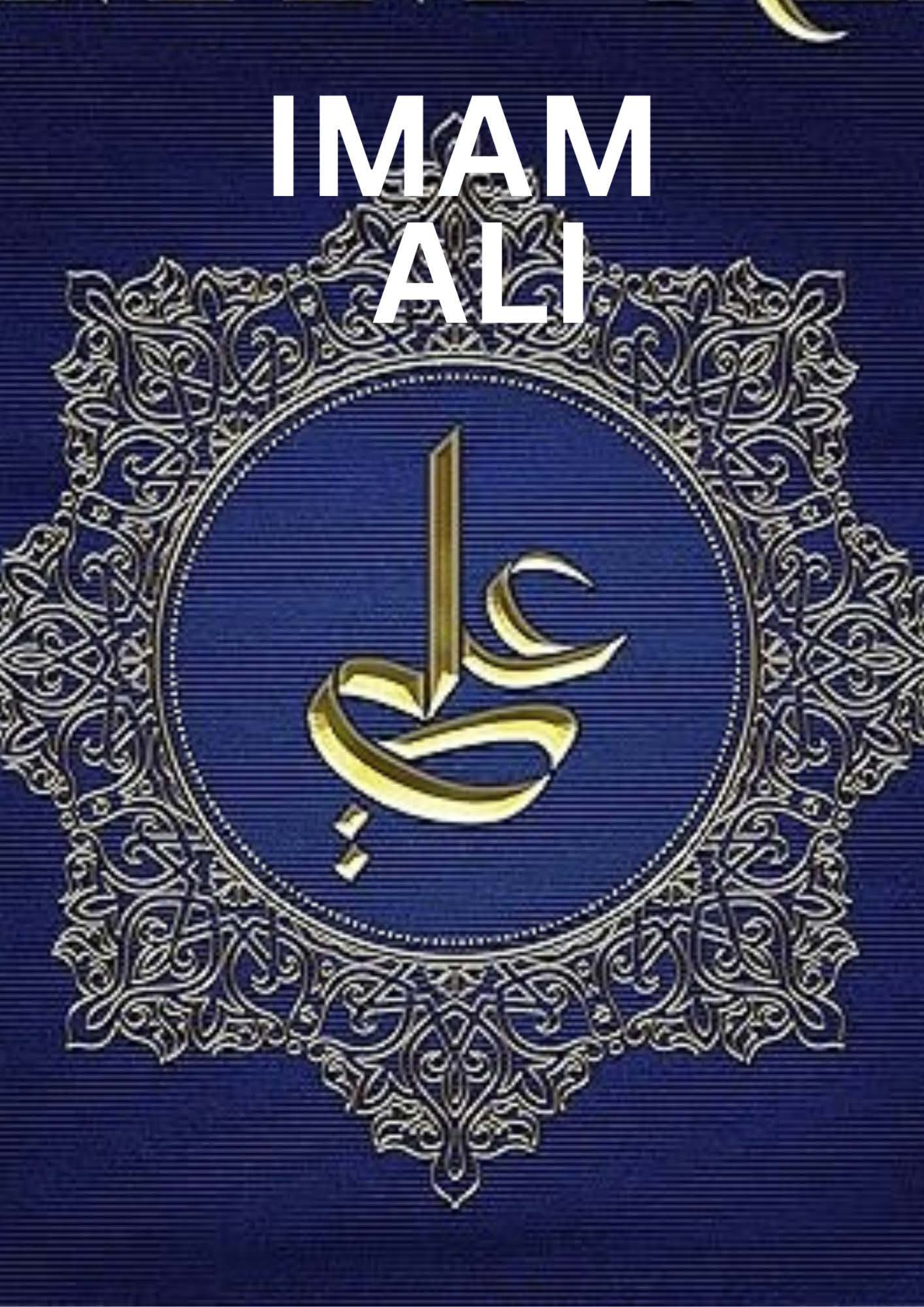


IMAM ALI



Birth in the Kaaba

Imam **Ali** (AS) is the only person ever to be born in the Kaaba, the house of Allah. It was Friday 13th of Rajab, thirty years after the Year of the Elephant. Hazrat Fatima binte Asad was circling the Kaaba, praying. She leaned against the wall of the Kaaba to rest. Suddenly, there was a loud crack and the corner of the Kaaba wall opened. She went inside and the wall closed behind her.

Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib, the Prophet's uncle saw this miracle. He and his companions rushed to the gate of the Sacred House, which was locked. They tried to open it but could not. The news soon spread throughout Makkah.

Imam **Ali** (AS) was born inside the holy Kaaba.

علي Praised in the Quran علي

Many many, many ayats of the Quran were sent down to praise Imam **Ali** (AS).

One day Imam **Ali** (AS) was praying with the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in the Masjid-e-Nabi. A beggar came and began to ask for charity. No one answered. Imam **Ali** (AS) was in rukoo, while offering namaz at that time. He gave



a sign to the beggar to look at his finger, on which was a ring. The beggar came forward and took Imam **Ali's** (AS) ring from his finger and left the place.



Praised by the Prophet



No one in the history of Islam shares the words of praise that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) used for Imam **Ali** (AS). For example he said

"If all the trees were pens, if all the seas were ink, if all the jinn and men wrote them down, even then the merits of **Ali** ibne Abu Talib (AS) could not be counted."

"**Ali** and I are from the same Light"

"**Ali** is from me and I am from **Ali**."

"**Ali** is the first person to believe in my Prophet hood and will be the first person to meet me on the Day of Judgement."

"I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its door. He who wants to gain knowledge should come through the door."

"I am the store-house of wisdom and Ali is its door."

"Whoever wishes to see Adam in his knowledge, Noah in his piety, Ibraheem in his patience, Moses in his strength, and Jesus in his worship and devotion should look at Ali ibne Abu Talib."

"He who loves Ali loves me and he who hates Ali hates me."

"O Ali! You are the leader in this world and the hereafter."

"Ali is with the Truth and Truth is with Ali."

During the Battle of the Trench (Khandaq), also known as Ahzab, it was only **Ali** who was ready to go and face the enemy. The Prophet helped him mount his horse and said "Today total eemaan (faith) is facing total kufr (disbelief)."

People saw **Ali** return as the victor, shouting "Allah o Akbar!"

The enemy started running

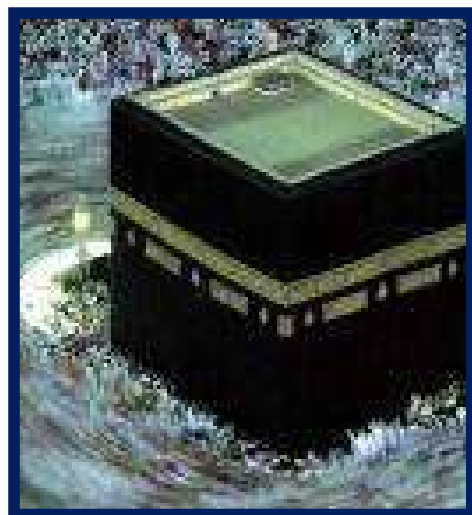


away. No wonder the Prophet said "One strike of **Ali** (AS) on the day of Khandaq is superior to all the worship of the humans and jinns till the Day of Qiyamat."

In the Battle of Khaibar, he was brilliant. When others had failed for forty days, Imam **Ali** (AS) was given the command. He marched to the fort and defeated the

Jews easily. He broke open the door of the fort all by himself and carried the Muslim army inside. Within four hours, he hoisted the flag of Islam on the biggest fortress of Arabia. No wonder that **Ali** (AS) is called Fateh e Khaibar (Khaibar's Conqueror).

When Makkah was taken by the Prophet without a fight, it was Imam **Ali** (AS) who helped the Prophet (SAW) to clear the Kaaba of idols.



In Hunayn when the Muslims started to run away from the battlefield, it was Imam **Ali** (AS) again, who saved the life of the Holy Prophet (SAW).

It was the 27th of Safar, 11. A. H. Then the Prophet (SAW) called Imam Ali (AS) and said: "Ali! After me, when hardships face you, then do not lose patience. When you find people running after worldly gains then you busy yourself in the way of Truth and Allah." The Prophet's condition got worse.

Imam Ali (AS) says "During the last moments of the Holy Prophet his head was resting on my shoulder and his last words were "Salat, Salat" (prayers, prayers). When the Prophet (SAW) died, his head was on my chest, and his last breath blew over my palms and I passed it over my face."



IMAM HUSSAIN

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



Birth



Imam Husayn (AS) was born in Madinah on 3rd Shaban 4 A.H. His mother Hadhrat Fatima (AS) brought him to her father, the Apostle of Allah, who named him Husayn. The Holy Prophet recited the Azaan in the baby's right ear and Iqaama in his left ear.

Happy and Sad

There was joy in the Holy Household but also sadness. But Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had tears in his eyes as he held his grandson in his arms. When asked "Why are you sad?" He replied; "this son of mine will be killed by the worst people. May Allah not grant them my intercession."

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Changed conditions

When Imam Husayn (AS) was seven years old, Prophet Muhammad died in 11 A.H. The atmosphere in Madinah changed. People plotted in Saqifa and denied Ali and Fatima their rights. They forgot the message of Ghadeer, when Imam Ali (AS) had been declared the Successor to the Prophet. They snatched the right of the garden of Fadak from Hadhrat Fatimah (AS). The people refused to help the AhlulBayt claim their rights.

On the other hand, when his mother Hadhrat Fatimah stood up to demand her rights, fire was brought to the door. She was crushed between the wall and the door. She lost Mohsin the baby she was carrying.

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

With Imam Hasan (AS)

After Imam Ali's martyrdom, his brother Imam Hasan (AS) became the next ruler. But Muawiya, still powerful in Syria, created mischief. A treaty was signed to prevent further bloodshed of Muslims. Imam Hasan (AS) then retired to Madinah. Imam Husayn (AS) and the family of the AhlulBayt went with him.

Muawiya did not adhere to any of the terms of the treaty. Imam Hasan (AS) himself was poisoned and died in 50 A.H. Imam Husayn (AS) like his brother, continued to honour the agreement with Muawiya, even though the opposite side broke all its promises.

Imam Hussain (AS) performed the

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Hajj regularly each year, going on foot to the city of Makkah. The journey was through a dry desert where hot winds blew and temperatures soared.



As the Imam

Imam Husayn (AS) was the next Imam after his brother. During the next ten years, Shias continued to be harassed and killed. Imam Ali's name was dishonoured at Friday prayers. Islamic laws were mocked and ignored. Wealth of the state was mismanaged. Noble companions like Hujr ibn Adi were martyred. Imam Husayn (AS) wrote to Muawiya to protest.

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

The fourth Imam Zainulabideen (AS) spoke of how tears shed for Imam Husayn (AS) would be rewarded by Allah with Paradise in the Hereafter. Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), who was present in Karbala when he was four years old, directed his followers to observe the day of Ashoor each year.

Ziyarat

Our Imams advised their followers to go to the grave of Imam Husayn (AS) to renew their pledge. This visit is called Ziyarat. The sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) showed his companions the etiquette of Ziyarat to Karbala. He also taught them the texts of the Ziyarat. Our Imams spoke of the special days and nights recommended for visiting the shrine of Imam Husayn (AS). They gave details of how those

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

who go for ziyarat would be rewarded by Allah in this world and the Hereafter. Karbala is a place loved by Allah, where requests are granted. Even today people come to seek a cure and are granted healing. Each step gets reward for a 1000 good actions, forgiven a 1000 sins and his status is raised by a 1000 levels.

Our Imams used to meet poets and reciters personally and hold gatherings to listen to them. Dibil Khuzai was a famous poet in Khurasan.



Imam Ridha (AS) encouraged the meetings and said, "Whoever remembers our suffering and weeps and makes others weep, his eyes will not weep on the Day when many eyes will weep."

Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



Husayn's Message



Trust Allah.

Obey the Imam.

Follow the Imam's example.

Enjoin the good.

Forbid the wrong.

Stand firm for Truth.

Fulfil your promises.

Be ready to help others.

Remember your prayers.

Learn to show patience.

Eat only Halal food.

Be kind and generous.

Be ready to forgive.

Live with honour.

Drink water: Think Husayn.

IMAM MEHDI





Who is Imam Mahdi



Imam **Mahdi** (AS), our 12th Imam is the son of our 11th Imam Hasan Askari (AS). Each of our Imams stood for justice but it will be our 12th Imam who will wipe out injustice from the world.

He is the Guide towards Allah, the promise of Allah, the caller towards the Book of Allah and the perfect Word of Allah. He is the Master of the time and has power given by Allah over everything. He is the friend of the believers and the helper of those in distress. He is a source of pride to the Muslims,

anger to the hypocrites and unbelievers.

He is the one chosen by Allah to take revenge from those who killed Imam Hussain (AS) and his family and followers in Karbala. He will be helped by Allah in this task. He will bring honour to those who believe and will revive Islam.

The knowledge of Imam Mahdi (AS), given to him directly by Allah, is so vast that nothing is hidden from him. During his rule, people's knowledge will increase in every subject. His government will be universal. He will bring peace, order and justice.



Loss of his father



Imam Mahdi (AS) was hardly five years old when his father, Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was given poison by the wicked ruler named Motamad in Samarra. For one week, the Imam was very ill. Then on 8th Rabiulaval 260 A.H. he died at the young age of twenty eight.

As his end came near, he recited the verses of the holy Quraan. The news of his death spread through Samarra. Thousands came out to weep at the loss of the son of the Holy Prophet SAW. Men, women, officers of the government, all gathered to pay their respect.

As the time came to read the namaz for the funeral of the Imam, his brother Jafar stepped forward. But before the namaz could begin, a five year old boy (Imam Mahdi) stopped him saying: "The namaz for an Imam can only be read by an Imam." Saying this, Imam Mahdi (AS) led the namaz.

Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was buried next to his father, Imam Ali Naqui (AS). The tombs of Hazrat Narjis Khatoon and Hazrat Hakeema are also inside the same zareeh in Samarra. Our salams to them all.

When the rulers found out that a young child of the eleventh Imam had led the funeral prayer, spies

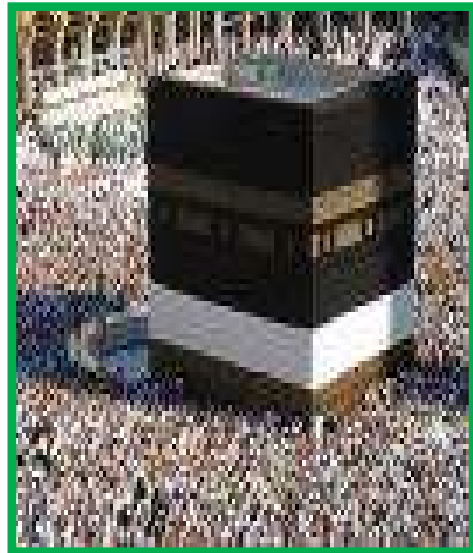
were sent to search and kill him. They came into the house and looked everywhere but could not see him. Allah hid him from his enemies.

It is said that some saw him saying his namaz on a musalla that was floating on water. The spies sent by the ruler were scared. They did not want other people to know about this miracle, so kept quiet.



We should remain sad at the lack of contact with our Imam and at the state of affairs while there is so much cruelty in the world, specially the suffering of the momineen. We must try to create conditions which will be favourable for our Imam. When Imam Mahdi (AS) returns then it will be time to celebrate.

We should perform Hajj and Umra on his behalf. We should give alms in the name of the Imam. Giving charity said our first Imam prevents mishaps.



We must celebrate Imam Mahdi's birthday on 15th Shabaan in such a way that we spread knowledge about him. We should organise meetings to remember him.

We must offer our sympathy to the Imam on the day of Ashoora, as he is the remaining son of Imam Hussain (AS).

We should remain in touch with Imam Mahdi (AS) always for he has immense love and affection for his Shia. We must pray for the protection of Islam and eimaan. In distress, we should read the isteghasa, a dua shown by the Imam. Our Imam is the best waseela

RAMADAN & HOLY QURAN



The Holy Quran and the month of Ramadhan

The Holy Prophet said, "During this month good deeds are multiplied and sins forgiven. Its time is the best time. Its days are the best of the days and its nights, the best of the nights."



Ramadhan is the month of Mercy. The month of Ramadhan is the month in which Allah has ordered us to fast. Fasting shields us from the fire of Hell. We move closer to Allah and our sins are forgiven.

Ramadhan is the month of good deeds and seeking forgiveness. The best deed is to stay away from what is forbidden by Allah. Ramadhan is the month of Charity.



The Noble Quran



The **Quran** is the word of Allah. It brings the universal message of Islam for mankind. The **Quran** was sent by Allah to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, through the angel Jibrael. It is in Arabic. It was first revealed to him in the month of Ramadhan in Layl atul Qadr, the Night of Grandeur. Its sweetness of speech fills the hearts with peace.

The **Quran** is the everlasting miracle of the Holy Prophet. Sent down by Allah as a miracle the **Quran** remains a miracle even today. It will remain so for ever.

When people first heard the words of the **Quran**, they were amazed at its beauty. It sounds so beautiful.



Quran and Ahlul Bayt



The Holy Prophet declared: "I am leaving two weighty (precious) things (**Thaqalain**) among you. So long as you hold fast to them you will never go astray: These two valuable things consist of the Book of Allah and my progeny, my Ahlul Bayt. These two shall never separate from each other until they reach me (on) the fountain of Kausar".

This hadees shows us that the Holy Quran was there in the life of the Prophet as a complete book. It was in the hands of the people. They were told to hold fast to both the Quran and the Ahlul Bayt, not any others. The Ahlul Bayt will be always with the Quran and the Quran with its correct meaning will be only with the Ahlul Bayt.



Battle of Badr



After Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and the Muslims left Makkah and came to live in Madina, his enemies still did not leave them alone to live in peace. They wanted to put an end to Islam. So they gathered a huge army and attacked the Muslims. Abu Jahl with 1000 soldiers came to a place called Badr, which was between Makkah and Madina.

Did you know that the Battle of Badr was fought on 17th of Ramadhan 2 AH?

It was the most important battle for Islam. The Holy Prophet took with him 313 brave Muslim soldiers. Fear filled the hearts of many. It was a test of faith.

The Holy Quran and the month of Ramadhan

The night before the battle, the Prophet spent in prayer and dua. As the battle started he prayed for victory. He organized the troops and gave orders.

Imam Ali (AS) was the hero of the battle. Though only 20 years old, he was the bravest of all and carried the Banner of the Prophet, the banner of Islam. The sword of Ali (AS) was seen in action against the enemies of Islam. Soon there was a general battle. Muslims now fought with great fervour and there was chaos in the enemy ranks.

It was a great victory for Islam.

Dua : O Allah guide me to do good deeds in this month.



Layl atul Qadr



What does Layl atul Qadr mean?

Layl means night. Qadr means dignity, grandeur, honour, destiny. Layl atul Qadr means the Night of Grandeur, the Night of Destiny. The month of Ramadhan contains the Night of Qadr, which is so holy that it is better than a thousand months. It is a night full of blessings. Only Allah knows the value of this night.

This is the night when the Holy Quran was revealed through the Holy Prophet Muhammad SAW for his followers. The Quran which is the guiding light was revealed in two ways:

- The whole Quran was revealed at the same time on the Prophet in the Night of Qadr (anzalna)

The Holy Quran and the month of Ramadhan

- Verses of the Quran were revealed in the form of Wahi over 23 years to the Holy Prophet (nazalna)

The entire Quran came to him during Ramadhan while its unfolding which he narrated to his followers took place over 23 years.

The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. During this night the angels and Jibraeel come down by the permission of their Lord with every command (Amr). They come to the Sahib-ul-Amr, who receives this Amr.

Imam Ali (AS) said to Ibn Abbas "The Night of Qadr comes every year and in this night the angels descend with the Amr for the whole year and for this Amr after the Holy Prophet are the Sahib Amr (the Imam of the Time)."