

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

We seek forgiveness from Allah  
We stand witness to Allah that there is no God but Him  
That Muhammad (saww) is his slave and messenger

### **Wiladah of Imam Ali Ridha (as)**

#### **The birth of Imam Ridha**

Imam Reza (PBUH) was born in the year 148 on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Ziqadah in Medina. The following is narrated from his mother: “When I was pregnant, I didn’t feel overweighed. When I was asleep, I heard the sound of praising Allah and the word of “La Ilaha Illa Allah” from my womb, but when I got up, I heard nothing. When my baby was born, he put his hands on the ground and raised his head up and moved his lips, as he was saying something”. After the birth of Imam Ridha, Imam Musa Kazim (as) told Bibi Najma that this is the *karama* of Allah. He then recited Azan and Iqamah in the right and left ears of his son respectively. He then gave Imam Ridha water of Euphrates to sip; returned him to the mother and said verily he is the ‘baqiyatillah fil ardh’. [Bihar al Anwar Vol 49 pg 11]

Similar happenings have been narrated for other Imams or prophets, such as Jesus (PBUH), who according to the Quran, talked to the people although he was in a cradle. [The holy Quran (19:30)]

#### **Titles of Imam**

**Ar-Ridha** – Ridha means ‘to be pleased with’. Angels, Prophets, Aamma, believers and even the enemies of Ahlul-Bayt accepted him. So much so that Mamun Rashid had to offer him to be the heir apparent (to be the leader after him).

**Imam Zamin-e-Thamin** - Thamin means a ‘Guarantor’ which signifies safety and security. We believe that if anyone who is going on a journey goes under the security of Imam he/she will return safely.

**Gharibul-Ghurabaa** (One who is a stranger i.e. he is away from his hometown). Imam was far away from his home and family and he is the only Imam who is buried out of Iraq and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia).

**Alim e Aali Mohammed** - The learned one from Aale Muhammad. This name was given to him by his grandfather (Imam Ja'fer As-Sadiq (a.s.)).

### **Imam Zaamin (as) and the deer**

Our 8th Imam, Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A) is also known as Imam Zaamin (A). Zaamin means safety.

One day when Imam (A) was walking he came across a hunter who was about to kill a deer. The deer was trying to get away and when she saw Imam (A) she said something to him.

Imam asked the hunter to free the deer so that she could go and feed her little baby deer who were very hungry. Imam (A) also told the hunter that once the deer had fed her babies she would come back.

The hunter allowed the deer to go because Imam (A) had told him to, but he did not think she was coming back, so Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A) waited with the hunter until the deer returned with her young ones. She asked Imam (A) to look after her babies.

### **Imam talks to a sparrow**

- Once a sparrow landed in front of the Imam and started chirping nonstop. The Imam then said to his companion Sulayman do you not what the sparrow chirped. The narrator Sulayman said that **verily Allah, His Rasool** the Imam knows best. Imam said the sparrow told me there is a snake about to harm its young one in the nest and so please rescue its young one. Imam then rescued the sparrow that had just been hatched. **Bihar al Anwar Vol 49 pg 88**
- Imam was able to communicate with the Jinn as well.<sup>1</sup>
- Imam said that Allah does not appoint a Hujjah unless the hujjah is able to communicate with all His Creation.

### **Imam Ridha and the Holy Quran**

- It is said that Imam Ridha finished reading the Holy Quran in three days. He said that he can also finish it in a shorter time. However, every time he reads the Holy Quran he starts contemplating its verses. He said that if he does not contemplate then he can finish it earlier. **Bihar al Anwar Vol 49 pg 90**
- It is said that Imam Ridha used to recite Kazalika Rabbuna three times after reciting Surah Tawheed.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>It is said that in Iran there was an Ayatollah whose son had mastered the knowledge of conquering Jinn. His father ordered his son to order the Jinn to injure him. The son did not take instruction from his father. The father then said, "I instruct you to do so in my capacity as a marja." He then instructed the Jinn to injure the Ayatollah. However, on hearing this, the Jinn said that he cannot injure his own marja!

### **Attitude towards servants**

- Majlisi in Biharul Anwar V 49 Page 101 writes that our 8th Imam insisted on eating his meals only after the entire members of his family, young and old, servants and grooms were present. One day someone who was fonder of royal formalities than the fraternity of the Ahlulbayt, suggested that it would be better to make separate eating arrangements for the servants, The Imam replied, "All are created by God, Adam is their father and Eve is their mother. Everyone will be dealt with by God according to his deeds. Why should there be any discrimination in this world."
- A man from Balkh says, "I was traveling with Imam Reza (A.S.) to Khorasan. When the meal cloth was spread he ordered all to come and be present beside it. I said, "I may lay my life for you. Do allow that the meal table of the slaves be segregated." He said, "Keep quiet! Be aware none of us has superiority over the other. Our God is one; our mother and father are one. We attain superiority only under the shade of Piety."

### **Golden chain hadith**

- Once when our 8th Imam, Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A.S.) was travelling through a town called Nishapur, the people of the town asked Imam (A.S.) to tell them a hadith from the Prophet (S.A.W.).

Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A.S.) told them the following hadith:

*"My father Musa al-Kadhim (A.S.) told me,  
from his father Ja'far as-Sadiq (A.S.),  
from his father Muhammad al-Baqir (A.S.),  
from his father Ali Zainul Abideen (A.S.),  
from his father the martyr of Kerbala (Hussain) (A.S.),  
from his father Ali ibn Abu Talib (A.S.),  
from the Holy Prophet (S.A.W.).  
from Jibrail (A.S.),  
from Almighty Allah:*

***"The Kalima of 'La ilaha illallah' is My fort, and whosoever says it will enter My fort,  
and whosoever enters My fort is safe from My punishment."***

- This hadith is known as the golden chain hadith. This is because each member of the chain was a Masoom. The people of Nishapur began reciting the Kalima and thought that His Holiness talk was over, but to their amazement the Holy Imam (A.S.) added the following words to what he had previously stated:

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<sup>2</sup> On a separate note it is said that we should recite tasbeehat al arba since it is the wage of the angels who are renovating our houses in jannah.

*"But all this depends on some conditions, and I am considered to be one of those conditions".*

- This historical and the most famous Hadith Qudsi is called "Silsilat al-Dhahab". Imam Ridha (A.S.) confirms that worshipping God will be counted as a perfect procedure when it is based on the obedience of the immaculate Holy Imams (A.S.). This historical statement of Imam Ridha (A.S.) implied the presentation and assertion of the Imamate (socio-religious leadership) of His Holiness.

**Moral:**

Just to say something will be of no use. Only when you understand what you are saying and believe in it enough to follow it then will it be of use to you.

- The Holy Prophet said that Allah swt has said: "Wilayat of Ali Ibn Talib is the fort (of safety). Whoever accepts the wilayat will enter the fort."

**Imam appointed crown prince due to political reasons**

- During the time of the Abbasside caliph Mamun, Mamun made Imam Ridha his successor or beneficiary even though he was the Imam's enemy. He did this for political reasons just to please the shia of the time. He even got the Imams name engraved on coins. He even changed the colour of his court from black to green since green is the colour of the Imams.

**Command of Allah**

The people of king Mamun were very angry that he had made our 8th Imam, Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A.S.), his heir.

To show Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A.S.) that they did not respect him, the servants of Mamun decided that when Imam (A.S.) came to the court they would not open the doors, or lift up the curtains for Imam (A.S.) to pass through.

That day when Imam Ali ar-Ridha (A.S.) came to the court, the doors and curtains were opening by themselves for Imam (A.S.) under the command of Allah.

The servants became very scared and ashamed and resumed their duty of opening the doors and curtains for Imam (A.S.).

**Moral:**

No-one can do anything to you when Allah is looking after you, as Allah is the most powerful and in control of everything.

### **Daabal the poet of freedom**

Daabal says, "When I wrote my well known poem admiring the family of Imam Ali (A.S.) and decided to proceed to Khorrasan and present the poem to the Imam (A.S.) I undertook the journey and arrived Khorrasan. Recited my poem in the presence of Imam (A.S.)." He added a number of verses to it, which were about his martyrdom in Toos. Then he said, "Keep your poem concealed and secret, do not read it to anyone." Mamoon got informed about my coming there and reciting the poem for Imam (A.S.). He summoned me and desired that I may recite the poem for him. I denied having written any such poem. But Mamoon brought Imam (A.S.) to his assembly and in his presence he said, "Read out that renowned poem which you wrote about the worth and virtues of Ali's (A.S.) family before the Imam (A.S.) to me as well.

I was forced to recite it. Mamoon apparently showed his pleasure and joy over it and gave me a prize. His minister Fazal sent a good prize along with a horse for me. Imam (A.S.) too granted me a hundred dinnars from the money, which Mamoon had got minted with his name upon it and said, "Keep it, for one day you will need it."

I said to Imam (A.S.), "I want a used shirt of yours so that when I die that becomes my coffin." Imam (A.S.) acceded to it and gave one of his shirts to me and said, "Keep this shirt as by its benevolence you will remain safe." I said good-bye to Imam (A.S.) and moved upon with the horse which Fazal had sent for me, out of Toos, with a caravan. On the way thieves attacked the caravan and plundered and looted whatever the travelers possessed. Not very long after it, one of them who was obviously their chief came along, riding my horse. He was reciting the rhymes of the poem written by me. I went to him and asked him, "Do you know whose verses are these?" He said surprisingly "Yes Daabal Khuzaia rhymes". I said, "Do you know I am Daabal who wrote these rhymes. He showed amazement and did not believe my words. I said, "Ask those who are traveling with me." The people of the caravan gave witness that I was the poet who wrote those verses. When he knew I was Daabal, he ordered that all the wealth which was looted and distributed among themselves be returned to the passengers of the caravan as an honor to me and as the Imam (A.S.) had said that shirt became the cause of my freedom and that of my friends. They returned the wealth and looted properties to us.

When Daabal got free from the thieves he arrived at Qum. People of Qum rushed to welcome him and requested him to recite the famous poem, which he recited to Imam (A.S.). Daabal agreed and went to the mosque of Qum and read out his poem to them. People gave him lots of money. When they came to know about the shirt affair, they begged him to give that to them and take any amount of money for it. Daabal did not agree. They demanded a piece of the shirt he again did not accept.

When Daabal moved out of Qum, a group of young men closed his way down. They snatched the shirt from him and came back to Qum. Daabal too returned to Qum and requested them to return him the shirt. But they did not accede to his request. Daabal yearned for a piece of it. They acceded to this request. They gave him a piece of it for a thousand dirhams and he accepted (the deal) and then moved towards his home land.

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When Daabal returned to his home he surprisingly discovered that the thieves had plundered his house leaving back nothing for him. He remembered what Imam (A.S.) had said while giving him a hundred dinnars. He had said, "Keep these you will extremely need them (one day)." He carried the money to the bazaar and sold each dinnar for hundred dinnars and received ten thousand dinnars.

During this period his wife whom he loved very much got ill and her eyes developed dropsy (disease) and the physicians made him disappointed about her treatment. Daabal tied the piece of the Shirt [which was given by Imam (A.S.)] to the eyes of his wife. When he opened it the next day, she was cured.

Daabal, for that poem he had written with courage and bravery not only became wealthy and respect worthy. Thereafter, all the shias respected him and he became known as a freedom-loving poet in the history. A portion of the rhymes are translated as under:

When I saw the ruined house of the sons of the Prophet (P.B.U.H.) I wept.

The house whose owners were ousted from those and hypocrites had taken their place.

The houses where one-day exegesis (of Quran) was explained.

Those were the places of the descending of revelation but now because of the tyrannies of the criminals, have emptied of the recitation of Holy Quran.

The owners of the houses who were the heritage of Prophet (P.B.U.H.) were considered the best men of the Ummah. The men who helped the afflicted ones and continuously they were taken to be their friends. I see that their belongings and wealth are in the hands of the cruel ones. Their benevolent hands are empty from their own wealth.

I salute to those stars of the sky of Imamate who are sleeping in Kufa and Medina and Karbala. Who have laid their lives for Islam.

There is a grave in Baghdad (Musa Ibn-e-Jaffar [A.S.]) wherein; a pure and combatant Soul is lying. The grave, which is one of the paradise.

Daabal says when he reached this point Imam (A.S.) said he would complete this poem by adding to it some rhymes. Imam then added rhymes concerning his martyrdom in Toos.

So, the Imam (A.S.) gives news of his martyrdom and being buried in Toos, which is considered a miracle of Imam (A.S.).

He said: there is a grave in Toos too, which has awfully great tragedy and grief. And burns the hearts up to the justice day and raises the lamentations and weeping of the people.

**Benefits of visiting the ziyarat of Imam Ridha (as)**

- Haji Ali Baghdadi had the honor of meeting Imam Mahdi (A.S.) and ask him some questions. One of the questions put forward by him was that "Is it true that a person who goes for the pilgrimage (Ziyarah) to the shrine of Imam Hussain (A.S.) on Friday night receives salvation"? Imam (A.S.) replied, "Yes, by Allah". Haji Ali Baghdadi says that I saw tears in the eyes of Imam (A.S.).

Then I asked him another question, "In the year 1269 A.H. when we went for the pilgrimage (Ziyarah) to the shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.), we met a nomadic Arab who was a native of Najaf. We invited him for a meal and asked him his views regarding the reward of the love of Imam Reza (A.S.). He replied, "Paradise", and said, "Since the past fifteen days I have been the ZAIR(pilgrim) of Imam Reza (A.S.), do Munkir & Nakeer' have the nerve to come near me. The food which I consumed from the table of Imam Reza (A.S.) has turned into flesh and blood" I asked Imam Mahdi (A.S.) whether his claim was true. Imam (A.S.) replied, "Yes it is true. Imam Reza (A.S.) himself will come and save him for the questioning in the grave. For verily by Allah! My Grandfather is a Zamin (Surety) Imam".

- It is related from the Holy Prophet himself: "A part of me will be buried in land of Khorassan and a mukmeen who does ziyarat of Khorasan , Allah will make paradise incumbent upon him and hell fire haraam to him" Bihar al Anwar Vol 49 pg 284
- Imam Ali (as) said: "One of my sons will be martyred in the land of Khorsan. He will be poisoned. His name is my name. His father's name is the name of Musa Bin Imran. Whoever visits and pays tribute to him, Allah will forgive his sins even if they are equal to the number of stars in the sky or the number of raindrops or the number of leaves in a tree." Bihar al Anwar Vol 49 pg 286
- Hazrat Imam-e-Jaafar-e-Saadiq (A.S.) said: A piece of my liver will be killed and buried at "Toos" in the district of Khorasan. So if anyone becomes aware of his position and performs his Ziyarat will attain salvation even if he had indulged in big sins (Gunaah Kabeerah),I will on the day of Judgement hold his hand and lead him to the heaven. Some one asked "How to attain the awareness of his position?" He replied : Know with certainty of faith that he is such an Imam whose obedience is Waajib and who was martyred while away from home. [Mausuu'ah al Musthafa wal Ithrah Vol 12 pg 571]

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In this tafseer class, there might be shortcomings in imparting the knowledge of the tafseer. If there is any information that requires correction, please do not hesitate to let us know via e-mail: [jaafari\\_tafseer\\_committee@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:jaafari_tafseer_committee@yahoo.com.sg). Allah knows best.