

TARIKH (History)

Lesson 1

Nabí Ibráhím ('a) & Nabí Ismā'il ('a)

In Book 2 we learnt about Nabi Ibrahim ('a) and how he broke the idols and was thrown in the fire by the evil King Namrud. After Allāh saved Nabi Ibrahim ('a) from the fire, King Namrud told Nabi Ibrahim ('a) to leave his country with his wife Sarah and never to come back again.

Nabi Ibrahim ('a) left with his wife Sarah and his nephew Nabi Lut ('a) and they went south to Palestine and settled down there.

Nabi Ibrahim ('a) and Sarah did not have any children for many years. Finally Nabi Ibrahim ('a) married another wife whose name was Hājar and she had a baby boy whose name was Ismā'il. And some years later, Sarah the first wife of Nabi Ibrahim ('a) had a baby boy and his name was Ishāq. Ismā'il and Ishāq were both special and both would grow up and become great prophets called Nabi Ismā'il ('a) and Nabi Ishāq ('a).

Our Prophet, Rasulullāh (s) is from the descendants of Nabi Ismā'il ('a) and many prophets like Nabi Musa ('a) and Nabi 'Isa ('a) are from Nabi Ishāq ('a).

One day, when Nabi Ismā'il ('a) was a baby, Allāh ordered Nabi Ibrahim ('a) to take his baby Ismā'il and the baby's mother – Hājar – to a far away place called Makkah and to leave them there alone. So Nabi Ibrāhīm

(‘a) travelled with Hājar and Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) until they reached Makkah where there was nothing except a dry valley between two hills called Safa and Marwah.

Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) then left his wife Hājar and the baby Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) in this desert and started going back home.



Hājar was worried because she was being left alone in the desert with a baby and there was nothing there - not even water to drink. But Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) had a lot of trust in Allāh.

‘Don’t worry,’ said Nabi Ibrahim (‘a), ‘Allāh has promised me He will look after you.’

Shortly after Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) had left, the baby, Nabi Ismā’il (‘a), began to cry because he was very thirsty. His mother Hājar began running between the two hills of Safa and Marwah in search of water but she couldn’t find any water or anyone to help her.

Then a miracle happened. As Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) was crying, he hit his feet on the ground and Allāh caused a spring of water to gush out. Hājar was very surprised and happy to see this. She called the spring ‘Zamzam’. This spring of water is still there until today, after thousands

of years, and we can still drink water from the well of Zamzam when we go to Makkah.

And so the life of Nabi Ismā'il ('a) was saved. Slowly other people came to the valley of Makkah and began living there until it became a big town.

Every few months, Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) would come to Makkah to visit Hājar and Nabi Ismā'il ('a). He was very happy to see his son growing up surrounded by nature and away from crowded cities where people worshipped idols.

We learn from Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) – who had to leave his wife and child alone in the desert without water – that we should always trust Allāh and obey Him because He is the best one to look after all His creatures.

The Brave Boy

One night, when Nabi Ibrahim ('a) was in Makkah, he had a dream in which Allāh commanded him to kill his own son Nabi Ismā'il ('a). This was a frightening and terrible dream but it repeated for three nights. Because Nabi Ibrahim ('a) was a prophet and Allāh's friend, he knew this dream was a test from Allāh. He loved his son Ismā'il very much. But he loved Allāh more than anyone and anything else in the world.

So Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) told his son Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) what Allāh had commanded him.

Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) was very brave and he loved Allāh very much as well. So he said, ‘Dear father, do what Allāh has ordered you. Inshā Allāh I will be very patient.’

This made Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) very proud of his son. He took him to a place called Mina, a little away from Makkah. On the way, Shaytān tried to stop them. First Shaytān came to Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) and told him his dream was not from Allāh and Allāh would never command him to kill his son. But Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) just threw stones at Shaytān and told him to go away. Then Shaytān came to Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) and tried telling him not to go with his father but Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) also stoned Shaytān and told him to go away. Then Shaytān tried to tell Hājar to save her beloved son but she stoned Shaytān as well.

So finally Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) reached the place called Mina where Allāh had commanded him to offer his son as a sacrifice. Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) tied a cloth around his eyes to blindfold himself so he wouldn’t have to see his son dying. Then he put Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) on the ground and wanted to cut his throat with a knife.

Allāh was very pleased with Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) and Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) because they had passed their test and proven that they were willing to sacrifice anything for the sake of Allāh. So Allāh sent the angel Jibrāil (‘a) to

Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) and told him, ‘Stop! Allāh says you have passed your test. Don’t kill Ismā’il. Instead slaughter this ram (male sheep).’ And so Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) did that and then went home happily with his son Nabi Ismā’il (‘a).

Every year, when Muslims go for Hajj, they hit three pillars with stones. These three pillars are where Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) and his family stoned Shaytān.

Muslims also slaughter an animal during Hajj and give the meat to the poor and others as thanksgiving to Allāh and following the actions of Nabi Ibrahim (‘a). This is done on the 10th of Dhul Hijjah that is also called ‘Id al-Adha or ‘Id al-Qurbān (the Festival of Sacrifice).

Muslims also run between the hills of Safa and Marwah seven times just like Hājar did when she was looking for water for her baby. All these actions in Hajj teach us that Allāh wants us to remember the sacrifices of people who were willing to do anything for the sake of Allāh.

The story of Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) teaches us that we must surrender to Allāh and obey His commands always. And the story of Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) teaches us we must always obey our parents unless they tell us to do something harām.

Lesson 2

Building the Ka'bah

After the water of Zamzam began flowing in the valley of Makkah, other tribes came to live there with Sayyida Hājar ('a) and Nabi Ismā'il ('a).

When Nabi Ismā'il ('a) grew up into a fine, strong young man, Allāh commanded Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) to build the Ka'bah with help from his son Nabi Ismā'il ('a).

So they began taking stones from the nearby hills and building it. Nabi Ismā'il ('a) would pick up and carry the heavy stones and Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) would put them in place to build the walls of the Ka'bah.

When it was complete, Allāh also told Nabi Ibrahim ('a) to put a special stone in the corner of the Ka'bah near its door. This stone is from Jannah and is called Hajar al-Aswad (The Black Stone). Anyone who kisses this stone gets a lot of thawāb.

Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) used to stand on a rock when he was building the Ka'bah and Allāh made the rock a little soft so the footprints of Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) were left on it. When you go to Makkah, near the Ka'bah, you can see the stone with Nabi Ibrāhim ('a)'s footprints. It is called the Maqām Ibrāhim ('a) (the Standing Place of Nabi Ibrahim ('a)).

When Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) finished building the Ka’bah with Nabi Ismā’il (‘a), he prayed to Allāh to make Makkah a safe place and to bless Makkah for those who believe in Allāh and in the Day of Judgement. He also prayed to Allāh to accept the Ka’bah that he and his son Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) had built. He asked Allāh that his descendants should also always worship Allāh and serve Him. Allāh answered all the prayers of Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a). That is why the best of people who worshipped Allāh - Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (‘a) - were all descendants of Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a).

Nabi Ibrahim (‘a) made a special prayer to Allāh to send a prophet to Makkah who would teach the people about Allāh and make them good. And so Allāh sent Rasulullāh (s) many years later to answer the prayer of Nabi Ibrahim (‘a).

Allāh then ordered Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) to call people from everywhere to come and visit the Ka’bah for pilgrimage (hajj) and to worship Allāh there. And so he did and for thousands of years, until today, every year people go to Makkah to visit the Ka’bah and for Hajj. Allāh has made it wājib on all Muslims to go for Hajj once in their life. When we go for Hajj we walk around the Ka’bah seven times.

And everyday when Muslims pray salāh, they turn towards Makkah to face the Ka’bah that Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) built.



After Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) and his son Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) finished building the Ka’bah, they prayed to Allāh and said:

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Our Lord, accept it from us! You hear everything and know everything!

- Surah al-Baqarah, 2:127

Allāh loved the beautiful du’a of Nabi Ibrāhim (‘a) and Nabi Ismā’il (‘a) so He mentioned it in the Qur’ān. Whenever we do something good for Allāh, we should also recite this du’a. Can you memorize it in Arabic?

Lesson 3

Nabí Ya'qub ('a) and Nabí Yusuf ('a)

Nabí Ibrāhim ('a)'s younger son, Nabí Ishāq ('a) was born to his first wife Sarah. Nabí Ishāq ('a) and Nabí Ismā'il ('a) were brothers but from different mothers. Nabí Ishāq ('a) was also a very special boy and he grew up and became a great prophet of Allāh.

When Nabí Ishāq ('a) got married, he had a son who was also a Nabí. His name was Nabí Ya'qub ('a). And Nabí Ya'qub ('a) had twelve sons. His favourite son was the youngest and the most handsome. His name was Nabí Yusuf ('a).

The other eleven sons of Nabí Ya'qub ('a) were very jealous of their brother Yusuf even though he was the youngest of them all. They didn't like how Nabí Ya'qub ('a) loved Yusuf so much.

One day, the brothers of Nabí Yusuf ('a) told their father Nabí Ya'qub ('a), 'Yusuf is a little boy. Why don't you let him come with us to the forest to play? We promise we will take good care of him.'

Nabí Ya'qub ('a) was afraid of leaving his son Yusuf but the brothers insisted and so finally Nabí Ya'qub ('a) allowed his sons to take their little brother out with them.

Once they were far away from home, the brothers began to kick Yusuf and to beat him. Then they saw a well of water. They decided to throw him inside the deep, dark well.

The angel Jibrāil (‘a) told Nabi Yusuf (‘a) not to be afraid because Allāh would protect him. The brothers threw Nabi Yusuf (‘a) into the well and he sat at the bottom of the well, all alone, crying and calling out for help.



The brothers of Nabi Yusuf (‘a) went back home. They took the shirt of Nabi Yusuf (‘a) and put the blood of an animal on it. Then they pretended to cry and told their father that a big wolf had attacked them and eaten Yusuf. Nabi Ya‘qub (‘a) knew his sons were lying but he prayed to Allāh to help his son Yusuf and to look after him.

In the meantime, some people were passing by the well. They put a bucket down to get some water and Nabi Yusuf (‘a) held on to the bucket. When the men pulled the bucket up, they found a handsome young boy inside it!

So they took the boy to Egypt and there they sold him in the market. Because he was very handsome, the Governor of Egypt, who was the closest man to the King of Egypt, decided to pay the travellers and to buy Yusuf and keep him at home like a servant.

One day, the King of Egypt had a strange dream. He dreamt there were seven fat cows eating grass and then seven thin cows came and ate up the seven fat cows. The King did not understand the meaning of this dream. So he began asking everyone to tell him what it means.

No one knew the meaning of the dream except Nabi Yusuf ('a). Nabi Yusuf ('a) told the King the dream means that there will be seven years in Egypt when there will be a lot of food and water for everyone to enjoy. Then after that there will be seven years when there will be no food and water and people will suffer.

The King asked Nabi Yusuf ('a) what he should do and Nabi Yusuf ('a) told the King how to collect wheat for seven years so that when there were no crops, they would not be hungry. The King was very happy with Nabi Yusuf ('a) so he made him in charge of the storage of all wheat in Egypt. When the Governor of Egypt died, the King made Nabi Yusuf ('a) the new Governor of Egypt.

After seven years, when the lands became dry and there were no crops, and everyone was coming to Egypt to buy wheat from Nabi Yusuf ('a), one day, the brothers of Nabi Yusuf ('a) came to Egypt to buy wheat.

The brothers of Nabi Yusuf (‘a) did not know that the Governor of Egypt was their brother Yusuf. When they found out, they were very scared and ashamed of what they did to their brother.

They begged their brother to forgive them. Nabi Yusuf (‘a) decided to forgive them because Allāh likes people who forgive others instead of taking revenge. He told them they should never be jealous because Shaytān likes to make people jealous so they will fight and hate each other.

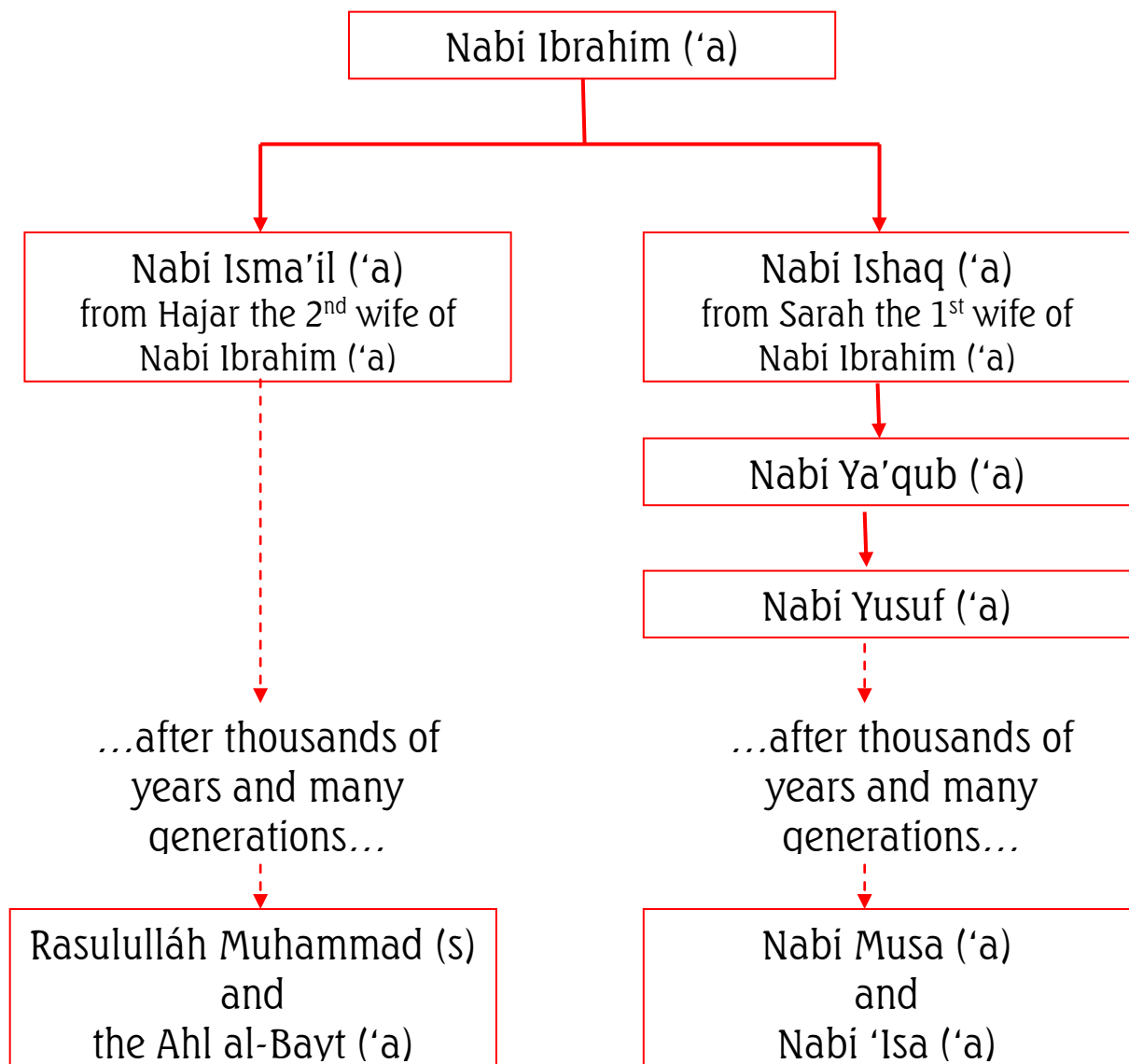
Then Nabi Yusuf (‘a) told his brothers to go back home and to bring their father Nabi Ya’qub (‘a) to Egypt. Nabi Ya’qub (‘a) was now a very old man. But soon, the whole family came to Egypt. Nabi Ya’qub (‘a) and all his sons with their wives and children and the whole family lived in Egypt happily ever after.

Can you answer the following questions?

1. Why were the brothers of Nabi Yusuf (‘a) jealous of him?
2. What did the eleven brothers of Nabi Yusuf (‘a) tell their father Nabi Ya’qub (‘a) after they threw Nabi Yusuf (‘a) in the well and left him there?
3. How did Nabi Yusuf (‘a) become the Governor of Egypt?

4. Why is it bad to be jealous? What happens when we are jealous of others?
5. Why is it good to forgive others when they hurt us and then they say they are sorry?

Look at this family tree. Can you see how Nabi Ibrāhim ('a) was the grandfather of Nabi Ya'qub ('a) and the great-grandfather of Nabi Yusuf ('a)?



Lesson 4

As-Sádiq & Al-Amín

Rasulullāh Muhammad (s), the son of Hadrat Abdullah (‘a) and Sayyida Amina bint Wahab (‘a), was born in Makkah on Friday, the 17th of Rabi al-Awwal 570 CE.

Rasulullāh (s) used to pray all the time in the Cave of Hira outside Makkah. When he was 40 years old, the angel Jibrāil (‘a) visited him there and began reciting the Qur’ān to Rasulullāh (s) and told him to invite people to Islam and to worship no one but Allāh.

Rasulullāh (s) then began going around Makkah telling people, ‘Say: “There is no god but Allāh” and you will be saved.’

The people of Makkah used to worship idols. They refused to listen to Rasulullāh (s). Instead they threw stones at him and tried to kill him.

After some years, Rasulullāh (s) with his few followers moved to the city of Madina. This is called the hijrah of Rasulullāh and it also is the start of the Islamic calendar. For example, when we say Imām Hasan (‘a) was born 3 years after Hijrah it means he was born 3 years after Rasulullāh (s) moved from Makkah to Madina.

In Madina, many people became Muslims. Slowly Islam began to spread and became strong until it reached the whole world.

Rasulullāh (s) preached Islam for 23 years until Allāh revealed the whole Qur'ān and then Rasulullāh (s) passed away.

Before leaving the world, Rasulullāh (s) told everyone to follow Imām Ali ('a) after him. He told the people that they should never leave the Qur'ān or his family the Ahl al-Bayt ('a) otherwise it will be hard for them to go to Jannah. But if they always follow the Qur'ān and the Ahl al-Bayt ('a) then they will go to Jannah and live there happily forever.

Rasulullāh (s) passed away on the 28th of Safar 11 years after Hijrah when he was 63 years old and he is buried in Madina in his masjid.

Rasulullāh (s), his daughter Sayyida Fatima az-Zahra ('a), and the 12 Imāms - from Imām Ali ('a) to our living Imām, Imām al-Mahdi ('atfs) - are all together known as the 14 Ma'sumeen ('a). Ma'sumeen means those who never make mistakes and Allāh protects them from every sin.

Rasulullāh (s) was very kind and brave. He loved children and always gave money to help the poor. He loved to worship Allāh and to recite the Qur'ān. Rasulullāh (s) never said any lies and even when people were mean to him, he was still kind to them.

Even the people who did not like Rasulullāh (s) because they wanted to worship idols used to call Rasulullāh (s)

‘as-Sādiq’ which means the one who always says the truth. And also they used to call him ‘al-Amin’ which means the trustworthy. A trustworthy person is someone you can tell a secret or give something to keep for you and he will always keep it safe.

We should all try and be like Rasulullāh (s) and be as-Sādiq and al-Amin.

The Old Lady Who Threw Garbage

When Rasulullāh (s) started to invite people to Islam in Makkah, there was an old lady who used to hate him very much. Whenever Rasulullāh (s) used to pass by her house, she used to throw garbage at him. She would wait for him to pass by every morning then she would throw trash on him.

But Rasulullāh (s) never got angry with her. He would only brush off the garbage from his clothes and greet her politely.



One day, when Rasulullāh (s) passed by her house, he was surprised because the old lady was not there to throw any garbage. He asked her neighbour and the neighbour said the old woman was sick in bed.

So Rasulullāh (s) went to see her because it is good to go and see people who are not well and ask them if they need anything.

When the old woman saw Rasulullāh (s) coming into her house, she thought he had come to take revenge. So she said, “Ha! You want to take revenge when I am sick. Why didn’t you come to take revenge when I was strong and not ill?”

Rasulullāh (s) told the old woman that he had not come to take revenge but he came to see how she was doing and to pray for her and to ask if she needed anything because Allāh likes people to help those who are ill.

The old woman was so surprised and happy. From that day onwards she decided to become a Muslim and she loved Rasulullāh (s). To become a Muslim, she recited the Kalima:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

LA ILLAHA ILAL LLAH. MUHAMMADUR RASULULLĀH
*There is no god but Allāh. Muhammad is the Messenger
of Allāh.*

The old woman told Rasulullāh (s) she was sorry for what she did before and to forgive her. So Rasulullāh (s) forgave her and from then on she always listened to everything he said.

Allāh Will Always Help You

One day Rasulullāh (s) was on a journey and very tired, so he sat down under a tree to rest.

A bad man saw that Rasulullāh (s) was alone so he thought it was a good time to kill him. He went towards Rasulullāh (s) with his sword and said to him, 'Tell me Muhammad! Who can save you now?'

'Allāh,' replied Rasulullāh (s) calmly.

When the bad man saw how calm and sure Rasulullāh (s) was that Allāh would help him, he became frightened and the sword fell from his hand.

Rasulullāh (s) picked up the sword and asked him, 'Now you tell me, who is there to save you?'



No one,' replied the scared man.

'No, you are wrong,' said Rasulullāh (s), 'Allāh can also help you if you trust Him.'

When the man heard this, he became a Muslim and loved Rasulullāh (s).

Allāh Does Not Like the Lazy

One day Rasulullāh (s) was travelling with some people. After travelling for a long time they got tired, so they stopped to rest.

They decided to make a small camp and cook some food. One of the men said that he would go and get a lamb for food to eat.

Another man said that he would help him to cook the lamb meat. Another said that he would light the fire to cook the meat.

So Rasulullāh (s) said that he would gather the firewood from the forest so that they could make the fire to cook the meat.

All the men told him that there was no need for him to do anything at all because he was the messenger of Allāh. They would do all the work.

Rasulullāh (s) told them that he knew that they could do the work, but Allāh does not like for a person to sit and let other people do all the work.

Rasulullāh (s) explained to them that although he was Allāh's Messenger, he did not like to get any special treatment from them. This is because Allāh does not like a person to think that he is better than other people.

When we sit back and let other people do the work, it makes us lazy. We should all share in any work that needs to be done, so that it can be done quickly and easily. Allāh does not like people who are lazy and people who make others do all the work. Allāh loves those who work hard and help others.

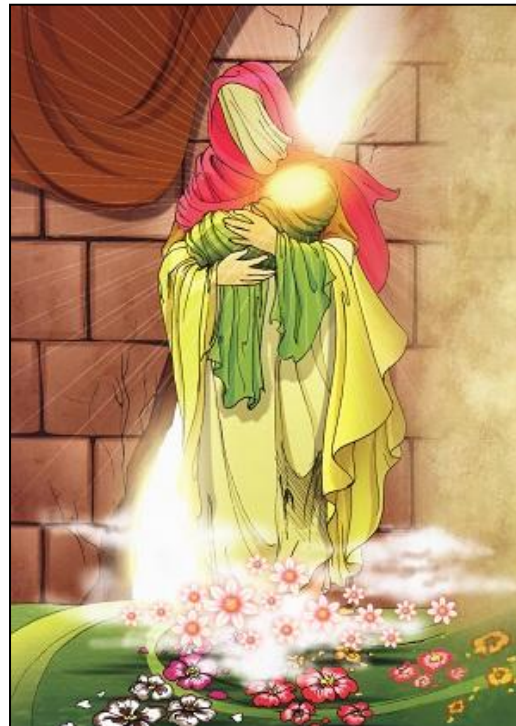
Class Activity: In the coming week, write down what you did to help someone each day and show it to your teacher next week.

Lesson 5

Imām Ali b. Abí Tálíb (‘a)

Do you remember the names of the 12 Imāms? The first Imām is Imām Ali (‘a). His father’s name is Hadrat Abu Talib and his mother’s name is Sayyida Fātima bint Asad.

Imām Ali (‘a) was born inside the Ka’bah, on 13th Rajab in the year 600 CE. Sayyida Fatima bint Asad was going around the Ka’bah in Tawaf when she began feeling pain like a mother does when her child is about to be born. So she prayed to Allāh to make it easy for her and the walls of the Ka’bah opened. Sayyida Fatima bint Asad went in and the walls closed.



The people of Makkah were amazed to see this miracle and did not know what was happening inside. After three days, Sayyida Fatima bint Asad came out of the Ka’bah with her baby, Imām Ali (‘a) in her hands. She looked like Sayyida Maryam with her son Nabi Isa (‘a).

Rasulullāh (s) was the cousin of Imām Ali (‘a) because his father Abd Allāh was the brother of Imām Ali (‘a)’s father Abu Talib. But when Imām Ali (‘a) was born, Rasulullāh (s) was already 30 years old so he began

looking after Imām Ali (‘a) like his own son. When Imām Ali (‘a) was a baby, Rasulullāh (s) would sit him on his laps and would chew the food first and then feed him. As Imām Ali (‘a) grew up, he followed Rasulullāh (s) everywhere like a shadow and learnt from him everything he knew until his behaviour was exactly like that of Rasulullāh (s).



When Rasulullāh (s) was 40 years old and the angel Jibrāil (‘a) came to Rasulullāh (s) with the first āyāt of Qur’ān and the order from Allāh to start inviting people to Islam, the first people to accept the message of Rasulullāh (s) were Imām Ali (‘a) and Sayyida Khadija (‘a) the wife of Rasulullāh (s).

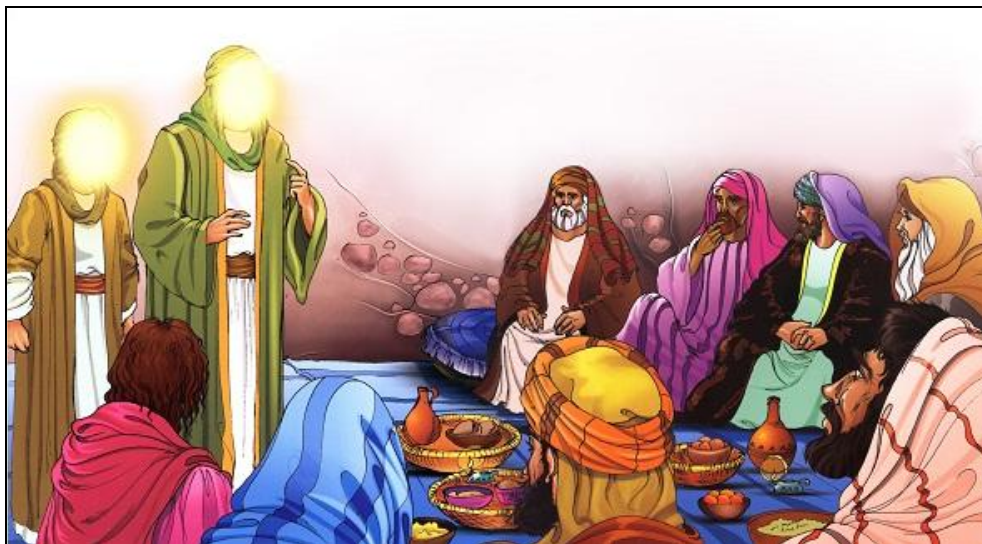
One day Hadrat Abu Talib saw his son Imām Ali (‘a) praying near the Ka’bah with Rasulullāh (s) so he said to his son Imām Ali (‘a), ‘O Ali, follow your cousin Rasulullāh (s) and do what he tells you to do.’

Da’wat Dhul Ashira

After Rasulullāh (s) had preached Islam for 3 years, Allāh ordered him to invite his whole family and ask them to accept Islam. This invitation is called ‘Da’wat Dhul Ashira’.

Rasulullāh (s) told Imām Ali ('a) to arrange for the food and to invite 40 men from his family including his uncles Abu Talib and Abu Lahab. Abu Lahab was not a good man and did not like Rasulullāh (s).

After everyone had eaten, Rasulullāh (s) began talking to them about Islam. Abu Lahab tried to stop Rasulullāh (s) but Hadrat Abu Talib, the father of Imām Ali ('a) stopped his brother Abu Lahab and told him to keep quiet. Then he told Rasulullāh (s), 'Say whatever you wish, for you are as-Sādiq and al-Amin.'



Rasulullāh (s) told them that he was the messenger of Allāh and that Allāh had ordered him to invite them to Islam. Then he asked them, 'Who among you will support me and become my brother and my successor (the leader) after me?'

Everyone was quiet and no one said anything. Only Imām Ali ('a), who was only 13 years old, stood up and said full of courage, 'I will O Messenger of Allāh!'

Rasulullāh (s) was very happy to hear this. And Hadrat Abu Talib told Rasulullāh (s) that as long as he was alive, he would protect him from his enemies.

The First Sacrifice

When the message of Islam began to spread in Makkah and Hadrat Abu Talib died, the leaders of Makkah decided to attack the house of Rasulullāh (s) and to kill him. Allāh told Rasulullāh (s) to leave his house in the middle of the night and go to Madina. This is called the Hijrah of Rasulullāh (s) when he moved from Makkah to Madina.



Before he left, Rasulullāh (s) asked Imām Ali (‘a) to sleep in his bed while he was gone so that the assassins hiding outside would not know that Rasulullāh (s) had left and they would think he is still sleeping in his bed.

Everyone loves to protect themselves but Imām Ali (‘a) only asked Rasulullāh (s), ‘If I sleep on your bed will your life be saved?’

‘Yes,’ said Rasulullāh (s) and right away, Imām Ali (‘a) agreed to sacrifice his life and put himself in danger.

In the morning, when the people attacked the house of Rasulullāh (s) they found Imām Ali (‘a) in the room and could not find Rasulullāh (s).

La Fatā illa Ali la Sayf illa Dhul Fiqār

After Rasulullāh (s) had moved to Madina, Imām Ali (‘a) followed him there. In the following years, the people of Makkah decided to fight wars with the Muslims in Madina. In all the battles of Islam, Imām Ali (‘a) was always the bravest. He killed most of the enemies and always protected Rasulullāh (s) even when all the Muslims ran away out of fear. In most battles the Muslims only won because Allāh gave them victory through Imām Ali (‘a).

In the Battle of Uhud, the angel Jibrāil (‘a) began to shout in the heavens:

لا فتى إلا علي لا سيف إلا ذو الفقار

‘Lā fatā illa ‘Ali lā sayf illā Dhul Fiqār!’

‘There is no hero like Ali, and no sword like Dhul Fiqār!’

Dhul Fiqār was a special sword that Allāh sent to Rasulullāh (s) and Rasulullāh (s) gave to Imām Ali (‘a).

Rasulullāh (s) taught everything to Imām Ali (‘a) that Allāh had taught him and he said:

أَنَا مَدِينَةُ الْعِلْمِ وَعَلِيٌّ بِابِهَا

Anā Madinatul 'Ilm wa Alliyun Bābuha
I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its Gate

What Rasulullāh (s) meant is that if we want to get the true knowledge of Islam, we should go through Imām Ali ('a) because you always enter a place from its gate.

Imām Ali ('a) himself said, 'Rasulullāh (s) taught me 1000 doors of knowledge and from each door I opened another 1000 doors of knowledge!'



Two years after Hijrah and after the Battle of Badr, Allāh told Rasulullāh (s) to marry his daughter Sayyida Fātima az-Zahrā ('a) to Imām Ali ('a).

Imām Ali ('a) knew many things that people never even imagined. Whenever people had a problem and they did not know what to do, they would come to Imām Ali ('a) and ask him and he always knew the answer!

After Rasulullāh (s), Imām Ali ('a) was the best ruler in Islam and in all of history. And apart from Rasulullāh (s),

Imām Ali (‘a) was not only the bravest man but also the wisest man of his time.

‘Id al-Ghadir

After Rasulullāh (s) went for his final Hajj to Makkah, before he returned to Madina, he gathered all the Muslims who were hundred thousand or even more at a place outside Makkah called Ghadir Khum. Then he asked them, ‘Am I not your master?’ and they all shouted together, ‘Yes!’



Then Rasulullāh (s) raised the hand of Imām Ali (‘a) in front of the whole crowd and said to them,

مَنْ كُنْتُ مَوْلَاهُ فَهَذَا عَلِيٌّ مَوْلَاهُ

Man kuntu mawlāhu, fa hādha Aliyyun mawlāhu
‘whoever says I am his master then this Ali is his master too.’

Rasulullāh (s) said this because he was leaving the world after two months. All the Muslims were very sad that

Rasulullāh (s) was going to leave them but they were happy that they would now follow Imām Ali (‘a).

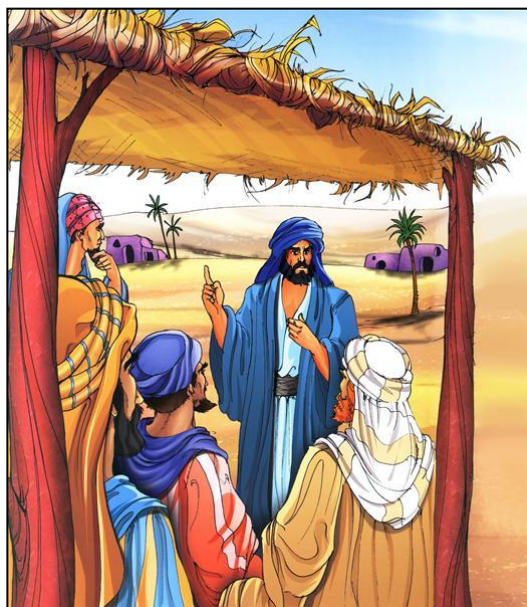
Rasulullāh (s) then prayed to Allāh in front of the whole crowd and said, ‘O Allāh be a friend of anyone who is Ali’s friend. And be an enemy of anyone who is an enemy of Ali. O Allāh, help anyone who helps Ali and defeat anyone who tries to defeat Ali.’

The Muslims were happy. Imām Ali (‘a) then sat in a tent and everyone came to congratulate him and to say to him, ‘Congratulations! Congratulations! You are now our master and the master of all the faithful men and women!’

Rasulullāh (s) made this announcement at Ghadir Khum on the 18th of Dhul Hijjah. So every year, we celebrate the 18th of Dhul Hijjah as the day when Rasulullāh (s) declared that Imām Ali (‘a) would be the next leader of Islam and we call it the day of ‘Id al-Ghadír.

The Khilāfah

After Rasulullāh (s) passed away, some of the Muslims refused to accept Imām Ali (‘a) as their leader. They gathered in a place called Saqifa and they chose Abu Bakr as their new leader.



At first Imām Ali (‘a) tried to remind them of the words of Rasulullāh (s) but after many people began fighting and the Muslims were being divided into many groups,

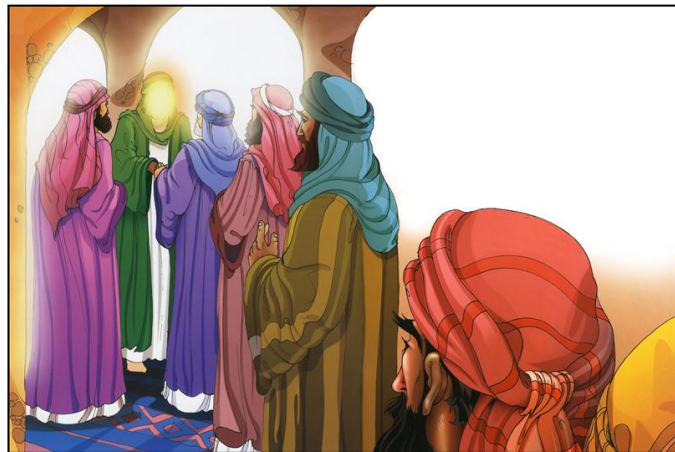


Imām Ali (‘a) decided to keep quiet and not to fight for his right.

Instead he continued to help Islam and protect it in other ways. This continued for 25 years and after

Abu Bakr, the next leader was Umar and then Uthman.

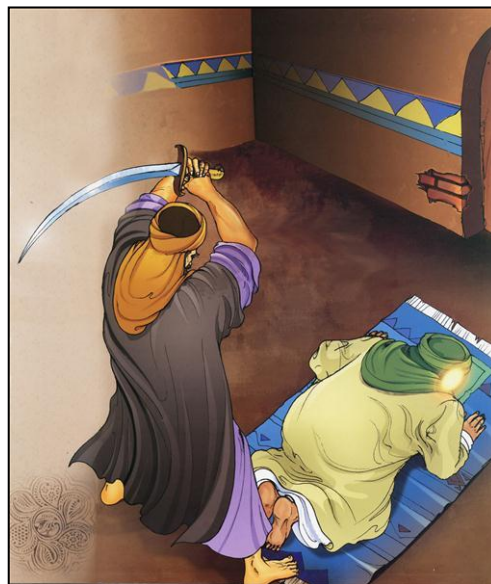
After Uthman, the Muslims came back to Imām Ali (‘a) and begged him to become their leader. Imām Ali (‘a) agreed to be the leader the way Rasulullāh (s) was the leader. He always looked out for the poor and the weak and they loved him as their leader. But some people were still greedy for power and did not want Imām Ali (‘a) to be the leader. So they fought many battles with him.



Imām Ali (‘a) tried not to fight with them but they kept attacking Muslims until he had to defend Islam and the Muslims.

In the year 40 after Hijrah, some people called Khawārij who hated Imām Ali (‘a) decided to kill Imām Ali (‘a). So they sent a very bad man called Abd ar-Rahmān bin Muljam to do this evil deed.

On the 19th of Ramadan, when Imām Ali (‘a) was fasting, he went out to Masjid al-Kufa to lead the Fajr salāh. Abd ar-Rahmān bin Muljam pretended to be asleep in the Masjid but he was hiding a sword dipped in poison under his clothes.



When Imām Ali (‘a) began praying and he went into sajdah, the evil man Abd ar-Rahman b. Muljam came from behind him and hit him with the poisoned sword on the head. Imām Ali (‘a) fell on the ground and said,

فُزْتُ وَرَبِّ الْكَعْبَةِ

Fuztu, wa Rabbil Ka’bah

‘I swear by the Lord of the Ka’bah, I have succeeded!’

Imām Ali (‘a) said this because he always wanted to live and die in the way of Allāh. He had lived all his life only for the sake of Allāh and now he was going to die for the sake of Allāh.

Imām Ali (‘a) was born in the Ka’bah, which is called the House of Allāh (Baytullah) and he was hit with a poisoned sword in the Masjid, which is also a house of Allāh, since all mosques are called ‘the house of Allāh’.

All the people of Kufa were shocked. They heard the voice of Jibrāil crying out sadly in the skies, and saying, ‘I swear by Allāh, the pillar of guidance has fallen! The best person has been killed by the worst person!’

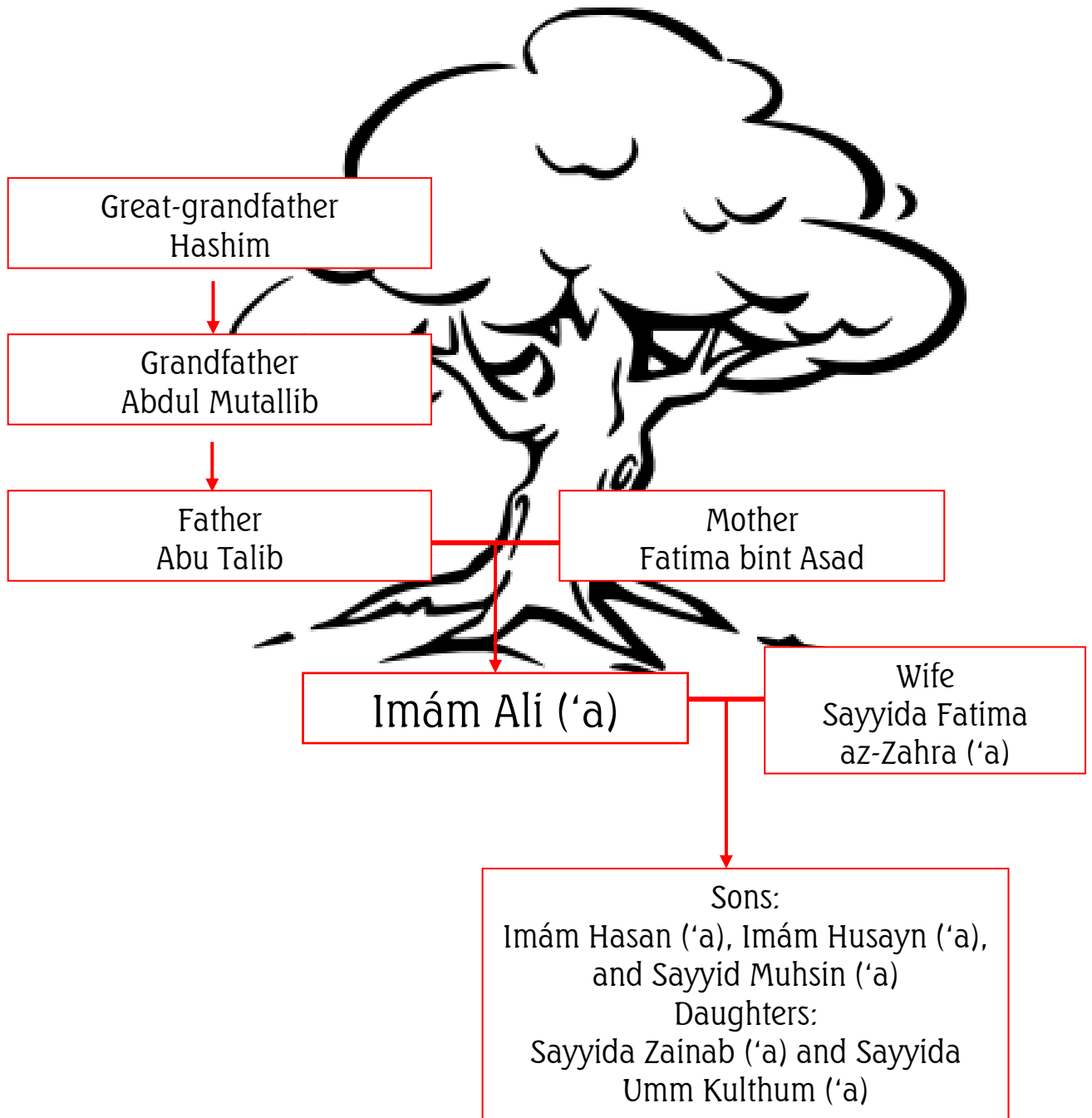
Some people ran after Abd ar-Rahman bin Muljam and caught him. After two days of suffering, on the 21st of Ramadān, Imām Ali (‘a) closed his eyes and passed away from this world and went to Jannah to join Rasulullāh (s) and Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra (‘a).

Before he left the world, Imām Ali (‘a) advised many things to people. He told them, ‘Be careful to look after orphans so that they are never hungry. Be careful to be good to your neighbours. Be careful not to ignore the Qur’ān and to read it and to follow it.’

After Imām Ali (‘a) was gone then people realized how much they missed him. They never got a leader like him again. Imām Ali (‘a) was the greatest defender of justice and no one suffered when he was the leader of the Muslims and Islam.

Imām Ali b. Abi Talib (‘a) has a special name that Rasulullāh (s) gave him. He is called Amir al-Mu’minin, which means ‘the Commander of all the believers’.

Imām Ali ('a)'s Family Tree



Wilādah : **Makkah, 13th Rajab, 600 CE**

Shahādah : **Kufa (Iraq), 21st Ramadan 40 AH**

Lesson 6

Sayyida Fátima az-Zahrá ('a)

Birth

On 20th Jamadi ath-Thāni, 5 years after the Bi'thah (when Rasulullāh (s) started preaching Islam), a beautiful girl was born in Makkah to Rasulullāh (s) and Sayyida Khadija ('a) and her father named her Fātima.

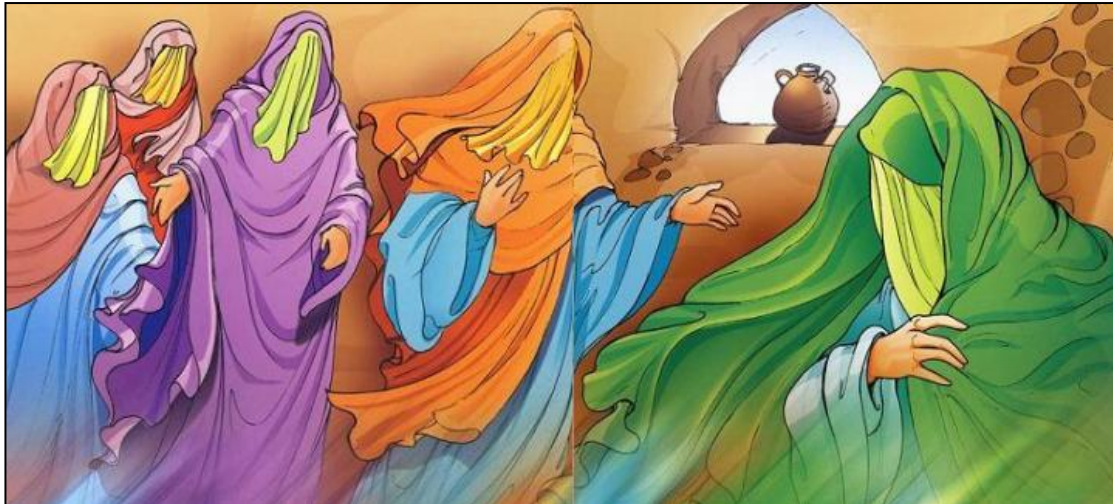
From a young age, Sayyida Fātima ('a) knew that her father was a special man and the Messenger of Allāh (s) and so she tried to help him and look after him as much as she could. It was already 5 years since Rasulullāh (s) was inviting people to Islam and some people would try and throw stones and thorns at Rasulullāh (s). Sayyida Fātima ('a) would wipe his wounds when he returned home and Rasulullāh (s) called his daughter 'Umm Abiha' which means 'The mother of her father'.

Women from Paradise

When Sayyida Fātima ('a) was about to be born, her mother Sayyida Khadija ('a) was all alone. No one wanted to help her or be with her because she was the wife of Rasulullāh (s) and the people of Makkah did not like Rasulullāh (s) because he was telling them to worship Allāh only and not to worship their idols.

As Sayyida Khadija sat alone in her room, suddenly she saw the room was filled with light and in front of her

were four women from paradise. The first one said, 'I am your mother Hawwā' (the wife of Nabi Adam ('a)). The second one said, 'I am Asiya' (the mother of Nabi Musa ('a)). The third one said, 'I am Umm Kulthum, the sister of Nabi Musa ('a).' And the fourth one said, 'I am Maryam' (the mother of Nabi Isa ('a)).



'We have come to help you and to give you the good news of the birth of Fātima, the leader of all the women in the world.'

With Sayyida Fātima ('a) was born, Sayyida Hawwā, the mother of all human beings, took the baby and handed her to Sayyida Khadija and said, 'Take her O Khadija, this baby is pure, and purified by Allāh. You are blessed with her and with the Imāms who will be her children.'

Hijrah

When Rasulullāh (s) migrated from Makkah to Madina, he told Imām Ali ('a) to come later on with all the women in the family.

Imām Ali (‘a) bought a few camels and took all the women including three Fātimas. These were Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra (‘a) the daughter of Rasulullāh (s), Fātima bint Asad, the mother of Imām Ali (‘a) and Fātima the daughter of Hamza (the uncle of Rasulullāh (s)).



Some of the evil people from the tribe of Quraysh in Makkah followed Imām Ali (‘a) and the women and tried



to stop them from going to Madina. Imām Ali (‘a) defended the women and chased them away.

In the meantime, when Rasulullāh (s) reached Quba outside Madina, he decided to wait there until Imām Ali (‘a) and the women from his house arrived.

After three days, they also arrived in Quba and Rasulullāh (s) welcomed them all especially his daughter Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra (‘a) and his cousin Imām Ali (‘a).

Umm Abiha

After Sayyida Khadija passed away in Makkah, Sayyida Fātima (‘a) was like a mother to Rasulullāh (s). Sayyida

Fātima (‘a) loved her father Rasulullāh (s) more than anyone in the world and Rasulullāh (s) too loved his daughter more than anyone in the world.

Whenever Sayyida Fātima (‘a) would come into the room where Rasulullāh (s) was sitting, he would stand up to welcome her and he would kiss her hands and her forehead.

Sayyida Fātima (‘a) was just like her father in her manners and habits and Umm Salama, another wife of Rasulullāh (s) used to say, ‘The person who looked the most like Rasulullāh (s) was Fātima.’

Whenever
Rasulullāh
(s) was going
on journey,
the last
person he
would say ‘Fi
Amānillah’
to was his



daughter Fātima (‘a) and whenever he came back from his journey, the first person he would go and see was his daughter Fātima (‘a).

One day, Aisha the wife of Rasulullāh (s) asked him why he loved his daughter Fātima (‘a) so much and Rasulullāh (s) said, ‘O Aisha, if you knew Fātima the way I know her, you would love her too the way I love her.

Fātima is a part of me. Anyone who makes her angry makes me angry and anyone who makes her happy makes me happy.'

The Blessed Marriage

When Sayyida Fātima ('a) was old enough to get married, many people asked Rasulullāh (s) who would marry Fātima ('a). Rasulullāh (s) said he would wait for Allāh to tell him.

Then the angel Jibrāil ('a) came to Rasulullāh (s) and told him, 'Allāh has married Fātima to Ali'. In the meantime Imām Ali ('a) came to Rasulullāh (s) and asked if he could marry Fātima ('a). Rasulullāh (s) asked Sayyida Fātima ('a) if she was willing to marry Imām Ali ('a) as he was bravest, the most knowledgeable and the man that Allāh loved the most, after Rasulullāh (s). Sayyida Fātima ('a) was very shy. She only smiled and lowered her head. Rasulullāh (s) knew she was happy about it. And so Imām Ali ('a) and Sayyida Fātima ('a) got married.

Rasulullāh (s) made them sit together and he prayed to Allāh and said, 'O Allāh, out of everyone in the world, I love these two the most. So bless them and bless their children and protect them and their children from Shaytān.'

The Muslims celebrated the wedding of Imām Ali ('a) and Sayyida Fātima ('a) as the best marriage in history of

two very special people whom Allāh had made pure and whom He loved very much.

Soon after the final Hajj of Rasulullāh (s) in the 10th year of Hijrah, Rasulullāh (s) became very ill and everyone knew he was now leaving this world.

Sayyida Fātima (‘a) was the closest person to Rasulullāh (s) and she cried very much. Rasulullāh (s) told her that she would also come and join him soon and so she was a little happy.

After Rasulullāh (s) passed away, Sayyida Fātima (‘a) cried very much because she missed her father. But her problems kept increasing. First her husband’s right as the leader of Islam was taken away and Sayyida Fātima (‘a) began telling everyone about Imām Ali (‘a)’s right

and defending him. Then the land of Fadak that Rasulullāh (s) had given her was snatched and taken away from her. Then her house door was burnt and her baby that was not



yet born was killed in her womb. Day by day, Sayyida Fātima (‘a) cried more and more and complained at the grave of her father, Rasulullāh (s).

Imām Ali (‘a) told Sayyida Fātima (‘a) not to say anything anymore because the Muslims would fight too much and so she agreed to keep quiet but she was still very angry with those who took away her right and her husband’s right.

The reason Sayyida Fātima (‘a) was very angry with some people is because she wanted to remind everyone that Rasulullāh (s) had said, ‘Fātima is a part of me. Whoever makes her angry, makes me angry and whoever makes me angry makes Allāh angry.’

When Sayyida Fātima (‘a) was very sad, she would go to Uhud where her father’s uncle Hamza was buried and she would sit there alone and cry. Or she would go to a place outside Madina and sit in a house that Imām Ali (‘a) built for her and there, with her two little sons Imām Hasan (‘a) and Imām Husayn (‘a), she would cry for her father Rasulullāh (s).

When the muadhhdhin Bilāl would give the adhān, Sayyida Fātima (‘a) would cry a lot because she would remember the days of her father. So Bilāl stopped giving the adhān.

Sayyida Fātima (‘a) tried to go and argue with the new leaders Abu Bakr and Umar for her right to Fadak, the land that her father had given her but they refused to give it back to her. The reason why Sayyida Fātima (‘a) kept fighting for Fadak is because she wanted all the Muslims to realize that those in power were not good

people and had taken even Imām Ali (‘a)’s right to be the leader after Rasulullāh (s).



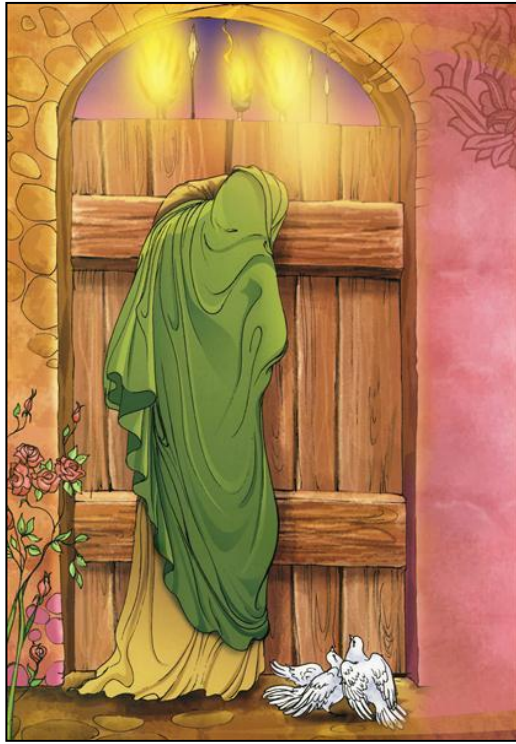
One day, Sayyida Fātima (‘a) went to the Masjid of her father Rasulullāh (s) and from behind a curtain she spoke to all the Muslims. She reminded them of her right and her husband’s right. Sayyida Fātima (‘a) reminded the Muslims of Ghadir Khum and also the Hadith ath-Thaqalayn:

Hadith ath-Thaqalayn

Rasulullāh (s) said: ‘I am leaving behind two great things: the Qur’ān and my family, the Ahl al-Bayt. If you hold on to these two you never be lost.’

Many Muslims cried when they heard the speech of Sayyida Fātima (‘a) and knew she was right. But no one came to help her so she went back home alone and sad.

Two or three months after Rasullāh (s) had passed away, Sayyida Fātima (‘a) also passed away. She left behind four children: Imām Hasan (‘a), Imām Husayn (‘a), Sayyida Zainab (‘a) and Sayyida Umm Kulthum (‘a).



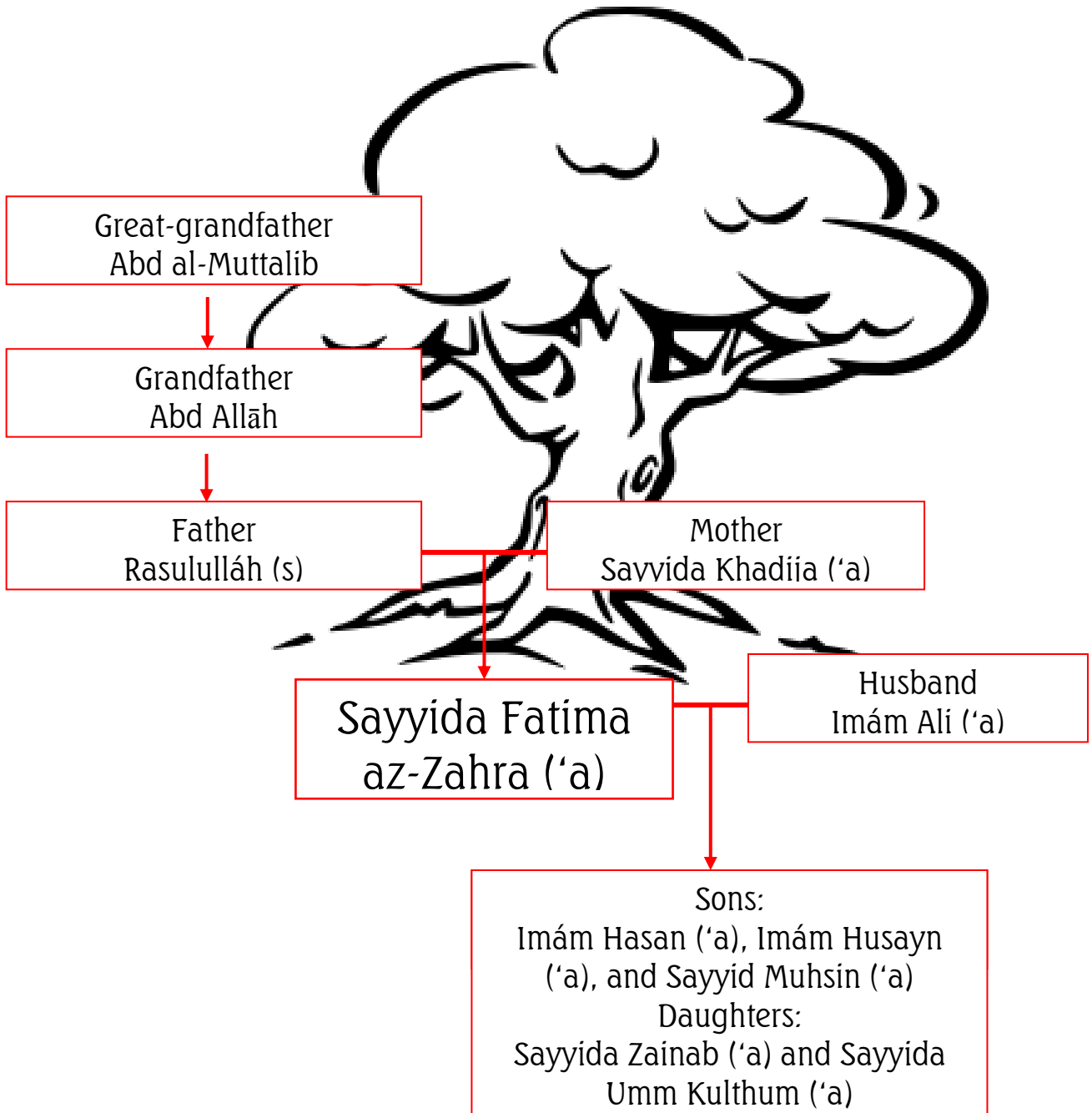
But they were all very young and Imām Ali (‘a) had to look after them.’

Imām Ali (‘a) was very sad to lose his beloved wife Sayyida Fātima (‘a). Sayyida Fātima (‘a) also wanted to be buried secretly in the night because she didn’t want some people to come to her funeral or to

know where her grave was. And so Imām Ali (‘a) took her body in the middle of the night and buried her secretly. Then he sat near her grave and cried a lot.



Sayyida Fātima az-Zahra ('a)'s Family Tree



Wilādah : Makkah, 20th Jamādi ath-Thāni, 615 CE
Shahādah: Madina, 3rd Jamādi ath-Thāni, 11 AH

Lesson 7

The Bravery of Imām Husayn (‘a)

A person who can beat others is not brave. He or she is a bully. A bully is a coward because a bully only beats those who he thinks are weak but always runs away when he has to fight. If you show a bully that you are not afraid of him/her, then he/she will never harm you because they will be afraid of you even if they laugh and say mean things to you.

You can tell who is a bully easily.

- A bully leaves others out on purpose.
- A bully harms others and beats them for no reason.
- A bully says unkind things to others.

So who is a brave person? A brave person is someone who is not afraid of a bully and who helps others when they are being bullied.

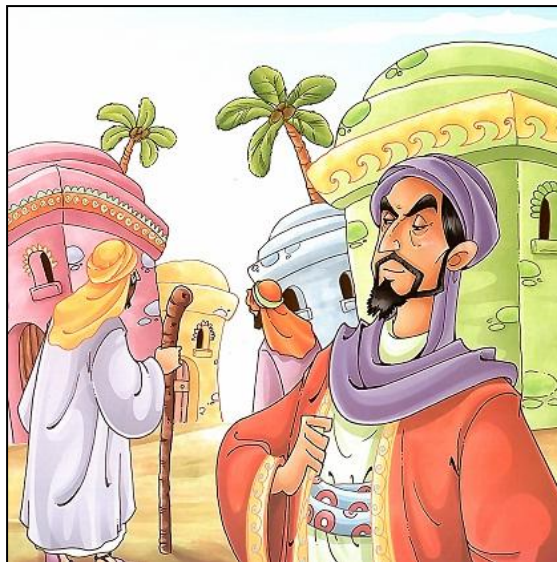
When a brave person sees a bully:

- They can walk away and ignore the bully.
- They can tell others about the bully.
- They can be friends with others who are not bullies.

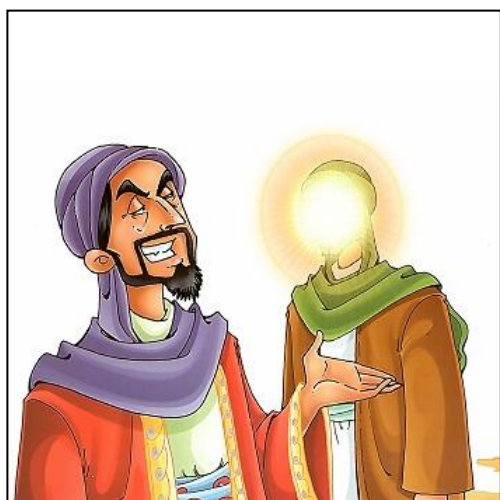
Do you know the story of Imām Husayn (‘a) and the bully Yazid? Imām Husayn (‘a) was brave so he told everyone that Yazid was a bully and a bad man. He was not afraid of him.

Never Give in to a Bully

Marwan bin al-Hakam was from the tribe of Umayya and an enemy of Rasulullāh (s) and the Ahl al-Bayt (‘a). He became a Muslim only out of fear and greed. And he hid in his heart his love for the idols and gods he used to worship before. Marwan was from the same family as Abu Sufyan, Mu’awiya and Yazid, the enemies of Islam.



After the Caliph Mu’awiya bin Abu Sufyan died and his evil son Yazid took power as the caliph of the Muslims, Marwan b. al-Hakam began bribing people to accept Yazid as their ruler. And for other people, Marwan would try and scare them and bully them to accept Yazid.



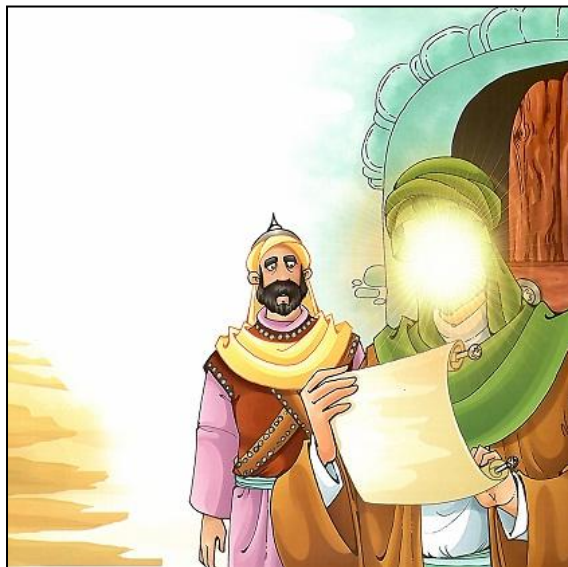
One day, in the streets of Madina, Marwan saw Imām Husayn (‘a). So he came close to him and said to him, ‘O Husayn! If you wish to save your life, you better follow Yazid and accept him as your ruler! Otherwise you will be in great danger!!’

Imām Husayn (‘a) laughed at the threat of Marwan. Then he turned to Marwan and said, ‘O Marwan! If I accept Yazid as my ruler I will have to stop following Islam because Yazid is a sinful man. He drinks alcohol and makes *halāl* what Allāh has made *harām*. Yazid likes to play with dogs and monkeys. How can I accept such a worthless man as the leader of all the Muslims?!’



Imām Husayn (‘a) then continued saying to Marwan, ‘The children of Abu Sufyan cannot be the leaders of the Muslims because I heard my grandfather Rasulullāh (s) saying, ‘Leadership and my successorship (khilāfah) is *harām* for Abu Sufyan and his children.’

Marwan had no reply for Imām Husayn (‘a) so he kept quiet but he was extremely angry. That evening, when Imām Husayn (‘a) was sitting in the masjid of Rasulullāh (s), Walid bin ‘Uqba, the governor of Yazid in Madina sent a letter to Imām

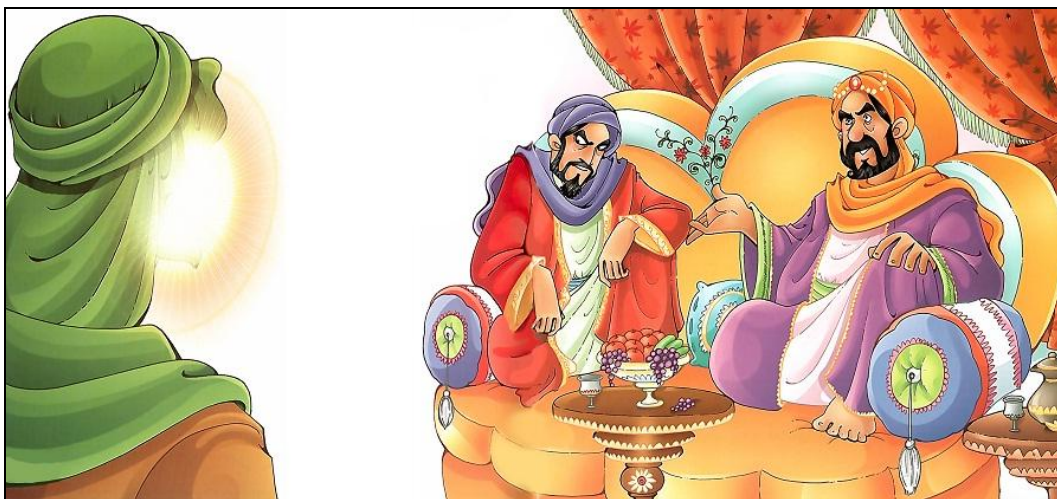


Husayn (‘a) saying he needed Imām Husayn (‘a) to come to his palace immediately because he had an urgent message from Yazid.

Imām Husayn (‘a) understood what the Banu Umayya wanted from him. So he went home and told all the men from his family, the Banu Hashim, about the letter and that he had to go to the palace of Walid the same night.

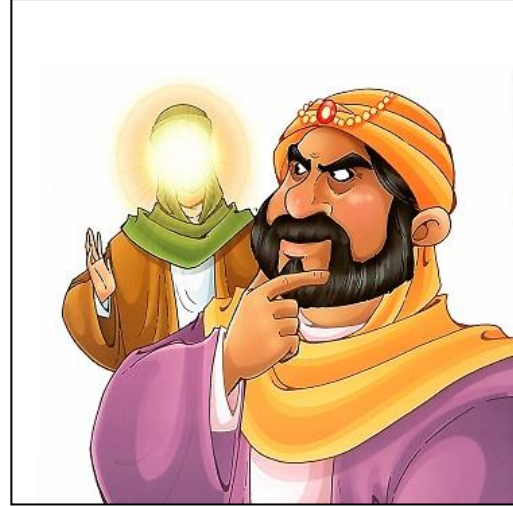
The Banu Hashim men took their swords with them and went with Imām Husayn (‘a) to the palace of Walid. When they reached outside the palace, Imām Husayn (‘a) told them, ‘If you hear me raise my voice then rush inside otherwise just wait for me here.’

Imām Husayn (‘a) entered the palace and saw Marwan bin al-Hakam sitting besides the governor Walid bin ‘Uqba. Walid said to Imām Husayn (‘a), ‘O Husayn, as you know Mu’awiya has died and Yazid has taken over from him as the caliph. I have received a letter from Yazid that he wants you to say that you accept him as the caliph. Do you accept this or not?!’

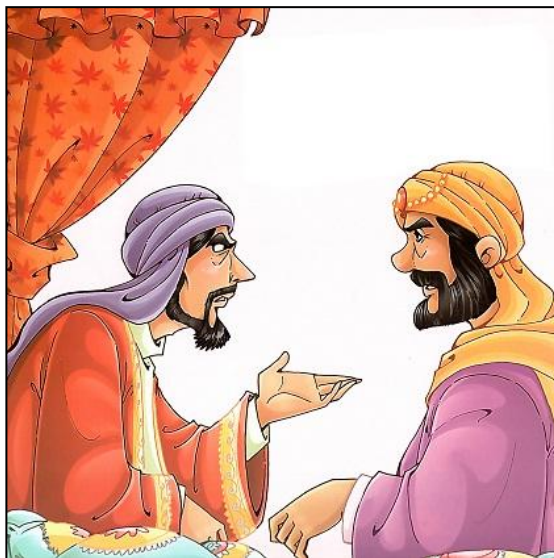


Imām Husayn ('a) replied, 'It is not right for me to reply you here in the middle of the night just amongst ourselves. I will reply you tomorrow morning in public in front of everyone.'

Walid agreed to this suggestion and said to Imām Husayn ('a), 'That is fine. Let us meet tomorrow morning and you can let me know your final decision.' Walid was hoping that Imām Husayn ('a) would accept Yazid as his ruler.



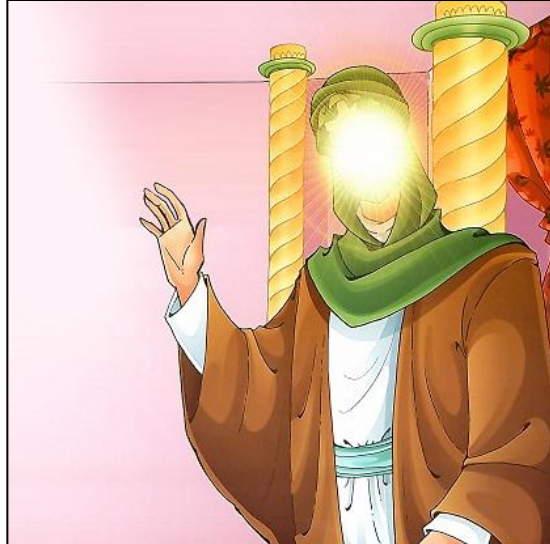
But Marwan, who was also there, knew Imām Husayn ('a) very well. So he said to Imām Husayn ('a), 'No. Not until tomorrow. You have to accept Yazid as your ruler right now otherwise we will kill you if you refuse.'



Imām Husayn ('a) turned to leave and said to Marwan, 'Are you trying to frighten me with death, you evil man?!' and then he left. Marwan said to Walid, 'Trust me, if you do not take a pledge from Husayn right now, you will never be able to do so ever again. Husayn will announce in public tomorrow that he rejects Yazid

as the caliph and all the people of Madina will follow him and also reject Yazid because they believe that Husayn is the rightful caliph and successor of Rasulullāh (s) and their Imām.

Imām Husayn (‘a) left the palace and returned home with the brave men of Banu Hashim. Then he began preparing to leave Madina, the city of his grandfather Rasulullāh (s). He informed everyone that he did not accept Yazid as



a ruler because Yazid was a sinful man and a tyrant. Imām Husayn (‘a) went to Makkah and from there to Karbala where he fought bravely against the army of Yazid and gave his life to save Islam.

Imām Husayn (‘a) taught us that to accept a cruel and sinful person as a leader is a disgrace for Islam. The followers of Imām Husayn (‘a) realized that Imām Husayn (‘a) was the true leader of the Muslims and the real successor of Rasulullāh (s).

Moral:

Imām Husayn (‘a) taught us never to be afraid of a bully and to always be brave and defend the truth