



# Imam Mahdi



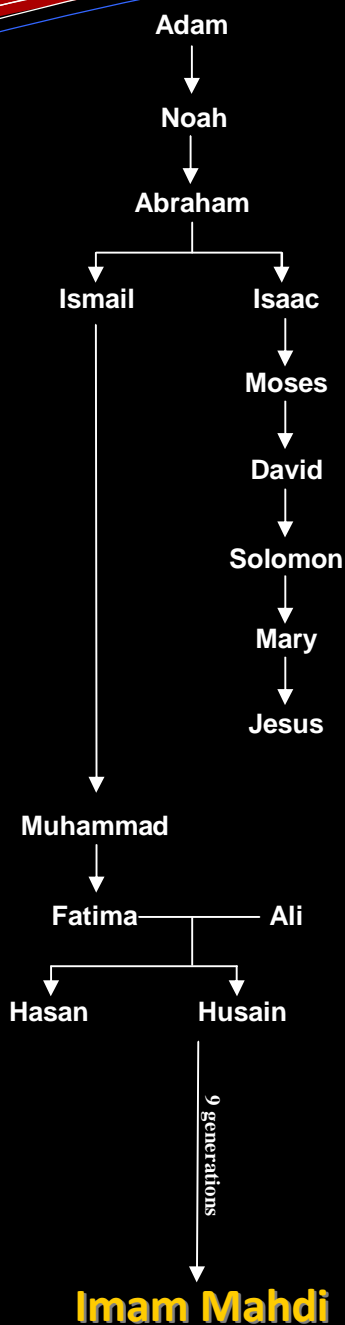
## Imam Mahdi

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## What All Muslims, Around The world, Are Waiting For

History has witnessed many social movements, efforts, and governments where a group of people work together towards a common goal. At times, the purpose of such organization was to maintain society; on other occasions, their efforts called for a cultural or structural change. Regardless of the situation, there is a consequential need to rally behind a chosen leader to champion their mission.

What is the purpose of selecting a leader? Why is this concept apparent in different cultures, different races, different religions, and throughout history? Despite their differences, the majority of religions mention a leader who will arrive at the end of time, when all attempts to organize society have failed, and mankind has been brought to its knees.

It is this very need to be saved in times of great distress that necessitates the emergence of a savior: a leader who champions a common

mission, and promises to save, guide, and rescue humanity in its darkest hour.

Whenever people gather together, regardless of the situation, there is a psychological tendency to rally behind a "leader". While there may be debates as to which individual should be assigned the leadership role, most agree that that each situation requires someone to lead, or organize, a particular effort.

This final leader, who has been awaited since the dawn of time, is known by many names in different regions and religions of the world. In Arabic, this leader is simply translated as "Imam Mahdi."

Countless civilizations have struggled to prepare themselves for his return, yearning to be lead by this infallible leader.

But who is the Mahdi, and how will he save mankind from its own damages and devices?

## What is the IIC?

The Islamic Information Center (IIC) is a non-profit grassroots organization that was established to inform the public, through mass media, about the true image of Islam and the beliefs of its Muslims.

## Who runs the IIC?

The IIC is run by our chairman, Imam Syed Naqvi, and our committees, and is supported by our volunteers. The IIC currently has 50-75 people actively working in these committees.

Check out our other information packets, geared to help you learn more about Is-



*Hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world continually pray for the return of the awaited savior, Imam Mahdi. The hope that this savior will fill the world with justice and prosperity is one that guides many.*

## Historical Analysis of The Savior

Empires have been raised, destroyed, and reborn numerous times throughout history, but there are a few core concepts that unify these divergent cultures. One of these is the belief in a final savior that will come at the end of the world. This common faith in a just leader who will bring truth and justice to a world of chaos and corruption is widely observed in vari-

ous cultural and faith traditions, especially in those of the Abrahamic traditions. The difference lies in who this character is, and

what circumstances will precipitate his arrival. In Islamic eschatology, this refers to the leadership of Imam Mahdi, the messiah who will guide humanity to the path of truth and consciousness.

Born in 868 AD, Imam Mahdi has several titles, but he is generally known as *the Mahdi*, or *the rightly guided* spiritual leader. Imam Mahdi

entered a period of divine hiding that would protect him from his enemies. He will return when he is called forth by Allah to fulfill his mission by restoring peace and balance on earth in a time of great tyranny and chaos. As a harbinger of benevolence, Imam Mahdi represents the justice of Allah on earth, and he will answer the cries of the helpless, oppressed, and down-

trodden.

The Prophet of Islam proclaimed, "Listen to the good news about the Mahdi! He



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**Prophet Muhammad**

Prophet Muhammad

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**Lady Fatima Zahra, Daughter of Muhammad**

Lady Fatima

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**Imam Ali**

Imam Ali

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**The Continuation of the Prophet's Legacy**

The two most common names in the world today are Muhammad and Ali. Who is Ali (Peace Be Upon Him)? Why is he revered? What is his role in history, and how does he impact modern society?

The answers to these questions will help give a clearer picture of one of the world's largest religions: Islam. Understanding the importance of Ali to a significant portion of the world's population can help build bridges of understanding, and replace mistrust with friendship.

A "Prophet" is what is used to describe a messenger of God. Prophets, throughout history have been sent by God, to represent His affairs on Earth. They include such figures as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Prophets are considered to be brothers to one another, and all members of the same true religion of God, passing on the same message throughout history. While the Prophets acted as messengers of God and leaders, by humanity, the Prophethood ended with Prophet Muhammad. After him, however, God continued to leave just and pious leaders on the earth, each one called "Imam" (literally: "Leader").

Muhammad, joined by his daughter, Fatima (A.S.), her husband, Ali (A.S.), and their grandchildren, Hasan and Husain, embarked on a journey to bring peace, harmony, and friendship to the world. Their actions changed the world forever.

**The Ahlul Bayt Muhammad**

Ali  
Fatima  
Hasan  
Husain

Prophet Muhammad and the immediate family members are referred to as the "Ahlul Bayt" and hold a special place in the hearts of all Muslims. Their role in Islamic history is inseparable with great pride.

\*A.S. = "As-Salamatu 'Alayhi" or "Peace Be Upon Them"

## Alternative Spellings

**Mohamad  
Mohammad  
Mohammed  
Muhammad  
Muhamad  
Mohamed  
Mohamet  
Mehmet**

**Ali  
Aly  
Aley  
Ali  
Alih**

**Fatema**

**Hasan  
Hassan**

**Husain  
Hussain  
Husein  
Hosein  
Hussein  
Hosain  
Hosayn  
Hossain**

Why are there so many ways to spell the same name?

*In the Arabic language, the spelling and pronunciation of these names is quite clear; however, when transliterated into English, a variety of spellings may result depending upon the conversion method used.*



will rise at the time when people will be faced with severe conflict and the earth will be hit by a violent quake. He will fill the earth with justice and equity as it is filled with injustice and tyranny. He will fill the hearts of his followers with devotion and will spread justice everywhere.” One does not need to look any further than the daily newspaper to see how this promise translates to our current social and political climate. Each day brings another wave of stories thick with genocide, dictators, poverty, and oppression. Overwhelmingly, these events create a feeling of helplessness and despair.

We can begin to understand the magnitude of Imam Mahdi’s arrival in the context of history. The efforts of

great souls such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. illustrate the impact that a single, conscientious leader has on a social movement, but the coming of Imam Mahdi will go beyond anything we have ever witnessed. Imam Mahdi will do more than oppose wicked oppressors; he and his followers will destroy the very root of exploitation and injustice, and establish instead a new system of governance that will eternally protect human life and dignity. This holistic form of governance will address every wrong in our society, such that there will be no room for any transgression of Allah’s justice. In short, the purpose of the Mahdi is to usher in a golden era of peace and tranquility like never seen before.



# The Concept of the Awaited Savior

## *Where did it come from?*

The concept of the Awaited Savior has its origins in many monotheistic religions. Judaism and Christianity have very similar beliefs to Islam with regards to messianic tradition, which is not unusual because Islam is derived from Judeo-Christian philosophy. Each of the three religions ascribe particular significance to the coming of a Leader, especially in relation to the Day of Judgment, which marks the end of the world. Islamic tradition, like its Jewish and Christian and Jewish counterparts, claim that an "Imam" or Leader will lead God's true believers to salvation. He will be the leader of the Kingdom of God in this world and in the hereafter, and will aid in the battle to defeat the ultimate evil: the anti-Christ, or *Dajjal* in Arabic. Each religion also promises a subsequent messianic age, heralding a period of peaceful co-existence and prosperity amongst all human beings and animals.

In the Christian faith, it is believed that the second coming of Jesus Christ will free mankind of all its sins. Muslims also await the arrival of Jesus on the Day of Judgment, but they hold Imam Mahdi as their Savior and view Jesus as his companion. In Conservative and Orthodox Jewish tradition, the Messiah, or *Moshiach* (meaning "anointed one" in Hebrew), is a fundamental aspect of the Jewish faith. The coming of the messiah is mentioned in Jewish prayers, particularly for his deliverance of all Jews to the Promised Land. The Moshiach will be from the line of King

David, and he will be made King at the End of Days. Similarly, Muslims hold that the Mahdi will descend from the progeny of the Prophet, and he is the twelfth and final successor to Prophet Muhammad. The

Mahdi went into a period of hiding in approximately 873 AD, and will reappear in a manner that is similar to the second coming of Christ, when the world is ready for him.

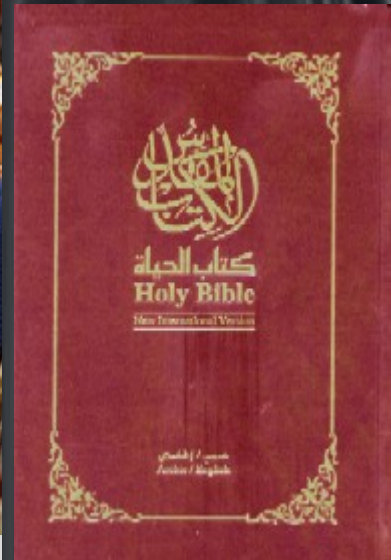
The quintessential belief that unifies these prophesied figures is that the Messiah will be a leader to the people of faith. In Christian tradition, Jesus Christ, is the savior who sacrificed himself to save man from their sins. Jewish ideology states that the Messiah will be a king who will gather the Jews to Israel and herald a time of peace. While

some religions exclusively promise salvation to its followers, Muslims consider the Messiah to be the leader of all mankind under one unified banner of faith.

There are also different schools of thought regarding the Messiah within each faith. Orthodox and Conservative Jews place great importance on the Messiah, while Reformist and Reconstructionists call for a less personal messiah and messianic age, at times disregarding it altogether. Mainstream Christian belief holds that Jesus will be born again at world's end, but there are fragmented sects that consider Jesus to have already risen for the second time. Sunni and Shi'a Muslims have some differences on the logistics for the Mahdi, but both agree that Jesus will play a large role in the Day of Judgment.



# “Allah” and the word “God”



## Understanding Imam Mahdi's Purpose *How different religions comprehend their idea of a savior, and how Jesus relates to the Mahdi*

When discussing Imam Mahdi and his role as a Messiah, one cannot avoid Jesus' role in Islamic eschatology. Muslims regard Jesus as a prophet who will play an incredibly significant part on the Day of Judgment, for he and Imam Mahdi will work together and be united in their battle against tyranny.

According to the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, Imam Mahdi will appear to the people of Islam and the people of the world to herald the messianic period prior to the Day of Judgment. In fact, Prophet Muhammad

once said: "How would it be with you when the son of Mary will descend among you, and you will have an Imam (leader) raised from among you?"

This leader raised from among the Muslims is the Mahdi. In the time following Imam Mahdi's reappearance, Jesus will reveal himself to believers and nonbelievers, and vanquish the anti-Christ. Imam Mahdi and Jesus will fight an epic battle, and only with the aid of Christ can the anti-Christ be defeated. Jesus will join Mahdi in establishing God's kingdom on earth, and in the hereafter. The

Mahdi will then lead Jesus and all living creatures in prayer. Jesus and Mahdi will fight side by side to bring justice, harmony, and faith to mankind, and strive to eliminate tyranny and wrongdoing.

It is thought that this final reunion of Imam Mahdi and Jesus symbolizes the final reunion of the two lines of Abraham's progeny—Isaac's line of Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, which led to the birth of Jesus, and Ishmael's line which gave rise to Prophet Muhammad and Imam Mahdi.

In the Arabic language, "God" is simply translated as "Allah." In fact, the Arabic version of the Bible uses "Allah" as the word for God. It is simply a difference in language, not a difference in belief. Countless Christians and Jews worship "Allah" just as their counterparts in other countries worship the same God.



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The IIC's mission is to provide an accurate source of Islamic information in an effort to correct misconceptions about Islam. IIC disseminates information about Islam in accordance with the Divine teachings of the Holy Qur'an.

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## Who this Savior is to Muslims? Who is Imam Mahdi?

Imam Mahdi holds a special place for many Muslims around the world, for he is not only a descendant Imam Ali, who was the successor and son-in-law to Prophet Muhammad, but he will be the savior for all mankind. The Imam went into a state of divine hiding into from his father's home many years ago, but he is said to be living amongst us now. He is wherever God wants him to be, and he is witness to the people surrounding him, although they might not recognize him. For this reason, many Muslims are particularly vigilant of the Imam, for they believe that he could be standing amongst them at any moment.

Imam Mahdi is not just a leader to look forward to in the future; he is very much alive today, and dwells within the hearts of the believers. He has been attributed to performing miracles for his true believers.

Special supplications for the Imam's aid have been recorded as somehow mysteriously, and perhaps miraculously, being answered, and thousands of accounts of Mahdi's benevolent intercession have been documented. While there is no way to substantiate these stories, it is widely believed that such miracles, like the healing of the sick and the rescuing of those in need, are the work of God through Imam Mahdi, his living ambassador to earth. The love that grows for the Mahdi only increases when Muslims suffer great trials and tribulation, for they know that he will come to them and they will have their recompense. While many people have claimed to be the Mahdi, or even the messiah of other religions, none have lived up to the high expectations that Muslim place on the savior who will bring them final salvation.



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