



IMAM ALI A.S.

(Part 3)

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The life of the Holy Imam (A) is filled with events that prove his merits and his position as the foremost amongst Muslims after the Prophet (S). No other person achieved so much or possessed such qualities.

Here we list very briefly some highlights from his life.

1. HIS CONDUCT AT ZUL ASHIRA

When the Prophet (S) was commanded by Allah to preach to his relatives, he called them together for a meal after which he introduced them to Islam and asked who would help him in his mission.



None came forward except the Holy Imam (A) although at the time he was only a young boy. At that time the Prophet (S) told him, "O Ali, you are my brother, my trustee, my helper, my inheritor and my successor after me". At a time when his own family was not prepared to believe in him, the Prophet (S) received the guarantee of lifetime support from the Holy Imam (A).

2. HIS SACRIFICE ON THE NIGHT OF MIGRATION.

After he had ordered the Muslims to leave Makka for Madina for their safety, the Prophet (S) received the command to migrate himself. As per the command of Allah he asked the Holy Imam (A) to sleep on his bed, while he left the house secretly.





Although the Holy Imam (A) was aware that he might be killed in the place of the Prophet (S) he did not hesitate to carry out the order. The plot by the Quraish to collectively kill the Prophet (S) was thus averted.

In recognition of the sacrifice of the Holy Imam (A), Allah SWT revealed the following verse:

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْرِي نَفْسَهُ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ رَؤُوفٌ بِالْعِبَادِ

And among men there is one who sells his soul seeking the pleasure of Allah and truly, Allah is affectionate to his (such) servants.

[Suratul Baqarah, 2 : 207]



3. HIS FULFILMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROPHET (S) IN MAKKA

A lot of people in Makka used to leave their valuables with the Prophet (S) because of his reputation for honesty. Even his enemies trusted him in this matter.



After he left for Madina he instructed the Holy Imam (A), who was the only person he could trust, to return the deposits to their owners. He was also entrusted the duty of bringing his own family to Madina.

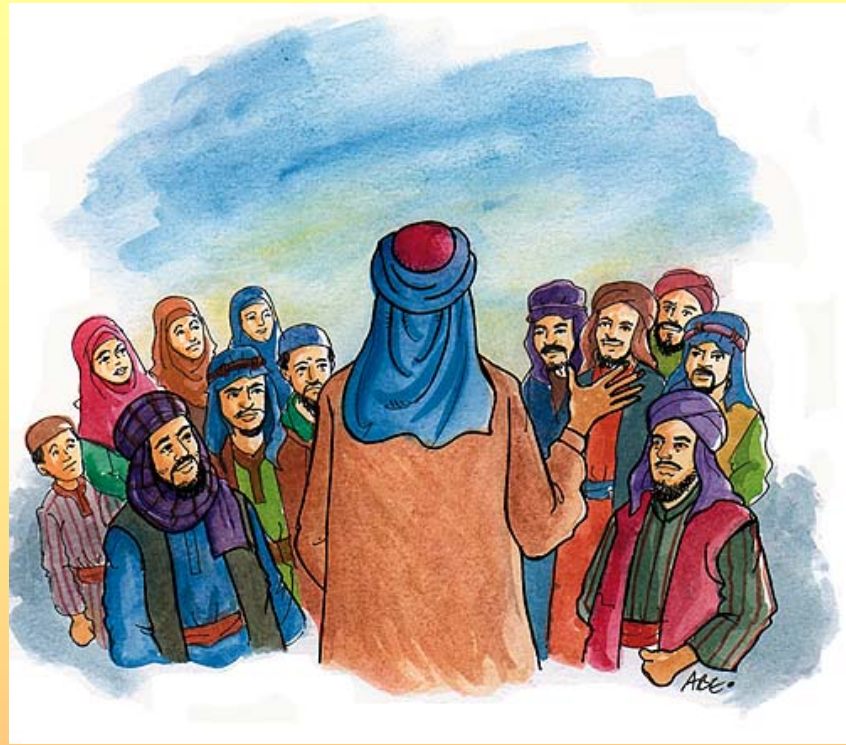
4. DEPUTATION OF THE HOLY IMAM (A) TO YEMEN

The Prophet (S) had sent Khalid bin Walid to the people of Bani Jadhima in Yemen to call them to Islam.



However, Khalid exceeded his orders and made war on the people even after they had accepted Islam. In order to repair the damage done by Khalid, the Prophet (S) sent the Holy Imam (A) to Yemen.

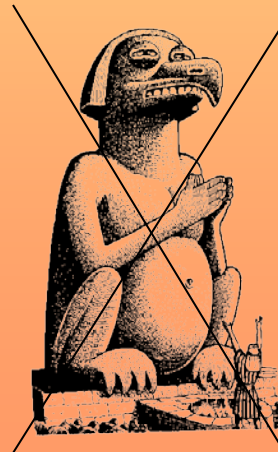




He dealt gently with the people, and compensated them for their losses, paying them more than they asked. By his speeches he was responsible for the conversion of the entire Yemen to Islam and only when the faith of the people was firm, did he return to Madina.

5. REMOVING THE IDOLS FROM THE HOLY KA`BA

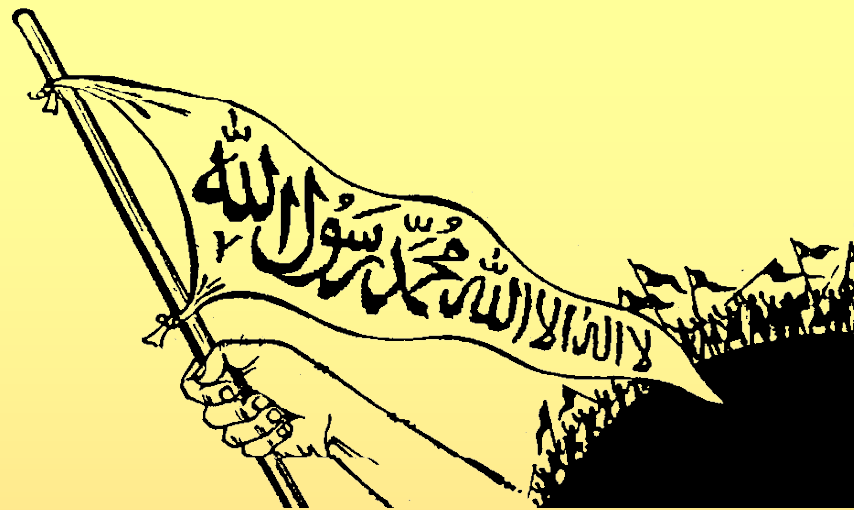
After the conquest of Makka, the Prophet (S) decided to remove all the idols that the Makkans had placed within the walls of the Holy Ka`ba. He could not reach up to some of them and he chose the Holy Imam (A) to climb onto his shoulders and knock down every last idol.



6. TAKING UP THE STANDARD AT KHAYBER

During the battle of Khayber, the Muslims were unable to conquer one of the Jewish forts, despite numerous attempts under different commanders.





The Holy Imam (A) was present but could not take part due to a severe eye infection.

Finally the Prophet (S) declared:

"Tomorrow, I will give the standard to one whom Allah and His Apostle love.

He does not flee from battle and will not come back until Allah has brought about victory at his hands". The Muslims waited anxiously for the next day, each wanting to be the one chosen.

However, the Prophet (S) called the Holy Imam (A) and restored the health of his eyes by rubbing them with his saliva. The Holy Imam (A) then went into battle with such ferociousness that none could withstand him. He did not return until he had captured every fort and brought about victory for the Muslims.



7. THE DELIVERY OF THE VERSES OF THE HOLY QUR'AN TO MAKKA

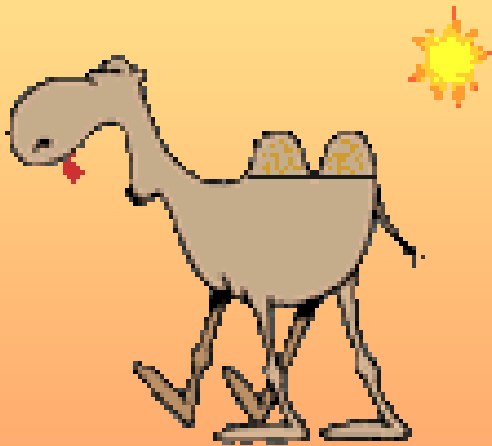
The Prophet (S) sent a document containing the first forty verses of Surae Tawba (Bara'at) with Abu Bakr to Makka to read it out during the Haj.





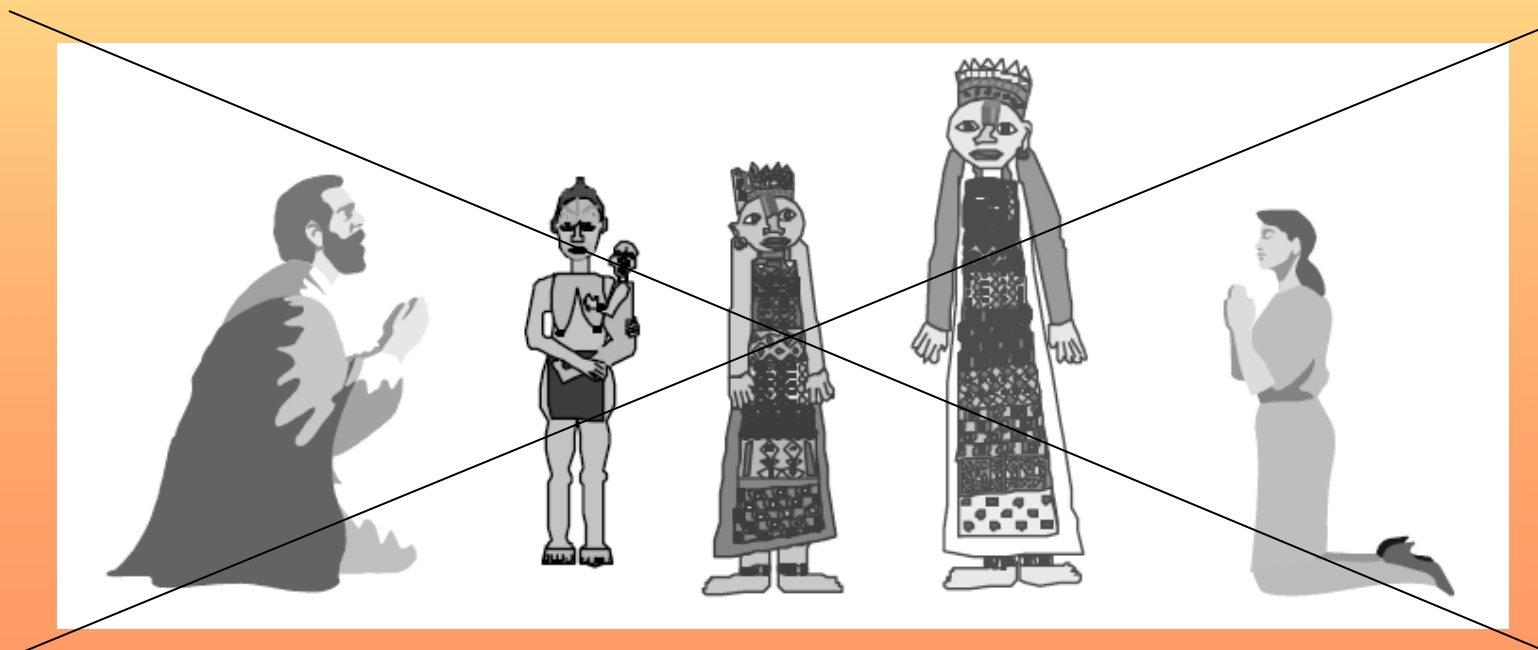
However, the angel Jibrael (A) came to the Prophet (S) and said, "Allah sends His greetings to you and wills that the verses be delivered only by you or a man from you".

The Prophet (S) immediately sent the Holy Imam (A) on a fast camel to overtake Abu Bakr and take the verses in his place.



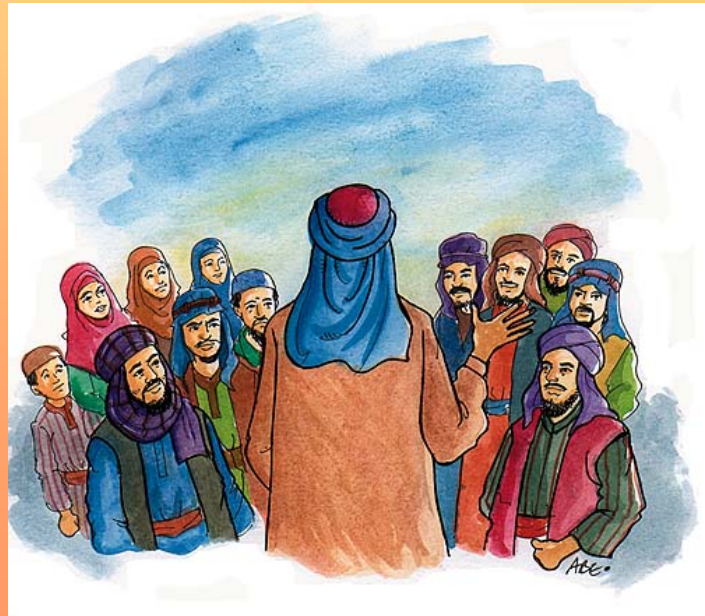
اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ
الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا
فِي الْأَرْضِ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ
أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا
شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا
وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

Thus, the Holy Imam (A) completed the task of reciting the verses, which contained an important message, that the Muslims would no longer tolerate the idol worshippers, to the people of Makka.



8. THE NOMINATION AT GHADEER KHUM.

After his final Haj, the Prophet (S) received a command from Allah to inform the people of the succession of the Holy Imam (A). At a place called Ghadeer Khum, the Prophet (S) gave a speech in which he summarised his entire mission.



At the end of it he said, "O people, for whomever I am the Master, this Ali is also his Master." There is no doubt that everyone present understood the message although many did not follow it in their greed for power and their jealousy of the Holy Imam (A).

