



IMAM ALHADI [A.S]

امام الهادي (ع)

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 3

Imam al-Hādi (as)

Imam 'Ali al-Hādi (as) is the tenth divinely appointed Imam and successor of the Holy Prophet (saw). Unfortunately, little has been transmitted to us by historians about the lives of our 9th, 10th, and 11th Imams due to circumstances at those times, but we will take a look at what we have from his beautiful life and lessons that we can take from it.

THE TENTH IMAM

'Ali al-Hādi (as) was born in the holy city of Medina on the 15th Dhil Ḥajj 212 AH. His father was Imam Muāammad al-Jawād (as), our 9th Imam, and his mother was Lady Sammānah. He lived on this earth for 42 years, and became Imam during the 8th year of his life after his father was martyred.

THE GUIDE – AL-HĀDI

Our 10th Imam is famous for his immense role as an important guide for all humanity, especially the people of his time, and so has been divinely given the name al-Hādi. He was always emphasising the role of the Holy Qur'an as being our main reference and guiding people away from referring to incorrect sources and narrations. He also guided his community as to the answer of whether we have freewill or if everything is already determined, and refuted other accusations spread against the Shi'ah. Furthermore, Imam al-Hādi (as) demonstrated to us the lofty status of our Ahlul Bayt through his famous visitation, al-Ziyārah al-Jāmi'ah al-Karbīrah.

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Imam al-Hādi (as) as our tenth Imam
- Learn some basic biographical facts about the Imam
- Be introduced to the Imam's attribute of being 'the Guide'
- Discuss the fact that we cannot be guided unless we are willing to take advice
- Discuss some of the benefits of taking advice
- Discuss the harms of refusing to take advice
- Discuss the etiquette of taking advice

THE ROYAL GEM

There is a particularly story that demonstrates how the Imam guided his companions. One of the Imam's companions was a jewel designer, by the name of Yusuf. Yusuf was one of the best in his field, and he was given a very expensive and special gem by the king of that time, and ask to draw a design on it so that he could gift it to his daughter for her wedding. When Yusuf took the gem to his workshop, he accidentally broke it in half. He was petrified, and knew the king would punish him severely. In this desperate state, Yusuf could only think of one person to turn to, his Imam (as). He went to Imam al-Hādi (as) and explained his situation. The Imam advised him to remain calm and go home, and that he would take care of it. Yusuf wanted a solution now, but the Imam (as) told him that his problem would be solved if he simply went home and continued his work on the gem. The next day, the king called Yusuf to his castle. He told him that his two daughters were fighting over this gem, and that their fighting was upsetting him, and so now he wanted Yusuf to cut the gem in half! Yusuf was overjoyed that his problem had been miraculously solved, and he was sure it was due to the prayer of his holy Imam (as).

HOW CAN WE BE GUIDED?

Often in our life, we make mistakes in the decisions we take, or we go about doing things the wrong way. At other times, before we start a new project or new part of our life, we do not know what choices to make. For example, many of us may not know which subjects to choose in high school, or how to go about making friends when we move from primary school to high school. Sometimes, a person might be making mistakes in their daily prayers, or they might be doing their maths homework incorrectly.

In all these situations, it is very important to take advice. If our parents give us advice on what subjects to choose, or how to approach new friends, or if our teachers give us advice on how to pray correctly, or how to do our homework properly, we should be willing to take that advice. Sometimes, it is hard to take advice, because we might feel pride in ourselves and might not want to show we are wrong.

This pride is dangerous. A person who has this pride and does not admit their mistakes and take advice will never improve. They will continue to do things the wrong way, and remain off track always.

BENEFITS OF TAKING ADVICE



Imam 'Ali (as) has said that:

“There is no support greater than consultation (taking advice)”

When we take advice from the appropriate people (usually our parents and teachers), we can reap the following benefits:

- We learn from their experiences without having to go through the problems they did. For example, if the person advising did something the wrong way and got hurt, they can advise not to do it that way. If we take their advice, we will avoid getting hurt.
- We learn from their knowledge. Often our teachers and parents have a lot more knowledge than us. If we take their advice, we will have access to that knowledge without having to study it ourselves.
- We share their brain power. Two brains are always better than one, and by taking advice, we get the benefit of the ideas of other people, and can also check our ideas and how good they are.

HARMS OF REFUSING ADVICE

The person who does not take advice will make many mistakes in life. They would not be making use of the experiences of others and therefore making poor decisions. When it comes to our religion, refusing to take the advice that Allah (SWT) and the Prophets and Imams (as) give us will make us go astray.

ETIQUETTE OF TAKING ADVICE

Imam al-Ṣādiq (as) has told us as to how to take advice and from whom, saying:

“Seeking advice from others is a virtue. If you do not do it, you will face a great loss. However, there are conditions. The first is that the person you seek advice from should have intellect (i.e. be an expert). Secondly, he should also be religious and impartial. Thirdly, he should also be a friend. Fourthly, you must divulge all the details to him, so that he knows our affairs as much as you do. The counsellor should then keep this a secret and not divulge it.”

In this narration, the Imam (as) says we should take advice from people who:

- Are knowledgeable (not just any ordinary friend or random person)
- Are religious, especially when it comes from religious issues or issues of right and wrong, we should seek advice from practising Muslims.
- Are nice and kind to us, such as our parents, teachers, friends. We should not take advice from people who may dislike us or who have problems with us, as it will be harder to take their advice.

If we ask a person for advice, and they offer it to us, we should at least consider their advice. Even if we don't like what they say, or we think it might be wrong, we should consider it and see whether it really does apply to us. Most of the time, the advice of our parents and teachers is good advice, and we should take it.

Sometimes, we get advice without asking for it. For example, a teacher might see that a student is dressed inappropriately and they might advise them to try not to dress in that way again. Sometimes, advice can be hard to take and we might get upset and our pride might get

the better of us. In this situation, we need to remember that our pride is the most dangerous thing to us. We need to ignore our pride, and take the advice that is being given to us, no matter how hard it is to accept.

THE DEPARTURE OF OUR GUIDE

Our beloved Imam al-Hādi (as) departed this world at the age of 42, being poisoned by the Abbasid king al-Mu'tazz in the year 254 AH. His holy body is buried in Samarrā', Baghdad, Iraq.

BRIEF SAYINGS OF THE IMAM (AS)

“In a friendly manner, advise your friend and say to him: When God intends goodness for somebody, He makes him accept the advice of the friends.”

“God has made this world for testing while He has made the life to come for receiving the result. He has also made the misfortunes of this world the cause of gaining the rewards of the life to come and made the rewards of the life to come the compensation for the misfortunes of this world.”

Review Questions

Q1. Imam 'Ali al-Hādi (as) is our:

- a) 6th Imam
- b) 8th Imam
- c) 10th Imam

Q2. His title 'al-Hādi' was divinely given to him because:

- a) The immense guidance he gave to his community as well as humanity across various issues.
- b) The people of his time liked to call him that.
- c) The rulers of his time chose that title for him.

Q3. Imam 'Ali al-Hādi (as) was martyred and is buried in:

- a) Mecca
- b) Medina
- c) Samarrā'

References:

- eHawza Ahlul Bayt course, Imam Hadi
- <http://www.al-islam.org/imam-hadi/>