

Imam ALJAWAD [A.S]

امام الجواد (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Jawād (as) our ninth Imam
- Briefly learn the meaning of the title al-Jawād as the 'One who is Generous'
- Understand the meaning of generosity
- Discuss the fact that generosity is a quality of the Ahlul Bayt
- Discuss the benefits of generosity including that it engenders good relations between people

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Imam al-Jawād (as)

As we know in Islam we have 12 Holy Imams. The ninth Imam is named Imam Muḥammad al-Jawād (as). Imam al-Jawād (as) was also known as al Taqī. He was killed by the king of his time whose name was al-Mu'taṣim and is now buried in Iraq. Imam al-Jawād (as) became the Imam when he was only nine years old.

AL JAWĀD

Imam al-Jawād's (as) first name is Muḥammad, but he became known as al-Jawād (as) because he was very generous.

al-Jawād (as) means: 'One who is Generous'

GENEROSITY

When someone is generous it means that they help and give things away including their things, money and time to people in need and they do not want anything in return.

Example 1: If you had \$5 in your pocket and your friend asked you for \$2 because she forgot her lunch at home and you gave her all of your \$5 then you are being generous.

Example 2: If your cousin came over to your house and you were eating M&Ms and he asked you for some and you gave him half of the bag, you are being generous.

Class Activity

Brainstorm three other examples of generosity in class as a group.

GENEROSITY IN THE LIVES OF AHLUL BAYT

Although al-Jawād (as) name means one who is generous, it was not only he that was generous from the Ahlul Bayt. All of the Ahlul Bayt were generous. Our Holy Prophet and Imams helped very many people in their lives. Everyone knew that because they were all so generous, if anyone ever asked them for something they would never say no. Some of our Imams used to split all their belongings in half and give half to the poor and keep the other half. Other Imams would work very hard and instead of building bigger houses they would use the money they made to help people that were in need.

THE IMAMS' GENEROSITY

As we learnt, all of our Imams were generous. When Imam 'Ali (as) was alive he knew that there were some people that lived nearby that were poor.

Imam 'Ali (as) really wanted to help them but did not want them to know that it was him who was helping them. Therefore he used to go out in the middle of the night, cover his face and take some food with him and leave it by the poor people so that when they woke up they would find food.

These people did not know that it was Imam 'Ali (as) until he died and they stopped receiving food at night.

This story shows us that Imam 'Ali (as) showed a very good example to the rest of the Imams about being generous.

Imam al-Jawād (as), like Imam 'Ali (as), was very generous to people in need as well. He used to also leave the house in the night time and cover his face to give food and money to the needy people without them knowing who he was. He also would never send someone away that needed something without helping them first.

IMAM JAWĀD'S (AS) BELIEF IN ALLAH (SWT)

The generosity of the Imams (as) came from their very strong belief in Allah (SWT). Imam al-Jawād (as) believed in Allah (SWT) so much that even the king could not scare him.

One day when the Imam was only five years old, he was playing with his friends on the side of the road when the king and his army were about to ride through. All the other boys ran away except Imam al-Jawād (as). He remained on the side of the road to wait for the king to pass by.

When the king arrived he looked at the little boy and said, "why didn't you run away?"

The Imam replied that "the road is wide enough and I have not done anything wrong". The king then asked about whom he was and the Imam introduced himself.

WHY SHOULD WE BE GENEROUS?

Some people may ask 'why should I be generous?' They may not like to give their things or money away if they are not going to receive anything in return. However Allah (SWT) has told us that He loves people who are generous and help other people. Sometimes Allah (SWT) gives some people more than others so that they may help the needy, not so that we become richer.

When we are generous to people then not only does Allah (SWT) reward us in Heaven but He also rewards us in this world. Whenever you help and you feel happy in your heart that you helped someone, then Allah (SWT) gives you more. However if you do not like to help and you're not generous then Allah (SWT) will stop giving you more.

Also, when a person is generous, they are liked by others. This is obvious. When someone helps us, we like them. So if we help others, they will like us. This will build stronger relations with the people around us and help us make more close friends. People love those who are generous.

Class Activity

Your teacher will provide you with drawing material. Draw three pictures of a person being generous to another person.

Review Questions

Q1. What does the title al-Jawād (as) mean?

- Someone who is kind
- One who is Generous
- An Imam

Q2. How old was Imam al-Jawād (as) when he became Imam?

- 17 years
- 27 years
- 9 years

Q3. What does being generous mean?

- Listening to your parents
- Cleaning up after yourself
- Giving your things to people in need