

Imam Ali Naqui(AS) and Imam Hasan Askari(AS)

Let's learn about

Imam Ali Naqui (AS)

Imam Hasan Askari (AS)



Written for children
by Sakina Hasan Askari

For my grandchildren

Muhammad Ali

Nur-Fatima

Sakina Zahra

Mohsin

Zahra

Aadil

Fatimah

Mehdi

Hasan

This book will help you
to learn about

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) and Imam Hasan Askari (AS)

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Introduction



Allah sent twelve Imams after the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to guide us. The twelve Imams are the lights of Allah, selected by the Almighty to protect the message of Islam. They are the sons of Prophet Muhammad (SAW), from the line of Imam Ali (AS), the Commander of the faithful and Bibi Fatima (AS), his only daughter.

They are the guardians of the faithful, the best of Allah's creation. Free from sin and defects, they are perfect. They are the bright stars that show us the way. They are Allah's chosen guides. They had knowledge and

wisdom given by Allah. Obedience to them is obeying the Prophet, so obeying Allah.

In this book we will learn about Imam Ali Naqui (AS), our tenth Imam and his son Imam Hasan Askari (AS), our eleventh Imam. Both lived through the time of many cruel Abbasid rulers. They were both forced to leave Madinah and were brought to Samarra and either put in prison or under house arrest. In spite of hardship, both the holy Imams used every opportunity to spread the true message of Islam.

We pray to Allah to guide us through our Imams and to gather us under the command of the Twelfth Imam Mahdi (AS).

Imam Ali Naqui (AS)





Birth



Our tenth Imam Ali Naqui (AS), was born on 15th Zilhij, 212 A.H. in Surba, near Madinah. His father is our ninth Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS), who through his knowledge and genius astonished the world. His mother was Bibi Samana Khatoon (AS) from the family of Ammar Yasir, a sincere companion of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). She was pious and God-fearing and fasted by day all through the year.

Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) named his son Ali. His kunniyat was Abul Hasan. He was like Imam Ali (AS) not only in name but also in eloquence and piety.

When the baby was born, Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) recited the azaan in his right ear and iqama in the left. On the seventh day, his aqeeqa was performed. Silver as much as the weight of the baby's hair was given to the poor. A ram was sacrificed for the aqeeqa. The Imam prayed to Allah for his son's safety, for his protection against all evil, from far and from near. He sought refuge by the Glory and the Might of Allah.





Titles



Imam Ali Naqui (AS) had many titles that show his high qualities.

Naqui the Pure

Hadi the Guide

Nasih the Loyal, the sincere advisor

Murtuza being pleased with, by Allah

Aalim the most knowledgeable in all branches of learning

Tayyib the generous, good hearted,

Rasheed the wise, the prudent

Ameen trustee on religion and life

Shaheed the martyr

Askari Like his son, he was also known as Askari, because he lived in Samarra, which was known as Al Askar.



Childhood

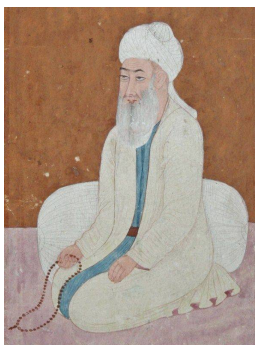


The Imam's family was known for their noble conduct, high morals and virtues. He grew up under the care of his father, Imam Muhammad Taqui-al-Jawad (AS), who loved and admired him. Imam Ali Naqui (AS) was named as his successor and although still a child, he was given the holy relics and books. Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS) told his followers, "After me your Imam will be Ali Naqui and you should remain patient."

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) was barely six years old, when he was separated from his father, who was forced by Mutasim the Abbasid ruler to leave Madinah. The ninth

Imam was taken to Baghdad and within a year he was poisoned and killed at the young age of twenty-five.

The Abbasid ruler, Mutasim then sent one of his men to go to Madinah and hire a teacher for Imam Ali Naqui (AS). The eighty-year-old scholar, Junaidi, an enemy of the AhlulBayt, was sent for and appointed. Strict orders were given to him to prevent Shias from visiting and contacting the young Imam.



Junaidi started to “teach” but was astounded at the depth and range of knowledge of his student. He

soon realised that the young Imam's knowledge could only be from Allah.

When asked how the boy was, Junaidi replied, "Do you say boy and not this Sheikh? He is the best of the inhabitants of this earth and the best of the creatures of Allah. He knows the Quran from the beginning to the end and knows its revelation and interpretation. How did he get this wide knowledge at his young age! He has more knowledge than I have. Glory be to Allah."

Junaidi gave up his enmity towards the AhlulBayt and believed in the Imam's holy status.



Merits



During the time that Imam Ali Naqui (AS) spent in Madinah, he was able to spread knowledge and educate people in the rules of Islam. He opened and established schools in Madinah and taught people in the manner of his great grandfather, Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS).

He inherited the **knowledge** and **generosity** of his forefathers. He spent his nights in prayer. He gave food out of love for Allah to the poor and needy. He comforted them in sorrow and joy and showed kindness to the young and old. He cared for widows and orphans.

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) was asked by one of his followers to show him a Ziyarat that he could recite when visiting any of the Imam's shrines. The Imam taught him the **Ziyarat e Jamia Kabeera**. Through its words, we can recognise the high status of Imamah. It points to the virtues and qualities of the Masoomeen. They are the core of mercy, the doors to true faith, the lanterns in darkness, the centres of Allah's blessing.

Another famous ziyarat taught by Imam Ali Naqui (AS) is for Imam Ali (AS) on the day of **Ghadeer**. He recited it when he visited the holy shrine in Najaf. This Ziyarat mentions the merits of our first Imam Ali (AS). It is a lesson in history. The Ziyarat relates how Maula Ali (AS) participated with

the Prophet in all the wars, holding the banner of Islam. It reminds us how he slept in the Prophet's bed to save him in Shab e Hijrat, by being ready to sacrifice his own life. It narrates how Imam Ali (AS) had to battle against rebels in Basra and Siffeen and Nahrwan. It ends with our pledge to keep away from the enemies of the AhlulBayt.

Once when he was ill, the Imam asked one of his followers to go to **Karbala** and pray for him at the shrine of Imam Husayn (AS). They were surprised that the one, while he himself had the same status, was making this request. The Imam said, "The Messenger of Allah was better than the Kaaba and the Hajr Aswad; but he went around the Kaaba and

kissed the Rock."Allah has places He likes to be worshipped in and He responds to whoever prays to Him there. Al Haa'ir (Karbala) is one of these places."

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) honoured people of knowledge and intellect and welcomed them. He said that our Ulema are the guardians of the faith and the leaders of the community.

Our tenth Imam was the best and most truthful of people. The Alawids (sadaat from the line of Imam Ali), even though some of them were older in age, showed him great respect. The son of Imam Musa Kazim (AS) would sit before him to learn from him and honour him.



Mutawakkil



Mutawakkil, the Abbasid ruler, was evil and cruel, the Yazid of his time. He was a deadly enemy of the AhlulBayt. He had no morals and spent his time in pursuit of pleasure. During his rule, anyone who displeased him was killed. He spent the wealth of the Muslims on his own whims.

He tried to prevent people going for ziarat to Karbala. He threatened to put people in prison if they made the journey. He posted soldiers around the grave of Imam Husayn (AS). He even cut off limbs of those who made the journey. But this still did not prevent the Shia from going for ziarat.

Mutawakkil then decided to destroy the grave of Imam Husayn (AS). He attempted to drown it by changing the direction of the river flow. But the water circled round the holy grave. He then tried to demolish it and plough the land for crops, but the cattle used for ploughing the holy land stopped and would not go any further.

The governor of Madinah, jealous of the Imam's knowledge and popularity wrote to Mutawakkil the Abbasid ruler in Samarra. The cunning ruler immediately sent a letter to "invite" the Imam to leave Madinah and join him in Samarra. He sent 300 of his soldiers under Yahya Harsama to escort the Imam from Madinah.



Leaving Madinah

Mutawakkil sent Yahya to search the Imam's house in Madinah to look for arms and money. But Yahya found nothing except copies of the Quran and books of dua. When people heard about the raid on the Imam's house in the middle of the night, they started to weep. They were told the Imam would not be hurt.

There were no weapons or arms, as had been reported. The only money they found was a bag of

coins that had been sent to the Imam by Mutawakkil's own mother with her seal on it, still in tact. When asked by Mutawakkil, his mother told him that she had sent the Imam the bag of coins. It was to thank him for giving the prescription which had cured Mutawakkil of his severe illness.

Mutawakkil's aim in calling the Imam from Madinah was to watch him closely and to deprive him from spreading the true message of Islam.



Samarra



The Journey through the desert

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) was forced to leave Madinah, the city of his grandfather the Holy Prophet. Although it was summer time, Imam Ali Naqui (AS) told his fellow travellers to take warm clothes with them for the journey. Some people laughed.

They started their long journey, which took them through the desert. Mutawakkil's soldiers ridiculed one of the Imam's followers, who had said that there was a Hadees reported from Imam Ali (AS): "Allah will raise several men from their graves from every land." They looked at the barren desert and said to him "So your

Imam has said that there are graves everywhere! In this desert too?" The Abbasids laughed.

As they travelled through the desert, the weather changed. It suddenly became very cold. Those who had obeyed the Imam and brought warm clothes with them were safe. Others perished in the cold. Several men had to be buried in the desert. Yahya was amazed as he thought of the Imam's prior knowledge of events.

Their journey continued and took them through Baghdad. People of the city there were eager to meet him. But he was not allowed to meet anyone and was taken away at night to Samarra.

Arriving in Samarra

When the Imam arrived in the city of Samarra, he was taken to the worst inn, meant to house the poor, in order to dishonour him. One of his followers, Saalik, came to visit the Imam and said tearfully "They want to put out your light and degrade you."



The Imam smiled kindly and raised his hand. He asked Saalik to look through his fingers. Saalik was amazed. He could see a beautiful palace ready for the Imam and his friends. Saalik thanked Allah.



Knowledge of Languages

In 227 A.H. Abu Hashim, a follower of the Imam, reports that he heard the Imam speaking in the Turkish language to one of the soldiers. The soldier fell down and kissed the Imam's feet. When Abu Hashim asked the reason, the soldier said that the Imam had called him by his special name, which no one other than his father knew.

At another time the Imam spoke in Hindi, that was never before heard by people who lived there, On Abu Hashim's request, the Imam gave him the knowledge of 73 languages, including Hindi.

Mutawakkil took the Imam's help asking for solutions, when he was stuck in matters of the state. He

asked his learned scholars to think of difficult questions to ask the Imam in court. This was an attempt to embarrass the Imam publicly if he could not answer them. But the Imam was able to answer every query.

Duas for and by the Imam

A group of people from Isfahan once went from their city to Samarra in Iraq, to seek their livelihood. They were in the court of Mutawakkil when they heard that an Alavi Syed was being summoned to the court. One of them named Abd Rahman waited to see who this was and saw that he was riding a horse coming towards the court. Abd Rahman felt love for



this young person and prayed to Allah to protect the youth from Mutawakkil's evil plan.

As he passed by, the rider said to him, "Allah has answered your prayer, prolonged your life and made your wealth and children abundant." Hearing this Abd Rahman fell on his feet. He was amazed that the Imam knew his inner thoughts. Many years later, Abd Rahman said he had prospered by the dua of the Imam. He had ten sons, and had lived a long life with abundant wealth.

Curtains rise for the Imam

Mutawakkil would often force the Imam to come to his court. His guards by the doors would stand up to honour the Imam and lift up the drapes and curtains as he

passed. This made Mutawakkil angry. He forbade them to do so. But the next time when the Imam came in, the doors fell open anyway and a sudden gust of wind lifted the drapes. Mutawakkil's jealousy increased.

The Party of Tears

Mutawakkil used to hold parties with his friends, drinking and singing. He did not obey the rules of Islam. He even wanted the holy Imam to join him.

One night, when he was having a party, Mutawakkil sent his rough Turkish soldiers in the dead of night to go to the Imam's house and force him to come. They brought the holy Imam to Mutawakkil, who in his drunken

state invited the Imam to join him in drinking wine.

"By Allah it has never mixed with my flesh and blood" said the Imam.

"Sing for us" the tyrant shouted.

The Imam refused.

"Recite some poetry then" the tyrant continued.

The Imam said, "I seldom recite poetry."

Mutawakkil insisted.

The Imam started to recite a poem that shocked Mutawakkil and his party-goers:

"They spent the night on the tops of mountains to guard against death

But they availed them not

They were brought down and put in holes

Where are the thrones, the crowns, the treasure?

Where are even their faces?

The graves replied:

Now the ants and worms fight one
another over eating those faces

How long they ate and drank

But after their long eating

They are being eaten."

When they heard the Imam's poem, all the people at the party started to weep. Mutawakkil then set spies on the Imam and sent him to prison.

In prison

One of the Imam's followers named Saqr visited him while he was held captive. Zarraqi, who had no mercy for anyone, had been appointed as the Imam's warden. But when he saw the Imam's excellent manners and his worship day and night long, Zarraqi be-

came the Imam's follower. Zarraqi asked Saqr why he had come. Saqr at first was afraid but on finding out that Zarraqi was now a believer, Saqr was able to meet the Imam. Saqr was shocked to see that the Imam sat on a leaf mat beside an open grave. Mutawakkil had ordered the grave to be dug to frighten the Imam. Saqr's eyes brimmed with tears.

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) said, "Don't cry. Nothing will harm me this time"

"ShukranAllah." said Saqr.

Then Saqr asked the Imam to clarify the meaning of a Hadees he had read. "Maula, there is a saying of the Prophet that I fail to understand. The Hadees says "Hate not the days lest they hate

you." What does "the Days" in this Hadees mean ?

The Imam explained.

He said, "It is we who are meant by "the Days" so long as the heavens and earth endure.

Saturday is the name of the Apostle of Allah

Sunday of the Commander of the Faithful

Monday of al Hasan and Husayn

Tuesday of Ali ibn Husayn, Muhammad ibn Ali and Jafar ibn Muhammad

Wednesday of Musa ibn Jafar, Ali ibn Musa, Muhammad ibn Ali and mine

Thursday of my son Hasan

Friday of my grandson and around him will gather the followers of the Truth.

This is the meaning of **the Days**. So do not be their enemy in the



world lest they should be your enemy in the Hereafter." Saqr felt happy that now he understood the Hadees.

At another time, visitors from Rey (near Tehran) came to meet the Imam. They wanted answers about lawful and unlawful matters of Islamic rules. He answered their queries, but advised them next time to ask **Abdul Azeem**, a descendant of Imam Hasan (AS), who lived in Rey, for he had

knowledge. He sent his salams to Abdul Azeem. Here the Imam was preparing his followers to seek help from pious people of knowledge. (Taqleed)

The magician and the tiger

One day a famous Indian magician came to Mutawakkil's court. He could perform many tricks. Mutawakkil promised the magician 1000 coins if he could play his tricks on Imam Ali Naqui (AS.) The magician agreed. The Imam came in and the food was served. Every time the Imam was about to eat, the magician made the food disappear. This was repeated three times. Everyone laughed.

There was a rug that hung on the wall. It had a picture of a tiger on it. The Imam looked



at the tiger and immediately it became real and pounced on the magician and made a meal of him.

The tyrant Mutawakkil shook with fear. He begged the Imam to make the tiger throw up the magician. The Imam replied, "If Prophet Musa's staff had thrown up the snakes of the magicians in Pharaoh's court, this tiger would have done so too."



The Lions



Zainab's false claim

One day a pretty young woman came to Mutawakki's court and said that she was Zainab, the daughter of Imam Ali (AS) and Hazrat Fatimah (AS). She insisted that she was the grand daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), who she claimed had blessed her with a long, long life. She then said that every fifty years she turned young. This attracted a lot of attention.

Mutawakkil consulted his ministers but they didn't know how to test her claim. When Imam Ali Naqui (AS) was asked, he said that the flesh of Banu Hashim is haram on

wild animals. So if she is truthful, she can be put before them and they would not harm her. The woman quickly denied her claim and accepted that she was fake.

The Lions salute the Imam

Mutawakkil then ordered that the Imam be thrown to the hungry lions. He called his courtiers and he thought it would be a feast for the wild animals and went to watch what would happen. Instead they saw an amazing sight.



The lions came to the Imam and instead of harming him; they bowed their heads and rubbed their noses at his feet. They circled round him. When people heard about this miracle, it only increased their love and affection for the Imam and hatred for the cruel ruler.

Imam's Army

Mutawakkil wanted to impress the Imam with his army. He had amassed a huge army of 90,000 soldiers. He ordered that they all assemble and fill bags of soil and pile them high. When they had done so, he called the Imam to witness their sheer number. The Imam told him to look through his fingers to see the Imam's army. Mutawakkil saw that the

Imam had an army as no other before. It stretched to the sky and beyond. Mutawakkil was dumbstruck.

No wonder then that both Imam Ali Naqui (AS) and his son came to be known as **Askari**, which is from the word al Askar, (the army).

Mutawakkil's tyranny and cruelty turned the people against him. He ranted against the AhlulBayt publicly. His own son Muntasir killed him and Mutawakkil died at the hands of his Turkish guards.



Important Mission



Muntasir became the next ruler. He followed a fair policy towards the Shia and returned Fadak to the Alawids (The Sadaat). He treated them kindly. He permitted them to once again go for ziarat to Najaf and Karbala. But he did not live long. He ruled only for six months.

It was during this time that Imam Ali Naqui (AS) called his companion Bashr, a descendant of Ammar Yasir, on a very important mission. He wrote a letter in Roman script and gave it with 220 Dinars to take to the crossing of the Euphrates. He told Bashr "When you get there you will see some boats arriving. Look out for a man called

Amr bin Zaid, a slave trader. Among the slaves would be a lady wrapped up in two silks, who would refuse to be touched or examined. She would constantly refuse any offers. At this time, you should offer my letter. She will then agree. Bring her with great respect.”



When Bashr followed these directions, he found that the lady agreed to look at Imam's letter. On reading it, she cried and agreed to be sold to the author of the letter. The amount agreed for her purchase was exactly what the Imam had given. Bashr was surprised.

She then told him who she was: "I am the daughter of the son of the Caesar of Rome. My mother is from the descendants of Yusha, the successor of Jesus (Hazrat Eesa AS)."

She had seen a vision of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) asking Prophet Jesus for her hand in marriage to his grandson Hasan Askari (AS). She had also seen Bibi Fatimah (AS) and Bibi Maryam (AS) in another vision. She had been guided to make her way from Rome.

On reaching Samarra, Hazrat Narjis (AS) was taken to the house of the tenth Imam. She was showered with love and affection. The Imam called his sister Hakima(AS) to teach her about the principles of Islam.

Then fulfilling her vision, he recited her nikah to his son Imam Hasan Askari (AS). She was given the good tidings that she would bear him a son, Imam Mahdi (AS), who would rule the world.





Martyrdom



Poisoned

The next Abbasid ruler was Mu'taz, who behaved badly with the holy Imam. Within two years of assuming power, he killed the Imam through poison.

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) made his will to his son Imam Hasan Askari (AS) and handed over to him the holy relics of Imamat. When the poison began to take effect, the Imam suffered violent pain. He turned towards the Qibla and started to recite the Quran. It was the 3rd of Rajab 254 A.H. The tenth Imam breathed his last.

Imam Hasan Askari (AS) washed the pure body and offered the prayer. He buried his father in his own house. The people of



Samarra gathered to pay their respect and mourned the loss of the Imam.

Children

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) had five sons: Muhammad, Hasan, Hussain, Jafar, and Ali and a daughter. His son Muhammad, known popularly as Hazrat Syed Muhammad, had died during his father's lifetime and been buried in Balad.



Sayings



Refrain from things declared unlawful by Allah.

Do not lose heart in times of adversity.

People are respected in this world for wealth and in the Hereafter for good deeds.

Beware of envy, for it harms you and not your enemy.

A believer has two wings, hope and fear.

There are definite places where Allah likes his servants to supplicate to Him. One of these places is the tomb of Al Husayn (AS) Syed ush Shuhada.



Legacy



Our tenth Imam has left us a rich legacy.

The Ziyarah he taught us are treasures of knowledge and wisdom.

He spread knowledge and established schools of learning in Madinah.

He prepared people for Taqleed. When unable to meet our Imams, we have rules to follow from our Imam's learned and pious representatives (Marja).

He arranged for Bibi Narjis Khattoon (AS) to come to Samarra, enabling the birth of the Mahdi, our twelfth Imam.



Quiz



When and where was Imam Ali Naqui (AS) born?

Who was his mother?

Why was Junaydi surprised?

How did the Imam spend his time in Madinah?

What happened in the desert on the way to Samarra?

Where was he made to stay once he reached Samarra?

What does the word **Days** in the Hadees mean?

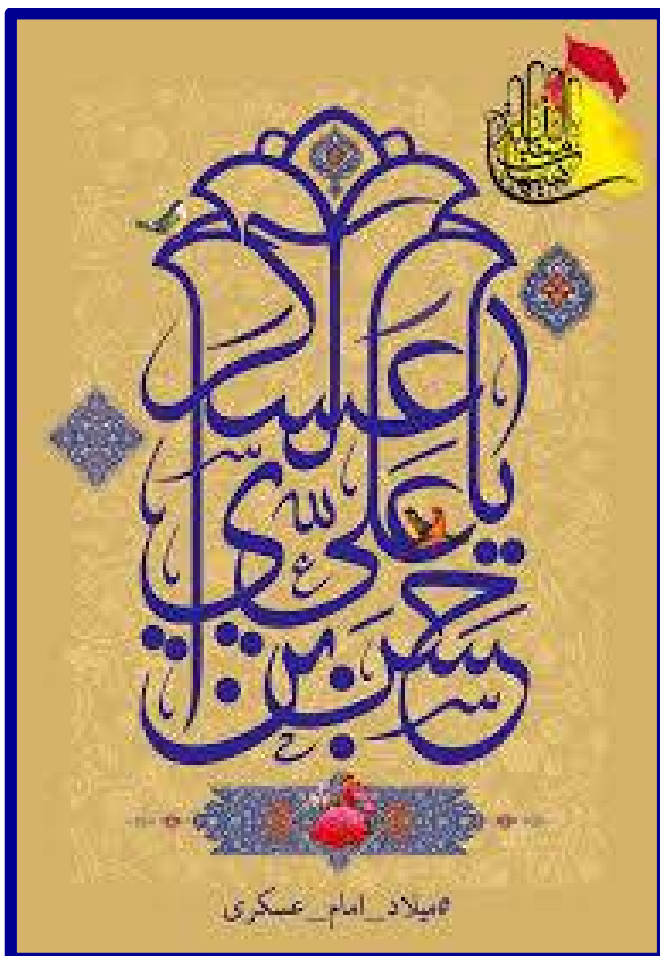
What happened to the magician?

Why was the Imam sent to the lions?

Which Abbasid ruler tried to destroy the shrine in Karbala?

Where was Imam Naqui buried?

Imam Hasan Askari (AS)





Birth



Our eleventh Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was born in Madinah on Friday, the 10th day of Rabiusani, 232 A.H. His father was our tenth Imam Ali Naqui (AS) and his mother was Hazrat Saleel, also called Sausan. She was the best of women in her time, in piety and purity. Imam Ali Naqui (AS) praised her and said she was "purified from error, defect and impurity."

When the eleventh Imam was born, his father recited the azan in his right ear and the iqama in his left. On the seventh day, for his aqeeqa, gold as much as the

weight of the hair was given to the poor as charity.

He was named Hasan, after the grandson of the Prophet, Imam Hasan (AS) Mujtaba, the master of the youth of Paradise. His kun-niyat Abu Muhammad was given as he was to be the father of Muhammad, Imam al Mahdi, the awaited Saviour.

Our tenth Imam Ali Naqui (AS), said, "After me, my son Hasan will be the Imam of the Muslims." About his successor, he said, "He will not be seen and mentioning his name will be banned, until he rises to establish justice on the Earth after it being filled with oppression."



Titles



Our eleventh Imam had many titles that show his noble qualities.

Askari was the most well known of his titles. When the Abbasid ruler gathered his army and wanted to impress the Imam of his military strength, the Imam showed him that his own army stretched from the Earth to the skies.

Zaki: the chaste, righteous

Hadi: the guide

Khalis: the pure

Siraj: the lamp of guidance

Samit: the silent, who only spoke to mention Allah and to guide people.



Childhood



Imam Hasan Askari (AS) lived through the time of many evil Abbasid rulers. He was only four years old, when he was forced to travel with his father Imam Ali Naqui (AS) from Madinah to Iraq.

He suffered with his father from the cruelty of Mutawakkil. He saw how Imam Ali Naqui (AS), his father, was subjected to frequent searches of his house, day and night. Imam Hasan Askari (AS) during his childhood was sometimes placed under separate house arrest. He heard how the shrine of his grandfather, Imam Husayn (AS) was razed to the ground.

Safe in the Well

One day Imam Hasan Askari (AS) fell into the well. The ladies of the house started to weep. Imam Ali Naqui (AS) was at that time in prayer. When he finished praying he told the ladies not to worry. They saw that the water in the



well rose up and Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was playing on the water's surface.

Wiser than all

Once when he was a child, Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was seen cry-



ing, while other children played. Bahlol the Wise, who was then an old man, was passing that way. He asked the Imam

whether he was sad because he had no toys. The young Imam answered, "We have not been created for play but for worship of Allah and to acquire knowledge."

"How do you know?" asked Bahlol.

The young Imam replied, "Have you not read in the Quran, Allah says **"We did not create the sky and the earth and whatever is in between them for play"** (SuraAn-biya 21:16)

Bahlol was surprised at the wise answer coming from a child so young.



Virtues



Imam Hasan Askari (AS) had many good qualities. The tenth Imam said of him "He is the best of the progeny of Muhammad (SAW) in nature and the most trust worthy in authority and he is my successor." "It is not possible to count his merits. He had no equal in his time and was the master of the people of his time.

Our eleventh Imam was very affectionate towards his siblings. He was very close to his older brother, Hazrat Syed Muhammad, who was a wonderful example of high morals and wide knowledge. But he was killed through poison given by the jealous and cruel

Abbasid rulers of the time. He became seriously ill and died in Balad. Many Shia came to his funeral. They saw that Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was very sad. His shrine in Balad is a popular place for ziarat even today. Prayers are accepted in his name. The Imam's younger brother Husain also was noble and together the two brothers, Hasan and Husayn, the sons of Imam Ali Naqui (AS) were sometimes known as Sibtayn.

Imam Hasan Askari (AS) spent his nights in worship, praying and reciting the Holy Quran. He was very patient and kind. He did not complain about what he suffered.

Imam Hassan Askari (AS) taught and explained rules about Islam. His followers used to write to him

and his letters to them show his generosity and kindness, his guidance, his deep knowledge and his noble traits. He was able to convince those who had doubts about Allah and Islam. Even while in prison, Imam Hasan Askari (AS) asked his followers to collect all the questions they had about the rules of Fiqh. He taught his followers Taqleed, where those learned men, who were pious, could advise people about the rules to follow, in the absence of the Imam. His representatives also collected Khums. He strengthened the network his father had built so that people from Egypt, Iraq, Persia, Yemen and Syria could be in touch for distribution as needed by the people.



The Quran



During the time of our eleventh Imam, there lived a man called Ishaq al-Kindi. He was a philosopher and scholar, well known for his knowledge and intellect. He had many students. He thought that the Noble Qur'an had verses that contradicted one another. He wanted to prove that it was not the word of Almighty Allah (SWT).

When the news reached Imam Hasan Askari (AS), he waited for an opportunity to refute al-Kindi's false ideas. One day, by chance some of al-Kindi's students came to the Imam, who then recited a few verses from the Noble

Qur'an, which al-Kindi thought as contradictory of one another.



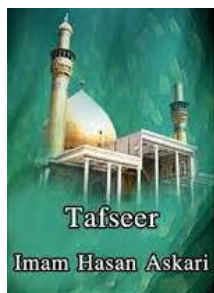
Imam Hassan Askari (AS) then explained to them: “Your teacher thinks that some of the words in these verses have only one meaning. But according to the Arabic language, these words have other meanings too. Thus, your teacher is not justified for basing his objections to the Quran, as the verses have more than one meaning.”

When these students visited al-Kindi and repeated what the Imam

had told them; he was surprised. He was a fair-minded scholar and listened to his students' explanations. Then he said: "What you have argued is beyond your capacity: tell me truly who has really taught you these points?" In the beginning they said it was their own thinking. But when al-Kindi insisted, they acknowledged that it was Imam Hasan Askari (AS) who had said it.

When he found out that it was Imam Hassan Askari (AS), al-Kindi realised his mistake. He said: "Yes: this level of knowledge is the heritage of that House and only that House: the House of the Ahlul Bayt (AS)." He gave up his false notions. Then he set fire to all such works. Thus the Imam saved people from being misled.

Imam Hasan Askari (AS), like his forefathers, was the most aware of the facts and minute details of the Holy Quran. A special commentary known as **Tafseer Imam Al-Askari**, is recorded from him. When his followers asked him to explain the meanings of verses, he shared his knowledge and guided them.



He was the first to write a tafseer systematically. He commented on the Sura, then the Ayaa (verses), then each word, giving many possible meanings. This method has been copied and is used even today.



Five Signs



The eleventh Imam said, "The signs of a momin are five:

1. Praying 51 rakats namaz daily
2. Reciting ZiyaratArbaeen
3. Wearing a ring in the right hand
4. Prostrating (Sajda) on soil
5. Saying Bismillah hir Rahman ir Raheem in a raised voice.

Prayer is the path to Allah. A true believer will seek not only to do his wajib Salat:Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha (17 Rakat); but also Salat ul Layl (11 Rakat): and the optional (23 rakat) of mustahib Salat.

ZiyaratArbayeen for Imam Husayn (AS) is recited on the 20th Safar,

the 40th day after Ashoor. It is the day when we remember the caravan of the AhlulBayt returning to Karbala. We should visit Karbala on the day of Arbayeen.

Ring on Right Hand: is a symbol of following Imam Ali (AS).

Prostrating (Sajda) on soil. We go in sajda and put our foreheads on a turba made from the holy soil of Karbala.

Bismilahir Rahman ir Raheem This is the first verse of the Quran, described by Imam Ridha (AS) as its greatest verse. We must take the name of Allah to begin all our good actions.



Wicked Rulers



Imam Hasan Askari (AS) lived through the time of many cruel Abbasid rulers. He suffered a great deal during the time of **Mutawakkil**, who forced his father to leave Madinah and come to Iraq. The tyrant was reckless and did not fear Allah. He hated Imam Ali (AS) and was extremely cruel to the AhlulBayt and their followers. He tried to destroy the holy shrine of Imam Husayn (AS) in Karbala.

As his cruelty and oppression increased, people hated him. His Turkish soldiers and his own son, **Muntasir** killed him. But Muntasir

did not rule for long and was also killed.

Then came **Musta'in**, who tried different ways to harass the Imam. He bitterly hated Imam Hasan Askari (AS). He was envious of the Imam's popularity with the people. He was also aware of traditions of the Prophet that the 12th Imam would be the awaited Saviour, and wanted to prevent the 11th Imam having a son.

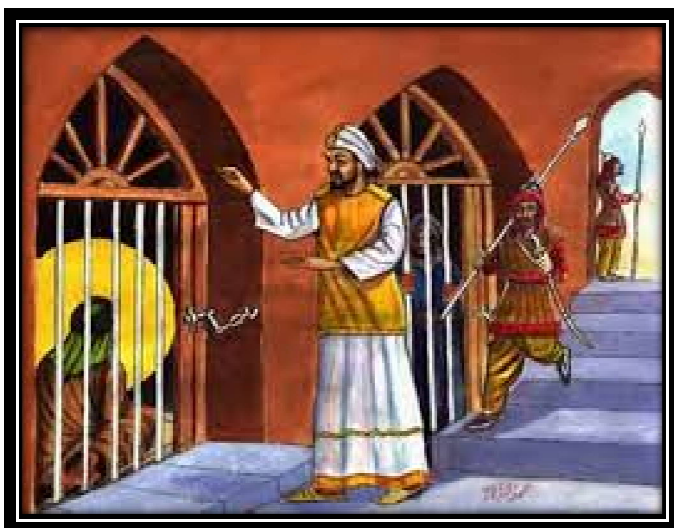
Once he bought a wild mule, which



no one could ride. If anyone went near it, the mule would kick and kill them. **Musta'in** called the Imam to subdue the mule.

He thought that the mule would kill the Imam. But when the Imam went near, the mule meekly bowed its head. The Imam put his hand on its back. **Musta'in** asked, "Do you think that you could ride it?" "Yes" answered the Imam. Then the Imam mounted the animal easily. Under his command, it galloped fast and cantered at a gentle pace. The Imam had total control. But it would not let others ride it. The mule was then given to the Imam.

The next Abbasid ruler **Mu'tazz** continued the cruel ways towards the AhlulBayt. He focused his attention on making Imam Hasan Askari's life even more difficult. He was jealous of the Imam's good virtues and piety. He ap-



pointed cruel men to guard the Imam. The jailors were instructed to deny the Imam even food and water.

Muhtadi was also cruel to the Imam and continued torturing and killing his supporters. One of them asked the Imam, "Will not Allah give you a son?" The Imam replied, "By Allah! He will give me a son, who would rule over the en-

tire world and he will fill the world with justice. ”

Mu'tamid came to power next. He ordered his men to arrest Imam Hasan Askari (AS). Even though his jailors reported to him that the Imam spent all his time in prayer,



the Imam was moved from one prison to another. He was sent to prison in Baghdad.



The Monk



During the time of Mu'tamid, there was a **famine**. No rain fell for a long time and the ground was dry. No crops grew. The Abbasid tyrant told people to go out in the open air and to offer the prayer for rain. They did but no rain fell. However, when the Christians went out with their monk, his prayer for rain was answered, every time he raised his hands.

Some Muslims began to falter in their faith. Mu'tamid began to fear for his authority and went to Imam Hasan Askari (AS), saying: "Your grandfather's religion is in danger. Help." The Imam was

brought out of prison. The Imam was ready to help but asked that all other prisoners wrongfully held be given their freedom too.

On the next day, he told all the people to gather for prayers outside the city. **The monk** came too. When he raised his hands, clouds gathered in the sky and it began to rain.



Imam Hasan Askari (AS) asked his men to go to the monk and take whatever he held in his

hand. It was a piece of bone. The Imam asked the monk to pray again; but this time when the monk raised his hands, no rain fell.

The Imam explained to the people that it was the effect of the holy bone, which had brought rain. "This is a bone of one of the prophets that this monk had found. Whenever it was exposed under the sky, it would cause it to rain." There was nothing special about the monk.

After this the Imam spread the prayer mat and performed two rakat namaz and lifted his bare hands and prayed for rain. Allah answered his dua and it started



to rain..The land became fertile again and crops started to grow.

People were amazed. They recognised the position of the Imam in Allah's eyes. They saw how deep and vast his knowledge was. After this incident, word about the Imam spread all over the realm. People wanted to meet the Imam and clarify their doubts. The Abbasid ruler was forced to let him stay in his house and could not send him back to prison.

His followers were then able to meet the Imam. During this time, one of his Shia met him in his house and requested him to dictate to him a salawat for the Apostle of Allah and his successors. He had taken with him a large piece of paper and a pen for this purpose. The Imam dictated to him in sections a

Salawat for each of the 14 Masoomeen (AS). Each section describes the merits of each Masoom and prays for them to receive Allah's blessings.



It was during this year in 255 A.H., that our twelfth Imam was born in the month of Shaban.



Bibi Narjis



Our tenth Imam Ali Naqui (AS) had arranged the marriage of his son Imam Hasan Askari (AS) with Bibi Narjis. She was also known as Malika, Rehana and Saiqal.

Who was Bibi Narjis?

Bibi Narjis (AS), the mother of our twelfth Imam, was the grand daughter of the Caesar of Rome. She was from the progeny of Yusha, the wasi of Hazrat Eesa (AS). She was noble, truthful, pious and pure. She has been compared to the mother of Hazrat Musa (AS), the Prophet of Allah. She was entrusted with the secrets of the Lord Almighty Allah.

Bibi Narjis (AS) bore the noblest of Allah's creation. She did her best in looking after the holy child, fulfilling her trust, facing ordeals. She cherished her ties with the Imams, knowing their rights, having faith in them and acknowledging their status. She had deep insight and compassion for them. She set their wishes above her own. She was pleased with Allah and Allah was pleased with her. She remained sincere till the end following in the footsteps of the righteous.

We pray for her and her son's intercession to gather us in their fold.



The Mahdi



Preparing for the Mahdi

One of the main responsibilities of Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was to introduce the Imam after him to the Shia and to inform them about the next Imam's occultation (Ghai-bat).

The Abbasids had heard about the Saviour to be born to Imam Hasan Askari (AS). They watched him closely to make sure he would not have a son. But their plans came to nothing and Imam Mahdi (AS) was born. The eleventh Imam had to hide his son from enemies, to protect and save his life. His birth was made known only to a few sincere followers.

One of them, named Ahmed, was given the honour of meeting the holy child. Imam Hasan Askari (AS) brought his three-year-old son on his shoulder and said "O Ahmed, Allah has never left the earth without his Hujjat (viceregent) and will never do so until the Day of Judgment...He is named like the Messenger of Allah. He will fill the earth with justice and fairness after it has been filled with injustice and oppression." Ahmed was amazed when the young boy said to him, "I am the representative of Allah on His Earth."

To another of his followers, the eleventh Imam said, "My son Muhammad is the Imam and the authority after me. Whoever dies



without knowing him shall die as an unbeliever. Allah will protect him and make him reappear to fill the earth with justice and fairness. The obedience to the last of us is like the obedience to the first of us. One who denies the last of us is like one who denies the first of us.”

Imam Hasan Askari (AS) wrote to Ibn Babawayh of Qum, about the reappearance of the Mahdi. He wrote, “Allah's messenger has said “the best deed of my ummah is to await the reappearance of Imam al Mahdi.”



Martyrdom



The period of our eleventh Imam's Imamate was six years, during which many attempts were made on his life. In the final days of his short life, in 260 A.H. he was handed over to Nahrir, a cruel prison guard, who was ordered to throw the Imam to the wild beasts. But people who came to watch were amazed that the animals did not harm the Imam.



The Abbasids plotted day and night to do away with him. The Imam knew that he would soon leave this life and go to His Lord. When he told his mother, she was sad and began to weep. He comforted her, saying, "The fate of Allah must take place. Do not worry." He also predicted his martyrdom and told one of his servants who was going on a journey. "When you return to Samarra from Madain, you will hear cries of lamentation and crying from my house."

Mu'tamid sent the Imam to **prison** again. This time he was forced to be in the tunnel under the ruler's palace. The space was so narrow that Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was not even able to stand upright. He was starved and a very small

amount of water and dry bread was given to him.

Finally **poison** was given to the Imam on the first day of Rabiulawal 260 A. H. He began to feel ill. Within a week his condition was so severe that he suffered intense pain. On the eighth day his death was near. The Imam turned towards the Qibla. He began to recite the Quran. He asked for water, but alas, died thirsty. His pure soul returned to the Maker. He was only twenty-eight years old in the prime of youth.



The Imam's body was washed, shrouded and put in a coffin. He was buried in his own house, next to his father.

Thousands gathered for the funeral. The sound of Takbeer, (Al-lahu Akbar) and Tahleel (La ilaha illallah) echoed in the air. Masses of people filled the streets. Just as the funeral prayer was to start, a five-year-old boy came out to lead the prayer and moved his uncle Jafar away. The Abbasid tyrant looked in vain to find the boy later.

The Minor Occultation, (Ghaibat Sughra) of the 12th Imam had begun. During this time, Imam Mahdi (AS) communicated with his followers through his named representatives for about seventy

years. After this period, his Major Occultation (Ghaibat Kubra) started, which still lasts. We pray in these difficult times for guidance and the reappearance of our Imam.

In 2006 and 2007 the shrine of the Imams in Samarra was bombed. The masjid was severely damaged. It has since been restored and rebuilt. Thousands of pilgrims visit Samarra every year to pay their respects.

Samarra is rising again. It is our hope for the future. The home of our Imams, the home where our twelfth Imam was born, is back in its glory. We pray to Allah that our Imam finds us ready for his return.



Words of Light



Fear Allah, be good and do not be bad.

Worship is the continuous thinking of Allah.

Anger is the key to every evil.

The best of your brothers is he who forgets your wrong against him and remembers your kindness to him.

The most pious of people is one who refrains from unlawful things.

The worthiest of your love are those who comfort you.

Speak kindly to everyone.

The two best traits are: have faith in Allah and try to help others.



Wordsearch



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

Ali Naqui Hasan Askari Taqui
Mahdi Samana Saleel Narjis
alKindi Mutawakkil Mutamid Zainab
Abbasid Monk Lions Tiger Poison Rain
Poem Samarra Madinah Prison

Fill in the blanks using the words from the Wordsearch:

Our eleventh Imam's name is

.....

He was born in the city of

His father was and his mother's name is

He was forced to leaveand go to Samarra.

He spent many years of his life in

He guided to give up his false ideas about the Holy Quran. People were amazed when he solved the mystery of the monk's prayer for

Our eleventh Imam was martyred through given by

He was buried in his house in

His wife Bibi bore him a son, our twelfth Imam



Salams



Salam on you both O the guardians of Allah,

Salam on you both the Proofs of Allah

Salam on you both O the Lights of Allah in the darkness of the earth

Salam on you both, whose will was the Will of Allah

Salam on you O my master, Abul Hasan, Ali Naqui, the son of Muhammad

Salam on you O my master, Abu Muhammad, Hasan Askari, the son of Ali

Salam on you both, the sons of RasoolAllah

Salam on you both, the sons of Ameerulmomineen

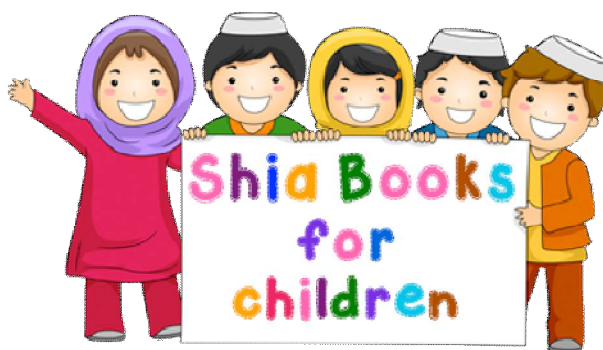
Salam on you both, the sons of Fatima Zahra

May Allah's mercy and blessings be on you both.

Imam Ali Naqui (AS) and Imam Hasan Askari (AS)

Title: Let's learn about
Imam Ali Naqui (AS)
Imam Hasan Askari (AS)

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