

ACTIVE PREPARATION FOR THE IMAM OF OUR TIME AS A FAMILY

Session One

INTRODUCTION

- As a family we often prepare for milestones at different stages
- How much to we remind ourselves of the coming of our Imam?
- Why does the waiting need to be active?
- Reasons why people will oppose/reject the Imam
 - People will come to the Imam seeking relief – will not be immediate
 - By the time he comes, there will have been so much suffering/striving
 - Yes Imam will come with miracles – but miracles add conviction to a pure heart
 - Align values with what he will bring/stand for

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMAM'S COMPANIONS

- In one tradition Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.) has mentioned the general traits of the companions of Imam Mahdi (a.s.):
- **Their hearts are stronger than iron**
 - Constant need to strengthen faith
 - Understand the beauty of Islam
 - Don't be apologetic
 - Stay firm on family values – as a family
 - Learn as a family (courses, lectures)

THE HEART IN THE QUR'AN

Reasoning and Comprehension

أَفَلَمْ يَسِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَتَكُونَ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ يَعْقِلُونَ بِهَا

“Have they not traveled in the land and have they hearts wherewith to feel and ears wherewith to hear.” (22:46)

Guidance

وَمَنْ يُؤْمِن بِاللَّهِ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ قَلْبَهُ ۚ وَاللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

“And whosoever believeth in God, He guideth his heart. And God is knower of all things.” (64:11)

Tranquility

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لِيَزْدَادُوا إِيمَانًا

“He it is who sent down peace of reassurance into the hearts of the believers that they might add faith unto their faith.” (48:4)

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMAM'S COMPANIONS

- In one tradition Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.) has mentioned the general traits of the companions of Imam Mahdi (a.s.):
- **They shall be tougher than stones**
 - Physical; Emotional; Mental Well-being
 - Exercise together as family
 - Active listening, Clear communication vs Bottling up feelings
 - Make time daily to talk with each other
 - Practice mindfulness as a family
 - During meals, car rides

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMAM'S COMPANIONS

- In one tradition Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.) has mentioned the general traits of the companions of Imam Mahdi (a.s.):
- **They will buzz like honeybees in their prayers**
 - Worship as a family
 - Jamaat Salah
 - Recite/Reflect on different Du'a
 - Connect with the Qur'an/Hadith as a family (fun competitions)

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMAM'S COMPANIONS

- In one tradition Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.) has mentioned the general traits of the companions of Imam Mahdi (a.s.):
- **They are like burning lamps and their hearts are like glowing beacons.**
 - Focus on moral conduct as a family, always discuss 'the right thing to do'
 - Discuss lives of our role models and their akhlaq
 - Wafats/Khushalis – should be more than what we wear/eat
 - Remind each other of the Akhlaq of the Ahlul Bayt (AS)
 - “What would my Imam do?”

CHARACTERISTICS OF IMAM'S COMPANIONS

- In one tradition Imam Jaffer Sadiq (as) has mentioned the general traits of the companions of Imam Mahdi (a.s.):
- **These are the ones who seek Allah's Pleasure**
 - Always remind each other to set intention
- Imam Jaffer ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (as) said: “A person who would like to be among the companions of al-Qa’im should be in a state of (active) waiting, and **perform all of his deeds with Wara’ and with the most beautiful etiquette** and then one will be counted as being in a state of (true) waiting. Then if such a person was to die and al-Qa’im was to make his advent after this, then that person would receive the reward as the one who witnessed his (al-Mahdi’s) advent.” [Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 140]