Let's learn about Imam Muhammad Bagir (AS) Imam Jafar Sadig (AS)



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 Inshallah

This book is to help you learn about Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

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Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) is our fifth among the twelve holy Imams, the successors of the Holy Prophet. He was famous for his immense and deep knowledge. His role in spreading the true message of Islam was crucial.

He lived at a time when there was great turmoil in the Islamic world. The Imam was able to educate the Muslims and guide them towards the divine path. Thousands of details about the life and teachings of the Prophet were learnt from the Imam and his students, who benefited from his knowledge.

Our sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) is the son of our fifth Imam. He continued the brilliant work of his father and built on the secure foundation of scholarship and knowledge. Like him, Imam Sadiq (AS) too stayed away from the political conflicts of the time and concentrated in building the knowledge of the Muslim community. He formulated the Shia doctrine in such detail that those who followed it came to be known as the Jafari. He had the unique opportunity among the Imams to be able to spread authentic ahadees which had been forgotten or ignored. His term of Imamat spanned twenty-eight years, longer than any of the Masoomeen. However whenever the rulers, especially Mansur Abbasi had a chance, they continued to harass the Imam.

Both the fifth and sixth Imams were martyred through poison and were buried in Jannat ulBaqee in the holy city of Madinah.

This book is in two sections to enable you to learn about the life of the Imams.

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Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS)





Our fifth Imam was born in Madinah on Friday, 1st Rajab, 57 A.H. He was named Muhammad and his most famous title is Baqir ul Ilm, the splitter of knowledge.

His father was our fourth Imam Ali Zain-ul-Abideen (AS) son of Imam Husayn (AS). His mother was Fatimah, daughter of Imam Hasan (AS). He was Alavi and Fatami, (the Family of Imam Ali (AS) and Bibi Fatimah (AS)) through both parents. This special merit from both paternal and maternal sides was unique to this Imam. The best of noble traits came together in him.

The Holy Prophet (SAW), had predicted his birth and given him the title of Baqir. He sent salams to his great grandson through his companion Jabir ibn Abdullah Ansari.

The Imam's father Imam Ali Zain-ul-Abideen (AS) was the best of all worshippers, who spent long hours in prayer and worship. His mother Fatimah bint Hasan was pure and noble. Imam Zainul-Abideen (AS) called her al Siddiqua, the very truthful one. She brought up Imam Baqir (AS) in her pure lap with love and affection.

The parents rejoiced at his birth. The azaan and iqama were recited in his right and left ears and on the seventh day after his birth, aqeeqa was performed.



Imam Muhammad Baqir's titles indicate his special qualities.

Al Amin the trusted one Al Shabeeh the one who is like the Prophet Al Shakir the grateful one Al Hadi the guide Al Sabir the patient Al Shahid the proof

Al Baqir the one who splits open knowledge (brings it to light)

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) made knowledge available to the people of piety. The people called him Baqir because of his great knowledge.



"Baqir! Baqir!" called out Jabir ibn Abdullah al Ansari, one of the last surviving companions of the Apostle of Allah, sitting in the Masjid e Nabavi. People thought he was hallucinating but Jabir said, "I heard the Apostle of Allah say, 'Indeed you will meet a man who belongs to me. His name is like mine. His qualities are like mine. He will split knowledge.""

One day while Jabir was walking in the streets of Madinah he saw a young boy. Jabir called him and asked him to come near. He then asked him to turn back. Jabir asked him "What is your name?" The boy replied "Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Husayn." Jabir kissed his head and said "Your grandfather, Prophet Muhammad the Apostle of Allah sends you his greetings."He then kissed the Imam's hand then stooped to kiss his foot.

Jabir said that Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) looked like the Prophet (SAW) in his features, his manner of walking, and speech. Even in childhood he was blessed with knowledge and wisdom.



His grandfather Imam Husayn (AS) loved Imam Baqir very much and would sit him on his lap and say "Indeed Allah's Apostle sends you his greetings."

The fifth Imam was only four years old when he accompanied his grandfather, Imam Husayn (AS) to Karbala. In Muharram 61 A.H. he was an eyewitness to the event of Ashura in Karbala. He



saw how all the children and friends of Imam Husayn were martyred hungry and thirsty on the desert plain of Karbala. He was among the members of the Ahlulbayt who were taken as captives to Kufaand Shaam by the Yazeedi forces. He remembered the details of the tragedy, which left deep sorrow and pain in his soul.

On their return to Madinah, he, with his father and the sorrowful ladies, spent their time in worship and mourning for the martyrs of Karbala. When people questioned him about the tragedy of Karbala, he supplied them with all the details. The scholars wrote about 60000 books on his authority. All the books have the title, Maqtal al Husayn.

Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (AS) would advise his son urging him to do good saying, "Do good for everybody who asks you for it." Imam Muhammad Bagir (AS) loved all his brothers who had noble qualities like piety and righteousness. People across the Islamic world protested against the Ummayads and groups, like the Tawwabeen (repenters) rose against their oppressive rule. Mukhtar was released from prison and rose to power determined to avenge the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala. In 66 A.H. Mukhtar was successful in punishing Ibn Ziyad and Umar Saad for their crimes, bringing a smile to the face of the Imam.

When Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) was about seven years old, it is reported

that a man met him on his journey for Hajj. It was a dark night and the way was full of peril.

The man asked, "Where are you coming from and what is your destination?"

The young Imam replied: "I am coming from Allah and going towards Him."

"What do you take with you on this journey?"

"I take Taqwa (Piety) as my baggage on my journey."

The man was even more surprised and asked "Who are you?"

The answer was: "I am an Arab from the Qureish with Alawi descent. My name is Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Husayn ibn Ali ibn Abu Talib."



It was in 75 A.H., during the time of Abdul Malik ibn Marwan, that our fifth Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) freed Islamic money. Up till this time across many lands, Roman coinage was used. It had the symbol of the Trinity that was against Touheed. The Roman Emperor had threatened to insult the Holy Prophet on their coins.

Abdul Malik, the Abbasid Khalifa was worried and sought the advice of the Imam. The Imam was asked to come from Madinah to Damascus to help. Although Abdul Malik had previously threatened to put the Imam in prison, the Imam did not refuse help and went to Damascus. Abdul Malik received the Imam warmly and asked, "What is the solution?"

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Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) advised him to mint his own coins. He said that

coins should be made with La ilahaillallah embossed on one face and the name of Allah's Apostle, Muhammad (SAW) on the other. He then advised that the



year and place of minting be engraved. He gave detailed advice about the weight of the Dinar and Dirham coins. Following the Imam's brilliant advice, Islamic coinage was made and distributed throughout the Muslim world. Roman coins were no longer allowed. The economy was freed from Roman domination.



Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) lived through the rule of many Ummayad tyrants. He was born (57 A.H.) during the rule of Muawiya, who made life very difficult for the Shias. Then came Yazeed, who massacred Imam Husayn (AS), his family and his supporters in Karbala (61 A.H.).

After the Ahlulbayt returned to Madinah, when people rebelled against him and expelled his governor, Yazeed sent his army and killed thousands of Muslims (63 A.H.) in Madinah in the event of Harra. The house of the Ahlulbayt was the only one left out.Our fourth Imam generously offered asylum to anyone who sought his protection. Then Makkah was attacked and the Kaaba was set on fire. The carnage only stopped when news came that Yazeed had died (64 A.H.).

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Ibn Zubayr tried to hold on to power and briefly managed to control Hejaz. But Abdul Malik ibn Marwan defeated him and ruled over the Muslims from 70 A.H. to 86 A.H. He was cruel, tyrannical and wicked. He wanted to change the Qibla to Jerusalem. He appointed Hajjaj Saqafi as his governor and gave him sweeping powers. Hajjaj was cruel and merciless. He killed or put in prison thousands of innocent Muslims, especially Shias.

The Umayyad rulers spent time and money on their own interests. They sent armies to conquer other lands and ruled through fear and threats. They had no knowledge or interest in teaching even the basic concepts of Islam. There was wide spread ignorance and beliefs were shaky. They taxed the people heavily and had no mercy. They tried their best to eliminate the Shias from political life. They forged many traditions to insult the Shia and their Imam. They

put the Shias in prison and cut off their limbs.

After Abdul Malik, his cruel son Waleed became the ruler. Waleed poisoned the fourth Imam in Madinah (95 A.H.).He was also responsible for destroying the houses of the Bani Hashim near the Masjid Nabi. Threats were made to set them on fire. The Umayyads continued to abuse and insult Imam Ali (AS) from the pulpits every Friday. Yazeed ibn Abdul Malik came next and ruled the people with violence. He was shameful in his habits.

A year later when Waleed died, his brother Sulayman became the ruler in 96 A.H. He dismissed Hajjaj and set free those who were in prison. Thirty thousand innocent men and thirty thousand innocent women were found. But he was unjust in collecting taxes and harsh. He died within two and a half years.

He was followed by the rule of Umar ibn Abdul Aziz in 99 A.H. He also did not rule for long. During his short rule, he abandoned the Ummayad policy of cursing Imam Ali (AS). The land of Fadak was also returned to the family of Bibi Fatima (AS). He gave back rights to the Sadaat from the family of Imam Ali (AS). But he did not live long. Neither did the next ruler, Yazeed ibn Abdul Malik, who ruled the people with violence. He was followed by Hisham ibn Abdul Malik in 105 A.H.

Hisham was cruel, cunning and miserly. He was full of malice against the Holy Ahlulbayt. He was responsible for killing Zayd Shaheed.He also wanted to get rid of Jabir al Johfi, one of Imam Baqir's best students.



Imam Muhammad Bagir (AS) witnessed the deep grief of his father. Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (AS) throughout his life. He shared the grief and saw how the Imam continued the mission of Islam, educating his followers through dua. The continuous supplications of the Imam were a vehicle to spread the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Repeated Salawat for the Prophet and his Holy Progeny was used to remind people of the status of the Imams. Imam ZainulAbideen (AS) told the people that Allah had chosen his son Muhammad Bagir (AS) to be the next Imam after him. Then he said. "Seven of the trustees will come after him. Al Mahdi will be one of them."

Waleed, the tyrant of the day, was very jealous of the respect that people showed the Ahlulbayt. He persecuted

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the holy family and drove them out of their own houses. He poisoned Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (AS). The Imam suffered great pain. People came to visit him. He turned to his son and entrusted him to wash, shroud and bury him. He made a wish for his camel that he had used for twenty years whenever he went for Hajj and had never whipped it. The fourth Imam fainted. When he awoke, he started to recite the Quran as his soul ascended to Allah. It was the 25th Muharram 95 A.H.

Imam Baqir (AS) wept as he prepared his father for burial. He noticed the marks that remained on his father's back from the lashes he had suffered in Kufa and Shaam. He saw that his father had bruises from lifting heavy bags that he secretly carried to distribute food to the poor in Madinah. Imam Baqir (AS) buried him in Baqee, next to Imam Hasan (AS). The Holy household wept. People gathered to share his sorrow.



During the time when there was discord throughout the land, our fifth Imam was a beacon of light through his excellent example. Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) was perfect in every way. He was infallible and had all the noble qualities. Allah chose him to be our guide and leader. The Holy Prophet (SAW) had named him among the 12 Imams.

His kindness extended not only to his friends and followers but also the people who had wronged him. When they were rude to him, he treated them kindly. When a Syrian man continued to abuse the Imam's mother, Imam said

"If you are truthful, may Allah forgive her. If you are a liar, may Allah



forgive you." The man realised his error and became a follower.

The Imam showed extreme patience throughout his life. He lived through the time when his pure grandfather Imam Ali (AS) was openly cursed from the pulpits after every Friday prayer. The Imam restrained his anger and left his affairs to Allah. When the Shia had to endure prison and persecution at the hands of tyrants like Hajjaj Saqafi, the Imam was patient.

Another of his noteworthy habits was his treatment of the poor. He treated them with honour and respect. Like his father before him, he freed many slaves. He spent generously on his companions and distributed alms among the poor people of Madinah. When his companions came to visit him, he gave them not only money but also delicious food and good clothes. He liked sitting with them and welcomed them. He never

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tired of helping the believers and spending on those who came to visit him.

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) was pious and worshipped Allah with utmost sincerity. When he stood up for prayer, his skin would become pale with the fear of Allah. He spent long hours of the night in worship and his duas show his closeness to the Almighty.

His son Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) said, "My father used to praise Allah much. When I walked with him, he would remember Allah. When I ate with him, he would remember Allah. Even when he was talking to people, he would remember Allah. I heard him always praising Allah. "When he went for Hajj, people saw how humble he was as he wept by

the place of Ibraheem, near the Kaaba. He always remembered Allah and advised his children to pray and to recite the Quran.





Our fifth Imam was renowned for his knowledge. He was held in great esteem. No one had knowledge like he had in religion, life and traditions of the holy Prophet, the Quran and the practical laws of Islam.

He split open knowledge making it available to the people of piety. They relied on him when seeking knowledge of the Quran. He was like a shining star, guiding travellers through the night. Scholars much older flocked around him even when he was a young child to learn from him.

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) explained Touheed, the Oneness of Allah the Almighty, to his followers. In an era of doubt and dispute, he helped the people to understand basic Islamic concepts. Details of the Holy Prophet's campaigns

were learned from him. Men followed the practices of the Prophet on his authority and relied on him regarding the rules for Hajj. His students wrote a commentary of the Holy Quran they learnt from him.

He taught them the crucial concept of Imamate. Without the belief in the Imam, our deeds are unacceptable. To obey the Imam is essential. The Imams are the treasurers of Allah's knowledge, the right path to Allah. The Imam explained regarding rules about what is lawful and what is forbidden.



Many people came to test him with questions. They went away satisfied by his answers. He explained the answers using the verses of the Quran. He was

the first to teach the Ilm al Usool. His son, Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) continued his father's legacy and dictated the rules and regulations. Later, these rules were made up into books.

To check if a narration is authentic, the Imam said that one should compare it to the Quran and Sunnah. Only if it is in harmony, then accept; otherwise not. Another way is to check that the narrators were just and reliable.

Our fifth Imam urged Muslims to seek knowledge and praised the virtues of scholars, who guide the community. He said Allah has prepared multiple rewards for them and the scholar of whose knowledge people make use of is better than seventy thousand worshippers. He urged scholars to spread knowledge and to put their knowledge into practice.

For his followers the Shias: he wanted them to follow the guidance of the Holy

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Ahlulbayt. They should be pious and be an example for the Muslims. He said: Be truthful in your talk. Help each other. Love each other with your hearts. Give alms to the poor. Ask for the help of Allah. Be patient. Do not cheat nor betray anyone. Fulfil your promise.

Speaking about their qualities, the Imam said, "Our Shias fear Allah and obey Him. They are humble and pious. They perform their prayers and fasting. They obey their parents. They take care of the poor neighbours and the needy. They are truthful. They recite the Quran.

The Imam taught people about the Prophets. He told them details about the teachings of the Prophets, Adam, Nooh and Sulayman. He taught people about Yaqoob and Yousuf.

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He explained verses from the Quran, which describes Prophet Muhammad as Ummi to mean not that he was illiterate but that he was from Ummul Qura, Makkah. He reported many details from the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Imam Ali (AS). He related details of the Battle of Siffeen. He recalled details of the rising of his grandfather, Imam Husayn (AS).

To his companions he explained rules and regulations of daily life. He guided them to keep healthy while travelling. He summoned people to think and use their reason. He advised them to be kind and fair, and to remain cheerful. He told them to fulfil each other's needs and maintain good relations with family. He warned them against backbiting and slander. He urged them to subdue their anger and overcome their vanity. Many scholars came to Imam Baqir (AS) to study under him. He spared no effort to educate his companions. They reported many sciences on his authority. His companions became famous throughout the realm for their knowledge and wisdom. He asked his son Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) to spend money on the scholars, so that they could devote themselves to recording the traditions they had heard from him. Hundreds are mentioned in history where they benefitted directly from the Imam. They were then able to write books and spread the message of the Ahlulbayt.

The Imam's house in Madinah served as a centre of guidance. He lectured to his disciples and answered their queries. He used mass meetings like the Hajj to illuminate gatherings with his deep knowledge. His





sayings, speeches, conversations and discourses spread knowledge to all the Muslims. He was a beacon to guide people on the path of virtue. The growing knowledge among the Muslims did not suit the rulers.

The fame of the Imam's knowledge spread far and wide. People gathered around him and his son Jafar Sadiq (AS) wherever they went.

Towards the end of his reign, Hisham decided to go for Hajj. In Makkah, he saw how people surrounded Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) and his son Jafar Sadiq (AS) to learn from them. He heard how they were teaching people about Imamat. Hisham felt very jealous. He sent "difficult" questions to the Imam thinking the Imam would not be able to answer, so belittling him in public. However, he failed in his attempt as the Imam explained in detail the answer to Hisham's query.

Hisham was angry at his failure to insult the Imam publicly, but decided to postpone his plan of revenge. After returning to Syria, he ordered his governor in Madinah to send the Imam and his son Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) to Damascus, immediately. He planned to cut their communication with the people.



When the two Imams reached Damascus, Hisham wanted to insult them and did not meet them for three days. He ordered his men to be rude to Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) and to mock him. Imam Muhammad Baqir saw how the people around Hisham bowed to his whims. The Imam asked "O people, are you going where they lead you? With us Allah guided you in the beginning and will guide you at the end. The final result will be for the pious."

He continued to preach and reminded them about the virtues of Ameerul Momineen (AS) and his outstanding qualities. He praised the excellent virtues of the Ahlulbayt. Hisham was angry and sent the Imam and his son to prison. But the prisoners gathered around them, eager to learn from them.

Hisham was advised by the prison officers to send them back to Madinah.

The next day, Hisham forced the Imam to join him and the Umayyads in shooting arrows at a target. Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) said he was old now. But Hisham insisted. He wanted to embarrass the Imam as he thought the Imam being old would not be able to participate. Hisham would then be able to mock and ridicule the Imam in public. A bow and nine arrows were handed to the Imam, who took aim and shot at the target. The arrow zoomed to the centre. Hisham was surprised. The second arrow landed on the first and split it. Arrow after arrow pierced the target

right in the centre.

Hisham became angry. Hisham shouted, "O Abu Jafar you are the best



archer. But you say you have become an old man. Who taught you this archery? How long did it take you to learn? Does Jafar shoot as you do?"

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) said to him, "We inherit perfection from each other."Hisham burst into anger.

"Are we not the children of Abd Manaf? Is our lineage not the same?"

"We are so. However, Allah has singled us out with His hidden secret and pure knowledge. He singled out no one except us."The Imam replied

"How?" demanded the tyrant angrily. "You are not prophets."

Imam Muhammad Baqir explained the close relationship between the Prophet and Imam Ali (AS) in the sight of Allah. He said, Allah commanded the Prophet to teach Ali his secret knowledge. The Prophet said: Ali is from me and I am from Ali."

Hisham bowed his head. He told the Imam "Do not stay here any more. Go." He let the Imam return to Madinah



The journey back to Madinah was long and hard. Hisham was afraid and jealous of the Imam's popularity and ordered that no shop be open for him to buy food or water on the way. His intention was to kill the Imam through starvation and thirst. People were so afraid of the Ummayyad tyrant that no one was willing to sell even food and water to the Imam.

As he travelled towards Madinah, Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) came across a big crowd of people waiting by a hillside.



Once every year, a from the hillside monastery would come down to preach to the people. The Imam waited with the crowd. The monk, who was very old, ap-



peared. He looked around and his eyes rested on the Imam.

The monkasked "Are you one ofus or are you from the Ummat e Marhooma?" The Imam replied "I am from the Ummat e Marhooma."

"Are you among the learned or the ignorant?"he asked

The Imam replied "I am not of the ignorant."

Then the monkasked "Have you come to ask me any guestions?"

The Imam said "No"

The monk said "Can I ask you?"

The Imam replied, "Sure!"

The monk put his questions and the Imam answered each time:

Q: What is that period of timewhich is neither in the day or night?

A: It is the time of dawn, between Fajr and Sunrise when even those who are sick feel better at that hour.

Q: You say no one will need to empty their bowels in Heaven. Is there a similar example from life in this world? A:it is like the condition of the baby in its mother's womb.

Q:There will be no lessening of bounties in Heaven. How?

A: It is like lighting candle from another candle without decreasing the glow of the first.

Q: Two people were born on the same day and also died on the same day. But one was 50 years old and the other was 150 years. How?

A: They were Azeez and Uzair who are mentioned in the Quran. One of the twin brothers wasmade to die for a hundred years then resurrected to die with his brother a second time. One had lived for 50 years and the other 150 years.

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The Christian monk was amazed at the Imam's knowledge and declared: No one has the right to speak when there are such men of knowledge. Direct your questions to him. I declare my faith in him and am becoming a Muslim."

Imam Muhammad Baqir's journey continued and the fame of his knowledge spread far and wide.

As they crossed the desert, the conditions became worse. Hisham forbid the Syrians to make any contact. The Imam at one place in the journey stood up and said, "Ana Baqiatullah." He reminded them who he was. An old man stood and advised the people, "Brothers, listen! This is the place where Prophet Shoaib had cursed the people and if you do not help the Imam, you will be punished by Allah." Hearing him, people went to the Imam and opened their doors for him. He arrived back in Madinah after a long journey.



Hisham heard of the failure of his attempts to end the Imam's life. Hisham decided to poison the Imam. He senta poisoned saddle and forced the Imamto ride it. The poison seeped through the body. The Imam felt his death was near. He went to meet his aunt Fatimah, the daughter of Imam Husayn (AS). He called his son Jafar Sadia (AS) and told his followers that Jafar Sadia (AS) would be the next Imam after him: "He is the best of creatures." He enjoined Jafar (AS) to shroud him in the cloak that he had used for salat. He advised that money was spent on the scholars so that they devote themselves to seeking knowledge.

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) made a special request that he be mourned for the next ten years during the season of Hajj in Mina. He left 800 dirhams specifically for this purpose. He wanted people to know about his martyrdom and to realise the oppression of the Umayyad rulers. Mina was a place where people from all over the world gathered for Hajj. When the women would weep for the Imam, questions would be asked. The Umayyads would not be able to hide the murder of the Imam.

The poison acted quickly and the Imam began reciting the Quran. Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) breathed his last on the 7th day of Zilhaj 114 A.H. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) prepared his father's body for burial. His family wept and cried for him. In loud echoes of Allahu Akbar, people gathered and walked in their hundreds to Baqee. A grave was dug next to Imam Zain-ul-Abideen's. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) tearfully buried his fifty-seven-year-old father. Muslims condoled with him and praised his father's virtues.



When Allah gives you a blessing, say Alhamdulillah.

When you travel, be careful of the one who you know. Do not accompany the one you do not know.

The tongue is the key of all good and evil.

Ask the advice of those who fear Allah. Kindness to friends is the best help in the world.

Our followers obey Allah who has hidden His pleasure in His obedience.

Ask Allah for help and He will help you. Regard the good deed as small.do it quickly and conceal it. Lying destroys faith.



Salam on youo Muhammad Bagir, the splitter of knowledge Salam on you my Master, the son of the Apostle of Allah Salam on youo the Imam of guidance Salam on you the best model of Piety Salam on you the maintainer of justice Salam on you o the possessor of excellence Salam on you the chosen of Allah's servants Salam on you o revealer of the knowledge of Prophets Salam on you o leader of the Pious Ones Peace and Mercy of Allah be with you.

Imam Jafar Sadiq(AS)





Our sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) was born on the 17thRabiulaval 83 A.H. in Madinah, the city of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He shares the same date as the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) for his birth. We celebrate them as the Sadiqayn.



His father is our fifth Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), who had an important role in spreading knowledge and wisdom to develop the human mind. His mother is Umm Farwa, the daughter of Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr. She was a lady full of nobility and virtue that she imbibed from her pious father. She learned details of Islamic rules from her husband Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), who treated her with respect and affection.

When Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) was born, the midwife took the baby to his grandfather Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (AS). Our fourth Imam was very happy and took the baby in his arms. He recited the azaan in the baby's right ear and iqama in the left ear. The midwife commented "The baby has beautiful blue eyes." The fourth Imam said, "His eyes look like my mother's eyes."



Our sixth Imam was named Jafar and his most well known kunniyat was Abu Abdullah. His most famous title is Sadiq, which means the Truthful. His words were always true, hence the title

Sadiq This title was mentioned by the Holy Prophet himself



Other titles that he is remembered by are Sabir, the Patient Fadhil the Virtuous Tahir the Pure Kafeel the Supporter (of the needy) Munji the Saviour, guiding people to the Truth Amoud Sharaf the Pole of Honour, the pride and glory of Muslims.



Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) even as a child had knowledge given by Allah.He helped his father Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) in establishing the centre of learning in Madinah. He was hardly ten years old when Waleed, the Umayyad ruler noted his presence among the scholars.

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) answered queries from the ruler, who was amazed at the Imam's intelligence. The young Imam rejected the theory of the rotation of the Sun, Moon and planets around the Earth.

A year later he rejected Aristotle's theory of the Four Elements and was the first person to talk about the presence of what is now known as Oxygen. He also spoke about the origin of the Universe, like his grandfather Imam Ali (AS) before him. The Imam's knowledge of languages was spectacular. People from different parts of the world learned from the young Imam who was able to explain to them in their own language. Some were from Khurasan, others from Abyssinia. Some spoke in Hebrew, others in Nabatean, Sicilian or Farsi in addition to Arabic. He knew all languages.

When the Imam was about seven years old, smallpox spread in Madinah and his mother took him with her to a place called Tanfasah. She herself then caught the disease and was keen to prevent him getting it so sent him away. When Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) heard of her illness, he prayed for her recovery at the grave of his grandfather Prophet Muhammad (SAW) before visiting her. Allah accepted his dua and Umm Farwa recovered. All of them returned safe and well to Madinah.

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) grew up under the radiance of his grandfather Ali Za-

inulabideen (AS). He observed how he spent his days in fasting and worshipping Allah through the night. He saw his grandfather in the dead of night carrying food secretly to feed the poor. He found him shedding tears for Karbala and reciting duasat every occasion. But alas his grandfather Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (AS) was poisoned by Waleed when our sixth Imam was only twelve years old.

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) watched in grief his father bury his grandfather in Baqee. People came to condole and our fifth Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) continued to spread the message of Islam.



The next nineteen years of the Imam's life were spent with his father Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), one of the shining stars of the Prophet's Holy Household. The Umayyad rulers during their time were cruel, unjust and ruthless. They were jealous of the Ahlulbayt and made life difficult for the Imams and their followers.

However, when the Umayyads were engrossed in their military exploits, it gave the Imams a chance to further the spread of knowledge among the Muslims. The school established by Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) and developed by Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) in Madinah attracted many students from far and wide.

He performed the Hajj several times, teaching rites and leading people in this

worship. When Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)



went for Hajj in 113 A. H. people witnessed a miracle of the Imam. When he prayed at Koh e

Abu Qubais and bowed in sajda, Allah sent him grapes and two robes that he gave away in charity.

Imamat

In 114 A.H. the Imam's father Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) was martyred through poison, sent by Hisham ibn Abdul Malik. The period of Imamat of Jafar Sadiq (AS) started and lasted for thirty-four years.

Imam Sadiq (AS) carried on the message of the Prophet and the previous Imams. He took over the leadership of the nation and filled the world with his knowledge. He extended the limits and expanded learning to produce great scholars in various subjects. He made plain the Quranic teachings. He defended Islamic beliefs and explained the

doctrine of Touheed, the Oneness of God. He maintained justice and guided people with wisdom and knowledge.

The number of his students who benefited directly from him number over 4000. Among them were great scholars and narrators who became leaders and chiefs of some of the schools of thought. They came from far and wide and when they returned to their homelands, they extended the Islamic culture and established schools. Kufa, for example, became a leading centre of learning. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) motivated his students to document his lessons. He advised his student Jabir ibn Hayyan on how to create a fireproof book.

The Umayyads not only oppressed the family of the Prophet but others too. Finally people, good and bad, wanted to get rid of their rule. The Umayyads also started fighting within themselves. The Banu Abbas used the name of the Ahlulbayt to get people incline towards them. Al Saffah became the next ruler, but it was the end of corrupt rule only to be followed by oppression. Once the Umayyads were defeated the Banu Abbas turned their attention to control and harass the family of the Prophet.

When the fall of the Umayyad power was becoming apparent, many rebellions were seen across the Muslim lands. The Imam withdrew from open confrontation as he knew the final outcome. The slogans were false and the call was unreal. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) kept away from these uprisings and concentrated in developing education among his followers. He made the scholars boycott and oppose the unjust rulers through raising their awareness.

Some of his own followers were at times impatient and approached the Imam. One day a man called Sahlvisited the Imam and said "Why don't you rise when there are thousands of your Shia who

will follow your orders?" Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) asked for the furnace to be lighted and said to Sahl "Enter the furnace" Sahl was shocked and said "O my Master, I take back my words!"

Just then, Haroon Makki a sincere and

devoted follower of the Imam happened to be passing by. The Imam called Haroon and asked him to take his shoes off and enter the fur-



nace. Haroon immediately obeyed the Imam and entered the lighted furnace. The Imam continued talking to Sahl asking him about different issues. Sahl was getting worried thinking about Haroon.

The Imam said to him, "Get up and look inside the furnace." Sahl was amazed to see that Haroon was sitting comfortably inside the furnace, surrounded but untouched by the fiery flames. "How many men are there like Haroon?" the Imam asked. Sahl replied "By Allah not a single one." The Imam said, "Do remember we are well aware when we should have an uprising."

The sixth Imam Jafar Sadig (AS) had ten children. He had seven sons and three daughters. His eldest son was Ismail. The Imam loved him very much and was very kind to him. But Ismail died during his father's lifetime. Imam Sadig (AS) was very sad. The Imam wanted to show his followers that Ismail had died. When Ismail was being taken for burial in Bagee, his face was uncovered. Then Imam Sadig kissed his forehead his chin and his neck. Then he did this again. After his shrouding, the Imam again kissed him and recited verses of the Quran. He gathered his companions to witness that Ismail had died. Again after the burial he made people witness it once more.

The Imam pointed to his son Musa Kazim (AS) when he was still a child and told his followers "This child Musa Kazim (AS) is the most blessed one for our followers." At the time of Ismail's funeral, Imam Sadiq (AS) took Musa Kazim (AS) by the hand and said to his followers "He is the Truth and the Truth will be with him till Allah inherits the Earth."



Al Saffah, the first Abbasid ruler was in power for only four years. During this time the Imam moved from Yathrib to Kufa and stayed in al Hira. People came to him to seek knowledge. Kufa became one of the centres of Islamic learning. The people of Iraq loved the Imam and saw for themselves his outstanding merits and noble qualities. Some, who had not believed in him before, were guided when they met him.

When Mansur became the ruler, hesummoned Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) again and again to Iraq. His intention was to limit the influence of the Imam. But the effect on the people of Iraq was the opposite The Imam during his visits was able to reveal the importance of the Ahlulbayt. Imam Jafar Sadig (AS) made several visits to Najaf and showed the location of the grave of Ameer-ul-Momineen Imam Ali (AS) to his followers. He explained to his companions why the grave had to remain hidden for so long. It had been hidden for many years because of the enmity of the Banu Marwan and the Kharijites. The Imam brought his companions with him in each visit. He gave money to his companion Safwaan to build the grave. He taught his followers the etiquette of ziarat and what to recite. He smelt the fragrance of the grave and shed tears. He spoke about the rewards from Allah for those who perform the ziarat.

There is a named niche (mihrab) for our sixth Imam in the grand mosque of Kufa, near the grave of Hazrat Muslim ibn Aqeel (AS). His muqaam in Masjid Sahla is in the centre of the mosque.

One day when the Imam was in Kufa, one of his followers called Bashar came

to him. He said that there was a woman who was shouting for help as soldiers hit her, but no one was helping her. The Imam asked the reason for her arrest. Bashar said he heard the people say that as she stumbled, she had said "May Allah curse those who had oppressed Fatima (AS)." On hearing this, Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) immediately stopped eating the dates before him and started to weep. He went with Bashar to the Masjid Sahla to pray for the woman's release. He recited two

rakat namaz and a dua. Such was the effect of the Imam's dua that it was granted immediately by Allah. As they came out of the masjid, a man came and told them the woman had been released.



The Imam sent her some money for her and his salams. Even today people recite the dua and seek their needs. There is a place in Karbala on the northern side of Imam Husayn's shrine, which bears the name of the sixth Imam. He used to reside here when he visited the tomb of his grandfather. He would perform ghusl with the water of the river Euphrates which flowed nearby before going to the mazaar.

The Imam would pray for the protection of pilgrims to the grave of Imam Husayn (AS). He explained that these pilgrims receive duas from the holy Panjatan and the infallible Imams. He recommended that a pilgrim to Karbala goes in humility and simplicity, glorifying the Almighty. It is better to offer all the prayers in the shrine as Allah accepts them by the Imam's graveside. Allah fulfils our needs there. Thousands of angels are sent by Allah toencircle the holy grave night and day.



Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) spared no effort to lead people towards guidance and piety. He was generous, brave, eloquent and kind. He welcomed his guests and fed them with love and attention. He gave them gifts.

Generosity

At night he carried bags full of bread, meat and money on his shoulder, secretly, to distribute among the needy people of Madinah. He sent secret gifts to his relatives in Iraq who were not even aware of the donor's identity. They only found out after his death who their benefactor was.

One day a man, who was visiting Madinah, wrongly accused Imam Sadiq (AS) of stealing his bag of coins. The Imam asked him:"What was in your bag?" "One thousand dinars" replied the man. So the Imam took him home and gave him and gave him 1000 dinars. The man a little later found his bag and wanted to return the money to the Imam. But the Imam would not take his money that he had given away. It was distributed among the poor.

Worship

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) spent his time in worship and prayer. He read the Quran continuously. When he reached Miqaat on the way to perform Hajj, people saw that the Imam, as he recited "Labbayk Allahuma Labbayk," was shaking in awe of being in front of Allah in the holy land. Even on his deathbed, his last words were about Allah as he reminded his family never to take prayers lightly.

Piety

His clothes were simple and he worked hard, tilling the soil with his own hands. People were amazed to see him with a spade in his hand. The Imam told them

he liked to taste the hardship of working under the hot sun.

When he went out he put on clean andcostly clothes. An ignorant hypocrite stopped him and asked how he was wearing expensive soft clothes. The Imam then showed him that his underneath garment was rough. The man who was critical was only deceiving others as he hid his own soft clothes under a rough exterior.

Sharing

Once there was a shortage of wheat in Madinah. Rich people were stockpiling grain in their houses. The poor were suffering. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) asked his servant how much wheat they had in the house. The Imam said to him: "Take it to the market and sell it." The servant said "But Master we will be forced to buy it at a higher cost later." The Imam told him; "Do what I have said. The bread in my house should be no different from that of the masses." The Imam shared whatever he had with his guests and the poor. Once in Mina when he was eating grapes with his friends, a poor man approached them and asked for the grapes. The Imam gave him some. The man said "Shukranallah". The Imam gave him some more. The man said "Shukranallah." The Imam gave him twenty coins. The man thanked the Imam and went on his way.

Patience

The Imam was always patient and forbearing in his difficulties. He was very sad when he witnessed the cruel and brutal acts of the ruler against the progeny of Imam Hasan (AS). His eyes brimmed with tears. He sent a letter to console them telling them about his worry and anxiety. He prayed for them and advised them to show patience using the words of the Quran and examples of the Prophets, when facing difficulties.



Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) was the most learned of his time. He had knowledge about the events of the past and the future. Divine knowledge was a gift from Allah to our Imams. They were perfect in knowledge. Unlike other Imams who were forced to spend long years in prison, our sixth Imam was able to spread his knowledge. People were able to learn from him and at one time, his students learning directly from him numbered 4000. These students were also able to write down what they learnt in books. This knowledge then spread to other places.

Some of these scholars collected the Imam's words about the rules of Usool. They quoted directly from the Masoom. Four hundred companions of the Imam learnt from him. The Imam had deep

knowledge of the Quran from the beginning to the end.

Imam Jafar Sadiq taught his followers to lead an orderly life and to have full faith in Allah. He did not favour renouncing the world but to obey Allah, not neglecting the duties towards family and people around you.

Many discussions were held on a daily basis where not only Muslims but atheists, Jews, Christians came to debate with the Imam but went away defeated by his arguments. During this period, the rulers encouraged new divisions among the people; but the Imams were able to clarify doubts and bring light to their understanding. Within the folds of Islam, new sects were actively encouraged but the sixth Imam was able to refute wrong practices and ideas. He knew the language of the birds and understood it. Subjects taught by the Imam included not only Islamic thought and practical rules, but also Astronomy, Physics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Science, Botany, Chemistry, Medicine, Geography, Gemmology and many other areas. There were more than four thousand pupils who studied under them.

In his Academy for teaching Physics, Chemistry and Science, there was a small laboratory, so that the theories could be tested. In Physics he explained the Law about opaque and transparent materials saying materials that are solid and absorbent are opaque and materials that are solid and repellent are transparent. When he was asked about what is absorbed by opaque materials, he said HEAT.

His theory of Light explained that light reflected by different objects comes to us but only a part of it enters our eyes. It was this theory that later led to the making of binoculars and the telescope. He also said that objects are always in motion although we may not see it. He said different parts of the earth are always moving, but this movement is so slow that you do not feel it. The Imam in answering one of his students said that sound also has motion but the speed of sound is slower than the speed of light.

In the field of Medicine, the Imam guided his followers in many ways. He said diseases spread from one person to another through rays from a sick person. This has been proved through experiments. He advised mothers to put their new born babies to sleep on their left side. The babies were found to be more comfortable as babies were used to listening to their mother's heart beat if they were lying on the left side.

He described the circulation of blood within our body. He said to one of his pupils that the blood "makes a full cir-

cuit of your body. If circulation stops, you will die."



The Imam described the Water Cycle to explain how rain falls. The rain does not fall itself. First the water vapour rises and gathers above in the atmosphere in the form of clouds. The winds bring the clouds. Then the water vapour condenses and falls as raindrops.

He spoke about Air. Without the presence of air, no grass will grow and get green. If there is no air, all plants and animals including humans will die.

In Astronomy, the Imam's knowledge was amazing. He said there are stars brighter than the Sun. Each star is a small universe within the great universe.

He spoke of big worlds and small worlds, which are countless.



They are in constant motion. He said that the Universe is constantly changing.

Allah is the Creator and Guardian of the Universe and has made everlasting laws for it.





More than 4000 reliable narrators of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) have been named. They learned various subjects directly from the Imam. Some like Abu Hanifa and Malik ibn Anas studied under the Imam but then went away to start their own schools of Figh.

The sincere followers of the Imam were reliable and spread the true message of Islam. Some were specialist in the Tafseer of the Quran and classified the unusual words giving examples to explain.

Abu Hamza Shumali was blessed by a long life and has reported from four of our Twelve Imams. He has reported the long dua for Ramadhan, taught to him by Imam Zain-ul-Abideen. Imam Jafar Sadiq was always happy to meet him. Jabir al Jofi learnt and narrated seventy thousand Hadees from the fifth and sixth Imams. He was held in high esteem among the people but the Abbasid ruler Mansoor sent orders to behead him. To protect his life the Imam advised Jabir to feign madness. He started to play with children on the reeds in the mosque. When they saw that he looked crazy, they left him alone and so his life was saved.

Zurara was outstanding. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) has described him as one whose name is among the names of the people of Paradise. He declared the Truth publicly and was the greatest man in Shia jurisprudence.

Safwaan Jammal was a true follower of Imam Sadiq (AS) and Imam Kazim (AS) and served them sincerely. He was a great reliable narrator.

Abid Allah Najashi was a governor in Ahwaz and wrote a letter to the Imam

asking for advice. The Imam's letter in reply has valuable guidelines.

Ali ibn Yaqteen reported traditions from the sixth and seventh Imams. He was later a minister when Haroon Abbasi was the ruler. He remained a devoted follower of the Ahlulbayt. He fulfilled the needs of the followers of the Imam and a shelter for them among his enemies.



Abu Basir was a reliable companion of Imam Sadiq (AS) who restored him his eyesight. He had also been a companion of our fifth Imam. we have

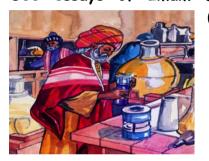
many correct traditions on his authority.

Mufaddal had abundant knowledge and virtue. Imam Sadiq (AS) and Imam Kazim (AS) both appointed him as their deputy to collect Khums and Zakat for

them. It shows his honesty and reliability.

Jabir ibn Hayyan came from Yemen and was a brilliant disciple of the Imam. In the company of Imam Baqir (AS) and Imam Sadiq (AS) he became an expert. He wrote a 1000 page book in which he collected 500 essays of Imam Jafar

Sadiq Jabir Hayyan known the Faof Chemis-



(AS). ibn is as ther

try.

He was also an expert in Logic. He also wrote books on Physics, Astronomy and Medicine.



Mansur Abbasi was a cruel tyrant. He was known for his miserliness. He was very stingy and did not like to spend on anyone. He was jealous of the holy progeny of the Prophet. He was bent on making life very hard for them and their followers. He treated them with cruelty and put them in prison. He left them to die in dark prisons in Iraq and made them face ugly death. Mansur even buried some of them alive in the walls of his new city, Baghdad.

Mansur was brutal in his attitude to the people of Madinah. He deprived them and tortured them. He set spies on them. They were forcibly taken from Madinah and had to travel through the desert hand-cuffed in iron chains. They had to dismount their camels and bereft of their clothes. They were lashed and

beaten. Imam Sadiq (AS) was very sad to see this situation.

Mansur forced Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) to come to Baghdad from Madinah. He

intended to kill the Imam but started to shiver and changed his mind when the Imam came. He sent the Imam back to Madinah; but sent orders to his governor there to set fire to the Imam's house. The



house was set on fire. The Imam came out of the house saying "O fire! I am the son of Ibraheem Khaleelullah." The Imam was deeply sad as he recalled the fire that had raged in Karbala on the day of Ashoor.

Mansur then ordered that the Imam not to be allowed to meet the people. This was very hard for the Imam and the scholars. He summoned the Imam again to Iraq. As the Imam reached the tyrant's court, he saw that Mansur was

angry. A small fly was circling his face and Mansur was getting flustered. He angrily demanded, "Tell me, why did Allah create flies?" The Imam said: "To

belittle the tyrants of this world. They can't even control a fly. "Mansur was speechless.



Mansur made seven attempts on the Imam's life. Once Mansur called the Imam to his palace in the dead of night. He had his men ready to pounce on the Imam with their sharp swords. When the Imam arrived, the men dropped their swords and fell at his feet. Seeing this Mansur said "O the son of the Prophet! Why did you come at this time of the night?" The Imam answered: "You ordered your men to bring me here and now you ask me why I have come!" Mansur said: "Go home." The Imam returned to Madinah. One day in a fit of rage Mansur sent his courtier Rabee to bring the Imam to him. He had made up his mind to kill the Imam. Rabee was frightened for the Imam's life. When the Imam came he was reciting something, under his breath. When Mansur's eyes fell on the Imam, his attitude changed. He calmed downand lifted the Imam's hand. "I witness you are Sadiq," said the tyrant. The Imam left. Rabee was astonished and later asked the Imam what he had been reciting. The Imam taught the dua to Rabee. It is known as Dua e Man-iulQatl. Another time, Mansur sat with a iron rod in his hand ready to attack the Imam; but when the Imam came, he stood up and greeted him. He then asked his servants to bring gifts and perfume for the Imam. Rabee said to the Imam "O son of the Prophet I was sure he would kill you. I saw you moving your lips when you entered. The Imam replied, "Having Allah is sufficient for us. Having Allah who is the best supporter is enough for me, over all other

lords. "Allah the Almighty rescued the Imam from the malice of the tyrant. Rabee memorised the prayer and kept it with him to be.

Later Rabee asked Mansur what prevented him from killing the Imam. Mansur made Rabee check that there was no one in the house before he replied to the query. Then he threatened Rabee if anyone found out what he was about to tell him; he would kill Rabee. Mansur then said that every time he raised his hand to kill Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS), he saw the holy Prophet looking angrily at him and this scared him.

Mansur sent his men to once again fetch the Imam by force from Yathrib to Kufa. He had a man ready to hit the Imam on his neck to kill him but again was unable to do so. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) returned home to Madinah.

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After returning to Madinah, Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) was martyred by poison on the orders of Mansur. He had intense pain in his stomach and knew that the last moments were close.

The Imam sent for his wife Hamida and gathered all his children and relatives and told them his death was near. He told them "Our intercession will not reach those who take prayer lightly." He divided his property among his blood relatives. He recited verses from the Holy Quran and glanced at his son Musa Kazim for the last time. It was the 15th day of Shawwal 148 A.H. His children wept.

He made a will and nominated five people as his successors. The reason for this became apparent when Mansur sent orders that the person nominated by

the Imam as successor be killed. Mansur's name was the first!

Imam Musa Kazim (AS) with a broken heart and tearful eyes washed and shrouded his father's body. He performed the prayer with thousands of believers and buried him in Jannat ul-Baqee next to his father. A lamp was lit every night in remembrance of the Imam.

There is great merit in visiting the graves of our Imams. Imam Sadiq (AS) said "Whoever visits me, Allah will forgive him his sins and he will never die poor." Our eleventh Imam Hasan Askari (AS) said, "Whoever visits Jafar or his father, his eye will never complain [of any illness], no illness will hit him, and will not die inflicted."

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Knowledge is a lock and its key is the question.

Anger is the key of every evil.

Thank him who bestows on you and bestow upon him who thanks you.

To forbid generosity is mistrust in Allah.

Make yourself gentle, make your words good and receive your brother with cheerfulness.

The tax of knowledge is to spread it. Allah should not see you in situations against which He warned and miss you where He ordered.

Saying Salam is voluntary but responding is necessary.

Good mannersis part of religion.

Respect the elderly and be kind to the children.

Wash your hands before and after eating.







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Words to look for

Jafar Sadiq Madinah Baqee Abwa Iraq Ziarat Musa Kazim stars Sun quasar Medicine light Physics Astronomy Geology Biology students Chemistry Jurisprudence Mansoor fire



Salam on you O Imam Jafar Sadig (AS) Salam on you the Imam of the world Salam on you O secure and lasting Link of Allah Salam on you O strong Rope of Allah Salam on you O the bright Light of Allah Salam on you O the Truthful Salam on you O Treasurer of Allah's Knowledge Salam on you O true Inviter of people towards Allah Salam on you the son of the Apostle of Allah May the blessings of Allah be upon you.



- 1. When and where was Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) born?
- 2. How old was he in Karbala?
- 3. What message did Jabir ibn Abdullah bring for him?
- 4. What was his advice about Islamic coinage?
- 5. What made Hisham jealous of the Imam?
- 6. How was he martyred?
- 7. Who is the sixth Imam?
- 8. Where did he establish his centre of learning?
- 9. What were the subjects he taught?
- 10. How many students were there who learned from him?
- 11. How many times did Mansur try to kill the Imam?
- 12. Where are both Imams buried?

Title :Let's learn about Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

Author: Sakina Hasan Askari Publisher: Aftab Graphics Pages: 88 Copies: 300 ISBN: 81-88823-19-8



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