

ALI 545: THE SOCIO-POLITICAL ROLE OF THE AHLUL-BAYT (PEACE BE UPON THEM)

The Academy for Learning Islam
Session 4 – March 25th, 2020



RECAP

The role of Imam (a) includes leading the society

All the Imams were put under pressure, imprisoned, exiled, killed because they were carrying out an effective and dangerous political struggle

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ جَاهَدْتَ فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ وَ عَمِلْتَ بِكِتَابِهِ

What it meant to be a Shi'ah

How do we judge important figures in the early history of Islam?



OUTLINE

We want to try and get an inkling of the political and social role of the Imams (peace be upon them) from their interactions with

- The caliphs
- Their Shi'ah
- The scholars
- The poets
- Revolutionary Imamzaadehs



REVOLUTIONARY IMAMZAADEHS

Zayd bin 'Ali al-Sajjad (d. 122 AH)

Yahyaa bin Zayd bin 'Ali al-Sajjad (d. 125 AH)

Descendants of al-Hasan bin al-Hasan al-Mujtaba (a)

- Muhammad bin 'Abdullah (d. 145 AH)
- Ibrahim bin 'Abdullah (d. 145 AH)
- Husayn bin 'Ali (d. 169 AH)
- Yahyaa bin 'Abdullah (d. 175 AH)
- Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Ismail bin Ibrahim (d. 199 AH)

HOW ARE THEY TO BE JUDGED

Why unfairly judged?

Examples of propaganda

- Malcolm X
- Imam al-Mujtaba (a)
- Imam al-Sadiq (a)
- Zayd bin 'Ali

Of two types

1. Those with worldly ambitions
2. Those who were sincere

ZAYD: WELL-KNOWN FROM BEFOREHAND

The Prophet (s) tells Zayd bin Harith that he is the namesake of Zayd bin 'Ali and that he loves him more therefore

The Prophet (s) tells Imam al-Husayn (a) about the status of Zayd bin 'Ali and his companions

Imam al-Sajjad (a) and the story of how he named his son Zayd

WHAT WAS HIS MOTIVE

Going before Hisham, Imam al-Baqir (a) is insulted

- فَوَ اللَّهُ لَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ إِلَّا أَنَا وَ آخِرُ لَخَرَجْتُ عَلَيْهِ

Conversation between Imam al-Rida (a) and Ma'mun

Imam al-Sadiq (a) after Zayd was killed

- إِنَّ عَمِّي كَانَ رَجُلًا لِدُنْيَانَا وَ آخِرَتِنَا مَضَى وَ اللَّهُ عَمِّي شَهِيداً كَشْهَدَاءَ اسْتَشْهَدُوا مَعَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ ص وَ عَلِيٍّ وَ الْحَسَنِ وَ الْحُسَيْنِ ص.

Zayd himself says

- وَ اللَّهُ يَا نَزَلِي لَوَدِدْتُ أَنِّي أُحْرِقْتُ بِالنَّارِ ثُمَّ أُحْرِقْتُ بِالنَّارِ وَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَصْلَحَ لِهَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ أَمْرَهَا

IMAM AL-SADIQ (A) AND ZAYD

When Zayd was asked about Imam al-Sadiq (a), he said

فِي كُلِّ زَمَانٍ رَجُلٌ مِّنَّا أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ يَحْتَجُّ اللَّهَ بِهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ وَ حُجَّةُ زَمَانِنَا ابْنُ أَخِي جَعْفَرِ
بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ- لَا يَضِلُّ مَنْ تَبِعَهُ وَ لَا يَهْتَدِي مَنْ خَالَفَهُ

Imam (a)'s duaa

CONCLUDING POINTS

1. Our perspective on Islam and the Imams (a)

- شیر بی‌دم و سر و اشکم کی دید
- این چنین شیری خدا خود نافرید

2. Keeping the final goal in mind

- The lofty goals of Islam cannot be realized without an Islamic society
- Expect to face difficulties

3. Expending efforts based on knowledge, taqwā, basirat

- What's the difference between infaaq and kharj?