

Imam Khadhim [A.S]

امام الكاظم (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Kāḍim (as) our seventh Imam
- Briefly learn the meaning of the title al-Kāḍim (as) the 'One who suppresses his anger'
- Be introduced to the Imam's forbearance
- Discuss the benefits of suppressing anger including avoiding harmful conflict

Imam al-Kāḍim (as)

Imam al-Kāḍim (as) is our seventh Imam. He was the son of our sixth Imam – Imam al-Ṣādiq (as). He was born in a little town between Mecca and Medina. He became the Imam at the age of 25, but even at a very young age, he already had signs of Imamate.

The Imam (as) had a lean and thin body but a very strong and powerful soul. He used to put on rough clothes under his dress. He walked on foot, saluted the people, loved his family members and respected them. He always thought about the poor and afflicted ones. During the nights he would go and distribute food to the needy in such a way that no one would know it was him.

Imam was given the title of al-Kāḍim (as) which means "One who suppresses his anger". This is because he never showed his anger and always controlled it.

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

One of the friends of Imam said that the enemy used to feel shy in front of Imam because of his kind and nice behaviour. This was one of his main characteristics, hence he got the title of al-Kāḍim (as).

THE SUPPRESSION OF ANGER

Many times we get frustrated or angry in our day to day lives. Is it a good thing to get angry at people?

What would you do if a friend at school punched you accidentally? Would you get angry at her/him?

What about if mum told you to help her with the house work while you were playing your favourite game on PS3? Would you shout at her and tell her no, or would you sacrifice your game and patiently go and help her?

It is very easy to get angry when someone does something that we are unhappy with, or someone frustrates us. But let us learn from the stories of our Imams, and how they would control their anger even when someone would constantly be rude and harmful to them.

There once lived a man in Medina, who whenever he saw the Imam (as) he would stop him and speak to him very rudely. The friends of Imam (as) would ask Imam to let them punish him. Imam would always say: "leave him alone and do not bother him."

A few days passed and there were no news about this rude man. The Imam (as) asked a few people about him and they said he has gone out of Medina towards his farm. The Imam (as) rode upon his horse and moved towards the farm.

When that man saw the Imam he shouted from a distance: "do not enter my field. I am an enemy of you and your fore fathers.

The Imam came near him, saluted and enquired after his health and well-being and said kindly to him, "How much have you spent in these farms?" He replied, "A hundred dinars." Then the Imam asked, "How much profit do you expect from it?" The man said, "Two hundred dinars." The Imam took out a bag containing three hundred dinars and gave it to him and said:

"Take this amount and keep it with you, so it may help you towards your farm.

This man who had been very rude to the Imam (as) for a long time did not expect such a response and was very much ashamed.

When the Imam (as) returned to Medina he said:

"Repulse the evil from yourself in this way."

This means:

- Protect yourself from evil by being good to others
- Remove the evil from your own self by being good to others

This is the very reason why Imam the (as) became known by the title of al-Kāḍim (as)- the one who suppresses his anger when disturbed and uneasy. He repaid evil with goodness and virtue so that he put his enemies to shame.

The Imam constantly used to show love and warm feelings to his family and relatives and used to encourage them to shake hands when they see each other, so that if there is any enmity between them, it would decrease.

BENEFITS OF SUPPRESSING ANGER

Imam al-Kāḍim (as) would control and suppress his anger at all times, even when the enemy would trigger him. He was always very patient with them like we saw in the story above. Let us discuss some of the benefits of controlling our anger.

- Even at this young age, sometimes we feel angry at school or at home if our parents do not listen to us. Does this mean we should shout back at them? No, of course not. They are our elders, and we need to respect them no matter how upset or angry we are.

One of the main benefits of suppressing our anger is we become more patient. And the more patient we are, the kinder we are towards people. And we know that when we are kind and nice to people, not only will they be happy, but Allah (SWT) becomes very pleased with us.

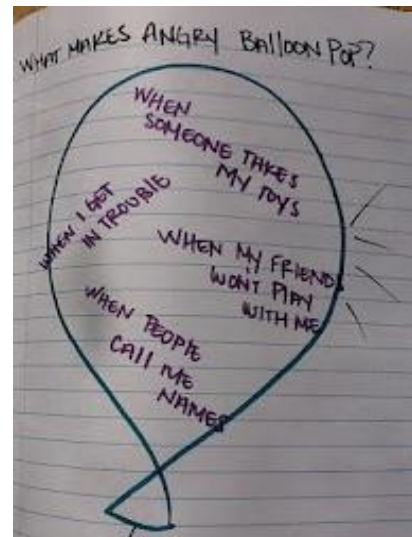
- Anger often leads to arguments and fights especially in school. This can lead to serious injuries which can lead to revenge. Many of the unfortunate shootings and harmful acts are a result of anger.
- One who is always angry, is usually not liked by people. So if we want to be liked and have lots of friends, we should avoid becoming angry easily.

CLASS ACTIVITY

Your teacher will give you an A4 size paper. You should:

- Draw a big balloon to fill the paper
- and in it write down the things that make you angry during their day
- Once you're done, let each one of the things out the balloon slowly by talking about it to your teacher

Look at the example below.



Review Questions

Q1. Al-Kāḍim (as) means one who:

- a. is brave
- b. is generous
- c. control his anger

Q2. When we get angry we should:

- a. Shout and yell
- b. Let is out slowly by talking about it calmly