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Department Of Persian



-: ONLINE CLASS E-CONTENT :-

Topic :- Ali ibn Abi Talib, the fourth caliph of Islam

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Ali ibn Abi Talib

January 601 – September 661

‘**Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib**, born c. Jan 601 in Mecca, Arabia [now in Saudi Arabia], cousin, son-in-law, companion of the Islamic prophet Muhammad and fourth of the “rightly guided” (rāshidūn) caliphs.

He ruled as the fourth caliph from 656 until his assassination in 661.

He is one of the central figures in Shia Islam and is regarded as the rightful immediate successor to Muhammad as an Imam by Shia Muslims.

He was the first imam (leader) of Shi'ism in all its forms. The question of his right to the caliphate (the political-religious structure comprising the community of Muslims and its territories that emerged after the death of Muhammad) resulted in the only major split in Islam, into the Sunni and Shi'i branches.

Names and sources

‘Alī is known within the Islamic tradition by a number of titles, some reflecting his personal qualities and others derived from particular episodes of his life. They include Abū al-Ḥasan (“Father of Ḥasan”



Murtaḍā (“One Who Is Chosen and Contented”), Asad Allāh (“Lion of God”), Ḥaydar (“Lion”), and—specifically among the Shi‘ah—Amīr al-Mu‘minīn (“Prince of the Faithful”) and Mawlāy-i Muttaqiyān (“Master of the God-Fearing”). The title Abū Turāb, for example, recalls the time when, according to tradition, Muhammad entered a mosque and, seeing ‘Alī sleeping there full of dust, said to him, “O father of dust, get up.”

From Mecca to Medina

The second period of 'Alī's life, lasting slightly more than a decade, begins in 610, when Muhammad received the first of his revelations, and ends with the migration of the Prophet to Medina in 622. During this period 'Alī was Muhammad's constant companion. Along with Zayd ibn Ḥāritha, who was like a son to the Prophet.

Abū Bakr, a respected member of the ruling Quraysh tribe of Mecca, and Khadijah, he helped to form the nucleus of the earliest Meccan Islamic community. From 610 to 622 'Alī spent much of his time providing for the needs of believers in Mecca, especially the poor, by distributing what he had among them and helping them with their daily chores.

After migrating to Medina, he married Prophet Muhammad's youngest daughter Fatimah, and after her death, he had other wives, including Muhammad's grand daughter Umamah bint Zaynab.

He was appointed caliph by Muhammad's companions in 656, after Caliph Uthman ibn Affan was assassinated. Ali's reign saw civil wars and on 27 January 661, he was attacked and assassinated by a Kharijite while praying in the Great Mosque of Kufa, dying two days later on 29 January.

Migration to Medina

In the year 622, which is known as the migration year, Muhammad's enemies were plotting to kill him, thus he asked Ali to sleep in his bed, so that he could escape to Yathrib.



Ali risked his life by sleeping in Muhammad's bed to impersonate him, in a night called Laylat al-Mabit. In the same night, Muhammad and Abu Bakr secretly left Mecca and arrived to Yathrib (now Medina), a few days later. This migration became the beginning of the Islamic calendar

When the plotters entered Muhammad's house with drawn daggers, they were deeply surprised to find 'Alī, whom they did not harm. 'Alī waited for instructions and left sometime later with Muhammad's family.

He arrived safely in Qubā on the outskirts of Yathrib, which soon became known as Mādinat al-Nabi ("City of the Prophet") or simply Medina, on the instructions of the Prophet.



Ali is important to both Shias and Sunnis, politically and spiritually. The numerous biographical sources about Ali are often biased according to sectarian lines, but they agree that he was a pious Muslim, devoted to the cause of Islam and a just ruler in accordance with the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Sunnis consider Ali the fourth Rashidun Caliph, Shia Muslims regard Ali as the first Caliph and Imam after Muhammad.

Shia Muslims also believe that Ali and the other Shia Imams, all of whom are from the House of Muhammad, known as the Ahl al-Bayt, are the rightful successors to Muhammad.



Ali, the fourth caliph of Islam died on January 661, at Kufa in Iraq.

