

# Imam al-Mahdi, the Son of Lady Fāṭima al-Zahrā



السَّامِعُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بَنِي فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ

The phrase “Mahdi bin Fāṭima” is frequently used by the Shia. Although using this phrase is a matter of taste, it is rooted in narrations which, in different aspects, represent a special relation between Lady Fāṭima and Imam Mahdi. Some aspects of this relation are briefly mentioned in this brochure:



**THE PROMISED MAHDI**  
The Promised Mahdi Cultural Foundation



*One:*

*Imam Mahdi the offspring of Lady Fāṭima*

According to numerous narrations, quoted by the Shia and the Sunnite, the Holy Prophet predicted that the Promised Mahdi will be from Fatima`s generation.

«عن امرئ سلمة، قالت سمعت رسول الله يقول: المَهْدِيُّ مِنْ عِترتي مِنْ وُلْدِ فَاطِمَةَ.»

*"It is narrated from Umm Salamah to have said, 'I heard from the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) to have said, 'Mahdi is of my lineage, from Fatima's sons.'"*

*(Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 51, p. 75, hadith 30; Sunan, by Abī Dāwūd, vol. 4, p. 1832, hadith 4284; Sunan, by Ibn Mājih, kitāb al-Fitan, Section Khurūj al-Mahdi, hadīth 4086)*

In another narration, it is quoted from Ali Ibn al-Hussain who narrated from his father, Hussain, and he narrated from the Messenger of Allah, to have said to his daughter Fatima,

«أَبشِري يَا فَاطِمَةَ، فَإِنَّ المَهْدِيَّ مِنْكِ.»

*"O Fatima! Good news for you since truly Mahdi is of your lineage."*

*(Kanz al-'Ummāl, by al-Muttaqī al-Hindī, vol. 12, pp. 105 and 106)*



*Two:*

*Imam Mahdi the consoler of Lady Fāṭima*

On many occasions, the Holy Prophet consoled Lady Fatima by telling her about some future news and the world's final events which would occur by Imam Mahdi. As regards this title, these two events are mentioned:

1- Lady Fatima came to visit the Holy Prophet when he was near to demise. As her Majesty saw that the Holy Prophet was not feeling well, she started to cry. The Holy Prophet raised his head and asked her the reason. Lady Fatima replied, "I am fearful that your religion and descendants be destroyed after you." The Holy Prophet, seeing Lady Fatima's worries and discomfort, after informing her about the future of the world, gave her noble daughter good news of Imam Mahdi. In a part of this relatively long narration, we read,

*"Ali Ibn Hilāl narrated from his father saying, 'I visited the Prophet Muhammad (May Allah's greeting be upon him and his progeny) when he was in his deathbed and Lady Fatima was sitting near his head. Suddenly, she cried and the voice of her cry rose. The prophet raised his head and asked her, 'My dear Fatima! What did make you cry?'*



*She replied, 'I am afraid of being deprived of my rights after your departure.' He answered, '... O Fatima! I swear to Allah Who sent me as a prophet that Mahdi of this Ummah (Muslim community) is of al-Hassan and al-Hussain's lineage. When the world will become full of chaos, some accommodations will take place, all ways [physically and spiritually] will be blocked, some people will raid others, and no elder will have mercy upon the younger and no younger will respect the elder, then Allah will delegate a person of their lineage (Imam Hassan and Imam Hussain). He (Mahdi) will conquer citadels of misguidance and impenetrably wrapped hearts and will establish the religion of Islam in the Last Days as I did it. (I am the Prophet of the Last Days). He will fill the world with justice as it will have been full with injustice.'"*

*(Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 51, p. 78)*

2- It is also narrated from Imam Sādiq that by the time Imam Husain was born, the Holy Prophet informed Lady Fatima that her son will be martyred. Knowing this news made her fully depressed, but the Prophet calmed her by giving her good news,

*"Abi 'abd Allah, Imam Sādiq said," Fatima visited the Prophet Muhammad and saw him crying bitterly and his eyes were tearful. She asked him about the reason. The prophet answered, 'Gabriel informed me that Hussain would be assassinated by my ummah.' Hearing that, Fatima became impatient and restless.*



*So, the prophet made her aware that one of her sons will become the master [of the world]; therefore, she felt glad and became calm."*

*(Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 44, p. 233, hadith. 19)*

### ***Three:***

#### ***Lady Fāṭima a role model for Imam Mahdi***

Without a doubt, one of the methods used by Islam and the household of the Prophet for setting up a program for other's life and those who may lead people to reach perfection and spiritual improvement is making and introducing a proper role model for them. In the Holy Quran, Allah the Exalted, the Glorified uses the term "exemplar" in many cases when it wants to talk about this matter. For instance, He introduces the Prophet as a good exemplar by saying,

﴿لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ  
وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا﴾

*"There is certainly a good exemplar for you in the Apostle of Allah for those who look forward to Allah and the Last Day and remember Allah much."*

*(The Quran, 33:21)*



This fact that the Prophet is the good exemplar means that he possesses the best merits and admirable qualities which people should resort to and act upon them.

Moreover, considering the classification of the exemplars in the Quran, the Holy Prophet is a complete and fully perfect exemplar. This means that he is a good leader and exemplar in all imaginable aspects in worldly and spiritual dimensions. In short, we can say that the Prophet of Allah's messenger is an infallible role model since Allah unconditionally introduces him as a yardstick in every aspect of life.

In another verse of the Holy Quran, Prophet Ibrahim and his followers are introduced as exemplars which indicates that being an exemplar is not specified to the Holy Prophet and Prophet Ibrāhīm; rather everyone who completely follows their way can be a role model for others.

Consequently, the household of the Prophet are the real examples of those who are in the way of Allah and the Prophet; and they are the best role models after the Prophet.



The interesting note is that Imam Mahdi as a perfect human and infallible Imam has announced in one of his letters that Lady Fatima is a proper role model for him. He stated,

«... وَفِي ابْنَةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ لِي أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ...»

"... In the Prophet's daughter (Fāṭima), there is a good exemplar for me..."

(*Bihār al-Anwār*, vol. 53, p. 180, hadith, 9)

Lady Fatima, according to the 29th verse of Surah al-Fath (48) is among "those who were with the Prophet." and this is why Imam Mahdi chose her as his role model. Lady Fatima's behavior was so close to the Prophet that even her posture in walking and sitting; and her tone in speaking was similar to those of the Prophet.

#### ***Four:***

*The special status of Lady Fāṭima and Imam Mahdi in connection to Qadr night (the night of Ordainment)*

One of the similarities between Imam Mahdi and Lady Fatima pertains to the truth of Qadr night.



In fact, Qadr night is one of the times which is of high importance in Islamic sources. According to the verses of the Holy Quran, in this night, the Quran was sent down to the Holy Prophet's heart; this night is more important than one thousand months and in this night the destiny of all of the affairs with regards to the creatures are ordained.

Understanding the greatness of this night is so difficult that Allah addresses the Prophet by telling him,

﴿وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ﴾

*"And what would make you realize what the Night of Ordainment is?" (The Quran, 97:2)*

Based on narrations, one should acquire proper knowledge about Lady Fatima's spiritual state to comprehend the blessings of Qadr night. There is a narration of Imam Sādiq to have said,

*"(In the verse of the Quran when Allah says,) "Verily, We sent down the Holy Qur'an in the Night of Qadr" the word "al-Layla" (the night) means Fatima and "al-Qadr" (Ordainment) means Allah. Therefore, whoever knows Fatima truly and completely has realized "laylat ul-Qadr".*





*"Surely, she has named "Fatima" because, decidedly, creatures cannot know her (as she is, so understanding the real preciousness of that night is unlikely.)"*  
(*Bihār al-Anwār*, vol. 43, p. 65, hadith. 58)

On the other hand, concerning the connection between Qadr night and the Imamate of the twelve Imams, Ibn 'Abbās narrated from Imam Ali to have stated,

*"Indeed, there is the Night of Ordainment in every year and the affairs of every year are sent down and ordained in that night. There are guardians for this matter (who receive these affairs) after the departure of the Messenger of Allah." Ibn 'Abbas asked, "Who are those guardians?" The Imam answered, "I and the eleven Imams of my lineage to whom angles send down and speak."*  
(*Al-Kāfī*, vol. 1, p. 532, hadith 11)

Moreover, according to narrations, after the demise of the Prophet, the angels descend to the real successor of the Prophet who is Imam Ali, and after the demise of each Imam, the next one will take this position till it comes to the turn of Imam Mahdi who is the successor of the Prophet in our time.



Hence, the Qadr chapter can be used to prove the existence of a spiritually perfect human who is the caliph of Allah and the deputy of the Prophet in our present time.

In this regard, the ninth Imam of the Shiites (Imam Muhammad Taqī) stated,

*"O the nation of our Shias! Argue with your adversaries by using the content of surah al-Qadr to defeat them. I swear to Allah this surah, surely, is a proof of Allah the Exalted, the Glorified for the creatures after the departure of the Messenger of Allah, (to prove that Allah has chosen some infallible men to succeed the Prophet, one after the other) and it is the head of your religion. This surah shows the perfection of our knowledge." (Kāfī, vol. 1, p. 249, hadith 6)*

The result is this:

Firstly, we need to consider that on Qadr night the angels descend to the infallible Imam who is the most perfect human. This man in our time is Imam Mahdi.

Secondly, to fully recognize the importance of this night is dependent on understanding the spiritual state of Lady Fatima.

Consequently, it is concluded that in this great night, paying close attention to Lady Fatima and Imam Mahdi, which means to seek recourse to them and looking at them



as role models in both material and spiritual life, is very important. In other words, if someone during the night of Qadr tries to gain knowledge about Lady Fatima and her teachings, s/he can be hopeful to be honored with Imam Mahdi's special grace as well.

*Five:  
Lady Fāṭima and Imam Mahdi are both  
oppressed*

The prophets and the infallible saints from Adam to Imam Mahdi, who is the last Divine proof of Allah, have suffered a lot in the way of spreading the religion of Allah, guiding people, and preventing them from going astray.

**A. The oppression on lady Fāṭima**

After the demise of the Holy Prophet, a network of hypocrites deliberately carried out the worst kind of behaviour against the dear daughter of the Prophet and his successor – Imam Ali. The polytheists who had converted to Islam out of materialistic intentions and a deep greed to gain more benefits made sinister plans for Islam and its future during the life of the Prophet and the first moments after the demise of him.



A clear example of this fact can be seen in ignoring the rights of lady Fatima by usurping her properties namely Fadak and those of her children that the tongue is unable to express the vastness of this oppression.

Moreover, “the secrecy of the place of her noble tomb” is one of these obvious signs. Accordingly, the Commander of the faithful, Imam Ali, while referring to the oppression inflicted on his noble wife says,

*"... Indeed, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah, Fatima, was always oppressed. He was prohibited from her rights and was deprived of her heritage. The Messenger of Allah's will about her was not executed. Furthermore, the right of Allah and the prophet's right about Fatima were not observed. Allah is quietly Sufficient for judgment and taking revenge from the transgressors."*

*(Amālī, by Shaykh Tūsī, p. 156, hadīth 258)*

## **B. The oppression on Imam Mahdi**

The fact is that many people believe that the oppression on Imam Mahdi is far greater and more complex than the oppression applied on prophets and Imams in the past time; because he has witnessed many sorts of crime against



the greatest noble humans in history and has been waiting for performing the divine rule against these kinds of maltreatments for more than one thousand and one hundred years so far; and it may take many more years, and more importantly, he is alone and hidden.

On the other hand, many people, unfortunately, have forgotten him, while he does not neglect them even for a moment, since he is the only mediator of grace between Allah and His creature and the exclusively promised saviour who is alive.

Dāvūd bin Kathīr al-Reqqī, an eminent companion of Imam Mūsā al-Kāzim, says,

«سَأَلْتُ أَبَا الْحَسَنِ مُوسَى بْنَ جَعْفَرٍ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ عَنْ صَاحِبِ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ قَالَ هُوَ الظَّرِيدُ الْوَحِيدُ الْغَرِيبُ الْغَائِبُ عَنْ أَهْلِهِ الْمَوْتُورُ بِأَبِيهِ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ».

*"I asked Aba al-Hassan Mūsā ibn Ja'far about whom the occultation pertains to. The Imam replied, 'He is rejected, lonely, stranger, and absent from his family. He will be the revenger of his father[']s blood Imam Hussain].'"*

*(Kamāl al-Dīn, vol. 2, p. 361, hadith. 4)*

Source: *The Final Hope*, January 2021, Issue no. 4

[Mahdism.net](http://Mahdism.net)



**THE PROMISED MAHDI**  
The Promised Mahdi Cultural Foundation

مَا فَاطِمَةُ حَبِيبَةُ فَاطِمَةَ  
بِحَبْلِ لَوْلَيْكَ الْفَرَجُ

