

YOUNG READERS 11

JANNATUL BAQEE

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حکیر

Chapter 1

Introduction

Jannat al Baqee is the famous burial place of Madinah. It is close to the Masjid e Nabi, where the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is buried. Four of the 12 Imams are buried in Baqee and according to some accounts, so is Hadhrat Fatimah Zahra(AS). Prophet Muhammad (SAW) used to visit the graveyard and greet those who were buried in Baqee saying, "Peace be upon you, O abode of the faithful! God willing, we shall soon join you. "

Every day thousands of pilgrims visit Baqee to pay their respects to the Holy Household of the Prophet. Here are buried great personalities without whom the history of Islam is incomplete. In fact, they wrote the history of Islam with their deeds and achievements.

The Holy Quran gives us examples of the signs of Allah, sha'aair ullaah, which must be respected. Indeed all the rites of Hajj have to be completed to recall and remember the story of Hadhrat Ibraheem (AS). In the same way Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the Imams are the links to Allah. They are the most in faith, piety, knowledge and justice. They are role models, who invite us to worship Allah. Their understanding of faith was the most complete and perfect. They were the most righteous in action. One of the ways to show respect to them is to go for their ziarat.

We learn from the examples of the Masoomeen (AS) that it is recommended to visit the graves of the momineen (believers) and the shaheed(martyr). Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

himself visited the grave of the believers. He also went to his mother Hadhrat Amina's grave in Abwa. Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) would visit Hadhrat Hamza's grave in Uhud every Friday. The Imams have taught us the etiquette of ziarat to Karbala, to do ziarat of Imam Husayn(AS). There are many rewards for the zaer (pilgrim) as he pleads for Allah's mercy and seeks forgiveness for his sins. Ziarat is to meet someone who is close to Allah, the most righteous in action. Prophet Muhammad(SAW) said "Visiting my grave is like visiting me in life." Imam Ali (AS) advised that we complete the Hajj with the ziarat of the Holy Prophet (SAW) in Madinah. The 4th Imam in his duas has taught us to pray for the ziarat of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The 6th holy Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) said "Whoever visits me, Allah will forgive him, his sins." Our 8th Imam Reza (AS) said "There is a promise between every Imam and his followers. To fulfil this promise is to visit their graves." The Imam has promised that he will intercede for his zaer, (pilgrim) on the Day of Qiyamat. The 11th Imam Hasan Askari (AS) has said "Whoever visits Jafar(AS) or his father, his eye will never complain of any illness."

The graveyard of Baqee is blessed, aptly called Jannat (Paradise) for here we have four of the 12 Imams. We need to recognise their high status, their perfect virtues and mould our lives according to their teachings, following their examples.

Before AH621AD Baqee is a land in Yasrib (Madinah) covered with boxthorn trees

AH 621AD Prophet Muhammad (SAW) after arriving in Madinah from Makkah chooses the land of Baqee to be a cemetery. The area is cleared.

3AH 624AD Uthman ibn Mazoon, companion of the Prophet dies and is the first to be buried in Baqee. The Prophet himself attends the burial and places two stones to mark the grave.

3AH624AD Martyrs from the Battle of Uhud who had been brought to Madinah as wounded. When they die, they are buried in Baqee.

AH629AD The Prophet's son Hadhrat Ibraheem (AS) dies in infancy in and is buried near Uthman ibn Mazoon. Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad, the mother of Imam Ali (AS) dies in Madinah and is buried in Baqee. The Prophet gives his own shirt for her and prays for her

10AH631AD The people of Madinah bury their dead in Baqee during the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

1AH (632AD) When the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) died, people objected on his daughter Fatimah (AS) weeping for him, so Imam Ali (AS) built a room for her in Baqee so she could weep there. It was called Bayt ul Huzn, the House of Sorrow.

11AH (632AD) Hadhrat Mohsin (AS) the still born baby of Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) is buried in a secret tomb. When Hadhrat Fatimah(AS) dies within weeks of the Prophet, perhaps she is also buried in Baqee in a secret location.

Family members like the uncle and aunts of the Prophet (SAW) are buried in Baqee.

More and more buried in Baqee

The companions of the Holy Prophet, both among the Ansaar and the Muhajireen

The widows of the Holy Prophet, Ummul Momineen including Hadhrat Umm Salma.

Hadhrat Abbas ibn Abdul Mutallib (AS), the uncle of the Prophet, is buried in Baqee by Imam Ali (AS) and his son Ibn Abbas.

36A.H(657AD) Uthman ibn Affan is killed and buried outside Baqee, but this area is later included in the extended boundary.

50AH (671AD) Hadhrat Aqeel, the brother of Imam Ali(AS) was buried in his house which was in Baqee.

50AH (671AD) Enemies prevent Imam Hasan (AS) from being buried near the holy Prophet (SAW) and shoot arrows at his funeral. He is buried near his grandmother Fatimah bint Asad and Hadhrat Abbas in Baqee.

61AH (681AD) After Karbala , the AhlulBayt return to Madinah. The 4th Imam (AS) goes to Baqee to mourn and weep there.

The ladies from Karbala who have endured great hardship die shortly after returning to Madinah.

63AH (684AD) Ummul Baneen weeps for her martyred sons in Baqee. The widow of Imam Ali (AS) dies, mourning for Imam Husayn(AS) and the martyrs of Karbala

63AH (684AD) When the people of Madinah rise against Yazeed, he sends a huge army into Madinah. Thousands of companions and others are killed. This is called the Battle of Harrah. All of them are buried in Baqee.

78AH (702 AD) Hadhrat Muhammad Hanafiya, the son of Imam Ali (AS) dies in Madinah.

81AH (699AD) Jabir ibn Abdullah Ansari, a famous companion passes away.

95A.H. (716AD) Our fourth Imam Zainulabideen (AS) is martyred by poison. He is buried in Baqee next to his uncle, Imam Hasan (AS).

148 AH (760AD) Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) is martyred through poison and is buried in Baqee by his son and the next Imam Moosa Kazim (AS). He is the last among the 12 Imams to be buried in Madinah.

Many sons and grandsons of the 4th, 5th and 6th and 7th Imams are buried in Baqee. The wives and ladies of the AhlulBayt are also buried there.

The people of Madinah continue to use Baqee to bury their dead.

Descriptions of Baqee in History

580AH (1184AD) A visitor called Ibn Jubayr (died 580AH 1184AD) describes Baqee in detail. He mentions a white dome over the grave of Hadhrat Ibraheem (AS). He sees beautiful star-shaped nails on the graves of Imam Hasan (AS) and Hadhrat Abbas, uncle of the Prophet.

730 AH (1328 AD) Ibn Batuta, a famous traveller comes to Madinah. His description is similar. He said that there are many graves of Muhajireen and Ansaar in Baqee.

741AH (1339AD) Muhamad Matari (died 741AH 1339AD) in his account mentions a dome over the tombs of the four holy Imams built by the Caliph Abul Abbas Mustadee

1072 AH 1661AD) Abdullah Ayashi (died 1072 AH 1661AD) says that as you enter Baqee you see a mosque which marked the place where the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) would stand and pray, seeking forgiveness for the people of Baqee. Walati writes about the tombs of the Imams, and how people pray to Allah seeking forgiveness using them as a waseela. He describes the domes over the graves.

1205AH (1790AD) to 1217AH (1802AD) The Wahhabis make several attempts to gain power in Arabia but fail.

1221 AH (1805AD) The Wahhabis enter the city of Madinah, bent on terror. They even make an attempt to destroy the tomb of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). They loot the treasures from the tomb of the Prophet.

Destruction of Jannatul Baqee

1345 AH(1925 AD) The Wahhabis spread destruction once again. On the 8th day of Shawwal, they demolish and raze to the ground all the structures in Bagee. The tombs of the Imams are destroyed. Thousands are killed. The tombs in Makkah (Jannatul Moalla) are demolished. There are protests world-wide against the demolition of the tombs.

435 AH (2013 AD) Nearly 90 years later, even today destruction continues. Mosques and places connected with Islamic history are still being razed to the ground.

Chapter 2

8 th Shawal 1345AH

On 8th Shawwal, Wednesday, in the year 1345 AH (April 21, 1925), Ibn Saud, the Wahhabi ruler, demolished the tombs of Jannatul Baqee in Madinah.

In the same year (1925), he also demolished the tombs of Jannatal Mualla (Makkah). Here are buried Hadhrat Abdul Mutallib, his loving grandfather, Hadhrat Abu Talib (AS) his uncle and devoted supporter. They had raised him, an orphan, with great affection.

Here too the Prophet (SAW) had buried his wife Hadhrat Khadija (AS), who had totally supported him and sacrificed all she had for Islam. She was the first to declare her faith. She was the mother of his only daughter Fatimah (AS) and his constant support of Muslims, the Ummul Momineen.

When Hadhrat Abu Talib and Hadhrat Khadija had died, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was so sad that he named it the Year of Sorrow.

Why the Evident Hatred?

Is it to remove all holy symbols so that Muslims will have no link with their history? Is it to eradicate the Islamic legacy and heritage?

Isn't it strange that the sites connected to Prophet Muhammad (SAW)'s grandsons, his beloved daughter, his uncle, his parents and grandfather and his noble companions,

are being destroyed and demolished instead of being preserved?

Aren't these the very "near relatives", loving whom is reward for the services of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)? Is this how the so-called Muslims attempt to reward the Prophet of Islam?

Will any Muslim bulldoze his own son's grave out of love and respect?

Why then is this harsh treatment shown to the family of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)?

The answer is quite simple. It is to distort and confuse the real spirit of Islam. One who hates the family of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) cannot be a Muslim. Without loving and reading du'ood for them, even the salat is not complete.

The ruins of Baqee identify and expose the hypocrites, snatching away the masks from their faces and revealing their true intentions and feelings of hatred for Islam and its heritage.

Today, there is nothing to guide us where these important Islamic figures are buried. Jannatul Baqee and Jannatul Moalla remain closed; except for a short period of the day. Women are not even allowed to go inside the boundary walls. People are not allowed to pay their respect in peace.

The demolition goes on. More and more places that hold historical and religious importance are razed to the ground and destroyed every day in the name of expansion and renovation.

Chapter 3

Follow the Map

When you enter the Bagee gate and turn towards the right, you will come to the place where once stood a big dome that was built over the tombs of four of the 12 Imams

Imam Hasan (AS)
Imam Zainulabideen (AS)
Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS)
Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

As we approach this holy place we need to remember that we are entering the presence of the Masoomeen. This is the place where Allah sends his angels to salute the Imams day and night. We seek permission to enter and must realise who we are here to visit. We need to increase our knowledge of these great personalities and then seek to be guided by them to achieve nearness to Allah.

According to some, **Hadhrat Fatimah Zahra (AS)** the only daughter of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was buried in the Bagee, Madinah. No one knows for sure whether she was buried in her house or in Riazul Janna or in Bagee.

In the same building that housed the tombs of the four Imams there are two more graves. They are the tombs of

Hadhrat Fatimah Binte Asad (AS)
Hadhrat Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib (AS)

To the left of this area are two places that mark the graves of the **Wives of the Prophet:**

Juwaira, Sauda, Ayesha, Hafsa, umm Habeeba , Umm Salma, Safiya and Zainab

Nearby are the “Daughters” of the Prophet: Zainab, Umm Kulthum, Ruqaiyya

These were the daughters of the sister of Hadhrat Khadija(AS) who grew up in the house of their aunt and the Prophet(SAW).

When you enter Bagee and turn left you can see three graves. These are the tombs of the Prophet’s aunts. The third belongs to the widow of Imam Ali (AS), the mother of Hadhrat Abbas. Hadhrat Safiya (AS), Hadhrat Aatika: Hadhrat Ummul Baneen (AS)

Close by, there used to be a house which belonged to Hadhrat Aqeel who was later buried inside it. Next to him was the grave of Abdullah ibn Jafar Tayyar.

Hadhrat Aqeel (AS)

Abdullah ibn Jafar Tayyar (AS)

Beyond the house of Hadhrat Aqeel (AS) is the grave of Uthman ibn Mazoon who was the first person to be buried in Bagee. Uthman ibn Mazoon

Next to him, is a small grave where the infant son of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was buried:

Ibraheem ibn Rasoolallah

Towards the left boundary wall of the Bagee are the graves of the Martyrs of Uhud and the Martyrs of the Battle of Harrah.

Martyrs of Uhud

Martyrs of Harrah

Near these graves is the grave of the nurse who looked after the Prophet in his infancy. Haleema Saadiya

Close to this place lies Hadhrat Ismaeel, the son of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS). Hadhrat Ismaeel ibn Jafar Sadiq (AS)

Many hundreds of notable companions and pious Muslims through history have been buried here; including sons and grandsons of the Imams and companions of the Holy Prophet (SAW). These include

Muhammad Hanafiya ibn Imam Ali (AS)

Muhammad Nafs Zakiya

Miqdad ibn Amr

Jabir ibn Abdullah Ansari

Zaid ibn Arqam Sahl ibn Saad

Abdullah ibn Masood

Near the door of the Masjid Nabavi known as Bab us Salam was the tomb of Hadhrat Abdullah (AS) the father of the Prophet. This was demolished when the Masjid was expanded. His body was re-buried in Baqee.

The list is not complete but gives us an idea that this graveyard was special to many people in Madinah, both in the time of the Prophet and through history.

Chapter 4

The AhlulBayt in Baqee

The AhlulBayt the Holy Household of the Prophet (SAW) is kept pure by Allah himself. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said “Verily I leave among you two valuable things, the Book of Allah and my Household. You will not go astray after me as long as you adhere to them both. They will not separate from one another until they come to me at Kausar.

“Like the Quran, the AhlulBayt are full of knowledge. Their knowledge comes directly from Allah. The Quran guides, so do the AhlulBayt. The Quran is light, so are the AhlulBayt. They are the gates to Allah and the straight path. They are the keys to His Mercy and the source of knowledge. They are the excellent people, Khair ul bareyyah and those in authority, Uloom amr.

There are 14 Masoomeen: Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his daughter Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) and the 12 Imams. The Masoomeen are those who have opted not to commit anything wrong. They never commit a sin. There is no fault or error in their understanding. Their knowledge and deeds are perfect. They are the Best of the Creation.

The 14 Masoomeen are:
Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
Hadhrat Fatimah Zahra (AS)
Imam Ali Murtaza (AS)
Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS)
Imam Husayn Shaheed (AS)
Imam Ali Zainulabideen (AS)

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS)
Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)
Imam Moosa Kazim (AS)
Imam Ali Reza (AS)
Imam Muhammad Taqui (AS)
Imam Ali Naqui (AS)
Imam Hasan Askari (AS)
Imam Muhammad Mahdi (AS)

Hadhrat Fatimah (AS)

Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) holds the highest rank in Islam. Her father, Prophet Muhammad(SAW)called her a part of him, bazat un minni and the leader of all the women of the world, Sayydatu nisa al Aalameen. She was perfect in every way and a role model not only for the umma but also the Imams.

Our 12th Imam Mahdi (AS) says, "There is a model for me in the daughter of Allah's Messenger." She was like her father in all his excellent qualities, in her manners and guidance. He said to his followers "Know that whatever pleases Fatimah pleases me. Whatever displeases Fatimah displeases me.

"Many verses of the Holy Quran were revealed in her praise. The ayat Tatheer (33:33)was revealed for her, her father Muhammad (SAW);her husband Ali (AS); and her sons Hasan (AS) and Husayn(AS).It was again these five holy people that Allah praised in the verse of Mubahila (3:61). Love and obedience to them, the qurba (42:23) the "Near ones" was ordered by Allah. The verses of the Sura Dahr (76:5-9)were in praise of her household's generosity.

The death of the Apostle, affected her deeply.She was very sad and wept her heart out crying all the time.Imam Ali (AS) and a few faithful followers attended the burial. Others were busy plotting in Saqeefa how to assume power.She found that people had ignored the message of the Prophet and deprived Imam Ali (AS) of being the successor. The land of Fadak, a gift from her father, was snatched. They quickly forgot the regard she deserved.

When she protested, those who now ruled refused to give her rights. She gave a long speech in the Masjid, giving proofs from the Quran and Hadees. She was asked to bring witnesses but when she took them they were not accepted. Her sermon remains in history as a revolt against the unjustified taking of power from its rightful owner. The eloquence of her speech

reminded people of the Prophet but the message fell on deaf ears and blind hearts. They were not willing to give up power.

She visited the grave of her father and wept, "If the troubles that have befallen me had fallen on the bright day, it would have changed to a dark night." Weeping for her father night and day, Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) remained very sad. People could not bear her crying and complained to Imam Ali (AS) and said she should either weep in the day or in the night. Imam Ali (AS) then built a room for her in Baqee and called it "Baitul Huzn", the house of Sorrow. This is where she went from sunrise to sunset, with her children, to weep for her father. After Karbala, it was here that Imam Zainulabideen (AS) spent his days weeping.

Fire was brought to the door of Hadhrat Fatimah(AS)'s house. There were loud threats, demanding that Imam Ali come out. When she went to the door, it was pushed crushing her between it and the wall. The baby (Mohsin) she had in her womb, was martyred. She was attacked and dragged on the floor. They tied a rope round the neck of Ali (AS) and took him. Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) fainted.

When she became ill, the women of Madinah came to visit her. She said, "By Allah, I resent your world and detest your men... That was their great loss ... turning away from Abul Hasan (Ali)... By Allah, they exchanged the good with the bad. Disgrace be for people who think they do well. Surely they are mischief makers." The women had no answer and were silent. They returned home and told their men about Hadhrat Fatimah's distress.

When Abu Bakr and Umar tried to visit her but Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) refused. Later when they came, she turned her face away. They begged her to pardon them. She said "Did you hear the Messenger say Whoever pleases Fatimah pleases me and whoever displeases Fatimah displeases me?" They both said they had heard the Prophet say so. She raised her hands and said "I make Allah and His angels witness that you both

displeased me and did not please me. When I meet the Messenger of Allah I shall complain to him against you.”

She did not live long and died a few days later. She bade farewell to her loving husband and children. She requested that he bury her at night and not let anyone who had wronged her attend her funeral. She asked for a special coffin that would hide all her body.

On the last day, she bathed her children and made them food. She sent them to visit their grandfather's tomb. She bathed and lay with her face facing the Qibla. When the children returned home, they found she had left them forever. They ran towards her body. Hasan threw himself saying “Mother talk to me.” Husayn wept saying “Mother, I am your son, Husayn” The daughters Zainab and Kulthum sobbed. Imam Ali(AS) came home. He comforted the children and hugged them close. “O daughter of Muhammad! With whom shall I console myself? My grief will last forever” She was buried at night, as she had wished, in a secret location.

Imam Hasan (AS)

Imam Hasan (AS) is the eldest son of Imam Ali (AS) and Hadhrat Fatimah (AS), the only daughter of the holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He was born on 15th Ramadan 3AH (625AD) in Madinah. He was given title Mujtaba, the Chosen one. He looked like his grandfather and also had his noble traits. The Prophet loved him very much and would often say:

'O Lord! This is my son, and I love him. Love him, and love those who love him.'

Many verses of the Quran speak of his purity and merit. He is among the 5 Holy ones under the Kisa and the son of the Prophet at the event of Mubahila. The Sura Dahr was revealed in his praise and love for him is demanded by Allah as recompense for the delivery of the message of Islam.

He is the second of the 12 Imams, who must be obeyed by the order of Allah. Special clothes were sent for him at the day of Eid and the Prophet himself took him on his shoulders and carried him in his arms. He and his brother Husayn (AS) are the Masters of the Youth of Paradise.

Imam Hasan (AS) is an excellent example for us to follow. He spent his time in the worship of Allah and would go pale as he performed wudhu. He spent his wealth in charity and gave all he had in the way of Allah. He went for Hajj 25 times and often walked all the way.

Though he had such a high position in society he was kind to the poorest of the poor. He was one day passing by on his camel. Some poor people were eating pieces of bread and invited him to share their food. He sat down with them and joined them. He then took them home and gave them food and clothes. It is said that he would arrange for people to be fed every day and hundreds came to his meal spread.

After the Holy Prophet (SAW) passed away, Imam Hasan (AS) saw that the rights of his father Ali (AS) were ignored. His

mother Fatimah (AS) was forced to defend Fadak but this property was not given back. He was present when fire was brought to their door.

He saw his mother crushed between the door and the wall. He had to endure the loss of his dear mother. He saw how the rules of the religion of Islam were changed. Twenty five years passed. People came to his father and insisted that he accept becoming their Khalifah. Imam Ali (AS) became the ruler but when he tried to establish justice there were rebellions. Imam Hasan (AS) was totally obedient to his father, who was his example and leader. He took an active part in the Battles of Jamal, Siffeen and Nahrwan. Only four years later, Imam Ali (AS) was martyred in the Masjid e Koofa in 40A.H. People pledged their allegiance and accepted Imam Hasan (AS) as their Khalifah.

The news soon spread. Muawiya, the Umayyad ruler of Syria, rejoiced at the death of Imam Ali (AS) and celebrated. But he was shocked that Imam Hasan (AS) had been appointed as the new Khalifah. He sent spies to Koofa to spread rumours and create discord. People were bought with bribes and threats to leave the Imam. Imam Hasan (AS) sent letters to Muawiya who refused to listen. Instead he now sent his men to fight against the Imam (AS).

Imam Hasan (AS) called his people for jihad to prepare for war and shoulder their responsibilities. But many of them did not answer his call. The army that Imam Hasan (AS) led was low in spirit and there was disunity. Soon there was chaos and conspiracy against the Imam himself. Rumours and luring promises from Muawiya led people to leave the Imam. Some were even willing to hand over the Imam to the enemy.

Muawiya did not care how many would be killed and how much blood was shed, as long as he remained in power. In order to spare the blood of Muslims and to protect Islam, Imam Hasan (AS) made a peace treaty with Muawiya. The conditions for the treaty given by Imam Hasan (AS) and accepted by Muawiya were

- Muawiya should rule according to the rules of the Quran and Hadees.
- Imam Hasan (AS) will rule when Muawiya dies.
- If Imam Hasan (AS) dies first, it should go to Imam Husayn(AS), not Yazeed.
- Shias of Ali(AS) would not to be harassed or killed.
- Safety and security of Shias would be guaranteed.

After the treaty, Imam Hasan (AS) left Koofa to return to Madinah. The people came out to bid him farewell and were sad. The Ummayyad military forces entered Koofa, striking fear into the hearts, and spreading terror. Back in Madinah, Imam Hasan (AS) guided the people on the straight path. He spent his time spreading the true message of Islam. He established a school so he was able to continue his doctrine and at the same time expose the hypocrites. Muawiya had accepted all the conditions of the treaty but went back on all of the terms. He turned away from the Book of Allah and the Sunnat of the Prophet. He kept harassing and killing the righteous Shias including famous companions like Hujr bin Adi. He spread corruption and committed crimes. He appointed Yazeed as his successor. Muawiya arranged for the Imam to be poisoned by his wife Joda bint Ashash.

Imam Hasan (AS) called his brother Husayn and said, "I am aware of the person who poisoned me. I will oppose Him before Allah, the Great and Almighty." Then he said: "Bury me near the Prophet but if they prevent you then bury me in Baqee.

"The poison took effect and after suffering great agony, Imam Hasan (AS) died at the age of 46 years. It was 50AH (670AD). When his body was taken towards the tomb of his holy grandfather, it was attacked by a rain of arrows. Marwan ibn Hakam the Umayyad governor of Madinah, with the support of Aisha would not allow the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet to be buried near him. The Imam was taken to Baqee and buried near his grandmother Fatimah bint Asad(AS).

Imam Zainulabideen (AS)

Our 4th Imam is Ali Zainulabideen (AS), the son of Imam Husayn(AS).His mother was Hadhrat Shahr Bano the daughter of Yazdjard the King of Persia. He was born on 5th Shaban 38AH (658AD).

Imam Zainulabideen (AS) was 22 years old in Karbala but was so ill that he could not fight in the battle. His jihad was yet to come.

He was taken prisoner and had to endure great hardship with the ladies of the Holy family, who were taken as captives through the streets of Koofa and Shaam. The survival of Islam depended on him. He saved the message of the Prophet and exposed the evilrole of Yazeed. He was dragged in chains and made to mount the bare backs of camels for hundreds of miles across the burning desert sand. Treated like slaves, he and the ladies ofthe holy Household were brought before Yaz- eed who mocked them and introduced to the people as rebels.

However the Imam's sermons in the bazaar and the darbar presented the true Islam. His powerful words showed the people who he was: "I am the son of he who was taken on the night journey from house of Allah to the Mosque of Aqsa and then to Miraj... ..I am the son of Muhammad Mustafa (SAW). I am the son of AliMurtaza (AS) to whom Zulfiqar was given. I am the son of he who had the honour to migrate twice in Islam. I am the son of Fatimah the best of the women of the world... "

"Allah has given us (Ahlul Bayt) six things which no one else has. He has given us special Wisdom, Patience, Dignity, Power of speech, Courage and Respect. He gave us special benefit of belonging to the family of his Prophet. To us belong Hamza and Jafar. To us belongs Asadullah (The lion of Allah), Imam Ali (AS). To us belong the leadersof the youths of paradise Imam Hasan(AS) and Imam Husayn(AS)."

His speech was so powerful that people started to weep and to condemn Yazeed. The tyrant was afraid that there might be a revolt. He wanted to silence the Imam and cut short his speech. So he ordered a muezzin to repeat the azan. The Imam repeated "Allaho Akbar" to testify that Allah is great. But when the muezzin came to the words "Muhamadan Rasoolallah", the Imam turned to Yazeed and asked, "Tell me o Yazid, was Muhammad(SAW) your grandfather or mine? If you say he was your grandfather it will be an open lie and if you say he was my grandfather then why have you killed his son and imprisoned his family?"

Yazeed had no reply to give. The Imam and the ladies of the holy Household were sent to prison. His infant sister, Hadhrat Sakina, known also as Ruqaiyya, died in the prison. The Imam wept as he buried her. People turned against Yazeed, who was afraid and so released the prisoners. The Imam returned to Madinah but not before he held a majlis in Damascus to mourn Imam Husayn (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala.

On his return to Madinah, he continued to hold majalis to remember Imam Husayn (AS). People learned details about the day of Ashoor. They found out how the family of the Imam was treated after Karbala. The Imam wept day and night. When food and water was brought before him, he would remember the thirst of the children who were denied even water. His weeping made people ask, so learn about Karbala.

Imam Zainuabideen (AS) spent many long hours in prayer and worship. His duas for every occasion became a means of teaching his followers about various subjects. They learned from him through his prayers for he was not allowed to openly teach them. Through the meetings held for Imam Husayn (AS) and through the duas the Imam was able to educate the scholars. The Imam adopted dua as the means of teaching his followers. The duas of the Imam are known as the Sahifa Kamila alSajjadiya.

The Imam led a quiet life. He wanted to build piety among the people and educate scholars. But the tyrants of the Bani Ummayya, specially Hajjaj ibn Yusuf Saqafi threatened everyone

who followed the AhlulBait. The Holy Imam was not allowed to meet anyone or even have the time to offer his prayers peacefully. Every house was searched and people were put to death.

Imam Zainulabideen (AS) encouraged Muslims to observe the anniversary of Karbala every year in their houses. He urged the people to visit Karbala. He used to visit Karbala himself whenever he had the chance. He recommended the use of the turba for sajda in daily prayers.

Imam ZainulAbideen (AS) was very forgiving and generous. During the month of Ramadhan, he would give his servants their freedom. He would distribute food daily to the poor and needy. He gave away his clothes to the poor. He would himself carry food on his back and distribute it among the needy at night, secretly.

He was generous not only to his friends and followers but also his enemies. When Yazeed sent his army to loot, kill and plunder, the only house that was spared was the Imam's. Marwan ibn Hakam, the governor of Madinah, pleaded that his family be given refuge in the Imam's house. This was granted. More than 400 Bani Umayya took refuge and were treated kindly. Even the killer of Hadhrat Ali Akbar (AS), the Imam's 18 year old brother, sought the Imam's protection and was not refused.

Waleed ibn Marwan killed the Imam through poison on 25th Muharram 95A.H (714AD). He was buried in Baqee by his son Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), next to his uncle Imam Hasan (AS).

Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS)

Our 5th Imam Muhammad Baqir(AS) is the son of our 4th Imam Zainulabideen (AS). His mother was Fatimah, daughter of Imam Hasan (AS). He was born in Madinah on the 1st day of Rajab in 56A.H(677AD). The holy Prophet had sent him greetings and given him the title Baqir, the one who split opens knowledge.

During his childhood Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS) was an eyewitness to the tragedy of Karbala on the day of Ashoor. He was among those taken prisoner to Koofa and Sham. He was in Madinah when Yazeed sent his army to kill and destroy the city of the Prophet. He saw how the Bani Ummayya spread terror throughout the land.

During the lifetime of the Imam, many new ideas and philosophies from outside Arabia started to deviate people from Islam. The rulers were only concerned with their own power. The Imam devoted his life to spreading knowledge among the people and renewing the true message of the Prophet.

More than 70,000 traditions of the Holy Prophet were narrated by the Imam. These narrations are the very words of the Prophet. They are from direct reports from the line of purity: his father, Imam Zainulabideen(AS) who got it from his father Imam Husayn(AS), who heard it from his brother Imam Hasan (AS) who heard it from his father Imam Ali(AS) who reported it from the Holy Prophet(SAW). The chain of authority is correct and reliable.

The Holy Imam was able to collect the teachings and reforms of the Holy Prophet and his Ahlul-Bayt in the form of books. Our 5th Imam opened a school to teach Quran and Hadith as taught by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Imam Ali (AS). Many details of the tragedy of Karbala have been recorded from this Imam in a book called Maqatal al Husayn. He has also presented to us the teachings of his father, Imam Zainulabideen and compiled his duas as the Sahifa e Sajjadiya. The Holy Imam gave much importance to convening majalis

(meetings) to remember the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (AS). Kumayt a famous poet of the time used to recite elegies in the meetings.

Many people were attracted to Madinah and came from far and wide to learn from the Imam. His pupils compiled books on different branches of science and arts under his instructions and guidance. They were in turn told to spread the knowledge to others with the advice: "Learn knowledge from scholars. Then teach it to your brothers as the scholars have taught it to you." He said "When you hear knowledge then put it into effect.

"The Holy Imam was a model of the Holy Prophet(SAW) and his great grandfather Imam Ali (AS). He encouraged his followers to have excellent morals. He was not only hospitable even to his worst enemies but also used to continually exhort them to the right path. He urged people to earn their livelihood by their own hard work.

When the ruler Hisham noted the Imam's growing popularity with the people, he became jealous. Hisham summoned the Imam to Damascus with his son Jafar Sadiq(AS). He tried to ridicule the Imam forcing him to show his skill at archery. Instead, the perfectly aimed arrows hitting the target gained the admiration of the Syrians and put the ruler to shame. The Imam was sent back to Madinah.

The governor of Madinah forced the Imam to sit on a poisoned saddle which led to his martyrdom. Another version is that he was given poison. The Imam named his son Jafar Sadiq (AS) as the next Imam. He left a sum of money to be used to remember him in majalis at Mina for ten years. As his last moments approached, he began to recite the Holy Quran and he died praising Allah, on 7th Zilhij 114 A.H. (732AD). A grave was dug next to his father's in Baqee where he was buried.

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

Our 6th holy Imam is called Jafar Sadiq (AS). He is the son of our 5th Imam Muhammad Baqir(AS). His mother is HadhratUmm Farwa,the daughter of Qasim ibn Muhammad Abubakr. Imam Jafar Sadiq (A.S) was born on the 17th of Rabi ul Awwal in 83A.H.(702(AD), the birth anniversary of the holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The period of his Imamat saw the downfall of the Ummayyad and the rise of the Abbasides. While there was political strife between them for power, the Imam was left alone. He used this opportunity to carry on his mission to propagate Islam and spread the teachings of the Holy Prophet.

He was able to impart his knowledge and had 4000 students who learned from him. One of his famous students was Jabir ibn Hayyan, known as the father of chemistry. Jabir learned from the Imam and spread the Imam's teachings.

Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) had thorough knowledge of the Qur-an. The Holy Imam said: By Allah, surely I know the Book of Allah from the beginning to the end, as if it were on the palm of my hand. In it there is the news of the sky and of the earth, the news what had happened and the news what will happen".

From the time of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) to the days of the Imam, many false narrations of traditions had been spread. Imam Sadiq (AS)said, "My traditions are my father's traditions; my father's traditions are my grandfather's traditions, my grandfather's traditions are the traditions of Ali ibn Abu Talib, the Commander of the faithful. The traditions of Ali the Commander of the faithful are the traditions of the Apostle of Allah (SAW). The traditions of the Apostle of Allah (may Allah bless him and his family), are the word of Allah, the Mighty and High." This is known as the golden chain. He also gave criteria

that we can use to test if a tradition was true or false. He said that if it agrees with the verses of the Quran then accept it, if it does not, then it is false and fabricated.

There was a building in Madinah in a ruined state that marked where the School of Imam Sadiq (AS) was. It still emanated fragrance when we visited it in the 1970s. Under the continued programme of Saudi destruction, this too has been demolished.

Imam Jafar-e-Sadiq (AS), like other Infallible Imams, was subjected to severe cruelty by both the Ummayyad and the Abbasids. The Imam was arrested and summoned to Baghdad more than 11 times. One day Mansur asked Imam Sadiq (A.S) about flies that were attacking him "Why did Allah create flies?" he demanded. The Imam replied "To humiliate tyrants with them" Mansur kept silent.

When he came to Iraq, he built the grave of Ameerul momineen Imam Ali(AS) and showed it to prominent Shias. At every visit he would take some of his near companions with him to the grave. So the Shias started visiting Najaf.

The Imam also visited Karbala and there is a place by the river with a mihrab to mark his stay there. We also find his mihrab in the masjid of Sahla and in the masjid e Koofa. These places mark the place where the Imam had prayed.

A woman had been arrested by the Khalifah's men for cursing those who had oppressed Hadhrat Fatimah (AS). When the Imam heard this he wept. Then he and his companion went to the Sahla mosque and offered prayers there and recited a dua. When he came out of the mosque, a man came and told him that the woman had been released. Today people still seek their needs reciting the dua and prayer read by the Imam.

When they could not find any just reason he would be sent back to Madinah. Finally Mansoor after several failed attempts, succeeded in poisoning Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) in

148A.H.(765AD) on the 25th of Shawwal. He was 65 years old.He was the last of the Imams to be buried in Jannatul Bagee next to his father Imam Mohammed Baqir (AS).

After his martyrdom, the poor and needy people of Madinah realised that it was the 6th Imam who used to bring them bread, meat and money in the night, secretly.

Chapter 5

Other family members of the Prophet (SAW)

Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad (AS)

Hadhrat Fatimah Bint Asad (AS) was the mother of our first Imam Ali (AS). When it was time for Imam Ali(AS) to be born, Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad went to the Ka'bah. The walls of the Ka'bah (at the corner known as Rukn Yemeni) split and she went inside. The wall closed. News about this strange event spread fast around Makkah. Keys were brought but the door could not be opened. After three days the lock fell off and Fatimahbint Asad emerged from the Ka'bah holding her baby son. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was waiting outside and he stepped forward to receive the baby. He took him in his arms and by Allah's command, named the baby Ali.

Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad and her husband Hadhrat Abu Talib(AS) were always ready to give their total support for Islam. They were forced to go to live in the ravine and suffer social boycott. As enemies were ready to attack the Prophet she would make her own children sleep in place of the Prophet so that his life was safe.

When the Prophet had to migrate to Madinah, Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad also left her hometown. During the battle of Badr she tended to the wounds of those who took part in the battle.

When she fell ill and died, Imam Ali (AS) went in tears to inform the Prophet. When he heard the news, he was very sad. "She was like a mother to me." he said and immediately went

to her house. He gave his shirt to be used as part of her shroud. When the grave was prepared the Prophet (SAW) entered the grave and lay in it. People heard him saying 'There is no god but Allah. O Allah, I am giving her to thee in trust'

The Prophet (SAW) said: "Today I lost the righteousness of Abu Talib (A.S): Verily, she was so (kind to me) that whenever she had any good thing, she gave it to me, instead of using it for herself or for her own children."

Hadhrat Abbasibn Abdul Mutallib

Hadhrat Abbas, the son of Hadhrat Abdul Mutallib (AS) was the uncle of the Holy Prophet. He was born in Makkah. His tomb is near the graves of the four Imams.

In the 13th year of the Prophet's mission the elders of Madinah took the oath of allegiance to him in the valley of Mina. Hadhrat Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib took a promise from them that they would not fail to help the Holy Prophet. He said "O people of Khazraj! Now that you are inviting Muhammad to come to your city you should know that he is honoured and enjoys amongst us a position about which you are well aware. I swear by Allah that we, the Bani Hashim are prepared to sacrifice our lives for him and will defend him as a matter of faith and also as a matter of family honour."

When the Holy Prophet went to Madinah, Hadhrat Abbas stayed in Makkah. When the Qureish went to Madinah to fight against the Muslims in the Battle of Badr, they forced Hadhrat Abbas to go with them. However after the battle, he was taken prisoner and both he and his son paid a ransom and got their freedom. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was called the "last of the muhajireen" by the Prophet. Later he took part in the conquest of Makkah and the battle of Hunain.

He was one of the few people who were present at the funeral of the Holy Prophet. He was a supporter of Imam Ali (AS). He did not give allegiance to Abu Bakr.

When he died on the 1st of Ramadan at the age of 84 years he was buried by Imam Ali (AS) and his son Abdullah ibn Abbas near the tomb of Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad.

Hadhrat Umm Salma

Hadhrat Umm Salma was one of the first believers in Islam. She migrated to Abyssinia in the early days of Islam then later to Madinah. Her first husband was Abu Salmawho was injured in the battle of Uhud and died. Later the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) married this pious and learned lady. She was called the Ummul Momineen, the mother of believers.

Umm Salma was devoted to the Holy Prophet and his holy AhlulBayt. She was always ready to obey and love him. She had great respect for Hadhrat Khadijah (AS) and loved Hadhrat Fatimah (AS). She would often narrate the merits of Imam Ali (AS). Umm Salma always eagerly listened to the Prophet's words and would leave her work to listen to him. We have 378 Hadees narrated by her that she heard from the Prophet. Many are in praise of the AhlulBayt. She has also related the details of the revelation of verses of the Quran. For example, she has spoken about how the ayat tatheer was sent by Allah in praise of the Panjatan.

The holy Prophet trusted her so much that he informed Umm Salma what would happen in Karbala. She saw the Prophet take his grandson in his arms. The Prophet told her that Jibraeel had come and given him some soil from Karbala. The Prophet gave Umm Salma the soil and said "Keep this with you and the day this change to blood, know then that Husayn has been martyred."

Many years passed. Umm Salma was over eighty four years old. In 60AH Imam Husayn (AS) left Madinah and travelled towards Iraq. Umm Salma was restless and prayed for his safety. On the 10th of Muharram 61 AH, Umm Salma saw the holy Prophet (SAW) full of sorrow in her dream saying, "I am coming from Karbala." She woke up and looked at the soil. It had changed into blood. She knew that Imam Husayn (AS) had been martyred. She started to mourn and cry. She knew that what the Prophet had told her had now come to pass. Imam Husayn (AS) was martyred on the plain of Karbala. Umm Salma spent her time weeping and crying. She did not live for

very long after this tragedy and died. She was buried in the Jannatul Baqee.

Hadhrat Safiya (AS)

Hadhrat Safiya (AS) was the daughter of Hadhrat Mutallib (AS), the grandfather of the Prophet. Her mother was called Hala who was the sister of Hadhrat Amina, the Prophet's mother.

It was Hadhrat Safiya (AS), who had gone to the house of Hadhrat Khadija (AS) to find out whether the news that a wealthy lady like her wanted to marry Muhammad (SAW). She was welcomed warmly by Hadhrat Khadija (AS) who informed her of her earnest desire to do so. Safiya returned home and informed her brothers. The marriage was arranged and Hadhrat Abu Talib (AS) paid the dowry, read the nikah and invited many people of Makkah for the walima. Hadhrat Safiya (AS) attended the wedding of Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) and Imam Ali (AS). She was present with Asma at the time of Imam Husayn's birth in Madinah. Hadhrat Safiya (AS) was the brave sister of her brave brother Hamza (AS) who was injured and martyred in the battle of Uhud. She herself helped the injured soldiers in the battle, bringing water for them and tending to their injuries. When Hadhrat Safiya (AS) died, she was buried in Jannatul Bagee.

Ummul Baneen (AS)

Her name was Fatimah and she came from the family of Kelab, a tribe well known for their valour and bravery. Imam Ali (AS) married her in 25AH.

Hadhrat Ummul Baneen right from the start of her marriage showed her love for the children of Hadhrat Fatimah (AS). When she entered the house she kissed the threshold of the door and said to the children, "I come here as your servant to serve you. You are the children of my Lady Fatimah (AS)." She realised that love for them is the very essence of true faith.

Hadhrat Ummul Baneen was blessed with four sons. The first was Abul Fazl Abbas, who would grow up to be the most handsome youth of the Bani Hashim. She burst into poetry when she looked at the beautiful baby. After the birth of Abul Fazl Abbas, she gave birth to another son. He was called Abdullah. Her next son was Uthman. He was named by Imam Ali (AS), saying "I am naming him after Uthman ibn Mazoon." Her youngest son was Jafar. She became known as the mother of sons, Ummul Baneen.

Hadhrat Ummul Baneen (AS) raised her sons to love the AhlulBayt. She taught them that they should keep the needs of the AhlulBayt foremost in their hearts. In Karbala, an attempt was made to entice the sons of Ummul Baneen away from Imam Husayn (AS). But Hadhrat Abbas (AS) rejected this offer. The four sons of Ummul Baneen were all martyred in the way of Allah. When news reached Madinah, Ummul Baneen showed that she was first concerned not for her own sons but Imam Husayn (AS).

When the AhlulBayt returned to Madinah, she learned the details. She was the first to hold a majlis in her house in Madinah for Imam Husayn (AS). She was also the first noha reciter, mourning the martyrs of Karbala. Hadhrat Ummul Baneen would often go to Jannatul Bagee and weep saying:

"Don't call me Ummul Baneen now

*I am reminded of my lionhearted sons when you do
Till I had them I was Ummul Baneen (Mother of Sons)
Now I am nothing"*

She spent her time weeping and mourning for the martyrs of Karbala and died on 13th Jamadiusani 64A.H. She was buried in Baqee.

Hadhrat Aqeel ibn Abu Talib(AS)

Hadhrat Aqeel was the second son of Hadhrat Abu Talib (AS) and Hadhrat Fatimah bint Asad (AS). He was the cousin of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and the brother of Imam Ali (AS). During the lifetime of the Prophet, he took part in the Battle of Muthah in 8 A.H. where his brother Jafar e Tayyar was martyred. Hadhrat Aqeel had expert knowledge of the tribes and it was Hadhrat Aqeel who had suggested Fatimah Ummul Baneen, daughter of Hizam from the tribe of Kelab for Imam Ali (AS).

Hadhrat Aqeel came to Koofa when Imam Ali (AS) ruled as the Khalifah of the Muslims. When he arrived there, he was welcomed by the Imam and given a cloak. His share from the treasury was the same amount as was given to other Muslims and when he requested for more, it was refused. Sitting down for dinner with the ruler of Muslims, Hadhrat Aqeel was surprised at how simple the meal was. He asked "Is this all the food?" Imam Ali replied "I heartily thank Allah that he has bestowed me with this gift." When he died in Madinah, he was buried in his house in Baqee.

Abdullah ibn JafarTayyar (AS)

Abdullah ibn Jafar was the son of Jafar Tayyar and Asma bint Umays. He was born in 1 A.H. His parents had moved from Makkah to Abbysinia during the first migration of Muslims. They moved back to Arabia and came to Madinah in 7AH the same year as the Battle of Khyber.

When his father Jafar Tayyar (AS) was martyred in the Battle of Mutah in 8A.H. the Holy Prophet himself went to see Hadhrat Jafar's widow and her orphan children. Abdullah grew up to be both brave and generous like his father. Abdullah inherited his qualities and was known as the "ocean of generosity."

When he sent a proposal to marry HadhratZainab (AS), it was accepted. Hadhrat Abdullah ibn Jafar moved to Koofa with Imam Ali (AS) and took an active part in the battles of Jamal, Siffeen and Nahrwan. He was a trusted commander in Imam Ali's army. He could not go with Imam Husayn to Karbala because he was ill. He made sure that he was represented in Karbala by sending his sons Aun and Muhammad to support Imam Husayn (AS) and fully supported him.

Hadhrat Ibraheemibn Rasoolallah

Hadhrat Ibraheem was the son of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Ummul Momineen Marya Qutbiya, who came from Egypt. He was born in 7 AH and was dearly loved by the Prophet. When he was born, his birth was celebrated by giving charity to the poor. But some of the other wives became jealous and made spiteful remarks. So the Prophet moved them to a separate house. Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) said, "When you visit Madinah, you must also visit the house of the mother of Ibraheem, because it was the home of the Prophet and a place of his prayers." Alas, the Wahhabis have demolished this place too.

When his son Ibraheem passed away, the Prophet wept saying: "We are sorrowful because of your death. Dear Ibraheem! We can't do anything for you. Divine Will cannot be changed. Your father's eyes shed tears, and his heart is sad and grieved for your death. However, I will not say anything which may displease Allah."

Hadhrat Ismaeelibn Jafar Sadiq (AS)

Hadhrat Ismaeel was the eldest son of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS). His mother was called Umm Farwa, the granddaughter of Imam Hasan (AS). Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) loved his son Ismaeel very much and some of his followers thought that he would be the next Imam. However the Imam identified that Moosa Kazim (AS) is the next Imam.

Hadhrat Ismaeel never claimed he was the Imam. After the death of Hazrat Ismaeel, Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) did his best to spread the news of his death so that no one should think him to be Imam, and people should not be misled. Many people came to the funeral. The Imam asked them to uncover the face of Hadhrat Ismaeel to confirm he was dead. All the rest were told to be witnesses. Then Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) prayed, "O Allah, you bear witness to this." This was repeated many times so people knew Ismaeel had died. He was buried in Baqee in 133AH. In spite of all these precautions, some people could not reconcile themselves to the thought of Hadhrat Ismaeel's death and follow him as their Imam.

Hadhrat Muhammad Hanafiya

Hadhrat Muhammad Hanafia is the son of our first Imam Ali (AS). His mother is Khula from the tribe of Bani Huneifa. He was so brave that he carried the flag of Imam Ali in the Battle of Jamal. When some people said that your father used you to keep Hassan and Husayn safe, he said: "they are his eyes and I am his right hand. He uses his hand to keep his eyes safe"

Muhammad Hanafiya stayed in Madinah, when Imam Husayn (AS) left for Makkah. The Imam in his last will to his brother wrote that his intention was to reform the ummat of his grandfather, to order good and forbid evil. After the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (AS) in Karbala, the 4th Imam returned to Madinah but lived a secluded life. People approached Muhammad Hanafiya who became the link between them and the Imam. He never claimed to be the Imam. To clear the doubts of some, he and Imam Zainulabideen (AS) went to the Hajr Aswad where a voice proclaimed that the Imam was Zainulabideen (AS). He died during the time of Abd al Malik bin Marwan, 81 AH, when he was 65 years old.

Hadhrat Abdullahibn Abdul Mutallib

Hadhrat Abdullah(AS) is the son of Hadhrat Abdul Mutallib (AS) . His mother was Fatimahand his brother from the same mother was Hadhrat Abu Talib. He was very handsome and his radiant beauty was known to all. He married Hadhrat Amina (AS), the daughter of Wahab. Both believed in the Oneness of Allah and followed the creed of Prophet Ibraheem (AS).His wife was to have a baby. Hadhrat Abdullah(AS) went on a journey towards Shaam but on the way back died in Yathrab (the old name for Madinah). His son was born an orphan. Hadhrat Abdul Mutallib (AS) named him Muhammad (SAW)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) (at the age of six) and his mother travelled to Yathrab to visit the grave of his father. This grave was near Bab us Salam, near the Masjid Nabi.

When the Saudi rulers in the name of expansionof the Masjid Nabi, dug up the grave in 1978, they found that even after more than 1400 years, the body was fresh. He was then buried in Baqee.

Chapter 6

Companions Of the Holy Prophet in Baqee

Uthman ibn Mazoon

Uthman ibn Mazoon was one of the early converts to Islam in Makkah. Even before this time he was known as a “wiseman” He was among those who had migrated to Ethiopia and later returned to Makkah. Muslims were constantly attacked and Uthman lost one eye in a scuffle. He later migrated to Madinah. He was brave and took part in the Battle of Badr. He spent his time in worship, fasting and prayer.

He is the first companion to be buried in Baqee. The Prophet himself was present at his burial and put a cloth on his grave. The Prophet wept for him. He used to visit the grave of his companion many times. The Prophet (SAW) buried his son Ibraheem (AS) near this grave.

Martyrs of Uhud

When the infidels of Makkah attacked the Prophet and the Muslims in the Battle of Uhud, some companions were martyred in the battlefield. Hadhrat Hamza (AS) was martyred. His body was mutilated. Others who had suffered injuries were brought to Madinah. When they died later, they were buried in Baqee, the graveyard in Madinah.

Martyrs of Harrah

After the tragic event of Karbala (61AH) and the return of Imam Zainulabideen (AS) to Madinah, the people revolted against Yazeed's governor. Yazeed sent a huge army which killed thousands of Muslims ruthlessly. Women and children were attacked and killed. Except for the house of the holy family of the Imam and the Bani Hashim, no house was safe. Nearly five thousand companions of the Prophet and others in Madinah were killed in the Battle of Harrah in 64 A.H. They were buried in Baqee.

Haleema Saadiya

Haleema Saadiya was the Prophet's nurse. During the year of the Prophet's birth, there was a drought and famine, so many women including Haleema came to Makkah to find work. Hadhrat Abdul Mutallib (AS) was looking for a nurse for his orphan grandson Muhammad (SAW). He employed Haleema to care for the Prophet. She took him home and looked after him. To her surprise, she found that he brought them many blessings. They became very prosperous. She would bring him to meet his grandfather regularly. Years later when the Prophet met Haleema's daughter, he spread his cloak for her and showed her great respect.

When Haleema Saadiya passed away she was buried in Baqee. Many go to visit her grave to pay their respect.

Miqdad ibn Amr

In the beginning Miqdad kept his faith a secret and was an early follower of Islam. When the Prophet(SAW) migrated to Madinah, Miqdad was still in Makkah. Abu Sufyan with 200 fighters went to attack the Muslims. They were surprised when Miqdad and another fighter left their side, shouting "Allah o Akbar." In Madinah he was from the best companions. He was brave and keen to support the Prophet (SAW), even when times were difficult. When the Prophet (SAW) called to Jihad, he was the first be ready to fight the enemy. In the Battle of Badr, Miqdad captured Nadhr who had tortured Muslims in Makkah.

In the Battle of Uhud he was the leader of the bowmen who were told to be on the mount. Later in the battle many left the mount though Miqdad was telling them to stay. When the Prophet himself was attacked, he remained to defend him against the enemy.

After the Prophet, Miqdad was from the few people, who stood by Imam Ali (AS). He died in 33 AH, when he was 70 years old.

Jabir Ibn Abdallah Ansari

He was a famous companion of the Prophet (SAW). He took part in many battles including Badr and later in Siffeen with Imam Ali(AS). He was loyal to the Ahlul Bayt. He would call "O people of Madinah, Ali is the best, the one who denies is an unbeliever. Educate your children to love Ali"

He was a companion to the Prophet (SAW) and five Imams: Imam Ali (AS), Imam Hassan (AS), Imam Husayn (AS), and Imam Zainulabideen (AS) as well as Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS). He was chosen to convey salams from the Prophet to the 5th Imam Muhammad Baqir(AS).

He has narrated many Hadees including the Hadees e Kisa. He also has related the names of the 12 Imams from the Prophet. He was the first man to visit the grave of Imam Husayn(AS) in Karbala. He met the 4th Imam there on Arbayeen, the 40th day after Ashoor.

He died at the age of 94 years in 78 AH and was buried in Baqee.

Chapter 7

Destruction Continues

A list of a few of the masjids in and around Madinah, that we can no longer visit, because they have been demolished:

Masjid of Imam Ali (AS) in Uhud

Uhud Masjid of Hadhrat Hamza (AS),

Masjid of Archers: Uhud

Place where the Prophet rested Uhud.

Shield Masjid: the place where the Prophet prayed and put on his shield.

Bayt ul Huzn, the house of grief where Hadhrat Fatimah (AS) used to weep for her father.

Masjid of Mubahila Prophet had gone out with the Panjatan to face the Christians of Najran

House of Imam Ali and Bibi Fatimah near the Quba masjid.

Masjid Imam Ali (AS) Khandaq

Masjid Fatimah Khandaq.

Meshrebt Um Ibrahim, the place of Maria the mother of Ibrahim the son of the Prophet.

Futheekh Masjid: Madinah.

The masjid Radu Shams, where the Sun reappeared and Imam Ali (AS) offered Asr prayer.

Ghadeer Masjid: where the Prophet declared the leadership of Imam Ali (AS) after him.

Grave of Hadhrat Hawwa (AS) in Jeddah

House of Hadhrat Khadija (AS) in Makkah

Grave of Hadhrat Abdullah (AS) in Madinah

Grave of Hadhrat Amina (AS) in Abva

House of Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

Madinah Place of Imam Hasan and Imam Husayn next to the Masjid Nabi

Salman al-Farsi masjid in Madinah

The house of the Prophet (s) in Madinah, where he lived after migrating from Makkah The complex (mahhalla) of Banu Hashim in Madinah

95% of 1,000-year-old buildings in the holy cities of Makkah and Madinah in the past 20 years have been bulldozed with the aim of expanding shopping centers, sky scrapers and luxury hotels.

Today Baqee has pavements built through the graveyard but no signs or names given to locate the tombs of the people who are buried there.

Gates remain closed for the most part of the day. People are prevented from paying their respect to those who had done so much for Islam. Envy and hatred against the Prophet and his close relations is obvious.

Chapter 8

Our Duties

To pray to Allah for the reappearance of our 12th Imam to end injustice in the world.

To protest at the destruction of the holy sites of Islam.

To restore and rebuild the tombs of our Imams in Baqee.

To hold rallies on the 8th of Shawwal every year to raise awareness of the continuing demolition of the holy sites.

To educate ourselves and our fellow Muslims about the personalities who are buried in Madinah and Makkah.

To prevent the Wahhabi ideology from spreading, which aims to destroy other holy places across the Muslim lands. Attempts have continued to destroy sites in Iraq and more recently in Syria.

To continue going to Baqee and Moalla to present our salams to Muhammad and Aaaley Muhammad (SAW)

Chapter 9

Salams to the Imams

Salams on you Imams, the proofs of Allah for the people of the world

Salams on you who established righteousness in the world with justice

Salams on you Imam Hasan Mujtaba (AS)

Salams on you Imam Ali Zainulabideen(AS)

Salams on you Imam Muhammad Baqir(AS)

Salams on you Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)

May Allah endow His Mercy and blessings on you.

Do you remember?

Where is Jannatul Baqee?

Which of the 4 among the 12 Imams are buried in Baqee?

What is Baitul Huzn?

Who built it?

Why?

Who was the first person to be buried in Baqee?

What is the name of the baby who was buried near him? Who was Ummul Baneen?

What did the Prophet give to his wife Umm Salma?

Who destroyed the tombs of the Imams?

When?

Why is it important to rebuild them?

Make a list of all the names of people you remember who were buried in Baqee.

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

Imam Ali (as)