



IMAM AL-ŞĀDIQ ^[A.S.]

امام الصادق (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Şādiq as our sixth Imam
- Understand that al-Şādiq means 'the Truthful'
- Be introduced to humility as one of the characteristics of the Imam
- Understand arrogance as the opposite of humility
- Understand that the benefits of humility

Imam al-Şādiq(as)

We have been learning about the lives of our 12 Imams or leaders. Our 6th Imam was Imam Ja'far Al-Şādiq. Here is a little information about him:

Name: Ja'far

Birth: Madina on 17th Rabi al-Awwal 82 AH

Titles: al-Şādiq (The Truthful)

Father: Imam Muḥammad al-Bāqir (as)

Mother: Fatima/Umm Farwa

Buried: Jannatul Baqī', Madina.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1

Imam Ja'far al-Şādiq (as) is our 6th Imam .He was given the title al-Şādiq, meaning truthful, because he was known for always speaking the truth. .

IMAM AL-ŞĀDIQ'S HUMILITY

Not only was our 6th Imam truthful he was also humble. To be humble means to not act or think that you are better than anyone (in any regard). For instance, if a person achieved a higher grade than your friend, they should not think they are better or boast. Instead, they should realise this was a blessing from Allah and not become proud of themselves.

A person who is humble usually keeps their good actions a secret. All our Imams demonstrate this when they used to sit and eat meals with poor people without telling them who they were. Imam 'Ali (as) used to feed a blind man every night and never revealed that he was the Imam; it was when he got struck the blind man realised that it was Imam 'Ali (as) who used to bring him food.

Imam Ja'far al-Şādiq (as) also followed the footsteps of Imam 'Ali (as) and used to deliver food to the poor and hungry in the middle of the night with his face covered so nobody would see it was him. Being humble and keeping your good deeds hidden is a trait of our Imams and helps us to keep our intentions pure i.e. ensure we are not doing it for people but solely for Allah (SWT).

A STORY ABOUT GRATEFULNESS

One of the signs of being humble is to know that all good things come from Allah, and that we should be thankful to Him for this. This story demonstrates this:

The pilgrims had assembled in the land of Mina during Ḥajj. Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) and his companions sitting in a place were eating some grapes placed before them.

A poor person came and asked for charity. Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) took some grapes to give him, but he refused to accept it and asked for money. Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) told him that he did not have money.

A little while later, another poor person came to ask for charity. Again, the Imam offered grapes. This person accepted it and said: "Thanks to the Lord of universe who gave me my sustenance". On hearing these words, Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) told him to wait and gave him two handfuls of grapes.

The beggar thanked Allah (SWT) for the second time.

Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) again told him to wait and then turning to one of his friends and asked, "How much money is with you?" The man searched his pockets and produced nearly twenty Dirham, which he lent to the Imam, so he could give it to the poor person.

The poor person thanked Allah (SWT) for the third time said, "Thanks are exclusive to Allah (SWT). O Allah (SWT)! You are the one who gives all good..." On hearing these words, the Imam (as) took off his garment and gave it to the beggar.



At this point, the poor person thanked the Imam (as) instead of expressing thanks to Allah again. The Imam did not give him anything else and the man left.

When the man left, the Imam's students and friends asked him why he kept giving to the man, and then why he stopped. The Imam (as) said that while the person was thanking Allah (SWT), he continued to give him, because Allah (SWT) says; 'if you thank Me, I will give you more'. However, when he thanked me, I no longer needed to keep giving him.

Moral of the Story: Whenever we get anything remember that although it may be from a particular person, Allah (SWT) has wished for you to have it. So not only should you thank the person who has given it to you, but also thank Allah (Alḥamdulillah). Furthermore, the humbleness of Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) did not allow him to accept any praise from the beggar as Imam Ja'far al-Ṣādiq (as) was giving charity solely for Allah (SWT).

Review Questions

Q1. Imam al-Ṣādiq is our

- 6th Imam
- 12th Imam
- 1st Imam

Q2. What did Imam al-Ṣādiq do in the nights?

- Sleep all night
- Pray all night
- Cover his face and give food to poor people

Q3. What is an example of being humble?

- Eating all your food alone
- Telling everyone when you help someone
- Helping someone and not telling anyone about it

Q4. What is the opposite of humility?

- Rudeness
- Arrogance
- Kindness