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**A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY
OF THE COMMANDER
OF THE FAITHFUL,
IMAM ALI (PBUH)**

**Imam Ali Foundation
Bucharest**

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In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

A Brief Biography of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (PBUH)

Part One: Birth and Childhood to Youth

According to historical narratives, on the 13th of Rajab in the 30th year after the Year of the Elephant, an extraordinary event occurred in the holy city of Mecca. Fatima bint Asad, Abu Talib's wife, went to the Kaaba while in labor. Miraculously, the wall of the Kaaba split open, allowing her to enter. After three days, she emerged from the Kaaba carrying her newborn. This baby was Ali (peace be upon him), who was recorded in history as the only person ever born inside the House of Allah.

Imam Ali's father, Abu Talib, was the leader of the Bani Hashim clan and the greatest defender of the Prophet (peace be upon him). His mother, Fatima bint Asad, was a pious and faithful woman whom the Prophet considered as his own mother. When she died, he shrouded her in his own shirt and lay in her grave to protect her from the pressure of the grave.

Ali's childhood coincided with the difficult years in Mecca. At the age of six, when Mecca was struck by severe famine and drought, the Prophet took custody of Ali to help his uncle Abu Talib who had a large family. This marked the beginning of a new phase in Ali's life. He was raised in the house of revelation and from childhood became familiar with moral and spiritual virtues.

About this period, the Imam said: "I used to follow him like a young camel following its mother's footsteps. Each day he would show me a banner of his noble character and command me to follow it."

During this period, Ali had special qualities that distinguished him from other children. He never prostrated to idols and was never tainted by polytheism. His truthfulness and trustworthiness were well-known to all. The Prophet named him

"As-Siddiq Al-Akbar" (The Greatest Truthful One) and "Al-Faruq Al-Azam" (The Greatest Distinguisher between Truth and Falsehood).

One of the important events in Imam Ali's adolescence was sleeping in the Prophet's bed on the night of migration. On that night, known as "Laylat al-Mabit," when the polytheists planned to kill the Prophet, Ali made a great sacrifice by sleeping in his bed so the Prophet could leave Mecca. This sacrifice was so great that Allah revealed the verse "And among the people is he who sells himself seeking the pleasure of Allah" (referring to those who sacrifice their lives seeking Allah's pleasure).

The Prophet gave Ali the title "Abu Turab" (Father of Dust). This happened after the Prophet saw him sleeping on the ground in the mosque. This title was so beloved to Imam Ali that he would become happy whenever someone called him by it.

Part Two: From the Beginning of Prophethood to the Prophet's Death

At the beginning of the prophetic mission, Ali was a ten-year-old boy and became the first man to embrace Islam. Sources relate that when the Prophet announced his mission at the gathering known as "Yawm ad-Dar," among all relatives, only Ali accepted his call, and in conditions where supporting the Prophet was fraught with danger, he said: "I will be your helper, O Messenger of Allah!"

After the public declaration of the Islamic mission, Ali was present in all instances of defending Islam and the Prophet. During the economic blockade of Muslims in Abu Talib's Valley, which lasted three years, Ali, despite his young age, was one of the Prophet's main defenders. He would carefully leave the valley at night to bring food to the hungry Muslims.

After the migration to Medina, Ali's role in spreading and establishing Islam grew stronger. He participated in all battles in early Islam, except Tabuk. In the Battle of Badr, which was the first confrontation between Muslims and polytheists, Ali played a principal role through his unique courage.

In the Battle of Uhud, when many Muslims left the battlefield, Ali remained alongside the Prophet with a small group of believers to defend him. In this battle, the call was heard: "There is no youth (warrior) except Ali, no sword except Dhul-Fiqar."

In the Battle of the Trench, when Amr ibn Abd Wudd, the famous Arab knight, called for a duel and no one dared to face him, Ali volunteered. The Prophet said: "The entire faith confronts the entire disbelief." In this individual combat, Ali defeated Amr. The Prophet said: "Ali's strike on the day of the Trench is worth more than the worship of both worlds (humans and jinn)."

At the conquest of Khaybar, after several Muslim commanders failed to capture the fortress, the Prophet said: "Tomorrow I will give the flag to a man who loves Allah and His Messenger, and whom Allah and His Messenger love." The next day, Ali took the flag and achieved a great victory by pulling out the gate of Khaybar fortress, which forty men were unable to move.

The reason for Ali's absence from the Battle of Tabuk was that the Prophet had asked him to remain in Medina in his place and monitor the plots of the hypocrites. One of the most important events in Ali's life was his marriage to Lady Fatima, the Prophet's noble daughter. This blessed marriage took place in the second year after Hijra. The Prophet said about this marriage: "If it were not for Ali, there would be no suitable match for Fatima." This marriage bore Imam Hassan, Imam Hussein, Lady Zainab, and Umm Kulthum.

Although the Prophet had repeatedly spoken about Imam Ali's high status and described him with titles such as "Gate to the City of Knowledge," "Leader of the God-fearing," "Provider of Kawthar," and others, in the last year of his life, at Ghadir Khum upon returning from the Farewell Pilgrimage, he officially designated Ali as his successor, saying: "For whomever I am their master, Ali is their master."

Part Three: From the Prophet's Death to the Caliphate

With the Prophet's death on the 28th of Safar in the 11th year after Hijra, a new phase began in Imam Ali's life. While the Imam and the Bani Hashim were busy preparing and burying the Prophet, a group of Muslims gathered at Saqifa Bani Sa'ida and chose Abu Bakr as caliph.

To preserve Islamic unity and avoid division, Imam Ali eventually pledged allegiance to the caliph but refused to accept any official position in the government. He said during this period: "I remained patient though there was a thorn in my eye and a bone stuck in my throat."

During the twenty-five years of seclusion, Imam Ali devoted himself to scholarly and cultural activities. He focused on interpreting the Quran, explaining religious laws, and educating disciples. His house became a center for answering Muslims' scientific and religious questions.

During the caliphates of Omar and Uthman, Imam Ali served as an advisor on various matters. The caliphs sought his help in complex judicial and religious issues. Omar repeatedly said: "If it weren't for Ali, Omar would have perished" and "May Allah not leave me alive for a difficult matter where Abu Al-Hassan (Ali) is not present."

During this period, Imam Ali also engaged in agriculture and digging irrigation canals. He cultivated many gardens and used their income to help the poor and needy. The wells he dug remained known for many years as "Ali's Wells."

During this time, the Imam paid special attention to educating his children. Imam Hassan and Imam Hussein received knowledge and education in their father's school, becoming role models for Islamic society. Lady Zainab also became known during this period as "Aqilat Bani Hashim" (The Wise Woman of Bani Hashim).

After Lady Fatima's martyrdom, Imam Ali married Umama (daughter of Zainab and Abu Al-As) according to Lady Fatima's will. Among his other wives was Umm Al-Banin (mother of Abbas) who played an important role in raising the Imam's children.

Part Four: The Period of Caliphate and Martyrdom

After Uthman's death in the year 35 AH, people rushed to Imam Ali's house to pledge allegiance. He initially refused, saying: "Leave me and seek someone else." However, he accepted the caliphate due to people's insistence and to prevent chaos, saying: "By Him who split the seed and created the soul, had it not been for the presence of the present and the establishment of proof through the existence of supporters, and if Allah had not taken a covenant from scholars not to remain silent in the face of the gluttony of the oppressor and the hunger of the oppressed, I would have cast the reins of caliphate on its hump."

Imam's first measures after assuming the caliphate:

- Dismissing incompetent governors
- Returning usurped property to the public treasury
- Implementing justice in distributing public funds
- Equality in social rights between Arabs and non-Arabs
- Fighting discrimination and oppression

However, these reforms faced opposition from various groups, leading to three major wars:

1. The Battle of Jamal (36 AH):

- Led by Talha, Zubayr, and Aisha
- Near Basra
- Ended with the Imam's victory and defeat of the covenant-breakers
- The Imam treated prisoners and wounded with mercy

2. The Battle of Siffin (37 AH):

- Between Imam Ali and Muawiya
- Lasted eighteen months
- Failed due to Amr Al-As's trick of raising Qurans on spears
- Led to arbitration and separation of the Kharijites

3. The Battle of Nahrawan (38 AH):

- Against the Kharijites who had declared the Imam an infidel
- Ended in decisive victory for the Imam

- Only nine Kharijites survived
- Nine of the Imam's army were martyred

Characteristics of Imam Ali's governance:

- Simple and modest life
- Direct supervision of governors
- Attention to minority rights
- Creating a free climate for opponents
- Implementing justice even with relatives

Finally, on the 19th of Ramadan in the year 40 AH, Ibn Muljam Al-Muradi, who was among the Kharijites and extremists, struck the Imam with a poisoned sword on his head in the Kufa mosque during the morning prayer. The Imam was martyred two days later, on the 21st of Ramadan. Among his recommendations in these two days were:

- Good treatment of his killer
- Not to kill more than one person in retaliation
- Recommendation to piety and order
- Care for orphans and neighbors
- Preserving the Quran and acting according to it

Although Ali (peace be upon him) physically departed this world, only his children possess the qualities mentioned in the Quran for succession to the Prophet and complete guidance of humanity. The path of divine leadership will continue through them until the Day of Judgment, and love for this family will remain in all ages a means of drawing closer to Allah and purifying hearts.

