

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# Sirah of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (a)

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In this session we will *inshaa-Allah* cover a few events in the life of our fifth Imam from his birth to the time of his Imamah and then till his *shahaadat* (martyrdom).

# Pre-course info from the participants

## ○ *What do you know about your Imam?*

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- Father's name Imam Zaynul 'Abideen (a)
- Present in Karbala about 4 years
- Founded 'Islamic education institute'
- Helped establish Islamic coin
- Both his parents were 'Alavi (Ali & Fatima)
- Son was Imam Ja'far Sadiq (a)
- Adviser to his brother Zayd b. Ali
- Similarity to the Holy Prophet (s)

## Bio-data of Imam al-Baqir (a)

- Parents: Imam Ali Zaynul ‘Abideen (a) and Fatima bint Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (a). Al-Siddiqa was her title. Only imam whose both grandparents Imams
- Birth: 1<sup>st</sup> Rajab 57 AH/677 CE in Medina
- Death: 7<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hijjah 114 AH/ 733 CE in Medina
- Cause of death: martyred by being poisoned by Umayyad caliph Hisham b. Abdul Malik
- Period of Imamah: about 20 years (95 – 114 AH)
- Upbringing: 4 years under his grandfather Imam al-Husayn (a) & 34 years under his father
- Kunya & titles: Abu Ja‘far and al-Baqir, al-Amin, al-Shabih, al-Shakir, al-Hadi, al-Sabir & al-Shahid

# The Prophet (s) salaams for al-Baqir (a)

- Aban b. Taghlab from Abu ‘Abdillah (a), “Indeed Jabir b. Abdullah al-Ansari was the last of the surviving companions of the Rasulullah (s). He devoted himself to us – the Ahlul Bayt (a). He sat at the place of the Prophet (s), wearing a black turban & used to call out, “O Baqir, O Baqir.” The people of Medina said, ‘Jabir is hallucinating.’ So he said, “By Allah, I have never hallucinated, but I’ve heard Rasullullah (s) say, ‘Indeed you will meet a man who belongs to me. His name is similar to mine, his qualities are similar to mine. He will split open knowledge thoroughly.’ these words have motivated me to say what I say.” When he met al-Baqir he conveyed salaams of the Holy Prophet (s).

# Jabir conveys Prophet's salaams to Imam

- Abu 'Abdillah (a) said, "One day while Jabir was walking thru streets of Medina, when he saw a young boy, he said: 'O boy, come.' the boy came. Jabir said to him, 'Turn back.' and turned back. So Jabir said, 'By Him in whose hand is my soul, (they are) the qualities of Rasulullah. O boy, what is your name?' the boy: 'My name is Muhammad b. Ali b. al-Husayn.'" Jabir kissed his head & said, 'may my parents be sacrificed for you. Your grandfather, Rasulullah (s) sends you his greetings.' Abu 'Abdillah said, 'Muhammad came back frightened to his father, informing him of the incident. His father: my little boy, has Jabir done it? 'Yes,' replied Muhammad.' His father, 'do not leave your house.'

# Admiration & glorification for al-Baqir

- Al-Qarashi has entire chapter on this quoting praises for the Imam from 39 people. We will quote a few:
- ‘Abdullah b. Ata Makki, “I have never seen scholars so limited in knowledge in the presence of a scholar like Muhammad b. Ali al-Baqir.”
- Muhammad b. Talha Shafi‘i: Muhammad b. Ali al-Baqir was the one who cut thru knowledge, collected & disseminated it. He raised it to many degrees, outwitted it with gems of thought. His heart was serene, his good deeds ever growing, his soul chaste, and his morals noble. He was preoccupied with obedience to Allah. . . Virtues hastened to him, & good qualities were honored by him.”

# He lived according to his great tittle

- Baqir means: ‘The man who is deeply knowledgeable and sharply wise, who discovers knowledge's innermost mysteries and essence, and who is well versed in its arts.’
- HP (s), ‘from the loins of Husayn (a) called Muhammad. He’ll indeed ‘cut through’ the sciences.
- Someone also tried to a mockery at the holy title of the Imam comparing it the Arabic word “*baqarah*.” The Imam (a) responded calmly to his provocation.
- Founded: open university, reformation thru education, scholars from Mu‘tazila, Sufis & Kharijis visited him, sciences of the Qur’an & sunnah, *gazwaat*, narrated histories of the Prophets & arts of literature were initiated by him.

# Love of worshipping Allah (swt)

○ Imam al-Sadiq (a): My father used to praise Allah much. When I walked with him, he would remember Allah; when I ate with him, he would remember Allah. Even when talking to people, he would remember Allah. I heard him always praising Allah and saying repeatedly, ‘there is no god but Allah.’ He would gather us and order us to praise Allah till sunrise [from al-Fajr.] Whoever was able from among us, my father would order him to recite the Qur’an, but he would order the one who could not read to praise Allah.

○ Many benefits of saying phrase: لا إله إلا الله



# His generosity

- Al-Sadiq (a): once I found him busy handing out 8,000 dinars to poor of Medina; set free family of 11
- Someone complained on his poverty & being deserted. The Imam, ‘How bad is the brother who cares for you when you are wealthy & abandons you when you are poor.’ The asked his servant to bring a bag which had 700 dirhams. ‘Spend this,’ said the Imam and added, ‘when it runs out, notify me.’
- Fulfilled social responsibilities adequately. Al-Sadiq (a): my father had the least amount of money at his disposal compared to other members of his family; but his financial responsibilities were the heaviest.’

# Lesson deriving events in his life

○ Archery in the court of Hisham b. 'Abdul Malik

○ Working hard to support his family, for this was also an obedience of Allah (swt).

○ Conversation with a Christian monk

# Remaining sessions will cover:

## ○ Renowned companions of the Imam (a)

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- The despotic ‘Umayyad caliphs during Imam’s life and their atrocities
- The only praiseworthy caliph ‘Umar b ‘Abdul Azeez
- Will and sayings of Imam al-Baqir (a).
- His great ideas on the divinely appointed Imams

## For further reading refer to:

- *The Life of Imam Mohammed al-Baqir*, Baqir Sharif al-Qarashi; online copy at [www.maaref-foundation.com/english/library/pro\\_ahl/imam05\\_baqir/imam\\_baqir/index.htm](http://www.maaref-foundation.com/english/library/pro_ahl/imam05_baqir/imam_baqir/index.htm)
- *A Brief Biography of Imam Muhammad bin Ali (Al Baker) A.S.*, M R Dungersi, Bilal Muslim Mission.
- *The seventh Infallible – Hazrat Imam Mohammad Baqir (A.S.)*, S Mehdi Ayatullahi
- *Glimpses of the lives of the Messenger Muhammad and His Household* by Al-Balagh Foundation
- *Biographies of Leaders of Islam*, S Ali Naqi Naqwi
- *Fascinating Discourses of Fourteen Infallibles (A.S.)* by Islamic Propagation Organization