

MIRACULOUS BIRTH

Imam Muhammad al-Mahdī ؑ was born in **Samarra, Iraq** on the 15th of Sha'bān, 255 AH.

His father was **Imam Hasan al-'Askari** ؑ and his mother was **Bibi Narjis Khātūn**. She was the granddaughter of the Emperor of Rome! She was raised in the house of **Hakīma**, the daughter of Imam al-Jawād ؑ and sister of Imam Ali al-Naqī ؑ.

Al-Mu'tamid - the Abbasid caliph of that time was afraid of a son being born to Imam Hasan al-'Askari. He had been told of predictions that the child of this Imam would eliminate all wrong and injustice. Thus the Imam's birth was kept hidden from others, as a protection from the Almighty.

History Alert:

Which Prophet's birth circumstance was similar to that of Imam al-Mahdī? How?

On the day of 14th Sha'bān, Imam Hasan al-'Askari invited his aunt **Bibi Hakīma** home and asked her to stay for iftār. He gave her the good news of the coming of the 12th Imam. After Fajr salah, **Bibi Hakīma** witnessed the birth of the Imam!

Imam Hasan al-'Askari was overjoyed at the blessed birth. He recited the Adhan in the right ear and **Iqāmah** in the left ear of the newborn. He named him **Muhammad**.

The divine baby recited Verse 5 of Surah 28 .

Quran Connection

WISDOM FROM IMAM AL-MAHDĪ

"Benefitting from me in my _____ is like benefitting from the _____ when it is behind the _____."

Imam al-Mahdī Bihār al-Anwār, 52:92

Unscramble each of the clue words to discover the hadith.

BAECSNE [] [] [] [] [] []
 USN [] [] []
 DUSCOL [] [] [] [] [] []

Imam is the link between us and Allah.

The **Ahlul Bayt** ؑ are a light from Allah that guides us to the right path. This light is **always present** in the world through the **Imams** who were the successors of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Just like the world cannot do without light from the sun, similarly we can never do without **spiritual light**. Though we cannot see the Imam, his light continues to nurture our souls. His **guidance** is all around us, through the **scholars (Mujtahids)**, through his concern for us, and his awareness of our deeds. It is an existence we cannot do without!

Food For Thought:

How are we benefitting from the Imam in his ghaybah?
 How are we being guided?
 How is he the link between us and Allah?

Why was there a need for al-Ghaybah al-Sughrā?

It would have been hard for the Shī'ahs if the Ghaybah had been major from the beginning. The minor one made it easier for the Shī'ah community to get used to it and prepare for not having the Imam present among them.

The Imams before Imam al-Mahdī had also prepared people for this time by gathering resources, putting scholars in charge of communicating with people, etc.

What do I not understand about it?

REFLECTIONS ON AL-GHAYBAH AL-SUGHRĀ

What fascinates me about it?

Food for Thought:

Give three examples of how previous Imams prepared the Shī'ahs for the coming Ghaybah of the 12th Imam.

What three points stand out to you in the letter of Imam al-Mahdī to his last deputy?

How would the deputy have felt at reading the letter?

Extension - Find out:

Find out two facts about Du'ā Simāt. Read a part of this Du'ā with translation.

DU'Ā AL-FARAJ

This supplication is recited for the protection of Imam al-Mahdī. It is recommended that believers recite it often during the ghaybah of the Imam. This supplication is also known as:

Du'ā al-Hujjat.

O Allah, be, for Your representative, the Hujjat (proof), son of Al-Hasan, Your blessings be on him and his forefathers, in this hour and in every hour, a guardian, a protector, a leader, a helper, a proof, and an eye, until You make him live on the earth, in obedience (to You), and cause him to live in it for a long time.

Food for Thought:

What is the first thing we ask Allah in this Du'ā?

What do you understand by: 'until You make him live on the earth'?

Extension:

What are two qualities of Imam described in this Du'ā?

What six things are you asking for the Imam in this Du'ā?

Who decides when it is time for Imam al-Mahdī to re-appear?