



## Imam Redā [A.S]

امام الرضا (ع)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

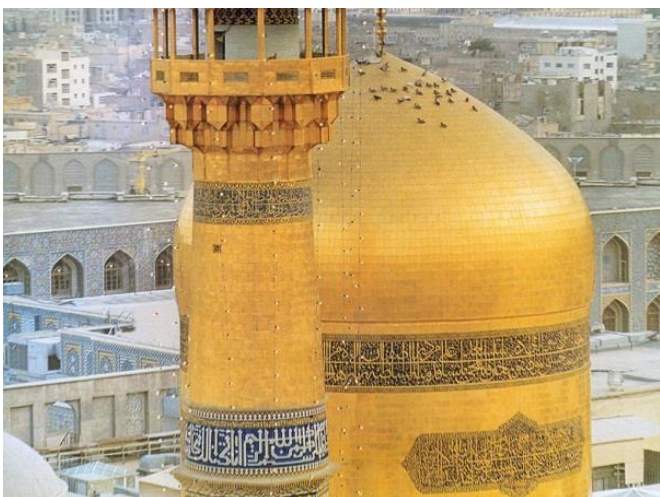
### Objectives >>>

#### Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Reḍā (as) and learn some biographical facts about him
- Discuss the name al-Reḍā, and its meaning
- Discuss some of the miracles of the Imam (as)

### Imam al-Reḍā (as)

- **Name:** Imam ‘Ali ibn Mūsā al-Reḍā (as)
- **Father:** Imam Mūsā al-Kāḍim (as)
- **Mother:** Lady Najmah
- **Birth date:** 11<sup>th</sup> Dhul Qa’dah 135 AH
- **Birthplace:** Medina
- **Place of burial:** Mash-had, Iran



Imam al-Reḍā (as) was born in Medina. His father, our seventh Imam, spent most of his later life in prison. Sometimes his father was imprisoned in Basra; at other times in dungeons of Baghdad. Imagine how our Imam (as) felt growing up away from his father; with pain in his heart, yet he remained pleased with Allah (SWT).

### AL-REDĀ (AS)

al-Reḍā (as) means be pleased or satisfied. Our Imam (as) received this title from Allah (SWT) because he was always pleased with whatever God gave him in his life, and God was always pleased with him.

The other reason the Imam (as) received this title was because he was good to everyone around him, and so everyone was pleased with him as well. He was very good to his servants and people who worked for him. He would never make them feel bad or make them feel like they were lower than him. He would sit and eat with them on the same table and would never sit higher than them. He would never get angry at them or saying anything to hurt them. Therefore, they were always pleased with him.

One day, a person asked the Imam (as):

“Please pardon me...would not it be better if you lay a separate table-cloth for your servants?”

“Do not say that,” the Holy Imam (as) replied, "the Lord, the Blessed and High, is One, and all of us human beings are the children of Adam and Eve; and everyone shall be rewarded or punished according to his deeds.”

He was also very good to his guests and always made them feel welcome and pleased. One night a light in the lamp went out. A guest went to light it, but the Imam

(as) did not even let his guest do such a small thing. He re-lit the lamp himself and said:

"We are a family that do not let our guests tend on us."

Even the ruler of the time, al-Ma'mūn, who was an enemy of the Imam (as), could not help but respect the Imam and acknowledge his greatness. He would often admit that the Imam (as) was the most knowledgeable and best person. However, he was too proud and greedy to hand over leadership to Imam al-Reḍā (as).

### THE MIRACLES OF THE IMAM (AS)

The Imam (as) displayed many miracles in his life. Remember, a miracle is something amazing that a prophet or Imam performs that other people cannot ever do.

The Imam was travelling one day and was going through a jungle. He suddenly saw a hunter about to kill a deer. The deer was trying to escape, but when it saw the Imam (as), it jumped towards the Imam and stopped in front of him.

After a little while, the Imam (as) asked the hunter to free the deer so that she could go and feed her little baby deer who were hungry. The Imam told the hunter that once the deer had fed her little ones, she would come back. The hunter allowed the deer to go just because the Imam had told him to. He did not think the deer would come back at all.

However, the Imam (as) waited with the hunter until the deer returned with her young ones. The hunter was amazed on witnessing this miraculous event! He set the deer free as a mark of respect to the Imam (as).

This shows us that:

- Our Imams (as) had been given special knowledge from God to speak all languages, even those of animals
- Our Imams (as) cared about everyone and everything, even wild animals

Here is another miracle reported by a man named Abul Ṣalt, who was a very close companion of the Imam (as). Once the Imam was travelling again and he and his companions reached a town at the time of the midday prayer. However, they could not find any water for Wūḍū'. Suddenly, the Imam (as) with his holy hands dug a little into the earth and a spring of water miraculously

gushed out. This was another miracle that God allowed the Imam (as) to perform, to prove to people that he was the true Imam (as) sent by God.

### THE IMAM'S MARTYRDOM

Eventually, al-Ma'mūn, the tyrant leader of the time, became more and more scared of the Imam (as) as he saw how much people loved the Imam (as) and respected him. He ended up murdering the Imam (as) by feeding him poisoned grapes.

The Imam (as) became very ill and died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of Ṣafar. He was buried in Mash-had in Iran. Till today, there is a huge and very beautiful shrine to honour Imam al-Reḍā (as) and millions of people from around the world visit it every year.



### Review Questions

**Q1. Which of the following is correct?**

- a) Imam 'Ali al-Reḍā (as) was born in Mecca
- b) He was martyred in Mash-had

**Q2. His title al-Reḍā (as) means :**

- a) Blessed with wealth
- b) Always pleased with Allah (SWT)
- c) Prostrating all the time

**Q3. What did the Imam (as) teach us? Tick the correct answers:**

- Be loud and angry
- Treat all equally and share your food with all
- Be a show off and boast

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