

ALI 191: Sirah of Imam Ja'far  
al-Sadiq عليه السلام



*Academy for Learning Islam*

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# Objective of the Course

- Have an in-depth understanding on the life of our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam (a)
- How different were his life situations
- His response to uprisings by the Shi‘i
- Making use of ‘peaceful time’
- Founding of a *madh-hab*
- Differences between the 5 *madhaahib*

“Imam Ja‘far b. Muhammad (a) or Imam al-Sadiq (a)”

When one or both are mentioned, what comes to your mind ?

## **Responses from the Instructor:**

Only Imam named as Ja'far

Birth date same as of the HP (s)

Had 4,000 student in his open university

Witnessed wars btw Umayyad & Abbasid

Peaceful time to teach & spread Islam

Rejected the offer to become caliph

Longest life amongst Ma'sumin

Last Imam to die in Madina

Last Imam to be buried in al-Baqi'

Abu 'Abdillah in Hadith refers to him



**JANNATUL BAQI BEFORE DESTRUCTION  
(MADINA)**



## IMAGES IN OUR MINDS



**JANNATUL BAQI (PRESENT)  
MADINA (SAUDIA ARABIA)**



# **Bio-data of the Imam (a)**

- Birth: AH 83/702 CE, reign of
- Upbringing by: the 4<sup>th</sup> & the 5<sup>th</sup> Imams
- Mother: Umm Farwab. Qasim b. M b. Abi Bakr
- Imam period: 34 years from AH 114/ 733 CE
- Political rulers: Hisham, Walid, Yazid, Ibrahim, Marwan Himar; as-Saffah & Mansur
- Death: AH 148/ 765 CE
- Titles: al-Sadiq, al-Fadil, al-Tahir

# Maxims from the Imam (a)

- People live (longer) due to good done to others than on account of (destined) life span
- You will have very few friends if you seek to befriend only flawless people
- Fulfill a need of a brother, Allah will fulfill 100,000 of your needs on Day of Qiyamah
- Excess food entails hard heart & raging lust
- Recite *adhan* in ears of bad mannered one
- Prophet forbade blowing on food or drink

# Praise for the Imam

- Malik b. Anas: I used to go and visit Imam al-Sadiq very frequently. He was always busy praying or reciting the Qur'an; he was also seen fasting most of the time; none can be compared with that distinguished person.
- Abu Hanifa: the imam answered my questions skillfully & won my admiration for his ability; was the best of all in every walk of life
- H. b. A Washaad: I met 900 hadith narrators in Kufa mosque busy quoting from al-Sadiq (a).



# Disciples who became scholars

- Zuraarah b. 'A'yan
- Muhammad b. Muslim
- Mu'min al-Taaq
- Hisham b. Hakam
- Abaan b. Taghlib
- Jabbir b. Hayyan
- Sufyan al-Thawri
- Abu Hanifa
- Al-Qadi al-Sukuni

## Plot to kill Imam's successor foiled

Abbasid caliph Masur sent Madina governor to read Imam's last will and instructed to kill Imam's inheritor. However, the Imam had chosen four people to administer his will: caliph Mansur, governor of Madinah, 'Abdullah Aftah & Musa al-Kazim (a). This way the plot of Mansur was foiled.

## **Future topics on al-Sadiq to be covered:**

Uprising by the Shi‘i against Umayyad

The downfall of the Umayyad

The taking of caliphate by the Abbasid

The open university of al-Baqir & al-Sadiq

Concept of Imamatus by al-Baqir & al-Sadiq

Great disciples of Imam al-Sadiq (a)

Hadith al-Mufaddal

Comparative study on the *madhahahib*

# Assignment due in two weeks

- Read articles on Imam al-Sadiq in Wikipedia & New World Encyclopedia and point out things that sound inappropriate to you
- Pick up any one of the disciples of Imam Ja far al-Sadiq (a) and write a comprehensive report on him
- From thousands of sayings of Imam al-Sadiq (a) pick up any three and discuss what we can learn and implement from these sayings. Ensure that you give reliable reference to the sayings selected.
- Select two ethical episodes in the life of Imam al-Sadiq (a) and make simple lessons for Madrasah students.

## Further reading refer to:

- Imam al-Sadiq by Sh M H al-Muzaffar
- Online copy at [http://www.maaref-foundation.com/english/library/pro\\_ahl/imam06\\_sadiq/imam\\_sadiq/index.htm](http://www.maaref-foundation.com/english/library/pro_ahl/imam06_sadiq/imam_sadiq/index.htm)
- *Glimpses of the lives of the Messenger Muhammad and His Household* by Balagh Foundation