

The Awaited Savior of Humanity

(Al-Mahdi in the Eyes of the Ahlul Bayt)



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ABDUL RAHIM MUGANI

Chapter 1

Introduction

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

The Noble Prophet (blessings of Allah be upon him and his family) has said:

“A person from my nation who memorizes forty traditions pertaining to those issues of religion which one is in need of, will be resurrected by Allah on the Day of Judgment as a person with deep insight into the faith and as a scholar.”

In following the above *hadith*, the Islamic Education Board of The World Federation of KSIMC (IEB - WF) has decided to publish a series of booklets of 40 *Ahadith* (traditions) on different subjects. The *Ahadith* that have been selected from various sources are short and simple and therefore easy to understand and memorize. It is envisaged that the booklets will not only be useful for Zakireen, Madrasah teachers and students, but will be of benefit to the Ummah at large.

The collection of the *Ahadith* and introduction of this present work was done by Abdul-Rahim Mugahi in his compilation, ‘*The Heart of Hearts*’, while the translation in English was carried out by Shaykh Saleem Bhimji.

IEB - WF would like to thank Shaykh Saleem for his efforts in the translation of this work. May Allah (Free from Imperfections and Exalted is He) accept this work as a further attempt by IEB - WF to propagate Islam.

Chapter 2

Translators Introduction

The time period we are currently going through is one in which the Divinely appointed Imam (representative of Allah (awj)) is not amongst us – at least ‘apparently’ he is not. From the traditions of the Prophet (‘s), we know that the Imam has not distanced himself from his followers, nor is he in some mystical land or in another time realm. Rather, he lives among the people, sees what we are going through and feels the hurt and grief at the state of affairs of the world. In addition, to show us that he is indeed with us, the traditions tell us that he is present in various gatherings throughout the year – such as the hajj – on an annual basis.

This period which has been going on for the past 1,200 years is known as the *ghaybatul kubrah* or the major occultation of Imam al-hujjah, and is one in which we are all in a state of *intizar* or ‘active anticipation’ for his advent.

During this time, one of the responsibilities for those who want to follow the Imam is to know as much about him as possible. This knowledge of the Imam is not limited to merely the incidental characteristics of the Imam - such as his date of birth, place of birth, his mother and father’s name and other such things. Rather, as the traditions, narrated in all of the books of *hadith* tell us that, “The person who dies and does not have a deep understanding (*Ma’rifat*) of the Imam of his time, dies the death of those of the period of decadence (the pre-Islamic era).” Thus, even if we were to follow all of the dictates of Islam such as praying, fasting, going for hajj and even struggling in Jihad against ourselves and an external threat, however if we do not know and acknowledge the Imam of our time, all of our actions would be in vain!

It is with this thought in mind that we need to proceed forward in life, seeking to better understand our living Imam – and what better way than through what his noble fore-fathers have said about him!

The traditions mentioned in this booklet offer us glimpses of the Imam which should instill a sense of hope in us – a hope for a better future of the world and one in which the rule of Allah (awj) is established over the entire globe. It is only at this time - through the support and guidance of Imam al-Mahdi , that all forms of corruption and evil will be removed from the Earth, paving the way for the utopia which the Islamic narrations speak so vividly about – the kingdom and rule of Allah (awj).

One of the ways in which we can attain the deep understanding of the Imam , which we must strive for, is to hold firm to the true scholars who are serving the cause of the faith during the period of the occultation of our awaited Imam . It is by following them and adhering to their orders, which in reality is nothing other than following the Qur'an and the Sunnah, that we can safeguard our position with the Imam .

The worth of the scholars during the occultation has been emphasized in a beautiful tradition that has reached us from the 10th Imam, Muhammad b. 'Ali al-Hadi:

“If there were not to remain after the occultation of your Qa'im from among the scholars, a person from among the proofs of Allah who would call (others) towards him (the Imam); represent him (the Imam); defend his (the Imam's) religion; grant safety to the downtrodden servants of Allah from the evils of Iblis and the wickedness of the enemies (of the Ahlul Bayt), then there would not remain a single person (on Earth) except that he would have left the religion of Allah. But rather, these people (the 'Ulama) take it upon themselves to be the protectors of the hearts of our downtrodden Shi'a, just as the captain of a boat takes control of the lives and safety of those on his ship. Thus, these (the 'Ulama) are the people who are the best in the sight of Allah, the Noble and Great.”[1]

Was Salam 'Alaikum
Saleem Bhimji

Notes:

[1]Biharul Anwar, Volume 2, Page 6, Section 8, *hadith* 12

Chapter 3

A Prayer Invoking Blessings for the Twelfth Imam and His fore-fathers

*O' Allah, be for Your deputy, al-hujjat ibnil Hasan, may
Your blessings be upon him and his fore-fath-
ers, now
and at all times, a master and protector and guide and
helper and proof and guard, until he resides
peacefully on Your Earth and let him
enjoy (his rule on the Earth)
for a long time.*

Chapter **4**

The Lineage of Imam al-Mahdi

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said: "Al-Mahdi is from my progeny; his face is like the brightly illuminated moon."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 85; Kashful Ghammah

Chapter 5

The City of Qum and the Helpers of the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon them both) has said: "The city of Qum has been named so^[2] because its inhabitants will gather with the Qa'im from Ale Muhammad [lit. one who will rise up from the progeny of Muhammad] and will stand alongside him, will strive to be hold firm to (their belief and assistance) of him and will assist him."

Safinatul Bihar, Volume 2, Page 446

Notes:

[2]In 'Arabic, the word Qum is the imperative verb meaning to stand up. (Tr.)

Chapter 6

Women in the Imam's Army

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon them both) has said: "There will be thirteen women alongside al-Qa'im [when he makes his advent]."

Al-Mufadhhal [the narrator of this tradition] asked the Imam:

"And what will their role be?"

The Imam replied:

"They will treat the injured and look after the sick just as the [women did] at the time of the Messenger of Allah [during the battles]."

Ithbatul Hudat, Volume 7, Page 15

The Most Beloved to the Prophet ('s)

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said: "Congratulations to the person who meets the Qa'im [one who will rise] from my Ahlul Bayt and has firm belief in him before his advent. He will have love for his friends, and will distance himself from his enemies and will have love for the leaders of guidance (the Imams) who came before him. Indeed these are my true friends, those whom I have love and affection for and (they) are the noblest of people from my nation."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 129; al-Ghaybah of Shaykh Tusi

Chapter 8

None Shall be Saved, Except...

Imam Hasan ibn 'Ali al-'Askari (peace be upon them both) has said: "... I swear by Allah that he (Imam al-Mahdi) shall go into an occultation such that none shall be saved [during that period] from destruction, except the person whom Allah, Glorious and Grand is He, makes firm on the belief of his Imamate [of Imam al-Mahdi] and whom He grants the Divine ability (*tawfiq*) to supplicate for his speedy advent."

Kamal ad-Din, Volume 2, Page 384

Chapter 9

Absolute Obedience to the Imam

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Jawad (peace be upon them both) has said: "... Indeed al-Qa'im is from among us (the Ahlul Bayt) and he is al-Mahdi - the one whom it is obligatory to wait for during his occultation and obey during his advent, and he is the third from my progeny ..."

Kamal ad-Din, Volume 2, Page 377

Chapter 10

Back to the True Path

Imam 'Ali ibn Abi Talib (peace be upon both of them) has said: "[When Imam al-Mahdi makes his advent] the following of the lower desires will be transformed into the following of guidance (of Allah) after the following of the guidance (of Allah) had been transformed into the following of the lower desires; and the thoughts and opinions (of the people) will be in line with the Qur'an after the Qur'an had previously been put in line and accordance with the people's thoughts and opinions."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 120; Nahjul Balagha

Chapter 11

Tears of Separation

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "I swear by Allah that your Imam will go into an occultation for a number of years ... [during that period] the eyes of the true believers shall be filled with tears [due to being separated from him]."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 147; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 12

The House of Praise

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "Indeed the possessor of the command (Imam al-Mahdi) has a house which is referred to as, 'The House of Praise'. In this house there is a lamp which has been glowing since the day he was born and will continue to do so until the day he makes his advent with the sword, and it will not be put out."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 158; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 13

People with the Highest Rank

Imam 'Ali ibnil Husain al-Sajjad (peace be upon both of them) has said: "Indeed the people who live during the time of his occultation, have firm belief in his (the 12th Imam's) Imamate and are awaiting his advent are the best people of every age since Allah, Great is His Mention, has granted them from the intellect, understanding and cognizance needed which would permit them to live during the period of the occultation, as if they were living during the time of his advent."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 122; al-Ihtijaj

Chapter 14

Greeting Imam al-Mahdi

A man once asked Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) how he should send his salutations upon Imam al-Qa'im (may Allah hasten his advent) and the Imam replied:

"Say: Greetings be upon you, O' Remnants of Allah [As-Salamu 'Alaykum Ya Baqiyatullah]!"

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 373, Tafsir Furat ibn Ibrahim

Chapter 15

Perfection of the Intellect and Moral Traits

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "When our Qa'im makes his advent, he will place his hand over the heads of the servants and their intellects will join together and their ethical traits will be perfected."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 336, Kharaij of al-Rawandi

Chapter 16

Testimony to Islam over the Entire Earth

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "When al-Qa'im makes his advent, not a single place of land will remain except that the call to the testimony of, *'There is no creature worthy of worship except for Allah and indeed Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah'* will be given (there)."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 340; Tafsir al-'Ayyashi

Chapter 17

Anticipate the Advent of the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "... During that time (the period of the occultation), await the advent (of the Imam) every morning and evening ... "

Usul al-Kafi, Volume 1, Page 323

Chapter 18

The Ornament of Paradise

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said:
“Al-Mahdi is the peacock [ornament] of the people of Paradise.”

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 105; Tara'if

Chapter 19

Power and Authority

It has been narrated from 'Ali ibn al-Husain, the Ornament of the Worshipers (peace be upon both of them) that he said: "When our Qa'im makes his advent, Allah, the Noble and Glorious, will remove all maladies from our Shi'a (followers) and will make their hearts [as firm] as pieces of iron. He will make the physical strength of one man equal to that of forty men, and they will be the rulers over the entire Earth and its sovereigns."

Misbahul Mutahajjid, Page 737

Chapter 20

The Completion of Knowledge

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "Knowledge is contained in twenty-seven letters (parts) and everything which all of the (previous) messengers brought was merely two of these letters and until the day (when al-Mahdi makes his advent), the people will not be given knowledge except of these two letters. So then when our Qa'im makes his advent, he will bring with him the other twenty-five letters (of knowledge) and he will spread these among the people and add these to the previous two letters (parts) such that he will have imparted the twenty-seven letters (of knowledge) to them."

Wasa'il ash-Shi'a, Volume 7, Page 326, *hadith* 10

Chapter 21

Ruling with Justice

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) said: "When the Qa'im of the Ahlul Bayt makes his advent, he will divide (the riches) with equity and will show justice among the people. So whoever obeys him, has obeyed Allah; and whoever goes against him, has gone against Allah. Indeed al-Mahdi was named as such because he will guide to the hidden affairs."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 97, Page 117

Chapter 22

A Short Prayer for al-Mahdi

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "... May my father and my mother be sacrificed for that person whose name is the same as my name, and whose title of appellation is the same as my title of appellation and he is the seventh person (from my progeny) after me ..."

Misbahul Mutahajjid, Page 680

Chapter 23

Felicitations are for...

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said: "... Paradise is for that person who meets him (al-Mahdi), and paradise is for to that person who loves him, and paradise is for that person who has belief in him (and his Imamate)."

Wasa'il ash-Shi'a, Volume 7, Page 327, *hadith* 1

Chapter 24

When Will the Time Come?

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said: "The appointed time (of the Day of Resurrection) will not come until the one from among us (the Ahlul Bayt) will rise with the truth and make his advent [Imam al-Mahdi], and this will take place when Allah, the Noble and Grand permits. So whoever obeys him shall be saved, and whoever goes against him will be destroyed..."

Wasa'il ash-Shi'a, Volume 7, Page 325, *hadith* 6

Chapter 25

Brotherhood During the Imam's Advent

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "... When al-Qa'im makes his advent, at that time, friendship and unity will be established to such a degree that a person will be able to put his hand in his brother-in-faith's pocket and take whatever he needs without his brother preventing him from doing so!"

Wasa'il ash-Shi'a, Volume 7, Page 324, *hadith* 3

Chapter 26

Tranquility and Ease in the Era of the Imam

The Commander of the Faithful, ‘Ali ibn Abi Talib (peace be upon both of them) said: “When our Qa’im makes his advent, the skies will send down their rain; the Earth will bring forth its produce; enmity will be removed from the hearts of the servants; wild animals and beasts will live [in peace] with one another and will not stampede each other; [and life will be such that] if a woman wanted to walk from ‘Iraq to Sham (Syria), then every step that she took will be on luscious, green grass and she will be able to display her adornments (jewelry, etc...) [and not a single person will try and steal them from her] – no animal will attack her, nor will she have any fear about them [the wild beasts].”

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 316; al-Khisal

Chapter 27

Acting by the Command of Allah

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "Revelation (from Allah (awj)) will come to him (Imam al-Mahdi) and he will act according to the revelation by the command of Allah."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 390

Chapter 28

No Oppression or Tyranny

Imam 'Ali ibn Musa al-Ridha (peace be upon both of them) has said: “ ... So when he [Imam al-Mahdi] will make his advent, the Earth will radiate with the celestial illumination of its' Lord and the scale of justice will be positioned among mankind such that not a single person will oppress another individual ...”

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 321; Kamal ad-Din

Chapter 29

Do Not Despair of Allah's Mercy

The Commander of the Faithful, 'Ali ibn Abi Talib (peace be upon both of them) has said: "Await the relief and do not despair from the mercy of Allah, because indeed the most beloved of actions with Allah, the Noble and Grand, is awaiting the relief."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 123; al-Khisal

Chapter 30

Awaiting the Advent

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family) has said:
“Awaiting the relief with patience is (a form of) worship.”

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 145; Da'wat of Rawandi

Chapter 31

Financial Equality

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "When al-Qa'im makes his advent ... wealth will be distributed among the people in such an equitable manner that not a single person will be seen in need of zakat..."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 390

Chapter 32

A Servant of the Imam for Life

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "... Indeed if I were to live to see that (the advent of Imam al-Mahdi), then I would have availed myself to serve the Sahib al-Amr (for life)."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 234; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 33

Preparing the Groundwork

The Messenger of Allah (peace of Allah be upon him and his family) has said: "A group of people will rise up from the East and will prepare the groundwork for the government of al-Mahdi."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 87; Kashful Ghammah

Chapter 34

Completion of Wisdom

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) has said: "During the period of his [Imam al-Mahdi's] government, wisdom shall be disbursed among the people such that a woman sitting in her house [with no 'formal' religious training] will be able to pass judgement by the Book of Allah, the High, and the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family)."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 352; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 35

The State of a Believer During the Occultation

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "Surely the possessor of this command (Imam al-Mahdi) will go into an occultation. So the servant should have consciousness (*Taqwa*) of Allah during the period of the occultation and should hold firm to his religion."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 135; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 36

Having a Deep Knowledge of the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "Know your Imam because indeed if you have a deep cognizance of him and this command (his advent) is brought close or delayed, then it will have no effect upon you [and your faith]."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 135; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 37

The Perpetual Servant of the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "Indeed if I were to live to see him (al-Mahdi) then I would have been his servant for the duration of my life."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 148; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 38

How to Guarantee that One will See the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) has said: "A person who says:

'O Allah! Send your blessings upon Muhammad and the family of Muhammad and hasten their succor.'

after his Salatul Fajr and Salatul Zuhr will not die until he sees al-Qa'im from the family of Muhammad, peace be upon them all."

Safinatul Bihar, Volume 2, Page 49

Chapter 39

Death of the Period of Decadence

It has been narrated from Imam Hasan ibn 'Ali al-'Askari (peace be upon both of them) that " ... One who dies and does not have a cognizance of him (Imam al-Mahdi) dies the death of the period of decadence (pre-Islamic times) ... "

Biharul Anwar, Volume 51, Page 160; Kamal ad-Din

Chapter 40

The First Ranked Soldiers of the Imam

Imam Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Baqir (peace be upon both of them) said:
“ ... Indeed he (al-Mahdi) will come and I swear by Allah that there will be three hundred and ten and some odd number of men with him and among them there will be fifty women who will all gather together in Makkah (to help him) ... ”

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 223; Tafsir of al-'Ayyashi

Chapter 41

Prepare for the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "Each one of you must prepare (your weapons) for the advent of al-Qa'im (peace be upon him), even if it be (as little as) an arrow, because when Allah the High, knows that a person has this intention, then He will give him a longer life."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 366; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 42

Traits of Those in Waiting for the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "A person who would like to be among the companions of al-Qa'im should be in a state of (active) waiting (*Intizar*), and perform all of his deeds with *Wara'* [a level higher than *Taqwa*] and with the most beautiful etiquette and then one will be counted as being in a state of (true) waiting (*Intizar*). Then if such a person was to die and al-Qa'im was to make his advent after this, then that person would receive the reward as the one who witnessed his (al-Mahdi's) advent."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 140; al-Ghaybah of al-Nu'mani

Chapter 43

How to Die while on the Path of the Imam

Imam Ja'far ibn Muhammad as-Sadiq (peace be upon both of them) said: "The person from amongst you who dies while awaiting this command [the advent of Imam al-Mahdi] is like a person who was with al-Qa'im in his tent ... no rather, he would be like a person who was fighting along-side him with his sword ... no rather, by Allah, he would be like the person who attained martyrdom along-side the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him and his family)."

Biharul Anwar, Volume 52, Page 126; al-Mahasin

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*"Wisdom is the lost property of the Believer,
let him claim it wherever he finds it"*

Imam Ali (as)