

Hazrat Wali' Asr Imam Mahdi (A.S)

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All the heavens shelter and the earth grows sustenance and provides abode, because the last Hujjat of Almighty Allah lives on the face of this earth. Nothing can give one more joy and happiness than the fact that our master and Imam of our time, Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his re-appearance) lives with us. But at the same time, nothing can lament one more than the fact that we are not able to hear his voice and see his radiant face.

It is hard for me that I can see all creatures but I can neither see you; nor can I hear any whisper or confidential talk from you!

(Dua-e-Nudba)

But the Imam has never forsaken his believers. His followers get his assistance and prayers. Due to his presence, they are able to foil the design of their adversaries. The reward for those living in the second and the longer occultation of Imam-e-Mahdi (A.S.) is enormous and so are the responsibilities and the duties.

"Await for the reappearance and do not despair of the divine mercy. Because the best deed in the eyes of Allah, the Great and the Mighty is to wait for the Reappearance. It is the duty of those who are believers." (Imam Ali A.S.)

(Al Khisaal vol.2 Pg.616)

There was a man, who struggled a lot; performed different *aamals*, and other ascetic and self-disciplinary practices to meet Hazrat Wali' Asr. One day, he was told that Imam A.S. was then in the blacksmiths market and in a shop belonging to a locksmith. He rushed towards that shop and found Imam A.S. sitting and talking with that locksmith. At the same time, a woman came to the shop and asked the locksmith whether he would buy a lock from her for 3 shahis (1 shahi=5 dinars). The old locksmith replied that the price of this lock is actually 8 shahis. The old man offered to make a key for that lock for 2 shahis and said that this lock can then be sold for 10 shahis. The woman said that she was in need of money and just wanted to sell that lock and urged him to buy the lock urgently from her just for 3 shahis. The locksmith replied that he wouldn't buy the property of a muslim for a low price. He offered to buy that lock for 7 shahis, so that he could then sell it for 8 shahis and make a shahi profit. The woman wouldn't believe her ears and said that no one else in the market was even willing to buy the lock for anything greater than 2 shahis. She took 7 shahis and left happily. The man, who came to meet Imam, was intently looking at the transaction between the locksmith and woman. Imam turned towards him and said:

"My Dear! Did you watch the wonderful scene? You do likewise too, and become like that, then I will come to see you. There is no need for ascetic seclusion and resorting to Jafr (numerical symbolism).

Self-discipline and various travels will not be required; instead show good action and be a Muslim so that I can interact with you. Of all people of this city, I picked out this old man, since this man is religious and knows God. And you observed the trial he went through: This old woman requested all in the bazaar, to fulfill her need and since they found her desperate and needy, they were all seeking to buy (her lock) cheap; and nobody bought it even for three shahis. This old man, however, bought it for its real price, i. e., seven shahis. Thus, every week I pay a visit to him and show kindness and amiability to him." [1]

One can surely get the opportunity to meet Imam A.S. by following religious duties and by being equal and fair to people. On analyzing the life of Prophet Muhammad S.A.W.W. and our Holy Imams and by studying about their companions, one may find that there are several levels among their companions. There are few who are very near to them like Salman Al-Farsi, Abu-Dhar Ghifari, Miqdad ibn Aswad Al-Kindi, Bilal ibn Rawah, Khabbab bin Al-Arrat. Then there is a second level which includes companions of the companions. One needs to find a position atleast in the second level. The challenge is not much difficult and requires some self-control and to set goals and values in accordance with the guidelines being established by Islam. Some small steps in this direction and some progress daily on this path can enable us all to be in the camp of the Imam of our time; as lines have been drawn and one can clearly distinguish between different camps. Even if we don't remain to see the re-appearance of our Imam, those who yearned to see and assist Imam will rise up from their graves.

"O Allah! If death occurs between me and him, (death) which you have made obligatory and decreed for your servants, then raise me from my grave, wrapped in my shroud..."

(Dua-e-Ahad)

"Even if the entire duration of the world's existence has already been exhausted and only one day is left before Doomsday (Day of Judgment), Allah will expand that day to such a length of time, as to accommodate the kingdom of a person out of my Ahlul-Bayt who will be called by my name. He will then fill out the earth with peace and justice as it will have been full of injustice and tyranny before then." [2]

Prophet Muhammad S.A.W.W

References:

[1] "Sarmaye Sokhan" (The capital of speech), I, 611-613

[2] Sunni Reference: Sahih Tirmidhi, V2, P86, V9, P74-75