



Imam Al-Sadiq [A.S]

امام الصادق (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Şādiq as our sixth Imam
- Learn some basic biographical facts about the Imam
- Be introduced to humility as a characteristic the Imam encouraged and practised
- Discuss the definition of humility
- Discuss the opposite of humility which is arrogance
- Discuss the benefits of humility

Imam al-Şādiq (as)

In this lesson we are going to discuss the lessons we can learn from the life of our sixth Imam. His name was Imam Ja'far (as). Here are some basic facts about our Imam:

Name:	Ja'far
Title:	Al-Şādiq (as) – The Truthful One
Father:	Imam al-Bāqir (as) – the 5 th Imam.
Mother:	Um Farwah Bint Qāsim
Birthdate:	17 th Rabi'ul Awwal 83 A.H (in Medina)
Imamat:	Imam al-Şādiq became Imam at the age of 31 years. He was Imam from 114 A.H to 148 A.H (for 34 years)
Martyrdom:	25 th Shawwal 148 A.H He was poisoned.
Buried:	Medina, Saudi Arabia, the cemetery of Baqī'

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 3

Imam al-Şādiq (as) continued his father's legacy of setting up a large teaching centre, like a university. He would teach students from all over the world about various sciences. The success of these institutes can be seen by the number of graduates that the Imam had produced. They numbered over 4,000 in various fields. One of his famous students was Jābir ibn Ḥayyan, famously known today in the Western world as the pioneer of Geometry.

Despite all this great knowledge and achievements of Imam al-Şādiq (as), he was always very modest and humble. Not only did the Imam encourage others to be humble, but he himself practiced humility perfectly in all aspects of his life.

WHAT DOES HUMILITY MEAN?

Humility is to avoid acting in a manner which portrays that we are better than others. A person who practices humility is said to be humble. Often, many of us pretend to be humble in the presence of some people and arrogantly when we are in the presence of others. True humility is when it stems from our heart i.e. wherever we go or whoever we meet, we behave in exactly the same way. True humility is best described by the Holy Prophet (saw) when he says:

“There are four distinguishing marks of the humble ones: they pay constant attention to Allah in private and in public, they carry out good works, they contemplate about the Day of Resurrection, and they engage in intimate supplication with Allah.”¹

The opposite of humility is pride and arrogance – the characteristic that caused Satan to be cast away from Allah's mercy.

¹Tuhaf al-'Uqoul, no. 20

Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Qur'ān:

"And when we said to the angels "Prostrate to Adam!" they all prostrated except Iblīs. He refused and he was rude with pride, and so he became one of the unbelievers." (2:34)

Satan (previously known as Iblīs), was a very devoted Jinn. He used to worship Allah (SWT) very much. However, when Allah (SWT) created Adam and ordered all the angels, and Iblīs, to bow down to Adam, Iblīs refused. He said that he was more superior to Adam because he was made from fire and Adam was made from clay.

Similarly, if we find ourselves arrogant and defiant toward the commands of Allah (SWT), we will face the same end as Iblīs. This ayah also teaches us that whoever finds himself to be arrogant should realise that he is under the influence of Satan and he needs to act quickly to remove this arrogance.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HUMILITY?

Although there are several benefits to being humble, we will talk about two of them here:

1. A person who is humble attracts a lot of friends. People enjoy being around him since the humble person listens to them attentively, never makes fun of them and is always willing to help them. This is why the Prophets and Imams were so successful in spreading the message of Islam to their people. The next time you find a simple person who is loved by other people, try to identify what the reason may be.
2. Since a humble person does not think of himself as the best, he finds it very easy to take advice from others or to accept criticism from them. The humble person then acts on the advice to improve himself. An arrogant person on the other hand does not improve himself because he never accepts advice from anyone.

Imam al-Ṣādiq (as) despite being the most pious, knowledgeable and popular person of his time, used to say that the best type of friend was the one who would tell his friend about his faults:

"My best friend is the one who gifts me my weaknesses and shortcomings."²

THE HUMILITY OF PROPHETS

Prophet Mūsa used to climb Mount Sinai and engage in conversation with Allah (SWT). One day Allah (SWT) asked Prophet Mūsa to bring a creature that he (P.Musa) thought was of a lower status than himself.

Prophet Mūsa spent a lot of time thinking about who would be of a lesser status. No matter who he saw, he would think: *'maybe somehow or in this aspect that person is better than me'*.

Eventually, he found no one.

He was on his way back to his place of worship alone. As he was travelling, he saw a rabid dog and thought that surely this dog is of worse status than a human and a prophet. So he put a leash on the dog and took it along with him. However, on the way, he reconsidered and thought: *'even this rabid dog may somehow be better than me'*.

So he set the dog free and came to his place of worship and said to His Lord that he had found no one. Allah, the Exalted, then said:

"O Mūsa, had you brought any of my creatures with you, I would have stripped you of your status as a prophet".

BRIEF SAYINGS OF THE IMAM

"The person who sees his brother involved (in a problem) which is the cause of his trouble and worry and he does not remove it from him although he can do that, has committed a dishonesty with him."

(AMALI AL SAQUD, P 162)

"The most beloved of the brothers to me is the one who presents and indicates to me my faults and short comings."

(TUHAFUL UQOOL, P 336)

Review Questions

Q1. According to the saying of the Prophet, which of these is NOT a sign of humility?

- a. They always remember Allah (SWT) both in public or private
- b. They think deeply about the day of Judgement
- c. They believe that they are the most pious people

Q2. Which of these is NOT a benefit of being humble?

- a. You attract a lot of friends
- b. You easily accept advice from people
- c. You always argue when someone criticises you

² Behaarul Anwaar, vol. 74 p. 282