

## IMAM AL-BAQIR <sup>[A.S]</sup>

### امام الباقر (ع)

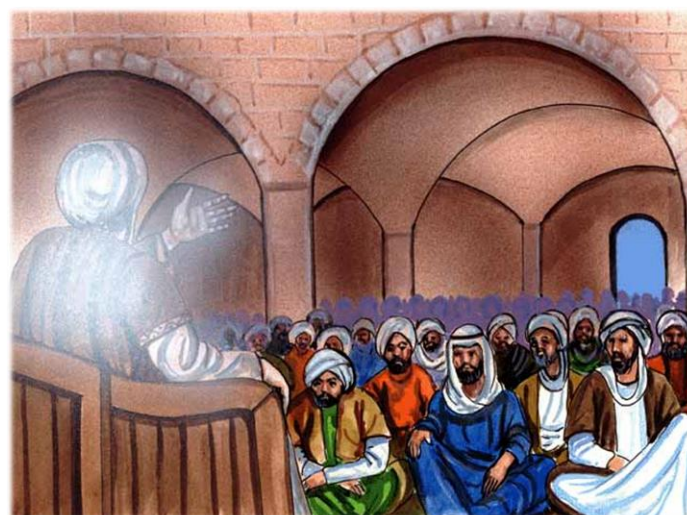
FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 1

#### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Be able to identify the name of the Imam (as) and relate its meaning
- Be able to identify the names of the parents of the Imam (as)
- Get a brief overview of a particular quality of the Imam (as)
- Be able to identify the place of burial of the Imam (as)
- Know the circumstances of the martyrdom of the Imam (as)



### Imam al-Bāqir (as)

Imam al-Bāqir (as) is the fifth Holy Imam. He was well known for his abundant knowledge and his excellence in preaching. The Holy Imam (as) was able to bring together the teachings of the Holy Prophet and his Ahlul Bayt in a very effective way that reached his community.

Imam al-Bāqir (as) was only nine years old when he was asked very difficult questions and was able to answer them. A very old man by the name of Jābir said to the Imam after meeting him:

"Bāqir, you have been given wisdom while you are still a boy".

Imam al-Bāqir (as) talked very much about the importance of knowledge. He urged Muslims, like each and every one of us, to seek knowledge. Imam al-Bāqir (as) said:

"Try to learn knowledge because learning it is a good action and study is itself worship."

#### Class Activity:

Colour in the following pictures.



# Imam Al-Bāqir (as)

## IMAM AL-BĀQIR WORKING FOR THE SAKE OF GOD

The town of Medina was burning under the rays of the heat of the sun. The camels were under the shade of the palm branches sitting silently. In the town every being was under the shade and nobody was seen in the palm gardens except one man who was working and sweating from the heat and effort of the work.

At this moment another man was seen on the in the palm garden. This second man, thought of himself as a very religious man. He was hunched over and had a tired-looking face. When he saw the first man working so hard under the sun, he wondered and said to himself: "This man is melting like a candle under the sun. And he is not ready to stop hurting himself for his worldly greed. It is better to go to him and to teach him. Maybe he will learn."

As he got closer, this man recognised that the working man was Imam al-Bāqir (as) and said: "Oh this is strange. This man is al-Bāqir (as) and the leader of the Shi'ah faith. Why is he trying so hard to gain worldly wealth?"

He then goes even closer to the Imam (as), stands and then greets him. Imam al-Bāqir (as) answers his greeting. The man stopped for a while and said: 'should a great man like you be out in this heat working so hard just to gain money? Imagine if death came to you now, how would you meet Allah?'

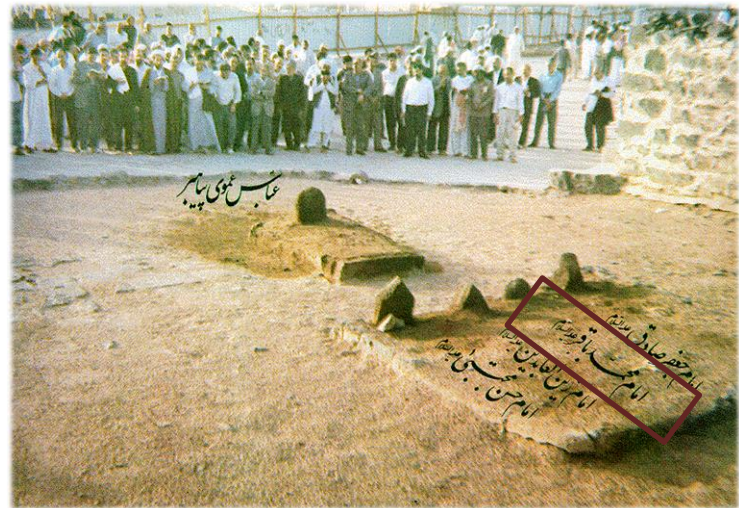
Imam al-Bāqir (as) said:

"If my death comes to me at this very moment, I will meet Allah (SWT) in a state of worship. You think that worship mean to only pray and supplicate? I am living in the world and I have to earn my livelihood. If I do not work I will need the help of some men like you and I have to stretch my hand and beg. I should fear the coming of my death when I am sinning and disobeying Allah (SWT). At this moment, when I am working under

the order of Allah (SWT), I am trying not to be a burden on the shoulders of my fellow beings."

The questioner, struck with shame, said nothing and continued on his way. He then realised that the Imam (as) had taught him a very good lesson and he said: "Wonderful. I was thinking that I can teach him, but it was I who earned such valuable advice."

**Moral:** Worship is not only praying, it is anything that we do for the sake of Allah. This story also teaches us to depend on ourselves as much as we can instead of always asking people for help.



## Facts about the Imam's Life

**Name:** Muḥammad al-Baqir

When referring to the Imam's (as) name, al-Bāqir means the "Unveiler" of knowledge"

**Father:** Imam Zainul Abidin (as)

**Mother:** Fatima bint Ḥasan (she was the daughter of Imam Ḥasan)

**Birthplace:** Medina

**Place of Burial:** Medina, Jannatul Baqī'

**Duration of Imamate:** 19 years

**Cause of Martyrdom:** Poisoned by the ruler of the time

## Homework Activity

Your homework for this week is to learn the names of first five Imams in order. There will be a star given to each student who can name all five imams correctly and in order. Make sure you come to class prepared! You also have to colour in the sheet with the names of the five imams which we will hand to you.