

"Adhere steadfastly to the Successor of your Prophet^{saww} in Whom resides your salvation and in Whose love on the Day of Resurrection is your safe haven! In Me resides the Hope and I am the One to be hoped for. All that knowledge was entrusted unto Me and thus I knew all that was known as well as hidden from all the Prophets^{as}, except His^{azwj} last Messenger^{saww} which was sent to you^{saww}. He^{saww} taught Me^{asws} His knowledge and I^{asws} taught Him^{saww} My knowledge. Sermon of the Gulf [Khutbah-e-Tutunjiyyih]-Nahjul Israr

Ameer-ul-Momineen Imam Ali Ibn Abu Talib^{ASWS}

PART 1 : THE SACRED & DIVINE ZAHOOR

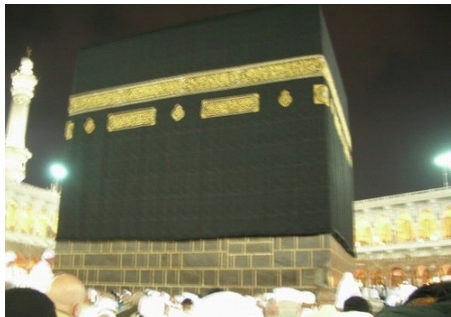
Hazrat Abu Talib and Syeda Fatima binte Asad were blessed with Imam Ali^(asws) (Zahoor¹), by the grace of the Lord Almighty, in the Holy Kaaba at Mecca on Friday, the 13th day of Rajab, 11th October 599,600 A.D. Both the Holy Prophet^{saww} and Imam Ali^(asws) belonged to the elevated family of Prophets^{as}. They were Hashimites, the clan of Bani Hashim^(asws). Muhammad's^(asws) father was Hazrat Abdullah^(asws), and the father of Hazrat Ali^(asws) was Hazrat Abu Talib^(asws). They were brothers and their father was Abdul Muttalib^(asws). Thus the Holy Prophet^(saww) and Hazrat Ali^(asws) were first cousins. Hazrat Ali^(asws)'s mother was Syeda Fatima^(asws) binte Asad, she was daughter of Asad bin Hashim bin Abd Manaf. She^(asws) was also the Aunt of the Holy Prophet^(asws), being the wife of Abu Talib^(asws), Prophet's^(asws) paternal uncle.

Mola Ali's^(asws) Holy 'Noor' began its wonderful manifestation even during the period of his mother's^(asws) carrying the Holy child^(asws). At that time, the Prophet Muhammad^(saww) had not yet announced his prophet-hood, and yet when he passed before Bibi Fatima Binte Asad^(asws), who being his aunt was more respectable to him and brought Prophet up as a mother, she^(asws) used to stand up in reverence and respect for him, in recognition of his Divine status, and she always showed great love² for Muhammad^{saww}. Whenever Bibi Fatima Binte Asad^(asws) was alone, she would hear from within her soul a beautiful whisper which was to the glorification of God^(azwj).

One morning Bibi Fatima^(asws), Binte Asad the mother of the Prince of Believers^(asws) was performing the tawwaf of Allah's^(azwj) House as she knelt down to pray and recited supplication as follows:

" O God^{azwj}, I^{asws} believe in You^{azwj}, and in Your Prophets^{as} and the revealed Books, and I^{asws} firmly adhere to the faith and traditions of my grandfather Al-Khaleel Abraham^(as), who built the ancient House; I pray to You^{azwj} through the intercession of that who built this House, as well as on behalf of the 'Sacred Noor' which enlightens me. O my Lord^{azwj}! Increase my patience and devotion and be my protector and helper"

Syeda binte Asad^(asws) continued the tawwaf and as she^(asws) approached the the Yemeni Foundation (Corner:ar-Rukn al-Yamani) the walls of the Kabaah opened up and a voice said, 'O Fatima! Enter the House'.



(The 'Ar-Rukn al-Yamani' is located on the right side)

After inviting inside His House, the Lord of the Worlds closed the arch which was made Syeda's way into Kaaba. Bibi^(asws) remained inside the kaaba for 3 days and on the fourth day, the heavy front door lock was opened by Angel Gabriel, in front of Prophet Mohammed and Hazrat Abu Talib^{as}, and Angel Gabriel^(asws) announced that a the inheritor of the keys to the the house of God^(swt) has descended, Who is Allah's Wali^(asws), His manisfaction, and the successor to the messenger of Allah^(asws)

Bibi Fatima binte Asad^(asws) emerged radiant from the sacred premises, holding Allah^{azwj}'s Wali in her arms.

¹ Transfer/descent of the divine and sacred 'Noor' to this earth as decreed by our Lord^(swt).

² When Bibi Fatima Binte Asad^(asws) died, the Prophet^(asws) shrouded her with his own shirt in order to protect her from the all enemies, and he laid her to rest in her grave in order that, she might be protected from (the crushing pressure of) the narrow space within the grave. He dictated to her her last words (which were) the statement of the authority (wilaya) of her son, the Commander of the faithful^(asws)

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The earth was blessed with Ameer-ul Momineen^(asws), but with closed eyes and in humble prostration before Allah^{azwj}. The closed eyes were searching for his brother and only opened when Prophet Muhammad^{saww} took his successor^(asws) in his arms so the first face that Mola Ali^(asws) saw was the beloved face of the Apostle of God, Muhammad^{saww}, whom he greeted thus:

"Assalaamo alaika ya Rasoolallah^{saww}, O' Prophet of Allah^{azwj} which of the Holy Books shall I recite for you?"
Imam Ali^(asws) began recitation of the Holy Quran to the joy and elation of the Prophet^(asws)

Imam Ali^{asws}'s first bath after his zahoor was given by the Prophet Muhammad^(asws) with a confirmation that this beloved Successor^(asws) of mine would give him^(asws) his last bath in the future.

The Zahoor of Ameer-ul-Momineen^(asws), as that of Prophet Muhammad^(asws), was fore told in the scriptures, when God^(azwj) said to Abraham^(asws), who asked for a blessing on Ismael^(asws), *"And as for Ismael, I have heard thee: behold I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly, twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. (Genesis 17 : 20).*

Bibi Fatima Binte Asad^(asws) gave Mola^(asws) the names of 'Asad' and 'Haider'. The Holy Prophet^(asws) gave him the name of Ali^(asws), saying that it was the name decreed for him by Allah^(azwj).

Soon after his zahoor, the Prophet^(asws), took him under his care and Ali^(asws), was like a son to him. He used to live with the Prophet^{saww}, and used to sleep with him. He^(asws), was fed by him, washed and dressed by him, and even carried by him on a sling whenever he would go out. The Wali of Allah^{azwj} accepted no other food or drink other than the moisture of Muhammad's^(asws) tongue, which he sucked for several days after his birth. Muhammad^(asws), raised him in his lap in his infancy, and chewed his food and fed Mola Ali^(asws) on it; he made him^(asws) sleep by his side, and Imam Ali^(asws) enjoyed the warmth of Muhammad^{saww}'s body and inhaled the holy fragrance of His^{saww} breath,

Mola Ali^(asws), Says;

"I was still a new born baby, when the Holy Prophet^{saww}, took me from my parents. I used to cling to him and he used to feed me, and (when I grew a little older), To me^(asws), He^{saww}, was like a guiding star and I used to follow his actions and deeds carefully. I was attached to him^{saww}, like a foal of camel attached to its mother. He^(asws), would spend some days at the cave of the Mt. Hira and I would be with him, there I used to see the light of revelation, and used to smell the fragrance of Prophet-hood. Once the Holy Prophet^{saww}, told me:

*"Ali^{asws}! You have attained a very eminent place. You^{asws} see what I^{saww} see and you^{asws} hear what I^{saww} hear."*³

*"O Ali^{asws}! Allah^{azwj} has ordered me to keep you near me. You are to me like an ear that retains everything, because yours are the retaining ears that the Holy Book (Quran) has praised"*⁴

Mola Imam Musa-e-Kazim says:

"O Allah^{azwj}! I bear witness that Ali^{asws} is Amir al-Momineen, the Master of all successors, and the Leader of all the pious. He is my Leader and the only clear path to my guidance. He^{asws} is the one whom without his Mastership and without following him, I could not trust my deeds, no matter how pure they are. And no matter how good my deeds are, without him I do not see them (as deeds) that would save me."⁵

NEXT PART 2: CHILDHOOD & YOUTH OF IMAM ALI^(asws)

³ Hulyatul Aliya, vol. I, p. 67; Tafsir Durre Manthur, Suyuti; Ibn Abil Hadid

⁴ Hulyatul Awliya, Hafiz Abu Na'im, vol. I, p. 67; Tafsir Durre Manthur, Suyuti.

⁵ Mahajj-Al-Dawaat,p.234