



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 عليه السلام. This course will cover the origin of schism within Shi‘i Muslims, as well as the life and teachings of the seventh Imam عليه السلام.

Holy Qur'an on seeking religious understanding

وَمَا كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنْفِرُوا كَافَّةً فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِنْ كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ
مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ لِّيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا
إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ

9:122 Yet it is not (appropriate) for all the believers to go out [to battle]: let out of each community, a group go forth to gain understanding in the religion, so that they can teach (warn) their people when they return to them, so that they (i.e. the people) may guard themselves [against evil.]

Al-Kazim on seeking knowledge

تَفَقَّهُوا فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ الْفِقْهَ مِفْتَاحُ الْبَصِيرَةِ وَتَمَامُ
الْعِبَادَةِ وَالسَّبَبُ إِلَى الْمَنَازِلِ الرَّفِيعَةِ وَالرُّتَبِ الْجَلِيلَةِ فِي
الدِّينِ وَالدُّنْيَا وَفَضْلُ الْفَقِيهِ عَلَى الْعَابِدِ كَفَضْلِ
الشَّمْسِ عَلَى الْكَوَاكِبِ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَتَفَقَّهْ فِي دِينِهِ لَمْ
يَرْضَ اللَّهُ لَهُ عَمَلًا

Seek thorough understanding in religion, for surely the understanding (*al-fiqh*) is key to insight, completion of worship, cause of high ranks, and (achieving) exalted position in religion and world. The superiority of a faqeeh over a worshipper is the (superiority) of the sun over stars. One who does not seek understanding in religion, Allah will not be pleased with his action (*Tuhaf al-'Uqul*, p.410).

Al-Kazim's love for worship

- Al-Qur'an (21:73) on Imams: وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ
- When imprisoned, Isa b. Ja'far heard him praying

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ أَنِّي كُنْتُ أَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تُفَرِّغَنِي لِعِبَادَتِكَ
اللَّهُمَّ وَقَدْ فَعَلْتَ فَلَكَ الْحَمْدُ

O Allah, You know that I have been asking You to free me for Your worship; O Allah, You have done so, therefore thanks to You (*Irshad*, 2:240).

وكان عليه السلام كثير الاستغفار فكان يقول لبعض أصحابه:

إِنِّي أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ خَمْسَةَ آلَافٍ مَرَّةً

He used plead for forgiveness abundantly. He told some of his companions: *I do istighfar of Allah five thousand times daily* (Wasa'il, H.21054)

His concern for his followers

Imam kept khums money and robes from Ali b. Yaqtin, but returned one cloak with a message: *Keep it and do not let it leave your hands. For an event will occur to you because of it when you will have the need of it with him (al-Rashid)*. The servant complained to Harun, who asked, “What have you done with the cloak which I bestowed upon you.” “Commander of the faithful,” (Ali) replied, “I still have it in a sealed chest and there I keep perfume with it. In the mornings I open it and look at it to gain blessings from it. I kiss it and then put it back in its place. Every night I do the same thing.” “Bring it, immediately,” ordered Harun. The cloak was brought soon. Harun became pacified and said to Bin Yaqtin: “Return it to its place and go away righteously. I will never disbelieve you again on the word of an informer.” Gifted magnificently to Ali, ordered 1000 lashes to be flogged to the servant (*Irshad*)

Imam (a) defined Fadak borders

Harun wished to return the land of Fadak to the Imam, as he was Bibi Fatima's descendant. Imam said he will only accept if it is within the defined borders. Harun asked for the borders.

Imam: as for the first border, it is 'Adan, the second is Samarqand. As for the third, it is Afriqiyya and fourth is Sayf al-Bahar, beyond the islands and Armenia. Harun: therefore, we will [be left] with nothing!!

Imam's response was principled as well as precedent setting.

Imam worked hard to earn living

Al-Hasan b. Ali b. Hamza: I saw Abul Hasan Musa working on his land, his feet were soaked in sweat. So I said: May I be your ransom, where are the helpers? The Imam responded: ‘the one who is better than my father and I worked with his hand on land?’. Al-Hasan was surprised, so asked, ‘who is he?’ The Imam said: *The Messenger of Allah (s), Amirul Mu’mineen and all my forefathers worked with their hands; and it is the practice of the Apostles, Messengers, the Legatees (of Prophets) and the Righteous.*

فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ص وَأَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَآبَائِي ع كُلُّهُمْ كَانُوا قَدْ عَمِلُوا
بِأَيْدِيهِمْ وَهُوَ مِنْ عَمَلِ النَّبِيِّينَ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ وَالْأَوْصِيَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ

The Imam has also said (in another place):

إِيَّاكَ وَالْكَسَلَ وَالضَّجَرَ فَإِنَّهُمَا يَمْنَعَانِكَ مِنْ حَظِّكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ
*Avoid idleness & sloth, for they deprive you of your share in this world
and the Hereafter. (al-Kafi, 5:76 & 5:85)*

Examples of hardworking

- ‘Allama Majlisi, the compiler of *Bihar al-Anwar*, the voluminous work on Shi‘i Hadith used to tie his hairs to a reclining chair so that he can rest for a while and then continue writing books. He has authored many other books, such as *Hilayatul Muttaqeen*, *Silahul Mu‘min* and *Hayatul Qulub*.
- The author of *Al-Ghadeer*, Marhum Mohsin al-Amin agreed to meet Marhum Mulla Asghar for a few minutes when the later visited him in Najaf from Kenya. ‘Al-Amin said to Mulla that the life is too short and he needs to complete the work of *al-Gabdeer* before death overtakes him.
- ‘Allamah Hilli compiled a book whilst riding on a donkey which he took to perform the ziyarah of Imam al-Husayn (a) in Karbala.

Quotes on Hard Work

• القرآن: وَأَنْ لَيْسَ لِلْإِنْسَانِ إِلَّا مَا سَعَى، الباقِر ع: الكسَلُ يَضُرُّ بِالْدِّينِ وَالْدُّنْيَا

- Q 53:39 *And nothing belongs to man except what he strives for.*
- Amirul Mu'mineen (a): *Opportunity passes away like cloud.*
- Al-Baqir (a): *Laziness harms the religion and the world.*
- Al-Sadiq (a): *One who idles will be deprived of his right.*
- If you try and lose then it isn't your fault. But if you don't try and you lose, then it's all your fault." Orson Scott Card
- The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Work is the key to success, and hard work can help you accomplish anything. Vince Lombardi Jr.
- No one ever drowned in sweat. Anon
- There is no substitute for hard work. Thomas Edison
- If you can't excel with talent, triumph with effort. Weinbaum