

IMAM ALI ZAYNUL ABIDEEN (PBUH)



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Name:	Ali
Parents:	Imam Husayn (pbuh) & Sayyida Shahrbanu (pbuh)
Kuniyya:	Abu Muhammad
Titles:	Zaynul Abideen, Sayyedus Sajideen
Birth:	5 th Sha'ban 38 AH (Madinat ul Munawaara)
Death:	25 th Muharram 95 AH (Madinat ul Munawaara) Buried in Jannatul Baqee

THE THREE TASKS

Imam Sajjad (pbuh) had three difficult tasks:

1. To announce his Imama.
2. To bring the community together....
3. Guidance.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS IMAMA

This took the form of a family dispute:

Muhammad al-Hanafiya claimed that he was the Imam after Imam Husayn (pbuh). Imam Sajjad (pbuh) suggested that the "Black Stone" (*Hajarul aswad*) of the Ka'ba be approached for its judgement. Muhammad al Hanafiya readily agreed and both parties went for Hajj where thousands of pilgrims had assembled. The news spread like wild fire. Uncle and the nephew slowly walked towards the Black Stone. First Muhammad al-Hanafiya talked to the Stone; there was no response.

Imam Sajjad (pbuh) asked the Black Stone to declare in clear Arabic as to who was the Wasi and Imam after Imam Husayn (pbuh)

There was a tremor in the Stone and in clear Arabic a voice said: "*O Allah, verily Wisaya and*

Imama, after al-Husayn bin 'Ali is for Zayn al-'Abidin 'Ali bin al-Husayn, son of 'Ali bin Abi Talib and Fatimah bint Rasulillah."

Muhammad al-Hanafiyah accepted the verdict and declared his allegiance for Imam.

(al-Ihtijaj of al-Tabrasi, al-Kafi of al-Kulaini, Basa'irud-Darajat, A'lumul-wara, Manaqib of Ibn Shahr 'Ashob, Biharul-Anwar, Vol. XI, of Majlisi).

The pilgrims on returning to their homes narrated this strange story; and thus the Muslim world came to know, without any formal proclamation, that Imam Sajjad (pbuh) was their divinely-appointed Imam.

UNITING THE COMMUNITY

Imam encouraged the institution of majalis of Imam Husayn (pbuh). Sorrow and grief succeed in binding mourners together, where intellectual and joyous functions fail. Imam brought this about through example. He wept whenever he drank water saying "Why should not I cry, when my father was denied the water which was free to the beasts and animals?"

This institution of mourning became the focal-point of all religious activities of the community bringing them together,

GUIDANCE

He selected the format of dua for this purpose. He recorded the duas in a book form and asked his two sons (Zayd & Imam Muhammad Al Baqir (pbuh)) to make copies of the book. This recording itself is an indication that these were not just duas, but also a means of guidance. One finds in them almost all theological and ethical questions answered eloquently. The book is known as Sahifatus Sajjadiyya (also known as the Psalms of the Ahlulbayt). It is the oldest prayer manual in Islamic sources. The title means simply 'The Book of al-Sajjad'. Al-Sajjad is one of the titles given to Zayn al-'Abideen and signifies 'the one who constantly does sijda'.

There are fifty-four duas which make the main body of the text and the additional duas which make up the fourteen addenda (including the prayers for the days of the week) and the fifteen

munajat or 'whispered prayers'. The addenda are said to have been collected and added to the text by Shams al-Din Muhammad ibn Makki, known as al-Shahid al-Awwal (the 'first martyr'). The fifteen *munajat* have been added to several modern editions of the *Sahifa* by 'Allama Muhammad Baqir Majlisi.

TIMELINE

Year	Age	Event
658 CE 4 Sha'ban 38AH		Birth of Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) to Imam Husayn (pbuh) & Sayyida Shahrbanu (pbuh) in Madina
658 CE 14 Sha'ban 38 AH	10 days	Wafat of Sayyida Shahrbanu
660 CE 21 Ramadhan 40AH	2 yrs	Imam Ali (pbuh) martyred in Masjid e Kufa by Abdul Rahman Ibn Muljim. Muawiya changes Khilafate to dynasty. Beginning of Umayyad dynasty
670CE 50AH	12 yrs	Imam Hasan poisoned by wife Jo'da as instigated by Muawiya. Imam Husayn (pbuh) assumes Imama. North Africa comes under Muslim rule

Year	Age	Event
677CE. 57AH	19 yrs	Birth of Imam Muhammad Al-Baqir (pbuh) to Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) and Fatima Kubra (daughter of Imam Hasan (pbuh))
680CE 28 Rajab 60AH	21 yrs	Muawiya dies and Yazid becomes Khalifa. Yazid demands allegiance from Imam Husayn (pbuh) who refuses and leaves with his family including Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) to go to Makka
680 CE 8th Dhulhijja 60 AH	21 yrs	Soldiers arrive in Makka dressed as pilgrims to kill Imam Husayn (pbuh) Imam and his family leave Makka without performing the Hajj (doing just Umra) for fear of causing bloodshed in Makka.

Year	Age	Event
10 October 680CE 10 Muharram 61AH DAY OF 'ASHURA	22 yrs	Imam Husayn (pbuh) and his 72 followers and family members are killed. They are decapitated and their bodies trampled and left on the desert sands. The camp is looted and plundered and the women and children and Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) taken as prisoners. His wife Fatima and son Imam Baqir (pbuh) are both present in Karbala.
680 CE 12 Muharram 61AH	22	Imam and the other prisoners arrive in Kufa (75 km from Karbala). Imam is shackled and chained with the heads of the martyrs on spears. Addresses Ibn Ziyad quoting from the Qur'an

Year	Age	Event
680 CE 1-10 Safar 61 AH	22	Sent onwards from Kufa, they arrive in Damascus (Shaam) where they are imprisoned. (Distance 1200 km).
680 CE Safar 61 AH	22	When released from prison Imam speaks out in Masjid Umawi during Friday prayers.
680 CE 20 Safar 61 AH	22	After visiting Karbala, Imam and the other prisoners return to Madina.
682CE 63 AH	25	Imam goes into seclusion in the outskirts of Madina, for about a year, in a tent. Sayyida Zaynab takes provisions for him every day. Only about 5 people are permitted to meet with him. Muhammad Al-Hanafiya represents him

Year	Age	Event
		and acts on his behalf. Imam spends time writing Du'a, meditating, and praying salaa. Imam shuns politics.
683 CE 64 AH	25	Yazid attacks Madina & Makka burning the Ka'ba. Yazid dies and is succeeded by Muawiya II who gives the title to Marwan ibn Hakam after 4 months rule.
684 – 686 CE 65 – 68 AH	26-29	Uprising of Tawwabun (those who were repentant at not helping in Karbala) against Banu Umayya and the uprising of Mukhtar in Iraq to avenge the killing in Karbala. Ibn Zubayr seizes Makka and declares himself Khalifa.

Year	Age	Event
691 CE 73 AH	34	Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock Masajid are built in Jerusalem.
694 CE – 714 CE 76 – 86 AH	37-47	Al-Hajjaj (who attacked the Ka’ba to subdue Ibn Zubayr), becomes governor of Iraq and rules with tyranny for 20 years – appointed by Abdul Malik (son of Marwan).
702 CE 17 Rabi ul Awwal 83AH	45	Birth of grandson, Imam Ja’fer As Sadiq (pbuh) to Fatima (Umm Farwa)
683-712 CE	25-57	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teaches ethics through Dua (Sahifatus Sajjadiyya) 2. Tutored scholars. Imam Baqir and grandson Imam Sadiq participate in the discourses. 160 Scholars graduate Students include

Year	Age	Event
		<p>Hasan Al-Basri, Al-Thamali, Al-Zuhri, Ibn Tawoos.</p> <p>3. He urges people to visit Karbala and encourages the commemoration of 'Ashura every year which led to Majalis in secret in private houses. He used to visit Karbala every year, un-announced, often unnoticed. He recommended to use the earth of Karbala for sujud so that the loftiest part of Salaa (Sujud) be associated with the principles Imam Husayn gave his life for.</p>

Year	Age	Event
712 CE 25th Muharram 95AH	57 yrs	Imam poisoned by Walid ibn Abdul Malik and is buried in Jannatul Bagee in Madina.



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