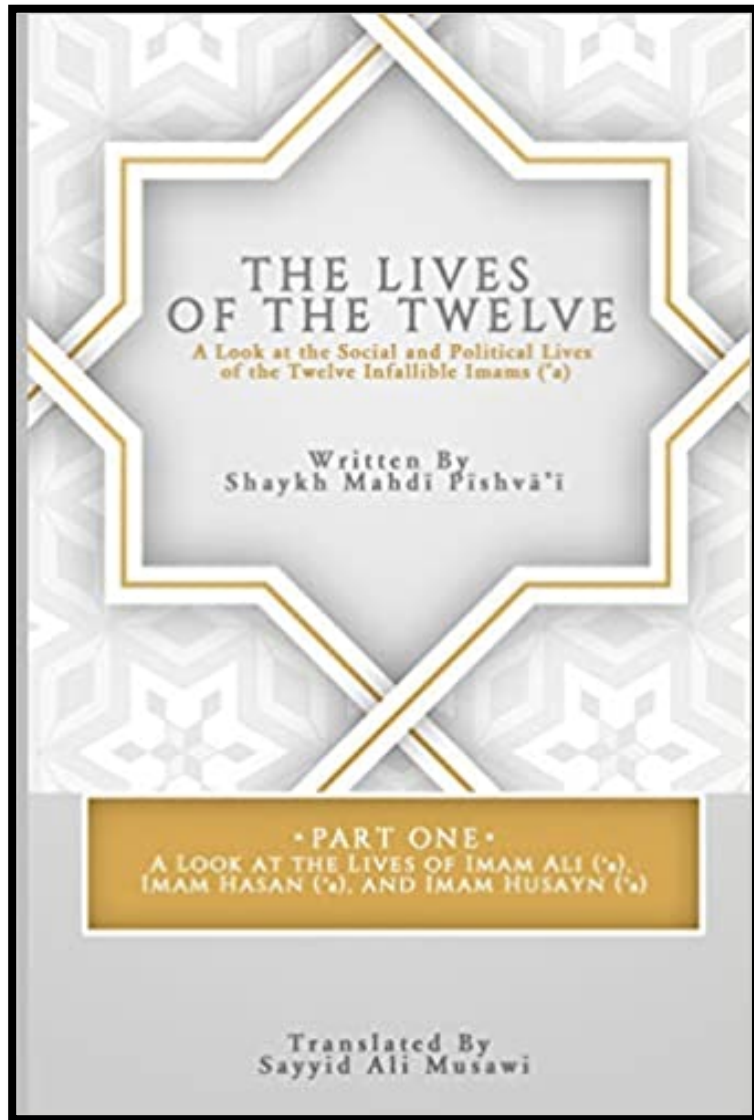


ALI 614: Role of the Imams Part 1

Section One – Imam Ali (a)

What aspect of Imam Ali's guidance stands out for you?
Please write in the chat box.





The Lives of the Twelve

A look at the Social and
Political lives of the twelve
Infallible Imams (a)

Author:
Shaykh Mahdi Pishva'i

Imam Ali (a) - 5 Stages

1. Birth till start of Prophet (s)'s mission – 10 years
2. Beginning of Prophet's mission till Hijrah – 13 years
3. From Hijrah to the death of the Prophet (s) – 10 years
4. Death of the Prophet (s) to Imam's apparent Caliphate – 25 years
5. Imam's apparent Caliphate till his death – 4 years

I - Birth till start of Prophet (s)'s mission

- Raised in the house of the Prophet (s)
- Spiritual influence of the Prophet (s)
- Character training



Certainly, you know my position of close kinship and special relationship with the Prophet of Allah - peace and blessing of Allah be upon him and his descendants. When I was only a child he took charge of me. He used to press me to his chest and lay me beside him in his bed.

Khutba al-Qasi'a no.192



I used to follow him like a young camel following in the footprints of its mother. Every day he would show me in the form of a banner some of his high traits and commanded me to follow it. Every year he used to go in seclusion to the hill of Hira', where I saw him but no one else saw him.

Khutba al-Qasi'a no. 192

II - Beginning of Prophet's mission till Hijrah

- Accepting Islam
- Supporting the Prophet (s)
- Self sacrifice



In those days Islam did not exist in any house except that of the Prophet of Allah . . . and Khadijah, while I was the third after these two. I used to see and watch the effulgence of divine revelation and message, and breathed the scent of Prophethood.

Khutba al-Qasi'a, no. 192



O My God! I am the first who leaned towards You and who heard and responded to the call of Islam. No one preceded me in prayer (*salat*) except the Prophet.

Khutba no.131

III - From Hijrah to the death of the Prophet (s)

- Brother of the Prophet (s)
- His role in the battles
- Ambassador of the Prophet (s)

IV - Death of the Prophet (s) to Imam's apparent Caliphate

- The period of patience
- Guiding the Ummah
- Worship and servitude
- Training the Muslims
- Looking after the poor
- Advising the caliphs



Beware! By Allah, the son of Abu Quhafah (Abu Bakr) dressed himself with it and he certainly knew that my position in relation to it was the same as the position of the axis in relation to the hand-mill. The flood water flows down from me and the bird cannot fly up to me. I put a curtain against the caliphate and kept myself detached from it.

Khutba al-Shaqshaqiyyah, no.3



Then I began to think whether I should assault or endure calmly the blinding darkness of tribulations wherein the grown up are made feeble and the young grow old and the true believer acts under strain till he meets Allah (on his death).

Khutba al-Shaqshaqiyya, no.3



I found that endurance thereon was wiser. So I adopted patience although there was pricking in the eye and suffocation in the throat. I watched the plundering of my inheritance till the first one went his way but handed over the Caliphate to Ibn al-Khattab after himself.

Khutba al-Shaqshaqiyya, no.3



By Allah, so long as the affairs of Muslims remain intact and there is no oppression in it save on myself I shall keep quiet seeking reward for it (from Allah) and keeping aloof from its attractions and allurements for which you aspire.

Khutba no. 74

For truly pious leaders, power is not considered the end goal. The end goal is something higher and more valuable than increasing one's status and ability to rule. In fact, the purpose of rule and governance is only something which gives fulfillment to these end goals; in essence it is only a means to an end.

Shaykh Mahdi Pishavi, Lives of the Twelve

Domestic and Foreign dangers

- Death of close companions
- Reversion of new converts to Islam
- False Prophets
- External powers



O my God! You know that what we did was not to seek power nor to acquire anything from the vanities of the world. We rather wanted to restore the signs of Your religion and to usher prosperity into Your cities so that the oppressed among Your creatures might be safe and Thy forsaken commands might be established.

Why did Ali (AS), the rightful successor to the Prophet (PBUH), remain silent after the latter's death and made no effort to press his rights? Why did he not awaken society from its slumber?

The answer is that Imam Ali (AS) never hesitated to press for his rights and always reminded people of the rightful place of the Prophet's (PBUH) Household as successors, but he never attempted to take back his rights by force.

<http://shiastudies.com/en/10692/imam-ali-s-remain-silent-25-years/> (article by Ayatullah Jafar Subhani)



At that moment, nothing took me by surprise, but the crowd of people rushing to me. It advanced towards me from every side like the mane of the hyena so much so that Hasan and Husayn were getting crushed and both the ends of my shoulder garment were torn. They collected around me like a herd of sheep and goats . . .

**Khutba al-Shaqshaqiyyah,
no.3**

V - Imam's apparent Caliphate till his death

- Removing widespread corruption
- Reforming society
- Internal enemies

Changes brought by Imam Ali (a)

In the beginning of his caliphate, Imam 'Ali (a) put an end to some false traditions.. He stopped the way in which the public treasury was distributed based on the participation in battles of the early years of Islam, or with precedence for those who had become Muslim faster. He said: "Treat everyone equally when distributing the public treasury and do not prefer anyone over the other

He appointed Ammar bin Yasir and Abul Haytham bin Tayyihan to the public treasury and gave them written orders: The Arabs, non-Arabs, and all Muslims from every tribe and ethnicity should receive an equal share from the public treasury

When Imam 'Ali (a) accepted the Caliphate he ordered that the lands that 'Uthman had given to different people be restored to the treasury as it was the property of God.

Imam 'Ali (a) was very strict with regards to dealing with justice with the public treasury, even with his own relatives.

He was uncompromising when enforcing the laws of Islam, and this made him intolerable for some people.

During his rule, Imam 'Ali (a) appointed and replaced governors in some cities

Source: [https://en.wikishia.net/view/Caliphate_of_Imam_Ali_\(a\)](https://en.wikishia.net/view/Caliphate_of_Imam_Ali_(a))

Readings

<http://shiastudies.com/en/10692/imam-ali-s-remain-silent-25-years/>

<https://www.islamquest.net/en/archive/fa2851#>

<https://www.islamicity.org/6479/governance-of-islamic-state-during-caliph-hazrat-ali/>

(Sunni source)

[https://en.wikishia.net/view/Caliphate_of_Imam_Ali_\(a\)](https://en.wikishia.net/view/Caliphate_of_Imam_Ali_(a))