

ALI 574
ACTIVE PREPARATION FOR
THE IMAM OF OUR TIME
AS A FAMILY



Session two

ACTIVE PREPERATION

- Awaiting is the result of two conditions
 - Not satisfied with current circumstance
 - Expecting improvement
- As we wait for our Imam, our mindset should hold the same
- We have to believe that Imam will improve our condition (individually and as a whole)
- Imam Jaffer Sadiq (a.s.) has mentioned one the general traits of the companions of Imam Mahdi (a.s.):
 - They will be having complete faith in Allah. There is no place for doubts in their hearts.
- Keep reminding each other as a family that this is not it, Allah is in control and we are collectively working towards something bigger and better
- Making the intention and striving in our own way will make all the difference

WHAT SHOULD THIS AWAITING LOOK LIKE?

- Often times we find ourself focussing more on secular education
- It is narrated that the Prophet SAW once looked at some children and said: “Woe unto the children of the end time because of their fathers!” He was asked: “O Messenger of Allah! Is it because their fathers were polytheists?” He said: “No, but it is because of their believing fathers who do not teach them any of the obligatory acts.... They will be content with small things they have from this world. I disown myself from them and they are not from me
- One of the most important responsibilities for a Shi’a is to acquire ma’rifah (a detailed and profound understanding) of the Imam of the time
- Knowledge based on *Tahqiq* (research and study) not *Taqlid* (following others)

MA'RIFA OF THE IMAM

- As a family:
 - Learn about the Imam, his life, sayings
 - Pray for him, his safety, talk about him with excitement – our conditions will change when he comes
 - Know the signs of his reappearance (Don't get stuck on this)
 - Make Dua as a family = LOVE FOR THE IMAM WILL GROW AS A RESULT OF THIS MA'RIFA

■ اللَّهُمَّ عَرِّفْنِي نَفْسَكَ فَإِنَّكَ إِنْ لَمْ تُعَرِّفْنِي نَفْسَكَ لَمْ أَعْرِفْ نَبِيَّكَ. اللَّهُمَّ عَرِّفْنِي حُجَّتَكَ فَإِنَّكَ إِنْ لَمْ تُعَرِّفْنِي حُجَّتَكَ ضَلَلْتُ عَنْ دِينِي

- “O’ Allah! Grant me ma’rifah of Yourself for if I do not have the ma’rifah of You then I will never know Your Prophet. O’ Allah! Grant me ma’rifah of Your Messenger for if I do not have the ma’rifah of Your Messenger than I will never know Your Representative. O’ Allah! Grant me ma’rifah of Your Representative for if I do not have the ma’rifah of Your Representative, then surely I have gone astray from my religion.”

CONNECTION WITH ALLAH IS EVERYTHING

- Get to know Him the way HE wants to be known and worshiped not the way WE want
- Know what HE wants (Qur'ān, Ahádíth)
- Revive our hearts by reciting the Holy
- If we want to be included among the companions of Imam Mahdi (atfs), then we must be attached to the Holy Qur'an.

LIVE THE QUR'AN

- Talk and live the Qur'ān with your family
 - Verses for daily tasks; Use them as affirmations
 - Some Examples:

وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي “Oh Allah make easy for me my affairs” Q 20: 26

لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا “Do not grieve, surely Allah is with us” Q 9 : 40

لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ “If you be thankful I will certainly increase you (your blessings)” Q 14: 7

بِاللَّهِ وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا “My success is only with Allah.” Q 11:88

WHAT DOES OUR IMAM WANT FROM US?

- IMAM MAHDI'S ADDRESS TO HIS SHIAS :
- “Then everyone of you shall act in a manner which makes him nearer to our love and refrain from those acts which makes him proximate to our dislike and our anger. For surely, our affair (re-appearance) will be sudden and unexpected when neither repentance shall benefit him nor shall remorse from sins save him from our chastisement. Nothing shall keep us away from the (Shias) except their news to us of those things which we dislike and do not expect from them.”
- Daily accounting – How was my (our) day? What did I do to prepare for my Imam?
 - Increase faith, knowledge, akhlaq (doing the right thing), worship, intention, strength
- What can we do differently tomorrow?
- Write it down – paper/phone
- Make each other accountable (action jar)

OUR SLOGAN AS THE COMPANIONS OF THE IMAM

- **Hadith from Imam As-Sadiq "...Their slogan will be "O Avenger of Husain!"**
- Imam Husayn (as) should not be remembered only in Muharram
- Remember the sacrifice of Imam Husayn and his family often
- Nawhas, Masaib doesn't have to be only in Muharram
- Karbala has life daily lessons for us, when we are faced with difficulties remember Ashura:
- Use it to remember importance of strong faith, patience, justice, oppression, fear, hunger, love, hope ...

PRACTICE PATIENCE AS A FAMILY

- Advice from Imam Hasan al-Askari (as) to the father of Sheikh Saduq, Ali ibn Husayn ibn Musa ibn Babwayh al-Qummi:
 - “...may Allah be satisfied with you, and make from your progeny good children, ... I also recommend you to pardon others, control anger, continuously associate with kin, comfort brothers and try to carry out their needs at difficulty and ease, be patient...”
- As a family – talk about and practice letting go of others mistakes or annoyances – especially now when we are together more
- Learn how to channel and control anger/frustration (walks, exercise, Qur’ān, time for self-reflection)
- As a family especially now, make it a point to connect with friends and family
- We often donate to different causes, make it a family affair

PATIENCE AND FOCUS ON ACTIVE WAITING

- Work extra hard at **staying focused** in our families
 - Where are we headed? What do we value? What is our priority?
- Be aware of temptations/distractions
- BALANCE
 - Empathize with your future self - How will the future you feel if...
 - Spend more time on Social Media; Watch an extra episode
 - Spend time on self-reflection, exercise, Qur'ān
 - Check productivity as a family
 - What did we spend most of our time on?
 - How much time did we waste?

REMIND EACH OTHER OF THE FOCUS

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ■

- **And do not be like those who forget Allah, so He makes them forget their own souls. It is they who are the transgressors. (Q 59:19)**
- Qur'ān constantly speaks of 'not forgetting' Allah or 'remembering' Allah
- Humans were created with a natural disposition to know Allah
- What contributes to forgetting Allah
 - The whisperings of Shaytān / Control Nafs
 - Attachment to the world, materialistic, social media (BIG)
 - Taking sins lightly
- Keep each other accountable as a family

ACTION STEPS

- Set intention [for Allah in preparation for my Imam]
- Make a plan as a family
 - Start with weekly
 - Eventually it will become a habit and grow
- Hold on to Allah, Qur'ān and Teachings of Ahlul Bayt as a blueprint for day to day life – not just in times of difficulty – make it a practical part of life
- Focus on moral conduct as a family