



سيرة الإمام الباقر

# Sirah of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (a)

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**ALI 185:** April 2011 / Jamadi I 1432

In this session we will *Inshaa Allah* look at atrocities of ‘Umayyad caliphs who ruled during the imamate of Muhammad al-Baqir (a)



## Umayyad caliphs during al-Baqir

- Walid b. ‘Abdul Malik b. Marwan, ruled from AH 86/ 705 CE to AH 96/ 714 CE
- Sulayman b. ‘Abdul Malik b. Marwan, ruled from AH 96/ 714 CE to AH 99/ 717 CE
- ‘Umar b. ‘Abdul Azeez b. Marwan, ruled from AH 99/ 717 CE to AH 101/ 719CE
- Yazid b. ‘Abdul Malik b. Marwan, ruled from AH 101/ 719 CE to AH 105 /723 CE
- Hisham b. ‘Abdul Malik b. Marwan, ruled from AH 105/ 723 CE to AH 125/ 743 CE



## Walid b. 'Abdul Malik b. Marwan

- Walid, succeeded his father 'Abdul Malik, was a cruel tyrant. His father had recommended to him to honor Hajjaj, to wear the skin of a leopard & to keep sword ready to kill every one who opposes him.
- He let Hajjaj torture & kill opponents freely. Sa'id b. Jubayr was killed by Hajjaj during Walid's time.
- 'Umar b. 'Abdul was his governor in Medina. Oppressed people under Hajjaj would take refuge in Medina with 'Umar b. 'Abdul Aziz
- When 'Umar complained to Walid about Hajjaj, he was dismissed from the governorship.
- Khalid b. Abdullah Qasri appointed Medina governor per suggestion of Hajjaj.



## Khalid Qasri, Walid's governor in Mecca

- He became governor in 89 AH. He said in public address, “O People! Which of the two is better: the caliphate of Walid or the leadership of Nabi Ibrahim? I swear by Allah that you do not know the position of the caliph. Prophet Ibrahim prayed to Allah for water and He gave him bitter & brackish water, but when Walid sought water from Allah, He gave him sweet water.” (By bitter water he meant Zamzam & by sweet he meant well dug by Walid)
- If the commander of the faithful Walid orders me that I should pull down Ka‘bah & transfer its stones to Syria, I shall do so. By God, Walid is more honorable with Allah than His prophets.



## Khalid reproached by a poet

- ‘Ubaydullah Sahmi reproached Khalid as follow:
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- *May Allah curse the ruler and the subjects who curse Ali, Hasan & Husayn. Is it proper to curse the persons whose grandfather, uncle & kinsmen come from noble stock?*
  - *The pigeons and other birds are safe in Mecca, but the Ahlul Bayt of the Holy Prophet are not secure even in Masjidul Haram*
  - *I have good memory of the house and the members of the Prophet’s household & Islam, and they are good. May the unlimited blessings of Allah descend on the family till the Day of Judgment.*



## Sulayman b. ‘Abdul Malik

- He was a glutton and fond of women
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- Sulayman had a big belly and it was not possible to estimate his food. When frying pan with roasted chicken was brought to him, he devoured it at once. Once he was hungry after taking bath. He ate 20 suckling kids. Soon food was brought & he began eating as if he had not eaten before. He kept dishes containing sweet pudding besides his bed.
  - Once when the name of Mu‘awiyah was mentioned in his court he invoked blessings on Mu‘awiyah and his ancestors & said, “By Allah, non like Mu‘awiyah has been seen!” (Read *N Balagah* to seen what Imam Ali has said on deceit of Mu‘awiyah)



## ‘Umar b. ‘Abdul Aziz – a different ruler

- He prohibited cursing of Imam Ali & other Ahlul Bayt (a) from the mimbar & on Friday sermons
- He asked that verse 16:90 be recited instead
- Influence of his teacher ‘Ubaydullah b. Mas‘ud
- So was the case with teacher of Mu‘awiyah II
- His own father stammered when cursing Imam Ali (a) during Friday sermons
- He returned Fadak to Imam al-Baqir (a). Some Quraysh & Syrians rejected this & said that it amounted to criticizing actions of Abu Bakr & ‘Umar. (See his response in the next slide)



## ‘Umar b. ‘Abdulaziz responds to criticism

- The claim of Sayyida Fatima was reasonable and the garden was in her possession. Being the chief of the women of Paradise she could not impute anything false to Prophet Muhammad (s) regarding the gift bestowed by him. By this act I seek proximity to Allah and His prophet and hope for intercession of Sayyida Fatima, Imam Hasan and Imam Husayn. If I had been in the place of Abu Bakr, I would have accepted the word of Sayyida Fatima and would not have ascribed falsehood to her.
- It is said that a Jew was prepared to ask for the daughter of the caliph in marriage & the response of courtiers. Then how can one curse son-in-law of HP?





## Praises for Ibn ‘Abdul Aziz

- Imam al-Baqir (a) said: ‘Umar b ‘Abdul Aziz was the most glorious one of the Umayyad house. He was the master of their kings. He was the high-born of the Umayyads.
- Sharif al-Radi has composed lines of poetry:
- *O son of ‘Abdul Aziz, if an eye wept for an Umayyad youth, it would weep for you*
- *However, I wish to say: You are good though your house was not good.*
- *You have freed us from cursing. So if reward was possible, I would reward you.*



## A few sayings of Imam al-Baqir (a)

- By Allah, the arrogant tries to remove the cloak of Allah (والله المتكبر ينازع الله رداءه)
- Twenty year companionship is kinship
- A scholar who benefits (others) thru his knowledge is better than seventy thousand worshippers
- There is good for a believer in all Divine decrees
- Say: O Allah, free us from evil (and not from all) creatures, for a believer can't do without his brother
- Faith is love and hatred (الايمان حب وبغض)
- Deeds without knowledge (*ma'rifah*) are not accepted; knowledge has not value unless matched with actions. Knowledge guides to good deeds.



## History of Fadak (from *Fadak in History* by S M B al-Sadr)

- Became property to HP, as not acquired by war

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- The Prophet (s) gifted it to her daughter Fatima
- Abu Bakr took it away from Sayyida Fatima
- ‘Umar gave it back to the heirs of the Prophet (s)??
- ‘Uthman snatched it & gifted it to Marwan
- Imam Ali (a) recovered it from Marwan, as well as other things plundered by the Umayyad
- Imam Ali gave the yields to the needy Muslims
- Mu‘awiya took it back, divided into 3 parts, & gave to Marwan, ‘Umar b. ‘Uthman, his son Yazid
- Totally possessed by Marwan during his rule
- ‘Umar b. ‘Abdul Aziz returned to heirs of Fatima



## Imam al-Baqir on supplication & charity

- Never get fed-up with Du‘aa for it has a special standing with Allah
- Nothing is beloved to Allah than asking & seeking from what He has; and none is detested more than the one who is proud of worshipping asking Allah
- If you decided to give charity, delay it to Friday
- You are advised to supplicate from dawn till sunrise, for at this time: gates of heavens are open, *rizq* is distributed & the great needs are fulfilled.
- When you give (charity) to a needy then ask them to pray for you, for their Du‘as for you are accepted
- Indeed charity repels seventy afflictions
- Alms giver never dies an evil death



## Imam al-Baqir on Sunan al-Nabi

- Allah offered HP gold that will fill the entire Makka
- he said, My Lord I eat one day so I praise You, & I remain hungry another day so I invoke you
- Performing worship eagerly is sunnah of the HP
- *‘As for me, I pray and I sleep, I fast and I open my fast, I laugh and I cry... so follow my sunnah.’*
- The Noble Prophet would accept gift but not charity
- *‘Jibrail came to me and said, ‘Allah commands you to love Ali, & instruct others to love & befriend Ali.’*
- The Holy Prophet will travel after sunrise
- It is the sunna of the HP to wear right shoe first and to take off the left shoe first.