

Imam Ali Al-Murtatha

Family

Born in 601; i.e., 19 BH —“before hijra”.

- ◊ Birthplace ⇒ Inside the holy Kaaba
- ◊ Father ⇒ Abu Talib, custodian of the Kaaba
- ◊ Mother ⇒ Fatimah bint Asad
- ◊ Ancestor ⇒ Prophets Isamil, son of Ibrahim

Childhood

- ◊ The Prophet named him *Ali*, “the exalted one”.
- ◊ At the age of 5, the Prophet took him into his house to raise him.
- ◊ At the age of 9, the Prophet announced his prophethood and Ali was the first male to accept Islam; the second person after Khadija, the Prophet’s wife, to accept Islam.

Ali and the Quran ‘grew up’ together as ‘twins’ in the house of Muhammad.

Event of Da’wat Al-Ashera —Inviting Kinsfolk

The Prophet invited people to Islam privately for 3 years, then God told him to invite his relatives.

- ◊ He invited his relatives, the Banu Hashim clan, to a banquet.
- ◊ He announced his prophethood and asked, three times, who would join him.
- ◊ Only Ali responded to the calls.

The Prophet said, *this [Ali] is my wazir, my successor, and my vicegerent; listen to him and obey his commands.*

Migration to Medina

In 1 AH, during the hijrah —migration— to Medina, Ali risked his life by sleeping in Muhammad’s bed to impersonate him to thwart an assassination plot on the Prophet.

He risked his life further by staying in Mecca to return to its owners the property that was entrusted to the Prophet.

Some object to Ali’s leadership due to his young age, yet the Prophet entrusted him this important task at the young age of 24.

In Medina, to foster good relations, the Prophet paired travellers with residents of Medina as ‘brothers’ and he selected Ali as his brother, saying *Ali and I belong to the same tree.*

Death

- ◊ Aged: 59 years old. —Attacked while praying in the Great Kufa Mosque; martyred two days later; 21 Ramadan, 40 AH.
- ◊ Buried in Imam Ali Mosque, Najaf, Iraq.

Battles

- ◊ He took part in all of the battles, except Tabouk, and was the flag bearer for the Prophet.
- ◊ 3 AH: When the Muslims fled at Uhud, Ali was the one to protect the Prophet. *There is no youth like Ali, and no sword like Zulfiqar.*
- ◊ 5 AH: At the battle of the trench, “al-khandaq”, Ali defeated a legendary fighter and the Prophet said: *Ali’s strike on Amr ibn Abd al-Wud is greater than the worship of both mankind and jinn until the Day of Judgement.*

Event of Mubalahah

In 10 AH, a group of Christians disputed with the Prophet about Isa ibn Maryam, Jesus.

- ◊ Like prophet Jesus, prophet Adam also had no father; moreover, he also had no mother.
- ◊ They were commanded (3:61) to perform *mubalahah*: Each group should ask God to destroy the liars.

Quran 3:61 mentions our sons, our women, and ourselves in reference to who the Prophet took with him: Hassan and Hussein, Fatimah, and Ali. The Prophet with this group are referred to as the *Ahly al Bayt*, Quran 33:33.

The Prophet has said:

- ◊ *Hassan and Hussein are the masters of the youth of paradise.*
- ◊ *All the people of paradise are youths.*

Event of Ghadir Khumm

- ◊ During his final pilgrimage, AH 10, the Prophet stopped his caravan at the pond of Khumm.
- ◊ He raised Ali’s arm and said, *Whosoever I am his master, this Ali is his master.* Then said, *He is the successor of the Messenger of Allah.*

Later Life

- ◊ The Prophet died in AH 10.
- ◊ As Ali prepared his body for burial, Abu Bakr obtained political power at the Saqifah building in Medina.
- ◊ Abu Bakr ordered Umar ibn Al-Khattab to obtain allegiance from Ali.
- ◊ Umar and his supporters went to Ali’s house then burned the main door, thereby crushing Fatimah between the door and the wall.
 - ◊ This caused Fatimah’s unborn child, Muhsin, to die; and caused her death shortly after.

Ali pledged allegiance only for the sake of unity of the Muslim community.

Ali was later given political power in AH 34.

- ◊ Unwilling to compromise his principles for politics, he dismissed unjust governors.
- ◊ Muwaiyah, governor of the Levant, refused to listen to Ali. He eventually takes power and forms a dynasty, the “Umayyad Caliphate”, which would curse Ali in the Friday prayers for the next 60 years.