

السلام عليك يا زين العابدين و سيد الساجدين

IMAM AL-SAJJAD [A.S]

امام السجاد (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Sajjād as our fourth Imam
- Discuss the meaning of the titles ‘al-Sajjād’ and ‘Zaynul ‘Abidīn’
- Discuss the rewards of prostrating to Allah (SWT)
- Discuss the benefits of worship briefly
- Learn a supplication from Saḥīfah al-Sajjādiyah

IMAM AL-SAJJĀD (AS)

Imam Ali ibn al-Ḥusayn (as) is our fourth Imam. He was the son of Imam Ḥusayn (as) and became the Imam after him. He has two famous titles:

- Zaynul ‘Abidīn
- Al-Sajjād

FACTS ABOUT THE IMAM

- **The Imam’s Father:** Imam Ḥusayn (as)
- **The Imam’s Mother:** Lady Shaherbanoo, a princess from Iran (Persia)
- **Birth date:** 5th Sha’bān 38 AH in Medina
- **Died on:** 25th Muḥarram 94 AH (buried in Jannatul Baqī’ in Medina)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

THE AMAZING WORSHIP OF IMAM AL-SAJJĀD (AS)

During his childhood Imam al-Sajjād (as) once fell sick. His father, Imam Ḥusayn (as) showed affection towards him, and asked, “How are you feeling, my son? Is there anything you wish to have?”

This is what the Imam replied:

“O father! My only wish is from Allah (SWT) that He should place me among those with whom He is always pleased and satisfied.”

At that, his father hugged him and said:

“My son, your answer is similar to Prophet Ibrāhīm’s. When Prophet Ibrāhīm (as) was thrown into the fire by Nimrud, Angel Jibra’īl asked Ibrāhīm (as) if he had any wish. To this Prophet Ibrāhīm (as) replied, “Indeed (I only ask for) my wish from Allah (SWT).”

Imam al-Sajjād (as) was famous for his amazing worship of Allah (SWT) throughout his life. He would spend a long time in prostration frequently. Some nights, he would pray one thousand rak’āt of prayer in one night.

AL-SAJJĀD (AS)

A man once entered the Holy Mosque in Mecca after midnight and saw Imam al-Sajjād (as) in prostration (sajdah). He heard Imam (as) was repeating something. As he came closer, he heard the Imam AS saying:



”O my Lord, your most humble servant is at your doorstep. A beggar is at your doorstep. A needy one is at your doorstep.”

The Imam (as) would frequently spend a long time in prostration, worshipping and begging Allah (SWT). This is why he received the title Sajjād (as)- meaning the one who prostrates (performs sajdah) often.

When we are in a state of prostration, we are closer to Allah than at any other time. Our Prophet (saw) recommended that we prolong our prostration. For this reason we are recommended to prostrate to Allah many times in each prayer. When we perform sajdah, we are surrounded by the blessings of Allah (SWT).

Imam ‘Ali (as) says:

“Nothing can bring about closeness to Allah (SWT) except prostrating and bowing a lot.”

ZAYNUL ABIDĪN (AS)

Imam al-Sajjād (as) is also given the title of Zaynul Abidīn. This means ‘the best of the worshippers’. As we said earlier, the Imam (as) would spend a great amount of time in worship. He would sometimes spend the whole night praying, and he would still feel that he needed to do more. And when he was praying, nothing could distract from his prayer. He paid full attention to his prayer. In fact, Imam al-Bāqir (as) says:

“When my father stood up to pray, he was like a tree trunk, with no part of him moving except whatever the wind caused to move.”

WORSHIP AND ITS BENEFITS

Worship can take many forms. Whenever we are doing anything to please Allah (SWT), this is considered worship.



A specific type of worship is to pray to Allah (SWT), perform sajdah, and make du‘ā to Allah (SWT).

If we worship Allah (SWT) frequently, we will gain a lot of benefits including:

- Closeness to Allah (SWT)
- Trust in Allah (SWT)
- Peace and calm in ourselves

Class Activity: Discussion

Discuss further with your teacher the benefits of praying to Allah (SWT) frequently.

AS SAḤĪFAH AL-SAJJĀDIYAH:

At the time of our fourth Imam (as), it was very difficult for the Imam (as) to teach Islam to the people. This was because Yazīd’s cruel men kept a close watch on the Imam’s movements. The Imam (as) decided that the best way to teach people Islam was through du‘ā’. The Imam (as) would teach his companions many supplications, and these would be written and passed on by the companions. These du‘ā’s were compiled into a book called al-Saḥīfah al-Sajjādiyah, and we are lucky to have this book with us now. There are many beautiful du‘ā’s in this book. Today, we will learn a small part of one of these du‘ā’s:

“My Master, You are the Creator and I am the created, and who will have mercy on the Created except the Creator. My Master, You are the Giver and I am the asker, and who will have mercy on the asker except the Giver”ⁱⁱ

Review Questions

Q1. Imam al-Sajjād (as) is our:

- 3rd Imam
- 6th Imam
- 4th Imam

Q2. The Imam was given the title of al-Sajjād because:

- He spent a lot of time in sujūd
- He was generous
- He was merciful

ⁱ References:

Al Islam.Org By Ahlul Bayt
[www.Ezsofttech .Com /Stories](http://www.Ezsofttech.Com/Stories)
Islamicoccasions .Com

Al Hujjat Madressa.Net
Sahifah As Sajjadiyah

ⁱⁱ Sahifa Sajjadiyah, Dua 61