

السلام عليك يا حسن المجتبي

IMAM AL-HASAN [A.S]

امام الحسن (ع)

Objectives >>>

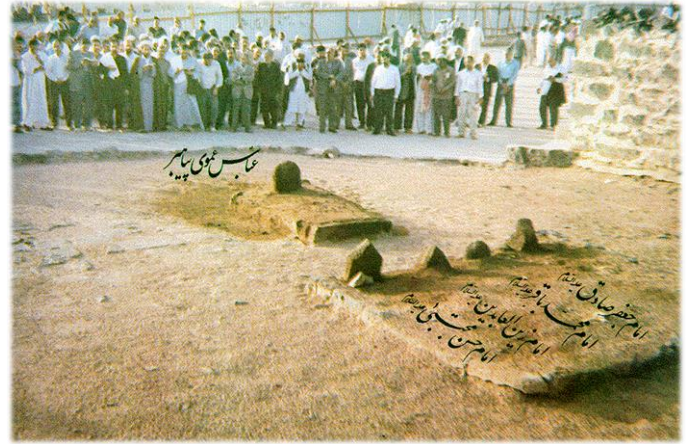
Students should:

- Be introduced to a brief biography of Imam Ḥasan (as), including the story of his birth and the story of his martyrdom
- Discuss stories from his life showing his noble traits

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 3

Lesson 1: Imam Ḥasan



Janat-ul-Baqee' – Medina

Imam Ḥasan (as) is the son of Imam 'Ali (as) and Sayyedah Fāṭimah (as). He is the grandson of the Prophet (saw). He is our second Imam, and was known particularly for his noble manners and good conduct with all people. In this lesson, we will learn some facts about his life, as well as discuss some of his amazing characteristics.

IMAM ḤASAN'S LIFE

Imam Ḥasan (as) was the oldest child of Imam 'Ali (as) and Sayyedah Fāṭima (as). A short while after they were married, he was born. When Imam 'Ali (as) was asked to name him, he said he would wait for the Prophet (saw) to name him. The Prophet (saw) came, but he said he would wait for a revelation from Allah before he named this young boy. Allah (SWT) ordered the Prophet (saw) to give him the same names as the son of Prophet Harūn (Aaron) the brother of Prophet Musa (as). The Arabic translation of the name of the son of Prophet Harūn was al-Ḥasan.

During his childhood, Imam Ḥasan (as) was very close to the Prophet (saw). The Prophet (saw) would treat Hassan and Husayn very well and loved them very much. He would always play with them and spent a lot of time with them. One day, while he was giving a speech, the two young boys walked into the mosque. While walking, they tripped and fell. The Prophet (saw) stopped his speech, went to pick the two boys up and sat them on his lap until he finished his speech.

Another time, Osama (one of the Prophet's companions) knocked on Prophet's door during the night and saw something shiny in the lap of the Prophet. He asked what these lights were and the Prophet replied: "These are my sons (Hassan and Husain) and the sons of my daughter. O Allah you know I love them, so you too love them and love those who love them."

Imam Ḥasan (as) lived under the guidance of his grandfather (the Holy Prophet) for seven years and then his father Imam 'Ali (as) for over 30 years helping to spread the word of Islam. After his grandfather passed away, he assisted his father in many battles and was a brave and strong warrior for Islam. Before Imam 'Ali (as) passed away, he appointed his son Imam al-Ḥasan (as) as the next leader of the Muslim community. Imam al-Ḥasan (as) was the Imam of the Muslims for ten years before he himself passed away.

HIS IMAMAT

During the period of his Imamat, he suffered a lot of hardship. Mu'āwiyah, the tyrant ruler of Shām wanted to be the leader of the Muslims himself, and he was constantly causing problems for Imam Ḥasan (as) and his followers. Imam Ḥasan set out with an army to fight Mu'āwiyah, just like his father Imam 'Ali (as) had done. However, before the war began, the Imam's army betrayed him. Two of the top leaders of the army left the Imam and joined Mu'āwiyah's army, while his soldiers were easily tricked and confused by Mu'āwiyah's plans, and did not obey their Imam as they were supposed to. Finally, the Imam (as) was forced to sign a peace treaty with Mu'āwiyah to protect his true followers from harm and to keep the Muslim nation safe from being torn apart completely.

After ten years of being the Imam of the Muslims, Imam Ḥasan (as) was killed at the age of 47. He was poisoned to death, most likely by his wife, who had been convinced

by Mu'āwiyah to poison the Imam (as). His grave is now in Medina, in Saudi Arabia. It is located in the Baqī' cemetery, not far from the grave of the Holy Prophet.

THE IMAM'S GENEROSITY

The Imam (as) would always try his best to help people who were suffering from poverty.

The Imam (as) halved his entire wealth a number of times. He would take all that he had and halve it and give one half to the poor.

One day, he was praying in the Holy Mosque when he heard a man praying to Allah (SWT) because he needed a large amount of money. When the Imam (as) heard this, he went home and sent that exact amount to that man who was praying in the mosque.

There are many other examples of his generosity and we as his followers have to try to be generous too so that our Imam can be proud of us.

THE IMAM'S HUMBLENESS

The Imam (as) was extremely humble. One day, he was riding by on his horse when a group of poor beggars, who were eating a meal on the floor, asked him to join them and share their meal. He got down from his horse and joined them without any hesitation. This made them very happy. He did not feel like they were 'lower' than him or less worthy than him.

The Imam walked from Medina to Mecca on foot many times to perform the Hajj. He would go with people who did not know him so that they would not be too shy to let him walk.

One day, the companion of the Imam (as) saw him eating while a dog was nearby. The Imam (as) would eat one bite and throw the next bite for the dog. His companions said: '*Should I get rid of this dog for you?*' The Imam (as) replied:

"No, I am too shy to eat alone while another living creature is looking at me."

THE IMAM'S CALMNESS AND GOOD MANNERS

When a person insulted the Imam (as), rather than insulting them in return, he would stop and ask forgiveness for that person.

One day, a person from Syria came to the city of Imam Ḥasan (as) and began to curse and swear at the Imam (as) as soon as he saw him. The Imam (as) went over to that man and instead of insulting him invited him to his house. He fed the man, gave him accommodation and looked after him for three days. The man was very much impressed by this and began to love the Imam and hate the enemies of the Imam (as).

We have learnt some very special characteristics of this great Imam, let us try to follow his footsteps and try to be humble, generous, calm and good mannered to all the people we come across. Let's try extra hard to be good to our parents, siblings, relatives and friends.

Class Activity

Split into groups of three. Each group should pick one of the stories above from the Imam's life and act it out.

BRIEF SAYINGS OF THE IMAM

“There is no poverty like ignorance.”

“The annihilation of people lies in three things; arrogance, greed and jealousy.”

ⁱ The references for all the stories is Biharul Anwar, the chapter on the life and virtues of Imam Hasan (as)

Review Questions

Q1. The Imam (as) showed that:

- We should not mix with very poor people
- We should mix with poor people and make them feel comfortable
- We should mix with poor people but should not eat with them

Q2. When a person insulted the Imam (as), the Imam

- Would reply in the same way
- Would ask forgiveness for that person
- Would plan revenge against that person later

Q2. Imam Ḥasan signed a peace treaty because:

- He wanted to prevent further bloodshed of true believers
- He wanted to expose Mu'āwiyah
- Both of the above

Q3. Mu'awiyah was from which family?

- Umayyad
- Abbasid
- Banu Tamim