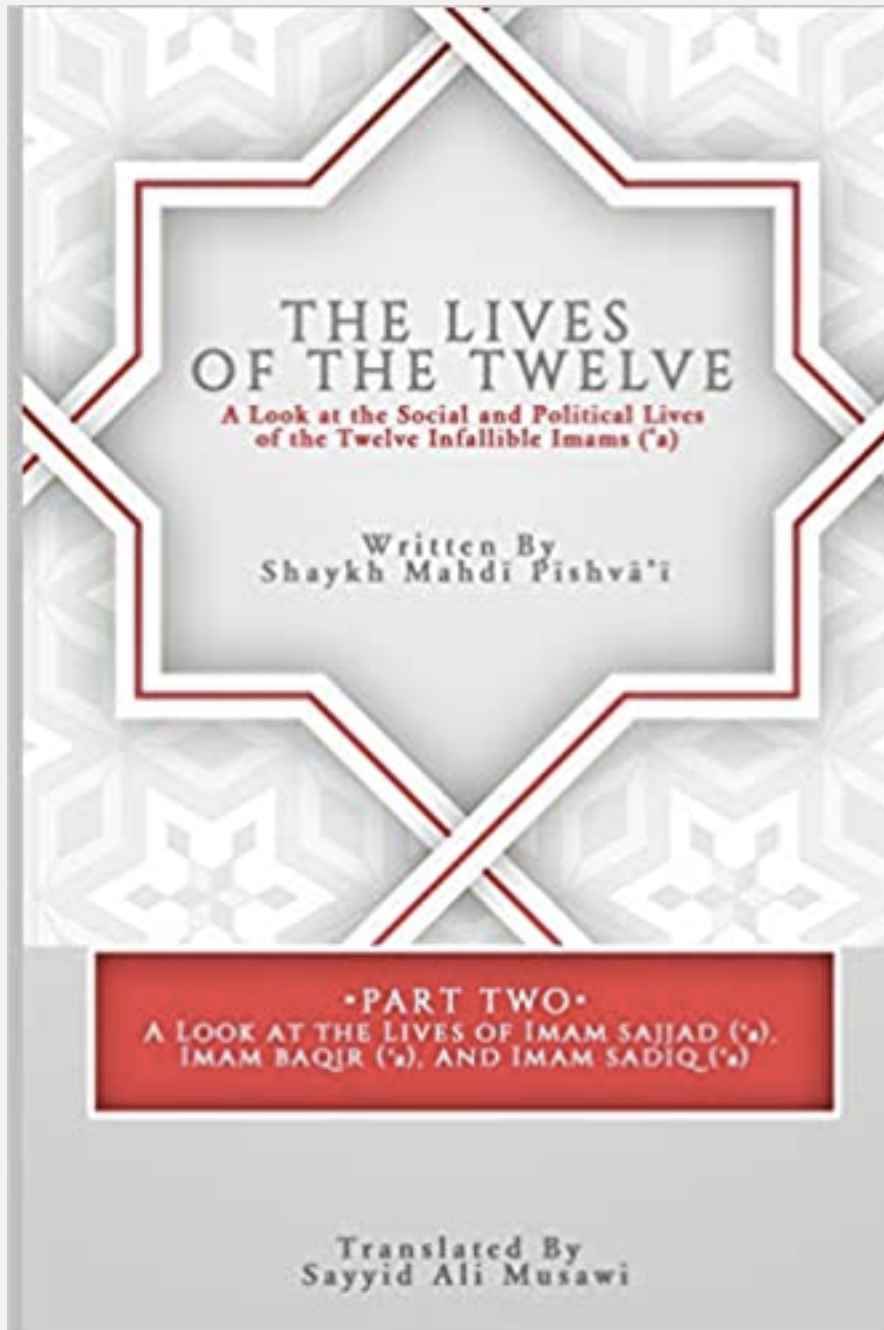


ALI 627: Role of the Imams Part 2

Section Three Imam al-Sadiq (a)





The Lives of the Twelve

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

Author:
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Imam al-Sadiq (a)



1. Founder of the intellectual movement in Madina.
2. Taught students who went on to establish their own jurisprudential schools of thought.
3. Unique social and political conditions.
4. Imam al-Sadiq (a) has had a high status in the eyes of prominent sunni scholars among them were Abu Hanifa and Malik bin Anas.

Caliphs during the Imam's time

Umayyad Caliphs

- Hisham ibn Abd al-Malik
- Walid ibn Yazid ibn Abd al-malik
- Yazid ibn Walid ibn Abd al-Malik
- Ibrahim ibn Walid ibn Abd al-Malik
- Marwan ibn Muhammad (Marwan Himar)

Abbasid Caliphs

- Abdullah ibn Muhammad (Saffah)
- Abu Ja'far (Mansur Dawaniqi)

Ja'far ibn Muhammad is an individual whose knowledge and learning has filled the world and it is said that Abu Hanifah and Sufyan Thawri are from his students. (The fact) that these two are his students is sufficient proof of the greatness of his knowledge.

Abu Bahr Jahiz

So much knowledge has spread from him [Imam al-Sadiq] that it has become proverbial among people and the news of it has spread everywhere. From no single individual in his family has so much knowledge and wisdom been narrated before.

Shaykh al-Mufid

Roots of the intellectual movement

- Emphasis on learning and knowledge
- Research and exchange of opinions with the other civilizations entering the fold of Islam
- Exposure to Greek Philosophy
- Dialogue with non Muslims
- A fervor of debates, discussions and gatherings

The Ja'fari University

- Imam taught all those who wanted to learn, regardless of the sect they followed.
- He propagated knowledge which was very different from the government scholars
- Imam encouraged and taught individual students according to the field they had a natural talent and passion for.
- He would refer students who had specialized to those who came to debate with him.

Sciences taught by the Imam

Quran commentary,
hadith, jurisprudence,
theology . . .

Natural sciences;
medicine, astronomy,
philosophy,
mathematics

The Treatise of Mufaddal

Mufaddal ibn 'Umar Kufi was a student of Imam al-Sadiq (a) who was instructed by the Imam for four days. He compiled the Imam's teachings in the form of a treatise called Tawhid of Mufaddal. This book includes the signs in creation that leads to the conclusion of the existence of a Creator.

Hisham bin Hakam

Hisham was one of the most prominent intellectual figures and most well-known Shi'a scholars of that time. He was praised by both Shi'a and Sunni scholars.

He was a genius and a gifted speaker and was able to successfully debate many different groups.

Words of Hisham bin Hakam

I wonder why the opponents of the Shi'a chose the man as caliph whose dismissal came from heaven and dismissed the man whose appointment came from heaven.

Jabir bin Hayyan (Geber)

He is considered to be the father of alchemy, and one of the founders or pioneers of pharmacology and chemistry. He is often called the Father of Modern Chemistry

Studied alchemy (chemistry), pharmacy, philosophy, medicine and astronomy under Imam al-Sadiq.

Hadith Unwan al-Basri

In this hadith, Imam al-Sadiq (a) gives instructions on self-purification, patience, and knowledge to a person called Unwan al-Basri

Political Activities of the Imam

Inviting people
to wilayah

Refusal to accept
the Abbasid offer
of Caliphate

The Abbasids

Gained political ground through claiming to stand up for two main factors

- Subjugation of the Mawali
- Oppression of the Ahlul Bayt

The Wikala Network

Since the Shia were scattered in different parts of the Muslim territories and it was difficult for them to be directly in touch with the Imam, Imam al-Sadiq (a) appointed a number of representatives (wakil) for different regions who were responsible to transfer khums, zakat, and donations of the Shia to the Imam and also to take their questions and messages to the Imam and the Imam's response back to them. The network of representatives, which continued its function until the death of Ali bin Muhammad al-Samuri, the fourth representative of Imam al-Mahdi (a), is sometimes referred to as the Wikala Network.

[https://en.wikishia.net/view/Imam_Ja'far_b._Muhammad_al-Sadiq_\(a\)](https://en.wikishia.net/view/Imam_Ja'far_b._Muhammad_al-Sadiq_(a))

Zayd bin Ali bin Husayn (Zayd al- Shahid)

Son of Imam Sajjad (a) who led an uprising against the Umayyads. Many of Shi'a scholars believe this rebellion was staged by the permission of Imam al-Sadiq (a)

Imam al-Sadiq said about him; May God bless him; he was a pious man . . . learned and truthful. If he was victorious, he would be faithful to his pledge, and if he gained power, he knew who to entrust it to.

Words of Imam al- Sadiq



When Mansur Dawaniqi asked him why he didn't go to him as the people did, Imam said; 'There is nothing for which we fear you, nor do you have anything of the Hereafter that we would seek you for. Neither are you in a blessing such that we should congratulate you, nor are you in affliction such that we should send you our condolences. So why should we come to you?'