

IMAM HASAN AL ASKERY (PBUH)



Year	Age	Event
<p>1 December 846CE 08/10th Rabi ul Aakhir 232AH</p>		<p>Birth of Imam Hasan Al Askery (pbuh) (Abu Muhammad) to Imam Ali An Naqi, Al Hadi (pbuh) & Sayyida Saleel (Hudaytha, Sawsan) from Nawbah in Southern Egypt in Madina</p> <p>Imam is one of 5 children – an elder brother *Muhammad and three younger siblings Husayn, Ja'fer & Aliyya.</p> <p>Imam and his brother Husayn were known as Sibtayn – like their great grandfathers Imam Hasan & Husayn (pbuh)</p>
<p>847 CE 233 AH</p>	1	<p>Mutawakkil was the khalifa who had strong animosity towards the Ahlul Bayt and as such he ordered his men to bring Imam al Hadi (17 years) and his son to Samarrah (a garrison town – army base) from Madina. He imposed</p>

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		house arrest on the Imam and had detectives and policeman watching all his activities and preventing the Shia from having any contact with him. They settle in the suburb of Askery and thus the title. He is the only Imam titled to the place where he lived. (This practice continued with Mujtahideen who are known from where they come)
850-851 CE Sha'ban 237 AH	5	Mutawakkil destroys the shrines of Imam Ali (pbuh) and Imam Husayn (pbuh) and decrees that there will be no visitations to Najaf and Karbala. There are objections to this order from Basrah, Kufa and much of Iraq. There is much blood shed

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860 CE 247 AH	15	The reign of al-Mutawakkil was ended by his son, al-Muntasir, who joined forces with the Turks to kill his father. Soon after Mutawakkil is he is killed by his own son Muntasir.
861 CE 248 AH	16	Muntasir becomes the khalifa and revokes all the rulings of his father Mutawakkil. He allows visitation to Karbala and Najaf, and returns Fadak to the progeny of Imam Hasan and Husayn. He also stops the campaign of harassments against the Shia communities. There is a little bit of respite for the Imamayn. Muntasir is killed within 6 months by a Turkish soldier.
862 CE – 866 CE 249 AH	17-21	Musta'een is the Khalifa who had little political influence and was considered by many to be a tool controlled by the Turks.

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		He hated Imam Hadi & Askery feared that they might rise in a revolt against the Abbasid rule. They were thus again placed under house arrest.
865 CE 252AH	20	*Imam's brother Muhammad dies. Imam is distraught and opens the top button of his shirt contrary to Arab tradition. When asked he said that this was what Prophet Musa (pbuh) did when Harun died. Syed Muhammad (died at 23yrs) buried in Balad (known for answer of duas for the childless).
866 CE 253 AH	21	Mu'taz is the khalifa. Imam Hadi arranges the marriage of Imam Hasan Al Askery to Narjis – a Roman princess who used to be a Christian and converted to Islam.

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		The marriage is kept secret to avoid potential trouble from Banu Abbas who knew from a hadith of the Prophet (pbuh) that the birth of Imam Mahdi (pbuh) was imminent.
867 CE 254 AH	22	Imam Hadi (pbuh) is poisoned and is buried in Samarrahh.
255 AH	23	Imam Muhammad Mahdi (pbuh) born to Imam Hasan Askery (pbuh) and Sayyida Narjis
869 CE 256 AH	24	Muhtadi is the khalifa who the Turks choose after the death of Mu'taz. He expels the singing girls from court and brings justice setting Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz, the Umayyad Caliph, as his model and exemplar. His reign, however, lasted less than a year and he is killed by the Turks at the age of 38 years.

Year	Age	Event
870 CE 257 AH	25	Mu'tamad is the khalifa – He is the oldest surviving son of Mutawakkil. A Christian monk causes rain to fall in a drought. Imam is requested to clarify situation as Muslims leaving Umma. Imam resolves by identifying that the priest has a bone from a Prophet which when exposed to the sky causes rain to fall.
870 CE 257 AH	25	Imam is placed under house arrest and obliged to report to court every Monday and Thursday. He uses every possible opportunity to disseminate knowledge to followers. Under house arrest he writes two books <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tafseer Al Askery (Tafseer of the Qur'an- He was the first to systematize the writing of Tafseer

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		<p>2. (He commented on the Sura, then commented on the Ayaat of that Sura, then commented on each word of that Aya and gave its several possible meanings). His works has been emulated by other scholars in that field up to the present time.</p> <p>Al Muqna' (Jurisprudence (fiqh) questions and answers) Maraje' use this as a basis of their learning.</p>
<p>867 – 874 CE 254 – 260 AH</p>	<p>22-28</p>	<p>Imam strengthens the network of representatives in preparation of the ghayba of Imam Al Mahdi (pbuh). Communication is by writing, because he was under house arrest or detention. When the circumstances were less harsh, he received</p>

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		<p>delegations from all over: be it Qum, Basra, Kufa, Wasit, Baghdad, Yemen, Egypt, Khurasan, or other areas. The greatest opposition was from Shia who disputed over allocation of khums and zakat. Ali bin Ja'fer Humani and Faris Qazwini. Faris disputed calling army against Imam and declaring that Imam's brother Ja'fer was Imam.</p>
<p>1 January 874 CE 08 Rabi ul Awwal 260 AH</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>Poisoned by Mu'tamid, Imam falls ill gets weaker by the day and dies within 8 days. His Salaa 'alal mayyit is led by his 5 year old son Imam Muhammad Al Mahdi (pbuh) and he is buried in the house in which his father is buried.</p>

IMAM HASAN AL-ASKERY (pbuh)

Name:	Hasan
Title:	Al-Askery
Kuniyya:	Abu Muhammad
Father:	Imam Ali Naqi (pbuh)
Mother:	Sayyida Saleel (or Hudaitha or Sawsan)
Birth:	8/10th Rabi-ul Aakher 232 A.H. in Madina
Death:	8th Rabi-ul Awwal 260 A.H. in Samarrah

Birth & Childhood

When he was born his father said that it was an order from the prophet (pbuh) that he should be named Hasan. It was so well known that the last Imams father would be called Hasan that people had previously looked for the 12th Imam amongst the sons of Imam Hasan Al-Mujtaba (pbuh) His mother was Saleel (or Hudaitha) who was a slave of the 10th Imam whom he had freed and subsequently married. The 10th Imam said of her that she was one who was free from all vice and

pollution and that she was one of the righteous ones. After the 11th Imam's martyrdom he left all the "orders" of Imamat with her (his mother).

Once when Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh) was a young child he fell into a well near their house. His father Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh) was praying and didn't even notice the commotion around him of the ladies crying. When he finished praying and asked what had happened, he was told. He went towards the well. The water rose and all saw the 11th Imam sitting peacefully on the water and playing.

Bahloul once saw the young Imam crying in the street where all the other children were busy playing with their toys. He asked whether Imam was crying because he had no toys to play with. Imam replied: *"We have not been created to play!"*

Bahloul asked where he had learnt his from and the Imam said:

"Have you not read the Qur'an where it says - "Do you think we have created you in vain and that you will not be returned to us".

When Bahloul heard this he asked Imam for some advice. Imam talked about death, barzakh and qiyama and cried so much, he fainted. When he came to, Bahloul asked him why he was so fearful as he was not even baligh yet. Imam said:

"I have watched my mother light a fire; she uses the little twigs to get the big pieces of wood to burn; I fear that on qiyama Allah too will use 'small' sinners to light the big ones.

Titles

Al-Askery

The 10th and 11th Imamayn were both called Al-Askery as they lived in an area of Samarrah called Askery.

Another reason that the 11th Imam was called Askery is said to be that once Mutawakkil wanted to show the Imam the strength of his army of 90,000 men and so he asked his men to fill their sacks with sand and pile all the sacks up. He then showed Imam this mountain of sacks. Imam

asked Mutawakkil, to look through his (Imam's) two fingers, where he saw an army of armed Angels. Imam told him that they were at his disposal but he would not use them. (An army is called Askery).

Life & Works

Mutawakkil knew of the progress Imam Hadi had made in Madina in 14 years of spreading knowledge.

Mutawakkil ordered Imam Hadi and Imam Askery (1 yr old) to be brought to Samarrah and announced his arrival in as *Ibnur Ridha* (son of 8th Imam) subjecting him to things such as handing him a glass of wine in his hands in his court, asking him to sing, making him run in front of his (Mutawakkil's) carriage.etc.

Imam Hasan Al-Askery (pbuh) was placed under separate house arrest than his father at the young age of 5 years as Mutawakkil did not want the birth of the 12th Imam.

Whilst under house arrest Imam Ali An-Naqi (pbuh) arranged for the coming of Sayyida Nargis

to Samarrah and for her to be well versed in Fiqh by his learned sister Sayyida Hakima.

Imam spent his life making the imminent ghaibat of the 12th Imam easier.

Soon after Mutawakkil was killed by his own son who could not withstand the behaviour of his father.

After Mutawakkil's death his son Muntasir was the successor and he lifted the restrictions of visiting Karbala. His rule was unlike his father's tyranny but remained in power for only 6 months and died at the age of 25 years.

Then came Mustan (Ahmed bin Mo'tasam) followed by Mu'taz who continued his tyranny on Imam and his followers.

Mu'taz arranged for the poisoning of Imam Hadi through an ambassador and Imam was martyred on Monday 3rd Rajab 254 A.H. Nobody except Imam Hasan Askery (pbuh) was present at the time of his death. He gave his father ghusl and kafan and wept bitterly.

Ahmed Bin Ishaq relates that when he heard of the death of the 10th Imam he went to Samarrah and asked for the whereabouts of the 11th Imam.

He was told that Imam had been imprisoned by Mu'taz Billah. After bribing the guards he was able to visit Imam one night. He described the prison as a tunnel under the Khalifa's home where there was no space to stretch ones legs nor room to be able to stand. Ahmed says he cried when he saw Imams condition. Food was only one glass of water and a piece of dry bread a day.

He was imprisoned because all the rulers knew of the justice that was promised to come with the coming of the 12th Imam and they wished to prevent anyone being born of the 11th Imam. Whilst in prison he told his companions to accumulate all the masails of Fiqh and he completed the masails on the chapters that were found missing. He introduced the institution of "Taqlaed" advising people to follow those who were learned, "Muttaqi", and just, as he was in prison and it was extremely difficult for people to meet him. Khums was collected through his representative and masails too asked to him, Abu-Ja'fer Uthman bin Saeed, who was later to become the representative of the 12th Imam.

There was once a severe drought in Samarra and a Christian priest came who whenever he raised his hands caused rain to fall from the heavens.

The Muslims faith started wavering and the Khalifa Mu'taz got worried for if they left Islam he would have none to rule over.

He went to the 11th Imam saying that Imam's grandfather's religion was in trouble. Imam asked him to call all the people outside Samarra with the Christian priest. He asked the Christian priest to pray for rain. When he raised his hands to pray it started to rain. Imam asked for whatever was in this hands to be taken away and then asked him to pray for rain again. There was no rain this time. Imam showed that what the priest had in this hand was the bone of a Prophet which whenever placed under the open sky caused it to rain. Imam then prayed for rain and it rained. Mu'taz could not re imprison Imam for some time for when the people saw the miracle they all wanted to visit Imam and asked where they might find him. Imam pointed to the Khalifa and asked them to ask him. Mu'taz told them that Imam was

staying at the house where the 10th Imam used to reside.

It was here that Imam Mahdi (pbuh) was born. Imam was allowed out of prison for 13 months after which he was rearrested.

Historians have noted many names of the Imam's students who became scholars of their time.

One of the famous students of the Imam was Abu Ali Al-Hasan Ibn Khalid who prepared a commentary of the Holy Qur'an which should be considered the work of the Imam himself. The Imam used to dictate its contents to Abu Ali who went on writing the commentary. Scholars indicated that the book consisted of 1920 pages.

Martyrdom

In the six years of his Imamate several attempts were made on his life.

On the 1st of Rabi-ul Awwal 260 a.h. Mo'tamad arranged for Imam to be poisoned in prison and then sent him home. Imam was in great pain and difficulty for 8 days. On the 8th of Rabi-ul Awwal he asked his son, the 12th Imam, to bring him

some water and then leave him. He died that day and was given ghusl & kafan by the 12th Imam.

Burial

The Caliph Al-Mu'tamid himself attended the funeral prayer. When they all lined up and were ready to commence the prayers, Imam Hasan Al-Askari's brother Ja'far stood in front of the people to lead the prayer. Before he could commence the prayer, a five year old boy came out of the house, went near his uncle and shook his mantle. He told him, "Set aside uncle, only an Imam can lead the funeral prayer of an Imam". His uncle Ja'far stepped aside and this five year old boy lead the prayers. Immediately after the end of the prayer he went inside his house and was not seen by his pursuers, lead by the caliph Mu'tamid himself. It was the first time that most Shia's saw him for the first time. A large number of people attended the funeral and he is buried in Samarrah in the same house where he died by the side of his father Imam Ali An Naqi (pbuh). With the passage of time, it has been transformed into a shrine visited by pilgrims from all over the world.

10 QUALITIES OF A MU'MIN IMAM HASAN AL ASKERY (PBUH)

The 11th Imam was once asked of the signs of a mo'min (believer). He listed the following signs.

1. Prostrates on Khake Shafaa
2. Wears an aqeeq ring on his right hand
3. Repeats the verses of Azhan & Iqama
4. Recites Ziyara 'Arba'een
5. Prays his Fajr Salaa before the stars disappear and Dhuhr prayers before the sun starts declining
6. Recites "Bismillah" loudly in Salaa
7. Recite Qunoot in Salaa
8. Dyes his hair and beard
9. Recites 5 takbirs in Salaa 'alal Mayyit
10. Prays 51 rakaats of salaa daily



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