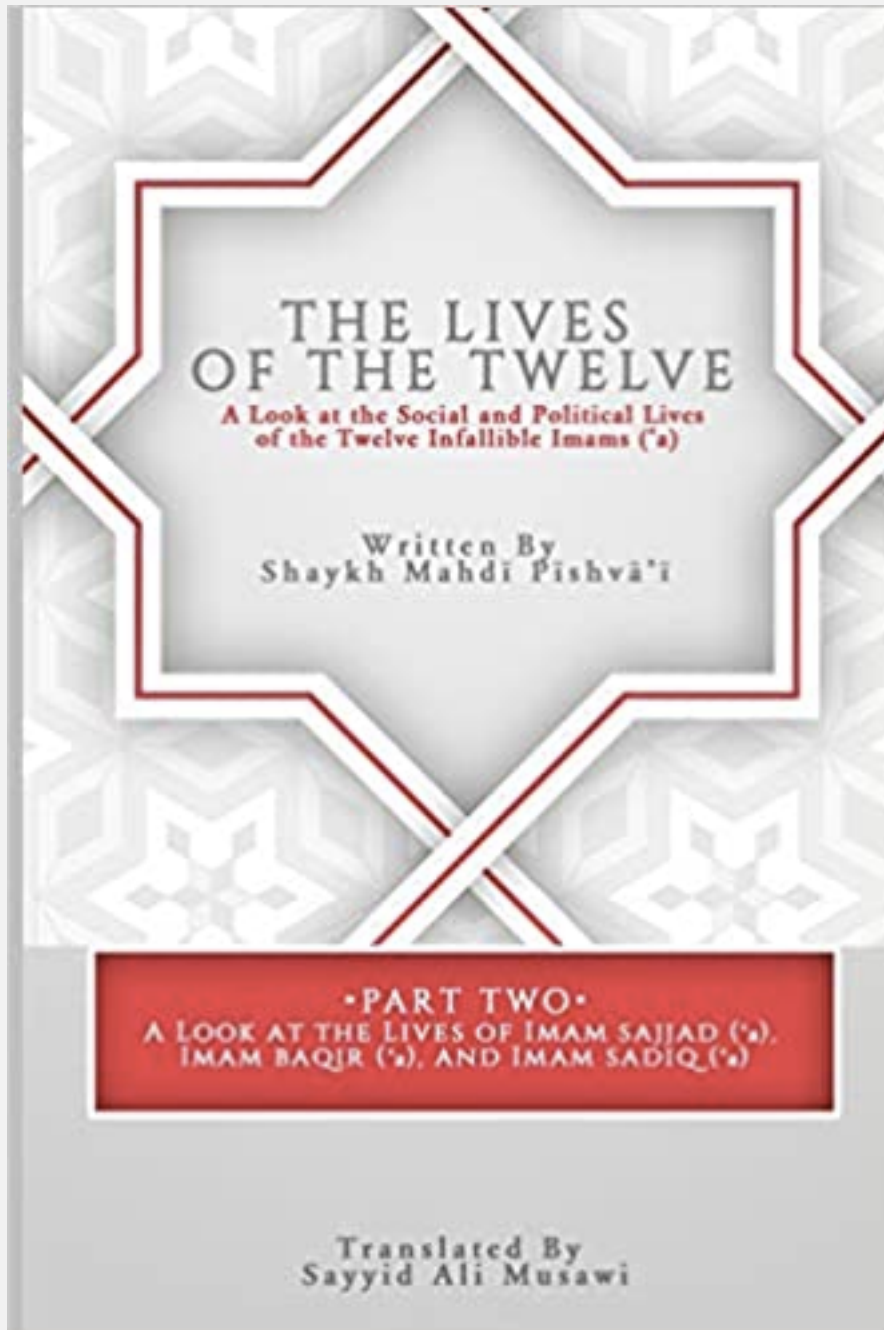


ALI 614: Role of the Imams Part 2

Section One Imam Sajjad (a)





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 Sajjad (a)

1. With his grandfather – 2 years
2. With Imam Hasan (a) – 10 years
3. With his father, Imam Husayn (a) – 10 years
4. Imamate – 34 years

The Caliphs

Yazid bin
Muawiyah

Abdullah bin
Zubayr

Muawiyah
bin Yazid

Marwan bin
Hakam

Abd al-Malik
bin Marwan

Walid bin
Abd al-Malik

The Illness of the Imam

People view Imam Sajjad (a) as a sick Imam and think of him as pale and sickly, and also being always depressed and gloomy.

Imam recovered after Ashura and for the remaining 34 years enjoyed good health and well being.

The illness itself does not entail psychological or spiritual weakness. In contradiction to this idea, during the time of captivity of the survivors of Karbala, Imam (a) was a beacon of hope and a source of strength for them.

Without a doubt, the illness which the Imam (a) experienced was a form of Divine protection. Through it, he became exempt from the duty of fighting, and was protected from a certain death. Through this, the line of the Imams (a) was allowed to continue.

Shaykh Mahdi Pishva'i, *The Lives of the Twelve*

The Messenger of Karbala

Imam (a) used his conversations and sermons to spread the truth about the Umayyad government and disgrace the falsehood they propagated.

Imam (a) showed the true nature of the uprising of Imam Husayn (a) and the truth about the Ahlul Bayt (a).

Society under the Umayyads

- The spread of intense fear
- Weakening of true followers
- Social and political constraints
- Open scorn for Islam
- Luxurious living and moral corruption

In all of Makkah and Madina there are not twenty individuals who love us.

Imam Sajjad (a)

Abd al-Malik bin Marwan

His status before assuming power

A separation with the Quran

His speech during Hajj

Losing the light of faith

Oppressive governors and commanders

Appointment of Hajjaj

Position of Imam Sajjad (a)

Complete control by the Umayyads

Close monitoring of Imam's activities

Planning a movement

Preserving the truth and its small group of followers

Tragedy of Hurrah

- A delegation from Madina goes to visit Yazid
- The disassociation from Yazid
- Revolution in Madina
- The battle in Madina

The Role of Imam Sajjad (a)

1) Keeping alive the remembrance of Ashura

While this mourning was based on the emotions of what had taken place, it also possessed political dimensions as well. The repeated remembrance of the tragedy of Karbala would not allow the oppression and crimes of the Umayyad government to be forgotten.

2) Guiding and advising the nation

His methods of preaching;

- a) Friday sermons
- b) Small gatherings
- c) Supplications

Words of Imam Sajjad (a)

Hold in foremost importance the command of God and the obedience of the ones whom God has made their obedience obligatory. Do not hold to the obedience of Taghut over the obedience of God and His divinely appointed rulers . . . Know that whoever exercises opposition to God's awliya and follows a religion other than God's religion, and obstinately acts against the divine rulers, will be entangled in the flames of Hell
(Friday Sermon of Imam)



Words
of Imam
Sajjad
(a)



Political Aspects of Sahifa Sajjadiyya

O God, bless Muhammad and his Household,
appoint for me a hand against him who wrongs me,
a tongue against him who disputes with me,
and a victory over him who stubbornly resists me!

Give me;

guile against him who schemes against me,
power over him who oppresses me,
refutation of him who reviles me,
and safety from him who threatens me!

Grant me success to
obey him who points me straight
and follow him who guides me right.

Dua no.20

Words
of Imam
Sajjad
(a)



O God,
surely You have confirmed Your religion in all
times, with an Imam whom You have set up
as a guidepost to Your servants and a lighthouse
in Your lands,
after his cord has been joined to Your cord!
You have appointed him the means to Your
good pleasure, made obeying him obligatory,
cautioned against disobeying him, and
commanded, following his commands,
abandoning his prohibitions, and that no
forward-goer go ahead of him or back-keeper
keep back from him

Words of Imam Sajjad (a)



O God, this station belongs to Your vicegerents, Your chosen ones, while the places of You trusted ones in the elevated degree which You have singled out for them have been forcibly stripped!
But You are the Ordainer of that - Your command is not overcome, the inevitable in Your governing is not overstepped! However You will and whenever You will! In that which You know best, You are not accused for Your creation or Your will!
Then Your selected friends, Your vicegerents, were overcome, vanquished, forcibly stripped; they see Your decree replaced, Your Book discarded, Your obligations distorted from the aims of Your laws, and the Sunna of Your Prophet abandoned!

Dua no.48

3) Struggle against government scholars

- The government instituted 'experts' in the field of religion in society.
- They took the guise of jurists, hadith narrators, reciters and commentators of the Quran.
- A mental and psychological conditioning of the people.

The example of Zuhri

- A well known jurisprudent and narrator of Hadith in Madina
- Using knowledge to secure material wealth
- Fabricated traditions of Zuhri
- A wrong judgment

Words of Imam Sajjad (a)



Remember that the heaviest burden you carry, and the slightest truth you've concealed is your approaching the tyrant and accepting his invitation when he was alone. You accompanied him to help him to go astray. How much I fear that you will be punished with the treacherous and will be reckoned for your actions. You have received the things which were not yours, and have been close to those who did not give the people what was due to them. When you were close to such people, you've not prevented any wrong-doing. You've taken for friends people who were against Allah. Is it not that their inviting you was to pave their ways to cruelties they committed? With your help they have done something that Muslims look at the true learned men with suspicion and doubt; and you caused the ignorant follow them. [Even] their strongest friends and their most powerful companions couldn't justify their wrong -doings as effectively as you did. How little you've gained from them compared to what they've taken from you. How unworthy are the things you've received in return to what they have taken from you [your faith].

Imam's letter to Zuhri,

<http://alhasanain.org/m/english/?com=content&id=4>

4) Religious Teaching

The Imam, peace be on him, took the Mosque of the Prophet as a center for his school and an institute for him; in its hall he delivered his lectures and researches.. It is worth mentioning that his lectures included jurisprudence, the interpretation (of the Qur'an), the hadith, philosophy, theology, rules of conduct, and morals.

A large group of scholars and jurists, who spread knowledge throughout the Muslim world, graduated from the Imam's school.

5) Assisting the needy

- Support during civil conflicts
- Paying the expenses of poor families
- Feeding the poor
- Freeing slaves