

ALI 387: The Theological Doctrine of *Imamah*

Part One
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The Usul

- The Usul in Shia theology are 5:
 - Tawhid
 - Adalah
 - Nabuwwa
 - Imamah
 - Ma'ad
- على الصلاة والزكاة والصوم والحج والولاية ولم يناد بشئ كما نودي :بني الاسلام على خمس :قال :عن أبي جعفر عليه السلام بالولاية.
- Imam Muhammad Baqir said: Islam was build on 5; upon prayers, *zakaat*, fasting, *hajj* and *wilayah*. And none has a greater calling than *wilayah*.

Defining Imamah & Wilayah

- *Imamah*: “Leader,” “in front of,” in theology, refers to the divinely appointed leadership beginning with Imam Ali (a)
- *Wilayah*: “governor,” “guardian,” in theology, the ownership of the Imams as mentioned in Qur’an (5:55)



Theological Aspects of Imamah

- Qur'an (2:30) وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ
- "And when your Lord said to the angels, I am going to place in the earth a khalif, they said: What! Wilt Thou place in it such as shall make mischief in it and shed blood, and we celebrate Thy praise and extol Thy holiness? He said: Surely I know what you do not know."
- Qur'an (2:124) وَإِذْ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ قَالَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا قَالَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي قَالَ لَا يَنَالُ عَهْدِي الظَّالِمِينَ
- "And when his Lord tried Ibrahim with certain words, he fulfilled them. He said: Surely I will make you an Imam of men. Ibrahim said: And of my offspring? My covenant does not include the unjust, said He."
- Qur'an (21:73) وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ
- "And We made them Imams who guided (people) by Our command, and We revealed to them the doing of good and the keeping up of prayer and the giving of the alms, and Us (alone) did they serve;"
- Qur'an (32:24) وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أئِمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا لَمَّا صَبَرُوا وَكَانُوا بِآيَاتِنَا يُوقِنُونَ
- "And We made of them Imams to guide by Our command when they were patient, and they were certain of Our communications."
- Qur'an (28:5) وَنُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ
- "And We desired to bestow a favor upon those who were deemed weak in the land, and to make them the Imams, and to make them the heirs,"

Practical Aspects of Imamah



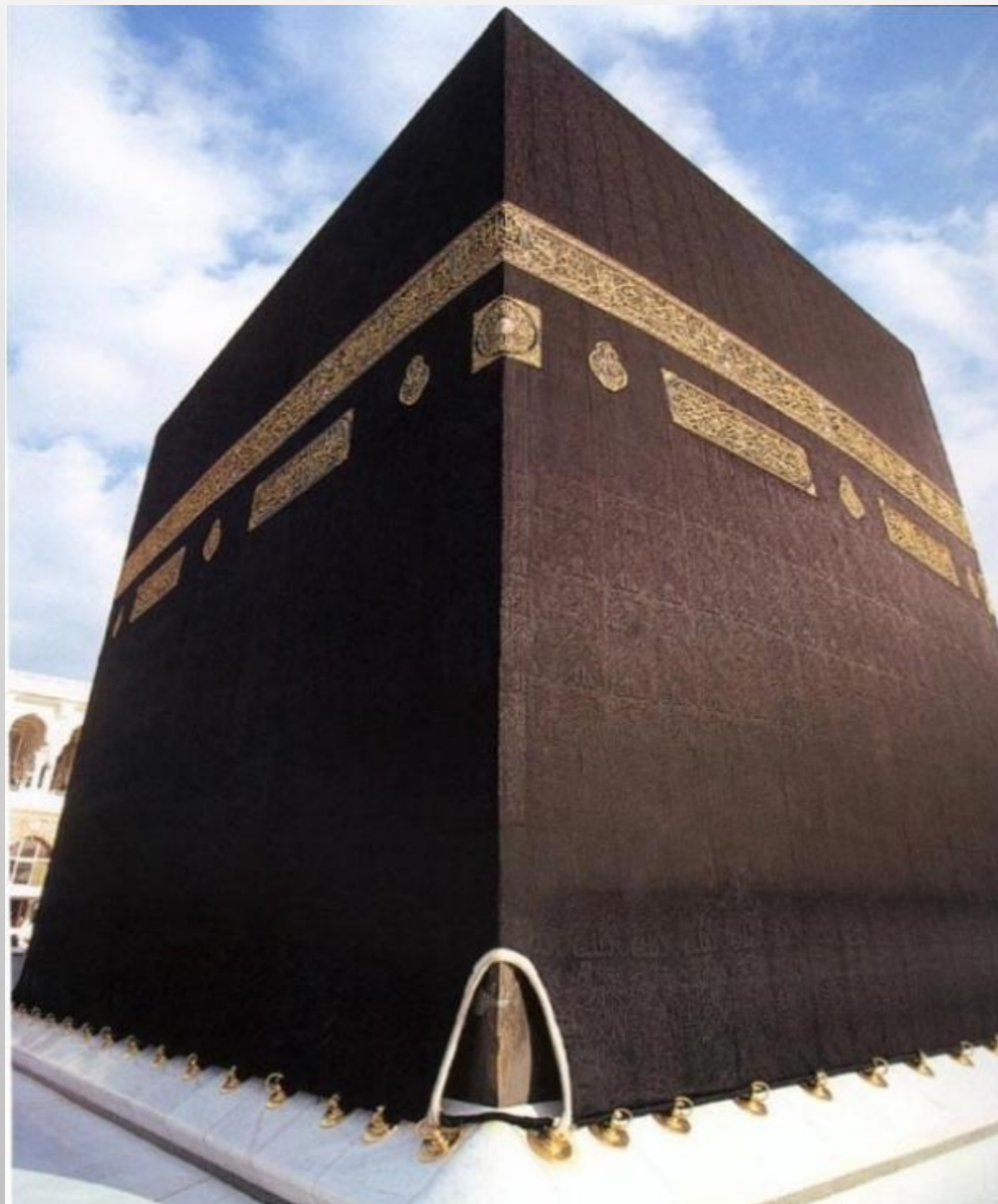
- When taking a look at the narrations of the Ahlul Bayt (a), we see a strong focus on the importance of having معرفة of the Imams.
- Narrations tell us that معرفة of the Imam is the path to the معرفة of Allah (swt).
- The famous Prophetic narration states; من مات و هو لم يعرف امام زمانه مات ميتة جاهلية
- We are told to recite in a Dua; اللهم عرفني نفسك فإنك ان لم تعرفني نفسك لم اعرف اللهم عرفني حجتك فإنك ان لم تعرفني حجتك ... نبيك ضللت عن ديني

Practical Aspects of Imamah (II)

- What Does معرفة mean?
 - The prerequisite to the ziyarat of Imam Hussain (a) is عارفا بحقه
- To KNOW them comes in 4 different dimensions
 1. Love the Imams
 2. Learn Their History
 3. Reflect on Their Words
 4. Honor Their Rituals (رحم الله من احياء)
(امرنا)



Imamah in Shia Theology



- Qualities of the Imams in Shia Theology
 1. Infallibility
 2. Knowledge
 3. Other Attributes: courage, generosity, chasteness, truthfulness, decency, prudence, reason, wisdom, and morality