leads to the eardrum. The middle



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

ear has three bones like the tools of the blacksmith. The inner ear has three semicircular canals connected and interlocked. It is the inner ear that receives sounds. The outer and middle parts of the ear convey the sounds.

The eye is among Allah's greatest signs. Through it, man receives light; recognises surroundings, realises forms and colour....When the light enters the pupil it faces a crystal body (the lens) ....Allah has placed the eye in a low facial area



surrounded by higher features like eyebrows, nose and forehead. He has given tears to purify and moisten it.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

The Imam advised against extravagance in food to protect health. Have light food during summer and heavier meals in winter. Be light bodied, decrease your supper by night. Eat only when you are hungry. He listed what to eat and what to avoid during different months of the solar year according to the season. To prevent migraine and colic, the Imam advised to eat fresh fish. He explained that raisins help memory and ginger and honey decrease forgetfulness. He advised on how to look after the teeth. He advised people on hygiene to be pure and clean.

The **Sahifat al Ridha** is a collection of the teachings of the Imam about the traditions from the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the Imams. The

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Imam explained you can never have full knowledge of Allah's essence. Seeing Allah is impossible. No one is like Allah. He is the best of the creators. His attributes are eternal. He has always been and will always be.

The Imam taught people about the Prophets and their high status. He explained they are sinless. He taught the people about the excellence of Hadhrat Fatimah (AS). He reminded people that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said; "Verily Allah becomes angry because of her anger and He becomes pleased on account of her pleasure." About Imamat he said that it is the most important office in Islam for Imamat safeguards and protects the community. It was through Imamat that religion is complete.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

The Prophet before he passed away had declared Ali as the Imam. Imamat is in the hands of Allah. The Imam allows what Allah allows, prohibits what Allah prohibits; The Imam is the shining sun, the rain bearing cloud, Purified from sins and free from shortcomings the Imam is Allah's custodian over His creation. The Imam is the Vice regent of Allah on the earth.

While Imam Ridha (AS) was with Mamoon in Marv, a conference on religions was held to which he invited many leaders of different sects, including Zoroastrians and Christians and Jews. The Imam convinced them and impressed them by his spiritual ability and excellence. The Imam had knowledge of all languages. When a man from India came to Mamoon's

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

court and greeted him in Sindi, an Indian language, the Imam replied to him in his own language and answered his questions. The Imam was asked to summarize the legal and the illegal matters in Fiqh and give details of the practical laws of Islam, Imam Ridha (AS) agreed and asked for an inkwell and a paper. The laws were written down so people could learn and benefit from his vast knowledge.

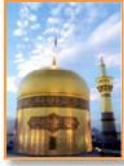


As people gained from the knowledge of the Imam, Mamoon became more jealous and fearful of the increasing influence of Imam Ridha (AS).



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Noble Traits



Even as the heir apparent with the treasures of the world at his feet, the Imam lived a simple life. The people recalled how his grandfather Imam Ali (AS) in Kufa had lived among the poor. Imam Ridha (AS) did not like to decorate his house with expensive carpets; instead he covered its floor with rough mats during the winter and grass mats during the summer.

When food was served, he would call all his servants, including the gatekeeper to sit and eat with him. He insisted on eating his meals only after the entire members of his family, young and old, servants and

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

grooms were present. One day someone suggested that it would be better to make separate eating arrangements for the servants, The Imam replied, "All are created by God, Adam is their father and



Eve is their mother. The reward is for our deeds." Today thousands eat together as they break their fast in the shrine of Imam Ridha (AS) in Mashhad.

Once a man said to him, "By God, there is none who is superior to you in the

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

nobleness of your ancestry." The Imam said to him, "My ancestors are honoured merely for their Godliness, piety and worship."

One day a man approached the Imam and said, "I am one of your followers and have love for the Ahlul Bayt of the Prophet. I am now returning from pilgrimage to Makkah and I have no money to return home. Please give me enough money so that I can reach home. After reaching home, I will give the same amount to the poor in your name. Imam got up, and went inside the house. He then called the man to the door, extended his hand from behind



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

the curtain and handed him the required amount, saying, "Take these two hundred Dinars. These are your travel expenses, and may this bring you the blessings of God. There is no need to give equivalent money to the poor but if you feel you must, then you may give it to the orphans and the widows of your town." The man took the money and left. The Imam came out from behind the curtain and resumed his seat. People asked, "Why did you adopt such a way that the man could not see you while you were giving the money." The Imam replied, "I did not want to see the shame of supplication on his face."

Imam Ridha (AS) used to give everything he had in charity. When Fazl (Mamoon's minister) criticised him calling it a loss, the Imam said to him it is a "gain" for by

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

giving, you gain virtue and goodness from Allah.

Moosa ibn Yasar relates that he was with Imam Ridha (AS) near Toos when they heard the sound of mourning. They followed the sound and came upon a funeral procession. The Imam immediately got down from his horse and walked toward the corpse. Just like a mother embracing her son, the Imam embraced the corpse and said, "Allah will forgive all the sins of the one who escorts the funeral of our friends." Then he followed it to the edge of the grave. There he placed his palm on the chest of the corpse and promised it paradise.

When he was asked whether he had known him, the Imam replied, "Do you not

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

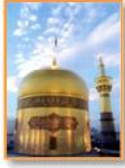
---

know that every morning and evening the deeds of our followers are presented to us? If they have done good we give thanks to Allah, but if they have done wrong we pray to Allah to forgive them."



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Eid Prayer



It was nearly the end of the month of Ramadhan in 202 AH. Mamoon sent a message to Imam Ridha(AS) to lead the Eid prayer on the first day of Shawwal. The Imam reminded Mamoon of the conditions made between them and wanted to be excused. But Mamoon insisted.

The Imam sent word that accepting with the condition that he would go out in the manner of his grandfather the Holy Prophet. Mamoon agreed. He ordered his army and people to go to the door of Imam Ridha (AS). The people waited on

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

the roads and rooftops. Women and children gathered to see the Imam.

Early in the morning of the day of Eid the Holy Imam (AS) washed and put on his



clothes. He wore a white turban and put one end down and the other end between his shoulders. He rubbed on perfume and took his staff and said to his men "Do whatever I do". He was barefoot as he walked out of the door. He raised his



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

hands and said "Allah u Akbar." His men repeated "Allahu Akbar"

When the military commanders saw him walking, they too dismounted from their horses and followed him barefoot. As he went forward, all the people followed him calling Allahu Akbar. From every direction of the city the call "Allah u Akbar" could be heard because everyone present there followed His Holiness and shouted "Allah u Akbar". The sound of Takbeer seemed to be coming from the earth and sky.

الله أكبر الله أكبر الله أكبر

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Mamoon was deeply alarmed by the magnificence and splendour. His advisers told him "If al Ridha reaches the place of prayer for Eid the people will break out in rebellion. Mamoon, send word to the Imam not to go for the prayers but return to his house."

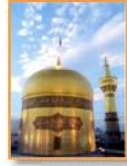
Mamoon forced Imam Ridha (AS) to go back without leading the prayers. People were sad.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Praying for Rain



When Imam Ridha (AS) was in Khurasan there was a period when it did not rain. Some enemies started to blame the Imam. Mamoon asked the Imam to pray for rain.

The Imam said he would do so on Monday as the Prophet had appeared to him in his dream saying "My son, wait till Monday comes. Go to the desert and ask for rain, Surely Allah will send down rain so that they increase their knowledge of your excellence and position." When Monday came, all the people went outside the city to the desert. When the Imam arrived

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

there, a pulpit was installed. People surrounded him shouting **La ilaha illallah Allahu Akbar**



The Imam ascended the pulpit and praised Allah. He prayed: O Allah O Lord It is You who have magnified our right, the AhlulBayt. So they have sought access through us to you as you have commanded, hoped for Your bounty and mercy, expected your kindness and favour. So give them water with a

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

watering which is useful, general, neither slow nor harmful. And let their rain start after they leave for their houses and their abodes."

Then the Imam raised his hands and prayed. The wind wove clouds in the air and there was thunder and lightning.



The people wanted to hurry home. The Imam said "The cloud which has towered

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

over you is not for you, rather it is for another city." Ten successive clouds appeared. Each time the Imam named the places where the cloud would rain. When the eleventh cloud appeared, Imam Ridha (AS) said: "O people this is the cloud that Allah has sent for you. So thank Allah for His favour. Go to your houses. It has been prevented from raining till you enter your abodes." He descended the pulpit. When they reached their homes, it began to rain. So the valleys, basins streams and desert were filled with water.



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

When Imam Ridha (AS) entered the court, the guards would lift the curtains to welcome him. Mamoon ordered that this practice should stop. The next time the Imam came, a wind blew and all the curtains one after the other rose up for the Imam. People were amazed. The people believed in the miracles of the AhlulBayt and their rank with Allah, the Most High. They said "We congratulate the children of the Apostle (SAW) on the miracles of Allah toward them."

But there were some who were jealous and they increased in their enmity. A man called Hamid ibn Mehran said, "it would have rained any way. It was not a miracle. It would be a miracle if you make the picture of this tiger on the carpet alive and order it to devour me."



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Imam Ridha (AS) said "Beware! I never asked anyone to speak about my miracles. As far as the rain is concerned, it was Allah's kindness. But since you want to see the tiger alive, I will



now make it alive." Saying this, he said "Devour this disbeliever and leave no sign of him." No sooner had the Imam said this, the tiger came alive, roared and attacked Hamid and tore him to shreds. Seeing this miracle, Mamoon swooned with fright.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Poisoned Grapes



Imam Ridha (AS) was allowed to live only three years after coming to Marw in Khurasan, Iran. Mamoon was treacherous and as the virtues of the Imam became more and more apparent, his jealousy grew. Mamoon had forced the Imam to accept the office of Regent to accomplish his own selfish ends and consolidate his power over the Muslims. He used the Imam's presence to please Shia opinion and avoid clashes from the Alawids.

When Mamoon acted against the teachings of Islam, the Imam checked him. Once the Imam saw that Mamoon had a servant pouring water, as he

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

performed the wudhu. When the Imam saw that Mamoon was breaking the rules of Islam, the Imam said this is not allowed. Mamoon was very angry. He then decided he would kill the Imam.

The Imam knew what was to happen. He called his companion Aba Salat and said to him: "O Aba Salat, this is the time of my departure to Allah, the Exalted, and of my joining my grandfather and my forefathers, peace be on them. The fixed term has come; this tyrannical one (Mamoon) has decided to kill me with squeezed grapes and pomegranates. He will have needles prodded into the grapes at the place of their stalks. He will put some poison on the hand of one of his men and order him to knead pomegranates with it, that they may be stained with

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

poison. He will summon me on the next day, bring the grapes and pomegranates near to me, and ask me to eat them. I will be forced to eat them,"

The Imam continued "When I die, he (Mamoon) will say: 'I will wash him with my hand.' When he says that, be alone with him and say to him on my behalf: 'He (al-Ridha) said to you: 'Do not wash, shroud, and bury me. For if you do that, He (Allah) will hasten for you the punishment which He has delayed from you, and the painful thing of which you are cautious will befall you.' So surely he will refrain (from doing that)."

The Imam added, saying: "When he (Mamoon) let you wash me, he will sit on one of his lofty houses in order to tower over the place where I will be washed. So,

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

O Aba Salat, do not wash me until you see that a white tent is installed beside the house. When you see that, then carry me (while I am wearing my garments in which I am) place me from behind the tent, and stop behind it" When the tent is raised, you will see that I have been wrapped in my shroud. Then put me into my coffin and carry me.

When he (Mamoon) wants to dig my grave, he will make the grave of his father Haroon al-Rashid as qibla for my grave, and that will never occur. When they strike the ground with the picks, they will dig nothing of it then say to them: 'He (Ridha) has ordered me to strike one pick in the qibla of the grave of Haroon. When you strike (with the pick), you will make it reach a dug grave. When the grave is

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

open, then do not lay me in it until the white water gushes out and it becomes full of water. When the water sinks, then lay me in that grave and bury me." The Imam ordered Aba Salat to memorize his words, and he responded to what the Imam wanted.

On the following day, Mamoon sent for the Imam. When the Imam came, Mamoon was full of cunning. He rose for him, embraced him and kissed him on the forehead. He seated the Imam beside him, talked with him, and then ordered one of his men to bring him grapes and pomegranates.

Aba Salat said: "I became impatient and shook (with fear)." Mamoon gave a bunch of grapes to the Imam and said to him: "O son of Allah's Messenger, I have never

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

seen grapes better than these."



"Perhaps, there are grapes better than them in the Garden," said the Imam. Mamoon insisted, then he began to shout "Perhaps, you are accusing us of something." The Imam ate three grapes and stood up to leave.

Mamoon asked : "Where are you going?"  
"Where you wanted to send me "replied the Imam.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Imam Ridha (AS) returned to his room. The poison acted on his body and gave him intense pain. He knew that he was about to meet his Lord. He recited some verses of the Holy Quran: "Say: Had we remained in your houses, those for whom slaughter was ordained would certainly have gone forth to the places where they would be slain. And the command of Allah is a decree that is made absolute. "(3:153) Then he fainted. It was the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Safar, 203 A.H.

Allah sent Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) by miracle to be with his father in his last moments. Then his pure soul set out for its Creator. **Innalillahi wa inna ilaihi rajaan.** He arranged the burial bath and the shroud and said the funeral prayer.

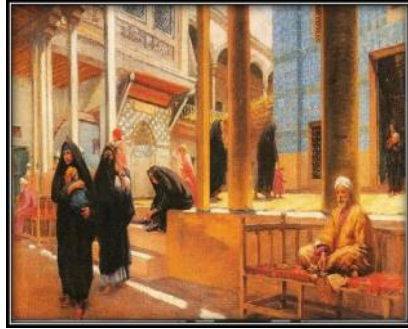


## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Alas the world became dark and the scholars and the thinkers and the people lost the one who took care of their interests and strove for their affairs. Cunning as he was, Mamoon pretended to weep and mourn.

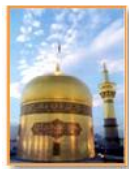
He came out barefoot. Black flags were put up. Men, women and children left their houses to



attend the Imam's funeral. Cries rose to the sky as the people wept at the loss of their leader and Imam who died all alone, so far from home. He was only 55 years old.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Masooma Qum



Hadhrat Masooma e Qum, named Fatimah(AS), was the daughter of our seventh Imam Moosa e Kazim (AS). She was born on 1<sup>st</sup> Zeeqaad 173A.H., twenty-five years after the birth of her brother Imam Ali Ridha(AS); Their mother was Najma Khatoon, a lady praised for her intellectual and spiritual excellence.

Imam Ali Ridha (AS) and Hazrat Fatimah Masooma (AS) were very close, right from their childhood. As a child she imbibed the teachings of Islam from her noble father Imam Moosa e Kazim (AS) and her brother Imam Ridha(AS). Our sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) had said, "A

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

lady from my children, whose name will be Fatimah, daughter of Moosa will die in Qum. On the day of Qiyamat, this lady will intercede for all my Shia to enter Heaven."

Her knowledge of Islam was so deep that even as a child of six, she was able to answer the queries of a group of Muslims, who had been visiting Madinah. It so happened that both her father and her brother were away on a journey. The people had some queries to put to the Imam and wrote their questions and handed them in at the Imam's house. When it was time for them to leave Madinah, they were handed the paper back, with their queries answered. The answers had been given by the 6 year old daughter of the Imam. They were happy

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

with the answers and on their way out of the city chanced to meet the seventh Imam and showed him the paper. When Imam Moosa e Kazim (AS) read her replies, he was so pleased that she had so eloquently answered the questions that he remarked, echoing the Holy Prophet, *fidaha abuha* "May her father be sacrificed for her."

This statement also points us towards the high status of Hazrat Fatimah Masooma e Qum. In 1335 A.H. Ayatullah Syed Mahmud Marashi Najafi did amaal for forty days to find out the location of the mazar of Fatimah Zahra (AS), he was told in a dream by the Imam "Alaika Kareemati Ahlelbait" I advise you to go to the Kareema (Noble one) of the Ahlelbait" identified as the mazar of Fatimah

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Masuma (AS) in Qum, Iran. Other titles for her include Tahira, Raazia, Marziya, Sayyada, Taqiya, Naqiya, Hameeda, Rasheeda. Each of these epithets echoes the titles of her holy grandmother, Fatimah Zahra (AS).

Like Hazrat Zainab (AS), Hazrat Fatimah Masooma (AS) was very knowledgeable in the teachings of Islam. There were some hadees that children in the Ahle-bait, both male and female knew by heart. Many traditions are narrated from her including the hadees of Ghadeer and Meraj. These have reached us with their complete chain of transmission.

Fatimah (Masooma) the daughter of Imam Moosa e Kazim

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Narrates from Fatimah, daughter of Imam Jafar Sadiq,

who narrates it from Fatimah, the daughter of Imam Muhammad Baqar,

who narrates it from Fatimah, the daughter of Imam Ali Sajjad

who narrates it from Fatimah, the daughter of Imam Hussain

who narrates it from Zainab, the daughter of Fatimah Zahra,

the daughter of the Prophet of Allah,

who has narrated that the Prophet said,

***"Ala man mata ala hubbe Aal e Muhammad mata shaheeda"***Know that whoever dies having the love of the family of Muhammad dies a martyr."

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Hazrat Masooma (AS) was only six years old when she suffered the separation from her father Imam Moosa e Kazim (AS). In 179 A.H. Haroon sent his soldiers to Madinah to take the Imam prisoner. He was taken away to Basra and then to Baghdad to suffer torture and pain. The separation was very hard for her, for she could not see her father for many years. In fact, he was killed through poison and never returned home to his family. Hazrat Masooma was hardly 10 years old and deeply grieved.

After the imprisonment of her father to his shahadat on 25<sup>th</sup> Rajab 183 A.H., Hazrat Masooma (AS) was under the guardianship of her brother Imam Ridha(AS).She continued to benefit from direct learning from the Imam for the

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

next 21 years. Indeed, she acquired such a high spiritual level, that she was given the title Masooma from Imam Ridha (AS) himself.

He also said "Whoever visits Masooma in Qum is like the one who has visited me." The ziarat for her is narrated from him and the words denote her high status and esteem in the eyes of Allah, who will let her intercede on their behalf.

The Imam addresses her as the daughter of the Messenger of Allah, the daughter of Fatimah and Khadija, the daughter of the Commander of the faithful, the daughter of Hasan and Hussain. He conveys salams to her as the Daughter and Sister and the Aunt of the vice regent of Allah.



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

When Imam Ridha (AS) had to leave Madinah, she was very sad and found the separation very difficult. A year passed and Hazrat Masooma (AS) received a letter from her brother. She then began preparations for her journey to Toos with five of her brothers, Fazl, Jafar, Hadi, Qasim and Zayd, all sons of our seventh Imam.

With her immense knowledge, piety and ability, she would be able to play an important part in spreading Islam, especially among the ladies. It was traumatic to leave the city of the Prophet and embark on such a long journey.

But like Hadhrat Zainab (AS), this sister of the eighth Imam was very close to her brother and keen to meet him. According to some reports, other members of the

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

family, under the leadership of Ibrahim ibn Imam Moosa e Kazim (AS) also went in another group to Khurasan. The caravan of Hazrat Masooma (AS) travelled through the long and rough expanse of desert, but the thought of meeting her brother kept them going.

When they reached Saveh, they were ambushed and attacked by Mamoon's soldiers and many members of the Imam's family were martyred, wounded and even taken prisoner. Twenty three of her close relatives and companions were killed. The brutal attack had a devastating effect on Masooma (AS) and she became ill. According to another report she was given poison.

When Hazrat Masooma (AS) asked how far Qum was from there, she was told

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

about 10 farsaq, 60-70 km. She asked them to take her to Qum, where many shias lived.

A leading Shia family from Qum welcomed her and Moosa ibn Khazraj had the honour of being her host. His house is today the Madrasa e Sittiye, "School of the Lady" Her *mehrab e ibadat*, where she spent her last hours worshipping Allah, is known as "Baital Noor."



Only two weeks after she reached Qum, Hazrat Masooma (AS) died on 4<sup>th</sup> Rabiulaval 201 A.H. She was 28 years old.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

She was buried, in Babelan, Qum, Iran.

According to another version, when she reached Qum, she saw that all the people were in mourning. When she asked the reason, she was told that Mamoon had killed her brother Imam Ridha (AS). This made her so sad that she died of grief.



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

As they were about to bury this noble lady, two masked riders appeared on horseback and dismounted at the burial site. They came forward, recited the funeral prayer for her, and buried her, then left. It is believed that they were her brother Imam Ridha (AS) and her nephew Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS).



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Brave Brothers



The sons of our Imams are known as Imam zadeh. Imam Ali Ridha (AS) had sent a message to his brothers and sisters, about 22 of them in Madinah to visit him since he was not allowed to leave Toos.

So Imam zadeh Ishaq, Imamzadeh Hussain and others left Madinah and travelled via Basra to Shiraz and from Isfahan to Saveh. Many Imamzadehs who travelled with Hazrat Masooma-e-Qum were martyred in front of her very eyes, in such a manner that she could not overcome her sorrow.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

### Saveh

Saveh is a town at equal distance from Tehran and Qum like the three vertices of a triangle. As you pass the grave of Ayatollah Khomeini on your right you see signs for Saveh. We can visit the graves of many Imam zadeh in Saveh

### Shiraz

In the city of Shiraz we can pay our respects at the tombs of Imam Ridha's (AS) brothers. Sayyid Ahmed and Sayyid Muhammad, sons of Imam Moosa e Kazim (AS). Sayyid Ahmed was noble and pious and is known as Shah Chiragh, King of the Light. The site was given this name by Ayatullah Dastghā'ib (the great grandfather of Shaheed Ayatullah Dastghā'ib). He used to see light from a

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

distance and decided to find out the source. He found that the light was from a grave within a graveyard. In this grave a body wearing an armor was discovered. The body was wearing a ring saying **al-'Izzatu Lillāh, Ahmad bin Mūsā**, meaning "The Pride belongs to Allah, Ahmad son of Musa".





## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Sayyid Muhammad spent his life in prayer day and night. He is buried in the same courtyard as Shah Chiragh and the martyred Ayatullah Dastaghaib is buried near him.

Sayyid Hussain Aalauddin another son of the 7<sup>th</sup> Imam is also in Shiraz. When our ninth Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) was asked which of his uncles loved him the most he said "My uncle Hussain"



## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### **Mashad Muqadas**



The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had said "One of my own flesh and blood will be buried in the land of Khurasan. Allah the Highest will surely remove the sorrows of any sorrowful person who goes on pilgrimage to his Al-Ridha's (AS) shrine. Allah will surely forgive the sins of any sinful person who goes on pilgrimage to his shrine".

Imam Ridha (AS) said, "Whoever visits me despite the far distance to my tomb, I will come to save him on the Resurrection Day on three occasions and help:

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

1. When the Letters of Deeds are handed to his right and to his left hands,
2. At the moment of crossing the Bridge over Hell
3. At the time, when the Scale of Deeds (measuring the amount of good vs. bad deeds) is set up".

The holy shrine has magnificent courtyards with fountains and structures spread over a grand complex of buildings. You can visit the museum and library housing millions of books and manuscripts. People gather to listen to lectures and sermons in many languages, to recite and ponder over the verses of the Holy Quran, to pray together. Arrangements are made to feed thousands of pilgrims daily and in the month of Ramadan; food

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

is served to over 12000 Muslims at the time of iftar.

Every year between 20 and 30 million pilgrims from across Iran and other countries come to Mashhad to visit Imam Ridha's shrine. Many miracles are seen even today as the sick are healed and wishes are granted through the name of the holy Imam. Visiting the shrine brings manifold rewards for the pilgrim, equal to the sawab of going for Hajj.

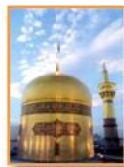
May Allah give us all the opportunity to visit the shrine of Imam Ridha (AS) and convey our salaams personally, Inshallah.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Wise Sayings



Imam Ridha (AS) said

Be truthful and avoid telling lies.

Everyone's friend is his reason, his enemy is his ignorance.

The Quran guides and leads toward paradise and is the saviour from the fire (of Hell). Reciting the Holy Quran, eating honey and drinking milk makes your memory better.

Indeed Imamate is the growing and ongoing root of Islam and its elevated and sublime branch.

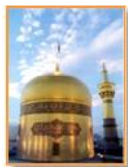
If you weep for Hussain (AS) to the extent that tears run down your cheeks, Allah will forgive your sins.

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



### Ziarat



**Salam on you o Ali ibn Moosa al Ridha**

**Salams on you, o the Light of Allah**

**Salams on you o the Pillar of Faith**

**Salams on you o the inheritor of the  
Prophets**

**Salams on you o the inheritor of the  
Imams**

**Salams on you o the lonely Martyr**

**Salams on you the virtuous and pious  
guardian**

**Salam on you the Helper of the Weak  
and the Poor**

**The one buried in Toos**

**May Allah have mercy and blessings on  
you.**

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---



**Can you remember**



Where and when was Imam Ridha (AS) born?

Name 5 of his titles.

Who were his parents?

Why did Mamoon call him to Marv?

What happened in Nishapour?

Why was Imam Ridha(AS) called Zamin e Ahoo?

What happened on the Day of Eid?

Why was Mamoon jealous of the Imam?

How was the Imam poisoned?

Who was Masooma e Qum?

## Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

---

Title: Let's learn about Imam Ridha (AS)

Author: Sakina Hasan Askari

Publisher: Salman Publications

First Edition: March 2016

Pages: 88

Copies: 1000

ISBN: 81-88823-19-8

### Other Books in the **Learn about** Series

Prophet Muhammad(SAW)

Imam Ali (AS)

Bibi Fatima(AS)

Imam Zany al-Abideen (AS)

Imam Mahdi (AS)

The 12 Imams

The 12 Days of Muharram

The Holy Quran and Month of Ramadan

Bibi Sakina(AS)

Bibi Zainab(AS)

Hadhrrat Abbas(AS)

Jannatul Baqee