

Imam ‘Alī b. Mūsā

Al-Riḍā (A.S.)

Imam of Kindness

and

Knowledge

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Imam 'Alī b. Mūsā Al-Ridā(A.S.)
Imam of Kindness and Knowledge

Introduction

In the space between two mountains lies a Garden from the Gardens of Paradise.

In that place, a wise child from the Last Prophet (S.A.W.)'s generation lived and sparkled for sometime in loneliness away from the Prophet's Family, and before the anxious eyes of 'Alī (A.S.)'s Family, he stepped into the valley of God's Pleasure and rested his head onto the bed of Martyrdom.

A stranger, acquainted to the People of Wilayat (love, guardianship) and kindness.

Acquainted, hospitable to strangers and of a generous and benevolent nature.

He has come alone, without his wife and children, so as to announce his arrival as a migration, not a tour or an excursion!

He came alone in the vast land of those infatuated with clear guardianship so as to

adorn the hearts of thousands and thousands of the lost searchers to the light of faith.

He has come so that the high porches of his Shrine, become the safe haven for the tired hearts and an asylum for the dears who have run away from the trappings of the heart and the seed of the world.

Imam 'Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā (A.S.) was unique in knowledge, virtue and piety. But similar to other Imams due to strained circumstances, caused by the indecent government of their time, who were unappreciative of the Imam, had a sunrise behind the clouds and sad and early sunset.

The Imam has mentioned over and over again, the Land of Khurasan was the place of that respected Imam's martyrdom, and although this martyrdom was painful for the people of this land, it has been the beam of guardianship, kindness and compassion from this Pious Servant of Allah (S.A.W.) and that highest Proof of Allah, is so blessed and honourable that it lightened this vast land with the light of Shi'ism and became the true evidence of this Divine

Promise:

يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْوَاهِهِمْ وَاللَّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ

61:8 Their intention is to extinguish Allah's Light (by blowing) with their mouths: But Allah will complete (the revelation of) His Light, even though the unbelievers may detest (it).

Hope this writing, although short, can depict the radiant and ever luminous personality of this Imam and hopefully this attempt can please that kind Imam.

A Glimpse at the Life of Imam Ridā (A.S.)

Imam 'Alī b. Mūsā al-Ridā (A.S.), the eighth Shi'a Imam, was born on Dhul-Qa'da 11, 148 / Dec 29, 765 in Medina and lightened the world with the light of his existence.

His honourable name is 'Alī and his famous nickname is Abū al-Ḥasan and his well-known Titles of Honour are:

- Ridā (the pleased one)
- Gharīb al-Ghurabā (the most strange of strangers)
- Mu'īn al-Ḍu'afā (the helper of the weak)