

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

Both Shi'i and Sunni reports indicate the Prophet ﷺ said: *“There are twelve Imams, all of whom are from the Quraysh.”* The Prophet also said, to Jabir al-Ansari: *There are twelve Imams.* Then he mentioned their names one by one, including that of Imam Musa al-Kazim عليه السلام. Shaykh Al-Mufid describes in his book *Kitab al-Irshad* how Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq designated his son Musa as his successor after him. Despite this, the Shi'i community split into sects after the death of al-Sadiq (a). This course will cover the origin of schism within Shi'i Muslims, as well as the life and teachings of the seventh Imam (a).

Holy Qur'an on Imams

• وَإِذِ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ قَالَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا قَالَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي قَالَ لَا يَنَالُ عَهْدِي الظَّالِمِينَ

- 2:124 And when his Lord tested Abraham with certain words, and he fulfilled them, He said, 'I am making you the Imam of mankind.' Said he, 'And from among my descendants?' He said, 'My pledge does not extend to the unjust.'

• وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أُمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ

- 21:73 We made them imams, guiding by Our command, and We revealed to them the performance of good deeds, the maintenance of prayers, and the giving of zakat, and they used to worship Us.

Quiz on Imam Musa al-Kazim

1. Where was the Imam born?
2. What was his mother's name?
3. What evidence do we have for his imamate?
4. Any incident you know that happened during the childhood of the Imam?
5. What is the meaning of 'al-Kazim'?
6. Did he have other titles besides al-Kazim?
7. Do you know any saying from the Imam?

Bio-data on the Imam (a)

Birth: 7 Safar 128 AH (745/6 CE)

Place of birth: Abwa (between Makkah & Madina)

Kunya: Abu Ibrahim, Abu al-Hassan & Abu Ali

Titles: Kazim, Babul Hawa'ij, Abd al-Swalih.

Father: Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (a)

Mother: Hamida al-Barbariyyah

Time of Imamate: 35 years

Martyrdom: 25 Rajab 183 AH (799 CE)

Place of martyrdom: Baghdad

Buried in Kazamayn, Iraq

The Prophet (s) on 12 Imams (a)

In *Kifayatu 'l-athar* by al-Khazzaz (p. 53) we have a Hadith from Jabir ibn 'Abdillah al-Ansari. When verse 4:59 was revealed, Jabir said to the Prophet: “We know Allah and the Prophet, but who are those vested with authority whose obedience has been conjoined to that of Allah and yourself ? “ The Prophet said: *They are my caliphs and the Imams of the Muslims after me. The first of them is Ali, then Hasan, then Husayn, then A1i, son of Husayn; then Muhammad, son of A1i, who has been mentioned as al-Baqir in the Torah. O Jabir! You will meet him. When you see him, convey my salam (greetings) to him. He will be succeeded by his son Ja'far as-Sadiq (the Truthful); then Musa, son of Ja'far; then A1i, son of Musa; then Muhammad, son of A1i; then A1i, son of Muhammad; then Hasan, son of Ali. He will be followed by his son whose name and kunyah) will be the same as mine. He will be Hujjatu-llah (Proof of Allah) on the earth, and Baqiyyatu-llah (the one spared by Allah to maintain the cause of faith) among mankind. He will conquer the whole world from east to west. So long will he remain hidden from the eyes of his followers and friends that the belief in his imamah Will remain only in those hearts which have been tested by Allah for faith.”* www.al-islam.org/imamate/

Imamate of Musa al-Kazim (a)

- Ali b. Ja‘far reports from his Imam Ja‘far al-Sadiq (a) said: *Treat my son, Musa, peace be on him, with kindness. He is the most meritorious (afdal) of my children and the one who will succeed after me. He is the one who will undertake (qa'im) my position. He is Allah's proof (hujja) to all His creatures after me.* (al-Mufid, *Kitab al-Irshad*, p. 440)
- Shaykh al-Mufid in *Kitab al-Irshad* : “The Imam after Abu ‘Abd Allah Ja‘far (a) was Abu al-Hasan Musa b. Ja ‘far, the righteous worshipper (of God) (a) because the qualities of outstanding merit and perfection were gathered in him, because of the designation (*nass*) by his father of the Imamate (being) for him, and his clear indication of it being his” (p. 436).

Alqaab (titles) of the Imam

- Al-Kazeem (one who reins his anger) – for his total endurance, patience and bravery in the face of adversities; his curbing pain & anger, and for being kind to those who harassed him
- ‘Abd al-Saalih (The pious worshipper of Allah) for spending lengthy time in *ibaadaat*.
- Baab al-Hawaa’ij (The gateway of fulfilling needs) for being effective *waseelah* (means) to Allah, when beseeching Him
- Zaynul Mujtahideen (the Ornament of Toilers) for his lengthy worship and supplications. When he recited the Qur’an, those listening to him would be so moved by his melodious voice that they would break into tears. He was also the best among the memorizers of the Qur’an.

Imam's love for worship

- 4 Hajj on foot: 26, 25, 24 & 21 days to reach Makkah
- When he stood in the presence of Allah to perform his prayer, tears would roll down his face
- Hisham b. Ahmar: I was riding with Abul Hasan on a street in Madina when he dismounted and prostrated. He remained so, motionless for long; then he raised his head and remounted. 'May I be your ransom,' I asked. 'I saw you going down in a long prostration?'. He replied, 'I remembered a grace which Allah favored me with. I loved to thank my Lord for it.' (*Al-Kafi*, v. 2, p. 98)

His devotion and his *istighfar*

When Harun, the Abbasid, imprisoned him, one of the spies being watchful over him heard the Imam saying, ‘O My Lord, You know that I had been asking you to spare me time to devote myself to Your service. You have done that. Praise be to You.’ (*Bihaar*, v. 48, p. 107)

The Imam would often say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الرَّاحَةَ عِنْدَ الْمَوْتِ، وَالْعَفْوَ عِنْدَ الْحِسَابِ

O Allah, I ask of you ease at death and forgiveness on the Day of Reckoning.

عَظُمَ الذَّنْبُ مِنْ عَبْدِكَ، فَلْيَحْسُنِ الْعَفْوَ مِنْ عِنْدِكَ.

The sin from Your servant has become great, so let the forgiveness from You be good.

We plan to cover following:

1. Who was Isma‘il b. Ja‘far al-Sadiq عليه السلام ?
2. Why do the Agha Khanis & Bohris believe that Isma‘il was the Imam after his father?
3. Imam’s relation with the Abbasid rulers.
4. Five sayings from the Imam عليه السلام
5. His sermon on *‘aql* (use of intelligence)