

Long life of Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s.)

Dear Children,

Salaamun Alaikum

15th Shaban is the day of Imam Mahdi's (a.t.f.s.) birth.

Just as Ameerul Momeneen Ali ibn Abi Talib (a.s.) is the first Imam, Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s.) is the Twelfth Imam.

We have many traditions (hadees) from Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.) in which he (s.a.w.a) said that Imam Mahdi (a.s.) will reappear after a long occultation i.e. Ghaibat. He will fill this world with justice just like it is filled with injustice.

We pray to Allah to hasten the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (a.s.) and include us among his servants.

Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s.) was born on 15th Shaban 255 A.H

and today we are in 1434 A.H., so Imam Mahdi's (a.t.f.s.) age is 1,179 years.

Someone may ask:

How can Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s.) live for so many years?

The answer is very easy. Allah gives long life to anyone He wishes. There are many people who have been given long lives. Allah has given long life to many Prophets (a.s.). For example Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) was given a long life. Let us see a hadees from Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.) about the long life of Hazrat Nuh (a.s.).

Imam Sadiq (a.s.) says:

Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) lived for a total of 2,500 years in which he called people to worship Allah for 950 years before the flood. After the flood he lived 700 years

with his children.

Once Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) was standing in the sun when Malakul Maut i.e. the angel of death came to him and said salaam to him. Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) replied to his salaam and asked why he had come?

Malakul Maut said:

I have come to take your soul.

Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) asked:

Will you allow me to go under this shade?

Malakul Maut said:

Yes you can.

Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) went under the shade and said:

O Malakul Maut, my entire life looks as long as the time

I took to come out of the sun into this shade.

Then Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) told Malakul Maut to do the work given to him. Malakul Maut took his soul (rooh).

If Allah can give such a long life to Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) why can't he give long life to Hazrat Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s.) and that too when He has promised that He will fill this world with justice through Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s.) and make His religion successful. Allah does not break His promise.

This was the story of a Prophet who was given long life by Allah. There are other people also who have been given long lives.

Let us read another tradition from Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.):

When Hazrat Dawood (a.s.) used to recite Zaboor, all the mountains, stones and birds also recited along with him. One day he stepped out of his house and came near a mountain. On the top of the mountain lived a person called Hizqeel. Hizqeel was always busy in worshipping Allah. When Hizqeel heard the voice of Zaboor he recognized Hazrat Dawood (a.s.).

Hazrat Dawood (a.s.) said to Hizqeel.

Please take me with you to the mountain.

Hizqeel took Hazrat Dawood (a.s.) to the mountain.

Hazrat Dawood (a.s.) asked Hizqeel how he kept himself away from this world. Hizqeel replied:

I go to that cave, see the things in it and take lesson from it.

Hazrat Dawood (a.s.) entered the cave and saw an iron throne there. There was a skeleton on it. There was an iron plate on the throne and on it was written:

I am Arwah ibn Salam, I ruled for a 1,000 years, I built 1,000 cities and now I have become dust. Anyone who sees me should keep away from this world.

We saw how Allah gave a long life to a king who lived for a 1,000 years, similarly Allah can give long life to the last Imam i.e. Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s).

We pray to Allah for the earliest reappearance of Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s) and for the good fortune to serve him.

A Few Facts about Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s.) that we should know

- A. Imam-e-Zamana (a.t.f.s.) was born at the dawn of 15th of Shaban in the city of Saamarrah (Iraq) which is located on the bank of the river Tigris, almost 60 miles from the city of Baghdad.
- B. Saamarrah is famous for its two holy shrines.
- C. The shrine with the large golden dome has 4 graves under it:
 - 1. Imam Ali Naqi (a.s.) - our 10th Imam
 - 2. Imam Hasan Askari(a.s.) - our 11th Imam
 - 3. Janabe Hakeema Khatoon (s.a.) - aunt of 11th Imam (a.s.), sister of 10th Imam (a.s.) and daughter of 9th Imam (a.s.).
 - 4. Janabe Narjis Khatoon (s.a.) - mother of 12th Imam (a.s.) and wife of 11th Imam (a.s.)
- D. The second shrine is the Sardaab which marks the place where Imam Mahdi (a.s.) went into concealment.
- E. Every year the birth anniversary of the Imam of our Time (a.s.) is the happiest day of our lives.
- F. It is the obligation of every believer to always remember our 12th Imam (a.s.) and pray for his early reappearance.

The clouds contain the answers to the questions in the table below, but they have flown due to wind. Please put them in proper places.

2500

Arwah
Ibn
Salam

1000

Mountain

Mountains,
Stones,
Birds

The King who lived for 1,000 years.

How many cities did Arwah bin Salam make?

Hizqeel was Praying on a _____

They also prayed with Hazrat Dawood (a.s.)

Hazrat Nuh (a.s.) lived for _____ years.

From the story of Hizqeel please find answers to the following questions from the picture.

1. Hizqeel was doing _____ on a mountain
2. Hazrat Dawood (a.s.) was reading book of _____
3. The king who ruled for 1,000 years _____
4. Hizqeel learned a lesson from the throne of the king which was in a _____
5. What should we do during Ghaibat of Imam Mahdi (a.t.f.s)

Join the letters in the word puzzle to find the names of the personalities given below:

R	N	U	H	T	F	L	V	Q	S
Q	L	O	N	A	B	Z	I	B	N
Q	P	L	O	H	S	R	H	A	A
H	Z	C	E	T	A	A	R	A	Q
A	M	E	E	K	A	H	N	D	I
S	N	E	S	A	N	H	Q	R	L
A	N	A	R	J	I	S	K	A	U
N	F	V	A	Y	K	Q	F	S	A
T	Z	L	D	S	M	W	R	U	R
D	I	L	A	I	R	A	K	S	A

HASAN

ASKARI

HAKEEMA

KHATOON

ALI

NAQI

NARJIS

SARDAAB

What is my duty to Imam (a.s.)?

Unscramble the words and find out.

TAPNRIMTO

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

10 1

YTDU

--	--	--	--

4

OFR

--	--	--

5 6 2

REBLEEVI

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

7

IN

--	--

9

HITBAGA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8

3

--	--	--	--

1 2 3 4

--	--	--

5 6 7

--	--	--

8 9 10

Answers

The King who lived for 1,000 years.

*Arwah
Ibn
Salam*

How many cities did Arwah bin Salam make?

1,000

Hizqeel was Praying on a - _____

Mountain

They also prayed with Hazrat Dawood(a.s.)

*Mountains,
Stones,
Birds*

Hazrat Nuh(a.s.) lived for _____ years.

2,500

	<u>N</u>								
		<u>O</u>						<u>B</u>	<u>N</u>
			<u>O</u>					<u>A</u>	<u>A</u>
<u>H</u>				<u>T</u>				<u>A</u>	<u>Q</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>H</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>I</u>
<u>S</u>						<u>H</u>		<u>R</u>	
<u>A</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>A</u>	
<u>N</u>								<u>S</u>	
<u>I</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>A</u>	