

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Select events from the life of Imam al-Sajjad (a)

---

**ALI 184:** March 2011/Rabi` II 1432

To study the life history of Imam ‘Ali Zaynul ‘Abideen al-Sajjad (a) let us look at some of the stories associated with his so as to derive lessons.

## Closest to Amirul Mu'mineen (a)

---

- Imam Abu 'Abdillah Ja'far al-Sadiq (a) “among his (i.e. Amirul Mu'mineen) descendants & family none came closer to resembling him in his learning & dress than Ali b. Al-Husayn (a). He once asked his son al-Baqir (a) to bring, “one of those books which describes the worship of Ali b. Abi Talib.” When he got it, he read a little from it and kept it a side exasperation and said, “who has the strength to worship like Ali b. Abi Talib (a)?”

## His love for worship ( *'ibadat* )

Abu Ja'far (a) once visited his father and saw that he had reached unprecedented state in worship. His complexion had paled due to keeping awake at nights; his eyes were sore from weeping; his forehead and nose were bruised due to prolonged prostrations; and his feet and ankles were swollen as a result of standing in prayer.

Abu Ja'far (a) said, “having noticed his condition I could not stop myself from breaking into tears. So I wept for him, while he was sunk in contemplation.”

He also said, “Ali b. al-Husayn (a) used to offer one thousand rak'ahs of salat every day & night. The wind would sway him like an ear of corn.”

# Presence of heart and mind in salaah

Abu Hamza Thumali said, “I saw Ali b. al-Husayn (a) offering prayer, when the cloak slipped from his shoulders. The Imam did not arrange it until he had finished his prayer. When I questioned him about it, he said, *wayhaka, a-tadree bayna yaday man kuntu?* (woe to you, don’t you know before whom I stood?). *Innal ‘abda laa yuqbalu minhu salatun illa maa aqbala minhaa* - (Nothing is accepted of a devotee’s prayer except what he offer with proper attention of his heart.” So, I said, “may I be ransomed for you, then we are doomed!” The Imam said, “Not at all, Indeed Allah compensates the believer thru *nawafil*.”

# One of his effective supplications

- Tawus b. Kaysan Yamani reports that once he went to the House of Allah and there he saw Ali Bin Husayn (a) near Hajar ‘Aswad (Black stone). He first prayed and then prostrated. Tawus says that he went near the Imam to hear what he was saying and he heard the Imam say in the presence of Allah:

- عبيدك بفنائك، مسكينك بفنائك، فقيرك بفنائك، سائلك بفنائك

- *Your humble servant is at your courtyard; Your sad one is at your courtyard; Your poor one is at your courtyard; Your beggar is at your courtyard.*

- Tawus says since that time whenever I needed help from Allah I address Him in this way and I get the help that I need.

# Respect to his Nursemaid

- Imam Zaynul ‘Abidin (a) was treated kindly by his nursemaid; for his mother had died a long time ago. The Imam treated the nurse with great kindness to the extent that he refused to eat with her. People blamed him for this and used to inquire: “You are the kindest of all the people and the best of them in taking care of your blood relatives, so why do you not eat with your mother?” He replied gently, which can be paraphrased as: *I fear that I may stretch out my hand for that which she stretches for, then I’ll feel embarrassed by this.* Imagine, where can you find such humanity? Which angelic soul is this soul?

# His travels to Hajj

- Often walked to Hajj
- 

- If he would go on a ride, he would never beat the ride to move faster; thus it would take him 20 days to reach Makka from Madina.
- He would often travel with strangers so that he serve them during the trip
- Upon putting Ihram his face turned yellow and he could not pronounce Labbayk loudly, for the fear if Allah would respond “la labbayk.”

# The Power to forgive

The Imam & his followers were repeatedly victimized ~~during the governorship of Hisham Makhzumi.~~

‘Umar b ‘Abdul Aziz during his governorship invited people to come & avenge Hisham’s cruelty. The followers of the Imam came to him with a request to go and seek revenge against Hisham. He turned down their request & said, ‘Killing the already fallen has never been the conduct of the Ahlul Bayt (a). We do not punish our enemies when they are too weak to defend themselves. On the contrary, we help anyone who is suffering, and try to alleviate his pain, even if he is our worst enemy.’

The Imam with his Shi‘as went to Hisham, greeted him loudly, offered help & embraced him. People of Madina also decided not to punish Hisham.



# One of his great sayings

○ “How did you begin your day, O son of the Messenger of Allah?,” the Imam was asked. “I woke up with 8 demands on me,” he said. “Allah, the Exalted, demands with fulfilling of the obligatory; the Prophet (s) his practices; the family their food; the self with passion; the Shaytan with disobedience; the two angels with pure actions; the angel of death with my spirit and the grave [demanding] my body. These are the [daily] demands on me.”

○ أصبحت مطلوباً بثمان خصال : الله تعالى يطلبني بالفرائض ، والنبى (ص) بالسنة ، والعيال بالقوت ، والنفس بالشهوة ، والشيطان بالمعصية ، والحافظان بصدق العمل ، وملك الموت بالروح ، والقبر بالجسد ، فأنا بين هذه الخصال مطلوب