

The Signs of the Reappearance of the Twelfth Imam (ajtf)

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The Signs of the Reappearance (Qiyam) of the (Imam) who undertakes the Office (al-Qa'im), Peace be on him, the Period of Time of his Appearance, an Explanation of his Life and an Extract of what is revealed about his State.

Traditions have been reported mentioning the signs for the time of the appearance of the Imam who will arise (qa'im), peace be on him, and the events which will take place before his appearance, together with the indications and features of it.

Among them are: The Sufyani will come out in revolt; the Hasanid will be killed; the Abbasids will dispute over worldly kingdom; there will be an eclipse of the sun in the middle of the month of Ramadan; there will be an eclipse of the moon at the end of that month in contrast to ordinary happenings; the land will be swallowed up at al-Bayda¹; it will be swallowed in the east—it will be swallowed up in the west; the sun will stay still from the time of its decline to the middle of the time for the afternoon prayer.

It will rise from the west; a pure soul (nafs zakiyya) will be killed in the outskirts of Kufa with seventy righteous men; a Hashimite will be slaughtered between the corner (of the Ka'ba) and the station of Abraham); the wall of the mosque of Kufa will be destroyed; black standards will advance from Khurasan; al-Yamani will come out in revolt; al-Maghribi will appear in Egypt and take possession of it from Syria.

The Turk will occupy the region of al-Jazira; the Byzantines will occupy Ramla; the star will appear in the east giving light just like the moon gives light; then (the new moon) will bend until its two tips almost meet; a colour will appear in the sky and spread to its horizons; a fire will appear for a long time in the east remaining in the air for three or seven days; the Arabs will throw off the reins and take possession of their land, throwing out the foreign authority; the people of Egypt will kill their ruler and destroy Syria;

and three standards will dispute over it (Syria).

The standards of Qays and the Arabs will come among the people of Egypt; the standards of Kinda (will go) to Khurasan; horses will come from the west until they are stabled in al-Hira; the black standards will advance towards them from the east; the Euphrates will flood so that the water comes into the alleys of Kufa; sixty liars will come forward, all of them claiming prophethood, and twelve will come forward from the family of Abu Talib, all of them claiming the Imamate; a man of important rank of the supporters of the 'Abbasids will be burnt between Jalula' and Khaniqin.

The bridge next to Karkh in the city of Baghdad will be established; a black wind will raise it at the beginning of the day and then an earthquake will occur so that much of it will be swallowed up; fear will cover the people of Iraq and Baghdad; swift death (will occur) there and there will be a loss of property, lives and harvests; locusts will appear at their usual times and at times not usual so that they attack agricultural land and crops and there will be little harvest for what the people planted; two kinds of foreigners will dispute and much blood will be shed in their quarrel.

Slaves will rebel against obedience to their masters and kill their masters (mawali); a group of heretics (ahl al-bida) will be transformed until they become monkeys and pigs; slaves will conquer the land of their masters; a cry (will come) from the sky (in such a way) that all the people will hear it in their own languages; a face and a chest will appear in the sky before the people in the centre of the sun; the dead will arise from their graves so that they will return to the world and they will recognize one another and visit one another; that will come to an end with twenty-four continuous rainstorms and the land will be revived by them after being dead and it will recognize its blessings; after that every disease will be taken away from those of the Shia of the Mahdi, peace be on him, who believe in the truth; at that time they will know of his appearance in Mecca and they will go to him to support him.

(These signs) are as the reports have mentioned. Among the total of these events are some which are bound (to happen) and other which are conditional. God knows best what will take place. We have only mentioned them on the basis of what is recounted in basic sources of tradition (usul) because of their inclusion in traditions which have been handed down. From God we seek help and Him do we ask for success.

[Abu al-Hasan 'Ali Ibn Bilal al-Muhallabi informed me: Muhammad Ibn Ja'far al-Mu'addib told me on the authority of Ahmad Ibn Idris, on the authority of 'Ali Ibn Muhammad Ibn Qutayba, on the authority of al-Fadl Ibn Shadhan, on the authority of Ismaeil Ibn al-Sabbah, who said: I heard an old man among our colleagues mention on the authority of Sayf Ibn Umayra, who said:]

I (i.e. Sayf Ibn 'Umayra) was with Abu Ja'far al-Mansur and he said to me of his own accord: "There will certainly be a voice calling from the sky the name of a man from the descendants of Abu Talib"

"May I be your ransom, Commander of the faithful," I said, "do you relate that?"

“Indeed, by Him in Whose hands is my life,” he replied, “because my own ears have heard it.”

“Commander of the faithful,” I said, “this tradition which you have heard is before my time.”

“Say, if it is the truth,” he told me. “When it happens, we will be the first to answer it. Indeed the call will be for a man from the descendants of our uncle.”

“A man from the descendants of Fatima, peace be on her?” I asked.

“Yes,” he replied. “Sayf, if it was not for the fact that I have heard from Abu Ja’far Muhammad Ibn Ali (al-Baqir), who told me about it, even though all the people of the earth have told me about it, I would not accept it from them. However it was Muhammad Ibn Ali (al-Baqir), peace be on them, (who told me).”

[Yahya Ibn Abi Talib reported on the authority of Ali Ibn Asim, on the authority of Ata’ Ibn al-Sa’ib, on the authority of his father on the authority of Abd Allah Ibn Umar, who said:]

The Apostle of God, may God bless him and his family, said: “The hour (of the end of the world) will not arise until the Mahdi from my descendants comes forth. The Mahdi will not come forth until sixty liars come forward, all of them declaring: ‘I am a prophet.’”

[al-Fadl Ibn Shadhan reported on the authority of one who reported it on the authority of Abu Hamza al-Thumali, who said:]

I (i.e. Abu Hamza al-Thumali) asked Abu Ja’far (al-Baqir), peace be on him: “Is the revolt of the Sufyani one of the things which must happen?”

“Yes,” he replied. “The call is one of the things which must happen as is the rising of the sun from the west one of the things which must happen. The dispute of the Abbasids over the state is also one of them and the killing of the pure soul (al-nafs al-zakiyya). The appearance of the one who will arise (al-qa’im) from the family of Muhammad, may God bless him and his family, is another of the things which must happen.”

“How will the call be?” I asked.

“There will be a call from the sky at the beginning of the day indeed the truth is with Ali; and his Shia,” he said. “Then at the end of the day, Satan will call from the earth –indeed the truth is with Uthman and his supporters. At that the false one will feel doubt.”

[al-Hasan Ibn Ali al-Washsha’ (reported) on the authority of Ahmad Ibn A’idh, on the authority of Abu Khadija, on the authority of Abu Abd Allah (Ja’far al-Sadiq, peace be on him:)]

(Ja’far al-Sadiq) said: “The one who will arise (al-qa’im) will not come forth until twelve of the Banu Hashim come forth before him, all of them summoning men to themselves.”

[Muhammad Ibn Abi al-Bilad (reported) on the authority of Ali Ibn Muhammad al-Azdi, on the authority of his father, on the authority of his grandfather, who said:]

The Commander of the faithful, peace be on him, said: “Before the one who will arise (al-qa'im), there will be red death and white death; there will be locusts at their usual time and at their unusual time like the colours of blood. As for red death that is (from) the sword, while white death is (from) plague.”

[al-Hasan Ibn Mahbub (reported) on the authority of 'Amr Ibn Abi Miqdam, on the authority of Jabir al-Jufi on the authority of Abu-Ja'far (al-Baqir), peace be on him:]

(Al-Baqir) said: “Stay close to the ground. Don't move an arm or a leg until you see the signs which I will mention to you I don't think that you will live until that time. The Abbasids will dispute; a voice will call from the sky; one of the villages of Syria called al-Jabiyya will be swallowed up; the Turks will occupy the region of al-Jazira; the Byzantines will attack al-Ramla; at that time there will be much conflict throughout the land until Syria is destroyed. The cause of its destruction will be the meeting of three standards there: the standard of the Red, the standard of the Spotted and the standard of the Sufyam.”

[Ali Ibn Abi Hamza (reported) on the authority of Abu al-Hasan Musa, peace be on him:]

Concerning the words of Him, the Mighty and High:

We will show them our signs on the horizons and in themselves so that it will become clear to them that it is the truth (Quran 45: 53),

(Musa) said: “(There will be) a disturbance on the horizons and the enemies of truth will be changed in form.”

[Wahb Ibn (Abi) Hafs (reported) on the authority of Abu Basir, who said:]

I (i.e. Abu Basir) heard Abu Ja'far (al-Baqir) speak concerning the words of Him, the Exalted:

If We wish, We will send down on them signs from the sky, and their necks will remain bent submissively to them (Quran 26: 4).

He said: “God will do that to them.”

“Who are they?” I asked.

“The Umayyads and their supporters,” he answered.

“What is the sign?” I asked.

“Between the decline of the sun (at noon) and the time of the afternoon prayer, the sun will remain still,” he said. “The chest and face of man will appear in the centre of the sun, who will be recognized by his

standing and genealogy. That will occur in the time of the Sufyani. At that moment his destruction will occur and the destruction of his people.”

[Abd Allah Ibn Bukayr (reported) on the authority of Abd al-Malik Ibn Ismail, on the authority of his father, on the authority of Said Ibn Jubayr:]

(Sa'id Ibn Jubayr) said: “In the year in which the Mahdl will rise, twenty rain storms will rain on the earth. You will see their effects and benefits.”

[al-Fadl Ibn Shadhan (reported) on the authority of Ahmad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Abi Nasr , on the authority of Thalaba al-Azdi, who said:]

Abu Ja'far (al-Baqir), peace be on him, said: “Two signs will come before the one who will arise (al-qa'im), peace be on him: there will be an eclipse of the sun in the middle of the month of Ramadan and an eclipse of the moon at the end of it.”

“Son of the Apostle of God,” I said, “usually the eclipse of the sun occurs at the end of the month and the eclipse of the moon occurs in the middle of it?”

“I know what I have said,” replied Abu Ja'far (al-Baqir), peace be on him. “They are signs which have not occurred since Adam came down.”

[Thalaba Ibn Maymun (reported) on the authority of Shuayb al-Haddad, on the authority of Salih. Ibn Maytham, who said:]

I (i.e. Salih Ibn Maytham) heard Abu Ja'far (al-Baqir), peace be on him, say: “There is no longer than fifteen nights between the appearance of the one who will rise (al-qa'im), peace be on him, and the killing of the pure soul (al-nafs al-zakiyya).”

[Amr b Shamir (reported) on the authority of Jabir (al-Jufi) who said:]

I (i.e. Jabir al-Jufi) said to Abu Ja'far (al-Baqir), peace be on him: “When will this event occur?”

“Jabir, that will occur at a time when the killing between al-Hira and Kufa is considerable,” he replied.

[Muhammad Ibn Sinan (reported) on the authority of al-Husayn Ibn al-Mukhtar, on the authority of Abu Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Ja'far al-Sadiq) said: “When the wall of the mosque of Kufa, which adjoins the house of Abd Allah Ibn Masud is destroyed, then at that time the ruler of the people will disappear. At his disappearance, the one who will rise (al-qa'im), peace be on him, will come forth.”

[Sayf Ibn 'Umayra (reported) on the authority of Bakr Ibn Muhammad, on the authority of Abu 'Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Ja'far al-Sadiq) said: "There will be three appearances in one year, one month and one day the Sufyani, the Khurasani and the Yamani. The standard of guidance will not be among them, except the standard of the Yamani, because he will summon (people) to the truth."

[al-Fadl Ibn Shadhan (reported) on the authority of Ahmad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Abi Nasr, on the authority of Abu al-Hasan al-Rida, peace be on him:]

(Al-Rida) said: "What you stretch your necks for will not occur until you are able to discern and to be tested. Only a few of you will remain."

Then he recited:

Alif Lam. Do the people consider that they can abandon saying " We believe whenever they are tempted? (Quran 29: 1-2).

He said: "Among the signs of the relief is an event which will occur between the two mosques (of Mecca and Medina). So-and-so from the descendants of so-and-so will kill fifteen leaders of the Arabs."

[Al-Fadl Ibn Shadhan (reported) on the authority of Muammar Ibn Khallad, on the authority of Abu al-Hasan (al-Rida), peace be on him:]

(Al-Rida) said: "(It is as if I see) standards, dyed green, coming from Egypt until they come to the Syrian (standards). Then they will be guided to the descendant of the one who gave the testamentary bequests of authority (to the Imams)."

[Hammad Ibn Isa (reported) on the authority of Ibrahim Ibn Umar al-Yamani on the authority of Abu Basir, on the authority of Abu Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Ja'far al-Sadiq) said: "The kingdom of these men will not disappear until they slaughter people in Kufa on Friday. It is as if I was looking at heads falling between the Gate of al-Fil and (the place of) the soap-sellers."

[Ali Ibn Asbat (reported) on the authority of (Abu) al-Hasan Ibn al-Jahm, who said:]

A man asked Abu al-Hasan (Musa), peace be on him, about the relief. He asked: "Do you want most of it or shall I give you a summary?"

"Would you give me a summary?" he said.

"(It will be) when the standards of Qays are carried in Egypt and the standards of Kinda in Khurasan," he replied.

[Al-Husayn Ibn Abi 'Ala' (reported) on the authority of Abu Basir, on the authority of Abu Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Ja'far al-Sadiq) said: "Because of the sons of so-and-so there will be a battle at your mosque meaning the mosque of Kufa. On one Friday four thousand will be killed between the Gate of al-Fil to (the place of) the soap-sellers. Beware of this street. Avoid it. Those who are in the best situation will take the street of the Ansar."

[Ali Ibn Abi Hamza (reported) on the authority of Abu Basir, on the authority of Abu 'Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Ja'far al-Sadiq) said: "Before (the coming of) the one who will rise (al-qa'im), peace be on him, there will be a year of abundant rain in which the fruits and the dates on the palms will be destroyed. But don't complain of that."

[Ibrahim Ibn Muhammad (reported) on the authority of Ja'far Ibn Sad, on the authority of his father, on the authority of Abu Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Ja'far al-Sadiq) said: "In the year of the Conquest (by the Mahdi) the Euphrates will flood so that the water goes into the alleys of Kufa."

[It is reported in the account (hadith) of Muhammad Ibn Muslim, who said:]

I (i.e. Muhammad Ibn Muslim) heard Abu Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him, say: "Before (the coming) of the one who will rise (al-qaim) there will be a trial from God."

"May I be your ransom, what is that?" I asked him.

He recited:

Let Us test you with fear, with hunger, and with lack of money, of lives and of harvests. Good news will come to those who are steadfast (Quran 2: 55)

Then he said: "The fear will be from the kings of the Banu so-and-so; the hunger will be as a result of exorbitant prices; the lack of money will be due to the failure of trade and the scarcity of surplus (goods) in it; the lack of lives will be because of swift death; the lack of harvest will be due to the great rains and the little benefit they bring to the crops." Then he continued: "The good news for those who are steadfast is that the one who will rise (al-qa'im) will soon come forth."

[Al-Husayn Ibn Sa'id (reported) on the authority of Mundhir al-Jawzi, on the authority of Abu Abd Allah (Ja'far al-Sadiq), peace be on him:]

(Mundhir al-Jawzi) said: I heard (Ja'far al-Sadiq) say: "Before the coming of the one who will rise (al-qa'im), peace be on him, the people will be chided for their acts of disobedience by a fire which will appear in the sky and a redness which will cover the sky. It will swallow up Baghdad, it will swallow up Kufa. Their blood will be shed and houses destroyed. Death (fana) will occur amid their people and a

fear will come over the people of Iraq from which they shall have no rest.”

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