

IMAM ALI

امام علي (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should understand:

- Learn one of the titles of Imam 'Ali (as) and their meanings
- Learn the concept of Submission to Allah
- Understand Islam as a religion of submission
- Use the quality of submission to Allah in Imam 'Ali and learn from it

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Imam 'Ali (as), the Chosen One

Name:	'Ali
Father:	Abu-Ṭalib (as)
Mother:	Fāṭimah bint Asad
Birth:	13 th Rajab in the Holy Ka'bah in Mecca



Imam 'Ali (as) is our 1st Holy Imam. He is the leader of the Muslim community after the Prophet (pbuh). In of the days in the month of Rajab, Fāṭimah bint Asad, the mother of Imam 'Ali (as), went to the Ka'bah to pray to Allah to give her a safe delivery as she was having a lot of pain. Suddenly the wall of the Ka'bah cracked open, and she went in, and the wall closed behind her. People who were around were shocked at the scene and they tried to go in and help her, but the wall would not open. They sat around waiting for her to come out and see what had happened. Three days later, she came out of the Ka'bah holding a baby in her arms. The women rushed towards her to see the little infant, and they asked her what she will name him. She told them his name was 'Ali.

IMAM 'ALI, THE CHOSEN ONE

Imam 'Ali had many titles because of how great he was. Today, we will learn about one of his titles:

Al-Murtaḍa

The One Chosen by Allah

He was given this title because he always submitted to Allah in all aspects of his life and therefore he was the one chosen to earn a great status. If we submit to the will of Allah, we can also be chosen by Allah for a great status in this world and the hereafter.

SUBMISSION TO ALLAH

Submission to Allah means doing what Allah (SWT) wants us to do. This means that whatever we think, or however difficult the task is, we should always do what Allah wants, and not what we want. Islam means submission to Allah. For example, Allah has asked us to obey our parents. So whether I am playing, or with my friends, I have to first do what my parents want me to do, because Allah has given them that authority. Allah wants the best for us at all times and when we do not obey His command He is unhappy for us.

So a true Muslim does exactly what Allah asks him to do and avoids everything that Allah has asked him to avoid. This is because Allah has created us and knows what is best for us.

IMAM 'ALI'S SUBMISSION

Imam 'Ali (as) was one of the best examples of how we should submit to the will of Allah and His messenger. Once when Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusain (as) were children they both fell ill. Their parents- Imam 'Ali (as) and Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as)- were very sad to see them ill. When the Holy Prophet (saw) found out about the illness he suggested that both his daughter Sayyedah Fāṭimah (A) and his cousin and son-in-law Imam 'Ali (as) should make a vow. A vow, or nadhr, is a promise that you make to Allah- something that you will do extra, for the pleasure of Allah, if your wish comes true. Imam 'Ali (as) and Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as) made a vow that they would fast three days upon the recovery of their children.



Allah accepted their vow and both Imam Ḥasan (as) and Imam Ḥusain (as) recovered from their illness.

Their parents decided to fast the next day to fulfil their vow and when the children came to know of this they also decided to fast. On the first day of the fasting, Sayyedah Fāṭimah prepared 5 loaves of bread to break their fast with. In the evening when the time for prayer set in they all prayed then sat down to break their fast.

Just as they were about to eat their loaves of bread there was a knock on the door. There stood a poor man asking for something to eat. All of them gave their loaf of bread to the beggar and had just water instead.

The next day all of them again fasted. Again they were to break their fast with a loaf of bread each which had been baked that day. And again as they were about to eat their loaf there was a knock on the door. This time it was an orphan asking for food. Although they had not eaten anything for two days they all happily gave their loaf of bread to the orphan and again slept without any food except some water to break their fast. On the third day of their fast as they sat down to break their fast, another needy person knocked at the door asking for food. Although by now all in the family were very hungry as they had not eaten for three days, they again gave away their loaves.

Surat al-Insān in the Holy Qur'an was revealed in praise of the sacrifice made by this family.

إِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لَوَجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكْرًا

We only feed you for Allah's sake; we desire from you neither reward nor thanks: (Surah Insān:9)

The whole family submitted to the will of Allah and even though giving up their food for three days was hard, they still did so only for the sake of Allah.

Review Questions

Q1. Imam 'Ali is our:

- 10th Imam
- 1st Imam
- 3rd Imam

Q2. Submission to Allah means:

- Doing what God wants us to do, not what we want to do
- Obedying God, but only when we want to
- Not obeying God

Q3. Imam 'Ali was born:

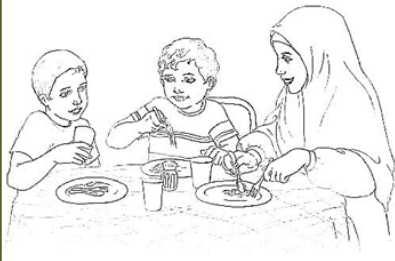
- a. In his parents' house
- b. At a hospital
- c. Inside the Holy Ka'bah

Class Activity

Here are some pictures of things Allah (SWT) wants us to do. Can you describe what is happening in the pictures and then colour them in?



Allah likes for us to: **READ THE QURAN**



Allah likes for us to: **SHARE OUR FOOD**

THE LION OF ALLAH (ASADULLAH)

One of the titles of Imam Ali (as) was 'The Lion of Allah'. Imam 'Ali (as) was given this title because of his great bravery when fighting for the sake of God. Imam 'Ali (as) was never scared of any enemy, and was impossible to defeat on the battlefield. However, he made sure he only ever fought for the sake of Allah (SWT) and not for anything else.

Once, Imam 'Ali (as) was fighting a very brave warrior from the army of the enemies of Islam. The battle was very fierce, but eventually Imam 'Ali (as) overcame his enemy. Imam 'Ali (as) sat on his enemy's chest and was about to kill him. Just before he did this, the man spat in the Imam's face. When this happened, the Imam (as) got up, walked around for a while then came back and killed the man. The Imam's friends asked why he had got up and walked around before coming back to kill the man. Imam 'Ali (as) said that when the man spat at him he became angry. However, he did not want to hurt the man because of his own anger. Therefore, he walked around until his anger was gone and only killed the man when his intention was sincerely to please Allah (SWT) by killing the enemy of Allah.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-RELIANCE

Islam teaches us that it is important for us to rely on ourselves in our daily activities. Sometimes, it might seem 'easier' to just ask for help and get someone to do our work for us. However, if we always rely on others to do our tasks we will never learn and never improve. Therefore, whenever we are doing something, we should try our very best to do as much as we can on our own, and only ask for help when we really need it.

For example, when we are doing our homework, we might find some things difficult. Before we ask for help or give up, we should take a moment to think about the thing that we find difficult, and see if we can solve our problem another way. Or if our parents ask us to bring them something from another room, we should look for it properly and think about different places it might be and not give up or call out for help as soon as we don't find after looking once. This is important, because it will help us to learn and to improve and become better people in different aspects of life.

Lesson 2: The Lion of Allah

In previous lessons, we have learnt about Imam 'Ali (as) and his amazing submission to Allah (SWT). We learnt that Imam Ali (as) obeyed all of Allah's orders and was happy with whatever Allah (SWT) gave him. In this lesson, we will learn more about Imam 'Ali (as) and how he used to work very hard and depend on himself in his daily activities.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HARD WORK

Besides, relying on ourselves, it is also important to work hard.

We should not:

- be lazy and sleep in too much, even on our days off school
- be couch potatoes and just sit in front of the television or computer all day
- be too lazy to help out our parents around the house with chores

Instead we should:

- be active and play lots of sport
- help out around the house as much as possible
- make sure all our school work is done properly and on time

Whenever we work hard on something, we see the rewards of it later. A great scientist works hard for years to develop his or her knowledge before they can make a great discovery. A great sportsman trains for years and years before being able to play professionally and become the best in the world. If people like this were lazy, they would never have achieved anything in their lives.

CONCLUSION

Imam 'Ali (as) had both of the above qualities. He worked very hard and depended on himself for everything. He went out and worked hard on the farm, so that he could earn his own income. In fact, in his life, he dug over 1000 wells and gave all of them away to poor people who needed help. At the same time, he worked so hard to gain knowledge from the Prophet (saw). He would meet with the Prophet every morning and every evening, and learn about the meanings of the Holy Qur'an and many other things. Because of this, he became so knowledgeable that the Prophet (saw) called him: 'the gate of the city of knowledge' and Imam 'Ali (as) used to say: 'ask me about everything that has ever happened or anything that will ever happen in the future, and I will be able to you its details'.

We too should try to work hard and rely on ourselves, so that we can be successful and be the best in whatever field we choose.

Class Discussion

- What would you like to do when you grow up?
- What do you want to be good at?
- How do you think you can get those skills?

Review Questions

Q1. Imam 'Ali (as):

- a. Worked very hard in his life and had a job he worked hard at
- b. Never had a job and always just prayed at the mosque

Q2. Imam 'Ali (as) was called 'the Lion of Allah' because:

- a. He was very brave and strong
- b. He was angry