

## Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> bin Ali Raza (The ninth Imam<sup>asws</sup>)

Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> is our ninth Imam and known with many **titles, some of these are Abu Jafar sani, Al Taqi, Al Jawad, Murtaza, Muntakhib, zaki, mukhtar, mutawakil, aalam, mutaqi.** His<sup>asws</sup> father's name is Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> (8th Imam) and mother's name is Syeda Sabika<sup>asws</sup>. His mother belongs to family of prophet Mohammed's <sup>saww</sup> one of wives Bibi Maria Qubtiya (mother of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>asws</sup>- son of prophet who passed away in youth).

### Zahoor<sup>1</sup> and shahadat of Imam Muhammad al-Jawad<sup>asws</sup>

Ahlul Bait<sup>asws</sup> were blessed with Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> on 10th of Rajab-ul-murajab 195 A.H./April 8, 811 A.D in medina. However, some of the historians have quoted other dates, including 15th or 17th or 20th month of Ramazan, however, most authentic tradition is considered to be the 10th of Rajab. Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was martyred through poisoning given by Mutasim<sup>la</sup>, Abbasid caliph, on 30th Zeqad 220 A.H.(some traditions recommend 6th zilhaj) at the age of 25 years and 2 months and 18 days.

It has been reported by one of the righteous brothers of Imam<sup>asws</sup> that when Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was in Baghdad, Imam Ali Naqi<sup>asws</sup> was sitting with Abu zakariya and was reading 'Loh'<sup>2</sup> and all of sudden Imam<sup>asws</sup> started to cry. Abu zakariya asked about reason for crying, Imam<sup>asws</sup> did not reply and instead went straight into his house. More screams and sobbing sounds were heard then from inside the house. After some time, Imam<sup>asws</sup> came out and we asked him once again the reasons behind him and his household crying. Imam<sup>asws</sup> informed us that his father (Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup>) has left for the next world after being poisoned by the Abbasiad ruler<sup>la</sup>. Abu zakariya said, we remembered that time, the day and the month. It was later on confirmed that Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was martyred in the same month, on the date and the time without any exception to what was told to us by Imam Abul hasan Ali-ul-Naqi<sup>asws</sup> <sup>3</sup>

### Descendents of Imam Muhammad al-Jawad<sup>asws</sup>

Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> had 2 sons (Imam Ali Naqi<sup>asws</sup> and Musa<sup>asws</sup>) and 2 daughters (Fatima<sup>asws</sup> and Imama<sup>asws</sup>), another tradition mentions 3 daughters.<sup>4</sup>

### Early Years of Imam Muhammad al-Jawad<sup>asws</sup>

Imam Muhammad al-Jawad<sup>asws</sup> was brought up by his Holy father Imam `Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> for four years. However, under the harsh Abbasid conduct against Ahlul Bait<sup>asws</sup>, harassment and prosecution of their followers, Imam `Ali ar-Rida<sup>asws</sup> was asked to migrate from Medina to Khurasan (Iran), leaving his<sup>asws</sup> young son<sup>asws</sup> behind him. The Imam<sup>asws</sup> was fully aware of the treacherous character of the ruling king<sup>la</sup> and was sure that he would not be able to return back to Medina in his<sup>asws</sup> life. So before his<sup>asws</sup> departure from Medina Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> announced the Divine nomination his son

<sup>1</sup> A Divine Imam is a light which descends from heavens.

<sup>2</sup> The Divine book in heavens

<sup>3</sup> Biharul anwar vol 9-10

<sup>4</sup> Biharul anwar vol 9-10

Muhammad al-Jawad<sup>asws</sup> as his<sup>asws</sup> successor and Imam<sup>asws</sup> after him<sup>asws</sup>, and entrusted him with inheritance of sacred books, Divine knowledge and belongings of his infallible predecessors<sup>asws</sup>.

## **Mirror image of hazrat Musa and Isa**

It has been narrated by Kaleem bin Imran that I informed Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> that I am praying that May God blessed you with a son. Imam<sup>asws</sup> replied, 'God<sup>azwj</sup> will give me a son who will be my Heir'. When it happened, Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> told his companions that I have been blessed with a son who is the mirror image of my father Imam Musa<sup>asws</sup> and he will part the river like Prophet Musa<sup>as</sup> and he<sup>asws</sup> also resemble hazrat Isa<sup>as</sup> and his mother is also 'Tahir and Pure' like the mother of Hazrat Isa<sup>as</sup>. Then Imam<sup>asws</sup> said but he will be brutally killed by the Muslim rulers and upon this, people of skies will cry upon innocence and shedding of his sinless blood and God will curse and give punishment to his<sup>asws</sup> killer and his<sup>asws</sup> enemies.<sup>5</sup>

## **First Speech of Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>**

When Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was in Mecca, Imam<sup>asws</sup> was only 25 months old and no one could recognise him<sup>asws</sup> and did not know to which family he<sup>asws</sup> belonged to so people brought in an expert of family lineage, the 'Qiyafa shinas'<sup>6</sup>. Who, immediately on seeing him<sup>asws</sup> went in prostration and said it's sad that you do not recognize the light of God<sup>asws</sup>?, I can see a radiant 'Noor' emanating from him<sup>asws</sup>. I assure you, by my Lord<sup>azwj</sup> that child<sup>asws</sup>'s both parents are from the infallible lineage and pure progeny of Prophets<sup>asws</sup>, without any doubt, he<sup>asws</sup> belongs to the progeny of prophet Mohammed<sup>saww</sup> and Imam Ali<sup>asws</sup> and no one else.

After listening to the expert, Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup>, started addressing to people who were there:

"All praises are for Allah<sup>azwj</sup> Who has made us<sup>asws</sup> from His Noor and has prefer us<sup>asws</sup> upon His<sup>azwj</sup> rest of creation and made us<sup>asws</sup> the custodians of His revelations. O people! Listen, I am Mohammed<sup>asws</sup> bin Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> bin Musa-e-Kazim<sup>asws</sup> bin Jafar-e-Sadiq<sup>asws</sup> bin Mohammed Baqir<sup>asws</sup> bin Ali syed-ul-Abideen<sup>asws</sup> bin Hussain<sup>asws</sup> Shaheed bin Amir-ul-momineen Ali<sup>asws</sup> bin Abi Talib<sup>asws</sup>. I am from the generation of Fatima Zehra<sup>asws</sup> binte Mohammed Mustafa<sup>saww</sup> You did not realize my family status (hasab nasab). You doubted about God<sup>azwj</sup> and my grand father and you called in this family tree expert (Qiyafa shinas) for my recognition. By Allah<sup>azwj</sup> that I<sup>asws</sup> know more about these 'Qiyafa shinas''s secrets than any one else, I<sup>asws</sup> am the most learned person among all human beings. I<sup>asws</sup> speak nothing but 'Huq' (Just) and always say the truth. God<sup>azwj</sup> has given us<sup>asws</sup> this Knowledge as an integral part of 'Noor' and it encompass all and everything is in the skies or lives on earth".<sup>7</sup>

## **Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup>'s first meeting with Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>**

Once when our 9th Imam, Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was only nine years old, he<sup>asws</sup> was walking down a street of Baghdad, when Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> and his soldiers came by. All the other children on the street ran away but Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> stayed there. Upon noticing this,

<sup>5</sup> Biharul anwar vol 9-10

<sup>6</sup> Face reader

<sup>7</sup> Biharul anwar vol 9-10

Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> stopped his carriage and asked, "Young man, why did you not run away like the other children?"

Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> replied calmly, "Neither had I<sup>asws</sup> committed a crime, nor was I<sup>asws</sup> afraid of you or in your way. Why should I<sup>asws</sup> have run away or be afraid? And I<sup>asws</sup> also know that you<sup>la</sup> will not cause any unnecessary troubles as I did not obstruct your way.'

Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> was surprised and got impressed with Imam<sup>asws</sup>'s courage and asked, 'What is your name?' 'Muhammad<sup>asws</sup>,' came the reply. Whose son are you? Asked Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup>. 'I am Son of Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup>,

Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> rode on. During his hunt the hawk returned to him with a fish in its beak. Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> was surprised. He returned back toward the city. Once again, he found children playing at the same spot, who once again ran away after seeing the approaching caliph, except the young man who said he was Muhammad<sup>asws</sup> son of Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup> who remained where he<sup>asws</sup> was.

Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> hid the fish in his palm, stopped his carriage near Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> and asked: 'Tell me, what is there in my fist?'

Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> replied, "Allah<sup>azwj</sup> has created tiny fish who live in the river. The hawks of kings sometimes catch fish from there and bring it to the Kings. They hide it in their fist and ask from a member of the Ahlul Bayt<sup>asws</sup> of the Prophet<sup>saww</sup>, "Tell me what is there in my fist.' Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> said, "Truly, you are the worthy son of Imam Ali Raza<sup>asws</sup>"  
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Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> son of Harun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> called the young 9th Imam, Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> to Baghdad from Medina and offered his daughter. This infuriated his family (Abbasid). To prove to them the excellence of Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> even at a young age of Twelve years, he arranged a meeting between Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> and the most learned of men at that time - Yahya ibn Aaktham, the Chief Justice of the Abbasid Empire. It was a high profile occasion with over 900 other scholars present. The court was full of people from near and far and everyone keen to listen to the debate. Yahya asked the first question, which was: What would be the kaffara of a person in Ihram who would hunt and kill a prey? Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> answered that he would have to be given a lot more details before he could even begin to answer the question, i.e.; Was the person in Ihram Baligh or not? Was the person a free man or a slave? Did he know the laws of Sharia on hunting or not? Was his Ihram for Hajj or Umra? Did he hunt intentionally or not? Was this the first time or one of many? Did the person in Ihram hunt inside the Haram of the Holy Kaaba or outside. Did he hunt in the day or at night? Was the prey big or small? Was the prey a bird or an animal? Was the person repentant or not?

Yahya was shocked and did not know what to say.

Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> asked Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> to answer, Yahya's question for all of the above conditions, which Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> did.

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<sup>8</sup> Biharul anwar vol 9-10

It was then Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> to ask Yahya a question, which Imam<sup>asws</sup> did and Yahya could not answer; so Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> again gave the answer.

Mamun al-Rashid<sup>la</sup> was pleased with the outcome. What he had asserted had come true. Addressing the audience he said, 'Did I not tell you that the Ahlul Bayt<sup>asws</sup> of the Prophet<sup>saww</sup> have been gifted by Allah<sup>azwj</sup> with limitless knowledge? There is no match to even the children of this elevated House.'

## **Hirz-e-Jawad**

Imam<sup>asws</sup> lived for a year in Baghdad with Ummul Fadhl<sup>la</sup>. She<sup>la</sup> remained disobedient and behaved arrogantly to Imam<sup>asws</sup>. After getting frustrated from altering Imam<sup>asws</sup>'s noble manners, she complained to her father against her husband. Mamun<sup>la</sup> became furious and out of rage he drank heavily and went to the 9th Imam<sup>asws</sup>'s house and attacked Imam<sup>asws</sup> with a sword. Both Ummul Fadhl<sup>la</sup> and a servant saw the attack and believed Imam<sup>asws</sup> was dead. Mamun<sup>la</sup> on waking next morning realized the consequences of his attack and was thinking of arranging the disposal of Imam<sup>asws</sup>'s body when he saw Imam<sup>asws</sup> well without even having a single scratch on him<sup>asws</sup>. He was confused and asked Imam<sup>asws</sup> who showed him an amulet, which is called Hirze Jawad. The Holy Imam<sup>asws</sup> told him it was from his grand mother Syeda Fatima Zahra<sup>asws</sup> and protects one from danger and attacks of enemies.<sup>9</sup>

## **Age is not counted in Imamat**

Our 9th Imam, Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> had an uncle called Ali Ibne Jaffar, who was a very knowledgeable, pious old man. Whenever he went to the mosque, people would surround him and ask him questions.

One day Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> arrived at the mosque. When his uncle, Ali Ibne Jaffar, who was sitting in the middle of a large group of people saw him<sup>asws</sup>, he immediately got up and kissed the hand of Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>.

Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> asked his uncle to sit down, to which his uncle replied that he could not sit while Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was standing. When his uncle returned among his friends, after Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> had left, his friends told him that it was wrong for him to show so much respect to a child (Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>) as he was older and his uncle.

Ali Ibne Jaffar<sup>ra</sup> replied that he was not showing respect to the child<sup>asws</sup> but to his status<sup>asws</sup>. He continued; Imamat is Divine nomination from Allah<sup>azwj</sup>, and Allah<sup>azwj</sup> did not deem him an old man fit and capable for the leadership of the Ummah, but considered the child capable for it. Therefore they should all obey to his<sup>asws</sup> (Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>) commands.

## **Cause for Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>'s martyrdom**

It has been written in 'Auoonulmojazat' that when Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> went for hajj, he took with him his wife umul fazal<sup>la</sup> (daughter of Mamun<sup>la</sup>) as well as his<sup>asws</sup> son Hazrat Imam Ali Naqi<sup>asws</sup> who was very young at that time. After hajj, Imam Mohammed

Taqi<sup>asws</sup> left him<sup>asws</sup> in Madina and entrusted him<sup>asws</sup> with all the 'Taburukat'<sup>10</sup> and weapons of his<sup>asws</sup> ancestors and declared his young son's Imam, in front of his<sup>asws</sup> most trust worthy companions.

After finishing these responsibilities, Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> returned back to Iraq with his wife umul fazal<sup>la</sup>. This was the 17<sup>th</sup> year of Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>'s Imam. Mamoon<sup>la</sup> at that time went to Rome and died there in the month of Rajab. After mamoon<sup>la</sup>'s death, Mutasim Billa<sup>la</sup>, within the Abbasid family, took over the reins of government in the month of Shaban. As soon as coming to power, Mutasim<sup>la</sup> started planning poison Imam<sup>asws</sup> Taqi<sup>asws</sup>, following the footsteps of his predecessors.

He secretly convinced umul fazal<sup>la</sup>, who was Abbasid and not loyal to Imam<sup>asws</sup> for various reasons, i.e., she thought Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup> preferred Imam Ali Naqi<sup>asws</sup>'s mother over her and she had not had any children. So Mutasim<sup>la</sup> took her in confidence and she agreed to poison Imam Taqi<sup>asws</sup>. One day she presented poisoned grapes to Imam<sup>asws</sup> and insisted Imam<sup>asws</sup> to eat at least some. When Imam<sup>asws</sup> had eaten those grapes, she realised the consequences and started crying. Imam<sup>asws</sup> asked her: 'Why are you crying now? God<sup>azwj</sup> will never forgive you and you will never escape His<sup>azwj</sup> wrath. You would soon see its signs through such a bad syndrome that you will never recover. She suffered from an ulcer, in her private area, which proved untreatable, she spent all her wealth on its cure but got killed by it in the end.<sup>11</sup>

### **Burial of Imam Muhammad al-Jawad<sup>asws</sup>**

Imam Mohammed Taqi<sup>asws</sup> was buried by the side of his grandfather Imam Musa ibn Ja'far<sup>asws</sup>. Their burial place is called Kazmain, as both Imam<sup>asws</sup>'s patience and endurance was so impressive for Muslims of that time that they called it Kazmain, the two Kazims, the enduring ones.



<sup>10</sup> Scared inheritance of Ahlul Bait<sup>asws</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Biharul anwar vol 9-10 p22