

Selected Narrations about the Twelfth Imam volume 2

Muntakhab al-Athar Fi l-Imam al-Thani `Ashar (Vol. 2)

Author(s):

Ayatullah Lutfullah Safi Gulpaygani [3]

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This text, which is available in two volumes and is authored by Ayatullah Lutfullah as-Safi al-Gulpaygani, presents a handful of precious narrations about the 12th Awaited Imam. The narrations in this volume focus on the reappearance of the Awaited Imam and this text presents the implications and interpretations of these authentic traditions.

Translator(s):

Dr. Shabeeb Rizvi [5]

Category:

Imam al-Mahdi [6]

Hadith Collections [7]

Featured Category:

Shi'a beliefs explained [8]

Person Tags:

Imam Mahdi [9]

Editors Notes

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

اللّٰهُمَّ كُنْ لَوْلِيَّكَ الْحُجَّةَ بِنِ الْحَسَنِ صَلَواتِكَ عَلَيْهِ وَ عَليِ آبائِهِ فِي هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ وَ فِي كُلِّ سَاعَةٍ وَلِيًّا وَ حَافِظًا وَ قَائِدًا وَ نَاصِرًا وَ دَليلًا وَ عِينًا حَتَّى تُسَكِنَهُ اَرْضَكَ طَوْعًا وَ تُمَتِّعَهُ فِيها طَويلًا

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"O, Allah! Be now and at all times for your representative Hazrat Hojjat-Ibnil-Hasan (may your blessings be upon him and his ancestors), a master, protector, guide, helper, proof, and guard, until he resides peacefully on the earth, and let him enjoy (your bounties) for a long time (to come)."

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

The current book is the English translation of Muntakhab al-athar, which is probably the largest single collection of traditions about the Mahdi, peace be on him. The text used for this translation is the printed edition of Salmān Fārsī publications, 1422 AH. The following notes should be considered regarding this translation:

All verses of the Quran appear in boldface.

The words between square brackets are usually additions added by the translator/editor to make the translation of the traditions more expressive. Sometimes, square brackets have been used for the purpose of showing differences in different manuscripts.

Some small sections from the original book have been omitted in the translation. These were mostly explanations by the author about not-so-common Arabic words used in the traditions. The results of

these explanations have been incorporated in the translated text and have been used to select suitable equivalent English words. Other sections that have been omitted were mostly minor variations in the wordings of the traditions that the author had pointed to in the footnotes. Since these variations usually had the same meaning in English they have not been mentioned. Occasionally, the authors explanations have been slightly altered or shortened to make them more fluent in English.

Verses of the Quran have mostly been translated by the editor (unless otherwise mentioned).

All instances of ‘ibn’ (meaning son of) have been written as ‘b.’ except in places where ‘ibn’ is not preceded by a proper noun, e.g. ibn Qutayba.

For the sake of conciseness and simplicity, the connection between two narrators in a chain is simply shown using the word ‘from.’ For instance, if the chain is ‘X narrated to me that Y heard Z say’ it has been written as ‘From X, from Y, from Z.’

Phrases like: ‘Allah’s blessings be on him and his family’ and ‘peace be on him/her’ have not been abbreviated as is customary in some translations.

The word ‘father’ which is written as ‘Abﻻ, Abﺑ, and Abﻻ’ in Arabic, is only written as ‘Abﻻ’ in the translation, except in places where it is preceded by b. or ibn in a compound name. In such cases Abﻻ is used in conformance with the Arabic pronunciation, e.g. Ali b. Abﻻ ﻻﻻlib or ibn Abﻻ ﻻﻻadﻻd.

‘He says’ is usually used to refer to the author of the last book mentioned, e.g. “Faraj al-mahmﻻm, p. 247, he says: ‘A section about what we have narrated . . .’”

After some of the references in the footnotes, ‘short version’ has been written. This means that the reference points to a shorter version of the same tradition mentioned in the main text.

The transliteration used is in accordance with the following table:

| Symbol | Transliteration | Symbol | Transliteration | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-------------|
| ء | ‘ | ط | ṭ | Long: |
| ب | B | ظ | ẓ | ا, آ |
| ت | T | ع | ‘ | و |
| ث | Th | غ | gh | ى |
| ج | J | ف | f | Short: |
| ح | ḥ | ق | q | ـَ |
| خ | kh | ك | k | ـِ |
| د | d | ل | l | ـِ |
| ذ | dh | م | m | Diphthongs: |
| ر | r | ن | n | أو |
| ز | z | ه | h | أى |
| س | s | و | w | |
| ش | sh | ى | y | |
| ص | ṣ | ة | a, at | |

Since we are fallible, it is inevitable that we will make mistakes. If you find any in the current book please inform us so they can be corrected in future versions.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Mr Abdol-Hossein Taleie for his useful suggestions during the reviewing process and Ali Mansouri for proofreading the draft.

The editor can be contacted through h.akhoondali@yahoo.com [10].

Author's Preface

Those informed about Islamic history, traditions, and narrations are certainly aware of the abundance of glad tidings narrated from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, his holy progeny, peace be on them, and his companions regarding the reappearance of Imam Mahd¹, peace be on him, in the end of times (ʿakhir al-zamān) and the rise of the sun of his existence to dispel the darkness of ignorance, remove oppression and tyranny, spread the flags of justice, elevate the word of truth, and prevail over all religions even if the polytheists (mushrikān) dislike it.

With the permission of Allah, he will free the world from the disgrace of worshipping anyone other than Allah. (He will) set aside shameful habits and morals, put an end to defective laws formulated by humans in accordance with their desires, destroy all things that create enmity and hatred, break the bonds of all forms of prejudice—whether they be tribal, familial, national, or otherwise—which lead to differences in the nation, create separations, and inflame the fires of civil unrest and disputes.

Through his reappearance, Allah will fulfill His Promise which He has pledged in His sayings:

Allah has promised those of you who believe and do good that He will most certainly make them successors on earth just as He made successors those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has approved for them, and He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange.²

And We desired to bestow a favor upon those who were deemed weak on earth, and to make them the leaders, and to make them the heirs.³

Soon, the golden era will arrive during which no house will remain on the face of earth, but that in which Allah will enter the word of Islam and no village will exist, but that in which the testimony of there is no god except Allah will be called out every morning and evening.

Perhaps, some may claim that there exists no consensus amongst the Muslims on the issue (of the

Mahdﷺ) and their agreement on it is mere speculation. Obviously, such a claim is baseless, because many claimed to be the Mahdﷺ in the first era of Islam and in the following ages in which people were still close to the time of the Holy Prophet Allah's blessings be on him and his family, his companions (ṣaḥābā) and the followers (ṭabiʿīn), but we do not see any of the companions or the followers refuting the original concept of Mahdawiyya, but rather, they disputed the claims of the imposters on the basis of their characteristics and features.

Among those subjects that have been narrated to us and we don't have any method of proving except by hearing them, there is no subject that we must have faith in which is more important than believing in the appearance of the Mahdﷺ, may peace be on him.

This is because the glad-tidings that have been narrated concerning him are many and beyond the limit of *tawḥīd*. This is while the traditions about most of the beliefs of the Muslims have not reached such a state of *tawḥīd*. In fact, for some of these beliefs, one can only find a single tradition as support and yet, it is regarded as a definite fact.

Thus, how can a Muslim—who believes in what the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has brought and conveyed—have doubts about the reappearance of Mahdﷺ, peace be on him, despite the existence of such abundant traditions?

These traditions cannot be disputed because of the weakness of the chain of narrators in some of them or because of the odd concepts and improbability of the occurrence (of the events mentioned) in others. Surely, the weakness of the chain of narrators does not harm the other traditions which have highly authentic and reliable narrators and contents.

Otherwise, we will be forced to put aside all the correct traditions due to the presence of a few weak ones on the subject. Furthermore, their definitions are well known amongst the faithful and the (religious) leaders of the Muslims, great scholars, and the specialists in the science of traditions have narrated them. Besides, the weakness of the chain of narrators can cast doubt on the narration if the narration is not *mutawḥḥid*. But, when a narration is *mutawḥḥid*, the weakness of the chain is no longer a criterion for its reliability.

As for the improbability of the occurrence of some of the events mentioned in the narrations, we can answer: Improbability and oddness have no value in scientific matters—especially those related to the transmission of hadith. For, if this door is opened (i.e., if it is allowed to reject matters on grounds of improbability or oddness), it will become necessary to reject most of the true beliefs that have been established through the traditions of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, about which and about whose characteristics we have no means of gaining knowledge, except through divine texts.

For example, some of the features of the hereafter like the Bridge (ḥirḳ), the Weighing Scale (Mīzān), Heaven, Hell, etc. Indeed, even the polytheists (mushrikīn) of Mecca regarded the glad tidings of the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, about the domination of his religion and victory

of his words, during the early period of proclamation (bi`tha) as improbable, (because) in those days Islam was confined only to the Messenger of Allah, Amr al-Mu`min, and Khadija, peace be on them. They considered this news as ordinarily impossible. Hence, whenever he informed the (polytheists) about matters considered impossible under normal circumstances and apparent causes, they declared:

O you to whom the remembrance (dhikr) has been sent own! Verily, you are a mad man!4

But hardly a few days had passed, when Allah made His affairs (kalima) the highest while he degraded the affairs of the disbelievers. As a result, the Arabs submitted to him and Arab and non-Arab tyrants surrendered before Islam and the Muslims.

Furthermore, there is nothing about the Mahd which is strange or amazing in comparison with the miracles narrated from the Prophets, peace be on them, and the Divine customs in the past nations. Things like giving life to the dead, curing the blind and the lepers, the miracles of the Prophets Abraham, Moses, etc., and their occultation's (ghayba) from their people.

Thus, there is no reason to regard these mutawtir narrations as strange or improbable. Narrations which were narrated by people who were from different regions: Mecca, Medina, Kufa, Basra, Baghdad, Riyy, and Qum. Some were Shia, others Sunni, Ash'ari, and Mu'tazili. Some belonged to the first era (of Islam), while others were from later times.

Furthermore, it was not possible for their narrators to come together in one congregation to fabricate them—because they lived in separate lands and times and had different religions and opinions. Moreover, the suggestion of fabrication regarding the majority of these traditions is extremely weak and unacceptable, as the narrators were famous for their reliability, were great scholars, and were the men of religion, piety and worship.

If we abandon these traditions (because of these inconvincible reasons), then, there will remain no reliable traditions from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and his Ahl al-Bayt, peace be on them, in all subjects of jurisprudence, beliefs, ethics, etc. Also, it will be necessary to discard the authentic traditions regarding this world as well as the hereafter, even though the rational Muslims and non-Muslims view these as the foundations of their beliefs.

The existence of improbable matters (which our opponents use against us) is what they themselves have no problems with and rely on in most of their traditions. They object to the Shias, without realizing the results of their stance, which in reality, cannot be accepted by any Muslim. God willing, we will explain this in more detail in the future.

The *tawatur* of these traditions has been clearly declared and the reappearance of Imam Mahd, peace be on him, is famous amongst the Muslims and there is consensus among scholars regarding this matter. Highly esteemed Sunni scholars6 agree on this issue and their greatest narrators of hadith have narrated such traditions. Some of them are as follows: Ahmad (b. Hanbal), Abd Dawud, ibn Maja,

al-Tirmidhi, al-Bukhari, Muslim, al-Nisai, al-Bayhaqi, al-Mawardi, al-Tabarani, al-Sam'ani, al-Razi, al-'Abdār, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Ukbari in his Tafsir, ibn Qutayba in Gharb al-'Adab, ibn al-Sarr, ibn 'Askir, al-Daraqutni in Musnad Sayyidat al-Nisai al-'Ilam F'imat al-Zahr', al-Kisfi in al-Mubtada', al-Baghawi, ibn al-Athar, ibn al-Daiba' al-Shaibani, al-'akim in al-Mustadrak, ibn 'Abd al-Bir in al-Ist'ab, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Ukbari, al-Far'ani, al-Numayri, al-Munawwi, ibn Shawayh al-Daylam, Sib b. al-Jauzi, al-Shari al-Mu'tazili, ibn 'Abbas al-Malik, al-'Imawi, ibn al-Maghazili al-Shafi', Muwaffaq b. Ahmad al-Khwarizmi, Muhib al-Din al-Tabari, al-Shablanji, al-'Ubbani, Shaykh Man'ur 'Ali N'ifi, and others.

You should bear in mind that the appearance of the Mahdi, peace be on him, in the end of times is a subject about which many books, articles, and treatises have been written about; from the time of the eleventh Imam, al-'asan al-'Askari, peace be on him, until now. Rarely, can one locate a Shia scholar who has not written an exclusive book or an article or some special words on this subject. For the seekers of truth, reference to even a few of these would suffice.

This is in addition to the works of Sunni scholars on the issue like: 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Ukbari's 'Ifat al-Mahdi and Manqib al-Mahdi, 'Abd al-Karim al-Shafi's al-Bayn fi akhb' 'Abd al-Zam, Mull 'Ali al-Muttaqi's al-Burhan fi 'al-mat Mahdi khir al-zaman, 'Abd b. Ya'qub al-Rawjini's Akhb' al-Mahdi, 'Abd al-Jalal al-Din al-Suyuti's al-'Arf al-ward fi akhb' al-Mahdi, ibn 'ajar's al-Qaul al-mukhtar fi 'al-mat al-Mahdi al-Munta'ar, Shaykh Jam' al-Din Yusuf b. Ya'qub al-Dimashqi's 'Iqd al-durar fi akhb' al-Imam al-Munta'ar, etc. Moreover, an independent book called al-Faw'aim 'an I-fitan al-qaw'aim has been mentioned in one of the biographies available in al-S'rat al-'alabiyya.

The purpose of this book's preface is to clarify for the readers the falsity of those who claim to be the Mahdi or another Imam, during the period of occultation, particularly in recent times. This is a great need of the Muslims today because the enemies of Islam are constantly on the lookout to grasp at any available opportunity to break up the Muslims and ignite the fire of differences and disputes among them in order to facilitate their imperialistic and colonialist desires and gain control over their countries and peoples.

By Allah, nothing disgraces the Muslims but their differences and disputes. The followers of falsehood and disbelief can never overpower the helpers of the truth and Islam, unless disagreements and internal feuds are incited amongst them.

One of the issues used by these wicked and corrupt powers to split the Muslims and engage them in internal disputes—instead of external defense—is that of the Mahdi, may our souls be sacrificed for him⁷. To achieve these goals in areas like Iran, the Indian subcontinent, and Africa, they dispatched foolish and power-hungry stooges, well known for their immorality, lack of sensibility and understanding, and vileness.

They were ignorant, or at least pretended to be so, regarding the contents of the traditions concerning his names, attributes, signs, symbols, effects, pure lineage, and noble ancestry which cannot be collectively found in any single individual, except the holy character of the twelfth Imam, Abū I-Qāsim al-ʿUjjat b. al-ʿasan al-ʿAskarī b. Abū I-ʿasan `Alī al-Hādī b. Abū Ja`far Muḥammad al-Jawād b. Abū I-ʿasan `Alī al-Rīḍī b. Abū I-ʿasan Mūsā al-Kāẓim b. Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far al-ʿAdīq b. Abū Ja`far Muḥammad al-Baqir b. Abū I-ʿasan `Alī Zayn al-`Abidin b. Abū `Abd-Allah al-ʿUsayn, Sayyid al-Shuhadā, ibn Amr al-Mu`minin `Ali b. Abū ʿAlī, peace be on them all.

He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. He will conquer the whole world and will turn Islam into a global religion—to such an extent that there will remain no one on the face of earth who will worship other than Allah. There will not remain a village, but that in which the testimony of ‘there is no god but Allah and Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allah’ will echo in it. When he reappears, Gabriel (Jibrāʿīl) will call out his and his father’s name from the heavens. This call will be heard by the inhabitants of the East and the West.

He has attributes and signs—which God willing, we shall soon mention. These signs do not fit anybody but him, whosoever he may be, let alone the poor creatures who were arrested, jailed and lived in imprisonment until they were crucified. Their plans remained incomplete, whilst they couldn’t manage their own affairs—let alone others’.

Despite such clear explanations, some negligent people thought up fancy basis’ for their false claims. Perhaps, they have not seen what has been mentioned in the Holy Quran and the traditions about the Mahdī, may peace be on him, regarding the fact that he is a special person, whose lineage, ancestry, and attributes have no equivalent. Here, we have collected and reproduced traditions from reliable and authentic Shia and Sunni sources, so that no room remains for any doubts or questions whatsoever. Indeed, this will lead to great benefits and advantages.

Mentioning these traditions in this order and detail has other purposes and benefits. There is no harm in mentioning a few of them here:

The Shia belief regarding the existence of the Mahdī, peace be on him, during the occultation and after his emergence in the end of times, is neither an obstacle to the unity of the Muslims, nor a barrier to setting aside the differences which are damaging their majesty and might. This pure belief originates from the glad tidings (in these narrations) and is not contradictory to the principles of Islam or the explicit and clear guidelines of the Holy Quran and correct Sunna.

Rather, it is a belief that stems from faith in the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who is the source of these prophecies. Therefore, it is necessary that the Sunnis deal with this subject as they do with any other issue in which their scholars have differences amongst themselves and investigate the truth like they do for other problems.

Eliminating Repetition: After browsing through early and also recent books on this subject which were

available to me, I found many duplicate narrations. Most of the traditions are not related to a particular concept and cannot be included in a specific chapter. Since there are a number of concepts and meanings found in one tradition, the same tradition has been mentioned under different titles.

This is why duplicate narrations can be found in the books of both sects on the one hand and the truncation of traditions on the other. I have refrained from doing this by simply pointing to the traditions in the other chapters and also by mentioning their locations and numbers at the end of every chapter.

Knowing that most topics are mutawātir: We have already mentioned in the first volume, some of the traditions concerning the twelve Imams, may peace be on them, because of their significance regarding our discussion. God willing, we will now proceed to narrate the traditions concerning the Mahdī, peace be on him, his attributes, and his conditions from both sects. Investigating the traditions on this subject is beyond the aim and scope (of this book) and is not possible except for those who are experts in the sciences of tradition and the great scholars.

We have restricted ourselves to mentioning only the narrations which are relevant to the facts regarding that particular topic. By doing this, we will have fulfilled the purpose for which this book has been compiled for. Whoever desires more details should refer to the writings of other scholars.

This was the preface of this book in the first edition (which was published) more than forty years ago. Thank God, in this new edition, we have succeeded in compiling a complete volume about the traditions of the twelve Imams, peace be on them, and made it the first volume. We then revised the old edition until it turned into an almost new book and we included it in the current edition as the second and the third volumes.

The three volumes have been separated into eleven main chapters and ninety-four sections. We also succeeded in adding discussions based on narrations which are related to the subject of Imam Mahdī, peace be on him, and placed them at the end of the third volume.

We ask Allah, the Exalted, to make us successful in accomplishing the tasks that are the cause of His satisfaction, and to protect us from prejudice and recklessness, and to guide us to the path of truth and justice, and to make our actions purely for Him, and to reserve them for “the Day when neither wealth nor children will benefit anybody except the one who comes to Allah with a purified heart.”⁸

1. The author of al-Nihāya says: “Mahdī means the one whom Allah has guided towards the truth. (This name) has been used so much that it has become a common name. The Mahdī about whose appearance in the end of times (al-akhīr al-zamān), the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has given glad tidings about, has also been given this name.” The author of Lisān al-`Arab writes: “Mahdī means the one whom Allah has guided towards the truth and it has been used for naming to the extent that it has become a popular name. The Mahdī about whose appearance in the end of times the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has given glad tidings, has also been given this name.” The author of Tāj al-`arab says: “Mahdī means the one whom Allah has guided towards the truth and it has been used for naming to the extent that it has become a popular name. The Mahdī— about whose appearance in the

end of times glad tidings have been given—has also been given this name.” May Allah include us amongst his helpers.

2. Quran 24:55.

3. Quran 28:5.

4. Quran 15:6.

5. A region located south of present-day Tehran—Ed.

6. Ibn Abī L-ʿadād remarks in Sharḥ nahj al-balāgha: “All Muslim sects agree that the world and human responsibility will not come to an end but after him” ([Egypt], vol. 2, p. 535). One of them has written in his marginal explanations on Tirmidhī that Shaykh Abd al-ʿaq has written in al-Lumaʿat, “Traditions proclaiming that the Mahdī is from the Ahl al-Bait, from the children of Fāṭima, have passed the limits of taʿwīr” ([Delhi: 1342 AH] vol. 2, p. 46). Al-ʿubbān writes in Isʿaf al-rāghibīn, “Traditions from the Messenger of Allah concerning his reappearance, him being from his Ahl al-Bait, and that he will fill the earth with justice are mutawʿtir” ([Egypt: 1312], vol. 2, p. 140). Al-Shablanjī in Nūr al-abʿr notes: “Traditions from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, concerning him being from his Ahl al-Bait and that he will fill the earth with justice, are mutawʿtir” ([Egypt: 1312 AH], p. 155). Ibn ʿajar writes in al-ʿawāʿiq: “Abu L-ʿusayn al-Abrī says, ‘The traditions concerning his reappearance, him being from his Ahl al-Bait, his rule for seven years, him emerging along with Jesus—and the latter helping him in killing the Antichrist (al-Dajjī) at the Door of Ludd in Palestine—that he will lead this nation, and Jesus will pray behind him, are mutawʿtir. A large number of their narrators have directly reported from Muḥafīf, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family’” ([Egypt: al-Maymaniyya], p. 99). Sayyid Aḥmad b. Sayyid Zayn Daʿīn, the Shāfiʿī jurist, notes in al-Futūḥ al-Islāmiyya: “Traditions concerning the reappearance of the Mahdī are numerous and mutawʿtir. Some of them are correct (ṣaḥīḥ), others are acceptable (ḥasan), yet some others are weak (ḍaʿīf), and these are the majority. But, the abundance of these traditions and abundance of their narrators strengthens the traditions to the extent that they reach the limit of certainty. What is certain is that his reappearance is inevitable, he is from the progeny of Fāṭima, and he will fill the earth with justice. Allāma Sayyid Muḥammad b. Rasūl al-Barzanjī also points this out at the end of al-Ishʿā. Determining a specific year for his reappearance is impossible because (that time) is a hidden (ghayb) knowledge which is not known to anyone except Allah and no clear evidence regarding the time of his reappearance has been mentioned in the texts” ([Egypt: 1323 AH], vol. 2, p. 211). Al-Suwaydī writes in Sabʿik al-dhahab: “There is consensus among the scholars that the Mahdī is the one who will rise in the end of times and will fill the earth with justice. Traditions about him and his reappearance are numerous, but they will not be mentioned here because this book cannot accommodate them” (p. 78). Ibn Khaldūn remarks in al-Muqaddama: “Know that it is well known amongst all Muslims that with the passing of time, inevitably in the end of times (akhir al-zamān), a person from the Ahl al-Bait will appear who will make religion strong and will manifest justice. The Muslims will follow him and he will conquer the Islamic nations; he will be called the Mahdī” (p. 367). Shaykh Manṣūr ʿAlī Nūrī records in Ghayāt al-maʿmūl: “It is famous amongst past and present scholars, that in the end of times a person from the Ahl al-Bait called the Mahdī will definitely appear. He will conquer the Islamic lands and the Muslims will follow him and he will act between them with justice and he will strengthen the religion. After him, the Dajjī (Antichrist) will appear and Jesus, peace be on him, will descend. Then, Jesus will kill the Dajjī or will assist the Mahdī in killing him. A group of the best companions (of the Messenger of Allah) have narrated the traditions concerning the Mahdī and the greatest of scholars like Abū-Dawūd, al-Tirmidhī, ibn Māja, al-ʿabarīn, Abu-Yaʿlī al-Bazzār, Imam Aḥmad and Ṣūkim, may Allah be satisfied with all of them, have recorded them. Indeed, whoever considers all the traditions about the Mahdī as weak, like Ibn Khaldūn, has made a mistake” (vol. 5, Chap. 7: “Concerning the Caliph Mahdī, may Allah be pleased with him,” p. 362). He also says in vol. 5, p. 381: “From what has been mentioned above, it is clear that the Mahdī, the Awaited one (Muntaḥar) is from this nation and the Dajjī will appear in the end of times and Jesus, peace be on him, will descend and kill him. All Sunnis—in the past and present—hold this belief.” He says in vol. 5, p. 382: “Al-ʿafī writes in Fatḥ al-bʿr, ‘Traditions stating that the Mahdī is from this nation, and that Jesus, peace be on him, will descend and pray behind him, are mutawʿtir.’ Al-ʿafī mentions again, ‘It is true that Jesus, peace be on him, was taken up to the skies and is alive.’ Al-Shaukṇī—in his article titled al-Taʿwīr fi taʿwīr mājʿa fi L-Muntaḥar wa L-Dajjī wa L-Masʿ—states, ‘Twenty-nine traditions have been recorded concerning the descent of Jesus, peace be on him.’ Thereafter, he mentions them and writes, ‘All that we mentioned have reached the limit of taʿwīr and this is obvious for anyone who is well informed and he will acknowledge that the traditions concerning the awaited Mahdī are mutawʿtir, the traditions concerning the Antichrist

(al-Dajj) are mutawtir, the traditions concerning the descent of Jesus, peace be on him, are mutawtir. These are enough for anyone who has a grain of faith and a speck of fairness; and Allah is the Highest and He knows the best.” Al-Kanji al-Shafi writes in al-Bayn (chap. 11): “Traditions concerning Mahd are mutawtir and are spread far and wide because a large number of narrators have reported them from Muaf, may Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” Ahmad Amn notes in al-Mahd wa l-Mahdawiyya (p. 106): “I read an article called lbrz al-wahm al-makn min kalim ibn Khaldn by Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-iddiq in refutation of ibn Khaldn, in which he has weakened the sayings of the latter due to his rejection of the traditions concerning the Mahd. He proceeds to prove their authenticity then remarks: “These have reached the limit of tawtur.’ He also mentions other narrations that have not been mentioned by ibn Khaldn. In his rebuttal of ibn Khaldn he writes: “Ibn Khaldn says, ‘Only a small number of the traditions concerning the Mahd can be deemed pure (correct).’ We openly ask him, ‘What will you do with these few traditions? Will not one believe in the few traditions except when they become popular or reach the level of tawtur? Never! This is not possible because no one holds such an opinion and none before or after him have held such a view.’ He also criticizes ibn Khaldn for using singular traditions (adth) as supportive arguments in his history book—which themselves have only been mentioned from a single source, a source which itself has some issues. Concerning this approach, he contends, ‘Don’t you see that when the tradition is not in harmony with his desires he doesn’t accept it even if it is authentic?’ He then continues: ‘The traditions concerning the Mahd are believed because they are correct (a) and acceptable (asan) traditions amongst them. Ibn Khaldn is truly an innovator (mubtadi) and innovators are of different kinds: Among them is the one who is regarded a disbeliever (kafir) due to his innovation, like he who deems Allah to have a body/shape or denies Allah has knowledge about the details of things. Another, is the one who is not regarded a disbeliever (kafir) due to his innovation; he is the one who fabricates inferior things. Ibn Khaldn may be one of the latter. Regarding this, he has elaborated considerably. In his claim of falsity or weakness, Ibn Khaldn has contradicted all those whom he has narrated from. For, he has narrated from a group of scholars who have recited poems proving the existence of the Mahd. For instance:

Traditions about the Mahd are abundant in report
So give a hand and come forward to support
Or, like the saying of al-Suy:

And what has been reported in numbers so high
Proves that they haven’t fabricated a lie

He has also mentioned in al-Mahd wa l-Mahdawiyya (p. 110) that Abu-ayyib b. Ahmad b. Ab l-asan al-usayn has refuted ibn Khaldn in his article titled al-ldh`a lim kina wa m yakn bayna yaday al-s`a and has regarded his opinions as mistakes. Ultimately, he deduces that the Mahd will appear in the end of times and denying him is a great defiance and a grave mistake.

Al-Shafi’s view concerning the tawtur of these traditions has been mentioned in Kifat al-muwa`idn. In al-Burhn fi `alimt Mahd khir al-zamn (chap. 13), the verdicts of four scholars from the four schools of thought (al-madhhib al- arba`a) regarding the Mahd have been mentioned; namely, Shaykh ibn ajar al-Shafi—the author of al-Qaul al-mukhtar—Abu l-Sur Ahmad b. iy al-anaf, Muhammad b. Muhammad al-Malik and Ya`y b. Muhammad al-anbal. Their verdicts speak about the validity and authenticity of the belief about the appearance of the Mahd. They also mention that correct traditions have been narrated about him, his attributes, his appearance, and the unrests (fitnas) before his reappearance; like the emergence of al-Sufyn, the khasaf (sinking in the ground), etc. Ibn ajar has explicitly acknowledged that they are mutawtir and that he is from the Ahl al-Bait, he will conquer the east and the west (of the earth) and he will fill it with justice, and Jesus will pray behind him. He will kill al-Sufyn, and the army which al-Sufyn will dispatch to kill the Mahd, will sink in the ground in al-Bayd (which is a place) between Mecca and Medina.

7. Dr. Ahmad Amn al-Mir has published an article titled al-Mahd wa l-mahdawiyya and refuted the traditions concerning the Mahd by relying on poor reasons which are as follows: (1) Weakness of the traditions narrated about him, the answer of which you have already read, (2) Their contents run contrary to common sense. The reply to this objection is as follows: We do not see anything contrary to common sense in believing that a reformer will appear in the end of times who is from the Ahl al-Bait and a descendant of Fatimat al-Zahr, who appears with the aforementioned attributes and signs to support the religion, make the souls perfect, purify the earth from polytheism and oppression, and free it from the

hands of the oppressors and tyrants—even if there are some prophecies whose occurrences seem to be normally improbable and unusual. They do not harm in any way the other abundant traditions. Moreover, improbability and unlikelihood is not, and should not be a cause for refuting the narrations as we already elaborated, (3) The third argument which he relies on in most of his article, is the suggestion that the idea of Mahd[ؑ] and Mahdawiyya in Islam has a long and saddening history due to the various revolutions and movements in the name of Mahd[ؑ] which resulted in the weakening of many Islamic states. In order to support his view, he cites a few instances which he thinks are related to the concept of Mahdawiyya. These clearly expose his lack of information about the concept of Mahd[ؑ], his poor insight about the different sects, their origins, and doctrines.

It seems that he has not written this article to reach a historical conclusion; rather, he has written it either to split the Muslims and prevent them from fastening unto Islamic unity and the strong rope of Allah, or to support a few astray sects and corrupt views fabricated by the criminal hands of imperialism in the Islamic countries; because he has mentioned in it issues whose falsity is absolutely clear for those who have read the books, magazines, and histories of political sects. For his defense, he cannot bring the excuse of a lack of sources, because he was not responsible for writing this article in the first place, so that he may apologize for the confusion and blunders caused by him because of his desires. It was compulsory for him to stop and leave its writing to those who were worthy of it, (when you are incapable of a thing, leave it). Unfortunately, A[ؑ]mad Am[ؑ]n has paid no attention to this fact—just as he didn't care if he deformed the face of religion and plunged the Islamic nation in doubt and skepticism. Perhaps, he and all those who follow in his footsteps and teachings, regard refuting realities, rejecting narrations, or twisting them to match their desires as an intelligent act.

Whatever the reason, the answer to his views is as follows: If what he suggests is the standard for distinguishing between truth and falsehood, then he should also refute all the accepted truths which are undeniable facts that he has no way of rejecting. Why doesn't A[ؑ]mad Am[ؑ]n deny the Prophets because of the many revolutions started in their names, which were many more than those who were started in the name of the Mahd[ؑ]? Or, can he deny the existence of Allah (God forbid), Mighty and Glorified be He, because most people worship other than Allah and enslave his servants? Or, can he refute the truth of justice and reformation, because most revolutionaries and reformists began their movements in the name of justice and reforms, even though they did not establish anything but evil and mischief, and did not pursue their goals except for greed and their worldly desires?

The truth is, in general, the cause of the success of these revolutionaries was the existence of people like A[ؑ]mad Am[ؑ]n who lacked sufficient knowledge about the concept of the Mahd[ؑ]. They were ignorant about his signs and symbols which have been mentioned in the traditions. Worse, some of them have even put forward arguments frailer than a spider's web to reject these traditions. They argue that the concept of Mahdawiyya leads to hopelessness and laziness, and prevents development and progress! I wish I knew the reason for this prejudice and turning away from reality, because they even went to the extent of denying the sayings of their Prophet, contradicting their leaders in traditions, history, and all other Islamic sciences, simply on the basis of these absurd arguments. Rather, the belief in the appearance of the Mahd[ؑ]—as we will God willing show—gives energy, purifies the hearts, helps the followers' to move towards developing ethics and morality, leads to the acquisition of virtues, merits, sciences and perfections, cleanses the souls from all filth and immoral qualities, and finally, arouses the understanding of the nation towards true responsibility.

8. Quran 26:89.

Chapter Three: The Proofs About The Reappearance of The Mahdi,

Chapter Three: The Proofs About The Reappearance of The Mahdi, His Names, Attributes,

Comprised of fifty-one sections.

Section One

Verses from the Holy Quran which give glad-tidings about his reappearance, or can be interpreted to the signs of his reappearance, and what will happen before, during, and after his reappearance

In this section, we will mention the traditions that have been narrated which are interpretations of the Holy Quran or the opinions of commentators which are in harmony and accordance with these narrations.

Of course, some of these verses in their apparent form or according to their interpretations, exclusively refer to him. This will become clear for you by reading what has been mentioned. We will discuss or at least hint at twenty-eight verses from the Holy Quran and their interpretations (tafsīr) in this chapter. The number of traditions we will refer to, to explain these verses, are eighty-two.

The verses of the Quran which refer to his reappearance are many and exceed one hundred and thirteen in number—as some have enumerated. A few scholars have even compiled exclusive books on the subject. We will, God willing, mention a few of these verses only as examples and not as a complete study. They are as follows:

(1)

الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ

Those who believe in the unseen and establish prayers and give away from what We have bestowed upon them 1

310. Kamāl al-dīn²: Muḥammad b. Mūsā al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb al-ʿAḥḥār, from Ahmad b. Muḥammad b. ʿIsā, from Muḥammad b. ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz, from a group of our companions, from Dāwūd b. Kathīr al-Riqq, from (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, regarding the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, “Those who believe in the unseen,” means those who acknowledge [or believe]³ that the uprising of the Qʿim is true.

(2)

وَأُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ
الْوَارِثِينَ

And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs⁴

311. Nahj al-balāgha⁵: Amr al-Mu'min, peace be on him, said: "The world will be kind to us after its defiance just like an ill-mannered she-camel which is kind towards its young [but bites those who want to milk it]." Then Amr al-Mu'min, peace be on him, recited the verse, "And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs." Ibn Abi I-ʿad says in his commentary on Nahj al-balāgha: "Our companions believe that he has given a promise about an Imam who will rule the earth and dominate the nations."

Al-ʿaskani mentions in Shawhid al-tanzil from `Abd-al-Raḥmān b. al-ʿasan, from Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Salma, from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Sulaim, from Yaʿyū b. `Abd al-ʿamīd al-ʿammānī, from Sharḥ, from `Uthmān, from ibn ʿadīq, from Rabʿat b. Najidh, from `Alī, peace be on him, who said: "The world will become kind to us like an ill-mannered she-camel towards her young." He then recited: "And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened . . ."

312. Tafsir al-Furqān: Al-ʿusayn b. Sa`ād, through a chain of narrators from Amr al-Mu'min, peace be on him, who said:

Whoever wants to ask about our affairs and that of the people, then (he should know that) we and our followers were on the tradition (sunna) of Moses and his followers since the day Allah created the heavens and the earth, and surely our enemy and his followers were on the tradition of the Pharaoh (Fir`un) and his followers since the day Allah created the heavens and the earth. He [i.e. the one who wants to know] should recite the verses from the beginning of Sūrat al-Qaḥāf to Allah's saying "they fear (yaḍharūn)." I swear by Allah Who split the seed, created the soul, and sent the Book to Muḥammad—Allah's blessings be on him and his family—with truth and justice, these [people] will become kind to you like an ill-mannered she-camel becomes kind towards its young.

313. Shawhid al-tanzil⁷: From Abū Bakr al-Ma`mar, from Abū Ja`far al-Qummī, from Muḥammad b. `Umar al-ʿifī in Baghdad, from Muḥammad b. al-ʿusayn, from Aḥmad b. `Uthm b. ʿakīm, from Shuray b. Maslama, from Ibrāhīm b. Yūsuf, from `Abd al-Jabbār, from al-A`mash al-Thaqafī, from Abū ʿadīq, from Amr al-Mu'min, peace be on him, who either said: "The verse 'And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs' is about us" or "belongs to us."

314. Tafsīr al-Furqān: From furqān b. Ibrāhīm al-Kāfī, through a chain of narrators from Abū I-Mughaira, from Amīr al-Mu'mīnīn, peace be on him, who said: "The verse 'And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs,' was descended regarding us."

315. Tafsīr al-Furqān: From `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Zuhārī, through a chain of narrators from Thuwair b. Abī Fākhra, from Imam `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, who asked him, "Do you recite the Quran?" He replied in the affirmative. The Imam, peace be on him, said, "Then recite [Sūrat al-Qaḥāḥ], the Surah of Moses and the Pharaoh." Thuwair says, "I recited four of its initial verses until I reached His saying, 'and make them the Imams and make them the heirs.' He, peace be on him, said: "That's enough. By the One Who truly sent Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, as a giver of good news and warnings (bashīran wa nadhīran), the righteous (al-abrār) from us Ahl al-Bait and their followers are like Moses, peace be on him, and his followers."

316. Tafsīr al-Furqān: From `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Umar al-Zuhārī, through a chain of narrators from Zaid b. Salīm al-Ju'fī who said:

I went to Abū-Ja'far [Imam Muḥammad al-Bāqir], peace be on him, and said, "May Allah improve your condition! Al-Khaithama al-Ju'fī has reported to me that he asked you concerning the verse 'and make them the Imams and make them the heirs,' and that you told him that you are the Imams and you are the heirs." The Imam, peace be on him, replied, "By Allah, al-Khaithama has said the truth. I informed him exactly like this."

317. Ghaybat al-Shaykh: From Muḥammad b. `Alī, from al-Ḥusayn b. Muḥammad al-Qiḥā'ī, from `Alī b. Ḥatīm, from Muḥammad b. Marwān, from `Ubaid b. Ya'qūb al-Thaurī, from Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn, from his father, from his grandfather, from `Alī, peace be on him, who said regarding the saying of Allah, the Exalted 'And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs': "They are the progeny of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Allah will send their Mahdī after their struggles so that he may give them honor and humiliate their enemies."

318. Al-Anwār al-muḥī'a: From Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Ayūdī, through a chain of narrators from Amīr al-Mu'mīnīn, peace be on him, who said, "We Ahl al-Bait are those who have been mentioned in (Allah's) book as weakened in the earth and whom Allah will make the Imams. Allah will send their Mahdī so that he may give them honor and humiliate their enemies."

319. Al-Anwār al-muḥī'a: It has been narrated that the verse "And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs" was mentioned in the presence of Imam al-Ḥadīq, peace be on him. Tears started flowing from his eyes and he said: "By Allah, we are those who have been weakened."

وَلَقَدْ كَتَبْنَا فِي الزُّبُورِ مِنْ بَعْدِ الذِّكْرِ أَنَّ الْأَرْضَ يَرِثُهَا عِبَادِيَ الصَّالِحُونَ

And indeed We have written in the Psalms after the Remembrance, that the earth will be inherited by my righteous servants¹⁴

320. M¹⁵ nazala min al-Qur¹⁵n f¹⁵ Ahl al-Bait `alayhim al-sal¹⁵m15: A¹⁵mad b. Mu¹⁵ammad, from A¹⁵mad b. al-¹⁵asan, from his father, from ¹⁵usayn b. Mu¹⁵ammad b. `Abd-Allah b. al-¹⁵asan, from his father, from (Imam) Ab¹⁵ Ja`far, peace be on him, who said: “The saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, ‘The earth will be inherited by My righteous servants’ refers to the companions of the Mahd¹⁵, peace be on him, in the end of times.”

321. Tafs¹⁶r al-tiby¹⁶n16: Imam al-B¹⁶qir, peace be on him, said: “Surely, this is a promise to the believers that they will inherit the entire earth.”

The author of Majma` al-bay¹⁶n says:

It has been narrated from (Imam) Ab¹⁶ Ja`far, peace be on him, that “they are the companions of the Mahd¹⁶, peace be on him, in the end of times.” The proof for this can be found in the traditions narrated by the Shias and the Sunnis on the authority of the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said, “If only one day remains to the end of the world, Allah will prolong it until He sends a righteous person from my Ahl al-Bait. He will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.” The renowned Sunni scholar, Ab¹⁶ Bakr A¹⁶mad b. al-¹⁶usayn al-Bayhaq¹⁶ has recorded numerous traditions concerning this concept in his book al-Ba`th wa l-nush¹⁶r. His grandson, Ab¹⁶ l-¹⁶asan `Ubaid-Allah b. Mu¹⁶ammad b. A¹⁶mad, narrated to us all these traditions in the year 518 AH . . . One of the things that Ab¹⁶ l-¹⁶asan narrated to us was that he said, “Narrated to us Ab¹⁶ `Al¹⁶ al-R¹⁶db¹⁶r¹⁶, from Ab¹⁶ Bakr b. D¹⁶sa, from Ab¹⁶ D¹⁶w¹⁶d al-Sajist¹⁶n¹⁶, from many different people, from the book al-Sunan, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘If only one day remains to the end of the world, Allah will prolong it until He sends a person from me or from my Ahl al-Bait.’ Some versions of the tradition also add, ‘His name will be my name. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and oppression.’”

322. Tafs¹⁷r al-Qumm¹⁷17: (From Imam al-B¹⁷qir, peace be on him) who said:

In the saying of Allah, “And indeed We have written in the Psalms after the Remembrance (al-dhikr),” Remembrance (al-dhikr) refers to all the [Holy] books and “The earth will be inherited by my righteous servants,”¹⁸ refers to the Q¹⁷’im, peace be on him, and his companions; The Psalms consist of the story of fierce battles, praises, glorifications and supplications.

وَإِنَّهُ لَعَلَّمٌ لِلسَّاعَةِ

And surely he is a sign of the Hour¹⁹

323. Al-ʿawāʾiq al-muʿriqa²⁰: Ibn ʿajar records in al-ʿawāʾiq in the chapter on the verses revealed about the Ahl al-Bait:

Regarding the twelfth verse, Allah’s saying: “And surely he is a sign of the hour,” Muqātil b. Sulaimān and other commentators who have followed him say, “Verily, this verse was revealed concerning the Mahdī.” We will soon mention traditions that clearly show he is from the progeny of the Messenger of Allah. This verse shows the prosperity of the descendants of Fāṭima and `Alī—may Allah be satisfied with them—and that surely Allah will bring forth from them many pure people and that He will make their descendants the keys of wisdom and the mines of mercy . . .”

It has been recorded in Isʿf al-rāghib: “Muqātil b. Sulaimān and the commentators who followed him have said the verse ‘And surely he is a sign of the hour,’ was revealed concerning the Mahdī.”

According to Nūr al-abṣār, “Muqātil b. Sulaimān and the commentators who followed him have said regarding the above verse, ‘He is Mahdī. He will be in the end of times. The signs of the Hour and its establishment will occur after his reappearance.’”

(5)

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَىٰ الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَ لَوْ كَرِهَ
الْمُشْرِكُونَ

It is He Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to make it superior over all religions, even though the polytheists detest it²¹

324. Tafṣīr al-tibyān²²: Imam al-Bḥqir, peace be on him, says:

This will occur when the Qaʾim, peace be on him, emerges. According to Majmaʿ al-bayān, Imam Al-Bḥqir, peace be on him, says, “This will take place when the Mahdī from the progeny of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, reappears. No one will remain but that he will testify to [the prophethood] of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.”

325. Al-Bayān²³: Saʿd b. Jubair says regarding the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, “to make it superior over all religions, even though the polytheists detest it” that “He is the Mahdī from the progeny of Fāṭima, peace be on her.”

326. Al-Kāfī 24: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from one of our companions, from ibn Maḥbūb, from Muḥammad b. al-Fuḥayl, from Abū I-ḥasan al-Muḥḥḥ [i.e. the tenth Imam] who when asked about the verse: “to make it superior over all religions,” had said, “He [Allah] will dominate it over all the religions at the time of the Q’im’s rising. Allah says, ‘And Allah will complete His Light,’ [means] the mastership (wilāya) of the Q’im. . .”

327. The Book of Faḥl b. Shādhān 25: Ḥafwān b. Yaḥyā, from Muḥammad b. Ḥumrān, from (Imam) Ja`far b. Muḥammad al-Ḥadiq, peace be on him, who said:

Surely the Q’im from us will be aided by fear and made powerful with assistance. The earth will twist for him [distances will be shortened for him], all the treasures will be exposed for him, and through him, Allah, the Exalted, will dominate His religion over all religions even if the polytheists detest it. His government will encompass the East and West of the earth. No ruined thing shall remain on the earth but that he will revive it. The Spirit of Allah, Jesus the son of Mary, peace be on him, will descend and pray behind him.

Ibn Ḥumrān narrates that someone asked him, “O son of Allah’s Messenger! When will the Q’im from you appear?” He, peace be on him, replied:

When the men will resemble women and the women will resemble men, men will suffice with men and women will suffice with women,26 women will ride on saddles, false testimonies will be accepted while the true ones will be refuted, blood [murder] will be taken lightly, unlawful sex will be committed, loans will be given with interest and bribes will be taken, the evil shall govern the good, the Sufyān will emerge from Syria and the Yamān from Yemen.

The earth will sink at Baydā’ and a young man from the progeny of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, will be killed between the Rukn and the Maqām [at Ka`ba]. His name will be Muḥammad b. Muḥammad and his epithet will be al-Nafs al-Zakiyya (the pure soul). A cry will come from the skies that “salvation is for `Alī and his followers.”

It is then that our Q’im will reappear. When he emerges, he will lean his back on the Ka`ba and three hundred and thirteen men will gather near him. The first thing that he will say will be the verse, “The remnant of Allah is better for you, if you are believers.”27

Then, he will say, “I am the remnant of Allah, His Proof, and His Caliph upon you.” No Muslim will salute him but through these words, “Peace be upon you, O remnant of Allah on His earth.” When the ten thousand men assembly meets for the covenant, he will emerge from Mecca. Then, besides Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, nothing that is worshipped and no idol will remain on earth except that it will catch fire and burn. This will occur after a long occultation.

328. Tafsīr Furqān al-Kāfī 28: Narrated to us Ja`far b. Aḥmad, from Abū `Abd Allah (al-Ḥadiq), peace be on him, who said about the verse: “It is He Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion

of truth to make it superior over all religions, even though the polytheists detest it” that “When the Q’im reappears, there shall not remain a polytheist nor a disbeliever except that he will dislike the reappearance [of the Q’im]. If [one of them hides] in a boulder, the boulder will call out, ‘O believer! Within me is an unbeliever. Break me and kill him.’”

329. Mash’riq anwār al-yaqīn²⁹: From Imam al-ḥadiq, peace be on him, who said: “Surely, this affair will end in the one whom the horsemen will return to humbly from the horizons. He is the one who will make [Islam] prevail over all religions and he is the Mahdī.”

330. Majma` al-bayān³⁰: al-`Ayyūshī narrates through his chain from `Imrān b. Maitham, from `Ibāya that he heard Amr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on him, say: “‘It is He Who has sent His Messenger with guidance and the religion of truth to make it superior over all religions,’ Has this already occurred?” [Those present] replied, “Yes.” He, peace be on him, said, “No, by the One in Whose hand is my life. Not until there remains no village but that from which the testimony of there is no god but Allah will be called out every morning and evening.”

331. Tafsīr al-`Ayyūshī³¹: From Sam`a, from Abū Abd-Allah (al-ḥadiq), peace be on him, (under the verse), “It is He Who has sent . . . even though the polytheists detest it”:

When the Q’im, peace be on him, reappears, there shall remain no one who associates others with the Great Allah and no disbelievers, except that they will dislike his reappearance.

332. Mafṭḥ al-ghayb (al-Tafsīr al-kabīr)³²: Under the interpretation of the saying of [Allah], the Exalted, “It is He Who has sent His Messenger . . .,” from al-Suddī: “This will occur when the Mahdī emerges.”

He also says in al-Sirj al-munīr under the interpretation of the same verse: “Al-Suddī said, ‘This will occur when the Mahdī, peace be on him, emerges.’” It has also been narrated from al-Suddī in Tafsīr abū l-futūḥ³³ that “This will occur when the Mahdī, peace be on him, emerges.”

(6)

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا
 اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ
 خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ
 الْفَاسِقُونَ

Allah has promised those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly

establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; They worship Me and don't associate anyone with Me; and whoever is ungrateful after that, then those are the disobedient³⁴

333. Shawḥid al-tanzīl³⁵: Furṭ b. Ibrāhīm, from Ja'far b. Muḥammad b. Shārawayh al-Qaṣṣīn, from ʿUraith b. Muḥammad, from Ibrāhīm b. ʿakam b. Abīn, from his father, from al-Suddī, from Ibn ʿAbbās concerning the verse, “Allah has promised to those of you who believe . . .” He said: “It has been revealed about the family of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.”

334. Shawḥid al-tanzīl³⁶: Furṭ, from Aḥmad b. Mūsā, from Mukhawwal, from ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, from al-Qāsim b. ʿUwf who said: “I heard ʿAbd-Allah b. Muḥammad say [concerning the verse], ‘Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds . . .’ that ‘It is for (about) us Ahl al-Bait.’”

335. Al-Durr al-manthūr³⁷: Aḥmad and Ibn Mardawayh have both narrated and Bayhaqī has recorded in al-Dalʿil from Ubay b. Kaʿb who said: “When the verse ‘Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds . . .’ was revealed to the Prophet, he said, ‘Give good news to this nation about loftiness, elevation, religion, help, and establishment on earth. Whoever amongst them performs the deeds of the hereafter for this world [i.e. to reach worldly aims], he will have no share in the hereafter.’”

336. Tafṣīr al-Qummī³⁸: His saying: ‘Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; They worship Me and don't associate anyone with Me’ was descended concerning the Qāʾim from the progeny of Muḥammad, peace be on him and his forefathers.

337. Al-ʿItijāj³⁹: In a lengthy tradition from Amr al-Muʾminīn, peace be on him, in which he mentions the shortcomings of some of the enemies of the Ahl al-Bait and those who had gained power and Allah's delay in punishing them. He says:

All these [delays] were [put in place] so that the respite would come to an end which Allah, Blessed and High be He, gave to His enemy Satan; until the Book reaches its time and the word is fulfilled against the disbelievers and the true promise which Allah has explained in His Book approaches: ‘Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them.’ This will occur when nothing will remain from Islam except its name and from the Quran save its text.

The owner of the affair (ʿib al-amr) will go in occultation because he will have an [obvious] excuse to do so as mischief will cover the hearts to such an extent that the closest of people to him will have the most enmity against him. It is then that Allah will assist him with an army that you cannot see and He will make the religion of His Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, prevail at his hands over all

other religions, even if the polytheists dislike it.

338. Miḥab al-Shaykh⁴⁰: In the ziyāra of Imam Ḥusayn, peace be on him, which he has narrated from Abū (Imam) `Abd-Allah, peace be on him:

O Allah! multiply Your salutations, Your mercy, and Your blessings upon the progeny of Your Prophet—the progeny who were mistreated, terrified and belittled; the remnants of the clean, pure, and blessed tree. And O Allah! Elevate their word, make their arguments successful, free them from calamities, straits, the intense darkness of falsehood, and sorrows.

Make the hearts of their Shias and Your party steadfast upon their obedience, their mastership, their help, and their guardianship, and help them and bestow them with patience in the face of the tortures they receive in Your cause.

Make for them witnessed days and praised, fortunate times, in which their salvation will be near and which will be the cause of their establishment and them being assisted (by You), just as You have guaranteed for Your friends in Your revealed Book, for surely, You have said and Your word is the truth: ‘Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; They worship Me and don’t associate anyone with Me.’

339. Majma` al-bayān⁴¹: It has been narrated from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, that this verse is about the Mahdī from the progeny of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Al-`Ayyūsh has narrated through his chain of narrators from Imam `Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, that after reciting the verse, he, peace be on him, said:

By Allah! Those are the followers of us Ahl al-Bait. Allah will deal with them in this manner at the hands of a person from us and he is the Mahdī of this umma. He is the one about whom the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, “Even if there remains one day from this world, Allah will prolong that day until a person from my progeny rules. His name will be my name. He will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.”

He narrates a similar tradition from (Imam) Abū Ja`far and (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on them, and then says: “Therefore, the term “those of you who believe and do good deeds” refers to the Holy Prophet and his Ahl al-Bait, may Allah’s blessings be upon them. The verse also gives them glad-tidings about their governance and power in the cities and the removal of fear from them at the time of the rising of their Mahdī, peace be on him.”

340. Majma`zāt al-ḥathir al-nabawiyya⁴²: The Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, saw Fatima, peace be on her, hungry with a torn gown, so he wept and said: “Does it not satisfy you, O Fatima, that there shall not remain on the face of earth any house or tent except that respect or disgrace

shall enter it because of your father?”⁴³

341. Majz'at al-thar al-nabawiyya⁴⁴: He, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "This religion will certainly enter everywhere that night enters."

I say: In this tradition as well as the previous one, there is no clear mention of the Mahd, peace be on him, or that he will make such things happen. But, just like the Holy Quran, some narrations explain other narrations. Whoever ponders about what we have mentioned from the verses of the Holy Quran and the traditions— and traditions similar to these—will know that the aim of all of these traditions is one and that is, giving news about Islam's domination over all other religions and the rule of the believers on earth during the government of the Divine Caliph, Imam Mahd, peace be on him, whom Allah will help to conquer the entire globe.

342. M nazala min al-Qur'n f Ahl al-Bait `alayhim al-sal'm⁴⁵: Narrated to us `Al b. `Abd-Allah, from Ibr'h'm b. Muammad al-Thaqaf, from al-`asan b. al-usayn, from Sufy'n b. Ibr'h'm, from `Amr b. H'shim, from Is'q b. `Abd-Allah, from (Imam) `Al b. al-usayn, peace be on him, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, "And by the Lord of the heavens and the earth, it is most surely the truth, just as you do speak."⁴⁶ He, peace be on him, said:

"It is most surely the truth," refers to the rising of the Q'im, peace be on him. Concerning him, was revealed, "Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange."

343. Ghaybat al-Nu'm'n⁴⁷: Narrated to us A'mad b. Muammad b. Sa'd b. `Uqda, from Ab I-`asan A'mad b. Y'suf b. Ya`q'b al-Ju'f, from his book, from Ism' b. Mihr'n, from al-`asan b. `Al b. Ab 'amza, from his father and Wuhaib, from Ab Ba'ar, from (Imam) Ab Abd-Allah, peace be on him, regarding the meaning of His saying, Mighty and Glorified be He: "Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them, and that He will most certainly establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them, and that He will most certainly, after their fear, give them security in exchange; They worship Me and don't associate anyone with Me." He, peace be on him, said: "It was revealed concerning the Q'im, peace be on him, and his companions."

(7)

الَّذِينَ إِن مَّكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا
عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَلِلَّهِ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ

Those, who if We give them power in the land, will keep up the prayers and pay the zakat and enjoin good and forbid evil, and the outcome of all affairs belongs to Allah⁴⁸

344. Shawḥid al-tanzīl⁴⁹: Furṭ (al-Kḥf), from Aḥmad b. al-Qḥsim b. `Ubaid, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad al-Jammīl, from Ya`yū b. Ḥshim, from Abū Manḥūr, from Abū Khalīfa who said:

I and Abū `Ubaida al-ḥadhḥ' visited (Imam) Abū Ja`far, peace be on him. He asked his slave-girl to get a cushion for us. I said, "There is no need for it, we will sit." He said, "O Abū Khalīfa! Don't reject respect. For surely, none turns down respect except a donkey." I asked him, "How can we recognize the owner of this affair (ḥib al-amr)?" He replied, "The saying of Allah, the Exalted, 'Those, who if We give them power in the land, will keep up the prayers and pay the zakat and enjoin good and forbid evil.' When you see this man from us, then follow him, for surely, he is its owner."

345. Shawḥid al-tanzīl⁵⁰: Furṭ (al-Kḥf), from al-ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Zuray` and Ismā`īl b. Abūn, from Fuḥail b. al-Zubayr, from Zaid b. `Alī who said: "When the Q'īm from the progeny of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, rises, he will say, 'O people! We are the ones about whom Allah has promised you in His Book: "Those, who if We give them power in the land . . ."'"

346. Mā nazala min al-Qurḥn fī Aḥl al-Bait `alayhim al-salām⁵¹: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. al-ḥusayn b. ḥamīd, from Ja`far b. `Abd-Allah, from Kathīr b. `Ayysh, from Abū l-Jḥrīd, from (Imam) Abū Ja`far, peace be on him, concerning His saying, Mighty and Glorified be He: "Those, who if We give them power in the land, will keep up the prayers and pay the zakat and enjoin good and forbid evil, and the outcome of all affairs belongs to Allah." He, peace be on him, said:

This (verse) is about the progeny of Muḥammad, the Mahdī, and his companions. Allah, the Exalted, will make them rule all the earth. Through them, Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, will destroy the innovations (al-bida`) and falsehood—the same way that the fools had caused the truth to die—until no sign of unfairness will be visible. They will enjoin good and forbid evil, and the outcome of all affairs belong to Allah."

(8)

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقَاتِلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلِمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ

Permission (to fight) is given to those upon whom war is made, because they are oppressed, and most surely Allah is well able to assist them⁵²

347. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān⁵³: Informed us `Alī ibn al-ḥusayn al-Mas`ūdī, from Muḥammad b. Ya`yū al-`Aḥḥār al-Qummī, from Muḥammad b. ḥasan al-Rḥzī, from Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Kḥfī, from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Abū Najrān, from al-Qḥsim, from Abū Baḥr, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on

him, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He: “Permission (to fight) is given to those upon whom war is made because they are oppressed, and most surely Allah is well able to assist them.” He said: “It is about the Q’im, peace be on him, and his companions.”

348. M nazala min al-Qur’an f Ahl al-Bait `alayhim al-salam⁵⁴: Narrated to us al-usayn b. Aamad al-Malik, from Muhammad b. `S, from Yunus, from al-Muthann al-ann, from `Abd-Allah b. `Ajl, from (Imam) Ab Ja`far, peace be on him, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He: “Permission (to fight) is given to those upon whom war is made because they are oppressed, and most surely Allah is well able to assist them.” He said: “It is about the Q’im, peace be on him, and his companions.”

(9)

أَيْنَ مَا تَكُونُوا يَأْتِ بِكُمُ اللَّهُ جَمِيعًا

Wherever you are, Allah will bring you all together⁵⁵

349. Majma` al-bayn⁵⁶: It has been narrated from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, that this verse refers to the companions of the Mahd, peace be on him, in the end of times. Imam al-Ri, peace be on him, says: “By Allah, when our Q’im rises, Allah will gather towards him his Shias from all the lands.”

It has been narrated in Tafsir al-`Ayyash from Ab Sumayna, from one of the slaves of (Imam) Ab I-asan, peace be on him, who said: “I asked (Imam) Ab I-asan, peace be on him, about His saying, the Exalted, ‘wherever you are, Allah will bring you all together.’ He, peace be on him, replied, ‘By Allah, when our Q’im rises, Allah will gather (for him) our Shias from all the lands.’”

350. Tafsir al-`Ayyash⁵⁷ : In a lengthy tradition from (Imam) Ab Ja`far al-Baqir, peace be on him:

Then, the Q’im, peace be on him, will stand between the Rukn and the Maqam (beside Ka`ba) and will perform prayers. He will complete them while his minister is beside him. He will then say, “O People! Verily, we seek the help of Allah against those who oppressed us and withheld our rights. Whoever disputes us concerning Allah, then we are closer to Allah. Whoever disputes us concerning Adam, then we are the closest people to Adam.

Whoever disputes us concerning Noah, then we are the closest people to Noah. Whoever disputes us concerning Abraham, then we are the closest people to Abraham. Whoever disputes us concerning Muhammad, may God’s blessings be on him and his family, then we are the closest people to Muhammad, may God’s blessings be upon him and his family. Whoever disputes us concerning the Prophets, then we are the closest people to the Prophets.

Whoever disputes us concerning the Book of Allah, then we are the closest people to the Book of Allah. Surely, we testify and so does every Muslim today, that we have been oppressed, driven away, and rebelled against. [We have been] removed from our houses, our wealth, and our families and we have been defeated. Beware! Surely, we seek the help of Allah today and so does every Muslim.” By Allah! A little more than Three Hundred and Ten people—which include fifty women—will gather at Mecca all of a sudden and unexpectedly, like the wind-driven, scattered clouds of autumn⁵⁸ while some of them are following the others. This is the [meaning of the] verse which Allah has stated: “Wherever you are, Allah will bring you all together, Allah has power over all things.”

351. Ghaybat al-Nu`m⁵⁹: Narrated to us Ahmad b. Muhammad b. Sa`id, from Ahmad b. Yusuf, from Isma`il b. Mihran, from al-Hasan b. `Ali, from his father and Wuhaib, from Abi Baqr, from Imam Abi `Abd-Allah (al-Qadiq), peace be on him, concerning His saying: “Therefore, hasten to [do] good deeds; wherever you are, Allah will bring you all together.” He, peace be on him, said: “It was revealed concerning the Q’im and his companions. They will gather all of a sudden, without a previous appointment.”

(10)

وَفِي السَّمَاءِ رِزْقُكُمْ وَمَا تُوعَدُونَ. فَوَرَبَّ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ إِنَّهُ لَحَقٌّ مِثْلَ مَا أَنَّكُمْ
تَنطِقُونَ

And in the sky is your sustenance and what you are promised. And by the Lord of the sky and the earth! It is most surely the truth just as you are speaking⁶⁰

352. Ghaybat al-Shaykh⁶¹: Informed us al-Sharif Abi Muhammad al-Muhammad, from Muhammad b. `Ali b. Tammam, from al-Usayn b. Muhammad al-Qiqa`i, from `Ali b. Ahmad b. `Atim al-Bazzaz, from Muhammad b. Marwan, from al-Kalb, from Abi `Ali, from `Abd-Allah b. al-`Abbas, concerning the saying of Allah, the Exalted, “And in the sky is your sustenance and what you are promised. And by the Lord of the sky and the earth! It is most surely the truth just as you are speaking.” He said: “[It is about] the rising of the Q’im.” It is similar to: “wherever you are, Allah will bring you all together” which he also said about: “They are the companions of the Q’im, Allah will gather them together in one day.”

I say: Regarding this subject, there are numerous traditions concerning the interpretation of this verse. The author of Tafsir al-burhan has recorded fourteen traditions from reliable and authentic books.

The traditions with the following numbers—which are interpretations for the verses of the Holy Quran—also establish the goals of this chapter: 905, 904, 903, 696, 695, 692, 596, 574, 994, 993, 992, 991, 962, 936, 907, 906, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1040, 1014, 1004, 1156, 1152, 1151, 1149, 1148, 1147, 1146, 1144, 1143, 1142, 1141, 1158, 1157, and 1175.

The verses are as follows:

“. . . and made complete to you His favors (both) apparent and hidden,”⁶²***no. 574***

“And by the day when it shows it,”⁶³***no. 596***

“Or, He who answers the distressed one when he calls upon Him and removes the hardship,”⁶⁴***no. 903–907***

“And if We hold back from them the punishment until a certain time,”⁶⁵***no. 903, 1142, 1147, and 1149***

“And if you were to see when they become terrified, but (then) there shall be no escape and they shall be seized from a near place,”⁶⁶***no. 903 and 1175***

“The remnant of Allah is better for you if you are believers,”⁶⁷***No. 936 and 1105***

“. . . and give good news to the patient ones; those, whom when a misfortune befalls them,”⁶⁸***no. 962***

“If We want, We will send down upon them a sign from the heaven to which they would bend their necks in humility,”⁶⁹***no. 991, 992, 993, 1004, 1014, and 1040***

“And listen on the day when the caller shall call from a near place. The day when they shall truly hear the loud voice,”⁷⁰***no. 994***

“Say: ‘On the Day of victory, becoming faithful will not benefit those who disbelieved (before), nor will they be given respite,”⁷¹***no. 1122***

“. . . and to Him submits whoever is in the skies and the earth, willingly or unwillingly,”⁷²***no. 1123 and 1124***

“The kingdom on that day shall rightly belong to the Beneficent,”⁷³***no. 1125***

“And say: ‘truth has come and falsehood has perished, surely falsehood is bound to perish,”⁷⁴***no. 1126***

“We have entrusted with it a people who are not disbelievers in it,”⁷⁵***no. 1146***

“Then Allah will bring a people, He shall love them and they shall love Him, (they will be) humble before the believers, mighty against the unbelievers,”⁷⁶***no. 1146***

“Know that Allah gives life to the earth after its death,”⁷⁷***no. 1156–1158***

“On the day when some of the signs of your Lord shall come, becoming faithful shall not profit a

soul, which did not believe before,⁷⁸ no. 692

“And most certainly We will make them taste the nearer punishment before the greater punishment,”⁷⁹ no. 695

These are twenty-eight verses about him. Whoever wants to know all the verses in this regard must refer to books exclusively compiled on the subject like al-Baḥr al-madīnī’s al-Maʿajja fī mʿ nazala fī l-Qʿim al-ʿujja.

1. Quran 2:3.

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 340, no. 19; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 52, no. 28; al-Maʿajja fī mʿ nazala fī l-Qʿim al-ʿujja, p. 16; Nūr al-Thaqalain, vol. 1, p. 26; al-Burhān fī tafsīr al-Quran, vol. 1, p. 53.

The author of al-Tibyān writes: “Unseen in this verse encompasses what our companions have narrated about the period of occultation and the time of the reappearance of Imam Mahdī, peace be on him.” Al-ʿabarsī mentions a similar view in Majmaʿ al-bayān.

Al-Nīsābūrī—while explaining the saying of Allah, the exalted, “those who believe in the unseen”—writes in Gharīb al-Quran: “According to some Shias, unseen in this verse means the awaited Mahdī about whom Allah has promised in the Quran ‘Allah has promised those who believed and did good deeds that He will certainly make them the heirs like He has made heirs those before them’ (Quran 24:55) and it has been narrated, ‘Even if there only remains one day before the end of the world, Allah will prolong it until a man emerges from my nation whose name will be my name and whose epithet will be my epithet (kunyatuḥ kunyatī). He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.’”

Fakhr al-Rāzī mentions in his Tafsīr: “According to a Shia [scholar], unseen means the awaited Mahdī about whom Allah, the Exalted, has promised about in the Holy Quran and in a tradition.” Thereafter, he mentions the Quranic verse and the tradition and warns: “Know that assigning a single meaning (to the verse) without proof is incorrect.”

I say: From the statements of the two aforementioned scholars, it is apparent that they agree with the Shias concerning the usage of the word unseen (al-ghayb) for the awaited Mahdī, peace be on him, because this is an indisputable fact amongst the knowledgeable. The fact that they do not deny the Shia belief that Allah has made a promise about the awaited Mahdī in the Holy Quran, also shows their agreement with the Shias and with what has come in their traditions under the interpretation of this verse.

Now that this discussion has reached this particular topic, there is no harm in reporting the meaning of unseen (al-ghayb) and whether it refers to Imam Mahdī, peace be on him, in a general sense, or it is specifically about him.

An interpretative discussion

Anything that is hidden from a person and cannot be comprehended by any of his senses is regarded as ‘unseen with respect to him.’ Similarly, a thing that is concealed from everybody is regarded as ‘unseen with respect to all,’ regardless of: (a) The fact that intellect (ʿaql) guides towards this unseen or it is comprehended through reasoning, or its effects and signs; like the existence of Allah, the Exalted, His Attributes, and His Names. (b) The news and information given by the prophets and their successors which guide towards this unseen. Of course, these news’ are [the result of] extraordinary feats and include prophecies like the signs of Judgment day, punishment in the grave, the Bridge (al-ḥirḥīr), the Weighing Scale (al-Mīzān), Heaven, Hell, and informing people about what they had done in private and their beliefs. (c) There being absolutely no way to verify this unseen—either through intellect (ʿaql) or any other media— like the Reality of Allah’s Being (Dhāt Allah).

It makes no difference whether this unseen cannot be perceived by the senses because it cannot be viewed, heard, etc., or, it can be seen or heard but knowing about it is not ordinarily possible except for a selected group of people as a part of

their extraordinary acts, like the Prophets who informed the people about what they had eaten and stored in their houses. It also makes no difference whether this unseen involves believing in what currently exists, what existed in the past but was destroyed and rendered non-existent, or what may exist in the future.

Therefore, all the aforementioned are instances of the unseen, whether they are absolutely impossible to perceive, cannot be comprehended except through intellect and understanding, or cannot be understood by the senses for all or some people except by miracles and extraordinary feats. Allah, the Exalted, the Eternal, and the Everlasting, is unseen, for He can neither be indicated at—except through intellect and rational proofs—nor is it possible to perceive Him through the senses. He is unseen because the recognition of His Essence and His Reality is impossible even through intellect and intelligence.

The signs of Judgment day, the descent of Jesus, the reappearance of Imam Mahd, peace be on him, the questioning by Munkar and Nakir, the punishment in the grave, the Bridge (al-Qir), the Weighing Scale (al-Mizn), Heaven, Hell, the beginning of creation, the creation of Adam and Jesus, rewards and punishments, angels and their kinds, Prophetic revelations and inspirations, life of the previous Prophets and their nations, future occurrences, miracles of the past Prophets like: converting a staff into a serpent, the she-camel (nqa) of the Prophet , splitting of the ocean, curing the blind and the lepers, and all other such incidents that have been mentioned in the Holy Quran and reliable traditions, which cannot be known ordinarily except through the news of the Prophet or his successors, are all examples of the unseen, because our intellect has no access to such information and news except through he who has been informed by Holy Revelations.

Sometimes the word unseen (al-ghayb) is used to refer to things that cannot be comprehended by using rational arguments or by viewing their apparent effects and signs. Things like the existence of Allah, the Exalted, His Attributes, and His Names. It is also used for those things which are not known by all and whose existences are proved through mutawir traditions. Things like the existence of remote and distant cities, famous people who are now part of history, our ancestors, structures built by past nations, etc. Thus, some have interpreted the unseen (al-ghayb) in this verse to anything which intellect has no clue about, like the signs of Judgment Day, punishment in the grave, the Gathering (al-ashr) and Scattering (al-Nashr), the Bridge (al-Qir), the Weighing Scale (al-Mizn), Heaven, and Hell.

Al-Rghib writes in al-Mufrad that “Unseen (al-ghayb) in the Quran . . . denotes anything hidden from the senses or from human knowledge. A thing is said to be unseen with respect to people, not Allah, the Exalted, because nothing is unseen for Him. The word unseen in the verse: ‘Those who believe in the unseen’ (Quran 2:3) means things which can neither be felt by the senses nor understood by the intellect (aql) at a first glance. They can be known only through the Prophets and those who deny them are regarded as disbelievers . . .”

Al-fs writes about the aforementioned verse in Tafsir al-Tiby: “A group from the companions (aba) like ibn Mas`d and others have said, ‘Verily, the unseen (al-ghayb) refers to all things whose knowledge is hidden from the people. [Things] like: Heaven, Hell, sustenance (al-rizq), actions, etc., and this interpretation is more preferred because it is more general and encompasses the view of our companions about the time of occultation and the reappearance of Imam Mahd, peace be on him.”

Perhaps, this interpretation can be justified by saying that the meaning of unseen— although it might point to all unseen things in general—includes the known facts which cannot be perceived except through intellect. It is also possible that in the interpretation, al-ghayb was viewed as a word which points to something specific while ibn Mas`d and some others viewed it as a word which points to all things that cannot be perceived. By using a group of narrations mentioned by the commentators (mufassir), it can be implied that al-ghayb is a general term which refers to those things which people cannot see using their sight—although they have knowledge about them (see al-Durr al-manth, vol. 1, p. 26–27). Allah knows the best.

It is worth mentioning that some commentators (see al-abars in Tafsir majma` al-bay, vol. 1, p. 38, and al-Zamakhshar in Tafsir al-kashshf, vol. 1, p. 38) have interpreted unseen and have remarked, ‘They believe in a state that the people don’t see them.’ Such an interpretation and explanation, apart from being incompatible with the obvious and apparent [structure of the verse], is refuted by authentic narrations and the views of the companions. Such an explanation is acceptable in other verses like “And fears the Most Gracious (Allah) while he is unseen” (Quran 36:11), and “Those who fear their Lord while they are unseen” (Quran 21:49).

It should be known that there are numerous opinions about the explanation of the verse under discussion and the difference between the meaning of unseen (al-ghayb) and the absent (al-ghayb) which we haven't mentioned. Anyone who is interested should refer to the major tafsir books.

According to all interpretations—which are backed by traditions, views of the companions, and renowned commentators—there is no doubt that unseen does not refer to those things which are hidden from the senses only, because surely it is not obligatory to believe in them and no purpose or aim in connection with human perfection and the goals of the Prophets is achieved through believing in them. Thus, it is not compulsory to believe in the worlds which are hidden from our senses, or the incidents of the past, or the occurrences of the future which have no place of importance in religion. So, unseen refers to all the things which should be believed in, either because they are [a part of] sharia or [are deduced through the reasoning of] intellect (‘aql), or because it is not permissible to deny them or have doubt about them because the Messenger of Allah or his successors have informed us about them and it is obligatory for us to accept these facts even if they are not a precondition of having true faith. A little pondering will make the difference between these absolutely clear; (in this regard, refer to my book, Ma`a I-khaṭīb, the chapter of Ghalat al-khaṭīb).

Undoubtedly, believing in the unseen, hidden, and non-material world, as opposed to the visible, apparent, and material world, is obligatory, whether it is what this verse refers to or not. Because the essence of the Prophets' call was to make the people understand that existence is confined to the apparent, material creation and that there is an unseen world, which clearly dominates this universe. Believing in its unseen armies is like believing in the evident armies of this visible and material world and this material world is a sign of the unseen world and that the unseen world is prior to the visible world just as cause is prior to effect, Creator is to creature, writer is to what has been written, and speaker is to speech. The world of the unseen will neither exhaust nor terminate nor be annihilated nor be destroyed. In comparison to it, the material world is like a shadow and despite all its visible displays, it is merely a manifestation of the unseen world and its signs. O Allah! Make us believe in You and all that is not visible to us from Your Power and Your Manifestation! Make us taste the sweetness of belief (al-īmān) to the extent that we won't love the delay of whatever You have advanced nor the hastening of whatever You have delayed.

Although it was beyond the scope of this book, but by now, it should have become apparent to you by what we have put forward in this lengthy discussion that believing in the Mahdī—whose news was foretold by the Messengers and the Seal of the Prophets and their Chief, and has been accepted by both the sects (Shias & Sunnis) via definite mutawattir traditions and all Muslims are unanimous about—is part of the belief in the unseen that Allah has attributed to the pious. The narrations from the Ahl al-Bait which mention Imam Mahdī and have related him to this matter, have done this as a reminder to show that he is an instance of al-ghayb. Even if these narrations had not interpreted this verse, we would have certainly believed that he is an instance of the unseen just like other things like the descent of Jesus, the Beast of the Earth (Dabbat al-Arḍ), the splitting of the sky, the tearing up of the earth, the successor-ship of the twelve Imams, the domination of Islam over all religions, etc., because these have either been proved in the sharia or have been mentioned in the Holy Quran or by the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

The reason we claim Imam Mahdī, peace be on him, is just one of the many instances of the unseen, is what has been narrated by `Alī b. Ibrāhīm through his chain of narrators from Imam al-Qādiq, peace be on him, about the verse “Those who believe in the Unseen.” (The Imam says,) “They testify to the Resurrection (Ba`th), the Scattering (Nashr), the Promise (Wa`d), and the Threat (Wa`d).” Amazingly, Ḥāṣṣ has criticized the Shias in his Tafsir: “People have differed on the meaning [of the unseen] and have various opinions, to an extent that Shias think that it refers to the Qi'im, but they don't bring any proof for it.” It seems that he has not understood what the Shias mean or he has distorted their view and thinks that Shias say that the unseen only refers to the Qi'im and not the other unseen things that the Holy Prophet, peace be on him, has informed about. He says “but they don't bring any proof for it” so that the readers may misunderstand and become confused. The practice of people like him, when they see the correctness of the Shia viewpoint, is to narrate their views in a distorted form. Here too, when he sees that the occultation and reappearance of the Mahdī—which has been proved by mutawattir traditions to be an instance of unseen—cannot be denied, he twists the Shia viewpoint and claims that the Shias have restricted the unseen only to the belief in the Qi'im. Suppose we accept his claim and interpret the traditions of the Ahl al-Bait as restricting the unseen to the Mahdī, peace be on him, because of the high stature of his affair (as is apparent in the narration of Ya'qūb b. Abī I-Qāsim from Imam al-Qādiq, peace be on him), because the religion will end

through him and Islam will dominate over all religions; he will fill the earth with fairness and justice and will destroy the forts of deviation. Which evidence is stronger than the interpretation of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, who are one of the two weighty things that holding to prevents from going astray. We are amazed by those who learn their religion from the enemies of the Ahl al-Bait, the tyrants, and those who were known for their wrongdoings, lies, crimes and treacheries; and use their sayings as proofs and then they say about the beliefs of those who rely on the sayings of Amr al-Mu'min `Alī ibn Abī-lib, peace be on him, and hold onto the Ahl al-Bait, those who have the knowledge of the Quran: “but they don't bring any proof for it” (Refer to our book Amn al-umma min al-`al wa l-ikhtilaf)

3. According to another manuscript—Ed.

4. Quran 28:5.

5. Nahj al-balgha, vol. 3, p. 199–200, saying 209; Ibn Abī l-`ad, Sharh nahj al-balgha, vol. 19, p. 29, saying 205; Shawhid al-tanzil, vol. 1, p. 431, no. 590 and p. 432, no. 595.

The author of Majma` al-bayn writes: “An authentic Tradition has been narrated from Amr al-Mu'min `Alī ibn Abī-lib, peace be on him, who said, ‘I swear by the One Who split the seed and created the soul! The world will become kind after its defiance just like an ill-mannered she-camel which is kind towards its young.’ He then recited the verse: ‘And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth’ (vol. 7, p. 239); Tafsir n al-Thaqalain, vol. 4, p. 109, no. 10; Ta'w al-`y al-bhira, pp. 406–407, nn.1 & 2; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 64, no. 66.

I say: This tradition has been confirmed by what has been narrated in Shawhid al-tanzil, vol. 1, p. 430, no. 589, through his chain of narrators from al-Mufa`al b. `Umar from Imam Ja`far al-`diq, peace be on him, who said: “The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, looked at `Alī, al-`asan, and al-`usayn, peace be on them all, then started crying and said, ‘You are the weakened ones after me.’” Al-Mufa`al asked, “What did he mean, O Son of Allah's Messenger?” He answered, “It means, you are the Imams after me. Surely, Allah, the Exalted, says, ‘And We intend to bestow a favor upon those who have been weakened in the earth and make them the Imams and make them the heirs.’ This verse applies to us until the Day of Judgment.” This has also been narrated in Ma`n al-akhbar, p. 79, N al-Thaqalain, vol. 4, p. 10, no. 14. The same concept has also been narrated in al-Kf, vol. 1, The Book of Divine Proof, chap. 128, p. 306, no. 1; Majma` al-bayn, vol. 7, p. 239, from al-`Ayysh through his chain of narrators from Abī l-abb al-Kin, from Imam Abī-Ja`far al-B`qir, peace be on him.

6. Tafsir al-Fur, p. 116; Shawhid al-tanzil, vol. 1, p. 431, no. 591, through his chain of narrators from anash from `Alī, peace be on him; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 24, chap. 49, p. 171, no. 9.

7. Shawhid al-tanzil, vol. 1, p. 432, no.593; N al-Thaqalain, vol. 4, p. 111, no.15; al-Am` (al-`ad`q), Session 72, p. 387, no.26; lthb al-hud, vol. 1, sect. 8, chap. 9, p. 532, no.309.

8. Tafsir al-Fur, p. 116; N al-Thaqalain, vol. 4, p. 109, no. 9; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 24, p. 167–168; Shawhid al-tanzil, vol. 1, p. 432, no. 594.

9. Tafsir al-Fur, p. 116; Majma` al-bayn, vol. 7, p. 239, which mentions “and surely our enemies and their followers are like the Pharaoh and his followers”; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 24, chap. 49, p. 171, no. 8.

10. Tafsir al-Fur, p. 117.

11. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 184, no. 143; N al-Thaqalain, vol. 4, p. 110, no. 11; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 51, p. 54, chap. 5, no. 35; lthb al-hud, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 12, p. 10, no. 299.

12. Bi`r al-anw, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 63, no. 65; Muntakhab al-anw al-mu`a, p. 17.

13. Bi`r al-anw, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 64, no. 65.

14. Quran 21:105.

15. Ta'w al-`y al-bhira, under verse 21:105, pp. 326–327; al-Burh f tafsir al-Qur, vol. 3, p. 75, no. 5; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 24, chap. 67, p. 358, no. 78; al-Ma`ajja f m nazala f l-Q`im al-`ujja, p. 141; llz`m al-n`ib, vol. 1, p. 75, under verse 56; lthb al-hud, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 21, p. 50, no. 419.

16. Tafsir al-tiby, vol. 7, p. 284; Majma` al-bayn, vol. 7, p. 66–67; Jaw`mi` al-`mi`, p. 296; N al-Thaqalain, vol. 3, p. 464; llz`m al-n`ib, p. 75–76; al-`y al-bhira f fa`l al-`lrat al-bhira, under the verse 21:105; lthb al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 9, p. 563, no. 639.

17. Tafsir al-Qumm, vol. 2, p. 77; al-Ma`ajja f m nazala f l-Q`im al-`ujja, p. 141, verse 51; llz`m al-n`ib, vol. 1, p. 75, verse 56, citing Imam al-`diq, peace be on him, although, according to the context of Tafsir al-Qumm, it has

been narrated from Imam al-Biqir, peace be on him; Yanab al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 425; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 75, no. 6.

I say: The interpreters (mufassirin) differ on the interpretation of this verse. Some of them have interpreted it as the land which the souls of the believers will gather while others view it as the land of Syria. Nevertheless, the explanation of the interpreters cannot be relied upon when they differ on any verse except when the interpretation is based upon a certain logical argument which acts as a strong reason that shows the verse had a specific meaning, or upon another verse which has an obvious interpretation, or an authentic tradition. Preferring one probability over another, without any of the aforementioned reasons, leads to an assumption which in the least should not be followed. Therefore, no commentary and Islamic knowledge should be accepted, and no saying from anyone from the Islamic nations should be used as proof, except those whose words are regarded as proof and errorless by divine decree. Evidently, no one from the Muslim nation qualifies for this status except the Imams from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, and the progeny of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Mutawatir traditions have made it clear that it is compulsory to hold onto and refer to them, that they are infallible and holding onto them protects from going astray, they and the Holy Quran will never separate from each other until they meet [the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family] at the Pond (of Kauthar), and that they are the Ship of Salvation (Safinat al-Najit). This is a fact that is approved by intellect ('aql), because intellect rules that it is necessary that there be somebody in the nation who has the last say and is the point of reference for all disputes concerning the divine laws. When Imam Zain al-'abidin, peace be on him, recited the verse "O you who believe, fear Allah and be with the truthful ones" (Quran 9:119), he, peace be on him, used to say a lengthy supplication comprised of requests to reach the level of the truthful and high stature. He also described in it the calamities and what the innovators (al-mubtadi'a)—who separated themselves from the Imams of the religion and the tree of prophethood—attributed to themselves: "Others fell short of our affair and argued on the basis of the ambiguous (al-mutashbih) verses of the Quran, which they interpreted according to their desires. They discredited the reliable traditions . . ." Until he, peace be on him, said: "Then to whom will the latter of this nation take refuge, while the signs of this nation are being destroyed, and the nation is being defeated by divisions and disagreements, and people are calling each other infidels. Allah, the Almighty, says: 'And do not be like those who became divided and disagreed after clear arguments had come to them' (Quran 3:105). Who can be relied upon for conveying the proofs and interpreting the laws except the People of the Book [i.e. the Ahl al-Bait]? Surely, we are the Imams of guidance and the lights of darkness, those through whom Allah argues against His servants that he[Allah] did not leave the creatures to wander aimlessly without a proof (hujja) [to guide them]. Can you recognize or find them except from the branches of the Blessed Tree and the chosen progeny, those from whom Allah has removed all uncleanness, purified them a thorough purification, kept them away from all calamities, and made their love compulsory in the Holy Quran?" (Jawahir al-'iqdain, part 2, discussion 4; al-'aw'iq al-mu'riqa, chap. 11, part 1, p. 150, concerning the verses revealed about them under the fifth verse).

Therefore, it is not permitted to rely upon or argue using what the umma disagrees on concerning the interpretation of the Book or whatever is related to the religion, when there is no definite proof or clear document from the Book [of Allah] or the traditions, except what has emerged from the noble house of the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and originated from the infallible progeny, peace be on them. It is not allowed to turn away from them and refer to other than them, whosoever they may be. Hence, while interpret any verse, only the traditions of the holy Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, should be followed.

Additionally, interpreting earth in the above verse as the land of Syria is contradictory to the context of the verse and its apparent meaning. Propriety demands that the righteous shall inherit all cities and parts of earth. Similarly, there is no reason to confine earth to the land where the souls gather, as this too is against the context of the verse and its obvious meaning. Apparently, this verse is simply giving information and news about an affair that will occur in the future—in the end of times. That time will end this era which has been predominantly and mostly governed and ruled by the transgressors, the disbelievers, and the tyrants. Allah, the Exalted, has given glad tidings to His righteous servants about a virtuous era for this earth, which shall be inherited by them.

Al-'Isa says: "It means the land of this world. The believers shall inherit it and rule over it." He also says: "If we say that all this will occur in the lands of the believers during the reign of Mahd—may Allah be satisfied with him—and the descent of Jesus, then there is no need for what was mentioned" (Tafsir riq al-ma'ni, under verse 21:105). In other words,

according to him, the above verse speaks about the divine promise that the entire earth will become a territory of Islam and the believers, during the rule of Mahdī and his universal government, peace be on him.

In Rūḥ al-bayḥīn under verse 21:105: “The earth will be inherited by my righteous servants,” it has been mentioned: “It refers to all the believers, after they have driven out the disbelievers. Just as Allah has said, ‘Allah has promised to those of you who believe and do good deeds that He will most certainly make them rulers in the earth as He has made rulers those before them’ (Quran 24:55). This is a promise about the domination of religion and the honor of its followers.”

There is no doubt that this verse is a glad tidings about the victory and domination of this umma over the entire earth. This is supported by numerous prophecies in the Old and New Testaments about the twelve Imams from the progeny of Ismāʿīl, peace be on him, and about the Imam who will dominate the earth and the righteous who shall inherit it. These can be found in the Torah, in the Psalms, Joshua, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, and the Bibles of Luke, Matthew, John, etc. Also, refer to the books Man dhī, the writings of Fakhr al-Islām, especially his celebrated work Anḥās al-ʿilm, my book in Persian Iḥḥāṭi Mahdāwīyyat (The Originality of Mahdāwīyya), and other authored books on this subject—which we cannot enumerate here.

18. Quran 21:105.

19. Quran 43:61.

20. Al-ʿawāʾiq al-muʿriqa, p. 162; Isʿaf al-rughhibīn, p. 141, chap. 2; Nūr al-abḥḥr, p. 143, chap. 2; Yanḥbḥ al-mawadda, p. 301; al-Bayḥīn, p. 109, chap. 25.

I say: There is no doubt that the reappearance of Imam Mahdī, peace be on him, and the descent of Jesus, peace be on him, and even the proclamation (biṯḥa) of the last Prophet, the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and the descent of the Holy Quran, are signs of the Hour (i.e. Judgment Day), as has been narrated from the Messenger of Allah that he showed his index and middle fingers and said: “My proclamation (biṯḥa) and the Hour are like these” (Refer to Sunan ibn Mʿja, vol. 2, chap. 25, p. 1341, no. 4040). Therefore, some have the view that the pronoun he in “surely he is a sign of the hour,” refers to the Quran, while others believe that it refers to Jesus, peace be on him (Refer to Tafsīr ibn Kathīr [Beirut: Dār Iḥyāʾ al-Turūḥ], vol. 4, p. 132; Tafsīr al-ʿīsā (Rūḥ al-bayḥīn), vol. 25, p. 96; Tafsīr al-tibyḥīn [Beirut: Dār Iḥyāʾ al-Turūḥ], vol. 9, p. 212).

It has been mentioned in Taʾwīl al-ʿyḥī al-ḥīra that “The Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, have explained that the pronoun he refers to `Alī, peace be on him.” Then, a tradition has been mentioned to support it and it has been followed with a discussion to show harmony between the different interpretations and to remove the contradictions between them. He finally writes, “If the Qʿim, peace be on him, is a sign and symbol of the hour and he is the son of Amr al-Muʿminīn, peace be on him, then it is correct to state that his father too is a sign of the Hour, and this is the purpose of the discussion.”

Anyway, in all the books authored by our Shia companions about the traditions of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, that I have browsed through, I did not find any tradition which specifically mentions this interpretation. Perhaps, it did exist but it did not reach us, or perhaps, I have not discovered it. Allah knows the best.

21. Quran 9:33 and 61:9.

22. Tafsīr al-tibyḥīn, vol. 5, p. 244; Tafsīr majmaʿ al-bayḥīn, vol. 5, p. 25. He says, “It is the opinion of al-Suddī.” Al-Kalbī says, “No religion shall remain but that Islam will prevail over it. This will occur soon—not later—and the Hour will not occur until this happens. Al-Miqdād b. Aswad said, ‘I heard the Messenger of Allah say, “There shall not remain a house on the face of the earth belonging to the nomads or those in the cities, except that Allah will enter into it the word of Islam, whether with the honor of an honorable person or the disgrace of a disgraceful person. Either He will honor them and make them believe in [Islam], by which they will be respected, or He will disgrace them and only then they shall believe in Him”’”; Musnad of Aḥmad, vol. 6, p. 4; al-Jāmiʿ lil-aḥkām al-Qurʿān, vol. 12, p. 300; Jawāmiʿ al-jāmiʿ, p. 318; al-Mustadrak of ʿakīm al-Nḥḥbḥrī, vol. 4, p. 430.

23. Al-Bayḥīn, chap. 35, p. 109; Nūr al-abḥḥr, chap. 2, p. 153.

I say: Apparently, this is Saʿd b. Jubair's interpretation, but according to the scholars of hadith, if we are unsure that these are Saʿd b. Jubair's own words, we can attribute these words to the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

24. Al-Kḥfī, vol. 1, p. 432, no. 91.

25. Kifāyat al-muḥḥḥdī (al-Arbaʿīn), under tradition no. 39; Iḥḥḥ al-ḥudḥḥ, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 44, p. 140, no. 686;

Kashf al-ʿāqq (al-ʿArbaʿīn), no. 30. A tradition similar to this will be mentioned in chapter 36 under no. 669, from Muḥammad b. Muslim, from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad al-Baqir, peace be on him, and it includes: “his name is Muḥammad b. al-ʿāsan al-Nafs al-Zakiyya.”

26. This refers to homosexuality and lesbianism—Trans.

27. Quran 11:86.

28. Tafsīr Furṭ al-Kāfī, p. 184; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 58, p. 670, no. 16, through his chain of narrators from Muḥammad b. Musa b. al-Mutawakkil, from ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn al-Saʿdībīdī, from Aḥmad b. Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Barqī, from his father, from Muḥammad b. Abū ʿUmair, from ʿAlī b. Abū Ḥamza, from Abū Baḥr, that Imam Abū ʿAbd-Allah (al-ʿḥidīq), peace be on him, said concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, “It is He Who has sent His Messenger with guidance . . . even though the polytheists detest it”:

By Allah, its meaning has not yet occurred nor will it occur in the future until the Qʿim reappears. When the Qʿim, peace be on him, reappears, there will not remain a disbeliever in Allah, the Great, nor anyone who associates others with the Imam except that they will dislike his reappearance. Even if an infidel (kāfir) or a polytheist (mushrik) hides in a rock, it will call out, “O believer! Within me is a disbeliever; break me and kill him.”

In Yanḥabʿ al-Mawadda, chap. 71, p. 423, a similar narration has been mentioned from Abū Baḥr and Samʿa, recorded by Muḥammad b. al-ʿAbbās in his book Mʿ nazala min al-Qurʿān fī Ahl al-Bait ʿalayhim al-salām from al-ʿYʿt al-bḥira, p. 263, under the interpretation of sura 61; al-Maʿajja, p. 85, verse 22; al-ʿAyyshī, vol. 2, p. 87, no. 52; Biḥr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 60, no. 58.

29. Mashḥiq anwār al-yaqīn, p. 172; lthbī al-hudī, vol. 7, sect. 25, chap. 32, p. 61, no. 453.

30. Majmaʿ al-bayʿīn, vol. 9, p. 280, under sura 61; Mʿ nazala min al-Qurʿān fī Ahl al-Bait ʿalayhim al-salām, citing al-ʿYʿt al-bḥira, p. 263, which says: “the testimony of there is no god but Allah and Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allah will be called out every morning and evening”; Jawāmiʿ al-jāmiʿ, p. 492 (a short version).

31. Tafsīr al-ʿAyyshī, vol. 2, p. 87, no. 52; al-Maʿajja, p. 85, verse 22.

32. Mafḥūḥ al-ghayb, vol. 16, p. 40, under verse 9:33; Rauḥ al-jīn wa rḥ al-jānīn, vol. 10, p. 233.

33. Tafsīr abū l-futḥ al-rḥzī, vol. 6, p. 16, under Verse 9:33.

34. Quran 24:55.

35. Shawḥid al-tanzīl, vol. 1, p. 413, no. 572. It is worth mentioning that although such traditions do not clearly mention the Mahdī, peace be on him, they do imply that this verse is a promise to the family of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, to rule the earth, which will be fulfilled during the government of the Mahdī, peace be on him, in the end of times. This can be understood by using other traditions that clearly explain this concept. God willing, this will be explained later on. Anyhow, this tradition has been included amongst those that give glad tidings about his reappearance.

36. Shawḥid al-tanzīl, vol. 1, p. 413, no. 572.

37. Al-Durr al-manthūr, vol. 5, p. 55. Al-Qurtubī writes in al-Jāmiʿ li aḥkām al-Qurʿān (vol. 12, p. 298): “Some people suggest that this promise is for the entire nation in ruling all of earth under the banner of Islam as he, peace be on him, has said, ‘The earth folded up for me and I saw its Easts and Wests. Soon, the rule of my nation will reach the places which have been folded up for me.’ This is the view of ibn ʿAḥīyya in his tafsīr where he says: ‘The correct interpretation of this verse is that it is talking about the rule of the entire nation [i.e. all the Muslims]. And making them rulers means they will control the cities and will make them part of [their nation] like what has happened in Syria, Iraq, Khurḥsīn (North-East Iran), and in the West.’”

An Interpretative Discussion

It is apparent from the verse that it is addressed to the entire umma and the promise of Allah mentioned in the verse is addressed to those who believed and did good deeds—regardless of these addressees being present or absent during the time in which the verse was revealed—because an address includes both the parties (present as well as absent), as has been demonstrated in the principles of jurisprudence. Apparently, the term earth refers to all of it, not only the lands of Mecca and Medina and those ruled by the Muslims during the era of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, or in the reign of the companions. Therefore, the verse implies that the believers and the believing nation, along with their tribes and groups are the addressees of this divine promise. Thus, in whichever time the aforementioned promise is fulfilled—for this nation in general—the promise of Allah, the Exalted, will be fulfilled.

Because of its improbability, it is incorrect to state that the verse implies the rule of the entire umma on the earth from those present during the time of the address to those that shall follow them until the Day of Judgment. For, such an event did not occur even for those who were present during the address or in the era of the Prophet and the companions, when Islam had conquered the Arabian Peninsula and because some of them died or were martyred before this. This does not imply that the verse is of the kind that is general (ʿāmm), but rather, that it has a specific (khāṣṣ) intention. This arises from the arrangement and the obvious meaning of the context. As we already mentioned, it is improper to interpret the verse as the victories achieved by the Muslims during the era of the companions, because they did not rule the entire earth nor did religion acquire absolute power.

The context of the verse also rules out that the promise is only confined to the believers who lived during the time of the companions, and not those who were present during the revelation of the verse, or those who will follow later.

The promise to the faithful nation in this verse and its occurrence during the reign of the Mahdī, peace be on him, who will rule the entire earth and fill it with justice, equality, and safety, is the only interpretation that is in harmony with the verse just as it has been interpreted in the traditions. This can be implied even if the addressees are specifically the Ahl al-Bait and the twelve Imams, peace be on them. We have stated earlier that the word those in the verse is used to show an explanation and not to make a distinction, as has been mentioned in some commentaries. This means that while it is addressed to all of them, the fulfillment of the promise at the hands of one of them is equal to its occurrence for all of them. From what has been mentioned, the falsity of the interpretation of the verse to the conquests of the Muslims during the era of the companions has become clear, because such an interpretation changes the context of the verse from general to specific and changes the meaning of the word 'earth' to a specific piece of land. There is also no reason to apply it to a specific group of people after its generality has been proved and a number of verses in the Holy Quran and mutawāṭṭir traditions along with the prophecies of the past prophets, peace be on them, have informed about it.

Some of the traditions explaining the reason of the revelation of this verse, in addition to having weak links in the chain of narrators, cannot be cited as a cause for particularizing the generality of the verse—especially since the occurrence is a general event. One wonders at those who argue about the correctness of the rule of the first three caliphs (i.e. Abū Bakr, `Umar, and `Uthmān) on the basis of this verse, without paying attention to the fact that this requires the establishment of some premises and that proving—even one—of these premises is equal to achieving the impossible. Some of these premises are as follows:

- (a) The promise of Allah, the Exalted, was made specifically to the believers present in the time of the revelation of the verse who lived to see the rule of the companions, and [this promise was not made to] the believers who died prior to that time, came after that time, or Allah will bring forth in the future.
- (b) The term earth refers to the earth that was ruled by the Muslims in the era of the companions. It neither refers to the land which the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, ruled over, nor the earth in its entirety that shall be in the control of the Mahdī, peace be on him, in the end of times.
- (c) One can use this verse to make this argument when they have proved that those people were indeed believers. This has not been proved and thus we cannot apply the verse generally to everyone. Allah has promised only those who believe and do good deeds. Whenever it is proved that someone qualifies for these two criteria, then the divine promise includes them.
- (d) Proving that religion has gained absolute power and the fear of the believers has been converted to security. This was definitely not accomplished for the believers during the reign of the three caliphs.
- (e) Proving the fact that the power the three caliphs equals to the power of religion, because when governance crosses the redlines of religion or even if there is doubt about it following the rules of religion, the promise of religion becoming powerful will not have been accomplished; even if, apparently all other affairs are in conformity with religion, thus, it is not permitted to use this verse to prove that their power was a power for religion.

38. Tafsīr `Alī b. Ibrāhīm, vol. 1, p. 14; Nūr al-Thaqalain, vol. 3, p. 619, no. 22; Tafsīr al-Ṣūfī, vol. 2, p. 178; al-Maṭāʾij, p. 148.

39. Al-Itijāʾ, vol. 1, p. 382; Nūr al-Thaqalain, vol. 3, p. 619, no. 231.

40. Miṣbūḥ al-Shaykh, p. 727, in the second ziyāra in the Day of `Ashūrā; Nūr al-Thaqalain, vol. 3, p. 619, no. 223.

41. Majma` al-bayān, vol. 7, p. 152; Tafsīr al-`Ayyūshī, under the commentary of verse 55:55.

42. Al-Majzīz al-nabawiyya, p. 420, under no. 337.
43. That is, those who will follow and obey your father will be respected while others will be disgraced regardless of their place of dwelling—Trans.
44. Al-Majzīz al-nabawiyya, p. 419, no. 337.
45. Ta'wāl al-ʿayy al-ḥira, p. 596, under the commentary of 51:23; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 176–177, no. 33, which mentions “Isḥāq b. ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn, peace be on him,” instead of “Isḥāq b. ʿAbd-Allah from ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn, peace be on him”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, pp. 53–54, no. 34; al-Maʿajja, p. 149, verse 57, no. 3; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, pp. 501–502, no. 289; Tafsīr al-burhān, vol. 4, p. 232; Yanʿab al-mawadda, chap. 71, pp. 426 & 429; Ilzām al-nuḥib, vol. 1, pp. 94–95, verse 109.
46. Quran 51:23.
47. Ghaybat al-Nuḥmān, chap. 13, p. 240, no. 35; Yanʿab al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 426.
48. Quran 22:41.
49. Shawḥid al-tanzīl, vol. 1, pp. 400–401, no. 555; Tafsīr Furūṭ al-Kafī, p. 99, except that it includes “until he is recognized” and “He, peace be on him, said, ‘When you see this in a man from us, follow him; for surely, he is your master.’”
50. Shawḥid al-tanzīl, vol. 1, p. 401, no. 556; Tafsīr Furūṭ al-Kafī, p. 100, with the difference: “from al-ʿusayn b. Bazʿ” I say: The printed manuscript which we have, is from an original one in which the manuscript-writer has intentionally not mentioned the chain of narrators for the sake of conciseness. In this narration he says: “Narrated to us al-ʿusayn b. ʿAlī b. Bazʿ, through his chain of narrators from Zaid b. ʿAlī.” It is apparent from Shawḥid al-tanzīl that al-ʿakim (al-Ḥaskani—its author) had the complete manuscript and hence, he has narrated from Tafsīr Furūṭ al-Kafī using his chain of narrators.
51. Ta'wāl al-ʿayy al-ḥira, p. 339; Tafsīr ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm al-Qummī, vol. 2, p. 87, from Abū l-Jarīd; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, pp. 47–48, no. 9; al-Maʿajja, p. 143, verse 53; Tafsīr nūr al-thaqalain, vol. 3, p. 506, no. 1611; Tafsīr majmaʿ al-bayʿn, vol. 7, p. 88, from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, who said: “By Allah, we are them . . .”; Ilzām al-nuḥib, p. 76, verse 58; Tafsīr al-burhān, vol. 3, p. 95.
52. Quran 22:39.
53. Ghaybat al-Nuḥmān, chap. 13, p. 241, no. 38; Apparently, a mistake has occurred while recording the name of the narrator who narrates from Abū Baḥr. It should be ʿḥim b. ḥamīd, not Qḥsim. He is the one from whom ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Abū Najrān has narrated. As for Abū Baḥr, it is possible that he is Laith b. al-Bakhtar or Yaʿyū b. al-Qḥsim, because ʿḥim b. ḥamīd has narrated from both of them. Allah knows the best; al-Maʿajja, p. 142.
54. Ta'wāl al-ʿayy al-ḥira, p. 334; al-Maʿajja, p. 142, verse 52.
55. Quran 2:148.
56. Majmaʿ al-bayʿn, vol. 1, p. 231; Tafsīr al-ʿAyyūshī, vol. 1, p. 66, no. 117. Apparently the tradition no. is 118 because 117 is the previous tradition; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 26, p. 291, no. 27.
57. Tafsīr al-ʿAyyūshī, vol. 1, p. 64, no. 117.
58. The author of al-Nihāya says: “the saying of ʿAlī, peace be on him, ‘Then they will gather towards him, peace be on him, like the clouds of autumn,’ i.e. like the scattered clouds. Autumn has been specifically mentioned because it is the beginning of winter, in which the clouds are all scattered and tattered, then they gradually integrate” (vol. 4, p. 59, under the root Qa-Za-ʿA).
59. Ghaybat al-Nuḥmān, chap. 13, p. 241, no. 37; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 58, no. 52.
60. Quran 51:22–23.
61. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 175–176, no. 132; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 53, no. 23 and p. 63, no. 65; Tafsīr al-burhān, vol. 4, p. 232; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 12, p. 501, no. 286; al-Maʿajja, pp. 210–211, verse 91.
62. Quran 31:20.
63. Quran 91:3.
64. Quran 27:62.
65. Quran 11:8.
66. Quran 34:51.

67. Quran 11:86.
68. Quran 2: 155–156.
69. Quran 26:4.
70. Quran 50:41–42.
71. Quran 32:29.
72. Quran 3:83.
73. Quran 25:26.
74. Quran 17:81.
75. Quran 6:89.
76. Quran 5:54.
77. Quran 57:17.
78. Quran 6: 158.
79. Quran 32:21.

Section Two

The traditions that give glad-tidings about him and his reappearance in the end of times.

Comprises of 1092 traditions that will either be mentioned (located in this chapter) or referred to (located in other chapters)

353. Musnad of Ahmad:1 Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from Hajj and Ab Nu`aim, from Fir, from al-Qasim b. Ab Bazza, from Ab I-ufail, from `Al, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "If there remains from the world but one day, Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, will send a man who will fill it with justice just as it will be filled with injustice."

[The narrator says,] Ab-Nu`aim mentioned: "A man from us." I heard Murra narrating it from ab b, from Ab I-ufail, from `Al, may, Allah be satisfied with him, from the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family]."

354. Sunan al-Tirmidh (The Chapter on what has been narrated about the Mahd):2 Narrated to us `Ubaid b. Asb b. Muhammad al-Qurash, from his father, from Sufyan al-Thaur, from `aim b. Bahdala, from Zirr, from `Abd-Allah, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "The world will not perish until a person from my Ahl al-Bait will rule the Arabs. His name will be my name." Ab `s says: "It has also been narrated from `Al, Ab Sa`d, Umm Salma, and Ab Huraira and this tradition is good (hasan) and authentic (sahih).

355. Sunan al-Tirmidhī (The Chapter on what has been narrated about the Mahdī):3 Narrated to us Abd al-Jabbār b. al-`alī b. Abd al-Jabbār al-`Aḥḥār, from Sufyān b. `Uyayna, from `Ḥim, from Zirr, from `Abd-Allah, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "A person from my Ahl al-Bait will rule. His name will be my name."

356. Sunan al-Tirmidhī (The Chapter on what has been narrated about the Mahdī):4 Through the aforementioned chain of narrators, `Ḥim and Abū Ḥuraira narrate from Abū Huraira that the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "If there remains only one day from the world, Allah will certainly prolong that day until he rules."

Abū-Ḥsā says: "This tradition is good (ḥasan) and correct (ḥaḥḥ)."

357. Musnad Aḥmad5: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from Sufyān b. `Uyayna, from `Ḥim, from Zirr, from `Abd-Allah, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "The Hour will not be established until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules. His name will be my name."

[`Abd-Allah recounts] my father said: "He narrated this to us in his house in his room. I saw some of the sons of Ja`far b. Ya`yā or Ya`yā b. Khālid b. Ya`yā asking him about it."

358. Sunan al-Tirmidhī6: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Bashshār, from Muḥammad b. Ja`far, from Shu`ba, from Zaid al-`Amr, from Abū I-ḥiddiq al-Najī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī who said:

We feared that misfortune would occur after our Prophet. So, we asked the Messenger of Allah, may Allah's blessings be upon him [and his family], who replied, "Surely the Mahdī is from my umma. He will emerge and live five or seven or nine." Zaid al-Shak said, "We asked, 'What are these?' He replied, 'Years. A man will come to him and say, "O Mahdī! Give me, give me." Then as much as he can carry will be put in his cloth."

[Al-Tirmidhī says]: "This tradition is good (ḥasan) and has been narrated from Abū Sa`d, from the Holy Prophet, may Allah's blessings be on him [and his family]. The name of Abu I-ḥiddiq al-Najī is Bakr b. `Amr. It has also been said Bakr b. Qays. Aḥmad has recorded it."

359. Sunan Abū Dawūd and ibn Maja8: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. `Ibrāhīm from `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-Riqq, from Abū I-Malḥ al-ḥasan b. `Umar, from Ziyād b. Bayn, from `Alī ibn Nufayl, from Sa`d b. al-Musayyib, from Ummi Salma who recounts: "I heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], say: 'The Mahdī is from my progeny from the descendants of Fātima.'" "

`Abd-Allah b. Ja`far says: "I heard Abū I-Malḥ praise `Alī b. Nufayl and mention him as a truthful person."

Ibn Maja has recorded this tradition through his chain of narrators from Abū I-Malḥ, from Ziyād b. Bayn, from `Alī b. Nufayl, from Sa`d b. al-Musayyib, who said: "We were with Ummi Salma when we spoke of Mahdī. She said, 'I heard the Messenger of Allah, may Allah's blessings be on him [and his

family], say: “Mahdī is from the children of Fāṭima.””

I say: This is a correct (ṣaḥīḥ) tradition. Al-Suyūṭī and al-Ḥakīm have clearly declared its correctness.

360. Sunan Abū Dāwūd9: Narrated to us Sahl b. Tamīm b. Bazī, from `Imrān al-Qaṣṣī, from Qatāda, from Abū Naṣra, from Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, may Allah’s blessings be upon him [and his family], who said: “The Mahdī is from me. (He has) a hairless forehead and an aquiline nose. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. He will rule for seven years.”

Al-Ḥakīm has narrated it through his chain of narrators with some differences and has said: “This tradition is correct (ṣaḥīḥ) according to the criteria of al-Muslim, but they [i.e. al-Bukhārī and al-Muslim] have not narrated it.”

361. Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī10: Narrated to us ibn Bukair, from al-Laith, from Yūnus, from ibn Shihāb, from Nafi’ the slave of Abū Qatāda al-Anṣārī, from Abū-Huraira, from the Messenger of Allah, may Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who asked: “What will be your condition when the son of Mary descends amongst you and your Imam is from yourselves?”

Muslim has also recorded this: “Narrated to me `Ammāla b. Ya‘yā, from ibn Wahab, from Yūnus, from ibn Shihāb, from Nafi’ the slave of Abū-Qatāda al-Anṣārī, from Abū-Huraira, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who asked: “What will be your condition when the son of Mary descends amongst you and your Imam is from yourselves?”

362. Musnad Aḥmad11: Narrated to us Faṭī b. Dukain, from Yūsuf al-`Ijlī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyya, from his father, from `Alī, peace be on him, who said that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait. Allah will straighten out his [affair] in one night.”

Ibn Māja has recorded this tradition in his Sunan: “Narrated to us `Uthmān b. Abū Shaiba, from Abū Dāwūd al-Khuṣrī, from Yūsuf, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafīyya, from his father, from `Alī, peace be on him, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait . . .”

363. Sunan ibn Māja12: Narrated to us Hadiyyat b. `Abd al-Wahhāb, from Sa`d b. Abd al-Ḥamīd b. Ja`far, from `Alī b. Ziyād al-Yamāmī, from `Akramat b. `Ammār, from Isḥāq b. `Abd-Allah b. Abū `Alī, from Anas b. Malik, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “We children of `Abd al-Muḥalib are the masters (sīdēt) of the dwellers of Paradise: I, Ḥamza, `Alī, Ja`far, al-Ḥasan, al-Ḥusayn and al-Mahdī.”

364. al-Mu`jam al-kabīr13: Narrated to us Ya‘yā b. `Abd al-Baqī, from Yūsuf b. `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Marwazī, from Abū Taqī `Abd al-Ḥamīd b. Ibrāhīm al-Ḥimī, from Ma`dīn b. Sulaim al-Ḥaṣramī,

from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Najj, from Abū Zuhriyya, from Jubair b. Nufair, from `Auf b. Malik that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "O `Auf! What will be your condition when this umma breaks up into seventy-three sects, one will be in Paradise and all the others will be in Hell?" I asked, "When will this happen, O Messenger of Allah?"

He replied, "When the dishonorable will be many, the slave-girls will rule, children (al-ḥamlīn) will sit on the pulpits, [the Holy Quran will be (recited) with music, mosques will be decorated, the pulpits will be raised]14, the wealth [belonging to the Prophet] (al-fay') will be passed between [those that it doesn't belong to], zakāt will be taken by force, trust (al-amāna) will be taken as booty, knowledge in religion will be learned with other than Allah in mind, man will obey his wife while leaving his mother and expelling his father, the last of this umma will curse its first ones, the sinners of a tribe will be their chiefs, the most degraded people of a nation will be their leaders, and people will be respected for the fear of their evil. When this happens, the people will take refuge in Syria [and the Mahdī] will protect them from their enemies."

I asked, "Syria will be conquered?" He replied, "Yes, very quickly. After it is conquered, fitnas15 will occur. Then, a dark, hazy fitna will arise and fitnas will come after fitnas until a person from my Ahl al-Bait emerges. He will be called the Mahdī. If you meet him, follow him and be one of the guided ones."

365. Musnad Ahmad16: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from `Abd al-ḥamad, from ḥammīd b. Salama, from Muḥarrif al-Mu`allī, from Abū I-ḥiddiq, from Abū Sa`d that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: "The earth will be filled with unfairness and injustice. Then, a man from my progeny will emerge and will rule for seven or nine [years]17. He will fill it with fairness and justice."

After mentioning this tradition, al-ḥakīm says: "This tradition is correct (ṣaḥīḥ) according to the criteria of al-Muslim, but they [i.e. al-Bukhārī and al-Muslim] have not narrated it."

366. Dhikr akhbārī l-ḥabībīn18: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Ja`far, from Ahmad b. ḥusayn al-Anḥarī, from Ahmad b. Muḥammad b. al-ḥusayn b. ḥafī, from his grandfather al-ḥusayn, from `Akramat b. Ibrāhīm, from Ma`ar al-Warrāq, from Abū I-ḥiddiq al-Najjī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said:

The Hour will not be established (l-ṭaqīm al-s`a) until a person from my Ahl al-Bait comes to power, [he will have a] reaping, and an aquiline [nose]. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled earlier with unfairness. He will remain for seven years."

367. Al-Mustadrak `alā al-ḥaḥāin19: Al-ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-Tamīmī, from Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. Ibrāhīm b. ḥaidar al-ḥimyarī at Kāfa, from al-Qasim b. Khalīfa, from Abū Yaḥyā `Abd al-ḥamad b. `Abd al-Raḥmān al-ḥammīnī, from Amr b. `Ubaid-Allah al-`Adwī, from Mu`wiyat b. Qurra, from Abū I-ḥiddiq al-Najjī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī who informed that the Prophet of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said:

In the end of times, a severe disaster shall descend on my umma from their rulers; a disaster with unprecedented severity, to the extent that they will be under pressure in the vast expanse of the earth and it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. A believer will not find a place to take refuge from oppression. Then, Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, will send a man from my progeny who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it was filled with unfairness and injustice. The inhabitants of the skies and the residents of the earth will be satisfied with him.

The earth will not have stored anything from its seeds but that it will make it grow. The sky will not have accumulated anything of its rain-drops but that Allah will pour it on to them. He will live amongst them for seven, eight, or nine years. The living shall long for the dead [i.e. wish the dead were alive] for what Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, will do with the people of earth from His goodness.”

Al-ʿAṣṣamī says: This tradition has a correct chain of narrators (ʿaṣṣamī al-asnad), but they [i.e. Bukhārī and Muslim] have not recorded it.

368. Musnad Aḥmad²⁰: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from `Abd al-Razzāq, from Ja`far, from al-Mu`allā b. Ziyād, from al-`Alī b. Bashīr, from Abū I-ʿiddiq al-Najjī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, who informed that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said: “I give you glad-tidings about the Mahdī who will be sent to my umma when the people will be in disputes and disasters. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. The inhabitants of the skies and the residents of the earth will be satisfied with him. He will distribute wealth correctly (ʿaṣṣamī).”

A person asked him: “What do you mean by correctly (ʿaṣṣamī)?” He replied: “He will distribute it equally amongst the people. Allah will fill the hearts of the umma of Muḥammad with needlessness and his justice will encompass them. He orders an announcer to call out, ‘Does anybody need wealth?’ No one from the people will respond except one man. He [i.e. the Mahdī] will ask him to go to the treasurer and say, ‘Mahdī orders you to give me wealth.’ He will respond, ‘Hold [your hands].’ After he takes [what has been given to him] to his house he will regret what he has done. He will say [to himself]: ‘Was I the greediest in the umma of Muḥammad or did I lack what they possessed?’ Thus, he will return what was given to him but they will not accept it. It will be said to him, ‘We don’t take back what we have given.’ This will continue for seven, eight, or nine years. Then, there will be no good in life after him.”

I say: He has narrated similar to this through another chain.

369. Firdaus al-akḥbar²¹: From `Abd-Allah b. `Abbās, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “Mahdī is the peacock of the inhabitants of Paradise.”

370. Musnad Aḥmad²²: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from Abū I-Naṣr, from Abū Mu`āwiya Shaibān, from Ma`ar b. ʿahmān, from Abū I-ʿiddiq al-Najjī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said:

The Hour will not be established until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules. He will have a wide [forehead] and an aquiline [nose]. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will have been filled before him with unfairness. He will remain for seven years.

371. Al-Mustadrak²³: Narrated to us both al-Shaykh Abū Bakr b. Isḥāq `Alī b. Hamshadh al-`Adl and Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Bīlawayh, from Bishr b. Mūsā al-Asadī, from Haudhat b. Khalīfa, from `Auf b. Abū Jamāla, from al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī al-Darīmī, from Muḥammad b. Isḥāq al-Imam, from Muḥammad b. Bashshar, from ibn `Adī, from `Auf, from Abū I-`iddīq al-Najjī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "The Hour will not be established until the earth is filled with unfairness, injustice, and enmity. Then, a person from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge who will fill it with fairness and justice just as it will have been filled with unfairness and enmity."

He [i.e. the author of al-Mustadrak] has said: "This tradition is authentic (ḥaḍīṭ) based on the criteria set by Bukhārī and Muslim, but they have not recorded it . . ."

From al-Musnad: "Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from Muḥammad b. Ja`far, from `Auf, from Abū I-`iddīq al-Najjī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

The Hour will not be established until the earth is filled with unfairness and enmity. Then, a man will emerge from my progeny—or from my Ahl al-Bait—who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and enmity.

372. Sharḥ al-akhbār²⁴: From Abū Baḥr, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, who said: "Verily, Islam began with loneliness (gharīb) and will soon become lonely just as it had begun, and salvation is for the lonely ones." [This tradition is famous and has been narrated from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Numerous Shias and Sunnis have narrated it. (Imam) Ja`far b. Muḥammad al-Ḥadīq, peace be on him, has narrated it from him but I have not mentioned the chain of narrators which reach him.]²⁵ Abū Baḥr says: "I said to him, 'Elaborate this for me, may I be sacrificed for you, O son of Allah's Messenger!' He, peace be on him, replied: "The caller (al-dā`ī) from us will renew the call just as the Messenger of Allah [may Allah's blessings be upon him and his family] had made [a new] call."

The same applies to the Mahdī. He will give a renewed invitation to Allah when the [Islamic] customs are changed, innovations are increased, the imams of deviation will dominate, the imams of guidance—those whose obedience Allah has made obligatory upon the people—will seldom be mentioned.

Those whom He has appointed for calling towards Him and to point to Him through His signs. They will be forgotten and their news will be cut off [from the people] because the leaders of oppression will dominate the [Ahl al-Bait]. When Allah fulfills his promise to the Imams about the reappearance of their

Mahdﷺ, there will be a need [for the Mahdﷺ] to give the [people] a renewed call just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, had called them in the very beginning [of his messengership].²⁶

373. *Ḥifāt al-Mahdﷺ*²⁷: From *ʿUdhayfa*, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "(May Allah have mercy) on this umma because of the oppressive rulers! It is amazing that they will kill and frighten those who obey them except those who excessively demonstrate their obedience for them! The God-fearing believers will pretend with their tongues to be their friends but will flee from them with their hearts. When Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, intends to return Islam to its might, He will destroy every tyrant; and He has the power to do what He wills and to reform the umma after its corruption." Then, he said, "O *ʿUdhayfa*! If there not remains but one day from the world, Allah will prolong that day until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules. He will lead bloody battles and Islam will be victorious. He (Allah) does not violate His promise and He is quick in calculating."

374. *Ḥifāt al-Mahdﷺ wa kitāb al-ʿawāʾim*²⁸: Through his chain of narrators from *Abū-Salmāt b. ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. ʿAuf*, from his father, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "Allah will certainly raise from my progeny a man whose front teeth are slightly apart from each other and who has a wide forehead. He will fill the earth with justice and bestow wealth generously."

375. *Sunan ibn Majā*²⁹: Narrated to us *Uthmān b. Abū Shaiba*, from *Muʿāwiyā b. Hishām*, from *ʿAlī ibn ʿĀli*, from *Yazīd b. Ziyād*, from *Ibrāhīm*, from *ʿAlqama*, from *ʿAbd-Allah* who said: "We were with the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], when some youths from *Banū-Hāshim* entered. When the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], saw them, his eyes became full of tears and his color changed. I said to him, 'We are seeing on your face something that we dislike.' He replied, 'Surely, Allah has chosen for us Ahl al-Bait the Hereafter instead of this world. After me, my Ahl al-Bait will most certainly witness calamities, expulsions, and banishments, until a group of people come from the East who will carry black flags. They will ask for goodness but it won't be given to them. They will fight and be victorious and then they will be given what they had asked for. They will not accept it until they hand it over to a man from my Ahl al-Bait (who) will fill the earth with fairness just as they [i.e. the people] will have filled it with injustice. Whoever encounters them must go to them even if he has to crawl on ice.'"

376. *Al-Fitan*³⁰: Narrated to us *al-Walīd*, from *ʿAlī ibn ʿAushab*, from *Makḥūl*, from *ʿAlī ibn Abū ʿĀlib*, peace be on him, who said:

I asked the Messenger of Allah, "Is the Mahdﷺ from us Imams of guidance or from others?" He replied, "He is from us. The religion will be sealed by us just as it began through us. By us, they will be freed from the deviations of mischief just as they were freed from the deviations of polytheism. Through us, Allah will unite their hearts in religion after the enmity of mischief, just as Allah united their hearts and their religion after the enmity of polytheism."

377. Sunan ibn Maja31: Narrated to us Muhammad b. Yahya, from Abd Dawud, and from Muhammad b. `Abd al-Malik al-Wasi, from Yazid b. Harun, and narrated to us `Ali ibn al-Mundhir, from Israq b. Manar, all of them from Qays, from Ab Sa`d, from Ab Sali, from Ab Huraira, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "If there remains only one day from the world, Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, will elongate it until a man from my Ahl al-Bait rules. He will conquer the mountain of Daylam and Constantinople (Istanbul)."

I say: In the marginal commentary of al-Sind, his saying, "until a man will rule . . ." has been interpreted about the promised Mahd.

378. `Iqd al-durar32: From Ab Sa`d al-Khudr, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "The Mahd is from us Ahl al-Bait. [He is] a man from my umma who has a high nose. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice."

Ab Nu`aim has also mentioned it in ifat al-Mahd.

379. Musnad Ahmad33: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from `Abd al-`amad, from Abn, from Sa`d b. Zaid, from Ab Na'ra, from Ab Sa`d al-Khudr, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "After me, there will be a caliph who will distribute wealth generously and will not even count it [to see how much he is giving]."

380. Al-Bayn34: Ab Sahr Isma`il b. Safar b. Ahmad al-Nablus, from Ab I-Makrim Ahmad b. Muhammad b. `Abd-Allah b. al-Mu`addil, from Ab `Ali al-`asan b. Ahmad b. al-`asan al-`add, from al-`afi Ab Nu`aim Ahmad b. `Abd-Allah, from Sa`d b. Muhammad b. Israq, from Muhammad b. Yusuf al-Turk, from Kathir b. Yahya, from Ab `Awana, from al-A`mash, from `Ayya, from Ab Sa`d al-Khudr, from the Messenger of Allah, may Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "After the passing of some time and the appearance of fitnas, a man will [come] who will be called the Mahd. What he grants will be pleasant."

[He said:] This tradition has been recorded by Ab Nu`aim al-`afi like we have narrated it.

381. Mawaddat al-qurb35: Ibn `Abbas, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "Surely, Allah granted victory to this religion through `Ali. When he is killed, religion will become corrupted and no one can reform it but the Mahd."

382. Mawaddat al-qurb36: `Ali, [peace be on him], from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "The world will not be destroyed until a man from my umma rises who is from the progeny of al-`usayn; he will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with unfairness."

383. Muslim37: Narrated to us Zuhair b. `Arb, from `Abd al-`amad b. `Abd al-Warith, from his father, from Dawud, from Ab Na'ra, from Ab Sa`d and Jabir b. `Abd-Allah, both of them from the

Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "In the end of times, there will be a caliph who will divide wealth but will not count it."

And narrated the same tradition to us, Abū Bakr b. Abū Shaiba, from Abū Mu'awiyah, from Dawūd b. Abū Hind, from Abū Na'ira, from Abū Sa'īd, from the Messenger of Allah.

384. al-Fitan³⁸: Narrated to us Abū Mu'awiyah, from Dawūd, from Abū Na'ira, from Abū Sa'īd, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "In the end of times, there will emerge a caliph who will grant wealth without counting it."

385. Al-`Arf al-ward³⁹: Ibn Abū Shaiba has recorded from Abū Sa'īd that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "A person will emerge from my Ahl al-Bait after the passing of time and the appearance of fitnas; his grants will be abundant."

386. Al-Musnad⁴⁰: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from `Affan, from Hammād b. Salma, from `Alī b. Zaid, from Abū Na'ira, from Abū Sa'īd al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "Verily, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will send in this umma a caliph who will give away wealth generously and will not count it."

387. Al-Musnad⁴¹: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from Khalaf b. al-Walīd, from `Abbād b. `Abbād, from Mujīd, from Abū I-Waddak who said to Abū Sa'īd al-Khudrī, "By Allah! No ruler rules over us but that he is more evil than the previous one, and not a year arrives but that it is more evil than the preceding year." He replied, "If I had not heard something from the Messenger of Allah I too would have said like what you say. I heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, say, 'From your rulers there will be a ruler who will give away wealth abundantly but will not count it. A person will come to him and ask him (for money). He will say, "Take." The person will spread his dress and he will fill it.' The Messenger of Allah spread a thick blanket which was covering him to show the act of the person [who asked], then he gathered all its sides. He said, 'He will take it and then depart.'"

388. Al-Musnad⁴²: [In a tradition from Abū Na'ira, from Jubayr that] the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "There will be a caliph in the last of my nation. He will give away wealth abundantly but will not count it."

389. ⁴³ Muslim⁴³: Narrated to us Na'ir b. `Alī al-Jahāmī, from Bishr (i.e. ibn al-Mufā'ial) and narrated to us `Alī ibn `Ajar al-Sa'dī, from Ismā'īl (i.e. b. `Ulayya), both of them from Sa'īd b. Yazīd, from Abū Na'ira, from Abū Sa'īd, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "From your caliphs there is a caliph who will give away wealth abundantly but will not count it."

390. ⁴⁴ ifat al-Mahd⁴⁴: From Abū Sa'īd al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "Most certainly, the earth will be filled with enmity; then, a person from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge who will fill it with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness

and enmity [injustice and unfairness].”

391. Musnad Abū Yaʿlī⁴⁵: Narrated to us Sulaimān b. ʿAbd al-Jabbār Abū Ayyūb Sahl b. ʿUmir, from Fuʿail b. Marzūq, from ʿAʿīyya, from Abū Saʿd, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: “In the end of times, after the advance of ages and passing of time, there will be an Imam who will be the most generous of the people. A man will come to him and [the Imam] will put [wealth] in his dress. He will be concerned as to who will accept the charity of this wealth which is between him and his family as all the people will be flushed with goodness's (and riches).”

392. Tārīkh ibn ʿasḳir⁴⁶: He has recorded through his chain of narrators, from ibn ʿAbbās that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: “How can a nation be destroyed when I am at its beginning, Jesus is at its end, and the Mahdī is in its middle?”

393. ʿIqd al-durar⁴⁷: From Anas b. Mūlik, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: “A nation will never be destroyed which I am at its beginning, its Mahdī is in the middle, and Christ—the son of Mary—is at its end.”

394. ʿIqd al-durar⁴⁸: From Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī, from his father, from his grandfather, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

I give glad-tidings to you all! I give glad-tidings to you all! My nation is like rain. It is not clear whether its beginning is good or its end? Or like an orchard from which groups [of people] eat [fruit] for one year. Perhaps the last group [that eats from it] is the most widest and deepest⁴⁹ and is better than all the others. How can a nation perish when I am at its beginning, the Mahdī is in its middle, and Christ is at its end? [Beware!], between all these will be crooked leaders; they are not from me and I am not from them.

395. Faḳḳ'il al-ḳaḳ'aba lil-Samʿān⁵⁰: From Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī who said:

Faḳḳ'ima came to her father, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], during his illness and said while crying, “O my father! I fear neglect/destruction (al-ḳayʿa) after you!” He replied, “O Faḳḳ'ima! Verily Allah examined the earth thoroughly, then chose your father and sent him as a Messenger. He examined the earth a second time and chose your husband. He then ordered me to marry you to him and so, I married you to him. He was the greatest amongst Muslims in forbearance (ḳilm), the best of them in knowledge, and the first in [accepting] Islam.

Surely, Allah has granted seven characteristics to us Ahl al-Bait which He has not given to anyone from those [before us] and no one from those who will come [after us] will acquire them. Our Prophet is the best of prophets and he is your father; our successor (waḳ'iyyun) is the best of successors and he is your husband; our martyr is the best of martyrs and he is your father's uncle, ḳamza; from us is the one who has two wings with which he will fly in paradise wherever he wishes, and he is Jaʿfar [al-ḳayyūm]; from us are the two grandsons of this nation and they are your two sons; and from us is the Mahdī of

this nation.”

Abū Ḥurayr al-ʿAbdī says:

I met Wahb b. Munabba during the Hajj season and mentioned this tradition to him. He said, “When the tribe of Moses was tested and took the calf as god, a bitter situation was created for Moses. Allah said, ‘O Moses! The nations of all the Prophets before you were tested, and a great fitna will befall upon the nation of Aḥmad to an extent that some will curse others. Then, Allah will make right their affairs through a man from the progeny of Aḥmad, and he is the Mahdī.’”

396. Al-Isṭiḥṣān 51: [Jābir al-ʿAdafī] narrates from the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “After me, there will be caliphs. After the caliphs there will be rulers. After the rulers there will be kings. After the kings there will be tyrants and after the tyrants, a man will emerge from my Ahl al-Bait who will fill the earth with justice.”

This tradition has been narrated by Ibn Lahḥā, from ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Qays b. Jābir al-ʿAdafī, from his father, from his grandfather, from the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

397. Al-Bayḥaqī akhbār ʿAbī al-Zamʿān 52: ʿAbī al-ʿAsan Muḥammad b. Abī Jaʿfar al-Qurtubī and others in Damascus, and al-Muftī ʿAqr b. Yaʿyū b. ʿAqr al-Shāfiʿī and others in (the city) of Ḥalab, all of them from Abī al-Faraj Yaʿyū b. Maḥmūd al-Thaqafī and Abī ʿAlī al-ʿAsan b. Aḥmad b. al-ʿAsan, from al-ʿAbī Abī Nuʿaim Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah, from Muḥammad b. Zakariyyā al-Ghalībī, from ʿAbbas b. Bakkar, from ʿAbd-Allah, from al-Aʿmash, from Zirr b. ʿUbaish, from ʿUdhayfa that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said:

If there remains only one day from the world, Allah will definitely send in it a person whose name is my name and whose morals are my morals. He will be called Abī ʿAbd-Allah. The people will pledge allegiance to him between the Rukn and the Maqām. Through him, Allah will bring back the religion and He will grant him victories. [Then,] no one will remain on the face of earth but that he will acknowledge that there is no god but Allah.

Salmān, may Allah be satisfied with him, stood up and asked: “O Messenger of Allah! From which one of your sons will he be?” He answered: “He will be from the descendants of this son of mine,” then patted (Imam) al-ʿUsayn’s back.

398. Al-Sunan al-warīda fī l-fitan 53: Narrated to us ʿAmzat b. ʿAlī, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Muḥammad, from Abī Khalīfa, from Musaddad, from Ibn Shihāb, from ʿAḥim, from Abī ʿAlī, from Abī Huraira that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: “If there only remains one night from the world, Allah will make a person from my Ahl al-Bait rule in it.”

399. Firdaus al-akhbār 54: From Jābir b. ʿAbd-Allah that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: “The Paradise yearns for four people from my family. Allah loves [these four]

and has ordered me to love them: `Alī ibn Abī Ḥabīb, al-ʿāsan, al-ʿusayn, and the Mahdī—behind whom Jesus, the son of Maryam, will pray.”

400. Al-Mu`jam al-kabīr55: Narrated to us al-ʿāsan b. `Alī al-Ma`marī, from `Abd al-Ghaffār b. `Abd-Allah al-Mauḥilī, from `Alī b. Mus-hir, from Abū Isḥāq al-Shaibānī, from `Aḥim b. Abū l-Najīd, from Zirr b. ʿUbaish, from ibn Mas`ūd who recounts that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: “The days and the nights will not go away until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules; his name will be my name.”

In another tradition, the following sentence has been added: “He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.”

401. Al-Mu`jam al-kabīr56: Narrated to us Ma`ādh b. al-Muthannī, from Musaddad, from Abū Shihāb Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Kinānī, from `Aḥim b. Bahdala, from Zirr, from `Abd-Allah that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: “If there remains from the world but only one night, a person from the Ahl al-Bait of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], will rule in it.”

402. Al-Mu`jam al-kabīr57: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Jammāl al-Ifāḥānī, from Ibrāhīm b. `Ḥmir b. Ibrāhīm, from his father, from Ya`qūb al-Qummī, from Sa`d b. al-ʿusayn, from Abū Bakr b. `Ayyūsh, from `Aḥim b. Abū l-Najīd, from Zirr b. ʿUbaish, from `Abd-Allah b. Mas`ūd, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “The affairs of this nation—in the ends of its time—will be in the hands of a man from my Ahl al-Bait. His name will be my name.”

403. Al-`Arf al-ward58: Abū Nu`aim and al-ʿākim have both narrated from Abū Sa`d that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said:

The Mahdī will emerge in my nation. Allah will send him as a helper (ghīṣṣ) for the people. The nation will be blessed, livestock will feed, the earth will bring out its vegetation, and he will give away wealth correctly (iḥḥ)59.

404. Al-Fitan60: Al-Walīd narrates from Abū Rfi` Ismā`īl b. Rfi`, from someone who narrated to him from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

His nation will take refuge in him (i.e. the Mahdī) like the bees which take refuge in their king. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice. [This will continue] until the people return to their initial state, that is, they will not wake up a sleeping person and will not shed blood.

405. Kanz al-`umm61: “The Mahdī will emerge in the ends of my nation. Allah will send rain for him and the earth will bring out its vegetation. He will give away wealth correctly, livestock will increase, and the nation will be glorified. He will live for seven or eight years [as has been narrated by ibn Mas`ūd].

406. Dhikr akhbār Iḥbah⁶²: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. al-Faḥl b. Qadḥd, from al-Ḥasan b. Yūsuf b. Saʿd al-Miḥrī, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā b. Maḥar al-Makhrām, from Dḥwḥd b. al-Muḥabbar, from Abū I-Muḥabbar b. Qaḥdham, from his father Qaḥdham b. Sulaimān, from Muʿwiya b. Qurra, from his father that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said: “Most certainly, this earth will be filled with injustice and unfairness. When it is filled with injustice and unfairness, Allah will send a person from me whose name will be my name. He will fill it with fairness and justice just as it was filled with injustice and unfairness.”

407. Al-Rauḥa min al-Kḥf⁶³: Al-Ḥusayn b. Muḥammad al-Ashʿar, from Muʿallā b. Muḥammad, from al-Washsh, from Abū Baḥr, from Aḥmad b. ʿUmar who narrates:

A person came to (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, and said, “Surely you are the Ahl al-Bait of mercy. Allah, Blessed and High be He, has distinguished you with this [characteristic].” He, peace be on him, replied, “We are so, and all praise is for Allah. We don’t make anyone go astray nor do we bring anyone out of guidance. Surely, the world will not end until Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, sends a person from us Ahl al-Bait who will act in accordance with the Book of Allah. He will not see any evil in you but that he will denounce it.”

408. Al-Muʿjam al-awsaḥ⁶⁴: From Ḥalāṭ b. ʿAbd-Allah, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family] who said: “And soon, a fitna will occur. The unrest will not cease in one place except that it will start in another until an announcer from the sky will call out: ‘Surely, your leader is so and so.’”

I say: The ambiguity of this tradition because of it not explicitly stating the name of the Mahdī does not harm our purpose, because numerous traditions we quoted earlier and those that will be cited in the future explain this tradition and remove its ambiguity.

The author of Ibrīz al-wahm al-maknūn writes:

I have found a support for his tradition (i.e. the tradition of Ḥalāṭa). Ibn Abū Shaiba states, “Narrated to us al-Ḥasan b. Mūsā, from Ḥammḥd b. Salma, from Abū Muḥammad, from ʿAḥim b. ʿAmr al-Bajal that Abū Umāma said, ‘The name of a person will surely be called out from the sky. It cannot be denied with any argument and no degraded person can prevent it.’”

(He then mentions another narration) as support, from ʿAlī, peace be on him, which, God willing, we will mention in the future).

409. Al-Fitan by Nuʿaim b. Ḥammḥd⁶⁵: Narrated to us ʿAbd-Allah b. Marwān, from al-ʿAlī b. ʿUtba, from al-Ḥasan that “The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], mentioned the hardships that will be encountered by his Ahl al-Bait [which will continue] until Allah raises a black flag from the East. Whoever helps it, Allah will help him, and whoever deserts it, Allah will desert him, until they come to a person whose name is my name. He will take over their affairs and Allah will assist and

help him.”

410. Al-Fitan⁶⁶: Narrated to us `Abd al-Razz^q, from Mu`ammar, from Qat^{da} that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said: “Soon, he will bring out the treasures, will distribute wealth, and will fully establish Islam.”

411. Kanz al-`umm⁶⁷: From Sa`d al-Isk^f, from al-A^bbagh b. Nub^{ta}, who narrates: “Al^{ibn} Ab^{lib}, peace be on him, delivered a lengthy sermon. He praised Allah and extolled Him then said:

Know that verily I and the good ones from my progeny and my Ahl al-Bait are the most knowledgeable of the people in childhood and the most forbearing of them in old age. With us is the flag of truth. Whoever goes ahead of it will be degraded, whoever stays behind will be destroyed, and whoever stays with it will have reached it. Surely we are the people of mercy and through us the doors of wisdom are opened. Our judgment is based on Allah’s Judgment and our knowledge is based on Allah’s Knowledge and to the sayings of an honest person we have listened.

If you follow us, you will be saved and if you turn away, Allah will punish you at our hands. By us, Allah has opened the noose of disgrace from your necks. By us—and not by you—Allah will end (bin^{yukhtam} l^{bikum}). Through us the one who lags behind will reach and to us the one who has gone ahead will return . . . (He continued in another part,) by Allah! I was taught the interpretation of the messages, the fulfillment of the promises, and the completion of the words. Certainly, from those who succeed me from my Ahl al-Bait, there will be a person who will invite to Allah with strength and will judge with the laws of Allah. This will be after a hard and disgraceful era in which the hardships will be severe and hopes will be lost . . . (After mentioning some of the bloody battles, he continued,) know that surely from us is the one who will rise; his lineage will be pure and his companions will be leaders.

When the enemies of Allah are to be destroyed, he will be called out three times with his name and the name of his father in the month of Ramaⁿ. This will be after turmoil, killings, miseries, lunacies, and the rise of calamities. I know that to whom the earth will extract its deposits and hand over its treasures.

If I wanted, I could have struck [the earth] with my foot and said, “Bring out from here helmets and armor” . . . Indeed, Allah will appoint a Caliph who will remain firm in guidance and will not accept bribes in his judgments. When he calls, he will be [heard] far and distant. [His calls] will be lethal for the hypocrites and will bring relief for the believers. Know that these will surely happen despite those who dislike them [happening]. All praise is for Allah the Lord of the worlds and His blessings be upon our master Mu^{hammad}, the seal of the Prophets.

412. Al-Bayⁿ wa l-tabyⁿ⁶⁸: From Ab^{Ubaida} Mu`ammar b. al-Muthann^q, from Ja`far b. Mu^{hammad}, peace be on him, from his forefathers, peace be on them, from Am^r al-Mu`minⁿ `Al^{ibn} Ab^{lib}, peace be on him, who said:

Know that the good ones (al-abr^r) from my progeny and the pure ones from my descendants, are the

most forbearing of the people in childhood and the most knowledgeable of them in old age. Know that we Ahl al-Bait have learned knowledge from Allah's knowledge. Our judgment is from Allah's judgment and we have listened to the sayings of an honest person.

If you follow us, you will be guided with our insight but if you don't do so, Allah will destroy you at our hands. We hold the flag of truth. Whoever follows it will reach [salvation] and whoever lags behind will perish. Know that through us every believer is protected from bad fate (bin taraddu dabaratu kullu mu'min), through us the noose of disgrace is removed from your neck, and through us gains are made. Allah will commence through us—not through you—and He will end by us, not by you.”

Ibn Abi I-Adad says in his commentary: “His saying, ‘He will end by us, not by you,’ points towards the Mahd who will appear in the end of times. Most narrators have the view that he will be from the progeny of Fatima, peace be on her. Our fellow Mu'tazil companions do not deny this. They have clearly mentioned him in their books and their teachers have testified about him.”

413. al-ishk69: From Abi I-Za`r' who narrates that `Ali ibn Abi lib, peace be on him, used to say:

Verily I and the pure ones from my descendants and the good ones from my progeny are the most forbearing of people in childhood and the most knowledgeable of them in old age. By us Allah will invalidate falsehood; by us Allah will break the teeth of the rabid wolves; by us Allah will free you from disgrace and remove the noose of your necks. By us Allah will begin and He will end.

414. Sharh nahj al-balgha by ibn Abi I-Adad70: The Chief of Justice (q al-qu'at), may Allah the Exalted have mercy on him, has narrated from Isma' b. `Abd—may Allah have mercy on him—through his chain of narrators which end at `Ali, peace be on him, that he mentioned the Mahd and said: “He is from the progeny of al-usayn.” He then described his appearance: “A man with a wide forehead, aquiline nose, sturdy belly, long thighs, shining teeth, and on his left thigh is a mole.”

Ibn Abi I-Adad writes: “`Abd-Allah b. Qutayba has mentioned this exact tradition in Gharb al-adth.”

415. Al-Fitan71: Narrated to us al-Walid and Rushdain, from ibn Lah'a, from Isr' b. `Abd, from Maimn al-Qadd, from Abi I-ufail, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. One of the two narrated from `Ali, peace be on him, from the Holy Prophet; Ibn Lah'a narrated from Abi Zur'a, from `Umar b. `Ali, from `Ali, peace be on him, from the Holy Prophet who said: “Religion will end through us just as it commenced with us and through us they will be freed from polytheism.”

One of the two narrated [it like this]: “. . . from deviation. And through us Allah will unite their hearts after the enmity of polytheism.”

Another narrated [it like this]: “. . . deviation and mischief . . .”

416. Al-Fitan72: Narrated to us al-Walīd, from Abū Lahʿa and informed us ʿAyyūsh b. ʿAbbās, from ibn Zarīr, from ʿAlī, peace be on him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “He is a man from my Ahl al-Bait.”

He has recorded it through another chain of narrators: Narrated to us ibn Wahb, from ibn Lahʿa, from al-ʿarth b. Yazīd, from ibn Zarīr al-Ghaffiq who heard ʿAlī, peace be on him, say: “He is from the progeny of the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family].”

417. Al-Fitan73: Narrated to us Abū Hurrayn, from ʿAmr b. Qays al-Mulʿī, from al-Minhāl b. ʿAmr, from Zirr b. ʿUbaish, from ʿAlī, peace be on him, who said: “The Mahdī is a man from us from the descendants of Fāṭima, may Allah be satisfied with her.”

418. Al-Fitan74: Narrated to us more than one person from ibn ʿAyyūsh, from Sulaym who said:

Najda wrote [a letter] to ibn ʿAbbās asking him about the Mahdī. He replied, “Surely, Allah the Exalted, has guided this umma through the first of this house and will free them through the last of them. During his [rule], goats which have horns and also those who don’t will not fight with each other.”

419. ʿAbū ʿIbbān75: From Umm Salma who recounts that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said about the Mahdī: “He will distribute among the Muslims their booty and will treat them in accordance with the customs (sunna) of their Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family]. He will fully establish Islam (yulqī al-islām bi jirānih ilā al-ārṣ) throughout the earth. He will live for seven years.”

420. Kanz al-ʿumm76: (In a lengthy tradition from ʿAlī, peace be on him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family):

O ʿAlī! Allah has commenced [Islam] by us and He will end it by us. By us He will destroy the idols and whoever worships them. By us He will crush every oppressor and every hypocrite to an extent that we will kill for rightness like the people who killed for falseness. O ʿAlī, this nation is like an orchard that a group of people will eat from for a year and another group will eat from it in another year. Perhaps, the last group [is like a tree] who has the firmest root, the most beautiful branch, and the sweetest fruit. They are the best and the most just and will possess the longest kingdom.”

421. Murāj al-dhahab77: It has been narrated that Amr al-Muʿminin ʿAlī ibn Abū Ṭalib, peace be on him, said:

When Allah willed to destine creation and create the creatures and make the things [that He] made, He manifested the creatures in forms like dust particles, and this was before the spreading of the earth and the raising of the sky; while He was in the exclusivity of His Kingdom and Uniqueness of His Omnipotence (jabarūtiḥ). Thereafter, He made ready a light from His Light so it shone and took a part

from His Brightness and it radiated. Then, He put the Light in the middle of these hidden forms, and the form of our Prophet Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, approached it.

So, Allah the Almighty said, "You are the chosen one, the selected. With you is entrusted My light and the treasures of My guidance. Because of you, I level the desert, let the water flow, and raise the sky. [Because of you], I reward and punish and [created] the Heaven and Hell. I will appoint your Ahl al-Bait for guidance. I will bestow upon them from My unseen knowledge so that the most complex of issues will not be difficult for them and the hidden things will not make them incapable. I will appoint them as My proof upon My creation and as those who draw the attention [of the people] towards My Power and My Oneness."

Then, Allah made them testify to [His] Lordship (al-rubūbiyya) and purely acknowledge [His] Oneness (al-waḥdāniyya). After this pledge, He blended the insight of his creations with the fact that he had selected Muḥammad and his family. He showed them that guidance is with him, the light belongs to him, and that leadership (al-imāma) is in his family . . . Then, His Throne (ʿarsh) became afloat on water, after which He spread the earth on the surface of water, and from the water, He extracted a smoke and made it the sky. Then, He summoned them both (i.e. the earth and the sky) towards His obedience and they submitted by responding [to His call].

Then, Allah made the angels with lights that He created and souls that he invented. Then, he accompanied with His Oneness (tauḥīd) the prophethood of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], whom became popular in the skies before he was sent to earth. When Allah created Adam, He clarified his excellence for the angels and showed them why He had distinguished him on account of His prior knowledge, when He had taught him by informing him alone of the names of things. Thus, Allah appointed Adam as a prayer-niche (miḥrab), a Ka`ba, a door (bāb), and a Qibla to whom the righteous (al-abrār) and the spiritual lights (al-rūḥānīn al-anwār) prostrated.

Then, He made Adam aware of what He had put in him for safekeeping and manifested for him what He had kept in him as trust. And this was after He had named him as a leader (imām) in the presence of the angels . . . He called the people, overtly and covertly, and invited them, secretly as well as openly. He, peace be on him, drew the attention of the people to the covenant which He had ordered the particles to, prior to creation.

Whoever agreed with him and took from the lamp of Light that was offered to them, was guided to His secret and His clear affair became apparent for him. But, whoever was deceived by negligence, became eligible for [divine] wrath. Thereafter, the Light was transferred inside us and shone in our Imāms. Thus, we are the Lights of the sky and the Lights of the earth. Salvation is achieved through us and from us [comes out] the hidden knowledge. All affairs are destined to us. The proofs (al-ḥujaj) will end at our Mahdī who is the seal of the Imams and the one who will save the umma. [He is] the peak of illumination and the source of all affairs. We are the most superior of the creatures, the noblest of the monotheists, and the proofs of the Lord of the worlds. So, let him enjoy the bounties, he who fastens to

our mastership (wilaya) and holds on to our rope.

This is what has been narrated from Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muḥammad, from his father Muḥammad b. `Alī, from his father `Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn, from his father al-Ḥusayn, from Amīr al-Mu`minīn `Alī ibn Abī Ḥabīb, [peace be on them].

422. Nahj al-balāgha⁷⁸: Amīr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on him, said in a sermon narrated by al-Sharīf al-Raḍī—may Allah be satisfied with him—on the authority of Nauf al-Bikīlī who stated: “Amīr al-Mu`minīn `Alī, peace be on him, addressed to us this sermon at Kāfa while standing on a stone which Ja`da b. Hubayra al-Makhzūmī had placed for him. He was wearing a woolen cloak, his sword-belt was made of date-tree leaves, the sandals on his feet too were made of date-tree leaves, and His forehead was calloused [because of excess prostration].

Then, he, peace be on him, said⁷⁹: ‘. . . he will be wearing the armor of wisdom—which he will have secured with all its conditions—such as full attention towards it, its (complete) knowledge, and exclusive devotion to it. For him, it is like a thing which he had lost and which he was then seeking, or a need which he was trying to fulfill. If Islam is in trouble, he will feel forlorn like a traveler and like a [tired] camel beating the end of its tail and with its neck flattened on the ground. He is the last of Allah’s Proofs and one of the vicegerents of His Prophets.”

Ibn Abī al-Ḥadīd says in his commentary on Nahj al-balāgha:

Every sect has interpreted this speech in accordance with their own beliefs. The Imāmī Shias believe that it refers to the awaited Mahdī they believe in . . . In my view, it is not improbable that the one intended by this sermon is the Q’im from the progeny of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, in the end of times.

423. Yanḥab` al-mawadda⁸⁰: From Amīr al-Mu`minīn `Alī, peace be on him, in a poem—that is not from his collection of poems:

Allah has a pearl, a brave Imam

Who will disgrace the polytheist warriors with his sword

He will manifest this religion in every region

And will defeat the polytheists

He will purify the earth from all corruption

And will disgrace every tyrant

He will spread justice in the East and the West

And will firmly establish Allah's religion entrenched

...

I am not saying these out of pride

The chosen one from the Banu-Hashim [i.e. the Prophet] has informed me.

424. Al-Dawḥān81:

O Ḥusayn! When you are a stranger in a city

Act in accordance with its etiquette

As if I am seeing myself and my progeny

And Karbala and its battleground

Our beards will be dyed with our bloods

Like a bride decorated with cosmetics

As if I am seeing it—but not with the eyes

And I have been given the keys to its doors

Calamities that don't want to be dispelled

So be prepared for them [before they befall you]

May Allah satisfy our Q'īm who [will suddenly emerge before] Judgment Day

Whilst the people are busy with their normal lives

He will Avenge my blood, O Ḥusayn

And your [blood], so be patient during the difficulties, O Ḥusayn

425. Al-Dawḥān82:

O my son! When the enemies mobilize their troops

Await the Mahdī's kingdom, his rise, and his justice

The time that the kings from the Banu-Hashim will be humiliated

And they will pledge allegiance to he who engages in revelry

He will be like a child with no opinion of his own

A fool who possess' no wisdom

It is then that the rightful Qa'im from amongst you [Ahl al-Bait] will rise

He will bring the truth and will act rightfully

He is the namesake of Allah's Prophet; may my soul be sacrificed for him

Help him, O my son, and hasten in assisting him

426. Al-Durr al-munani⁸³: It has been narrated from Amir al-Mu'minin `Ali ibn Abi Talib, peace be on him, that: "The bearer of the flag of Muhammad and the [owner] of the government of Aqmad will emerge. He will rise with the sword and destruction. [He will be] truthful in speech and will reform the earth and bring to life the customs and the duties."

427. Al-Mu'annaf⁸⁴: Narrated to us Abi Mu'awiya, from al-A'mash, from Ibrahim al-Taymi, from al-Qurith b. Suwayd, from `Ali, peace be on him, who said:

Islam will be degraded to the extent that even 'Allah Allah'⁸⁵ will not be uttered. When this happens, the leader of the religion (ya'sib al-din) will come out with his followers. Then, a group will be dispatched that will gather around him like the clouds in autumn. By Allah! I certainly know the name of their chief and the resting-places of their horsemen.

428. `Iqd al-durar⁸⁶: From Abi W'il who mentions that `Ali looked at al-Qusayn, peace be on them, and said:

This son of mine is a master (sayyid) just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], has named him. Soon, a person from his loin will emerge whose name will be the same as that of your Prophet. He will come when the people will be in a state of negligence, truth will be dead, and injustice will be evident. The inhabitants of the sky and its dwellers will rejoice at his reappearance. He will have a wide forehead, an aquiline nose, sturdy belly, and long thighs. There is a mole on his left thigh and his front teeth are slightly apart from each other. He will fill the earth with justice, just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.

429. Al-Malim wa l-fitan⁸⁷: He has narrated a lengthy tradition which is a debate between ibn `Abbas and Mu'awiya, in which ibn `Abbas has refuted Mu'awiya in the following manner:

As for what you said that "No one can possess both Caliphate and Prophethood [at the same time]," then what about the saying of Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, "Indeed, We have given the family of Ibrahim the Book and Wisdom, and We have given them a Great Kingdom."⁸⁸ The Book refers to Prophethood and Wisdom refers to sunna and Kingdom refers to Caliphate. We are the family of

Ibrāhīm. The Command of Allah concerning them and us is one and the sunna is implemented amongst us and them.

As for your saying, “Your proof is ambiguous,” then I swear by Allah, it is brighter than the sun and more brilliant than the moon and you certainly know that yourself but you are a wretched person. We killed your brother, your grand–father, your paternal uncle, and your maternal uncle. So, don’t cry over decayed bones and souls being wasted in hell fire. Don’t be angry because of the blood that became legible for shedding because of polytheism and which has been degraded by Islam.

As for your saying, “We think that the government of the Mahdī belongs to us,” then know that the word ‘think’ is used to refer to ‘doubt’ in the book of Allah. Allah, Purified and High be He, says: “Those who disbelieve think that they will never be resurrected. Say: Yes! By my Lord, you will most certainly be resurrected . . .”⁸⁹

Everyone testifies that we have a King who will be appointed by Allah even if nothing remains from the world but one day. Surely, we have a Mahdī that if nothing remains but a single day, Allah will send him [to fulfill] His commands. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness . . . (to the end of the tradition).

The tradition also speaks about the details of the descent of Jesus, peace be on him, and his praying behind Imam Mahdī, peace be on him.

430. Al–Malā’im wa l–fitan⁹⁰: In the twenty–eighth chapter in which he has discusses the book of Muḥammad b. Jarīr al–Ḍabarī called ‘Uyūn akhbār banī hāshim. He mentions ibn ‘Abbās’ debate with Muḥwiya about the Mahdī in which ibn ‘Abbās says to Muḥwiya

There is not a single clan from [the tribe] of Quraish who can boast about an affair except that there are other [clans] who [also] have a claim in that affair, except for Banī–Hāshim. For, they can take pride in Prophethood in which no one else was their partner nor was anyone equal with them in [their virtues].

This merit cannot be taken away from them. I swear that Allah, Blessed and High be He, did not appoint Muḥammad from the Quraish but because the Quraish were the best of creatures, and He did not appoint him from the Banī–Hāshim but because the Banī–Hāshim were the best amongst the Quraish, and He did not appoint him, from the progeny of ‘Abd al–Muḥalib but that they were the best of Banī–Hāshim.

We do not take pride over you except in what you take pride over the Arabs. This is the umma which is subject to Divine Mercy. To it belongs its Prophet and its Mahdī. The Mahdī is at its end because the affairs [of Islam] commenced with us and will end with us. Your kingdom is short and our kingdom will be long. Your kingdom is prior to our kingdom but there will be no kingdom after ours. We are the [pious] and the end is only for the pious.

431. Al-Sunan al-warida fī l-fitan⁹¹: Narrated to us `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Uthmān, from Qasim, from ibn Abī Khaithama, from Muslim b. Ibrāhīm, from al-Qasim b. al-Faḥl, from ibn `Umair al-Muhjar, from Abī l-Ḥiddiq who said:

Abī Sa`d al-Khudr was sitting on the pulpit of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], and crying and longing for him. I asked, "What has made you cry?" He replied, "I remembered the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], and his sitting on this pulpit while he was saying, 'Surely, from my Ahl al-Bait is the one with an aquiline [nose] and a wide [forehead]. He will come when the earth will be filled with unfairness and injustice, and he will fill it with fairness and justice. He will live for this period.' And he indicated seven or nine with his fingers.

432. Al-Iṭijā⁹²: In a lengthy tradition which he has narrated through his chains of narrators from Saif b. `Umaira and Ḥali b. `Uqba, both from Qays b. Sam`ān, from Alqamat b. Muḥammad al-Ḥaḥram, from (Imam) Abī Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, in his lengthy sermon at the Ghadīr of Khumm:

O People! The Light of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, is inside me, then in it will be in `Alī followed by his progeny until the Q'īm, the Mahdī, who will take back the rights of Allah and every right which belongs to us.

He then said many things about the Mastership (wilāya) of `Alī and the Imams after him, peace be on them, then continued:

O People! Verily, I am a Prophet and `Alī is my heir (waṣī). Know that the seal of the Imams, the Q'īm, the Mahdī, is from us. Know that surely he is the one who will dominate the religion. Know that surely he is the one who will take revenge from the oppressors. Know that surely he is the one who will conquer the forts and destroy them. Know that surely he is the one who will kill all polytheist tribes. Know that surely he is the one who will avenge the blood of all the friends of Allah (auliyā Allāh).

Know that surely he is the one who will help the religion of Allah. Know that surely he is the one who will take water from a deep ocean. Know that surely he is the one who will mark every person of merit with his merit and every person of ignorance with his ignorance. Know that surely he is the chosen and selected one by Allah. Know that surely he is the inheritor of all sciences and has full knowledge about them. Know that surely he informs about his Lord, Mighty and Majestic be He, and mentions the affair of His belief. Know that surely he is guided and firm.

Know that surely [the affairs] have been handed over to him. Know that surely he is the one about whom glad tidings have been given to those before him. Know that surely he is the surviving proof (ḥujja) and there is no proof (ḥujja) after him. There is no truth but that it is beside him and there is no light but that it is with him. Know that no one can overpower him and gain victory over him.

433. Al-Burhān fī `alāmāt Mahdī khir al-zamān⁹³: From Muḥammad b. al-Ḥanafiyya, may Allah be

satisfied with him, who said:

We were with `Alī, peace be on him, when a person asked him about the Mahdī. He replied, “It is far! It is far!” Then, he showed nine with his fingers and said, “This will happen in the end of times [in a time] that if it is said to a person, ‘Allah, Allah,’ [that person] will be killed. Then, Allah will gather a group for him like the gathering of clouds in autumn. He will unite their hearts and they will not fear anybody nor will they rejoice for anybody joining them. Their number will be equal to the warriors [of the battle] of Badr. The prior ones will not overtake them and the later ones will not reach them. Their number will be equal to the soldiers of ٱٱٱٱ—those who crossed the river with him.”

434. `Iqd al-durar⁹⁴: From Sʿlim al-Ashall, from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Bḥqir, peace be on him, who said:

Moses, peace be on him, looked in the first Exodus at what would be granted to the Qʿim from the family of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], and pleaded, “O Lord! Make me the Qʿim from the family of Muḥammad.” It was said to him, “This [position] belongs to the seed of Aḥmad.” Then he looked in the second Exodus and saw the same things, and made the same request and got the same reply. Again, in the third Exodus, he saw the same things, made the same request and got the same reply.

435. Musnad Abū Yaʿ⁹⁵: Narrated to us Abū Bakr b. Abū l-Naʿr, from Abū l-Naʿr, from al-Murj b. Rajīʿ al-Yashkur, from `s b. Hil, from Bushair b. Nuhaik, from Abū Huraira who said: “Narrated to me my friend, Abū l-Qsim, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], that ‘the Hour will not be established until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rises against them. He will attack them until they return to the truth.’” I (i.e. Nuhaik) asked, “How many will they be?” He (i.e. Abū Huraira) replied, “five and two.” I enquired, “And what is five and two?” He replied, “I don't know.”

436. Kanz al-`umm⁹⁶: From `Ad b. ʿtim, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “Indeed, the Hour will not be established until the white castle which is in Madīn will be conquered, and the Hour will not be established until a woman in a howdah travels safely from ʿijz to Iraq without fearing anything. And the Hour will not be established until an Imam rules over the people who will give away wealth freely.”

437. Musnad Abū Yaʿ⁹⁷: Narrated to us Sulaimn b. `Abd al-Jabbār Abū Ayyb, from Sahl b. `mir, from Fuʿail b. Marzq, from `Ayyya, from Abū Sa`d, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “In the end of times—after the advance of ages and passing of time—there will be an Imam who will be the most generous of the people. A man will come to him and [the Imam] will put [the wealth] in his dress. He will be concerned as to who will accept the charity of this wealth—which is between him and his family—as all the people will be flushed with welfare.”

438. Al-Fitan⁹⁸: Narrated to us ibn Wahb, from ibn Lah`a, from al-arth b. Yazd, from `Abd-Allah b. Zarīr al-Ghfiq, from `Alī, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said: “Trials are of four kinds: The trial

of prosperity, the trial of distress, the trial of so and so . . . then, a person from the progeny of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], will emerge. Allah will reform their affairs at his hands."

439. Al-Sunan al-warida fī I-fitan⁹⁹: Narrated to us `Abd al-Raḥmān, from Qasim, from Ahmad b. Zuhair, from `Ammār al-Duhnī, from Sulīm b. Abī I-Ja`d who said: "When we went for Hajj, I went to see `Abd-Allah b. `Amr al-ḥafī. He asked me, 'Where are you from?' I replied, 'From Iraq.' He said, 'Then be from the people of Kufa.' I replied, 'I am from them.' To which he answered, 'They will be the most helpful to the Mahdī.'" "

440. Al-Sunan al-warida fī I-fitan¹⁰⁰: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah b. Fuḥail, from `Abbās b. Ḥarīn, from al-Faḥl b. `Ubaid-Allah, from Yaḥyā b. Zakariyyā b. Yaḥyāwayh al-Nasībī, from Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā, from Muḥammad b. Salma, from Abī I-Walīl b. `Ubaid, from Jubayr b. `Abd-Allah, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

A group from my umma will always fight for the truth until Jesus, son of Mary, descends at the time of dawn at Bait al-Maqdas. He will come to the Mahdī and will be told, "Come forward O Prophet of Allah and lead our prayers." He will reply, "Verily, some from this umma are trustees for others due to their honorable position with Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He."

441. Al-Fitan¹⁰¹: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah b. Marwān, from al-`Alī' b. `Utba, from al-Ḥasan that "the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], mentioned a hardship that will be afflicted on his Ahl al-Bait until Allah sends a black flag from the East. Whoever helps it, Allah will help him and whoever abandons it, Allah will abandon him, until a person comes whose name will be my name. Allah will make him in charge of their affairs and will assist him with His help."

442. Al-Fitan¹⁰²: Narrated to us Sa`d Abī Uthmān, from Jubayr, from (Imam) Abī Ja`far, peace be on him, that "Black Flags that will rise from Khurasān and will descend at Kufa. When the Mahdī appears at Mecca, they will go to him to pledge allegiance."

443. Al-Fitan¹⁰³: Narrated to us al-Walīd and Rushdān, from ibn Lah`a, from Abī Qubail, from Abī Rḥmān, from `Alī, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said: "The Sufyān and the Black Flags will confront each other. Amongst the Black Flags there will be a youth from Banū-Hāshim who has a mole on his left hand. Guiding them will be a man from Banū Tamīm named Shu`ayb b. ḥalīlī. There will be intense bloodshed between these two armies. The Black Flags will be victorious and the horsemen of Sufyān will take to their heels. It is then that the people will desire for the Mahdī and will seek him."

444. Al-Fitan¹⁰⁴: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah Abī `Abd-Allah al-Tayharti, from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Ziyād b. An`um, from Muslim b. Yasīr, from Sa`d b. al-Musayyib, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "Black Flags belonging to the Banū `Abbās will emerge from the east. They will halt for a period that Allah wills. Then, smaller Black Flags will appear from the east who will fight against a man from the progeny of Abī Sufyān and his companions."

They will advise [the people] to obey the Mahdī.”

445. Nahj al-balāgha¹⁰⁵:

Until Allah brings out for you one who will gather you together and unite you after your separation. Do not place expectations in one who does not come forward and do not lose hope in one who has turned back [from you], because it is possible that one of the two feet of the one who has turned back may have slipped while the other has remained firm and both [his feet] might return, until both are firm. Beware! The example of the family of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on them, is like that of the stars in the sky. When one star sets another one rises. Allah has completed his obligations upon you and He has shown [or will show] you what you used to wish for.

446. Sharḥ nahj al-balāgha (by ibn Maitham) 106:

O People! Be aware of a knowledge that is definite. What the Q’im will encounter from your ignorance is like what the Messenger [of Allah] also encountered from your ignorance. That is, because on that day the entire umma will be engulfed in a state of ignorance except those upon whom Allah has mercy.

Do not hurry lest your demise hastens towards you; and know that lenience is a blessing and in forbearance is survival and comfort. The Imam is more knowledgeable regarding what they deny/don’t know. I swear by my life! He will uproot the evil judges from amongst you, he will remove the diseased from you, he will dismiss the tyrant rulers, and he will purify the earth of every deceiver.

Certainly, he will act amongst you with justice and stand amongst you with the straight weighing scale. Those living from you will desire the return of their dead ones even for a very brief period. It is then that they will enjoy life and this will surely happen. For the sake of Allah have patience, control your tongues, and live [peacefully] because soon deprivation will reach you. If you exercise patience, act in a calculated manner, and live in harmony, he will certainly seek the blood-revenge of your killed ones, avenge the murdered ones, and get back your rights. I swear by Allah a true oath,

“Surely Allah is with those who restrain themselves and those who do good” (Quran Surah Nahl 16: 128).

447. Al-Durr al-manthūr¹⁰⁷: He has recorded from ibn Mardawayh, from ibn `Abbās, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said: “The Companions of the Cave (aḥbāb al-kaḥf) will assist the Mahdī.”

It has been mentioned in Tafsīr al-tha`labī, in the story about the companions of the cave—which has also been narrated from him in ‘Iqd al-durar, al-Burhān, al-`Umda, and al-ḥarḥif—that: “They went to their sleeping places and will go to sleep until the end of times when the Mahdī, peace be on him, emerges.” He continues, “The Mahdī will salute them after which Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will bring them back to life for him. Then, they will go to sleep again and will not wake up until the Day of

Rising (al-Qiyāma).”

448. `Iqd al-durar108: Saif b. `Umair narrates:

I was with Abū Ja`far al-Manẓūr [the Abbasid caliph] when he initiated the conversation: “O Saif b. `Umair! It is inevitable that a caller will call out from the sky the name of a person from the progeny of Abū `Alīb.” I replied, “May I be given as ransom for you, O Amr al-Mu`minīn! Are you narrating this?” He answered, “I swear by the One in whose hand is my life, Yes—for the listener who has ears.”

I said, “O Amr al-Mu`minīn! I have never heard this tradition before.” He replied, “O Saif! This is the truth. And when this happens, we will be the ones who will be more worthy of responding to this call. The call will be to a person from the sons of our cousins.” I asked, “A person from the progeny of Fātima, peace be on her?” He answered, “Yes, O Saif! Had I not heard it from Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him, I would not have accepted it even if all the people on earth had narrated it to me, but, he is Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him.”

449. Al-Amḥal109: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. Aḥmad b. al-Walīd, from al-Ḥusayn b. al-Ḥasan b. Abīn, from al-Ḥusayn b. Sa`īd, from Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn [al-Ḥasan] al-Kinānī, from his grandfather, from Imam Abū `Abd-Allah al-Ḥadiq, peace be on him, who said:

Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, sent to His Prophet— Allah’s blessings be on him and his family—a manuscript before his death and said, “O Muḥammad! This manuscript is your will to the noble (al-najīb) one from your family.” He asked, “And who is the noble one from my progeny, O Jabra`īl?” He replied, “`Alī ibn Abū `Alīb.” There were golden seals on the manuscript and the Prophet handed it over to `Alī, peace be on him, and advised him to break one of the seals and act according to what was in it. `Alī, peace be on him, broke a seal and acted upon its instructions.

Then he handed it over to his son al-Ḥasan, peace be on him, who broke a seal and acted upon its instructions. Then he handed it over to his son al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, who broke a seal and found written in it that, “Go with a group of people towards martyrdom, for, there is no martyrdom for them except with you and sell yourself to Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He.” And he did, then handed it to `Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn, who broke a seal and found in it, “Maintain silence, be confined to your house, and worship your Lord until certainty [i.e. death] comes to you” and he did accordingly.

Then, he handed it over to Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him, who broke a seal and found in it, “Narrate/speak to the people and give verdicts. Do not fear anyone except Allah because no one can harm you.” Then he handed these to me. I broke a seal and found, “Narrate/speak to the people and give verdicts. Spread the knowledge of your Ahl al-Bait and confirm your righteous forefathers. Do not fear anyone except Allah for you are in protection and safety.” I acted according [to the instructions]. Then, I will pass it on to Mūsā b. Ja`far who will hand it over to the one after him. This will continue until the rise of the Mahdī, peace be on him.

450. Al-Amḥīd 110: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Mūsā b. al-Mutawakkil, from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Mūsā b. `Imrān al-Nakha`ī, from his uncle al-Ḥusayn b. Yazīd al-Naufal, from `Alī ibn Sālim, from his father, from Abū Ḥamza al-Thumālī, from Sa`d al-Khaffīf, from al-Aḥbagh b. Nubḥta, from `Abd-Allah b. `Abbās, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said:

When I was taken to the seventh heaven and from there to the Lote Tree of the Boundary (sidrat al-muntahā) and from sidrat al-muntahā to the veils of light (ḥujub al-nūr), my Lord, majestic be His Majesty, called out to me, "O Muḥammad! You are my servant and I am your Lord. So, be humble before Me and only worship Me. Rely on Me and trust Me for I am satisfied with you as a servant, beloved, messenger, and prophet and [I am satisfied] with your brother, `Alī, as a successor and a door (khalīfatan wa bābā). He is My proof (ḥujjatī) upon My servants and a leader (Imām) for My creation.

Through him, My friends will be known from My enemies and through him, Satan's party will be distinguished from My party. Through him, My religion will be established, My limits will be protected, and My regulations implemented. Through you, him, and the Imams from his progeny, I will have mercy on My male and female servants. And by the Q'īm from amongst you I will give life to My earth with My Tasbīḥ, Tahlīl, Taqdīs, Takbīr, and Tamjīd. Through him, I will clean the earth from My enemies and make My friends inherit it. Through him, I will degrade the word of the disbelievers and elevate My word.

Through him, I will enliven My servants and My cities with My knowledge. For him, I will reveal the treasures and the reserves with My will. I will disclose only to him the secrets and the hidden things by My intention (bi Irḥādātī). I will help him with My angels so that they may assist him in implementing My order and proclaiming My religion. He is surely My [appointed] guardian and truly the guided one from My servants."

451. Al-Amḥīd of al-Ḥāṣṣ 111: A group informed us from Abū l-Mufaḥḥal, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yasīr b. Abū l-`Ajz al-Simsīr, from Mujḥhid b. Mūsā al-Khuttalī, from `Abbād b. `Abbād, from Mujḥlid b. Sa`d, from Jabr [or Jubair] b. Nauf Abū l-Waddak who said:

I said to Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, "By Allah! No year comes upon us but that it is worse than the previous one, and no ruler but that he is worse than the previous," to which Abū Sa`d answered, "I heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, say what you are saying, but, I also heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, say, 'This situation will not go away from you until amongst all the fitnas and injustices, someone is born who will not be recognized at that time. [This situation will continue] until The world becomes filled with injustice to the extent that no one will be able to utter: 'Allah'.

Then, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will send a person from me and from my progeny. He will fill the earth with justice just as those before him will have filled it with unfairness. [Allah] will bring out its treasures¹¹², and he will give away wealth freely and will not even count [what he is giving]. This will

continue until Islam is fully established.”

452. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹¹³: Informed me a group from Abū Muḥammad Ḥarīrīn b. Mūsā al-Talla`ukbarī, from Abū `Alī al-Rāzī, from ibn Abū Dārim, from `Alī ibn al-`Abbās al-Sindī al-Muqni`ī, from Muḥammad b. Ḥashim al-Qaysī, from Sahl b. Tamīm al-Baḥrī, from `Imrān al-Qattīn, from Qatāda, from Abū Naḥra, from Jābir b. `Abd-Allah al-Anḥarī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “The Mahdī will emerge in the end of times.”

453. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹¹⁴: From Muḥammad b. Isḥāq, from al-Muqni`ī, from Bakkār b. Aḥmad, from al-Ḥasan b. al-Ḥusayn, from Talād, from Abū l-Jaḥf, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “I give you glad tidings about the Mahdī,” and he repeated this statement three times. Then he said, “He will emerge when there will be disagreements amongst the people and intense hardships. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. He will fill the hearts of Allah’s servants with worship and they will benefit from his justice.”

454. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹¹⁵: Through the aforementioned chain of narrators, from al-Ḥasan b. Ḥusayn, from Sufyān al-Jarīrī, from `Abd al-Mu`min, from al-Ḥarith b. Ḥaḥira, from `Umīra b. Juwain al-`Abdī, from Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī who said:

I heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, say [while he was] on the pulpit, “Verily, the Mahdī is from my progeny from my Ahl al-Bait. He will emerge in the end of times. The sky will pour down its raindrops for him and the earth will bring out its seeds for him. He will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as the people will have filled it with unfairness and injustice.”

455. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹¹⁶: Muḥammad b. Isḥāq, from al-Muqni`ī, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad al-Zuhrī, from Isḥāq b. Manḥūr, from Qays b. al-Rab` and others, from `Ḥim, from Zirr, from `Abd-Allah b. Mas`ūd who recounts that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The world will not come to an end until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules my nation. He will be called the Mahdī.”

456. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹¹⁷: Informed me a group from Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. Sufyān al-Bazafarī, from Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from `Alī ibn Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Naishābūrī, from al-Faḥl b. Shādhān, from Naḥr b. Muzḥim, from Abū Lah`a, from Abū Qubail, from `Abd-Allah b. `Amr b. al-`Ḥ, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said in a lengthy narration: “It is then that the Mahdī will emerge. He is from the descendants of this [man]—and he pointed towards `Alī ibn Abū Ḥalīb, peace be on him.

Through him, Allah will destroy falsehood (al-kadhib) and will conclude the era of hardship. Through him, the noose of disgrace will be removed from your necks.” Then, he declared, “I am the first of this nation, the Mahdī will be in the middle, and Jesus will be at the end. Between all this there will be a

crooked old man.”

457. Al-Amḥad by al-ḥadīq118: Ibn al-Mutawakkil, from `Alī, from his father, from ibn Abī `Umair, from someone who heard (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, say the following line [of poetry]:

For every nation is a government which they are on the lookout for,

And our government will appear in the end of times

458. Dal`il al-imḥama119: Narrated to us Abī I-Mufaḥḥal Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah, from Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. al-Buhl al-Qaḥḥ, from his father, from Samura b. Ḥajar, from Ḥamza al-Naḥḥb, from Zaid b. Rafī, from Abī `Ubaida, from `Abd-Allah b. Mas`d who recounts:

I was with the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, when a group of youth from Banū-Haḥshim passed by whose faces were [shining like] lamps. [On seeing them], the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, started weeping. I said, “What has made you cry, O Messenger of Allah?”

He replied, “We are an Ahl al-Bait for whom, Allah has chosen the Hereafter over the world. Soon, my Ahl al-Bait will be killed, driven away, and displaced from the cities. [This will continue] until Allah makes ready for us a flag which will come from the East and whoever fights it will be defeated. Then, a person from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge whose name will be like my name and whose character will be like my character. My umma will go to him like birds returning to their nests. Then, he will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice.”

Similar traditions with various chains of narrators have also been reported on the authority of ibn Mas`d.

459. Dal`il al-imḥama120: Informed us Abī Ḥaḥir `Abd-Allah b. Aḥmad al-Khaḥzin, from Abī Bakr Muḥammad b. `Umar b. Muḥammad b. Muslim b. al-Barḥ al-Jiḥb, from Abī I-ḥasan `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. al-`Abbās al-Raḥz al-Qummī, from his father, from (Imam) `Alī ibn Mūsā al-Riḥī, peace be on him, from his father (Imam) Mūsā b. Ja`far, peace be on him, from his father (Imam) Ja`far b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, from his father (Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him, from his father (Imam) `Alī ibn al-ḥusayn, peace be on him, from his father (Imam) al-ḥusayn, peace be on him, from his brother (Imam) al-ḥasan, peace be on him, from his father (Imam) `Alī ibn Abī Ḥalīb, peace be on him, who said: “The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said to me, ‘The Hour will not be established until the true Qiḥim rises.

This will occur when Allah, Mighty and Glorified be, permits him to do so. Whoever follows him will be saved and whoever doesn’t will perish. [Fear] Allah! [Fear] Allah! O servants of Allah! Go to him even if you have to crawl on ice because he is the Caliph of Allah (khaḥfat Allah) and my successor (khaḥfat).”

460. Dal'īl al-imāma¹²¹: Through his chain of narrators [i.e. Abū I-ʿāsan Muḥammad b. Ḥarrān b. Mūsā from his father], from Abū `Alī al-Nahwandī, from Isḥāq, from Yaʿyū b. Sulaim, from Hishām b. ʿāsan, from al-Mu`allā b. Abū I-Mu`allā, from Abū I-ʿiddīq al-Najī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "Rejoice at the good news of the Mahdī. Surely, he will come in the end of times amidst difficulties and hardships. Allah will make the earth prosperous for him with justice and fairness."

461. Dal'īl al-imāma¹²²: From him [i.e. Muḥammad b. Ḥarrān b. Mūsā], from his father Abū Muḥammad Ḥarrān b. Mūsā, from Abū `Alī al-ʿāsan b. Muḥammad al-Nahwandī, from Aḥmad b. Zuhair, from `Abd-Allah b. Dāhir al-Rāzī, from `Abd-Allah b. `Abd al-Quddīs, from al-A'mash, from `Uḥaym b. Abū al-Najīd, from Zirr b. ʿUbaish, from `Abd-Allah b. Mas`ūd, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "The Hour will not be established until a person from my progeny rules. His name will be like my name. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice."

462. Dal'īl al-imāma¹²³: Informed us Abū I-ʿusayn Muḥammad b. Ḥarrān, from Abū Ḥarrān b. Mūsā, from Muḥammad b. Jarīr al-ʿābarī, from `Ḥsā b. `Abd al-Raḥmān, from al-ʿāsan b. al-ʿusayn al-`Uranī, from Yaʿyū b. Ya`lī al-Aslamī, `Alī ibn al-Qāsim al-Kindī, and Yaʿyū b. al-Musawwir, from `Alī ibn al-Musawwir, from `Alī ibn al-ʿāzawwar, from al-Aḥbagh b. al-Nubṭa, (in a tradition from Imam `Alī ibn Abū ʿĀlib, which he said at the end): "And the Mahdī will be from us in the end of times. In all the nations, there will be no other awaited Mahdī other than him."

463. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹²⁴: Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from `Alī ibn al-Faḥrī, from Aḥmad b. Uthmān, from Aḥmad b. Razzāq, from Yaʿyū b. al-`Alī al-Rāzī, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah (al-ḥādīq), peace be on him, who said:

Allah, the Exalted, will bring forth in this nation a person who is from me and I am from him. Through him, Allah, the Exalted, will bring forth the blessings of the skies and the earth. The sky will pour its raindrops, the earth will bring out its seeds, and its beasts and wild animals will be protected. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. He will kill to the extent that the ignorant will say, 'Had he been from the seed of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, he would have been merciful.'

464. Al-Kāfī¹²⁵: Muḥammad b. Yaʿyū, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad, from Muḥammad b. Sinān, from Abūn, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah (al-ḥādīq), peace be on him, who said: "The world will not come to an end until a person from me appears. He will judge using the judgment of the family of [the prophet] David, peace be on him, and will not ask for any testimony. He will give everybody their rights."

465. Al-Irshād¹²⁶: Abū I-Qāsim; Ja`far b. Muḥammad, from Muḥammad b. Ya`qūb, from `Alī ibn Ibrāhīm b. Ḥashim, from his father; and `Alī ibn Muḥammad al-Qāsimī, all of them from Zakariyyā b. Yaʿyū b. al-Nu`mān al-Baḥrī who said: "I heard `Alī ibn Ja`far b. Muḥammad say to al-ʿāsan b. al-

ʿUsayn b. ʿAlī ibn ʿUsayn, ‘Allah helped Abū L-ʿasan al-Riḍā, peace be on him, when his brothers and uncles rebelled against him.’ (He then mentions a lengthy tradition which ends with his saying:) ‘And I stood up and held Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Riḍā’s hand and said to him, “I testify that you are my Imam [when I stand] before Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He.”

On witnessing this, (Imam) al-Riḍā, peace be on him, wept and said, “O uncle! Didn’t you hear my father say, ‘The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, declared, “May my father be sacrificed for the son of the pure, the best lady from the city of Nabiyya¹²⁷! From his [i.e. Imam Riḍā’s] descendants will be the driven-away (al-ḥarḍ), the wanderer (al-sharḍ), whose father and grandfather have been killed but not avenged. He will go in occultation until it is said, ‘He has died or he has perished or which valley has he entered?’”” I replied, “You are speaking the truth, may I be sacrificed for you!”

466. Nafas al-mahmūd¹²⁸: From al-Kḥmil by Shaykh al-Bahḥārī, from (Imam) ʿAlī ibn al-ʿUsayn Zayn al-ʿAbidīn, peace be on him, in his famous sermon delivered at Damascus:

Allah, the Exalted, bestowed upon us forbearance, knowledge, bravery, and generosity and [put our] love in the hearts of the believers. From us is the Messenger of Allah, his successor, the Master of the Martyrs, and Jaʿfar al-ḥayyār (the flying one) in Paradise, the two grandsons of this umma [i.e. ʿasan and ʿusayn], and the Mahdī, who will kill the Dajjāl.

467. Maqṭil al-ḥalībīn¹²⁹: (While mentioning the martyrdom of Zaid b. ʿAlī and its reason, he writes): Informed us ʿAlī ibn al-ʿUsayn, from al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī al-ḥadamī, from Abū Bakr al-Jabalī, from ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-ʿAnbarī, from Mūsā b. Muḥammad, from al-Walīd b. Muḥammad al-Muqirī who said:

I was with al-Zuhrī at al-Ruḥḥāfa when he heard the sound of people making fun. He said to me, “O Walīd! See what it is?” I peeped out a window of his house and said, “It is the head of Zaid b. ʿAlī!!” He sat up and said, “The people of this house who hurried have been killed.” I asked him, “Will they not rule?” He answered, “Narrated to me ʿAlī ibn al-ʿUsayn, from his father, from Fāṭima, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, informed her, ‘The Mahdī is from your descendants.’”

468. Al-Amḥī (known as al-Amḥī al-khamṣiyya)¹³⁰: In a tradition that he has recorded through his chain of narrators from ʿAlī, peace be on him:

By the One Who split the grain and created the wind! If only one day remains from the world, Allah will prolong that day until a man from me rules the earth. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness . . . I swear by the One Who split the grain and created the wind, if no one remains from them (i.e. the Banū Umayya) except one man, he will indeed rebel with evil against the religion of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He.

469. Qurb al-isnad131: Muḥammad b. Ḥusayn, from Ḥabd-Allah b. Maimūn al-Qaddī, from Jaʿfar, from his father, from (Imam) `Alī ibn Abī Ḥalīb, peace be on him, who said:

From us are seven people whom Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, has created and has not created like them on earth. From us is the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, the master of the first and the last and the seal of the Prophets. His heir (waḥīd) is the best of heirs, his grandsons are the best of grandsons—Ḥasan and Ḥusayn. The Master of the Martyrs (sayyid al-shuhadā), Ḥamza, is his uncle. [And the two others are] Jaʿfar, the one who turns [or flies] with the angels, and the Qa'im.

470. Kamil al-ziyarat132: Through his previous chains of narrators, from Abī I-Qasim Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Qilawayh, from a group of his teachers which include: his father, Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan, and `Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn, [all of them] from Saʿd b. Ḥabd-Allah b. Abī Khalaf, from Muḥammad b. Ḥusayn b. `Ubaid al-Yaqūnī, from Abī Ḥabd-Allah Zakariyyā al-Muʾmin, from ibn Muskayn, from Zaid—the slave of ibn Hubayra—from (Imam) Abī Jaʿfar, peace be on him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said:

Fasten to the waist-belt of this anza` 133, for surely, he is the greatest truthful person (al-ʿiddiq al-akbar) and the guide for those who follow him. Whoever precedes him has gone ahead of religion. Whoever deserts him, Allah will destroy him. Whoever holds fast to him has held fast to the rope of Allah. Whoever accepts his guardianship (wilaya) will be guided by Allah, and whoever rejects his guardianship (wilaya), will be misled by Allah.

From him are the two grandsons of this nation, who are my two sons al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn. From the descendants of al-Ḥusayn are the guiding Imams and the Qa'im, the Mahdī. Love them and accept their guardianship. Don't take their enemy as an ally instead of them, in that case you will be worthy of the wrath of your Lord and a disgrace in this world, and indeed, whoever has forged a lie will be disappointed.

471. Mukhtār baʿir al-darajāt134: Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn b. Abī I-Khaḍīb and Yaʿqūb b. Yazīd, from Aḥmad b. al-Ḥusayn al-Maithamī, from Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn, from Abīn b. Uthmān, from Mūsā al-ʿannānī, from (Imam) Abī Ḥabd-Allah (al-ʿadīq), peace be on him, who said: "The Days of Allah (ayyam Allāh) are three: the day when the Qa'im rises, the Day of Returning (yaum al-karra) 135 and the Day of Judgment (qiyāma)."

472. Al-Mustarshid136: Narrated to us Abī Ḥafḍ `Umar b. `Alī ibn Yaʿyā, from Qays b. Ḥafḍ, from Yūnus, from `Alī ibn Ḥazawwar, from Aḥbagh b. Nubūta, from `Alī, peace be on him, who said:

When Allah gathers the first and the last [i.e. all the people], the best of the people will be seven and all of them will be from the descendants of Ḥabd al-Muḥalīb. Your Prophet will be called the best of the Prophets, [and he is] from the descendants of Ḥabd al-Muḥalīb. The heir (waḥīd) of your Prophet, is the master of the heirs (sayyid al-auḥiyā) [and he is] from the descendants of Ḥabd al-Muḥalīb. Al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, the two masters of the youth of paradise, are from the descendants of Ḥabd al-Muḥalīb.

ʿamza, the Master of the Martyrs, is from the descendants of `Abd al-Muʿallib. Ja`far, who has two wings, is from the descendants of `Abd al-Muʿallib. And the Mahdī who will emerge in the end of times, is from the descendants of `Abd al-Muʿallib. This is a generosity from Allah, the like of which has not been granted to anyone from the first ones and the last ones.”

473. Sunan Abū Dāwūd 137: Ḥarīr narrates from `Amr b. Abū Qays, from Muḥarrif b. ʿarīf, from al-ʿasan, from Hilāl b. `Amr, from `Alī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “A person from Mī War’ al-Nahr will emerge who will be called al-ʿarīth b. ʿarrīth. His army will be led by a person called Manḥar. He will strengthen the family of Muḥammad, just like the Quraish who strengthened the Messenger of Allah. It will be obligatory upon every believer to help him.”

474. Uyūn akhbār al-Riḥ 138: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. al-ʿusayn b. Yūsuf al-Baghdadi, from al-ʿusayn b. Aḥmad b. al-Faḥl—the Imam of the Jami` Mosque of Ahwāz—from Bakr b. Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Qaḥrī, the slave of al-Khalīl al-Maḥlamī, from al-ʿasan b. `Alī ibn Muḥammad b. `Alī ibn Mūsā, from `Alī ibn Mūsā, from his father (Imam) Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad who said: “The Q’im will not be but an Imam, the son of an Imam, and a heir (waḥīd), the son of a heir (waḥīd).”

475. Al-Khiṭāb 139: Through his chain of narrators from `Alī, peace be on him, in the tradition mentioning seventy of his excellences in which none of the companions of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, matched him, he said:

As for the fifty third [excellence], then surely Allah will not end the world until the Q’im from us rises. He will kill those who hate us, he will not accept the non-Muslim tax (jizya), he will break the cross and the idols. War will end and he will invite [people to come and] take wealth and he will distribute it equally, and will deal justly with the people.

476. Sharḥ al-akhbār 140: From Mujāhid (without mentioning the chain of narrators): “. . . then the Q’im from the family of Muḥammad will be sent to punish them. The people will regard him weak [but] Allah will grant him victory over the easts and the wests of the world. Be aware! They are the true believers. Be aware! The finest jihad is at the end of times.”

477. Sharḥ al-akhbār 141: From the narration of ibn Saḥm, through his chain of narrators from Amr al-Muʿminīn (`Alī ibn Abū ʿalīb), peace be on him, who said:

Tests are of three kinds: The test during a good and enjoyable life, the test during hardships, and the test in which the people will be cleaned like the cleaning of the gold extracted from the mines. This will continue until a man emerges from us—the progeny of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family—and then Allah will set right their affairs.

478. Sharḥ al-akhbār 142: `Abd-Allah b. Jabala, narrates through his chain of narrators from `Alī, peace

be on him, that: “Islam will depart from the people like a camel which runs away from rain. Allah will not return it except by a person from us.”

479. Sharḥ al-akḥbār143: In another tradition from `Alī, peace be on him, who said: “As if I am seeing your religion fleeing from you. Nothing from it will remain with you until Allah returns it to you by a person from us.”

480. Sharḥ al-akḥbār144: From the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, whom mentioned the Mahdī and said: “Whoever sees him, should obey/follow him even if he has to crawl on ice—or fire—for surely he is Allah’s Caliph on earth.”

The traditions with the following numbers are either in harmony with the topic of this section, or result in it, or based on the interpretation of other narrations conform to it: 1–352, 481–715, 719–807, 864–870, 872, 876, 878, 881–912, 918, 928, 932, 933, 936, 941, 943, 951, 956969, 971–973, 975–1029, 1039–1041, 1043, 1049, 1055, 1059–1062, 1083, 1086–1118, 1123–1169, 1173, 1175–1177, 1179–1186, 1195–1206, 1211–1223, 1228–1238, 1240, 1241, 1243, 1244, 1246–1249, 1251–1256, 1258–1261, 1266, 1267, 1270, 1271–1274, 1276, and 1277.

1. Al-Musnad (al-Maḥba`at al-Maymaniyya, 1313 AH), vol. 1, p. 99, and (Egypt: Dār al-Ma`rif), vol. 2, pp. 117–118. Aḥmad Muḥammad Shākir says: “Both its chains are correct”; Sunan Abū Dāwūd (Egypt: Al-Maḥba`at al-Tijziyya), vol. 2, p. 207, in the Book of al-Mahdī: “Narrated to us `Uthmān b. Abū Shaiba, from al-Faḥl b. Dukain, from Fīr, from al-Qasim b. Abū Bazza, from Abū I-ʿufail, from `Alī, may Allah be satisfied with him,” with the difference that he said, “If there remains from time (al-dahr)” and “from my Ahl al-Bait.” Also, Dār al-ʿIyā` al-Sunnat al-Nabawiyya edition, vol. 4, p. 107, no. 4283; Al-Muḥannaḥ, vol. 5, “Kitāb al-Fitan,” p. 198, no. 19494, similar to what has been narrated in Abū Dāwūd; Jāmi` al-ʿuḥūd (1370 AH), vol. 11, book 9, chap. 1, sec. 1, no. 7811; Maḥallib al-su`ūl (Maktabat Dār al-Kutub al-Tijziyya) vol. 2, chap. 12; Tadhkirat al-khawṣ (Najaf), p. 364; Mukhtaṣar sunan Abū Dāwūd (Dār al-Ma`rif), vol. 6, p. 159, no. 4114; al-Nihāya or al-Fitan wa l-malʿim, (Egypt: 1388 AH), vol. 1, sect. “mentioning the Mahdī who will be in the end of times,” p. 25; al-ʿArf al-ward, vol. 2, p. 125; al-ḥawāʾiq al-muḥriqa (Cairo: Dār al-ḥab`at al-Muḥammadiyya), p. 161; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 267, no. 38675; Mirqāt al-mafṣṣṣ, vol. 5, p. 179; al-Ishāʾa, 1st ed., p. 113; al-Bayʿn (1399 AH), chap. 1, p. 93; ʿIqd al-durar (1399 AH), vol. 1, p. 18; Nūr al-abḥār (al-Maḥba`at al-Maymaniyya), p. 154; Ibrāz al-wahm al-maknūn (Damascus: 1347 AH). He writes: “The tradition of `Alī b. Abū ḥallib has been narrated from him through various chains which exceed twenty. Aḥmad and Abū Dāwūd have recorded it from Fīr b. Khalīfa, from al-Qasim b. Abū Bazza from Abū I-ʿufail, from him [i.e. Alī b. Abū ḥallib]. Abū Dāwūd has recorded it from Shu`ayb b. Abū Khallid, from Abū Isḥāq al-Sab`ī, from him. Al-ḥabarūn has mentioned it in al-Ausa from `Abd-Allah b. Lah`a from `Umar b. Jābir al-ḥaḥram, from `Umar, from his father. Al-ḥakim has recorded it in al-Mustadrak from the narration of al-ḥarith b. Yazīd, from `Abd-Allah b. Zarār al-ḥafiq, from him. Again, al-ḥakim has recorded it from `Ammār b. Mu`awiyā al-Duhn, from Abū I-ʿufail, from Muḥammad b. al-ḥanafīyya, and has stopped at him. Nu`aim b. ḥammad—one of al-Bukḥārī’s teachers—has recorded it in Kitāb al-fitan. Similarly, ibn al-Munḥḥ in al-Malʿim, Abū Nu`aim in Akḥbār al-Mahdī, Abū Ghanam al-Kḥf in Kitāb al-fitan, ibn Abū Shaiba, and many others from numerous chains and varying wordings, who have stopped at him [i.e. Alī ibn Abū ḥallib]”; Nihāyat al-bidāya wa l-nihāya, 1st ed., vol. 1, p. 37; al-Jāmi` al-ḥaghḥ (Egypt: 1373 AH), under the letter al-Lḥm, vol. 2, p. 131; al-`Umda, chap. “Mḥ j`a fḥ I-Mahdī, `alayhi salḥm,” p. 225; Jawḥir al-`iqdain (manuscript), part 2, 8th discussion; Yanḥb` al-mawadda, p. 432; al-Dur al-manḥḥ, vol. 6, p. 58, under the exegesis of His saying, ‘Its conditions came’; `Alimḥ al-qiyḥmat al-kubr, p. 74; Sunan al-Dḥn, vol. 5, chap. “Mḥ j`a fḥ I-Mahdī,” no. 15; Bayna yaday al-s`a, p. 111; `Aun al-ma`būd (The Commentary on Sunan Abū Dāwūd), vol.

11, p. 373. He says: “The chain of narrators of this tradition is good (ḥasan) and strong (qawī).” Thereafter, he refutes the view of those who regard Fīr b. Khalīfa as weak (ḥafīf), saying: “Aḥmad and Yaḥyā have indeed regarded him as reliable.”

2. Sunan al-Tirmidhī, vol. 4, chap. 52, no. 2230; al-Musnad, vol. 1, p. 376 and vol. 5 of Dūr al-Maʿrīf edition, p. 99, no. 3572, with the difference that he, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The days will not finish and time will not perish until a person from my Ahl al-Bait, peace be on him, will rule the Arabs; his name will be my name.” Aḥmad Muḥammad Shākir says: “Its chain of narrators is correct (ḥaḍīṣ),” also, vol. 1, p. 377; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 2, p. 29; al-Sunan al-warīda fi l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Mā jās’a fī l-Mahdī,” no. 22; Sunan Abī Dāwūd, vol. 4, p. 107, no. 4282, with the difference that he, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “or it will not end”; al-Muʿjam al-kabīr (Maʿbaʿat al-Waḥān al-ʿArabī), vol. 10, no. 10233/10218, which says: “the world will not come to an end”; Maʿārib al-Sunna (Egypt: Muḥammad ʿAlī Ḥabībī), vol. 1, chap. “Ashr al-sʿa,” p. 193; Jāmiʿ al-ūṣūl, 2nd Ed., chap. 1, vol. 11, p. 48, no. 7810; Farʿid al-simʿān, chap. 6, vol. 2, no. 577; Mishkāt al-maʿārib, vol. 2, chap. “Ashr al-sʿa,” sect. 2, no. 5452/16; al-Nihāya or al-Fitan wa l-malʿim, vol. 1, p. 26; al-Fuṣūl al-muḥimma, sect. 12, p. 293, citing Musnad Abī Dāwūd; al-ʿArf al-wardī, p. 125; al-ḥawāʾiq al-muʿriqa, p. 169; Mirqāt al-mafṭīḥ, p. 179, no. 5; al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 17, p. 162, citing the chapters which he has recorded from Abī Yaḥyā Zakariyyā b. Yaḥyā’s Kitāb al-fitan; al-Qanʿa fī mʿ yuṣin al-ḥawāʾiq biḥ min ashr al-sʿa, p. 57; ḥawāʾiq al-jāmiʿ, no. 7152; Nihāyat al-bidʿiya wa l-nihāya, vol. 1, p. 39; Bayna yaday al-sʿa, p. 111; Lawāʾiq al-anwār al-bahiyya, vol. 2, under the explanation of this line of poetry:

From it is the last Imam, the eloquent

Muḥammad the Mahdī and the Christ

3. Sunan al-Tirmidhī, vol. 4, Kitāb al-Fitan, chap. 52, no. 2231, p. 505; Kanz al-ʿummī, vol. 14, p. 264, no. 38662; Nihāyat al-bidʿiya wa l-nihāya, vol. 1, p. 39; al-ʿArf al-wardī (al-ḥawāʾiq lil-fatḥ), p. 126; al-Idhāʿa, p. 115; Jāmiʿ al-ūṣūl, vol. 11, chap. 1, p. 49, no. 7810; Muntakhab kanz al-ʿummī (printed within the margins of Musnad of Aḥmad), p. 3, vol. 6; Mahdī al-Rasūl, p. 19; Dhikru akhbār l-fahān, vol. 1, p. 329. He, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The affairs of this Umma—in the ends of its era—will be in the hands of a man from my Ahl al-Bait. His name will be my name”; Bayna yaday al-sʿa, p. 111.

4. Sunan al-Tirmidhī, vol. 4, p. 505, Kitāb al-fitan, chap. 52, no. 2231; Tuḥfat al-awwādhī, vol. 5, p. 179; al-ʿArf al-wardī, p. 126; al-Idhāʿa, p. 115; Jāmiʿ al-ūṣūl, chap. 1, vol. 11, p. 49, no. 7810; ʿIqd al-durar, pp. 2 & 28; Mahdī al-Rasūl, p. 19. Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Ḥiddīq says in his book Ibrīz al-wahm al-maknūn: “As for the tradition of Abī-Huraira, indeed it has been narrated from him through various chains . . . He mentions the names of those as follows: Aḥmad, ibn Abī Shaiba, ibn Mājā, al-Ḥabarīnī, al-Bazzār, Abī Yaʿlī, al-Ḥakīm, Abī-Nuʿaim in al-Ḥilya, al-Dīraqutnī in al-Ifrīd, al-Daylamī in Musnad al-firdaus, Abī al-Jabbār al-Khawlīnī in Tārīkh dīriyī, ibn ʿAsqir in Tārīkh dimashq, al-Bayhaqī in Shuʿab al-ḥamīn, al-Khaḍībī in al-Muttafiq wa l-muftariq, etc.; Bayna yaday al-Sʿa, p. 114.

I say: Apparently, this tradition has a second part, perhaps something like his saying: “A person from my Ahl al-Bait, his name will be my name,” or something similar. He has not mentioned it completely because he has mentioned the tradition after that of ʿUṣaymī from Zīr from ʿAbd-Allah, and has thought both of them are the same tradition. Surely, his saying: “If there remains only one day from the world, Allah will prolong that day until . . .” was at the beginning of the first tradition or under it. Its contents are not unknown due to the repetition of these two traditions. The chain of one of them ends at ibn Masʿūd and the other at Abī Huraira.

5. Al-Musnad, vol. 1, p. 376 and from the Dūr al-Maʿrīf ed., vol. 5, pp. 196–197, no. 3571. Aḥmad Muḥammad Shākir says: “Its chains of narrators are correct (ḥaḍīṣ); ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 2, p. 29.

6. Sunan al-Tirmidhī, vol. 4, p. 506, Kitāb al-fitan, chap. 53, p. 34, no. 2232; al-Taj al-jāmiʿ lil-ūṣūl (Egypt: 1354 AH), vol. 5, p. 364; Musnad aḥmad, vol. 3, pp. 21–22, through his chains of narrators from Abī Saʿūd with minor variations. He has narrated, “So we asked the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who replied, ‘The Mahdī will rise in my Umma for five or seven or nine (the doubt is from Zaid).’ I asked, ‘What are these?’ He said, ‘Years.’ Then he said, ‘The sky will pour rain on them [by Gods order]. The earth will not conceal anything from its vegetation and wealth will be amassed. A person will come to him and say, ‘O Mahdī! Give me, give me.’ Then, as much as he can carry will be put in his cloth’”; Al-Tadhkira, p. 616; Mishkāt al-maʿārib, vol. 3, chap. “Ashr al-sʿa,” sec. 2, p. 19, no. 5454; al-ʿArf al-wardī (al-ḥawāʾiq lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 126; al-ḥawāʾiq al-muʿriqa, p. 163; Kanz al-ʿummī, vol. 14, p. 273, no. 38701;

Mirqat al-mafatih, vol. 5, p. 118; Nihayat al-bidaya wa l-nihaya, vol. 1, p. 43; Iqd al-durar, chap. 11, p. 237.

7. In the tenth chapter, we have brought a section about the length of his rule and the stability of the affairs at his hands. For more on this, refer to volume 3.

8. Sunan Abi Dawud, vol. 4, Kitab al-Mahd, no. 4284, p. 107; Sunan ibn Maja, vol. 2, p. 34, Kitab al-Fitan, no. 4086; Ma'lim al-sunan, p. 344; Ma'lib al-sunna, vol. 1, chap. "Ashraf al-sa'a," p. 193; Jami' al-ummi, vol. 11, p. 49, no. 7812; Ma'lib al-su'ul, vol. 2, chap. 12, p. 127; Mukhtasar sunan Abi Dawud, vol. 6, p. 149, no. 4115; Mishkat al-ma'lib, vol. 3, chap. "Ashraf al-sa'a," sec. 2, no. 5453/17; al-Munir al-munif, p. 146, sec. 50, no. 334; al-Sunan al-wrida fi l-fitan, chap. "Ma' j' a fi l-Mahd," no. 29, 34, and 19, with the difference: "Mahd is from the children of Faima"; al-'Arf al-ward (al-faw lil-fatwa), vol. 2, p. 124; al-faw'iq al-mu'riqa, p. 161. He says: "Similar to this is what has been recorded by Muslim, Abi Dawud, al-Nisai, ibn Maja, al-Bayhaqi, and others: "Mahd is from my progeny from the children of Faima"; Firdaus al-akhbar, vol. 4, no. 4943, with the wordings: "Mahd is from the children of Faima." The researcher of Firdaus al-akhbar writes: "The scholars have declared the traditions about al-Mahd as correct (sahih) and have compiled exclusive books about it. Most of the scholars have put these traditions under the category of conceptual tawatur (al-mutawtir al-ma'naw).” Kanz al-umm, vol. 14, p. 264, no. 38662; Mirqat al-mafatih, vol. 5, pp. 179–180; Is'af al-raghibin with the marginal notes of Nir al-abir, chap. 2, p. 145; Nir al-abir, p. 186; al-'Idh'a, p. 117; Nihayat al-bidaya wa l-nihaya, vol. 1, p. 40; al-Jami' al-agh, vol. 2, p. 187, no. 9241; Kunuz al-agh'iq, vol. 2, p. 128; Tadhkirat al-uff, vol. 2, pp. 463–464; al-Taj al-jami' lil-ummi, vol. 5, p. 364 and vol. 2, p. 187; Yanab' al-mawadda, pp. 430 & 432; al-Bayn (Mu'assiat al-Had), chap. 2, p. 89; Muntakhab kanz al-umm, vol. 6, p. 30; al-Burhn fi 'alim Mahd khir al-zaman, p. 89, no. 2; Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 15, which says: "Abi Dawud, al-Nisai, al-Bayhaqi, Abi Amr al-Din, ibn Maja, and Abi Amr al-Muqr have recorded it in their Sunan and ibn al-Mund in Kitab al-malim; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 114, through two chains of narrators from Ummi Salma; Majma' al-bayn, vol. 7, p. 67, under the interpretation of the verse: "And indeed We have written in the Psalms . . ." (Quran 21: 105), from Abi l-Rasan Ubaid-Allah b. Muhammad b. Ahmad, from Abi Bakr Ahmad al-Bayhaqi, from Abi Al al-Radbir, from Abi Bakr b. Dissa, from Abi Dawud, through his chains of narrators from Sa'ad, from Ummi Salma; Mahd al-Ras, p. 4; Tadhkirat al-uff, 8th ed., vol. 2, p. 464; the author of lbriz al-wahm al-makn writes: "The tradition from Ummi Salma has been recorded by Abi Dawud from the tradition of Abi l-Khal . . ."; al-Fu' al-muhimma, sec. 12, p. 294; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 438.

9. Sunan Abi Dawud, vol. 4, p. 101, Kitab al-Mahd, no. 4285; al-Mustadrak (India: Haydarabad, 1334 AH), vol. 4, p. 557; al-Taj, vol. 5, p. 364, from Abi Dawud and al-Tirmidhi; Nir al-abir, chap. 2, p. 154, from al-Tirmidhi, until his saying: "and oppression." He says: "Tirmidhi states that this tradition is established (thabit) and correct (sahih); Jami' al-ummi, vol. 11, chap. 1, p. 49, no. 7813; Mukhtasar sunan Abi Dawud, vol. 6, p. 160, no. 4116; Mukhtasar tadhkirat al-Qurtubi, p. 615; Mishkat al-ma'lib, vol. 3, chap. 2, sec. 2, no. 5454. Al-Albani—the researcher of this book—says: "Its chain of narrators is good (hasan)"; al-Munir al-munif, sec. 50, p. 144, no. 330. He writes: "Abi Dawud has narrated it with really good (jayyid) chains of narrators."; al-Nihaya or al-Fitan wa l-malim, vol. 1, pp. 298–299; Sharf al-maq'id, p. 307; al-Fu' al-muhimma, sec. 12, p. 293; Kanz al-umm, vol. 14, p. 264, no. 38665; Mirqat al-mafatih, vol. 5, p. 180. Muntakhab kanz al-umm, vol. 6, p. 30; Iqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 33, no. 1; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 437; al-Jami' al-agh, no. 9244; al-'ar'if 'ani l-jam' bayn al- al-sitta, p. 177, no. 278; Nihayat al-bidaya wa l-nihaya, p. 39; Law' al-anwar al-ilhiyya, vol. 2, under "His appearance and character"; Ma'lib al-su'ul, vol. 2, chap. 12, p. 127; al-Idh'a, p. 120; Awn al-ma'bid, no. 4265; lbriz al-wahm al-makn, p. 506; al-Bayn, chap. 8, p. 117, no. 1; 'Alim al-qiyamat al-kubr, p. 74; Bayna yaday al-sa'a, pp. 111–112; Ashraf al-sa'a, p. 254, Mahd al-Ras, p. 9; al-Durr al-manthar, vol. 6, p. 57.

10. Sahih al-Bukhari, vol. 2, Kitab bad' al-khalq, chap. "Nuzul 's b. Maryam"; Sahih Muslim, vol. 1, chap. "Nuzul 's"; al-Sunan al-wrida fi l-fitan, vol. 6, chap. "Ma' j' a fi nuzul 's," no. 2; Firdaus al-akhbar, vol. 3, no. 4916; Nir al-abir, chap. 2, p. 154; al-Bayn (Syria: Manshurat Mu'assiat al-Had), chap. 7, p. 112, through his chain of narrators from Nafi' and he said: "This tradition is correct (sahih) with a consensus on its correctness from the tradition of Muhammad b. Shihab al-Zuhri; Yanab' al-mawadda, p. 432; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 438; Ma'lib al-su'ul, vol. 2, chap. 12, citing al-Baghawi's Sharf al-sunna; Sharf al-maq'id, vol. 1, p. 308; al-Fu' al-muhimma, sec. 12, p. 294; al-Burhn, chap. 9, p. 158, no. 4; al-'Umda, sect. on "What has been narrated about the Mahd from the texts of the

al-sitta, citing al-Jam` bayn al-ḥaḥḥain and al-Jam` bayn al-ḥiḥḥ al-sitta; Jami` al-uḥḥ, vol. 11, chap. 1, no. 7808.

I say: There is no doubt that the Imam mentioned in this tradition is the Mahd— the caliph of Allah. Therefore, it has been mentioned in Jami` al-uḥḥ in the chapter of “al-Mas` wa l-Mahd,” in Ibn ḥaḥa al-Shḥfi`’s Maḥlib al-Su`l, ibn ḥabbḥgh al-Mḥlik’s al-Fuḥḥ al-muhimma under “The Traditions About the Mahd,” al-Muttaḥ al-Hind’s al-Burḥn in the ninth chapter about “The gathering of the Mahd With Jesus,” and al-Muqaddis al-Shḥfi`’s `lqd al-durar in the tenth chapter. It has been written in Ghḥyat al-ma`mḥl sharḥ al-ḥj al-jḥmi` lil-uḥḥ: “It has already been mentioned that the Caliph in whose era Jesus, peace be on him, will descend, is the Mahd, may Allah be satisfied with him.”

Some traditions explain others, therefore, no attention must be paid to the opinion of those who follow their internal desires and view themselves knowledgeable and civilized by rejecting the traditions about the Mahd, al-Dajḥ, the life of Jesus and his descent in the end of times, and also by refuting the miracles mentioned in the Holy Quran with the help of absurd and false justifications. They say: “The traditions about the Mahd, peace be on him, have not been recorded in the two ḥaḥḥs (of Bukḥr and Muslim).” As a result, those who have no experience and knowledge about traditions, think that the traditions that have reached us which are about the Mahd, peace be on him—the person who will rise in the end of times and will rule the earth, and whom Jesus, peace be on him, will pray behind him, etc.—are merely speaking of a title (that can be given to anybody). Thus, they think that the belief of Mahdawiyya—on which the umma has consensus—revolves only around granting a name or bestowing a title on this promised person as the Mahd. Hence, they say that: “this subject has not been mentioned in the ḥaḥḥain.” They did not understand that the belief about this promised person, who will rise in the end of times to give life to religion, destroy falsehood, establish justice, and eradicate oppression, is a belief based on a consensus (amongst the Muslims).

As for his titles, attributes, reformatory actions, etc., although there is no source for these except narrations, there is no need for each narration to comprise of all of these. Such is the case in everything explained by the sharia, whether it be the principles of religion or the divine laws. The belief that whatever is not recorded in the ḥaḥḥain should not be relied upon is another act of defiance that has been unanimously rejected by the scholars of ḥadḥ (muḥaddithḥn). The doors of legal interpretation (al-ijtihḥd) are still vast open. No verse in the Holy Quran and no tradition states that what has not been recorded in the ḥaḥḥain is incorrect, just as no verse in the Holy Quran or tradition exists that testifies that whatever has been recorded in them is absolutely correct and reliable.

We will soon reject such beliefs by quoting what the author of Ibrḥz al-wahm al-makḥn has said under the tradition: “In the end of times there will be a caliph who will distribute wealth without counting it.” Refer to tradition no. 383.

11. Musnad aḥmad (Egypt: Dḥr al-Ma`ḥrif), vol. 2, p. 58, no. 645 Its chains of narrators are correct (ḥaḥḥ) as has been testified by Aḥmad Muḥammad Shḥkir in Sharḥ al-musnad, vol. 3, p. 58, no. 654; Sunan ibn Mḥja, vol. 2, chap. 34, p. 23, no. 4085; al-Sunan al-wḥrida fḥ l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Mḥ jḥ’a fḥ l-Mahd,” no. 32; Firdaus al-akhbḥr, vol. 4, no. 6942; Kanz al-`ummḥl, vol. 14, p. 264, no. 38664; al-`Arf al-wardḥ (al-ḥḥwḥ lil-fatḥwḥ), vol. 2, p. 124; al-Maqḥḥid, p. 435; ibn Kathḥr, al-Nihḥya, vol. 1, p. 52; Faiḥ al-qadḥr, vol. 5, p. 278; al-Taysḥr, vol. 2, p. 258; Jam’ al-fawḥ’id, vol. 2, p. 734; al-Fatḥ al-rabbḥnḥ, 24/51, No. 146; ibn Kathḥr, al-Fitan wa l-malḥḥim, vol. 1, p. 25, section “dhikr al-Mahd”; al-`Idhḥ’a, p. 117; Muntakhab kanz al-ummḥl in the marginal notes of al-Musnad, vol. 6, p. 30, also in Kanz al-`ummḥl; al-Jḥmi` al-ḥaghḥr, vol. 2, p. 187, no. 9243; Yanḥbḥ` al-mawadda, pp. 432 & 488; al-ḥawḥ’iq al-muḥriqa under the 12th verse, p. 163; al-Bayḥn, chap. 2, p. 100. He says: “Abḥ-Nu`aim has recorded it in Manḥqib al-Mahd and al-ḥabarḥnḥ in al-Mu`jam al-kabḥr.” The latter says: “These narrations are certainly true because (a) the chain of narrators of some of these complement the others and (b) the great memorizers of traditions have mentioned them in their books.”; al-Burḥn, chap. 2, p. 89, no. 1, from Aḥmad, ibn Abḥ Shaiba, ibn Mḥja, and Nu`aim b. ḥammḥd in al-Fitan; al-Tadhkira, p. 240. He says: “In a tradition narrated by ḥḥfi` Abḥ l-Qḥsim, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: ‘The Mahd is from us Ahl al-Bait. Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, will straighten out his [affairs] in one night’ or he, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘in two days.’”; `lqd al-durar, chap. 6, p. 135 and chap. 7, p. 158, with the difference that he, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “in a single night.” He (author of `lqd al-durar) says: “A group of narrators have recorded it in their books.” He goes on to mention them as Aḥmad, ibn Mḥja, al-Bayḥḥ, al-Dḥnḥ, Nu`aim b. ḥammḥd, Abḥ-Nu`aim al-Aḥbahḥnḥ, and al-ḥabarḥnḥ; Dhikru akhbḥri lḥbahḥnḥ, vol. 1, p. 170; al-Durr al-manthḥr, vol. 6, p. 58; Tahdhḥb al-tahdhḥb, vol. 11, pp. 172–173; al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. 11, p. 201, through his chain of

narrators from `Alī, peace be on him, with the addition of: “Al-Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait.”

I say: From what can be judged from other traditions, perhaps his saying: “Allah will straighten out his [affairs] in one night,” points to the unknown time of his reappearance. Thus, Allah will prepare the grounds of his government and rule in only one night after which he will reappear.

12. Sunan ibn Mājja, vol. 2, p. 24; al-Fitan, chap. 34: “Khuruj al-Mahdī,” no. 4087; Dhakhir al-`uqbā, p. 15, with the difference that he said: “the sons’ of Abd l-Muqālib” and “Ja`far b. Abī Muqālib.” He mentions that “ibn al-Sarī has recorded it”; al-Fuqūh al-muhimma, sec. 12, p. 294; al-`Arf al-wardī (al-`awwā lil-fatāwā), p. 124, with the difference that he said: “We seven from . . .” He cites al-`Ukaymī, ibn Mājja, and Abī Nu`aim; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 7, p. 144, with the difference that he said: “We seven children of `Abd al-Muqālib are the masters (siddīq) of the dwellers of Paradise: I, my brother `Alī, my uncle `Amza, Ja`far, al-`Asan, al-`Usayn, and al-Mahdī.” He says: “A group from the leaders of narrators have recorded it in their books”; Al-`awwā`īq al-mu`riqa, p. 158, under the 10th verse citing al-Daylamī and others. It is the same as `Iqd al-durar with the difference that he said: “I, `Amza, `Alī . . .”; Yanābi` al-mawadda, pp. 309 and 435; al-Bayḥī, chap. 3, p. 101; Maqtal al-`Usayn, vol. 1, sec. 6, p. 108; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 113; al-`Umda, vol. 1, sec. 9, through his chain of narrators from al-Tha`labī. It can also be found in its second volume; Hāmiš al-jāmi` al-`aghār, vol. 2, p. 129, no. 5; Tahdhīb al-tahdhīb, vol. 7, p. 321, no. 543; Lisān al-ma`zīn, vol. 3, p. 271; Dhikru akhbārī l`bahān, vol. 2, p. 130, the same as what has been mentioned in `Iqd al-durar; Tārīkh baghdād, vol. 9, pp. 434 & 550; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 438 and vol. 1, p. 52, he says: “I saw in another tradition: ‘We sons of `Abd al-Muqālib are the masters (siddīq) of the people.’”

13. Al-Mu`jam al-kabīr, vol. 18, p. 51, no. 91; Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 11, pp. 183–184, no. 31144; Majma` al-zawā`id, vol. 7, pp. 323–324; Muntakhab kanz al-`ummī, vol. 5, p. 404; al-`Arf al-wardī (al-`awwā lil-fatāwā), which starts from his saying: “a fitna will occur . . .” pp. 137–138.

14. The words in the square brackets are mentioned in Majma` al-zawā`id and Kanz al-`ummī.

15. Fitna usually refers to social unrest or rebellion, especially against a ruler—Ed.

16. Al-Musnad, vol. 3, p. 328; al-Mustadrak, vol. 4, p. 558; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 16, which mentions: “Then a person from my progeny will emerge. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice. He will rule for seven or nine years.” (The author of `Iqd al-durar) says: “Al-`Ufayyī Abī Nu`aim has recorded it like this in `Ufayyī al-Mahdī. Al-`Ufayyī Abī Bakr al-Bayhaqī has also recorded it but with a little difference: “A person from my progeny will rule for nine or seven years, then, he will fill it with fairness and justice.”

17. The words sab` (seven) and tis` (nine) in the ancient Arabic Kufī handwriting were displayed using the same word. When the scribes copied these narrations and wrote them down in Arabic, they used both words ‘nine’ and ‘seven’ because they didn’t know to what number the original word referred to. The uncertainty in the numbers originated from the scribes’ stringent attitude in correctly transmitting the narrations from one book to another—Ed.

18. Dhikr akhbārī l`bahān, vol. 1, p. 84; Farā`id al-simā`in, vol. 2, p. 324, no. 574.

19. Al-Mustadrak, vol. 4, p. 465; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 4, sect. 1, p. 43 and chap. 7, p. 141; Al-`awwā`īq al-mu`riqa, p. 161, under the twelfth verse; Is`fīf al-rāghibān, p. 134; al-Bayḥī, chap. 6, p. 108; Yanābi` al-mawadda, p. 341.

20. Al-Musnad, vol. 3, p. 37 and similar to it in p. 52; Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, pp. 261 and 262, no. 38653. It starts like this: “I give you glad tidings about the Mahdī; a man from the Quraish from my progeny”; Muntakhab kanz al-`ummī in the marginal notes of al-Musnad, vol. 6, p. 29, citing A`mad and al-Bīrūdī; Is`fīf al-rāghibān, chap. 2, p. 137; Nūr al-ab`ār, chap. 2, p. 155; Al-`awwā`īq al-mu`riqa, p. 164; Yanābi` al-mawadda, p. 469; al-`Ilm bi`ukmi` `sīf `alayhi al-salām, p. 162 (8); `Iqd al-durar, chap. 4, 7, 8 and 11, pp. 62, 156, 164, 166 and 237; al-Burhān, pp. 79–80, chap. 1, no. 21; al-Dur al-manthūr, vol. 6, p. 57; Farā`id al-simā`in, vol. 2, chap. 61, p. 310, no. 561; al-`Arf al-wardī (al-`awwā lil-fatāwā), vol. 2, p. 124; lbrāz al-wahm al-maknān, p. 562, no. 31; Kashf al-ghumma fī ma`rifat al-A`imma, vol. 2, p. 471.

21. Firdaus al-akhbār, vol. 4, no. 6941; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 7, p. 148, citing al-Daylamī; Kunūz al-`āqā`īq under the section of Alif and Lām; Dalā`il al-imāma, p. 258; Yanābi` al-mawadda, chap. 94, p. 488; Al-Bayḥī, in the chapter of Alif and Lām through his chain of narrators from ibn Abbās; Nūr al-ab`ār, chap. 2, p. 154; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 481.

22. Al-Musnad, vol. 3, p. 17; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 35. He says: “It has been recorded by al-Imam A`mad in his Musnad and by al-`Ufayyī Abī `Abd-Allah Nu`aim b. `ammād in Kitāb al-fitan.

I say: I did not find it in al-Fitan, although, he has narrated it in a scattered form in the chapter of *Sirat al-Mahdī wa ʿifatih wa nasabih wa qadr mī yamlik*; *Kanz al-ʿummī*, vol. 14, p. 270, no. 38690, with the difference: “He will rule the earth” and “it will be filled with unfairness”; *al-Dur al-manthūr*, vol. 6, p. 57

23. *Al-Mustadrak*, vol. 4, *Kitāb al-fitan wa l-malʿim*, p. 557; *al-Musnad*, vol. 3, p. 36; *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 3, pp. 36–37.

24. *Sharḥ al-akhbār*, vol. 15, p. 372, no. 1241.

25. The statement between the square brackets belongs to the author of *Sharḥ al-akhbār*.

26. This paragraph probably belongs to the author of *Sharḥ al-akhbār*.

27. *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 4, pp. 62–63; *al-Burhān fī ʿalāmāt Maḥdī ʿakḥir al-zamān*, chap. 2, p. 92, no. 12; *Biʿr al-anwār*, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 74, under: “What has been narrated from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, about the Qʿim, peace be on him,” no. 23; *Yanʿab ʿal-mawadda*, p. 448, *al-ʿArf al-ward* (*al-ʿaww lil-fatwā*), vol. 2, p. 133.

28. *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 1, p. 16. He says: “*al-ʿifi Abū-Nuʿaim* has recorded it in *Awḥ* and in *ʿifat al-Mahdī*.” Also chap. 3, p. 34 and chap. 8, p. 170; *al-Bayʿn fī akhbār ʿib al-Zamān*, chap. 19, p. 139, no. 1, with the difference: “he will fill the earth with fairness and justice.” He says: “*al-ʿifi Abū-Nuʿaim* has recorded it in *al-ʿAw* exclusively from *ʿt b. Abbād*, who is famous with us for his narrations; *Yanʿab ʿal-mawadda*, p. 423 from *Jawḥir al-ʿiqdān*; *Isʿaf al-rghibān*, sect. 2, p. 135.

29. *Sunan ibn Mājā*, vol. 2, book 36, chap. 34, p. 22, no. 4082; *al-Sunan al-warida fī l-fitan*, vol. 5, chap. “*Mājā fi l-Mahdī*,” no. 1 & 2; *al-Fitan*, vol. 4, chap. 13, p. 166; *al-Bayʿn*, chap. 5, p. 106; *al-Mustadrak*, vol. 4, p. 464; *Talkḥ al-mustadrak*, vol. 4, p. 464; *Al-ʿawwʿiq al-muʿriqa*, p. 162. The twelfth verse is similar to this and he says at the end of it: “Then, he should go towards them even if he has to crawl on ice because in it is Allah’s Caliph, the Mahdī”; *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 5, p. 124; *al-Munʿr al-munʿf*, sect. 50, p. 149, no. 341; *al-Nihya or al-Fitan wa l-malʿim*, vol. 1, p. 28; *al-ʿArf al-ward* (*al-ʿaww lil-fatwā*), vol. 2, p. 127.

30. *Al-Fitan*, vol. 5, p. 198; *al-Bayʿn*, sect. 11, p. 125 with the difference: “I asked, ‘O Messenger of Allah! Is the Mahdī from us—the progeny of Muḥammad—or from other than us?’ The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], replied, ‘No, he is from us. Through us Allah will end the religion just as He began it through us. Through us they will be freed from the fitnas.’” He also said, “Like He has united by us,” and “in their religion” has not been mentioned. He also said: “I say, ‘This is indeed a good (*ʿasan*) and great (*ʿlin*) tradition which has been recorded by the narrators in their books. *Al-ʿabarān* has recorded it in *al-Muʿjam al-ʿausa*, *Abū Nuʿaim* has narrated it in *ʿilyat al-ʿauly*, and *Abd al-Raʿmān b. Abū ʿtim* has mentioned it in *ʿAw* just as we too have recorded it.

Majmaʿ al-zawʿid, vol. 7, p. 316; *Al-ʿawwʿiq al-muʿriqa*, p. 161, under the twelfth verse. He says: “Mahdī is from us; through us Allah will seal the religion just as He has commenced it through us”; *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 1, pp. 24 & 142; *Al-Muʿjam al-ʿaghār*, vol. 1 p. 137; *al-ʿArf al-ward* (*al-ʿaww lil-fatwā*), vol. 2, p. 129; *Kanz al-ʿummī*, vol. 14, p. 598, no. 38682; *ʿAbaqʿ al-anwār*, vol. 2, p. 68, no. 12, who cites Nuʿaim in *al-Fitan*; *al-ʿabarān* in *al-Muʿjam al-ʿausa*, *Abū-Nuʿaim* in *Kitāb al-Mahdī*, and *al-Khaḥb* in *al-Talkḥ*; *Yanʿab ʿal-mawadda*, p. 491; *Nʿr al-abʿr*, chap. 2, p. 155; *al-Burhān*, p. 91, no. 7.

31. *Sunan ibn Mājā*, vol. 2, chap. 11, pp. 928–929, no. 2779; *al-Bayʿn*, chap. 1, p. 92 with the difference: “Allah will prolong that day until he rules . . .”; *Lawʿmiʿ al-ʿuq*, vol. 4, p. 3, from *Aḥmad*; *Sharḥ sunan al-Tirmidh* by *ibn al-Aʿrāb*, vol. 9, p. 74; *al-Tadhkira*, p. 619, and he says: “Its chains of narrators are authentic (*ʿaḥḥ*)”; *Kanz al-ʿummī*, vol. 14, p. 266, no. 3874; *Farʿid al-simʿain*, vol. 2, p. 318, who has narrated it through his chain of narrators from *Abū Huraira* like this: “The Hour will not be established until a person from my house rules. He will conquer Constantinople (Istanbul) and the mountain of Daylam. If only one day remains, Allah will prolong that day until he conquers it”; *al-Munʿr al-munʿf*, sect. 50, p. 147, no. 336, similar to *Farʿid al-simʿain*; *Kashf al-ghumma*, vol. 2, p. 474, no. 36, from *al-Arbaʿna ʿadḥ* (Forty Traditions) by *al-ʿifi Abū Nuʿaim*.

32. *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 3, p. 33; *al-ʿArf al-ward* (*al-ʿaww lil-fatwā*), vol. 2, p. 124; *Yanʿab ʿal-mawadda*, p. 448; *Farʿid al-simʿain* (Beirut: Muʿassissat al-Maʿmūd li l-Nashr), vol. 2, p. 330; *Kashf al-ghumma*, vol. 2, pp. 469–470.

33. *Musnad aḥmad*, vol. 3, p. 49, and similar to it on p. 60; *Kanz al-ʿummī*, vol. 14, p. 263, no. 38659; *al-ʿArf al-ward* (*al-ʿaww lil-fatwā*), vol. 2, p. 131.

34. *Al-Bayʿn fī akhbār ʿib al-Zamān*, chap. 10, p. 124; *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 4, p. 62, and chap. 8, p. 167, with a minor

difference; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`Arf lil-fatwa), vol. 2, p. 133; al-Burhan, chap. 1, p. 84, no. 33, with a minor difference, and p. 83, no. 28.

35. Yan'abb al-mawadda, pp. 259 & 445, with the difference: "and when `Al dies."

36. Yan'abb al-mawadda, pp. 258 & 445.

37. Muslim, vol. 8, p. 185; Tarkh ibn `Asqir, vol. 1, p. 186; al-Sunan al-wrida fi l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. "What has been narrated about the Mahd," no. 23, through his chain of narrators which are connected until they reach Jabir and its wordings are: "In the last of my umma, there will be a caliph; he will give away wealth profusely and will not even count it"; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 264, no. 38660; Ma'abb al-sunna, vol. 2, p. 192, chap. "Ashr al-s'a"; al-Bayn, chap. 10, pp. 122–123, no. 3; Yan'abb al-mawadda, pp. 182 & 230, from Jabir; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 8, p. 161; Is'af al-rghibn, chap. 2, p. 135; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`Arf lil-fatwa), vol. 2, p. 131; Mishkat al-ma'abb, vol. 3, book 27, no. (5) 5441. The author of Ibriz al-wahm al-makn (pp. 513–514)—in reply to those who criticize this tradition on the bases that there is no mention of the Mahd in it and there is no argument to show that it refers to him—writes: "The text of these traditions are ambiguous whilst the method for recognizing [the Mahd] is obvious and established . . ."

I say: There is no doubt that some traditions explain other traditions. Also, there is no doubt that the person about whom glad-tidings have been given in the traditions, who will fill the earth with justice and fairness, will give away wealth profusely, and he who has signs, symbols, attributes and titles that are known in the traditions that have been narrated in numerous chapters, is only one person, not many. Hence, no one has thought it to be anyone other than the Mahd or thought that Jesus, peace be on him, will perform prayers behind someone else. All these quotes point to his magnificent character.

38. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. 8, p. 194; Muslim, vol. 8, p. 158; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`Arf lil-fatwa), vol. 2, p. 134, with a slight difference; Ibriz al-wahm al-makn, p. 581, no. 98, the same as al-`Arf al-ward.

39. al-`Arf al-ward (al-`Arf lil-fatwa), vol. 2, p. 134; Ibriz al-wahm al-makn, p. 581, no. 99.

40. Musnad a'mad, vol. 3, p. 96; `Iqd al-durar, chap 8, p. 168, citing Musnad a'mad and Sunan al-dn.

41. Musnad a'mad, vol. 3, p. 98; al-Burhan, chap. 1, p. 81, no. 24; al-`Arf al-ward, p. 128; al-Nihya or al-Fitan wa l-mal'im, vol. 1, p. 31.

42. Musnad a'mad, vol. 3, p. 317; al-Sunan al-wrida fi l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. "M j'a fi l-Mahd," no. 23; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`Arf lil-fatwa), vol.2, p. 128. He has narrated a similar tradition from al-Bazzr, from Jabir; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 26, no. 38659; Muslim, vol. 8, p. 185, with a slight difference; Ma'abb al-sunna, vol. 2, chap. "Ashr al-s'a," p. 192; al-Taj al-j'mi' lil-u'ul, vol. 5, p. 342; Muntakhab kanz al-`umm, vol. 6, p. 31; Yan'abb al-mawadda, p. 230; Mishkat al-ma'abb, vol. 3, book 27, no. 5441 (5).

43. Muslim, vol. 8, p. 185; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 266, no. 38672; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 8, p. 161; al-Taj al-j'mi' lil-u'ul, vol. 5, p. 341 (The Seventh chapter about the caliph, al-Mahd).

The author of Ghayat al-ma'm (a commentary on al-Taj al-j'mi'), says: "According to the traditions that will be mentioned, this is the Mahd, may Allah be pleased with him. This act of his is because of the abundance of war booties and victories along with his generosity and his giving away goodness to all the people."

44. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 19, from Ab Nu`aim in ifat al-Mahd; al-J'mi' al-agh'r, under the letter L'm, vol. 2, p. 123; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 471, no. 22, citing al-Arba'n by al-`ifi Ab Nu`aim, with a little difference; Yan'abb al-mawadda, p. 186.

45. Musnad Ab Ya`l, vol. 2, p. 356–357, no. 131 (1105).

46. Tarkh ibn `Asqir (1329 H.), vol. 2, p. 62; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 269, no. 38682, with a slight difference and p. 266, no. 38671; Muntakhab kanz al-`umm, vol. 6, pp. 30–31; al-Surat al-alabiyya (Egypt: Ma'ba'atu Mu'af Mu'ammad), vol. 1, p. 227; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`Arf lil-fatwa), vol. 2, p. 134; al-Ta'ar bi m'aw'atara fi nuz' al-Mas', p. 181, no. 27. He says: "Al-Nis' has narrated it and so has Ab Nu`aim in Akhb'r al-Mahd. Al-'kim and ibn `Asqir have narrated it in their Tarkh with the following wordings: "How can a nation that I am at its beginning be destroyed . . .," which is like [what has been narrated] in Kanz al-`umm. This is a good (asan) tradition as has been stated in al-`Aziz's al-Sirj al-mun'r.

He writes under it: "middle' means 'before the last' because Jesus will descend to kill the Dajj during the era of the Mahd. Our master Jesus will pray behind him just as it has been mentioned in the traditions."

Al-Taysir bi sharh al-jami' al-aghar, vol. 2, p. 302; Fai al-qadir, vol. 5, p. 301; al-Siraj al-munir, vol. 3, p. 196; al-Ar'yis (Ma'ba'atu 'if Wa Wuldih), p. 227, through his chain of narrators from ibn 'Abbas with the difference: "Al-Mahd from my Ahl al-Bait is in the middle"; al-Jami' al-aghar, vol. 2, p. 128 (under the letter Lam); 'Iqd al-durar, chap. 7, p. 146. He says: "Imam Ahmad b. Hanbal has also recorded it in his Musnad and 'Abu Nu'aim has narrated it in his 'Aw'.

I say: I did not find it in the published edition of Musnad Ahmad although it is apparent that the tradition was recorded in the copy he possessed. We can only rely on a copy in which the tradition has been recorded; Tafsir R al-jin, vol. 3, p. 158. He has narrated it from al-Man'ir, from his ancestors, from ibn Abbas, who said: "The Mahd from my Ahl al-Bait is in its middle." 'Abu l-Fut—the author of R al-jin—has used this tradition to prove the existence of the Mahd, peace be on him, because it will not be correct if it is said that "The Mahd will exist in the end of times prior to the descent of Jesus. Such an interpretation would make it necessary for the Mahd not to exist in the long period of time between the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and the descent of Jesus, whilst glad-tidings have been given that he will be in the middle of these two.

I say: Yes, the umma is unanimous that Jesus, peace be on him, will descend at the time of the reappearance of the Mahd, peace be on him, and during his universal government. Jesus will pray behind him and assist him in achieving reformist goals, spreading justice, and destroying unfairness, which has been clearly elaborated in mutawtir traditions. Therefore, the belief that the Mahd will be between them will not hold true for anyone except the one who has been mentioned in the Shia belief. Because the Mahd was born in 255 AH and continues to live and is sustained by Allah until he reappears by the command of Allah, the Exalted, for the announcement of His Word.

The middle is understood by some commentators to show that the appearance of the Mahd, peace be on him, will be before the descent of Jesus. This is definitely not the meaning of the tradition and here the middle and end have the same meaning.

Some sycophants—who were the servants and on the pay-roll of the arrogant and devilish rulers—thought that this tradition referred to the Mahd who was one of the Abbasid caliphs. No explanation is needed to show the wrongness of this view. Such innovations are actually an insult to the lofty stature of the Seal of the Prophets, Muhammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and the great personality of the Prophet Jesus, and the divine successor-ship of Imam Mahd, peace be on him. Moreover, the mutawtir traditions which describe the Mahd, his attributes, and his signs, clearly reject such misguided interpretations.

There is no proof in the tradition that Jesus will live after the Mahd, peace be on him, in addition to the fact that such an idea has also been contradicted by a number of traditions about the Mahd and other traditions like those about security (al-amn), etc.

It is possible to interpret the tradition like this: His saying: "I am its first (awwaluh)" means that he is its founder, chief, and source. Thus, this umma will not be destroyed, because its founder and the caller towards it is "a mercy for all the worlds" (rahmatan lil-'alam). A nation will not be destroyed if its founder possesses such traits and this was the purpose of his dispatching? How can a nation be destroyed that has the Mahd in its middle? As long as he exists and is alive, this nation will not be destroyed. Amongst the greatest benefits of his existence—even though he is in occultation—is the survival of the nation because of his existence. And how can a nation be destroyed that has Jesus at its end, who will descend in the end of times? This means that this religion will remain and last until the descent of Jesus from the sky. He will descend in the last nation and acknowledge this religion in this very world.

We can conclude that this narration serves to give glad-tidings about the lasting of this religion, the continuous survival of this nation because of the blessings of the Prophet of Islam, who is a mercy for the worlds, and the existence of the Mahd, peace be on him. This nation will not be destroyed and will remain until the end of times because the descent of Jesus—which is one of the conditions of the Hour—will occur in the last nation. Hence, this nation will survive and remain, as long as humanity exists on the face of earth. Allah, His Messenger, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and the possessors of knowledge—those from his Ahl al-Bait who are steadfast in it—have more knowledge about the meanings of the Book and the Sunna.

47. 'Iqd al-durar, chap. 7, p. 148. He says: Imam 'Abu 'Abd al-Rahman al-Nis' has recorded it in his Sunan. I say: I could not locate it in al-Mujtab min Sunan al-Nis' but this does not mean it does not exist in his Sunan. In fact, there is

no doubt about it being present there.

48. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 7, p. 146. He says: Imam Abū `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Nisī has recorded it in his Sunan; Bahjat al-naḥar, sect. 6, has recorded it from Sunan al-Nisī in the chapter: “What has been narrated about the Arabs and the non-Arabs” and this is its last chapter; al-Taḥrīr bi maṭawātara fī nuzūl al-Masḥū, pp. 247–250, no. 66, with a slight difference in the wordings and that he said: “But between this will be a crooked group; they will not be from me nor will I be from them.” He says in his commentary: “The Holy Prophet has described them as a group, then distanced himself from them because of their deviation from the way and path that he had brought.”

I say: This tradition praises the beginning of the nation and its end. The latter, being the time when the universal government of the Mahdī appears, in which Jesus will descend, stay amongst them, and pray behind Imam Mahdī, peace be on him. Also, both versions condemn the majority of the nation between these two eras. This is because of the domination of the kings or those who call themselves the Caliphs. They will come to power and rule without the permission and satisfaction of Allah. Apart from this vast majority, there will be some who will wait for the reappearance of Allah’s command and the establishment of the rightful government of Allah’s Caliph, the Mahdī, peace be on him. They will not approve the atrocities committed by these tyrant kings upon the people, will not assist them in their tyrannies and sins, and will not gain closeness to them or try to satisfy them, because of Allah’s wrath towards them. These are none but the followers of the Imams from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them. The same Imams that the tyrants tried to conceal their virtues and what Allah had specially given to them and to destroy their guidance and that of their followers. The crooked groups are the majority which have left the clear path of the Ahl al-Bait and have not held on to them. They have opposed the mutawātir traditions like ḥadīth thaqalain, ḥadīth safīna, ḥadīth amīn, etc.

Alī al-Qurrī writes in al-Mirqāt, vol. 5, p. 658: “Traditions with chains of narrators like this are called golden chained (silsilat al-dhahab).”

Al-Mishkāt, vol. 3, p. 293; Yanḥabū al-mawadda, p. 489; al-`Umda, vol. 2, sect. “What has been narrated about the Mahdī in the texts of ḥadīth al-Sitta from al-Jam’ bain al-ḥadīth al-sitta of Razīn al-`Abdar,” p. 224.

49. ‘the most widest and deepest’ probably means they will have the biggest population and will live the longest on earth—Ed.

50. Yanḥabū al-mawadda, p. 490.

51. Al-Istīḥḥāb, vol. 1, p. 223; al-`Iḥḥāba, vol. 1, p. 216, no. 1037 (short version); Usd al-ghāba, vol. 1, p. 260: “After me, there will be caliphs, after the caliphs there will be rulers, after the rulers there will be oppressive kings; then, a person from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge who will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice . . .”; `Iqd al-durar, sect. 1, p. 19, which is the same as Usd al-ghāba, with the difference: “Then, the Mahdī from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge” and “Then he will rule.” He says: “Ḥafīz Abū Nu`aim has narrated it in al-Fawā'id and al-ḥabarān has recorded it in al-Mu`jam.

I say: The beginning of the tradition of Al-Istīḥḥāb and Usd al-ghāba is strange. Closer to it in strangeness is the note beneath the tradition of Usd al-Ghāba. Thus they cannot be relied upon. One can only rely on his saying: “The Mahdī—who is from my Ahl al-Bait—will emerge,” or, “a man from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge who will fill the earth with justice as it will be filled with injustice.” These can be found in many mutawātir narrations.

Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, p. 265, no. 38667

52. Al-Bayḥaqī fī akhbār ḥadīth al-Zamīn, sect. 13, p. 129. He writes: “This tradition is good (ḥasan). Praise be to Allah for bestowing this upon us. The meaning of his saying “his morals will be my morals,” is one of the best indications that the Mahdī, peace be on him, will take revenge on those who do not believe in the religion of Allah— just as the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, did. And indeed, Allah—the Exalted—has said to His Prophet: “And surely, you are on the greatest morals” (Quran 68:4).

Al-Irbilī writes in Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 486: “His comment, ‘is one of the best indications . . . (to the end)’ is truly amazing! How can he confine the moral attributes of the holy Prophet and only limit them to revenge?! While he possesses all the attributes of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, like his nobility, honor, knowledge, forbearance, bravery, and other morals that we have mentioned at the beginning of this book. Even more shocking, is the endorsement of his view by using the aforementioned verse!”

Farīd al-simāin, vol. 2, pp. 325–326; `Iqd al-durar, sect. 2, pp. 31–32, from Abū I-ḥasan al-Raba` al-Mīlikī, with a

little difference; al-Ghadir, vol. 7, p. 126, citing Zakhari al-`uqb, p. 126, with the following wording: “‘If there remains only one day from the world, Allah will prolong that day until He sends a person from my progeny; his name will be my name.’ Salm asked, ‘From which of your sons, O Messenger of Allah?’ He replied, ‘From this son of mine,’ then patted (Imam) al-`usayn’s back, peace be on him.”

53. Al-Sunan al-warida fi l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Ma j’a fi l-Mahd,” no. 26; `Iqd al-durar, sect. 1, p. 18. He writes: “Al-`imam Ab Nu`aim has recorded it in ifat al-Mahd.” On p. 20, he writes: “Al-Imam Ab `Amr al-Muqri’ has recorded it in his Sunan”; Mawrid al-`am`in, chap. “Ma j’a fi l-Mahd,” p. 463, no. 1876; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 269, no. 38684, with a little difference; Muntakhab kanz al-`umm, vol. 6, p. 31; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aw lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 123. He has recorded it from al-`asan b. Sufy and Ab Nu`aim.

Al-`asan b. Sufy is al-`asan b. Sufy b. `mir al-Nasaw, the author of al-Musnad al-kabir and al-`Arba`in—who passed away in 303 AH—as has been mentioned in Tadhkirat al-`uff. Or (he could be) al-Fasaw who also expired in 303 AH—as has been mentioned in al-Lisn. Apparently, it is al-Nasaw and al-Fasaw is an error made by the writer of the manuscript.

Al-Burhn fi `alim Mahd khir al-zam, chap. 2, p. 92, no. 13, from al-`asan b. Sufy and Ab Nu`aim.

54. Kashf al-yaq, p. 117; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 1, p. 2, from Kitb al-`il of ibn Khilawayh; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 2, p. 182, no. 7.

55. Al-Mu`jam al-kabir, vol. 10, no. 10215 and 10219; al-Sunan al-warida fi l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Ma j’a fi l-Mahd,” p. 96, no. 16; Tadhkirat al-`uff, vol. 2, p. 487, with the difference: “The days and the nights will not pass until the Arabs are ruled by a person from my Ahl al-Bait; his name will be my name.”

56. Al-Mu`jam al-kabir, vol. 10, no. 10216; Mawrid al-`am`in il zaw`id ibn `ibbn, chap. “Ma j’a fi l-Mahd,” p. 464, no. 1877; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aw lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 125; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 269, no. 38683 with a minor difference.

57. Al-Mu`jam al-kabir, vol. 10, no. 10227; Dhikr akhbir l`bah, vol. 1, p. 329.

I say: al-`abar has recorded numerous traditions through his chain of narrators from ibn Mas`d from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. You can refer to these traditions which are numbered from 10213 to 10230.

58. Al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aw lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 132; Far`id al-simain, vol. 2, chap. 61, p. 317, with the difference: “Allah will send him in a clear manner and the nation will be blessed by him.”

59. ‘correctly’ probably means ‘justly’—ed.

60. Al-Fitan, pp. 192–193; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aw lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 153, from Nu`aim, with a little difference; al-Burhn, chap. 1, p. 78, no. 10, with a slight difference. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice. This will continue until the people will no longer have their initial state; the sleeping one will not be awakened and no blood will be shed.”

61. Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 273, no. 38700.

62. Dhikr akhbir l`bah, vol. 2, p. 165.

63. Al-Raua min al-Kif, p. 396, no. 597; al-Wf, vol. 2, chap. 52, p. 459, no. 977–9.

64. lbrz al-wahm al-makn, p. 561.

65. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, chap. 13, p. 167.

I say: This flag which Allah will send is not from the Abbasid flags, as has been clearly explained by Nu`aim in the title of the chapter: “The Black Flags of Mahd [That Will Come] After the Abbasid and Other Flags”

66. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 195.

67. Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, pp. 592–595, no. 39679. Ibn al-Athir writes in al-Nihya: “In the tradition of `Al: ‘Surely after you there is a fitna and calamity that is tedious and frowning’, frowning means people will frown from its intensity.” Muntakhab kanz al-`umm, vol. 6, p. 34.

68. Al-Bayn wa l-taby, vol. 2, p. 58; Sharh nahj al-balgha, vol. 1, pp. 276 & 281, sermon 16; al-Mustarshid, p. 160.

69. Kanz al-`umm, vol. 13, p. 130, no. 36413; `Abaqt al-anw, vol. 2, p. 68, no. 12. He writes: “Al-`imam `Abd al-Ghan b. Sa`d has recorded it in al-ishk.”

70. Sharh nahj al-balgha, vol. 1, pp. 281–282; Yanb` al-mawadda, pp. 497–498.

71. Al-Fitan by Nu`aim, vol. 5, chap. 11, pp. 198–199.

72. Al-Fitan by Nu`aim, vol. 5, chap. 11, pp. 199–200.

73. Al-Fitan by Nu`aim, vol. 5, chap. 11, p 201; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aww lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 155.

74. Al-Fitan by Nu`aim, vol. 5, chap. 11, p 201.

75. Al-Ilm bi `ukm `alayhi al-salim by al-Suyuti, published in the collection of books titled: al-`aww lil-fatw, vol. 2, p. 289.

He says in Ma`lim al-sunan, vol. 4, p. 344: “Al-Shaykh says, al-jir is the beginning of the neck (the front part of the camel’s back); it’s mainly referred to the camel when it stretches its neck on the earth. Hence, it is said: The camel has stretched its neck. It does so when it rests in a place for a long time.’ The stretching of the neck of the camel is used as an example for Islam to indicate its establishment and that there will neither be a fitna nor turmoil. Islamic laws will be implemented justly and steadfastly.”

76. Kanz al-`umm, vol. 16, p. 196, under no. 44216.

77. Murj al-dhab, vol. 1, pp. 42–44; Also, refer to Tadhkirat al-khaw, pp. 128–130, the 6th chapter about the selected sayings of Amir al-Mu`minin `Al ibn Ab lib, peace be on him. He has recorded similar to this—with minor differences in wording and meaning—through his chain of narrators from Ahmad b. `Abd-Allah al-Hshim, from Imam asan al-`Askar, from Imam al-usayn b. `Al, from his father Amir al-Mu`minin `Al ibn Ab lib, peace be on them.

78. Nahj al-balgha, trans. Sayed Ali Reza (Iran: Sayed Mujtaba Musavi Lari Foundation), sermon 181; Sharj nahj al-balgha by ibn Ab l-`ad, vol. 10, sermon 183, p. 96.

79. The sermon is a long one, the likes of which is not found except in his speech or the speech of his cousin, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. Al-Ra has mentioned it with all its length in Nahj al-balgha.

80. Yanb al-mawadda, chap. 74, pp. 438–439.

81. Yanb al-mawadda, chap. 74, p. 438; Sharj al-dw, under the letter al-B, p. 166

I say: al-Dw is a name given to a collection of poems attributed to Amir al-Mu`minin `Al ibn Ab lib, peace be on him. It has been published several times and one of its commentaries is the commentary by al-usayn b. Mu`n al-D al-Maybud al-akm al-`f (d. 870 AH) who was a Sunni. He writes in his commentary: “Our Q`im’ means the one from us who will stand up for the affairs of religion and he is the promised Mahd who was mentioned in the seventh preface.” He says in Persian what translates to: “The term ‘Master of Judgment Day’ (lib al-qiyama) has been used to refer to the Mahd because Judgment Day (al-qiyama) will be established after his rule comes to an end.” He then discusses a second reason for referring to him by this title by saying that in the time of his rising and reappearance, hidden things will become apparent and the realities will become manifest; hence, it will be: “The day when the hidden things become manifest” (Quran 86:9).

I say: It is clear that qiyama refers to the day of his rising because of the following reasons: domination of the word of Islam, manifestation of truth, and the filling of earth with justice and fairness.

82. Al-Dw under the letter al-L, p. 371.

83. Yanb al-mawadda, chap. 68, p. 406.

84. Al-Mu`annaf by ibn Ab Shaiba, vol. 15, p. 23, no. 19000; al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 210, with some variations; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 557, no. 39591, with a little difference; Muntakhab kanz al-`umm, vol. 6, pp. 19–20; refer to al-Mal`im wa l-fitan, chap. 37, sect. 3, p. 176 and chap. 181, sect. 1, p. 80; Nahj al-balgha, sermon 258. Ibn Ab l-`ad writes in Sharj nahj al-balgha: “This narration is from the narrations about bloody battles which he, peace be on him, has informed of and has mentioned the Mahd.” Ibn al-Athar says in al-Nihya: “And from it is what `Al, [peace be on him], said: ‘They will gather around him like the gathering of the scattered clouds of autumn.’ Here, autumn is specifically mentioned because it is the beginning of winter and the clouds are scattered in it, neither piled up nor in layers. After that, some of them integrate with others.”

85. This might refer to the testimony of ‘there is no God but Allah,’ as can be inferred from the previous footnote—Ed.

86. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 38 and chap. 1, p. 23–24 (short version).

I say: In the published edition of `Iqd al-durar, p. 23, it is mentioned, “`Al looked at al-`asan.” The researcher of the book says: “In the original [narration] it was ‘al-`asan’ and ‘al-usayn’ has been mentioned by mistake.” You should know that what the researcher has said is wrong and it is up to him to prove what has been mentioned in the original narration. The

oldest manuscript that we have access to and have seen is present in al-Raḥawiyya Library (Kitābkhāniyyi ʿIstān Quds, no. 1752), dated 942 AH, and it is not the manuscript that the researcher has relied on. The one used by the researcher is also available in al-Raḥawiyya Library with the Serial no. 1751, dated 953 AH. We saw that ‘al-ʿusayn’ was mentioned in the tradition of Abū Wāʿil and in the tradition of Abū Isḥāq which he has been mentioned on p. 39 after the current tradition. Anyhow, the oldest manuscripts of this book are two: The first is the manuscript that bears the year 910 AH and belongs to the Berlin Library, with serial no. 2723. This is the manuscript which the researcher has regarded as the original. Yet, he uses other manuscripts when this manuscript is not in conformity with his opinions. The second manuscript is the one in the al-Raḥawiyya Library with the serial no. 1752/185, which is probably older than the Berlin manuscript and al-ʿusayn has been clearly mentioned in it. Moreover, it is apparent from the book al-Mahdī that in the manuscript which al-ʿAdr possessed, the term ‘al-ʿusayn’ has been used.

The correctness of the view about al-ʿusayn is further endorsed by the many mutawattir traditions recorded by us in this book and other books—some of which we have narrated from Sunni sources. For example, in the narration which speaks about al-ʿasan handing the affairs over to the Mahdī, peace be on him, he says: “O paternal cousin (yabn al-ʿam)! This belongs to you.” It is also mentioned in this tradition that “he is from the descendants of Fāʿima and the progeny of al-ʿusayn, peace be on them. Beware! Whoever accepts other than him as his master, will be cursed by Allah.” Refer to ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 4, sect. 2, pp. 90, 99, 137, and 138; and al-Burhān, chap. 1, pp. 76,77, no. 15

87. Al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 17, pp. 116–117. He has recorded it from the book Uyūn akhbār Banī-Hāshim, by Muḥammad b. Jarīr al-ʿabarī, the famous historian.

88. Quran 4:54.

89. Quran 64:7.

90. Al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, sect. 2, pp. 117–118.

91. Al-Sunan al-waḥida fī l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Maʿjāʾa fī l-Mahdī,” no. 4.

92. Al-ʿItijāj, “The Arguments of the Prophet on the Day of Ghadr,” pp. 66–84.

93. Al-Burhān fī ʿalāmāt Mahdī ʿakḥir al-zamān, chap. 6, p. 144, no.8, from the published version that was copied from the manuscript of ʿaram al-Makkī that was finished by its writer Aḥmad b. al-ʿasan al-Rashīdī in 1272 AH and from the hand-written manuscript that was copied by al-Sharīf al-Sayyid Muḥammad Bāqir al-Sabziwārī from the hand-written script preserved in the Library of the Holy Shrine of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, in Medina and the third manuscript is in the al-Jāmiʿ Library (Aḥam Mosque) that was established and built by our master Ayatullah al-Burjirdī, may Allah reward him with the best of rewards on behalf of Islam and the Muslims.

It has been recorded in Kashf al-astar, sect. 2, p. 164, with the difference: “When a person says ‘Allah,’ he will be killed. Then, Allah will gather for him like the gathering of clouds in autumn; Allah will unite their hearts. They will neither submit to anybody nor will they be recognized by anybody. They will be equal to the number of the soldiers of [the battle of] Badr.”

He says: “Al-ʿafī Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-ʿakīm has recorded it in al-Mustadrak and has said: “This tradition is correct (ṣaḥīḥ) based on the criteria set by of al-Bukhārī and Muslim, but they have not recorded it [in their ṣaḥīḥs].”

The author of Kashf al-astar continues: “It is worth mentioning that his saying, ‘He will emerge in the end of times (ʿakḥir al-zamān),’ then counted with his hand to nine, shows the nine names from the progeny of al-ʿusayn, peace be on him.

When he reached ʿujjat b. al-ʿasan, peace be on him, he said, ‘He will emerge in the end of times,’ and this is a clear comment from him that the Mahdī is the ninth descendant from the progeny of Imam al-ʿusayn, peace be on him. Thus, they should be aware.”

I say: This is an acceptable interpretation and there is no harm in it. In the published copy of al-Mustadrak and its summary (vol. 4, p. 554) and similarly in ʿIqd al-durar (chap. 4, sect. 1 p. 59, and chap. 5, p. 131) it has been written ‘seven’ instead of ‘nine’ and you will not find a proper interpretation for this. Hence, it is better to leave the interpretation to those who have knowledge about it. In these manuscripts, it is difficult to understand the meaning of the tradition unless we assume that ‘seven’ refers to the years of his kingdom and rule. Of course it is more probable that the three available handwritten manuscripts of al-Burhān and the handwritten manuscript of al-Mustadrak, from which the author of Kashf al-astar has recorded the tradition, are correct. Allah knows the best.

This idea is supported by what some Sunni scholars have mentioned. Muḥammad b. Pīyandi al-Sawwī, in his treatise—which is a manuscript, dated 979 AH, and is an appendix to the book al-Burhān—writes: “I have seen in history

books that one day Muḥammad b. Ḥanafiyya came to `Alī, peace be on him, and asked, ‘When will the Mahdī appear?’ He replied, ‘It is far!’, then he counted nine with his hand and said, ‘In the end of times.’”

94. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 26.

95. Musnad Abī Ya`lī, vol. 12, p. 19, no. 825 (6665); Majma` al-zawā'id, vol. 7, chap. “Mā j'ā fī l-Mahdī,” p. 315; al-Maḥlib al-`aliya, vol. 4, p. 343, no. 4554; Ibn Khaldūn's al-Muqaddama, p. 379; Ibrīz al-wahm al-maknūn, p. 577; al-`Arf al-wardī, (al-ḥawā lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 131, to his saying: “five and two”.

I say: Apparently, his saying “And what is five and two?” is the question of the narrator from Abī Huraira or other than him from one of the other narrators. It is not unlikely that his saying “to the truth,” marks the end of the narration and the two questions were in fact from the narrators who were asking each other. Allah knows the best.

96. Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, p. 572, no. 39635.

97. Musnad Abī Ya`lī, vol. 2, pp. 356–357, no. 131 (1105); Similar to it can be found in Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, no. 38703, from Abī Ya`lī and ibn `Asḥkir.

98. Al-Fitan, vol. 1, pp. 19–20; al-`Arf al-wardī (al-ḥawā lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 138, He says: “Nu`aim b. Ḥammīd has recorded it in his book al-Fitan through a reliable chain of narrators in accordance with the criteria set by Muslim.

99. Al-Sunan al-warīda fī l-fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Mā j'ā fī l-Mahdī,” p. 99, no. 3; Al-`Arf al-wardī (al-ḥawā lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 138, from ibn Sa`d and ibn Abī Shaiba.

100. Al-Sunan al-warīda fī l-fitan, vol. 6, chap. “Mā j'ā fī nuzūl `isā,” p. 142, no. 5; Al-`Arf al-Wardī (al-ḥawā lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 162; al-Taḥrīr bi mawṭara fī nuzūl al-Masīḥ, p. 274, no. 5. Tradition no. 4 and 6 which have been narrated from Jābir are similar to it.

101. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, p. 167, which we mentioned it under no. 409.

102. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, p. 168.

103. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 172, and similar to it p. 168, no. 1.

104. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, p. 168; al-Malḥim wa l-fitan, chap. 102, p. 55.

105. Nahj al-balḡha, sermon 100, ibn Abī al-`adīd writes while explaining this sermon (vol. 7, p. 93): “Know that Amīr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on him, delivered this sermon on the third Friday after he became the caliph.” While explaining his saying, “Until Allah brings out for you one who will gather you together and unite you after your separation,” he writes, “that person [who will unite them] is from the Ahl al-Bait, and refers to the Mahdī who will emerge in the end of times” (vol. 7, p. 94). Under his saying: “Allah has completed his obligations upon you . . . ,” he writes: “He then informs them about the closeness of relief (faraj) and says, ‘Allah perfects his obligations upon you and what you hope for is near—as if it has already occurred.’ This is like the divine promise about the establishment of the Hour. All the Holy Books have explicitly declared that it is near even though it is far from us and in Allah’s knowledge, all far things are near. He, Glory be to Him, declares, ‘Surely, they deem it to be far while We consider it to be near’ (Quran 70:6–7).”

106. Sharḥ nahj al-balḡha by ibn Maitham, vol. 3, p. 9. He has mentioned this tradition while explaining his saying: “Allah has completed his obligations upon you,” and says: “What he has said is an indication of Allah’s bestowal upon them by the appearance of the Awaited Imam and the reformation of their condition by his presence.” He then writes, “I have seen in the course of some of his sermons a section in which he foretells the events that will occur after him—in addition to explaining this promise. This is what he said, ‘O people! Be aware . . . ,’” which is what we mentioned in the text.

107. Al-Durr al-manthūr, vol. 4, p. 215; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 7, pp. 141–142; al-`Umda, pp. 223–224; al-Burhān, chap. 1, p. 87, no. 44; al-ḥarīf, p. 84; Biḥr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 105, no. 40 and vol. 39, chap. 17, p. 150, no. 14.

108. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 4, sect. 3, pp. 110–111; Al-Irshād, p. 385, through his chain of narrators from Saif b. `Umaira; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 265–266; Rauḥat al-Kāfī, p. 178, no. 255, from Saif.

109. Al-ḥadīq, al-Amḥī, session 63, p. 328, no. 2.

110. Al-ḥadīq, al-Amḥī, session 92, p. 504, no. 4; Al-Faiḥ, al-Nawādir, the book of al-Nubuwwa wa l-imāma, chap. 41, p. 70; Biḥr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, pp. 65–66, no. 3.

111. Al-ḥisā, al-Amḥī, vol. 2, p. 126; Biḥr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 68, no. 9; al-Nawādir, chap. 46, with some differences.

112. In the narration, the term ‘pieces of liver’ has been used instead of ‘treasures.’ Treasures have been likened to ‘pieces of the liver’ and this is indeed an amazing metaphor. For, the liver is one of the most vital organs of the body and so are the

- treasures of the earth. This is what Sayyid al-Raḥīq has mentioned in his book Majmaʿ al-ṭh̄ar al-nabawiyya, no. 231.
113. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 178, no. 135; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, pp. 72 and 74, no. 22; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 502, no. 291.
114. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 179, no. 137; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 74, no. 24; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 502, no. 293.
115. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 180, no. 138; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 74, no. 25; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 502, no. 294.
116. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 182, no. 141; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 75, no. 28; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 503, no. 297.
117. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 185, no. 144; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 75, no. 29; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 503, no. 300.
118. Al-ḥadīq, al-Amḥī, session 74, p. 396; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 143, no. 3; al-ḥisāb, Al-Amḥī, vol. 1, part 7, p. 182, no. 1: “Through his chain of narrators from al-ḥasan b. Maḥbūb, from Abūn, from Ismāʿīl al-Juʿfī who recounts, ‘A person came to (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, and with him was a page of questions which were like [arguments for use in] a dispute. (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, said to him, ‘This is a page which disputes the religion by which Allah accepts the deeds.’ He replied, ‘May Allah have mercy on you! This is what I intend!’ (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, said, ‘Testify that there is no god except Allah, He is Alone and has no partner, and that Muḥammad is His servant and Messenger. Acknowledge what he has brought from Allah and the Mastership (wilaya) of us Ahl al-Bait and express hatred toward our enemies and submit to us with humility and contentment and await our rule, because surely for us is a government that will come if Allah wills.’”
119. Dalʿīl al-imḥā, p. 235, sect. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qaʿim,” no. 6. Traditions with the same meaning have also been narrated in pp. 223, 224, and 226.
120. Dalʿīl al-imḥā, sect. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qaʿim,” pp. 239–240, no. 15; ʿUyūn akhbār al-Riḥā, vol. 2, p. 60, no. 230.
121. Dalʿīl al-imḥā, sect. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qaʿim,” pp. 249–250, no. 41.
122. Dalʿīl al-imḥā, sect. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qaʿim,” p. 255, no. 54.
123. Dalʿīl al-imḥā, sect. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qaʿim,” pp. 256–257, no. 57.
124. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 188, no. 149; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 146, no. 16; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 504, no. 305.
125. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, pp. 397–398, no. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 230, no. 22.
126. Al-Mufīd, al-Irshād, p. 340, no. 1; Iḥṣān al-warā, chap. 8, sect. 2, p. 330; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 50, chap. 2, p. 21, no. 7.
127. This refers to the mother of Imam Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Riḥā, peace be on him. She was from the city of Nābiyya and was called Sabka. “The son of the best lady from the city of Nābiyya” does not refer to our master Imam al-Mahdī, peace be on him, as is suggested by the author of al-Wāfī, who writes, “It refers to the Mahdī, the Master of Time, Allah’s blessings be on him. It seems he has been attributed to his grand-mother, the mother of Imam Abū Jaʿfar al-Thānī, peace be on him . . .” He has reached this conclusion by relying on the manuscript of al-Kāfī. Apparently, the following statement has been deleted from it: “From his progeny will be the driven-away (al-ḥarīd), the wanderer (al-sharīd)”. The manuscript of al-Irshād clarifies the meaning.
128. Nafas al-mahmūd, pp. 242–243. It is worth mentioning that the book al-Kāmil, has been written in Persian and it mentions the translation of the Imam’s sermon, Al-Kāmil, vol. 2, pp. 299–302.
129. Maqātil al-ḥalībīn, p. 143; Dalʿīl al-imḥā, sect. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qaʿim,” p. 234, no. 5.
130. Al-Amḥī (known as al-Amḥī al-khamṣiyya), vol. 2, p. 83.
131. Qurb al-isnād, pp. 13–14.
132. Kāmil al-ziyārāt, chap. 14, p. 52, no. 10.
133. This word is used to refer to someone who has no hair on the sides of his forehead.
134. Mukhtaṣar baḥār al-darajāt, p. 18; ḥaqīq al-ḥajʿa, chap. 9, p. 282, no. 100.
135. The ‘Day of Returning’ is the Day of Rajʿa and it is the day about which Allah, the Exalted, says: “And on the day when We will gather from every nation a group from among those who reject Our signs, then they will be held in ranks” (Quran

27:83). On this day, only a group from the deniers and a group from the believers will be gathered. This has been mentioned in detail in mutawātir traditions. As for the Day of Judgment, then on that Great Day, all the people will be raised without exception as has been announced by Allah, the Exalted: “and We will gather them and leave not any one of them behind” (Quran 18:47), and His saying: “On that day people will come in scattered groups to be shown their deeds” (Quran 99:6), “The day in which people will be like scattered moths” (Quran 101:4), “On the day that you will see every breast-feeder forgetting about what she was breast-feeding, and every pregnant female will drop her fetus, and people will be drunk but (in fact) they are not drunk, and the punishment of Allah will be severe” (Quran 22: 2). The clear verses that describe the Day of Judgment are indeed numerous and so are the verses that refer to the ‘Day of Returning.’ These two groups of verses can be separated by pondering in their style and wordings. Indeed, traditions narrated from the infallible Imams, peace be on them, have also distinguished between these two groups of Quranic verses.

One must never consider the return of the dead to this world as improbable, because such things have already happened by the miracles of the divine Prophets and Allah, the Exalted, has informed us about them in the following verses: “Or like the person [‘Uzair] who passed by a town and its [walls] had fallen down upon its roofs . . . So Allah caused him to die for a hundred years then raised him to life” (Quran 2:259), and: “Did you not see those who deserted their homes for fear of death, and they were thousands, then Allah said to them, ‘Die’ and then He gave them life [again]” (Quran 2:243), and in the story of Ayyūb: “Then We responded to him and removed what was harming him, and We gave him his family and the like of them with them” (Quran 21:84). Moreover, prominent Sunni scholars like ibn Mardawayh and others have narrated from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, that the Companions of the Cave (aṣṣab al-kaḥf) will return to this world when the Mahdī rises.

We must always remember that surely Allah is powerful over all things. The belief in Mahdawiyya and the faith in Raj`a are not two things that are inseparable. The importance of believing in Raj`a is not like the importance of believing in Mahdawiyya about which the entire Muslim nation has consensus about, and which has reliable traditions from both the sects to support it. In this book, we intend to establish the belief in the Awaited Mahdī, peace be on him, and explain it and elaborate on it. The matter of Raj`a—in addition to the fact that its position is unlike that of Mahdawiyya—has no role in proving the belief in Mahdawiyya. Discussions about Raj`a, investigations concerning it, and its details must be debated elsewhere.

136. Al-Mustarshid, pp. 186–187.

137. Sunan Abū Dāwūd, vol. 2, “Kitāb al-Mahdī,” pp. 208–209; al-Taj al-jamī lil-ūḥūd, “Kitāb al-fitan wa `al-ḥimāt al-sā`a,” vol. 5, chap. 7, p. 344. The author of Ghayyat al-ma`mūr (printed in the marginal notes of al-Taj) writes: “In the end of times a righteous person will emerge from Mi War al-Nahr. His name will be Ḥarith. He will have a great army that will be led by a great person whose name will be Manḥūr. This man will prepare the ground for the seed of Muḥammad. He will prepare the army, the reserves, and the wealth to help the caliph who will appear and he will be the Mahdī. Just like the companions who prepared the ground for the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family]. It is compulsory for every believer to help this army and this caliph because both are [on the path] of truth.”

138. `Uyūn akhbār al-Riḥ, vol. 2, chap. 35, p. 131, no. 13.

139. Al-Khiḍr, chap. “Seventy and Beyond,” pp. 578–579, no. 1. The entire tradition with the chain of narrators and text has been mentioned on pp. 572–581.

140. Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 14, p. 360, no. 1227.

141. Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 15, p. 388, no. 1265.

142. Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 15, p. 390, no. 1267.

143. Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 15, p. 393, no. 1270.

144. Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 14, p. 359, no. 1224.

Section Three

The traditions that prove he is from the progeny of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, from his Ahl al-Bait, and from his seed

Comprised of 407 traditions

481. Al-Fitan1: Narrated to us al-Walīd, from al-Shaykh, from al-Zuhr, from `Urwa, from `Isha, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "He is a man from my progeny. He will fight in accordance with my customs (sunnat) just as I fought in accordance with the revelations."

482. Al-Fitan2: Narrated to us al-Walīd from ibn Lah'a and informed me `Ayyub b. `Abbas from ibn Zar'r, from `Alī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "He is a man from my Ahl al-Bait."

And narrated to us ibn Wahb, from ibn Lah'a, from al-`arth b. Yazīd, from ibn Zar'r al-Ghāfiq, from `Alī, peace be on him, who said: "He is from the progeny of the Prophet, may Allah's blessings be upon him and his family."

483. Jawāhir al-`iqdain3: Aḥmad, ibn Maja, and others have narrated from `Alī, may Allah be satisfied with him, without a chains of narrators, that: "The Mahdī is from us. Religion will be sealed through us just as it by through us."

484. Al-Mu`jam al-kabīr4: Narrated to us al-`usayn b. Isḥāq al-Tustarī, from Wā'il b. `Abd al-A`lī, from Muḥammad b. Fu'ail, from Uthmān b. `Abd-Allah b. Shubrama, from `ḥim b. Abī l-Najīd, from Zirr b. `ubaish, from `Abd-Allah b. Mas`ūd, may Allah be satisfied with him, who recounts that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: "A man from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge. His name will be my name and his character will be my character. He will fill [the earth] with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice."

485. `ifat al-Mahdī5: From `Abd-Allah b. `Umar, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "The Hour will not be established until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules. His name will be my name. He will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice."

486. Al-Fitan6: Narrated to us al-Walīd, from Abī Rāfi', from Abī Sa`d al-Khudrī, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "He is from my progeny."

487. Al-Fitan7: Narrated to us al-Qasim b. Malak al-Muzanī, from Yūsuf b. Sayyūr, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. al-`anafiyya, from his father, from `Alī b. Abī `lib, may Allah be satisfied with him,

from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "The Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait."

488. Al-Fitan (by Abū Yaʿyū Zakariyyā b. Yaʿyū b. al-ʿArith al-Bazzāz): Narrated to us `Abd al-Quddās al-ʿAʿrī, from `Amr b. `Adīm, from `Imrān al-Qattān, from Qatāda, from Abū Naʿra, from Abū Saʿīd, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "The Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait."

489. Al-Mu`jam al-awsa: Narrated to us Ahmad b. Yaʿyū b. Khalid b. ʿIbbān, from Muḥammad b. Sufyān al-ʿaʿramī, from ibn Lahʿa, from Abū Zurʿa `Amr b. Jubayr, from `Umar b. `Alī, from his father `Alī b. Abū ʿAlī, peace be on him, who said:

I asked the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, "Is the Mahdī from us or other than us, O Messenger of Allah?" He replied, "He is from us. [Through us] Allah will seal just as He commenced through us. Through us they will be liberated from polytheism. Through us Allah will unite their hearts after clear enmity just as He united their hearts after the enmity of polytheism." I asked, "Will they be believers or non-believers?" He replied, "[They will be] astray (maftūn) and non-believers."

490. Al-Mu`jam al-ʿaḡḡ: Narrated to us Ahmad b. Muḥammad b. al-ʿAbbās al-Qantarī, from ʿArb b. al-ʿasan al-ʿaʿrī, from ʿUsayn b. al-ʿasan al-Ashqar, from Qays b. al-Rabʿ, from al-A'mash, from `Abūya i.e. ibn Raba`ī, from Abū Ayyūb al-Anḡrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said to Fāḡima, [peace be on her]:

Our Prophet is the best of Prophets and he is your father. Our martyr is the best of martyrs and he is your uncle. From us is the one who has two wings by which he flies in Paradise where he wishes, and he is your father's cousin, Ja`far [al-ʿayyār]. From us are the two grandsons of this nation, al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn, and they are your sons. And from us is the Mahdī.

I say: Ibn al-Maḡzilī has recorded the entire tradition with its chain of narrators—which ends at `Abūya—who narrates from Abū Ayyūb al-Anḡrī:

Once the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], became ill and Fāḡima, Allah's blessings be on her, visited him while he was recovering from his illness. When she saw the affliction and weakness of the Messenger of Allah, she started gasping until her tears rolled down from her eyes.

He said to her, "O Fāḡima! Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, searched the earth thoroughly, then chose from it your father and sent him as a Prophet. He searched it a second time and chose your husband. Thereafter, He revealed [some matters] to me and I gave your hand in marriage to him and made him the executor of my will. Are you not aware, O Fāḡima, that because Allah holds you in such high esteem, He has married you to a person who is the greatest in forbearance, the foremost amongst them in Islam, and the most knowledgeable amongst them?"

On hearing this, Fāṭima became happy and rejoiced. Then, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said to her, “O Fāṭima! `Alī has eight obvious qualities: His belief in Allah and His Messenger, his wisdom, his marriage to Fāṭima, his sons al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, his enjoinder of good and forbiddance from evil, his judgment by [using] the Book of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. O Fāṭima! We Ahl al-Bait have been given seven characteristics that have not been given to anybody from the first ones and the last ones [or he said: no one from the last ones except us].

Our Prophet is the most superior of the Prophets and he is your father. Our heir (waḥīd) is the best of the heirs, and he is your husband. Our martyr is the best of martyrs and he is your father’s uncle. From us is the one who has two wings by which he flies in Paradise where he wishes and he is your cousin Ja`far [al-Ḥayyār]. From us are the two grandsons of this nation, al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, and they are your sons. And I swear by the One in Whose hands is my life, from us is the Mahdī of this nation.”

The traditions with the following numbers are either in harmony with the topic of this section, or result in it, or based on the interpretation of other narrations conform to it: 65, 70, 72, 80, 81, 83, 91, 95, 113, 118, 120, 125, 126, 127, 129, 132, 134, 136, 143, 149, 153, 158, 159, 160, 167, 168, 169, 170, 173, 175, 176, 177, 178, 181, 183, 191, 193, 194, 196, 205–309, 317, 318, 321, 323, 324, 325, 327, 336, 339, 345, 346, 349, 350, 353–357, 359, 360, 362–367, 370, 371, 373–378, 382, 385, 390, 395, 396, 398, 400, 401, 402, 406, 407, 411, 414, 416, 417, 418, 434, 435, 438, 450, 451, 456, 458, 461, 463–470, 475, 478–480, 492, 494, 496–499, 500, 502–509, 516–572, 575, 578, 580, 581, 586, 588, 590, 591, 595, 597, 603, 608, 609, 610, 613, 624, 625, 641, 645, 653, 654, 670, 685, 726, 757, 771, 780, 786, 787, 789–807, 859, 902, 903, 904, 918, 928, 932, 939, 942, 956, 958, 960, 973, 974, 1105, 1113, 1116, 1130, 1139, 1140, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1165, 1168, 1169, 1175, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1184, 1191, 1198, 1205, 1212, 1216–1219, 1223, 1230, 1235, 1237, 1240, 1243, 1246, 1251, 1252–1256, 1260, 1264, 1272, and 1274.

1. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 199; al-Ḥawāʾiq al-muḥriqa, under the twelfth verse, p. 162; Jawāhir al-ʾiqdain, vol. 2, p. 8; Yanābiʿ al-mawadda, chap. 73, p. 433; al-Malʾim wa l-fitan, chap. 192; al-Burhān fī ʾal-mat Mahdī ʾakhir al-zamān, chap. 2, p. 95, no. 21; ʾIqd al-durar, chap. 1, pp. 16–17.

2. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, pp. 199–200; Al-Burhān fī ʾal-mat Mahdī ʾakhir al-zamān, chap. 2, p. 5, no. 21.

3. Jawāhir al-ʾiqdain, vol. 2, p. 8; al-Ḥawāʾiq al-muḥriqa, under the twelfth verse from the verses that have been revealed about them, citing al-Ḥabarān, p. 161; Isʿaf al-raghībān (printed in the marginal notes of Nūr al-abḥār), chap. 2, p. 134; Yanābiʿ al-mawadda, chap. 73, p. 433; ʾIqd al-durar, chap. 7, p. 145. He says: “Al-Ḥafī Abū Bakr al-Bayhaqī has recorded it”; Kashf al-khafī wa muzīl al-albās, vol. 2, pp. 288–289.

4. Al-Muʾjam al-kabīr, vol. 10, no. 10229; Kanz al-ʾummī, vol. 14, p. 273, no. 38702; Muntakhab kanz al-ʾummī, vol. 6, p. 32, with a little difference; al-Burhān fī ʾal-mat Mahdī ʾakhir al-zamān, chap. 2, p. 92, no. 11. He has recorded it from al-Ḥabarān and Abū Nuʾaim; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 471, no. 23, citing al-Arbaʿīn by Abū Nuʾaim with the difference that he has mentioned the narration to: “. . . he will fill [the earth] with justice and fairness”; al-ʾArf al-wardī (al-Ḥawāʾiq lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 132, citing al-Ḥabarān and Abū Nuʾaim.

5. ʾIqd al-durar, chap. 2, pp. 29–30. He says: “Al-Ḥafī Abū Nuʾaim has recorded it in ʾifāt al-Mahdī likewise”; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 471, no. 9, citing Abū Nuʾaim in al-Aḥdīth al-arbaʿīn, through his chains of narrators from ibn ʾUmar.

6. Al-Fitan (manuscript), vol. 5, p. 199; al-Malʾim wa l-fitan, chap. 194, p. 85, citing al-Fitan, with a slight difference in the wording of the chain.

7. Al-Fitan (manuscript), vol. 5, p. 201; al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 198, p. 86, citing al-Fitan.
8. Al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, sect. 3, chap. 19, pp. 163–164, citing al-Fitan by Abū Yaʿyū Zakariyyū b. Yaʿyū b. al-ʿarīth al-Bazzʿ, dated: Wednesday, end of Rabʿ al-Awwal, 391 AH from al-Nizʿmiyya Waqf; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 1, p.21.
9. Al-Muʿjam al-ʿausaʿ, vol. 1, p. 136, no. 757; Al-Fitan, chap. “Nisbat al-Mahdʿ,” p. 198; Kanz al-ʿummʿ, vol. 14, pp. 598–599, no. 39682; al-Burhʿn fʿ alʿmʿt Mahdʿ ʿkhir al-zamʿn, chap. 2, p. 91, no. 7; al-ʿArf al-wardʿ (al-ʿawwʿ lil-fatʿwʿ), vol. 2, p. 129; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 25, and chap. 7, p. 142; Mahdʿ ʿl al-rasʿ, p. 5.
10. Al-Muʿjam al-ʿaghʿr, vol. 1, chap. “Min ismih Aʿmad,” p. 37; Jawʿhir al-ʿiqdain, vol. 2, p. 8. He says: “Al-ʿabarʿnʿ has recorded it in al-Ausaʿ”; Yanʿbʿʿ al-mawadda, chap. 73, p. 434, with the difference: “From us is the Mahdʿ and he is from your descendants”; al-Bayʿn, chap. ½, p. 98; Dhakhʿir al-uqbʿ, p. 44; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 25; Majmaʿ al-zawʿʿid, vol. 9, p. 166; al-ʿawʿʿiq, p. 163; al-Manʿqib by ibn al-Maghʿzilʿ, pp. 101–102, no. 144; Yanʿbʿʿ al-mawadda, chap. 73, p. 436, with the difference: “I swear by the One in whose hand is my life! From us is the Mahdʿ of this nation and he is from your descendants”; al-ʿisʿ, al-Amʿl, vol. 1, p. 154, like what has been recorded in al-Manʿqib; Biʿr al-anwʿr, vol. 37, chap. 50 / 16, pp. 41–42, and pp. 65–66, no. 37, and vol. 51, chap. 1/6, p. 67; al-ʿUmda, p. 267, no. 423; al-ʿarʿif, p. 134, no. 212; Sharʿ al-akhbʿr, vol. 2, pp. 509–510, no. 900.

Section Four

The traditions that show that his name and epithet (al-kunya) are the same as the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and that his appearance, speaking, and actions are more similar to him than any other person, and that he will act according to his traditions (sunna)

Comprised of forty-five traditions

491. Al-Fitan1: Narrated to us al-Walʿd, from Abū Rʿfiʿ, from someone who narrated to him, from Abū Saʿʿd al-Khudrʿ, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “The name of the Mahdʿ is [the same as] my name.”

492. ʿIqd al-durar2: From ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿUmar, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “In the end of times a person will emerge from my descendants. His name is like my name and his epithet is my epithet (kunyatuḥʿ kunyatʿ). He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice.”

493. Al-Burhʿn fʿ alʿmʿt Mahdʿ ʿkhir al-zamʿn3: Nuʿaim b. ʿammʿd has also recorded from ʿAlʿ, peace be on him, that he said: “The name of the Mahdʿ is Muʿammad.”

494. Sunan al-Dʿn4: From Abū Saʿʿd al-Khudrʿ, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

A man from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge. He will act according to my customs (sunna). Allah will send down blessings for him from the sky. The earth will throw out its treasures for him and it [i.e. the earth] will be filled by him with justice just as it will have been filled with unfairness and injustice. He will rule

over this nation for seven years and will dismount at Bait al-Maqdas.

495. Al-`Arf al-ward⁵: Nu`aim has also recorded from ibn Mas`ud from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "The Mahd's name is Muhammad."

496. `Iqd al-durar⁶: From `Abd-Allah b. Mas`ud, may Allah be satisfied with him, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: "The Hour will not be established until a person from my Ahl al-Bait rules the earth. His name is like my name."

This tradition has been recorded by al-`Afi Ab Bakr al-Bayhaq.

497. Kamal al-d⁷: Narrated to us Ja`far b. Muhammad b. Masr, may Allah be satisfied with him, from al-usayn b. Muhammad b. `mir, from Muhammad b. Ab `Umair, from Ab Jamla al-Mufal b. `li, from Jbir b. Yazid al-Ju`f, from Jbir b. `Abd-Allah al-Anr, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said:

The Mahd is from my progeny. His name is my name and his epithet is my epithet. He is the most similar of people to me in creation and character. He will go in an occultation in which the nations will be deviated. Then, he will emerge like a shining meteor. He will fill it [i.e. the earth] with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.

498. Kamal al-d⁸: Narrated to us my father, Muhammad b. al-`asan, and Muhammad b. M^s al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be pleased with all of them, from all of the following: Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far, and Muhammad b. Ya`y al-`Ar, from all of the following: Aamad b. Muhammad b. `s, Ibrhm b. Hshim, Aamad b. Ab `Abd-Allah al-Barq, and Muhammad b. al-usayn b. Ab l-Khaab, from Ab `Al al-`asan b. Maabb al-Sarrid, from Dewd b. al-`aan, from Ab Baer, from (Imam) al-`adiq, Ja`far b. Muhammad, peace be on him, from his forefathers, peace be on them, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said:

The Mahd is from my descendants. His name is my name and his epithet is my epithet. He is the most similar of people to me in creation and characteristics. He will have an occultation and a bewilderment. It will be [so severe] that the people will deviate from their religions. When this happens, he will emerge like a shining meteor and will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.

499. Kamal al-d⁹: Narrated to us `Abd al-Wid b. Muhammad b. `Ubd^s al-N^s al-`Ar, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Al b. Muhammad b. Qutayba al-N^s al-`Ar, from amdn b. Sulaimn, from Aamad b. `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-Hamdⁿ, from `Abd-Allah b. al-Fa al-Hshim, from Hshim b. Slim, from al-`adiq Ja`far b. Muhammad, from his father, from his grandfather, peace be on them, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said:

The Q'im is from my descendants. His name is my name, his epithet is my epithet, his features are my

features, and his customs (sunna) are my customs. His will make the people establish my religion and my nation (yuqumu al-nas `al millat wa shar`at) and he will call the people to the Book of my Lord, Mighty and Majestic be He. Whoever obeys him has indeed obeyed me and whoever disobeys him has indeed disobeyed me. Whoever denies him in his occultation, then indeed he has denied me and whoever refutes him, has indeed refuted me. Whoever acknowledges him has acknowledged me. I will complain to Allah against those who reject what I say about him, those who deny my word about his status and those who deviated my religion from his path,

“And soon those who act unjustly will know to what final place of returning they will go to” (Quran Surah Shuaraa 26:227).

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 245, 255, 265, 272, 279, 288, 289, 321, 339, 354, 355, 357, 397, 400, 402, 406, 409, 428, 441, 461, 484, 485, 506 (which says: “he has two names, one that is concealed and one that is apparent”), 525, 529 (which says: “his epithet will be Ab `Abd-Allah”), 535, 544 (it comprises of what shows that one of his agnomens will be that of Imam Muhammad al-Baqir, peace be on him), 546 (which says: “he will have two names: Khalaf and Muhammad”), 562, 563, 564, 569, 597, 653 (which says: “it is prohibited for them to say his name”), 693, 726, 784, 791, 792, 797, 799, 800 (which says: “his epithet will be Ja`far,” 804, 806, and 810 (which say: “no one is permitted to address him by his name or by his epithet”).

1. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, under “Fism al-Mahd,” p. 197.

I say: The sentence “his father’s name is my father’s name,” which has been recorded by Zirr, from ibn Mas`ud, from Maimun al-Qaddi, from ibn al-`ufail, has not been issued by the Holy Prophet. For, it has been narrated like this: “Zirr from ibn Mas`ud” or “someone from the narrators from whom he has narrated. I have heard [this tradition] numerous times without the aforementioned sentence. Another thing that denotes the weakness of this addition (i.e. “his father’s name is my father’s name”) is its absence in Musnad of Ahmad in what he has narrated from ibn Mas`ud, along with the fact that the chains of narrators of some of his traditions are exactly like the chains in al-Fitan. See Ahmad’s al-Musnad, vol. 1, pp. 376, 377, 430, and 448. Soon, more evidence will be mentioned to prove this, Insh`Allah.

Al-Malim wa l-fitan, under the first section in which he has dedicated to the book of Fitan by Nu`aim b. Hammid, chap. 162, p. 74; al-Burhan fi `alim`at Mahd`akhir al-zaman, chap. 3, p. 101, no. 9; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aw lil-fat`aw), vol. 2, p. 148

2. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 2, p. 32; Tadhkirat al-khaw, p. 377, with the addition of “This is the Mahd” at its end.

3. Al-Burhan fi `alim`at Mahd`akhir al-zaman, chap. 3, p. 101, no. 8.

4. Sunan al-D`un, pp. 100–101; `Iqd al-durar (citing al-D`un’s Sunan and Ab` Nu`aim’s `ifat al-Mahd), chap. 1, p. 20, and chap. 7, p. 156; Similar to this has been narrated in al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aw lil-fat`aw), vol. 2, p. 131, citing al-`abar`n’s al-Ausa and Ab` Nu`aim; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 472, no. 25, citing Ab` Nu`aim’s al-`ad`th al-arba`n.

I say: There is no contradiction between this tradition and those that indicate that the capital of his government is other than Bait al-Maqdas, because it has not been mentioned that he will stay there as a place of permanent residence.

5. Al-`Arf al-ward, no. 648.

6. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 2, pp. 30–31.

7. Kamal al-d`un, vol. 1, chap. 25, p. 286, no. 1; l`im al-war, chap. 2, sect. 2, p. 243; Kifayat al-athar, chap. 7, pp. 66–67, no. 6; Yan`b` al-mawadda, chap. 94, pp. 488 & 493; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 521; Far`id al-sim`ain, vol. 2, pp.

334–335, no. 585; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 460, no. 103; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, pp. 71–72, no. 13.

8. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 25, p. 287, no. 4; Yanābiḥ al-mawadda, chap. 94, p. 493; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 72, no. 16.

9. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 39, p. 411, no. 6; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 73, no. 19.

Section Five

The traditions that mention his facial appearance (shamʿiluh)

Comprised of twenty-nine traditions

500. ʿĪfat al-Mahdī¹: From Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “The Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait and a man from my umma. He will have a aquiline nose. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice.”

501. Al-Muʿannaf²: Informed us ʿAbd al-Razzāq, from Muʿammar, from Maʿar, from a man, from Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, that the Mahdī will have a aquiline nose and a wide forehead.

502. Musnad al-Rʿaynī, Muʿjam al-ʿabarīn, and Manʿiqib al-Mahdī³: ʿUdhayfat b. al-Yamīn, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrates that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The Mahdī is a man from my progeny. His face is like a glittering star. His complexion will be Arabian while his physique will be similar to the Israelites. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice. The inhabitants of the earth and the sky and the birds in the air will be satisfied during his government. He will rule for twenty years.”

503. Al-ʿAwlī⁴: From Abū Salmat b. ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. ʿAuf, from his father, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “Certainly, Allah will raise a person from my progeny. His front teeth will be slightly apart and he will have a wide forehead. He will fill the earth with justice and will bestow wealth abundantly.”

504. Al-Fitan⁵: Narrated to us al-Walīd, from Saʿd, from Qatīda, from Abū Naʿra, from Abū I-ʿiddīq, from Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “The Mahdī will have a wide forehead and a aquiline nose.”

And through another chain of narrator from Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “The Mahdī will have an aquiline nose and a wide forehead.”

505. Musnad Abū Yaʿlī⁶: Narrated to us Qaḥān b. Bushair, from ʿAdī b. Abū ʿUmra, from Maʿar al-

Warrāq, from Abū I-ʿiddiq, from Abū Saʿd, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

Certainly, a man from my Ahl al-Bait will rise upon my umma. He will have an aquiline [nose] and a wide [forehead]. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. He will rule for seven years.

506. Kamāl al-dīn7: Narrated to us `Alī b. Aḥmad b. Mūsā, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Abū `Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl al-Barmakī, from Ismāʿīl b. Mālik, from Muḥammad b. Sīn, from Abū I-Jarūd Ziyād b. al-Mundhir, from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar al-Baqir, from his father, from his grandfather, from Amr al-Muʿminīn `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb—peace be on them all—who said while he was on the pulpit:

A man from my descendants will emerge in the end of times. His color will be white with a reddish complexion and he will have a wide stomach, sturdy thighs, and large shoulders. On his back are two moles: One the color of his skin and the other will be similar to the mole of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

He will have two names: One name will be hidden and the other will be apparent. The one which will be hidden will be Aḥmad and the one that will be apparent will be Muḥammad. When he moves, you will see everything between the east and west being illuminated for him. He will place his hands on the heads of the people, then, no believer will remain but that his heart will be stronger than plates of steel. Allah, the Exalted, will give him the strength of forty men. There will not be a dead person [from the believers] in the grave but that happiness will enter his [heart] while he is in his grave, and the [dead] will be visiting each other in their graves and giving glad-tidings to each other about the rise of the Qaʿim, may Allah’s blessings be upon him.

507. Al-Mustadrak8: Narrated to us Abū I-`Abbās Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb, from Muḥammad b. Isḥāq al-ʿanānī, from `Amr b. `Ḥabīb al-Kilābī, from `Imrān al-Qaḥṣībī, from Qatāda, from Abū Naʿra, from Abū Saʿd, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “The Mahdī is from us Ahl al-Bait. He will have an aquiline nose and a wide [forehead]. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. He will live for this many years,” and he showed seven with his fingers by showing the five fingers of his left hand and the thumb and the index finger of his right hand.

Al-Ḥakīm says, “This tradition is correct (ḥaḍīṣ) according to the criteria set by Muslim but neither of them [i.e. al-Bukhārī and Muslim] have recorded it.

508. Dhikr akhbār Iḥbāhīn9: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar, from Aḥmad b. al-ʿusayn al-Anṣārī, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. al-ʿusayn b. ʿAḥḍ, from his grandfather al-ʿusayn, from `Akramat b. Ibrāhīm, from Maʿar al-Warrāq, from Abū I-ʿiddiq al-Najī, from Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said:

The Hour will not be established until a man from my Ahl al-Bait rules. He will have a wide forehead and an aquiline nose. He will fill the earth with justice just as it would have been filled before him with unfairness. He will live for seven years.

509. Al-Fitan¹⁰: Narrated to us ibn Wahb, from Isḥāq b. Yaʿyū, from ʿAlī at al-Taym, from ʿUwāṣ, from ʿAlī b. Abī Ḥabīb, peace be on him, who said: “He will be a youth from the Quraish with a tanned (asmar) complexion and lean [in figure].”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 360, 366, 374, 378, 414, 428, 431, 484, 518, 577, 691, 812–814, 835, 836, 1198, 1217 and 1246

1. ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 33. He says: “Al-ʿAḥfi Abū Nuʿaim has recorded it in ʿIfat al-Mahdī; Kashf al-ghumma, citing al-Aḥdith al-arbaʿin, vol. 2, p. 469, no. 11; Farʿid al-simʿain, vol. 2, chap. 61, p. 330, no. 58; Yanʿabīʿ al-mawadda, chap. 94, p. 488; Bishrat al-Islām, vol. 2, chap. 3, p. 271, from al-ʿAḥfi Abū Nuʿaim; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, p. 80.

2. ʿAbd al-Razzāq, al-Muʿannaf, vol. 11, chap. “Al-Mahdī,” no. 20773; al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 95, from Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.

3. ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 34. He said: “Al-ʿAḥfi Abū Nuʿaim has recorded it in Manʿiqib al-Mahdī and al-ʿAḥfi Abū I-Qasim al-ʿAbārīn in his Muʿjam; Jawāhir al-ʿiqdain, vol. 2, p. 8; al-ʿawāʾiq al-muʿriqa, p. 162, from al-Rʿyānī, al-ʿAbārīn, and others; Ghʿyat al-maʿmūl, vol. 5, p. 343, from al-Rʿyānī, Abū Nuʿaim, al-Daylamī, and al-ʿAbārīn; Firdaus al-akhbār, vol. 4, p. 6940, which says: “his face is like a glittering moon”; al-Bayʿn, through his chain of narrators from ʿUdhayfa, chap. 17. He writes: “This is a good (ḥasan) tradition. We have narrated it from a large number of people from the companions of al-Thaqafī and his chain of narrators is acceptable to us, and All Praise is for Allah.” He then mentions that Abū Nuʿaim, al-ʿAbārīn, and al-Daylamī have recorded this tradition. Nūr al-abḥār, chap. 2, p. 154, citing Firdaus al-akhbār; Isʿf al-rʿghibīn, chap. 2, p. 135; Yanʿabīʿ al-mawadda, chap. 73, p. 433; Al-Burhān fī ʿalimāt Mahdī ʿakhr al-zamān, chap. 2, pp. 93–94, no. 16, citing al-Rʿyānī in his Musnad and Abū Nuʿaim; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 469, no.9, citing al-Aḥdith al-arbaʿin; al-ʿArf al-wādī, p. 137, with the following wording: “The Mahdī is a man from my descendants. His complexion is an Arabian complexion, his physique is like the Israelites, and on his right cheek is a mole like a glittering star . . . and the birds in the air.” He has narrated it from al-Rʿyānī’s Musnad and Abū Nuʿaim; al-Jamīʿ al-ʿaghār, vol. 2, p. 187, under the letter ‘al-Mām,’ no. 45; Mahdī ʿal Rasūl, p. 4; Ibrāz al-wahm al-maknūn, p. 572, no. 66; Lawʿīq al-anwār al-bahiyya under the commentary on the line of poetry: minhū al-imām al-khṭam al-faḥḥ / Muḥammad al-Mahdī wa l-Masūl, from the collection of poems called al-Durrat al-muʿḥā; Faiq al-qadīr, vol. 6, p. 279; Mashʿriq al-anwār, sect. 2, p. 112; al-ʿIdhāʿa, p. 188; al-Qaḥr al-Shahdī, p. 48; Ghʿliyat al-mawʿīq, vol. 1, p. 77; al-ʿawāʾiq, p. 162, under the Twelfth Verse; al-Fatḥwā l-ʿadḥiyya, p. 39, which says: “there is a mole like a glittering star on his right cheek”; Nūr al-abḥār, p. 154; Kanz al-ʿummūl, vol. 14, no. 38666; Dhakhʿir al-ʿuqbī, p. 136; Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 3, p. 378, no. 1251, and many other books and writings which will not be mentioned for the sake of conciseness. In some of these sources, only mentioning the beginning of the tradition will suffice.

I say: Some of them have said ‘Israelite physique’ means that his body-shape is like that of the Israelites, who are tall and well-built.

4. ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 34, he writes: “Al-ʿAḥfi Abū Nuʿaim al-ʿIbāhīn has recorded it in al-ʿAwāʾiq; Farʿid al-simʿain, vol. 2, chap. 61, p. 331, no. 582, with the difference that he said: “Allah, the Exalted, will send from my progeny a man with slightly separated front teeth, a wide forehead . . . (to the end of the tradition).” Al-ʿArf al-wādī (al-ʿawāʾiq lil-fatḥwā), vol. 2, p. 132, with a slight difference; al-Munʿir al-munʿif, sect. 50, pp. 187–188, no. 335, with a little difference; Lawʿīq al-anwār, vol. 2, under the commentary on his saying “minhū al-imām al-khṭam al-faḥḥ”; Isʿf al-rʿghibīn, p. 135; Jawāhir al-ʿiqdain, vol. 2, p. 8.

5. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, “ʿIfat al-Mahdī wa niʿatih,” pp. 195–196; Farʿid al-simʿain, vol. 2, chap. 61, p. 330, no. 581, with the

difference that he said: “The Mahdī is from us.”

6. Musnad Abū Yaʿlī, vol. 2, p. 367, no. 154 (1128); Dalʿil al-imāma, chap. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-qʿim wa annahū lʿibudda an yakūn,” p. 251.

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 57, p. 653, no. 17; Bīr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 4, p. 35, no. 4, from al-ʿisʿsʿs Ghayba—although I did not find it there.

8. Al-Mustadrak, vol. 4, p. 557; al-ʿIdhāʿa, p. 138.

9. Dhikr akhbār lʿbahān, vol. 1, p. 84.

10. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “ʿIfat al-Mahdī,” p. 197; al-ʿArf al-ward (al-ʿawwā lil-fatāwā), vol. 2, p. 147, with the following wording: “The Mahdī is from me, from the Quraish.”

There is no contradiction between such a tradition and those that mention his long life, for surely, when he is described as a youth and a young person and other similar attributes, it refers to his chivalry and this is in addition to what has been narrated about him that he will not become old with the passing of the days and that he will emerge with the body of a strong man.

Section Six

The traditions that mention he is from the descendants of Amr al-Muʿminīn `Alī b. Abī Ṭalīb, peace be on him

Comprised of 225 traditions

510. Al-Fitan1: Narrated to us Yaʿyū b. al-Yamān, from Sufyān, from Abū Isḥāq, from `ʿim, from `Alī, peace be on him, who said: “He [i.e. the Mahdī] is a man from me.”

511. Farʿīd al-simāin2: Through his chain of narrators from Thābit b. Dīnār, from Saʿd b. Jubair, from ibn `Abbās, from The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

`Alī b. Abī Ṭalīb is the leader (Imām) of my nation and my successor upon them after me. From his descendants is the Qʿim—the awaited one—through whom Allah will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. I swear by the One Who rightly sent me as a giver of good news! Surely those who will remain steadfast in believing in him during his occultation will be scarcer than red phosphorus (kibrīt al-aḥmar).

Jābir b. `Abd-Allah al-Anṣārī stood up and said, “O Messenger of Allah! Will the Qʿim from your descendants have an occultation?” He answered:

Yes, by my Lord! Through him Allah will certainly sift (layumaḥḥiḥu) the believers and destroy the disbelievers. O Jābir! Surely, this is an affair from the affair of Allah and a secret from the secret[s] of Allah. Its knowledge is concealed from His servants. Have no doubt about him because indeed, having doubt about the affairs of Allah is disbelief (kufr).

512. Dal'`il al-im`ama3: Narrated to us Ab` I-Mufa`al Mu`ammad b. `Abd-Allah, from Mu`ammad b. Hamm`m, from Ja`far b. Mu`ammad b. M`lik al-K`f, from Sufy`n b. al-Mahd, from Ab`n, from Anas b. M`lik who said:

One day, the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, came to see us and saw `Al. He placed his hand on `Al's shoulder and said, "O `Al! If nothing remains from the world but one day, Allah will prolong that day until a person from your descendants rules. He will be called Mahd and will guide towards Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. The Arabs will be guided by him just like you guided the unbelievers and the polytheists from deviation." Then, he said, "It is written on both his palms: 'Pledge allegiance to him because indeed, allegiance is for Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He.'"

513. Ghaybat al-Shaykh4: From A`mad b. Idr`s, from `Al b. Mu`ammad b. Qutayba, from al-Fa`l b. Sh`dh`n, from Mu`abbi, from Ab` `Abd al-Ra`m`n, from whom he had heard from, from Wahb b. Munabba, from ibn `Abb`s (in a lengthy narration) in which he said, "O Wahb! Thereafter, the Mahd will appear." I asked, "[Is he] from your descendants?" He replied, "No, by Allah! He is not from my descendants but from the descendants of `Al, peace be on him. Salvation is for the one who lives in his era. Through him, Allah will grant relief to this umma until he fills it with fairness and justice . . . (to the end of the narration).

514. Ma`n`n I-akhb`r5: Narrated to us Ab` I-`Abb`s Mu`ammad b. Ibr`h`m b. Is`q al-`liq`n, may Allah have mercy on him, from `Abd al-Aziz b. Ya`y` al-`Alaw in Basra, from al-Mughairat b. Mu`ammad, from Raj` b. Salma, from `Amr b. Shimr, from J`bir al-Ju`f, from (Imam) Ab` Ja`far Mu`ammad b. `Al, peace be on him, who said:

Am`r al-Mu`min`n `Al b. Ab` `lib, peace be on him, delivered a sermon in K`fa after returning from the Battle of Nahraw`n because he had heard Mu`wiya was abusing and cursing him and killing his companions. He stood up and said . . . (He then narrates the sermon in which `Al, peace be on him, mentions the virtues bestowed by Allah upon his Prophet and himself . . . until he says) and from my descendants is the Mahd of this nation.

515. Ghaybat al-Shaykh6: Narrated to me a group from Ab` Ja`far Mu`ammad b. Sufy`n al-Bazafar, from A`mad b. Idr`s, from `Al b. Mu`ammad b. Qutayba al-Naish`b`r, from al-Fa`l b. Sh`dh`n, from Na`r b. Muz`im, from Ab` Lah`a, from Ab` Qubail, from `Abd-Allah b. `Amr b. al-``, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said (in a lengthy tradition):

Then, the Mahd will emerge who he is a man from his descendants. (Then the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, pointed towards `Al b. Ab` `lib.) Through him, Allah will destroy falsehood and will conclude the era of hardships. Through him, Allah will remove the disgrace of slavery from your necks. I am the first of this nation, the Mahd is its middle, and Jesus is its end and between these is a crooked old man.

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 80, 81, 113, 118, 120,

126, 127, 129, 149, 153, 158, 159, 160, 168, 170, 173, 176, 178, 181, 191, 193, 196, 205–308, 323, 325, 359, 382, 397, 411, 417, 428, 450, 458, 463, 464, 467, 469, 472, 492, 497–499, 502, 506, 516–543, 546–548, 550–572, 588, 589, 597, 600, 608, 612, 623–626, 641, 670, 685, 757, 761, 765, 770, 775, 786–807, 859, 918, 973, 1104, and 1230.

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1. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 197; al-Mal'ūm wa l-fitan, chap. 189, p. 84.
 2. Far'īd al-sim'āin, vol. 2, chap. 61, pp. 335–336, no. 589; Yan'īb' al-mawadda, chap. 94, p. 424, citing al-man'iqib. The same has been narrated in the book Kashf al-yaq'īn, pp. 191–192, from al-ʿafī Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Naḥanzī—known as Nādirat al-Falak—in his book from Abū l-ʿasan Aḥmad b. al-ʿusayn al-Muqri', from `Alī b. Shujī' b. `Alī al-ʿaiqalī, from al-Shar'f Abū l-Qāsim `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī ibn al-Qāsim b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. al-ʿAbbās b. `Alī ibn Abū ḥabīb, peace be on him, from al-ʿasan b. Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. Hishām, from Muḥammad b. Ja'far al-Kāfī, from Muḥammad b. Ismā'īl al-Barmakī, from Muḥammad b. al-Fur'ī, from Thābit b. Dānīr, from Sa'īd b. Jubair, from ibn `Abbās. The same has been narrated by Al-ʿadāq in Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, p. 287, no. 7, from Muḥammad b. Mūsā al-Mutawakkil, from Muḥammad b. Abū Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Muḥammad b. Ismā'īl al-Barmakī, from `Alī b. Uthmān, from Muḥammad b. al-Fur'ī, from Thābit b. Dānīr, from ibn Jubair, from ibn Abbās. Sayyid b.

ḥwās says:

Whoever ponders over this great tradition which is a proof upon whoever it reaches—and also ponders on the many other narrations that we have mentioned in this book—will know that the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has left no place for any arguments for anybody concerning `Alī, peace be on him and his son Mahdī and his long-life, peace be on him. This is from the signs of Allah, Majestic be His Majesty, and from the proofs of Muḥammad, the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. He has informed about the birth of the Mahdī's forefathers, then he has informed about his long life before anybody knew what would be the condition of the Mahdī during his occultation. So, for Allah and His Messenger, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, is the clear proof for whomsoever he was sent to in this perishable world and on the Day of Rewarding and Punishing (yum al-jaz')” (Kitāb al-yaq'īn bi ikhtilāf `Alī bi-'imrat al-mu'minīn); Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 38, chap. 61, pp. 126–127, no. 76, citing Kashf al-yaq'īn by al-ʿafī Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Naḥanzī; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 618, no. 177.

3. Dal'īl al-imāma, p. 250, no. 44; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 574, no. 716, which mentions the first part of the tradition.
4. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 187, no. 146; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51 chap. 1, , p. 76, no. 31; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 504, no. 302.
5. Ma'ānī l-akhbār, chap. 27, pp. 58–60, no. 9; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 1, chap. 9, p. 488, no. 162.
6. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 185, no. 144; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 75, no. 29; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 503, no. 300.

Section Seven

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants of the Master of the Women of the world, Fāṭimat al-Zahrā, peace be on her

Comprised of 220 traditions

516. Al-Mustadrak `al` I-`a`ain1: In the book al-Fitan wa l-mal`im, it has been recorded that Ab` I-Na`r al-Faq`h informed me, from Uthm`n b. Sa`d al-D`rim, from `Abd-Allah b. `li, from Ab` I-Mal` al-Riqq, from Ziy`d b. Bay`n (and he mentions his virtues), from `Al` ibn Nufayl, from Sa`d b. al-Musayyib, from Umm Salma, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who mentioned the Mahd` and said: “Yes, he is a reality and he is from the descendants of F`ima.”

[And narrated to us] Ab` A`mad Bakr b. Mu`ammad al-`airaf` at Marv, from Ab` I-A`wa` Mu`ammad b. al-Haytham al-Q`q, from `Amr b. Khalid al-`arr`n, from Ab` I-Mal`, from Ziy`d b. Bay`n, from `Al` ibn Nufayl, from Sa`d b. Musayyib, from Umm Salma, may Allah be satisfied with her, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who mentioned the Mahd` and said: “He is from the progeny of F`ima.”

517. Al-Burh`n f` `al`m`t Mahd` `khir al-zam`n2: Ab` Nu`aim has recorded from al-`usayn, peace be on him, that the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said to F`ima, “O my daughter! The Mahd` is from your descendants.”

518. Ghaybat al-Shaykh3: From A`mad b. Idr`s, from `Al` b. Mu`ammad b. Qutayba, from al-Fa`l b. Sh`dh`n, from Mu`ammad b. Sin`n, from `Amm`r b. Marw`n, from al-Munakhkhal b. Jam`l, from J`bir al-Ju`f, from (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, who said: “The Mahd` is from the descendants of F`ima. He will have a tanned complexion.”

519. Al-Fitan4: Narrated to us Ab` H`r`n, from `Amr b. Qays al-Mul``q, from al-Minh`l b. `Amr, from Zirr b. `ubaish, who heard `Al`, peace be on him, say: “The Mahd` is a man from us, from the descendants of F`ima, may Allah be satisfied with her.”

520. Al-Am`5: Informed us a group from Ab` I-Mufa`al, from Mu`ammad b. F`r`z b. Ghiy`th al-Jall`b at the suburb B`b al-Abw`b, from Mu`ammad b. al-Fa`l b. al-Mukht`r al-B`n`—who is also known as Fa``n `f`ib al-J`r—from Ab` I-Fa`l b. al-Mukht`r, from al-`akam b. `uhair al-Faz`r` al-K`f, from Th`bit b. Ab` `afiyya Ab` `amza, from Ab` `mir al-Q`sim b. `Auf, from Ab` I-`ufail `mir b. W`thila, from Salm`n al-Fars`, may Allah be satisfied with him, (in a lengthy tradition) from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said to F`ima:

Surely Allah, the Exalted, chose me from my family. He also chose `Al`, al-`asan, al-`usayn, and you. I am the master (sayyid) of the sons of Adam, `Al` is the master (sayyid) of the Arabs, you are the master of all the women, and al-`asan and al-`usayn are the masters of the youths of Paradise. From the descendants of you two is the Mahd`. Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will fill the earth by him with justice just as it will be filled before him with injustice.

521. Tafs`r Fur`t al-K`f6: From Mu`ammad b. al-Q`sim b. `Ubaid, from various narrators, from `Abd-Allah b. `Abb`s, from Salm`n al-Fars`, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family (in a lengthy tradition in which he mentioned the virtues of `Al`, peace be on him), where he

said to Fatima, peace be on her: “The Mahdi—the one behind whom I will pray, is from you and from him [i.e. `Ali].”

522. Al-Manaqib7: `Abd al-Malik asked al-Zuhri, “Do you know anything about him whose name will be called out from the sky?” Zuhri answered, “(Imam) `Ali b. al-Qasim informed me that he is the Mahdi from the descendants of Fatima.”

523. Al-Sirat al-Ghalabiyya8: He said: “It has been narrated that the Mahdi is from the progeny of the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], from the descendants of Fatima.”

524. Sharh al-akhbār9: From the narration of Mikhnaf b. `Abd-Allah, through his chain of narrators from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

The Mahdi is from the generation of Fatima, the Master of the Women of the World. He will emerge and will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness, regardless of the days being prolonged or shortened. In his era, life will become pleasant. A caller will call out and will curse the Umayyads and their followers and send salutations on Muhammad and will send blessings on `Ali and his followers. On that day, all the people will be safe.

525. Biḥār al-anwār10: Citing al-Amīn, From al-Qaffar, from Uthman b. Ahmad, from Abū Qilaba, from Bishr b. `Umar, from Malik b. Anas, from Zaid b. Aslam, from Isma'īl b. Abūn, from Abū Maryam, from Thuwair b. Abū Fakhta, from `Abd al-Rahmān b. Abū Laylā, from his father who said:

On the day of [the Battle of] Khaibar, the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, gave the standard to `Ali b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on him, and Allah granted him victory. Then, he mentioned him being appointed on the day of Ghadir and some of his virtues that were mentioned there . . . (until he said), the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, started crying.

He was asked, “What has made you cry, O Messenger of Allah?” He replied, “Jabra'īl, peace be on him, informed me that the people will oppress him, deprive him of his right, fight against him, kill his children, and oppress them after him. Jabra'īl, peace be on him, also informed me from his Lord, Mighty and Majestic be He, that this will continue until the Qi'im rises. [When he does], their word will become high, the nation will gather on their love, those having hatred towards them will be a minority, those who dislike them will be disgraced, and those who will praise them will be the majority.

This will happen only after the cities have changed, the people have been weakened, and there will be no hope for relief (faraj). It is then that the Qi'im will appear amongst them. His name is my name and his father's name is like the name of my son. He is from the descendants of my daughter. Through them, Allah will manifest the truth and through their swords He will destroy falsehood. People will follow them either because they fear them or are inclined towards them.”

Then, the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, stopped crying and he continued, “O

group of believers, know that there will be relief, because surely, Allah's promise will not be violated and his decision cannot be countered, and He is the Most Wise and the Most Informed.

Verily, Allah's victory is near. O Allah! They are my family. So, keep away from them all uncleanness and purify them a thorough purification. O Allah, guard them, protect them, take care of them, be there for them, assist them, help them, make them mighty, don't degrade them, and make them my successors. You are Powerful over all things."

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 80, 118, 120, 126, 127, 129, 158, 168, 170, 171, 173, 176, 178, 181, 191, 193, 196, 205–308, 323, 359, 382, 397, 414, 417, 428, 450, 463, 467, 470, 492, 497–499, 526–543, 546–548, 550–572, 588, 589, 600, 608, 612, 624, 641, 670, 765, 770, 771, 786–807, 859, 918, 973, 1104, and 1230.

1. Al-Mustadrak `alā I-`a`ain, vol. 4, p. 557; al-Talkhīq, vol. 4, p. 557; Sunan Abū Dāwūd, vol. 4, p. 107, no. 4284, which says: "The Mahdī is from my progeny from the descendants of Fātima"; al-Bay`an fī akhbār al-Zamān, p. 99, which says: "from my progeny from the descendants of Fātima"; Nihāyat al-bid`ya wa l-nihāya, vol. 1, p. 40, which says: "from my progeny, from the descendants of Fātima"; al-`awā`iq al-mu`riqa, chap. "khuṣṣiyatihim al-dīlat `alā `alā `a`m karāmihim," p. 236, which he has recorded from Abū Dāwūd, al-Nisā`ī, Ibn Māja, and others. It's wording is: "from my progeny, from the descendants of Fātima"; Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 3, part 15, p. 395, no. 1274, with the following wording: "The Mahdī is from my progeny, from the descendants of Fātima, my daughter"; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 185–186, no. 145, and pp. 187–188, no. 148.

I say: This tradition is famous and well-known. Refer to the collection of traditions and books compiled concerning the Mahdī, peace be on him, and the conditions of the Hour. Thus, we have not added any sources to those that we have already mentioned.

It has been recorded in al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. "Nisbat al-Mahdī," pp. 197–198, through his chain of narrators from Qatāda who said: "I asked Sa`d b. al-Musayyib, 'Is the Mahdī real?' He replied, 'He is the truth.' I asked, 'From whom will he be?' He responded, 'From the Quraish.' I asked, 'From which clan of the Quraish?' He said, 'From the Banū-Hāshim.' I asked, 'From which [family] of Banū-Hāshim?' He said, 'From Banū `Abd al-Mu`alib.' I asked, 'From which [family] of Banū `Abd al-Mu`alib?' He said, 'From the children of Fātima.'"

It has been recorded in `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 23, with the difference that he said: "From which descendants of Banū `Abd al-Mu`alib?" and "I said, 'From which children of Fātima?'" He replied, "For now, this is enough for you." He says, "Imam Abū I-`usayn A`mad b. Ja`far b. al-Mun`id has recorded it. He has also recorded a similar tradition on p. 22, to his saying, 'From the children of Fātima,' citing al-Muqri' or al-Dīnī"; al-`Arf al-ward, vol. 2, p. 48, which is a short version; Jawāhir al-`iqdāin, vol. 2, p. 8; Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 3, part 15, pp. 394–395, no. 1273

2. Al-Burhān fī `alāmāt Mahdī khīr al-zamān, chap. 2, p. 94, no. 17; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`awā`iq lil-fatāwā), vol. 2, p. 137, with the wording: "Mahdī is from your descendants," citing Abū Nu`aim; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, pp. 21–22, from (Imam) `Alī b. al-`usayn, from his father, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said to Fātima, "The Mahdī is from your descendants." He has recorded it from Abū Nu`aim in `Ifat al-Mahdī; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 468, no. 4, from Abū Nu`aim in al-`Arba`īn from al-Zuhri, from (Imam) `Alī b. al-`usayn, peace be on him, like what has been narrated in `Iqd al-durar; Dalā'il al-imāma, "Ma`rifat wujūb al-Q`im wa annahū l-budda an yakūn," p. 234; Dhakhīr al-`uqb, p. 136

3. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 187, no. 147; Bi`r al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 4, p. 43, no. 32; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 504, no. 303.

4. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 201; Kanz al-`umm, vol. 14, p. 591, no. 39675; Muntakhab kanz al-`umm, vol. 6, p. 34; al-Mal'ūm wa l-fitan, chap. 162, p. 75, citing Nu`aim.

5. Amṣūr al-Shaykh, vol. 2, session 10, p. 219; Biṣṣir al-anwār, vol. 22, chap. 1, pp. 502–503, no. 48, and vol. 40, chap. 91, pp. 66–67, no. 100. In both these places it has been recorded: “and from your progeny is the Mahdī.” Apparently, the manuscript that al-Majlis possessed was more accurate than the one that is presently available to us. Therefore, we have mentioned the tradition in this section. According to both manuscripts, the tradition proves that he is from her descendants, peace be on her.

6. Tafsīr Furṭ al-Kṣf, under the exegesis of Sura al-Wḥī`a, p. 179.

7. Al-Manḥiqib, vol. 1, p. 288.

8. Al-Sḥrat al-ḥalabiyya, vol. 1, p. 227.

I say: All the great Sunni memorizers (al-ḥuffā) and traditionists are unanimous that the Mahdī is from the descendants of Fḥīma, peace be on her. The opinion of anybody who suggests otherwise from the Umayyads, the Abbasids, and their supporters is baseless. Indeed, they have rejected such opinion with the contempt it deserves. Mutawṭtir traditions and narrations recorded in the ḥifṣ, Musnads, and Jawāmi`—which must be followed by and believed in by the Muslim nation—repel such an opinion.

It has been mentioned in `lqd al-durar, chap. 7, pp. 153–154, that al-ḥafī `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Nakha` al-Suhail has recorded in the book Sharḥ sḥrat al-rasḥ, the superiority of Fḥīma over the women of the worlds. He has mentioned the saying of the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, “Fḥīma is a part of me” and “She is the best of my daughters,” and other similar traditions. Later, he proceeds to establish her mastership and superiority over other women and cites numerous reasons for this fact. Amongst these is the fact that the Mahdī—about whose reappearance in the end of times glad-tidings have been given—is from her progeny. This merit exclusively belongs to her, peace be on her, and is shared by no one else.

I say: In the old hand-written manuscript (the name) has been mentioned as al-ḥafī `Abd al-Raḥmān al-ḥanafī but perhaps the correct name is al-Khath`am, as has been recorded in his biography in sources like Tadhkirat al-ḥuffā and Wafiyat al-a`yān.

9. Sharḥ al-akhbār, vol. 3, part 15, p. 394, no. 1272.

10. Biṣṣir al-anwār, vol. 28, chap. 2, pp. 45–46, no. 8 and vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 68, no. 7, citing al-Amḥī.

The wording of the tradition varies according to the manuscripts we have referred to. It is apparent from Biṣṣir al-anwār that the copy of al-Amḥī which al-Majlis possessed had the following wording: “His name is like my name and his father’s name is like my son’s name.” He has recorded the tradition in two places in Biṣṣir al-anwār citing al-Amḥī with the aforementioned wording, just as the renowned traditionist al-ḥurr al-ḥmil has recorded it in lthbāt al-hudāt, vol. 3, sect. 12, chap. 32, p. 518, no. 379, also citing al-Amḥī. It has been recorded in Biṣṣir al-Anwār, vol. 37, chap. 52, pp. 191–193, no. 75, citing al-ḥarḥif. The phrase, “his father’s name is like the name . . .” is not found in it. This is the same as the published copy of al-ḥarḥif, p. 522, with the wording, “his name is like my name and he is from the descendants of my daughter.” It is also the same as al-Qunduz al-ḥanafī’s Yanḥb` al-mawadda, chap. 145, pp. 135–136, citing Manḥiqib al-Khḥwrazm. In the new editions of al-Amḥī, al-Manḥiqib al-Khḥwrazm, Kashf al-ghumma, and al-ḥarḥif, the following wording is found: “and his father’s name is my father’s name”. Undoubtedly, even with all these copies, the veracity of neither phrase can be established. Based on strong conjecture, it can be said that the phrase “and his father’s name . . .” either did not exist at all in the tradition or it was originally: “and his father’s name is like my son’s name.” Some of the copy-writers have corrected it, considering it as an addition to the original tradition. This will be discussed in the twenty-second section under no. 568. Moreover, the sentence “and his father’s name is like my father’s name,” is rejected by a number of traditions which announce that the name of his father was al-ḥasan. Thus, one cannot rely on this statement—regardless of its original wording—especially after the seeing the differences between the manuscripts.

Section Eight

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants of the two grandsons, al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn, peace be on them

Comprised of 125 traditions

526. Zakhār al-ʿuqbī: The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said: “From these two—meaning al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn—is the Mahdī of this nation.”

527. Al-Muʿjam al-kabīr: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Ruzaiq b. Jamiʿ al-Miṣrī, from al-Haytham b. ʿabb, from Sufyān b. ʿUyayna, from `Alī b. `Alī al-Makkī al-Hilālī, from his father who recounts:

I went to the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], during his sufferings in which he passed away. Fāṭima [peace be on her] was sitting near his head. She began crying until her voice rose. The Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, looked up to her and asked, “My beloved Fāṭima! Why are you crying?” She replied, “I fear neglect after you.” He replied, “My beloved Fāṭima! Do you not know that Allah, Mighty and Glorified be He, searched the earth thoroughly, then chose from it your father and sent him with His message.

Then, He searched the earth thoroughly and chose from it your husband. Then he revealed to me that I should marry you to him. O Fāṭima! Indeed Allah has granted us Ahl al-Bait seven characteristics that have not been given to anyone before us nor to anyone after us: I am the seal of the Prophets, the noblest of Prophets in front of Allah, the most beloved of the creatures to of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and I am your father. My heir (waṣī) is the best of heirs and the most beloved of them to Allah and he is your husband. Our martyr is the best of martyrs and the most beloved of them to Allah and he is ʿamzat b. `Abd al-Muḥalib, the (paternal) uncle of your father and the (paternal) uncle of your husband.

From us is the one who has two green wings by which he flies where he wishes in Paradise along with the angels and he is the cousin of your father and the brother of your husband. From us are the two grandsons of this nation and they are your two sons—al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn—and they are the masters of the youths of Paradise. I swear by the One Who truly sent me, their father is better than both of them. O Fāṭima! I swear by the One Who sent me with truth, surely from these two is the Mahdī of this nation.

When the world becomes engulfed in chaos and turmoil, fitnas appear, the paths are cut-off, and people will loot each other. And when there will be no elder who will have mercy on the young and there will be no young who will respect the elders. Then, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will send from the two of them [i.e. al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn] a man who will conquer the forts of deviation and the shrouded

hearts. He will rise with religion in the end of times just as I rose with it in the first era. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice.

O Fatima, Don't grieve and don't cry, for surely, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, is more merciful and kinder to you than me. This is because of your position to me and your [close] place to my heart. Allah has married you to your husband while he possesses the most noble lineage amongst [the members] of your family, is the most honorable of them in position, the most merciful of them with the people, the most just of them in being fair, and the most insightful of them in judgment. I asked my Lord, Mighty and Majestic be He, that you be the first to join me from my Ahl al-Bait [after my death]." `Alī, [peace be on him,] said, "When the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], passed away, Fatima, peace be on her, did not live after him for more than seventy-five days, and Allah, the Exalted, took her to him."

528. Al-Amīn al-Shaykh3: In a lengthy tradition through his chains of narrators from Imam `Alī b. al-Usayn, peace be on him, which includes Jabir honoring Imam al-Hasan and Imam al-Usayn, peace be on them . . . to where Jabir said:

One day, the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, was with us in the mosque and was surrounded by the people, when he said to me, "O Jabir! Call Hasan and Usayn for me," and he was extremely fond of both of them. I went and called them and carried them in my arms—in turns—until I we reached him. He asked me—and I could see the joy in his face on seeing me being so affectionate towards both of them and my respect for them—"Do you love them, O Jabir?" I replied, "And what would prevent me from that while I know their stature with you, may my father and my mother be sacrificed for you?"

He said, "Should I not inform you about their virtues?" I replied, "Yes! May my parents be sacrificed for you!" He said, "When Allah, the Exalted, intended to create me, He created me as a pure white liquid (nutfa) which He placed in the loin of my father Adam, peace be on him. This liquid was continuously transferred from one pure loin to another pure womb until [it reached] Noah and Abraham, peace be on them. This continued to `Abd al-Muallib, thus, nothing from the filth of ignorance (jihilīyya) touched me.

Then, this liquid was split into two halves: One went to `Abd-Allah and the other to Abū Talib. I was born to my father [`Abd-Allah] and Allah sealed prophethood through me. `Alī was born to Abū Talib and waḥīyya4 became terminated through him. These two halves—from me and `Alī—came together and resulted in the birth of al-Jahr and al-Jahūr (i.e. al-Hasan and al-Usayn) and through them,

He sealed the grandsons of prophethood. He placed my seed (al-dhurriya) in both of them and ordered me to conquer the city—or cities—of disbelief. From his seed—pointing to al-Usayn, peace be on him—a person will emerge in the end of times. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. These two are the pure and purified ones. They are the masters of the youths

of Paradise. Salvation is for those who love them, their father, and their mother, and woe to those who fight them and have hatred towards them.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 94–160, 463, 464, 465, 543, 546–548, 550–571, 590, 608, 641, 770, and 786–807.

1. Dhakhir al-uqb, “Fi dhikr m j’a anna l-Mahd f khir al-zamn,” p. 136.

I say: The mother of Imam Ab Ja`far Muhammad b. `Al ibn al-usayn, peace be on them, was Fima, the daughter of Imam (asan) al-Mujtab, the older grandson. Thus, our master Imam al-Bqir and all the seven Imams who succeeded him to Imam al-Mahd, peace be on them, are from the generation of Imam al-asan as well as Imam al-usayn as has been mentioned by the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. This news is knowledge of the unseen and one of the signs of his prophethood.

2. Al-Mu`jam al-kabir, vol. 3, pp. 57–58, no. 2675; ifat al-Mahd by Ab Nu`aim who has recorded it from him in `lq al-durar, chap. 7, pp. 151–153, and chap. 9, pp. 217–218, sect. 3; Majma` al-zaw`id, vol. 9, pp. 165–166; al-Bayn f akhbir al-Zamn, chap. 1, p. 55, no. 1; Dhakhir al-uqb, pp. 135–136. He writes, “al-`Al al-Hamd has recorded it in Arba`na adthan f l-Mahd; Kashf al-ghumma, citing al-`Al Nu`aim in al-A`d al-arba`n, vol. 2, p. 84, no. 403; al-Burhn f `alim Mahd khir al-zamn, chap. 2, pp. 94–95, no. 19; `Abaqt al-anwr (India), Under adath al-`air (The Tradition of the Bird), vol. 4, second minhj, p. 86; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`aww lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 137, shortened version citing al-`abar in al-Mu`jam al-kabir; al-`Idh`a, p. 136; Usd al-ghba, vol. 4, p. 42, has recorded a shortened version from Ab Nu`aim and Ab M and also al-`lba; al-Qaul al-mukhtar, p. 27, he has recorded that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said to Fima, [peace be on her], “I swear by the One Who truly sent me as a Prophet, surely, from these two (meaning al-asan and al-usayn) is Mahd of this umma.”

Al-Dhahab’s rejection of this tradition in his book Mazn al-`tid is not the least surprising because he is notorious for rejecting authentic and famous traditions that glorify the Ahl al-Bait and criticize their enemies. Since this tradition is in conflict with his desires, he has judged it to be false and has accused al-Haytham but has not put forward any evidence for his accusation against al-Haytham or for his rendering it to be false; except for the fact that he cannot tolerate the merits of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, which have been mentioned in it. Had this tradition been in accordance with his desires—that is, against the Ahl al-Bait and in favor of their enemies like Mu`wiya—he would have announced it to be correct in content as well as chain of narrators and would have declared its narrators as Sunnis. Surely, we have come from Allah and to Him we will return. There is no power and strength save that of Allah, the Exalted, the Great.

As far as we are concerned, this tradition is absolutely reliable in content. There is nothing amazing in it and there are numerous traditions which support it like the narration of `Abya from Ab Ayyub al-An and the tradition of Ab Sa`d al-Khudr that has been recorded in Yanb`’ al-mawadda, p. 490, citing al-Sam`n’s Fa`il al-`a`ba from Ab Sa`d. Moreover, this view is reinforced by the fact that this al-Haytham is the same al-Haytham b. `abb al-`airaf al-Kf—the brother of `Abd al-Khaliq b. `abb— about whom Ahmad [b. `anbal] has said: “His traditions are the best and his is his steadfastness is the greatest.” It has not been proven that these two are two different people, even if ibn `ajar claims so. I think that when people see that they have no rational reason regarding their claims against this tradition—because it has been narrated by someone like al-Haytham, who has been praised by Ahmad b. `anbal using the words mentioned above—then they claim that there are many al-Haythams!

3. Am al-Shaykh, vol. 2, pp. 113–114, no. 2; Bi`ir al-anwr, vol. 37, pp. 44–47, chap. 50, no. 22.

I say: Perhaps, it would have been better if had I mentioned this tradition in the forthcoming chapter. Anyhow, I have recorded it here by considering the version in Bi`ir al-anwr which seems to be more accurate, and Allah knows the best. It is like this: “He made my progeny in these two, and the one who will capture the city—or cities—of disbelief. He will fill the earth . . .”

4. The state of being the heir of a prophet—Ed.

Section Nine

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants of Imam al-ʿUsayn, peace be on him

Comprised of 208 traditions

529. ʿUyayn al-Mahdī: From ʿUdhayfa, may Allah be satisfied with him, who recounts:

The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], delivered a sermon about the events that will occur in the future. Then he said, "Even if one day remains from the world, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will prolong that day until He sends in it a person from my descendants Whose name is my name." Salmān al-Farsī, may Allah be satisfied with him, stood up and enquired, "O Messenger of Allah! From which one of your sons?" He answered, "He is from his descendants," and patted al-ʿUsayn, peace be on him."

In ʿIqd al-durar², the same tradition has been recorded from ʿUdhayfa using another wording: "The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said, 'If there remains only one day from the world, Allah will certainly send in it a person whose name is my name and whose character is my character. His epithet will be Abū `Abd-Allah.'"

[He says]: Al-ʿAfiʿ Abū Nu`aim has recorded it in ʿUyayn al-Mahdī. He has narrated a more complete version from Abū I-ʿasan al-Raba` al-Malikī, from ʿUdhayfa, who said:

The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family] said, "If there remains only one day from the world, Allah will raise in it a person whose name is my name and whose character is my character. His epithet will be Abū `Abd-Allah. People will pledge allegiance to him between the Rukn and the Maqām. Allah will return religion through him and will grant him victories. There will remain no one on the face of earth but that he will declare, 'There is no god but Allah.'" Salmān stood up and asked, "O Messenger of Allah! From which of your sons is he?" He replied, "From the descendants of this son of mine," and he patted al-ʿUsayn.

530. Al-Bayḥaqī fī akhbār ʿUyayn al-Mahdī: Through his chains of narrators from al-Daraqutnī, through his chain (sanad) from Sahl b. Sulaymān, from Abū Ḥarīrīn al-ʿAbdī who recounts:

I came to Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī and asked, "Were you present during the Battle of Badr?" He replied in the affirmative. I enquired again, "Can you narrate to me something that you heard from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, concerning `Alī, peace be on him, and his excellences?" He replied, "Yes, I will inform you. Surely the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, became ill and was recovering. Fāṭima, peace be on her, came to visit him and I was sitting on the right side of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

When she saw how weak the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, had become, she started gasping until her tears rolled down her cheeks. The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, asked, 'Why are you crying, O Fatima? Do you not know that Allah, the Exalted, searched the earth thoroughly and chose from it your father, whom He sent as a prophet? He searched it thoroughly a second time and chose your husband.

Then, He revealed to me and I married you to him and made him the executor of my will (waṣiyya). Did you not know that because of the respect that Allah, the Exalted, has for you, He married you to the most knowledgeable, the most patient, and the foremost from them in accepting Islam?' [On hearing this] she smiled and rejoiced.

So, the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, decided to increase her joy greatly by informing her about what Allah had destined for Muhammad and his family. He continued, 'O Fatima! `Alī has eight virtues: Belief in Allah and His Messenger, his wisdom, his wife, his sons al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, peace be on them, and his enjoinder of good and forbidding from evil.

O Fatima! We Ahl al-Bait have been granted six characteristics that have been granted to no one before us and no one after us. Our prophet is the best of prophets and he is your father; our heir (waṣiyya) is the best of heirs and he is your husband; our martyr is the best of martyrs and he is Ḥamza, your father's uncle; from us are the two grandsons of this nation and they are your two sons; from us is the Mahdī of this nation—behind whom Jesus, peace be on him, will pray.' Then, he patted al-Ḥusayn on the shoulder and said, 'From him is the Mahdī of this nation.'"

I say: This is how al-Daraqutni, the author of al-Jarī wa l-ta'dīl has recorded it.

531. Al-Fitan⁴: Narrated to us al-Walīd and Rushdāin, from Abū Lahḥā, from Abū Qubāil, from `Abd-Allah b. `Amr who said: "A person from the descendants of al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, will emerge from the East. If mountains come in his way, he will destroy them and create paths through them."

The traditions with the following numbers—directly and indirectly—show the aforementioned concept: 80, 113, 126, 127, 129, 167, 168, 170, 171, 173, 176, 178, 181, 191, 193, 196, 205–308, 382, 397, 414, 428, 465, 466, 526, 527, 528, 532–543, 546, 547, 548, 550–571, 588, 600, 608, 612, 641, 770, 786–807, 859, 918, 973, 1104, 1116, 1139, 1140, 1159, 1168, 1216, and 1230.

1. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, pp. 24–25. He says: "al-Ḥafī Abū Nu`aim has recorded it in Ḥifāt al-Mahdī"; Dhakhīr al-`uqbā, pp. 136–137. He says the traditions that mention he is from the descendants of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and from the descendants of Fatima, refer to the fact that he is from the descendants of Imam al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him. Yanābi` al-mawadda, chap. 94, pp. 488 & 490; Kashf al-ghumma, citing Abū Nu`aim's al-Aḥdāth al-arba`īn, vol. 2, p. 469, no. 6; Farīd al-simāin, vol. 2, pp. 325–326, no. 575; Lisān al-ma`zīn, vol. 3, p. 238, from ibn Ḥabbān, from al-Abbās b. Bakkīr al-Ḥabbā al-Baḥrī who said: "Narrated to us `Abd-Allah b. Ziyād al-Kalbī, from al-A`mash, from Zirr, from `Udhayfa, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said about the Mahdī . . . Salmān asked, 'O Messenger of Allah! From which of your sons will he be?' He replied, 'From this son of mine,' and he patted al-Ḥusayn,

[peace be on him], with his hand.” Dhahabؒ has narrated this from ibn ʿIbbān in *Mʿzān al-ʾitidāl*, no. 4160.

I say: People like al-Abbās b. Bakkr have committed no crime except narrating some traditions about the virtues of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them. He has not concealed these traditions because of greed for this world or the rewards of the kings and politicians. He did not fear imprisonment, whips, and getting killed, whilst, the courtier scholars and narrators had the habit of concealing the merits and excellences of the Ahl al-Bait and not narrating them. As for ibn ʿIbbān, he is criticized by the Sunnis for denying prophethood because he believed that prophethood “is naught but knowledge and action.” They deemed him to be an atheist and denounced him. They complained against him to the Caliph who ordered him to be killed. Such prophetic information about the unseen cannot be accepted from a person like him who holds such beliefs!

2. *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 2, pp. 31–32; al-Bayḥān, chap. 13, p. 129, through his chain of narrators from ʿUdhayfa.

3. Al-Bayḥān fī akhbār ʿIbān al-Zamʿān, chap. 9: “The Prophet’s declaration that the Mahdī is from progeny of al-ʿUsayn, peace be on him,” pp. 121–122; al-Fuḥayl al-muhimma, pp. 195–196; *Biḥār al-anwār*, vol. 38, chap. 56, pp. 10–11, no. 17, and vol. 51, p. 91; *Kashf al-ghumma*, vol. 2, pp. 481–482; *Dalʿil al-imāma*, p. 234.

4. Al-Fitan, “Nisbat al-Mahdī,” vol. 5, p. 199; al-Bayḥān, chap. 16, p. 93. He writes: “al-ʿAbār and Abū Nuʿaim have narrated it from him”; al-Maʿālim wa -Fitan, pp. 85–86, chap. 195, citing al-Fitan, with the difference that he has narrated from ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿUmar and he has said “he will break them up.”; *ʿIqd al-durar*, chap. 5, p. 127, citing al-ʿAbār in his *Muʿjam* and Abū Nuʿaim and Nuʿaim. He has also recorded it on chap. 9, sect. 3, p. 223, with the wording: “The Mahdī will. [He will be] from the descendants of al-ʿUsayn.”

Section Ten

The traditions that mention he is from the nine Imams from the descendants of (Imam) al-ʿUsayn, peace be on them

Comprised of 165 traditions

532. *Kifāyat al-athar*1: Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah b. al-Muḥallib, from Ibrāhīm b. ʿAbd al-ʿAmad b. Mūsā b. Isḥāq al-Haṣhimī, from his father, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Bukair [or Bakr] al-ʿAnawī [or al-Ghanawī], from ʿAḥmad b. Jubair, from Abū Iḥfayl ʿUmir b. Wathila, from Zaid b. Thabit, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said:

ʿAlī b. Abū Ḥalib is the leader of the righteous and the annihilator of the transgressors. Whoever helps him will be helped and whoever deserts him will be deserted. One who has doubts about ʿAlī, peace be on him, has doubts about Islam. He is the best [person] that can succeed me after me. The best of my companions is ʿAlī; his flesh is my flesh and his blood is my blood. He is the father of my two grandsons. From the loins of al-ʿUsayn, peace be on him, will emerge nine Imams and from them is the Mahdī of this nation.

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 127, 129, 168, 170, 173, 181, 191, 193, 205–308, 533–541, 543, 545, 550, 551, 558, 560–571, 590, 786–807, 859, 902, and 973.

1. Kifāyat al-athar, “What has been narrated from Zaid b. Thābit from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, concerning the reports about the twelve Imams, Allah’s blessings be on them”, chap. 12, pp. 96–97, no. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 41, p. 318, no. 168.

I say: `Abd-Allah b. Bukair is al-Ghanawī al-Kāfī; it has been mentioned in al-Lisān that ibn Ḥibbān has mentioned him amongst the reliable ones (al-thiqat) narrators. He has narrated from Ḥakīm b. Jubair.

Section Eleven

The traditions that indicate he is the ninth descendant of (Imam) al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him

Comprised of 160 traditions

533. Kifāyat al-athar1: Abū Ḥalīf Muḥammad b. [Faiḥ b.] Fayyāz al-`Ijlī al-Sawwī, from Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. `Ḥmir, from `Abd-Allah, from Rukain, from al-Qasim b. Ḥasan, from Zaid b. Thābit who recounts:

I heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, say, “The world will not come to an end until a person from the loin (ḥulb) of al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, will rise with the affairs of my nation. He will fill it with justice just as it will be filled with injustice.” We asked, “Who is he, O Messenger of Allah?” He replied, ‘He is the ninth Imam from the loin of al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him.’”

534. Kifāyat al-athar2: Muḥammad b. Wahbān b. Muḥammad al-Nahbānī al-Baḥrī, from al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī al-Bazafarī, from `Alī b. al-`Abbās, from `Abd b. Ya`qub, from Mismar b. Nuwayra, from Abū Bakr b. `Ayyūsh, from Abū Sulaimān al-Ḥabbābī, from Abū Umama who said:

The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, “The Hour will not be established until the Q’im from us rises with the truth. This will occur only when Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, permits. Whoever follows him will be saved and whoever remains behind will be destroyed. O servants of Allah! Be aware O servants of Allah! Go to him even if [you have to trek over] ice, for he is Allah’s caliph.” We asked, “O Messenger of Allah! When will the Q’im from you rise?” He replied, “When the world falls into chaos and confusion. He will be the ninth from the loin of al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him.”

535. Kifāyat al-athar3: Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Shaibānī, from Muḥammad b. al-Ḥusayn b. Ḥafīz al-Khath`amī al-Kāfī, from `Abd b. Ya`qub, from `Alī b. Ḥshim, from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah, from Abū `Ubaidat b. Muḥammad b. `Ammār, from his father, from his grandfather `Ammār who recounts:

I was with the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, during one of the battles in

which `Alī, peace be on him, had killed the standard-bearers and scattered them. He had killed `Amr b. `Abd-Allah al-Jumāhī and Shaibat b. Nafi'. I came to the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and said to him, "O Messenger of Allah! `Alī has fought for Allah a worthy fight."

He replied, "That is because he is from me and I am from him. He will inherit my knowledge, repay my debts, fulfill my promises, and will be my successor after me. If it was not for him, the pure believer would not be recognized after me. His war is my war and my war is Allah's war. His peace is my peace and my peace is Allah's peace. Know that he is the father of my two grandsons and the Imams after me. Allah, the Exalted, will bring out from his loins the rightly guided Imams. From them is the Mahdī of this nation."

I said, "May my father and my mother be sacrificed for you, O Messenger of Allah! Who is this Mahdī?" He replied, "O `Ammār! Know that surely Allah, Blessed and High be He, has promised me that nine Imams will emerge from the loins of al-`usayn. The ninth of his descendants will become concealed from the people. This is [the meaning of] the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, 'Say: Have you considered if your water sinks in the ground, who is it then that will bring you flowing water?'"⁴

He will have a lengthy occultation in which some people will stop believing in him while others will remain steadfast about him. Then, he will emerge in the end of times and will fill the world with fairness and justice. He will fight in accordance with the interpretation [of the Holy Quran] like I fought in accordance with its revelation. His name will be my name and he is the most similar of people to me . . ."

536. Muqtab al-athar⁵: Narrated to us Abū `Alī Aḥmad b. Ziyād al-Hamdānī, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Hāshim, from his father, from `Abd al-Salām b. `Alī al-Harawī, from Wakīl b. al-Jarrābī and al-Rabī b. Sa'd, from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Salīm, from `usayn b. `Alī, peace be on him, who said:

From us are twelve Mahdīs (guided ones). The first one is Amīr al-Mu'mīnīn `Alī ibn Abī Ḥabīb, peace be on him, and the last one is my ninth descendant. He is the one who will rise with the truth. Through him, Allah will give life to the earth after its death. Through him, Allah will dominate religion [i.e. Islam] over all religions even if the polytheists detest it. He will have an occultation in which some people will apostate and others will remain steadfast in religion. They [i.e. the steadfast] will be harassed and will be asked [tauntingly], "If you are truthful, [then tell us] when will this promise happen?"⁶ He who is patient during his occultation—with all the tortures and denials—is like those who fight with their swords before [i.e. alongside] the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family."

537. Kashf al-astar⁷: Abū Muḥammad al-Faḥrī b. Shādhān al-Nisābūrī—who passed away during the lifetime of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-`Askarī, peace be on him—has recorded in his book al-Ghayba: Narrated to us al-`asan b. Maḥbūb, from `Alī b. Rīḥāb, from Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, a lengthy tradition from Amīr al-Mu'mīnīn `Alī, at the end of which he said:

Then, there will be enmity between the Arab and non-Arab rulers because of their differences. It will be like this until the affair reaches a person from the descendants of Abū Sufyān . . . thereafter the king of

the kings, the slayer of the unbelievers, the desired ruler, and the one during whose occultation intellects (uqūl) will be baffled, will appear. He is the ninth from your descendants, O ʿUsayn. He will emerge from between the two rukns [of Kaʿba] and he will be victorious over the humans and the Jinn . . . Salvation is for the believers who realize his time, reach his era, witness his days, and meet his followers.

538. Kamāl al-dīn8: Narrated to us Ahmad b. Ziyād b. Jaʿfar al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm b. Hāshim, from his father, from ʿAlī b. Maʿbad, from al-ʿUsayn b. Khālid, from Imam ʿAlī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā, from (Imam) Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, from his father (Imam) Muḥammad b. ʿAlī, from his father (Imam) ʿAlī b. ʿUsayn, from his father (Imam) al-ʿUsayn b. ʿAlī, who said:

My father Amr al-Muʿminīn ʿAlī b. Abī Ḥabīb said to me, “O ʿUsayn! The ninth from your descendants is the one who will rise with the truth, manifest religion, and spread justice.” I asked him, “O Amr al-Muʿminīn! Will this [really] happen?” He replied, “Yes, I swear by the One Who sent Muḥammad with prophethood and selected him from all the creatures; but [this will happen] only after an occultation and bewilderment in which no one will remain steadfast in his religion except the sincere ones—those who are inseparable from the spirit of certainty. They are the ones from whom Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has taken the covenant of our mastership (wilāya), has written faith in their hearts, and has assisted them with a Holy Spirit from Himself.”

539. Kamāl al-dīn9: Narrated to us al-Muʿaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muʿaffar al-ʿAlawī al-Samarqandī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from his father, from Jabraʿīl b. Ahmad, from Mūsā b. Jaʿfar al-Baghdādī, from al-ʿAsan b. Muḥammad al-ʿAirafī, from ʿAnṣ b. Sadīr, from his father Sadīr b. ʿAkīm, from his father, from Abī Saʿd ʿAqīl who said:

When (Imam) al-ʿAsan b. ʿAlī signed the peace treaty with Muʿwiyat b. Abī Sufyān, people came to meet him and some of them criticized him [for signing] the treaty. He replied, “Woe to you! You do not know what I know [or what I have done]. By Allah, what I did was best for our followers—whether they be where the sun rises or it sets.

Don’t you know that I am your Imam whose obedience is obligatory upon you and that I am one of the [two] masters of the youths of Paradise—just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, has said about me?” They all replied in the affirmative. He then said, “Do you know that when [the Prophet] Khīr, peace be on him, drilled a hole in the boat, erected the wall, and killed a child, all these actions angered Moses because the wisdom behind these acts were hidden from him? These three acts were regarded by Allah, High be His Remembrance, as nothing but wise and right?

Do you not know that there is no one from us but that on his neck is the allegiance of the tyrants of his time, except the Qaʿim behind whom Jesus, son of Mary, Allah’s Spirit, will pray? Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has concealed him and his birth so that he will not have an allegiance on his neck when he emerges. He is the ninth descendant of my brother al-ʿUsayn, the son of the Master of the Women of the Universe. Allah will prolong his age during his occultation, then, He will manifest him with His

power in the form of a young man of less than forty years of age. And this is because it should be known that Allah is Powerful over all things.”

540. Kamāl al-dīn10: Narrated to us `Abd al-Wāhid b. Muḥammad b. `Abdūs al-`Aḥḥar, from Abū `Amr al-Kashshā (or al-Laith), from Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Shujā, from Muḥammad b. `ūs, from Muḥammad b. Abū `Umair, from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. al-`ajjāj, from al-`adīq Ja`far b. Muḥammad, from his father (Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī, from his father (Imam) `Alī b. al-`usayn, from (Imam) al-`usayn b. `Alī—peace be upon them— who said: “My ninth descendant will have a similarity with Yūsuf and a similarity with Moses, son of `Imrān, peace be on them both. He is the one who will rise from us Ahl al-Bait. Allah, Blessed and High be He, will set right his affairs in one night.”

541. Kamāl al-dīn11: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Isḥāq al-Mu`adh (or al-Mu`ar), may Allah be satisfied with him, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Hamdān al-Kifī, from Aḥmad b. Mūsā b. al-fur, from `Abd al-Wāhid b. Muḥammad, from Sufyān, from `Abd-Allah b. al-Zubayr, from `Abd-Allah b. Sharḥ, from a person, from ḥamdān, from al-`usayn b. `Alī ibn Abū `alīb, peace be on him, who said: “The Q`im of this nation is the ninth from my descendants who will have an occultation. He is the one whose inheritance will be divided while he is [still] alive.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 205–308, 543, 550, 551, 558–571, 608, 612, 641, 786–807, 859, 918, 973, 1104, and 1230.

1. Kifīyat al-athar, chap. 12, p. 97, no. 3; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 41, p. 318, no. 169; al-`air al-mustaqīm, vol. 2, chap. 10, pp. 115–116, sect. 3. He writes: “Al-`usayn b. `Alī al-Raḥī has narrated the same concept which ends like this: ‘From the Loin of al-`usayn will emerge righteous infallible Imams. From them will be the Mahdī of this nation behind whom Jesus, son of Mary, will pray. He is the ninth from the loin of al-`usayn, peace be on him.’”

2. Kifīyat al-athar, chap. 12, p. 106; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 41, p. 322, no. 172; al-`air al-mustaqīm, vol. 2, chap. 10, p. 116, sect. 3, which is a short version.

I say: In Biḥār al-anwār, it is ‘Maimān b. Abū Nuwayra’ and in some copies, it is ‘Mismarat b. Abū Nuwayra’. In the source, al-Hunayf has been mentioned but al-Nahbānī is correct.

3. Kifīyat al-athar, p. 120, no. 1; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 41, pp. 326–328, no. 183; al-`air al-mustaqīm, vol. 2, chap. 10, p. 118, sect. 3, which is a short version.

4. Quran 67:30.

5. Muqtaḥab al-athar, p. 23; Kifīyat al-athar, pp. 231–232, chap. 31, no. 2; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 30, p. 317, no. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, p. 385, chap. 43, no. 6 and vol. 51, chap. 3, p. 133, no. 4; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 2, chap. 9, p. 133, no. 134.

6. Quran 36:48.

7. Kashf al-astar, p. 180 (1318 AH) and p. 221 (in the new edition); al-`Arba`īn (Kifīyat al-Muhtadī), p. 31, under no. 1.

8. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1 chap. 26, , p. 304, no. 16; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 2, p. 110, no. 2; I`lām al-warā, pp. 400–401.

9. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 29, p. 315–316, no. 2; Kifīyat al-athar, chap. 30, pp. 224–226, no. 4. He has mentioned: “the ninth descendant of my brother—al-`usayn—the son of the Master of the Maids”; I`lām al-warā, p. 401; al-Itijāj, vol. 2, p. 288.

10. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 30, pp. 316–317, no. 1; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 3, p. 132–133, no. 2; Iḥm al-warā, p. 401.

11. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 30, p. 317, no. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 3, p. 133, no. 3; Iḥm al-warā, p. 401.

Section Twelve

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants of (Imam) `Alī b. al-ḥusayn Zain al-`abīdīn, peace be on him

Comprised of 197 traditions

542. Amr al-Shaykh1: A group informed us from Abū I-Mufaḥḥal, from Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan al-`Alawī al-ḥusaynī, from Abū Naḥr Aḥmad b. `Abd al-Mun`im b. Naḥr al-ḥaidawī, from ḥusayn b. Shaddād al-Ju`fī, from his father Shaddād b. Rushaid, from `Amr b. `Abd-Allah b. Hind al-Jamalī, from (Imam) Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him, who said:

When Fāḥima—the daughter of `Alī b. Abū ḥlib, peace be on him—observed her nephew, Imam `Alī b. al-ḥusayn, peace be on him, constantly worshipping, she approached Jubayr b. `Abd-Allah b. `Amr b. ḥizām al-Anḥarī and said to him, “O companion of Allah’s Messenger! Surely, we have some rights which you are obliged to fulfill for us. One of our rights is that when you see one of [the Imams] from us straining himself while striving [in the way of Allah], then you should remind him of Allah and invite him to save his soul. Such is the present state of `Alī b. al-ḥusayn, the remnant of his father al-ḥusayn. His nose has become wounded and the skin of his forehead, palms, and knees have become coarse and thick because of constant worship.”

So, Jubayr b. `Abd-Allah went to (Imam) `Alī b. al-ḥusayn’s house and [saw Imam] Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Alī standing there with some other boys from the Banū-Hāshim. Jubayr stared at him and said, “The way you walk is like that of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, [and your features] resemble his features. Who are you, son?” He replied, “I am Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-ḥusayn.”

On hearing this, Jubayr cried and said, “By Allah! You are truly the splitter (bāqir) of knowledge. Come near me, may my father be sacrificed for you!” So, [Imam Abū Ja`far] went near him and Jubayr opened the front of [Abū Ja`far’s] shirt, placed his hand on his chest and kissed it then put his own cheek and his face on [his chest] and said, “I bring you greetings (salām) from your great-grandfather, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who ordered me to do what I just did.

He said to me, ‘You will live [a long life] and will continue to survive until you meet from my descendants the one whose name is [Abū Ja`far] Muḥammad. He will truly split knowledge.’ He further informed me,

‘You will live until you become blind and he will be the one who will give you back your sight.’”

Then, J‘bir said to him, “‘Seek permission from your father for me.” (Imam) Ab‘ Ja‘far, peace be on him, went to his father and informed him about what had happened and said, “There is an old man at the door whom behaved with me in such and such manner.” [Imam al-Sajj‘d], replied, “O son! He is J‘bir b. ‘Abd-Allah al-An‘r‘. Amongst all the children, did he only say these things to you and behave with you in this particular manner?” [Imam Ab‘ Ja‘far, peace be on him], replied, “Yes.” He said, “We are from Allah. Surely, he did not intend anything bad for you . . .”

Then, he allowed J‘bir to enter. [When J‘bir entered], he found the Imam in his prayer-niche whilst excessive worship had worn him out. The Imam stood up and asked J‘bir about his conditions then made him sit next to him. J‘bir turned to him and said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Do you not know that indeed Allah, the Exalted, has created Paradise for you and for those who love you and He has created Hell for those who have hatred towards you and enmity against you? Why have you obliged yourself to perform such [a straining worship]? (Imam) ‘Al‘ b. al-‘usayn, peace be on him, said, ‘O Companion of the Messenger of Allah! Don’t you know that Allah had forgiven the past and future faults of my grandfather—the Messenger of Allah—and yet he did not stop striving (for Allah)? And he, may my father and my mother be sacrificed for him, continued worshipping until his shinbone and feet became swollen? He was asked, ‘Why do you do this whilst Allah has forgiven your past and future sins?’ He had replied, ‘Should I not be a thankful servant?’”

J‘bir looked at Imam ‘Al‘ b. al-‘usayn, peace be on him, and saw that he could not convince him to ease his efforts and fatigue, so he said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Please save yourself. Surely, you belong to a family through whom calamities are warded off, hardships are removed, and the sky pours its rain.” The (Imam) replied, “O J‘bir! I will continue to be on the path of my parents—Allah’s blessings be on them—and mourn them until I meet them.” J‘bir turned to those who were present and said, “By Allah, none from the children of the Prophets can be found who are like ‘Al‘ b. al-‘usayn except Y‘ suf b. Ya‘qb. By Allah, the seed (dhurriyya) of ‘Al‘ b. al-‘usayn, peace be on him, are superior to the seed of Y‘ suf b. Ya‘qb. From them is the one who will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 113, 125, 126, 127, 129, 134, 136, 167, 168, 170, 173, 175–178, 181, 183, 191, 193, 194, 196, 205–308, 465, 466, 533–541, 543–571, 590, 608, 612, 641, 770, 786–807, 973, 974, 1216, and 1230.

1. Am‘ al-Shaykh, vol. 2, session 13, pp. 249–251, no. 16; Bish‘rat al-Mu‘af‘, pp. 66–67, which is the same as the previous reference with slight differences in the wording and chain of narrators. It ends like this, “From him is the one who will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice”; Bi‘r al-anw‘r, vol. 46, chap. 5, pp. 60–61, no. 18.

Section Thirteen

The traditions that indicate he is the seventh descendant of (Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Bḥqir, peace be on him

Comprised of 121 traditions

543. Kifāyat al-āthar¹: Narrated to us Abū l-Mufaḥḥal, may God have mercy on him, from Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Shādhān b. ḥabbāb al-Azdī al-Khallī in Kufa, from al-ḥasan b. Muḥammad b. `Abd al-Wḥīd, from al-ḥasan b. al-ḥusayn al-`Arabī [or al-`Arafī or al-`Uranī] al-ḥaffī, from Yaḥyā b. Ya`lī al-Aslamī, from `Amr b. Mūsā al-Wajḥī, from Zaid b. `Alī, peace be on him, who recounts:

I was with my father, (Imam) `Alī b. al-ḥusayn, peace be on him, when Jḥbir b. `Abd-Allah al-Anḥrī entered. While he was talking with him my brother Muḥammad came from one of the rooms. Jḥbir fixed his gaze at him, then stood up and went towards him and said, “O boy, come!” He obliged. Jḥbir requested again, “Go back,” and he went back. Jḥbir remarked, “Characteristics like the characteristics of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family! What is your name, son?” He replied, “Muḥammad.” Jḥbir said, “Whose son are you?” He replied, “I am the son of `Alī b. al-ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū ḥlib.”

Jḥbir said, “Then, you must be al-Bḥqir!” Then, Jḥbir bent over him and began kissing his forehead and hands. Then he said, “O Muḥammad! The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, has conveyed salutations to you.” He replied, “May the best of salutations be upon the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and also upon you, O Jḥbir, for conveying the salutations.”

Jḥbir then returned to his prayer-mat and started talking to my father, saying, “One day, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said to me, ‘O Jḥbir! When you meet my son, al-Bḥqir, convey my salutations to him because his name is like mine and he is the most similar of people to me. His knowledge is my knowledge and his judgment is my judgment. Seven of his descendants are infallible trustees and righteous Imams and the seventh is their Mahdī, who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.’ Then, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, recited, ‘And We made them Imams who guide with Our Command and We revealed to them good deeds, establishment of prayers, and paying the poor-rate (zakāt) and they worshipped Us.’”

544. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān : Informed me `Alī b. al-ḥusayn, from

Muḥammad b. ḥasan al-Razzī, from Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Kḥfī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. Yḥsuf, from Muḥammad b. `ḥsī, from `Abd al-Razzāq, from Muḥammad b. Sinān, from Fuḥail al-Rassān,

from Abū ʿĀmza al-Thumālī who narrates:

One day, I was with (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Baqir. When the people around him dispersed, he said to me, “O Abū ʿĀmza! From the inevitable things that Allah will not change is the rising of our Qʿim. Whoever has doubts about what I am saying will meet Allah while he does not believe in Him and denies Him.” He continued, “My father and my mother be sacrificed for him whose name will be my name and his epithet will be my epithet and he will be my seventh descendant. My father be sacrificed for the one who will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.

O Abū ʿĀmza! Whoever reaches [his era] but does not submit to him, then, it is as if he has not submitted to Muḥammad and ʿAlī, Allah’s blessings be on them. Allah will prohibit him from entering Paradise and his dwelling place will be in fire and how bad is the abode of the oppressors!”

A matter which is clearer, more illuminating, more lucid and brighter than this—for those who Allah has guided and is beneficent to—thank God, is His saying which is an unambiguous verse from His Book: “Verily, the number of months (al-shuhūr) with Allah are twelve months in the Book of Allah, the day He created the skies and the earth; from these, four are sacred. This is the established religion, so do not be unjust to yourselves during these [months].” Having knowledge about these months like Muḥarram, ʿĀfar, Rabīʿ al-Awwal, etc. and the sacred ones from them like Rajab, Dhu l-Qaʿda, Dhu l-Ḥijja, and Muḥarram, cannot be called “an established religion.” Because the Jews, the Christians, the Zoroastrians, and all the other nations and people—whether those in favor and the opponents [of Islam]—were aware of these months and they counted them with their names.

[In this verse,] months (shuhūr) refers to the infallible Imams, peace be on them, who will establish the religion of Allah. The sacred ones from these are Amīr al-Muʾminīn, whose name Allah, the Exalted, has derived from His Name al-ʿAlī, just as He has derived for the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, a name from His Name, al-Maʿmūd. Three others from his descendants bear the name ʿAlī: ʿAlī b. al-Ḥusayn, ʿAlī b. Mūsā, and ʿAlī b. Muḥammad. These names have become sacred because they have been derived from the Name of Allah, the Exalted. And Allah’s blessings be on Muḥammad and his noble family who are sacred because of him.

545. Ithbāt al-waḥīyya: Al-ḥimyarī, from Muḥammad b. ʿĪsā, from al-Naḥr b. Suwayd, from Yaʿyī al-ʿĀlabī, from ʿAlī b. Abū ʿĀmza who said:

I was with Abū Baḥr and with us was a slave of (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar. He narrated to us that he heard, (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, say, “From us are twelve muḥaddaths. The Qʿim is the seventh after me.” Abū Baḥr stood up and declared, “I testify that I have been hearing Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, saying this since forty years ago.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 235, 242–308, 550, 551, 554–571, 608, 612, 641, 786–807, 859, 973, 974, 1216, and 1230.

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1. Kifayyat al-athar, chap. 40, pp. 301–303, no. 3; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 36, chap. 41, p. 360, no. 230, with the following chain of narrators: “Abi I-Mufadal al-Shaibani, from Muhammad b. `Ali b. Shadhan, from al-Hasan b. Muhammad b. `Abd al-Wahid, from al-Hasan b. al-Usayn al-`Uran, from Yahya b. Ya`li, from `Umar b. Musa, from Zaid.”
 2. Ithbat al-wa`iyya, p. 204; Ghaybat al-Nu`man, chap. 4, pp. 96–97; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 36, chap. 45, p. 395, no. 11.
 3. A mu`addath is a person whom the angels speak with. This does not mean that the person whom the angels speak with is a prophet. This can be inferred from verses 19:17–19 of the Holy Quran that mention the story of Mary, peace be on her, speaking with one of God’s angels—Ed.

Section Fourteen

The traditions that mention he is from the descendants of (Imam) Ja`far b. Muhammad al-`adiq, peace be on him

Comprised of 120 traditions

546. Kashf al-Ghumma: Ibn al-Khashshab, may Allah have mercy on him, from Abi I-Qasim `ahir b. Harun b. Musa al-`Alaw, from his father Harun, from his father Musa, who said:

My master (Imam) Ja`far b. Muhammad said, “The righteous successor (al-khalaf al-`ali) from my descendants is the Mahdi. His name is Muhammad and his epithet is Abi I-Qasim. He will emerge in the end of times and his mother will be called `aqil . . . He will have two names: Khalaf and Muhammad. He will emerge in the end of times. There will be a cloud above his head which will shade him from the sun and will follow him wherever he goes. It will call out in a fluent voice, ‘This is the Mahdi.’”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 235, 242–308, 550, 551, 554–571, 608, 612, 641, 770, 786–807, 859, 973, 974, 1216, and 1230

1. Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 475, citing al-Tarikh of ibn al-Khashshab. Apparently, it is the book he (authored) about the births and biographies of the Imams. His saying, “He will have two names . . .” is probably a complement to this tradition. It is also probable that they are ibn al-Khashshab’s words which he has derived from hadith books; Yanabi’ al-mawadda, chap. 94, p. 491.

Section Fifteen

The traditions that indicate he is the sixth descendant of (Imam) Ja`far b. Muḥammad al-Ḥadiq, peace be on him

Comprised of 112 traditions

547. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us `Abd al-Wahid b. Muḥammad al-`Aḥr al-Nasabī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Nasabī, from Ḥamdān b. Sulaimān, from Muḥammad b. Ismā`īl b. Bazz, from Sayyid al-Sarrāj who said:

I heard al-Sayyid ibn Muḥammad al-Ḥimyarī say, “I used to say things which were exaggerations (al-ghuluw) and I used to believe in the occultation of Muḥammad b. `Alī— ibn al-Ḥanafiyya—and I was deviated like this for a period of time. Then, Allah granted me a great favor through (Imam) al-Ḥadiq Ja`far b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, and saved me from the [hell]fire and guided me to the straight path.

After it was proved to me through the evidence that I saw from him that he is Allah’s proof upon me and upon all the people of his time and that he is the Imam whose obedience is obligatory and who must necessarily be used as a role-model, I asked him, ‘O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Things have been narrated to us from your forefathers, peace be on them, about the occultation and its correctness. Please inform me for whom will it occur?’

He responded, ‘The occultation will occur for my sixth descendant. He is the twelfth of the guiding Imams after the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. The first of them is Amr al-Mu`minīn `Alī b. Abī Ḥabīb and the last of them is the one who will rise with the truth. He is the remnant of Allah (baqiyyat Allah) on earth and the master of time (Ḥabīb al-Zamān). By Allah! If he remains occult for the period that Noah remained amongst his people [or on earth], he will not pass away until he appears. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.’”

Al-Sayyid says, “When I heard this from my master, al-Ḥadiq Ja`far b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, I repented to Allah, High be His Remembrance, at his hands and wrote a poem which starts like this:

When I saw the people being deviated in religion

By Allah’s [mercy] I followed [Imam] Ja`far, amongst those who were his followers²

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 235, 242–308, 558–571, 608, 612, 641, 786–807, 859, 973, 1216, and 1230.

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1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, pp. 33–34 (Author’s preface); Bishrāt al-Muḥāfab, p. 278, no. 10, and in it is an evident mistake; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 145, no. 16.
 2. Refer to Kamāl al-dīn, Bishrāt al-Mustafa, or al-Ghadīr, vol. 2, p. 246, for the entire poem.

Section Sixteen

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants (ʿulb) of Imam Abū Ibrāhīm Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, peace be on him

Comprised of 121 traditions

548. Ghaybat al-Shaykh1: Imam Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-ʿAdīq, peace be on him, said in a lengthy tradition:

Our master (ḥabīb) who is from the descendants (ʿulb) of this boy—and he pointed towards Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, peace be on them both—will appear and will fill [the earth] with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. He will take over the world.

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 113, 242–308, 550–571, 608, 612, 641, 770, 786–807, 859, 973, 1216, and 1230.

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1. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 42, no. 23; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 49, chap. 2, p. 26, no. 44; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 24, p. 241, no. 53.

Section Seventeen

The traditions that indicate he is the fifth descendant of the seventh Imam, Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, peace be on him

Comprised of 115 traditions

549. Al-Kāfī1: ʿAlī b. Muḥammad, from al-ʿAsan b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Jaʿfar, from his father, from his grandfather, from ʿAlī b. Jaʿfar, from his brother (Imam) Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, peace be on him, who said:

When the fifth from the descendants of the seventh disappears, fear Allah, fear Allah, concerning your

religion. [Take care] that no one takes it away from you. O my son! Inevitably, the master of this affair will have an occultation to the extent that even those who believed in this affair will no longer believe in it. Indeed, it is a test from Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, by which He will test His creation. Had your fathers and ancestors known a religion more correct than this, they would have certainly followed it.

I asked, “Who is the fifth from the descendants of the seventh?” He replied, ‘O my son! Your intellects (uqūl) become small regarding this and you will not be able to bear it. But if you live [to see him], you will find him soon enough.”

550. Kamāl al-dīn3: Narrated to us al-ʿusayn b. Aʿmad b. Idrīs, may Allah be satisfied with him, from his father, from Ayyūb b. Nuʿmān, from Muḥammad b. Sinʿān, from ʿafwān b. Mihrān, from (Imam) al-ʿadīq Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, who said: “He who believes in all the Imams but denies the Mahdī is like he who believes in all the prophets but denies the prophethood of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” He was asked, “O Son of the Messenger of Allah! Who is the Mahdī from your descendants?” He replied, “The fifth from the descendants of the seventh. His body will be hidden from you and will not have permission to say his name.”

He has recorded the same tradition from al-ʿusayn b. Aʿmad in another chapter.

He has narrated the same from `Alī b. Aʿmad b. Muḥammad al-Daqqīq, from Muḥammad b. Abū `Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Sahl b. Ziyād al-ʿadāmī, from al-ʿasan b. Maʿbūb, from `Abd al-`Azīz al-`Abdī, from `Abd-Allah b. Abū Yaʿfūr, from (Imam) al-ʿadīq, peace be on him, but with the difference: “Whoever acknowledges all the Imams from my forefathers and my descendants but denies the Mahdī from my descendants, is like the one who believes in all the prophets but denies the prophethood of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be upon him and his family.’ I asked, ‘My master! who is the Mahdī?’ . . . (to the end of the tradition).”

He has also recorded it from `Alī b. Aʿmad b. Muḥammad through his chain of narrators from ibn Abū Yaʿfūr.

551. Kamāl al-dīn4: Narrated to us Aʿmad b. Ziyād b. Jaʿfar al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Hāshim, from his father, from ʿalī b. al-Sindī, from Yūnus b. `Abd al-Raḥmān who narrates:

I went to Imam Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, peace be on him, and asked, “O son of Allah’s Messenger! Are you the one who will rise with the truth (al-qʿim bi-l-ḥaq)?” He replied, “I am the riser with the truth (al-qʿim bi-l-ḥaq) but the Qʿim who will purify the earth from the enemies of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and fill it with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness is the fifth from my descendants. He will have an occultation that will be prolonged because of fear for his life. During this period [of occultation], some people will apostate from religion while others will remain steadfast.”

He continued, “Salvation is for our followers; those who grasp our rope during the occultation of our

Q^u'im; those who are steadfast in loving us and dissociating from our enemies. They are from us and we are from them. They are satisfied with us as [their] Imams and we are satisfied with them as our Shias. Salvation is for them, salvation is for them. By Allah, they will be with us in our degree on the Day of Judgment.”

552. Muqta^{ab} al-^{athar}5: Mu^{hammad} b. Ja`far al-^{dam}, from his own handwriting—and ibn Gh^{lib} al-^{fi} has praised him—from A^{mad} b. `Ubaid b. N^{fi}, from al-^{usayn} b. `Ulwⁿ al-Kalb^q, from Hamm^m b. al-^{arth}, from Wahb b. Munabba, who said:

Moses—in the night of Divine Conversation (laylat al-khi^{rb})—looked at all the trees at ^r, while each and every stone and plant was speaking about the Prophet Mu^{hammad}, Allah’s blessings be upon him and his family, and the twelve heirs (wa^s) after him. Moses said, “My Lord! I do not see any creature that you have created but that it is speaking about Prophet Mu^{hammad}, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and his twelve heirs (wa^s). What is their position before You?”

He replied, “O son of `Imrⁿ! I created them before the creation of the lights. I placed them in My Store of Sanctity (khaz^{nat} quds^q), whilst they enjoy the gardens of My Will (yarta`^{na} f^q riya^qi mash^{at}) and inhale the fragrance of My Greatness (yatanassam^{na} r^qq jabar^t) and witness the realms of my kingdom, until I desired with My Will to implement My decree and destiny (qad[’] wa qadar^q). O son of `Imrⁿ! . . . I have decorated My Heavens with them. O son of `Imrⁿ! Fasten to their remembrance because surely, they are the store of My Knowledge, the chest of My Wisdom, and the mine of My Light.”

Al-^{usayn} b. `Ulwⁿ says, “I mentioned this (narration) to (Imam) Ja`far b. Mu^{hammad}, peace be on him, who said, ‘It is the truth. They are twelve from the family of Mu^{hammad}, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family: `Al^q, al-^{asan}, al-^{usayn}, `Al^q b. al-^{usayn}, Mu^{hammad} b. `Al^q, and whoever Allah wills.’ I said, ‘May I be sacrificed for you! I am asking you so that you may make the truth clear for me.’ He replied, ‘[After them], myself, then followed by this son of mine—and he pointed towards his son M^s—the fifth from his descendants will be hidden and it will not be permitted to mention him by his name.’”

553. Kam^l al-^d6: Narrated to us `Al^q b. A^{mad} b. Mu^{hammad} b. `Imrⁿ, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Mu^{hammad} b. Ab^q `Abd-Allah al-K^{ff}, from M^s b. `Imrⁿ al-Nakha`^q, from his paternal uncle al-^{usayn} b. Yaz^d al-Naufal^q, from al-^{asan} b. `Al^q b. Ab^q ^{amza}, from his father, from Ab^q Ba^{qr}, who heard [Imam] Ab^q `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, say: “The customs of the prophets (sunan al-anbiy^q) by which they went into occultation, will exactly occur for the Q^u'im from us Ahl al-Bait.”

Ab^q Ba^{qr} says: “I asked, ‘O son Allah’s Messenger! Who is the Q^u'im from you Ahl al-Bait?’ He replied, ‘O Ab^q Ba^{qr}! He is the fifth from the descendant of my son M^s. He is the son of the Master of the Maids. He will have an occultation in which the people of falsehood will become skeptical. Then, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will make him appear and Allah will conquer by his hand the Easts

and the Wests. The Spirit of Allah, Jesus son of Mary, will descend and pray behind him. The earth will be illuminated with the light of its Lord. There will not remain a single spot on earth where anyone other than Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, had been worshipped except that Allah will be worshipped there. The religion, in its entirety, will be only for Allah even if the polytheists detest it.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 242–308, 558–571, 608, 612, 786–807, 859, 973, 1216, and 1230.

1. Al-Kāfi, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 336, no. 2; Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, p. 154, no. 11; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 34, pp. 359–360, no. 1; `llal al-shar`ī, pp. 166–167, no. 128; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 104, Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 35, pp. 268–269, no. 1; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 7, p. 150, no. 1; lthbāt al-hudāt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 476, no. 164; l`īm al-war, chap. 2, sect. 1; Bishrat al-Islām, chap. 8, pp. 149–150, no. 1; lthbāt al-wā`iyya, p. 205.

2. Apparently, ‘son’ is used by the Imam to refer to all those people who were present there—Ed.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 333, no. 1; chap. 33, p. 338, no. 12; chap. 39, pp. 410–411, no. 4; and chap. 39, p. 411, no. 5; l`īm al-war, chap. 2, sect. 2; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 145, no. 10; lthbāt al-hudāt, vol. 3, chap. 32, pp. 469–470, no. 138.

4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 34, p. 361, no. 5; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 35, pp. 269–270, no. 2; l`īm al-war, chap. 2, sect. 2; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 7, p. 151, no. 6, with the difference that it says, “grasp our love” instead of “grasp our rope”; lthbāt al-hudāt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 477, sect. 5, no. 168.

5. Muqtab al-athar, p. 41, no. 24; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 26, p. 149, no. 24; lthbāt al-hudāt, vol. 1, chap. 9, p. 712, sect. 18, no. 161.

I say: We have not mentioned this tradition because Wahb has narrated it, rather, we have relied on it because it has been confirmed by Imam al-`ādiq, peace be on him.

6. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, pp. 345–346, no. 31; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 146, no. 14, with a slight difference; lthbāt al-hudāt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 473, sect. 5, no. 152, with a slight difference.

Section Eighteen

The traditions that indicate he is the fourth descendant of Imam Abū l-`asan `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḡ, peace be on him

Comprised of 111 traditions

554. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us A`mad b. Ziyād b. Ja`far al-Hamdān, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. lbrhām b. Hāshim, from `Alī b. Ma`bad, from al-`usayn b. Khālid, that (Imam) `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḡ, peace be on him, said: “He who does not restrain from sins (man l` wara`a lah), has no religion. He who does not practice dissimulation (al-taqiyya) does not have faith. Surely, the most honorable of you before Allah is the one who practices dissimulation (taqiyya) the most.”

He was asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Until when [should one practice dissimulation]?” He replied, “Until the appointed time and that is the day of the emergence of the Q’im from us Ahl al-Bait. Whoever abandons dissimulation before the emergence of our Q’im is not from us.” He was asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Who is the Q’im from you Ahl al-Bait?” He answered: “The fourth from my descendants; the son of the Master of the Maids. Through him, Allah will purify the earth from every injustice and sanctify it from all unfairness. He is the one about whose birth people will have doubts. He will have an occultation before his appearance. When he reappears, the earth will radiate with his light [or with the light of its Lord] and the scales of justice will be set up amongst the people.

Then no one will oppress another. He is the one whom the earth will be in his possession (yuḥawḥ lah al-arḥ). He will not have a shadow. He is the one for whom an announcer will call out from the skies—that will be heard by all the inhabitants of the earth—‘Know that Allah’s Proof (ḥujjat Allah) has reappeared at the House of Allah, so follow him because truth is with him and in him.’ This is [the meaning of] the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, ‘If We want, We will send upon them a sign from the sky, then their necks will bend before it in humility.’²”

555. Kamāl al-dīn³: Narrated to us Ahmad b. Ziyād Ja`far al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm, from his father, from al-Rayyān b. al-ḥalt who said:

I asked (Imam) al-Riḍā, peace be on him, “Are you the master (ḥakīm) of this affair?” He replied, “I am the master of this affair but I am certainly not the one who will fill it [i.e. the earth] with justice just as it will be filled with injustice. How can I be he while you are seeing the weakness of my body and the Q’im is the one who reappears and he will be old in age but young in appearance. His body will be so strong that if he stretches his hand towards the greatest tree on earth, he will uproot it and if he shouts between the mountains, their boulders will fall down. He will have with him the staff of Moses and the ring of Solomon. He is the fourth from my descendants. Allah will hide him in His veils as long as He wishes. Then, He will make him appear and [through him] he will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.”

556. Kamāl al-dīn⁴: Narrated to us Ahmad b. Ziyād b. Ja`far al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm, from his father, from `Abd al-Salām b. ḥalī al-Harawī, from Di`bil b. `Alī al-Khuz`ī who said:

I recited the poem I had composed for my master, (Imam) `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā, peace be on him, which starts with the following line:

The schools for learning [Qurānic] verses have become empty of recitations

The places of revelation have been abandoned

When I reached to the following section:

The reappearance of an Imam is inevitable

He will rise in the Name of Allah and with His blessings

He will separate for us the truth from the falsehood

And he will reward as well as punish

(Imam) al-Riḥānī, peace be on him, started crying violently, then raised his head towards me and said, “O Khuzʿī! The Holy Spirit (Rūḥ al-Qudus) spoke these two lines through your tongue. Do you know who this Imam is and when he will rise?” I replied, “No, my master, but I have heard of the emergence of an Imam from amongst you who will purify the earth from corruption and fill it with justice [just as it will be filled with injustice].”

He answered, “O Diʿbil! The Imam after me is my son Muḥammad, after Muḥammad, his son ʿAlī, after ʿAlī his son al-Ḥasan, and after al-Ḥasan, his son al-Ḥujjat al-Qʿim. He is the awaited one during his occultation and the obeyed one when he appears. If only one day remains from the [end of the] world, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will prolong that day until he emerges and fills it with justice, just as it will be filled with injustice. As for the [question of] when?

Then, [answering this question] is determining the time [of his question]. My father has narrated to me from his father, from his forefathers, peace be on them, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, was asked, ‘O Messenger of Allah! When will the Qʿim from your seed (al-dhurriya) emerge?’ He replied, ‘His example is like that of the Hour [i.e. Judgment day] about which [the Holy Quran says], “No one can reveal its time except Him. It is heavy in the skies and the earth. It will not come to you but suddenly.” 5”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 242–308, 558–571, 608, 641, 786–807, 859, 973, and 1230

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 35, pp. 371–372, no. 5; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 36, pp. 274–275, no. 1; Farʿid al-simʿain, chap. 61, pp. 336–337, no. 590; Yanʿabīʿ al-mawadda, chap. 78, p. 448, and chap. 94, p. 489; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 28, pp. 322–325, no. 29; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, pp. 477–478, sect. 5, no. 172; lʿilm al-warā, chap. 2, sect. 2.

2. Quran 26:4.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 35, p. 376, no. 7; lʿilm al-warā, chap. 2, sect. 2; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 542, with the difference that he has added this to its end: “As if I am seeing them while they are extremely hopeless. Then, a call will be heard which will be heard from far like it is heard from near. It will be a mercy for the worlds and a punishment for the unbelievers.” Apparently, this is a part of another tradition altogether— that being the third tradition from the aforementioned chapter of Kamāl al-dīn; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 478, no. 173.

4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 35, pp. 372–373, no. 6; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 36, pp. 275–277, no. 2; Farʿid al-simʿain, vol. 2, pp. 337–338, no. 191; al-Itḥāf bi ʿubb al-ashraf, chap. 5, p. 62; Yanʿabīʿ al-mawadda, chap. 80, p. 454; ʿUyūn akhbār al-Riḥānī, vol. 2, pp. 269–270, no. 35; lʿilm al-warā, chap. 7, sect. 4; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 8, p. 154, no. 4.

Section Nineteen

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants of Imam Muḥammad b. `Alī, al-Riḍā, peace be on him

Comprised of 109 traditions

557. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Mūsā al-Daqqīq, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Ḥarūn al-Ḥafīf, from Abū Turayb `Abd-Allah b. Mūsā al-Riyyānī, from `Abd al-`Aḥm b. `Abd-Allah b. `Alī b. al-Ḥasan b. Zaid b. al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on him, who said:

I went to see my master (Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be upon them, with the intention of asking him about the Qa'im [and to see] if he is the Mahdī or not? He initiated the conversation [before I asked the question] and said, "O Abū I-Qasim! Surely the Qa'im from us is the Mahdī who must be awaited during his occultation and obeyed when he reappears."

He is my third descendant. I swear by the One Who sent Muḥammad with prophethood and distinguished us with leadership (imāma), if nothing remains from this world except one day, Allah will certainly prolong that day until he emerges in it and fills the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. Surely Allah, Blessed and High be He, will set right his affairs in one night just as He set right the affairs of Moses—the one he spoke with (kalīmuhū)—when he went to bring fire for his family but returned while he was a Prophet." Then he said, "The best deed of our Shias is to wait for relief (intiḥār al-faraj)."

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 242–308, 558–571, 608, 641, 786–807, 859, 973, and 1230.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, p. 377, no. 1; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 37, pp. 280–281, no. 1; l'Imam al-warī, sect. 2, chap. 2; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 27, sect. 2, p. 386, no. 19; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 9, p. 156, no. 1.

Section Twenty

The traditions that indicate he is from the descendants of Imam Abū l-ʿasan `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḍī, peace be on him

Comprised of 107 traditions

558. Kamāl al-dīn1: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Ziyād Jaʿfar al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm, from `Abd-Allah b. Aḥmad al-Mauḥilī, from al-ʿaqr b. Abū Dulaf, from (Imam) `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Riḍī, peace be on him, who said: “The Imam after me is al-ʿasan, my son, and after al-ʿasan will be his son, the Qaʿim, who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.”

559. Kamāl al-dīn2: Narrated to us `Abd al-Wahīd b. Muḥammad b. al-ʿAbdūs al-ʿAḥḥār, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Nāsībī, from ʿamdān b. Sulaimān, from al-ʿaqr b. Abū Dulaf, who said:

I heard (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Riḍī, peace be on him, say, “The Imam after me is my son `Alī. His affair is my affair (amruḥī amrī), his speech is my speech, and his obedience is my obedience. The Imam after him will be his son al-ʿasan. His affair is the affair of his father, his speech is the speech of his father, and his obedience is the obedience of his father.”

Then, he became silent. I asked him, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Who is the Imam after al-ʿasan?” [On hearing this], he started weeping violently and said, “Verily, after al-ʿasan will be his son who will rise with the truth; the awaited one (al-muntaḥar).” I asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Why is he called the one who will rise (al-Qaʿim)?” He answered, “Because he will rise after he is no longer remembered and after most of those who had believed in his Imamate will no longer believe in him.”

I enquired, “Why is he called the awaited one (al-muntaḥar)?” He replied, “Because he will be in an occultation which will continue for many days and long periods. The purified ones (al-mukhlīḥīn) will wait for his reappearance, the skeptics will renounce him, and the deniers will make fun when he is mentioned. Those who determine the time [of his reappearance] will be liars, those who hasten concerning his reappearance will perish, and only those who submit will be saved.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 242–308, 558–571, 608, 641, 786–807, 859, and 1230.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 37, p. 383, no. 10; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 38, pp. 292, no. 4; lʿilm al-warī, chap. 2, sect. 2; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 30, sect. 1, p. 394, no. 17; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 50, sect. 2, p. 239, no. 4.

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 36, p. 378, no. 3; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 37, pp. 283–284, no. 3; lʿilm al-warī, chap. 2, sect.

Section Twenty-One

The traditions that indicate he is the Successor of the Successor of (Imam) Abū I-ʿāsan and the son of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ʿāsan, peace be on them

Comprised of 107 traditions

560. Al-Kāfī 1: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from the one whom he mentioned, from Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-`Alawī, from Dawūd b. al-Qāsim who said:

I heard Imam Abū I-ʿāsan, peace be on him, say, “My successor will be al-ʿāsan. What will be your condition regarding the successor of my successor?” I enquired, “May I be sacrificed for you! Why?” He replied, “Because you cannot see him and you are not allowed to mention his name.” I asked again, “Then how will we mention him?” He replied, “Say: The proof from the family of Muḥammad (al-ʿujja min ʿl Muḥammad), peace be on them.”

561. Kamāl al-dīn 2: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yaʿyū al-`Aḥḥār, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Saʿd b. `Abd-Allah, from Mūsā b. Jaʿfar b. Wahb al-Baghdadi, from (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ʿāsan b. `Alī, peace be on him, who said:

[I am seeing the time] that you are disputing about my successor after me. Surely, the one who acknowledges the Imams after the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, but denies my son, is like he who acknowledges all the Prophets of Allah and His Messengers but denies the prophethood of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be upon him and his family.

He who denies the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, is like he who denies all the Prophets of Allah; because the obedience of the last of us is like the obedience of the first of us and the denier of the last of us is like the denier of the first of us. My son will surely have an occultation in which the people will become doubtful except the ones whom Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has protected.

562. Kamāl al-dīn 3: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Abū `Alī b. Hammām, from Muḥammad b. Uthmān al-`Amrī, may Allah sanctify his soul, from his father who said:

Imam Abū Muḥammad al-ʿāsan b. `Alī, peace be on him, was questioned—while I was there—about a tradition narrated from his forefathers, peace be on them, that: The earth cannot be empty of Allah’s

Proof (ʿUjja) upon His creatures until the Day of Judgment and that he who dies without knowing the Imam of his time, has died the death of ignorance (al-jahiliyya). The (Imam) replied, “Surely, this tradition is true just as daylight which is true.”

He was asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Who is the Proof and Imam after you?” He replied, “My son Muhammad. He is the Imam and the Proof after me. Whoever dies without knowing him, will die the death of ignorance. Know that he will have an occultation in which the ignorant will be baffled, the skeptics will perish, and those who determine the time of his appearance will be liars. Then, he will emerge; as if I am seeing white flags waving over his head in the city of Najaf, near Karfa.”

563. Yanabʿ al-mawadda: In al-Manʿiqib from Wathila b. al-Asqaʿ b. Qarkhib, from Jabir b. ʿAbd-Allah al-Ansari (in a tradition wherein he has mentioned the coming of Jandal b. Jundat b. Jubair—the Jew—to the Messenger of Allah, and him believing in Allah and His Messenger and the questions he asked the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and the answers he gave):

Jandal said, “Last night, I dreamt of Moses, son of ʿImran, peace be on him, who said, ‘O Jandal! Accept Islam at the hands of Muhammad, the seal of the prophets and fasten to the heirs after him.’ I said, ‘I accepted Islam, all praise is for Allah. I have accepted Islam and He has guided me through you.’” Jandal continued, “O Messenger of Allah! Inform me of the heirs after you so that I can fasten to them.” He replied, “My successors are twelve.”

Jandal said, “This is exactly what we saw in the Torah. O Messenger of Allah! Name them for me.” He said, “The first of them is ʿAli who is the master of the heirs and the father of the Imams. Then, his two sons, al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn. Fasten to them and do not allow the ignorance of the ignorant to deceive you. When ʿAli b. al-ʿusayn—the Ornament of Worshippers (Zain al-ʿabidin)—is born, Allah will bring your life to an end. Your last provision from this world will be some milk that you will drink.” Jandal replied, “We found in the Torah and in the books of the prophets, peace be upon them, (the names of) ʿIsha, Shabbar, and Shabar. These are the names of ʿAli, al-ʿasan, and al-ʿusayn. Who are [the heirs] after al-ʿusayn and what are their names?”

He said, “When the time of al-ʿusayn comes to an end, the Imam will be his son ʿAli. He will have the title Zain al-ʿabidin. After him will be his son, Muhammad, who will bear the title of al-Baqir (the Splitter), followed by his son, al-Jaʿfar, who will be called al-ʿadiq (the Truthful). He will be followed by his son Mʿsʿ, who will be addressed as al-Kʿim (the Restrainer of Anger). After him will be his son al-Riʿ (the Satisfied) followed by his son Muhammad who will be called al-Taq (the Pious) and al-Zak (the Pure). After him will be his son ʿAli who will bear the titles of al-Naq and al-Hʿd (the guide) followed by his son al-ʿasan who will be called al-ʿAskar.

Then, his son Muhammad, who will be called al-Mahd, al-Qʿim, and al-ʿujja. He will go in occultation then he will emerge. When he emerges, he will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. Salvation is for those who have patience during his occultation.

Salvation is for those who are steadfast on their love. They are those whom Allah has described in His Book and said, 'A guide for the pious; those who believe in the unseen.'⁵

He has also said, 'They are the party of Allah; surely the party of Allah are the victorious.'⁶ Jandal said, "All praise is for Allah Who has made me successful in knowing them." [Jandal] lived on until Imam `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn was born. He went to Ḥif where he fell ill. He drank some milk and said, "The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be upon him and his family, informed me that my last provision in this world would be a drink of milk." He then passed away and was buried at Ḥif in a place known as al-Kuzra.

564. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us `Alī b. `Abd-Allah al-Warrāq, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. Sa`d al-Ash`arī who said:

I went to see (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, with the intention of asking him about his successor. Before I could ask he said, "O Aḥmad b. Isḥāq! Surely Allah, Blessed and High be He, has not left the earth empty of His Proof upon His creatures ever since He created Adam, peace be on him, and [He will not leave it empty of a proof] until the Hour is established. Through him, He repels the calamities from the inhabitants of the earth, through him He causes the rains to fall, and through him He brings out the blessings of the earth."

I asked him, "O Son of Allah's Messenger! Who is the Imam and the Caliph after you?" [On hearing this], the Imam stood up quickly and went inside the house. He returned, while on his shoulder was a boy whose face was [shining] like the full moon, and whose age was about three years. He said, "O Aḥmad b. Isḥāq! Was it not for your reverence before Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and his proofs, I would not have shown my son to you. His name and epithet are the same as that of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. He is the one who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. His example in this nation is like that of Khidr, peace be on him; and his example is like that of Dhī I-Qarnain.

By Allah! He will certainly go in an occultation in which no one will be saved from destruction except for those whom Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has made steadfast in the belief of his Imamate and made them successful in praying for the hastening of his relief (bi-ta`jīl farajih)." I asked, "O Master! Is there a sign by which my heart will be assured?" Suddenly the young boy spoke in fluent Arabic: "I am the remnant of Allah on His earth and the one who will take revenge on His enemies. Don't seek further evidence after you have witnessed with your eyes, O Aḥmad b. Isḥāq."

I came out happily and gleefully. The next day I returned to him and said, "O Son of Allah's Messenger! Indeed, I have become greatly joyful because of the great favor you bestowed upon me. What is the custom in him from Khidr and Dhī I-Qarnain?" He replied, "Prolonged occultation, O Aḥmad." I asked, "O Son of Allah's Messenger! Will his occultation really be prolonged?"

He replied, "Yes, by my Lord! His occultation will be prolonged to such an extent that most of those who believe in this affair will reject it. No one will remain [on this affair] except those from whom Allah, Mighty

and Majestic be He, has taken the covenant of our Guardianship, written belief in their heart, and assisted them with a Spirit from Himself. O Ahmad b. Isma'iq! This is an affair from the affairs of Allah, a secret from His secrets, and a concealed [news] from His concealed [news]. Take what I have given you and conceal it. Be grateful and tomorrow, you will be with us in the highest positions (illayn).”

565. Tarkh maw'id Ahl al-Bait (by ibn al-Khashshab): Narrated to us 'adaqat b. M's, from his father, from (Imam) al-Ri, peace be on him, that, “The Righteous Successor (al-khalaf al-ili) is the son of Ab Muammad al-asan b. `Al. He is the Master of the Time and he is the Mahd.”

566. Al-Kf: `Al b. Muammad, from Muammad b. `Al b. Bil: “A messenger from (Imam) Ab Muammad, peace be on him, came to me—two years before he passed away—to inform me about his successor after him; then, again, a messenger came to me three days before his death to inform me about his successor after him.”

567. Al-Khar'ij: `Al b. Ibrh'm b. H'shim, from his father, from `s b. Mas who said: “(Imam) al-asan al-`Askar, peace be on him, came to see us while we were imprisoned—and I was aware of his position [of Imamate]. He said to me, ‘You are sixty-five years one month and two days old.’ I had a prayer book with me in which my birth-date was recorded. I looked at it and it was exactly as he had said. He asked, ‘Do you have a son?’ I replied in the negative. He invoked Allah, ‘O Allah! Grant him a son who will be a support for him. How good a support is a son!’ Then, he recited:

Whoever has a support will achieve his rights

Humble is he who does not have any support

I asked, ‘Do you have a son?’ He replied, ‘Yes, by Allah! Soon I will have a son who will fill the earth with fairness and justice, but as of now, no.’

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 242–308, 558, 559, 568–571, 608, 641, 786–807, 859, and 1230.

1. Al-Kf, vol. 1, chap. 133, p. 328, no. 13, and chap. 136, pp. 332–33, no. 1; Kam al-d'n, vol. 2, chap. 37, p. 381, no. 5. He said: “Narrated to us Muammad b. al-asan, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa'd b. `Abd-Allah, from Ab Ja'far Muammad b. Ahmad al-`Alaw, from Ab H'shim D'w'd b. al-Q'sim al-Ja'far, from Ab I-asan al-`Askar, peace be on him, who said, ‘My successor after me will be my son al-asan . . . (to the end)’” with a minor difference; `llal al-shar'i, chap. 179, p. 254, no. 5; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 202, no. 169, the same as Kam al-d'n; Kif'iyat al-athar, chap. 38, pp. 288–289, no. 2; al-Irsh'd, p. 376; l'lm al-war, chap. 2, sect. 2; lthb't al-hud't, vol. 3, chap. 30, sect. 1, p. 393, no. 15; al-ir' al-mustaq'm, vol. 2, chap. 10, p. 170, and chap. 11, sect. 3, p. 231; Bi'r al-anw'r, vol. 50, chap. 2, p. 240, no. 5, and vol. 51, chap. 3, p. 31, no. 2, and chap. 9, pp. 158–159, no. 1; lthb't al-wa'iyya, p. 186; Taqr'b al-ma'rif, pp. 184 & 192; Mir't al-`uq'l, vol. 3, p. 393; Rau'at al-w'i'iq'n, p. 262; al-W'f, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 403, no. 903–1; Mustadrak al-was'il, vol. 12, p. 281, no. 5; `Uy'n al-mu`jiz't, p. 141; Kashf al-ghumma, p. 406; al-Was'il, vol. 16, chap. 33, p. 239, no. 21458.

2. Kam al-d'n, vol. 2, chap. 38, p. 409, no. 8; Kif'iyat al-athar, chap. 39, pp. 295–296, no. 5; Bi'r al-anw'r, vol. 51,

chap. 9, p. 160, no. 6; al-ʿirṣ al-mustaqīm, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 2, p. 232; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 482, no. 188.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 38, p. 409, no. 9; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 39, p. 296, no. 6; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 9, p. 160, no. 7; al-ʿirṣ al-mustaqīm, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 2, p. 232; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 482, no. 189.

4. Yanḥabʿ al-mawadda, chap. 76, pp. 442–443. Ibn Qarkhāb which has been mentioned in it is probably incorrect and was originally Abū Qarḥāfa which is the epithet of Wathīla; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 41, pp. 304–306, no. 144; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 7, pp. 56–61, no. 2.

I say: In the copy of Kifāyat al-athar that is available to us, there are some parts missing in the tradition although they don't affect the overall concept. Al-Majlisī has explained it as a mistake made by the scribe. This justification does not seem appropriate because the version in Yanḥabʿ does not have this problem.

Tabyḥn al-maʿajja ilā ta'yḥn al-ʿujja, pp. 261–264;

In al-Maʿajja, he has recorded a part under the tradition on p. 17, but he has narrated it from ibn Bābawayh. I could not find it in any of ibn Bābawayh's books that are available to us. Maybe, he had thought that Kifāyat al-athar was authored by al-ʿadq.

There is an error in Yanḥabʿ regarding the verse, "They are the party of Allah, know that surely the party of Allah are the successful ones." It has been recorded correctly in Kifāyat al-athar—which is one of the primary references of this tradition that is available to us—and also in Biḥār al-anwār and other sources. Thus, the tradition should be corrected in accordance with these sources. In Kifāyat al-athar, Biḥār al-anwār, and all other books that we referred to except Yanḥabʿ, it has been recorded as Jundab (not Jandal) b. Junḍa who was a Jew from Khaibar. Also in al-Kifāya and the other books—except al-Yanḥabʿ—it has been explicitly mentioned that it is prohibited to say his name: "Then, their Imam will become concealed from them. He asked, 'O Messenger of Allah! Is he al-ʿasan?' He replied, 'No, it is his son, al-ʿujja.' He questioned, 'O Messenger of Allah! What is his name?' He answered, 'His name should not be mentioned until Allah makes him appear . . .'" It also has other additions.

5. Quran 2:4–5.

6. Quran 5:56.

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 38, pp. 384–385, no. 1; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, chap. 2, sect. 3, p. 526, no. 1; Yanḥabʿ al-mawadda, chap. 81, p. 458; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 23–24, no. 16; l'Im al-warḥ, chap. 2, sect. 3; al-ʿirṣ al-mustaqīm, vol. 2, sect. 3, chap. 11, pp. 231–232; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, pp. 479–480, no. 180.

8. Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 475; Yanḥabʿ al-mawadda, p. 491, chap. 94.

9. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, chap. 134, p. 328, no. 1; al-Wḥf, vol. 2, chap. 42, pp. 391–392, no. 880–1; Mir'at al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, chap. 134, p. 1, no. 1; al-Irshād, p. 375; l'Im al-warḥ, chap. 2, sect. 3.

10. Al-Kharḥij, chap. 13, p. 72, no. 17; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 503; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 50, chap. 37, pp. 275–276, no. 48, and vol. 51, chap. 10, p. 162, no. 15; Was'īl al-Sha'a, vol. 21, chap. 3, pp. 360–361, no. 27302; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 2, chap. 31, p. 422, no. 78. In all references except Kashf al-ghumma, "ʿs b. ʿabʿ" has been recorded instead of "ʿs b. Masʿ". In Kashf al-ghumma, "ʿs b. Shaj" has been used.

Section Twenty-Two

The traditions that indicate his father's name is al-ʿasan, peace be on him

Comprised of 108 traditions

568. Muqtaḥab al-athar1: Narrated to me the reliable Shaykh Abū I-ʿusayn `Abd al-ʿamad b.

ʿAlī— and he showed it to me from his own book and his history in 285 AH— what he had heard from ʿUbaid b. Kathīr Abī I-Saʿd al-ʿamīrī, from Nāṣir b. Darrāj, from Yaʿyūy, from al-Aʿmash, from Zaid b. Wahb, from b. Abī Juʿaifa al-Siwʿī, from Sawʿat b. ʿamīr and al-ʿarth b. ʿAbd-Allah al-Harith al-Hamdānī and al-ʿarth b. Sharīb, whom all informed us that “they were with Imam ʿAlī b. Abī Ṭalīb, peace be on him, and whenever his son, al-ʿasan, peace be on him, entered, he would say, ‘Welcome, O Son of Allah’s Messenger!’ And whenever Imam al-ʿusayn, peace be on him, entered, he would say, ‘May my father and my mother be sacrificed for you, O father of the son of the best of the maids!’”

He was asked, ‘O Amīr al-Muʾminīn! Why do you address al-ʿasan and al-ʿusayn in this manner? And who is the son of the best of the maids?’ He replied, ‘He is the one who will be absent, driven away, and the wanderer. He is Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Mūsā b. Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī, the son of this ʿusayn.’ He then placed his hand on (Imam) al-ʿusayn’s head.”

569. Kamāl al-dīn²: Narrated to us ʿAlī b. Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Daqqīq, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Abī ʿAbd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Mūsā b. ʿImrān al-Nakhaʿī, from his (paternal) uncle al-ʿusayn b. Yazīd al-Naufalī, from al-Mufaḥḥal b. ʿUmar who said:

I went to see my master (Imam) Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, and asked, “Master! I wish you would inform us about your successor!” He replied, “O Mufaḥḥal! The Imam after me is my son Mūsā and the successor (al-khalaf)— who is wished for and awaited—is M-U-ʿ-A-M-M-A-D the son of al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Mūsā, peace be on them.”

570. Al-Manṣūqib³: (Imam) Abī Muḥammad al-ʿasan al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, wrote to Abī I-ʿasan ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn b. Bābawayh al-Qummī:

I have fastened to the rope of Allah. In the Name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful and all Praise is for Allah the Lord of the worlds. The end belongs to the pious, the Paradise is for the monotheists, and the fire is for the atheists. There is no enmity except against the oppressors. There is no god except Allah, the Best of Creators. Blessings be on the best of His creatures, Muḥammad, and his pure progeny. (He said in another part,) Have patience and await the relief (al-faraj).

Our Shias will always be in a state of grief until my son reappears about whom the Holy Prophet has given glad-tidings about. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. Be patient, O my Shaykh, O Abī I-ʿasan ʿAlī, and order all my followers to have patience. Surely the earth is for Allah and He will make whomsoever He wishes from amongst His servants to inherit it and the end belongs to the pious. Peace be on you and on all our Shias, and the Mercy of Allah and His blessings and may Allah’s blessings be on Muḥammad and his family.

571. Ithbāt al-waḥīyya⁴: Abī I-ʿasan Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar al-ʿAsadī from Aḥmad b. Ibrāhīm who said:

I went to see Khadīja, the daughter of Imam Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Rīḍī, peace be on him, and the sister of Imam ʿAlī b. Muḥammad al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, in the year 265 AH at Medina. I spoke

to her from behind a curtain and asked her about her religion. She named her Imams then said, “The pure (al-zakī) successor the son of al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī, my brother.”

I said, “May I be sacrificed for you! Have you actually seen him or is your belief based merely on narration?” She replied, “A narration from my nephew [the son of my brother, Abū Muḥammad] who wrote to his mother about him.” I asked again, “Where is the son?” She replied, “He is concealed.” I said, “In whom should the Shias seek refuge?” She answered, “In his grandmother, the mother of Abū Muḥammad.” I asked, “Whose example has he followed that he has made a woman the executor of his will?”

She responded, “He has followed (Imam) al-ʿusayn b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, who had apparently willed to his sister Zainab bint ʿAlī. Thus, in those times, whatever knowledge (Imam) ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn spoke of was attributed to his aunt, Zainab bint ʿAlī, peace be on her, in order to conceal (Imam) ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn and as a protection to ensure his survival.” She then said, “Surely you are a group who are companions of traditions, narrators, and reliable persons. Has it not been narrated to you that the inheritance of the ninth descendant of (Imam) al-ʿusayn will be divided while he will still be alive and surviving . . .”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the aforementioned concept: 242–308, 558–567, 608, 641, 786–807, 859, 1166, and 123

1. Muqtaḍab al-athar, p. 31; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, p. 110, no. 4

It will become apparent in this chapter and others from this book that one should not pay attention to what has been narrated by Abū Dāwūd from Zayda, from ʿAḥim, from Zirr, from ʿAbd-Allah, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “If there remains only one day to the end of the world, Allah will prolong that day until Allah sends a person from me, or from my Ahl al-Bait; his name will be my name and his father’s name will be my father’s name. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.” Because abundant and mutawātir traditions prove that his father’s name is al-ʿasan. Al-Kanji has stated in al-Bayʿn that al-Tirmidhī has recorded the tradition without the sentence, “his father’s name is my father’s name” and that Imam Aḥmad, with all his mastery and skill, has recorded this tradition in al-Musnad and numerous places with only the phrase, “his name is my name.” He continues, “Al-ʿaḥfi Abū Nuʿaim has collected the various chains of this tradition from a large number of people in Manḥqib al-Mahdī, all of them reporting from ʿAḥim b. Abū l-Najīd, from Zirr, from ʿAbd-Allah, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. Amongst these are: Sufyān b. ʿUyayna through different chains of narrators; Fīr b. Khalīfa through different chains of narrators; al-Aʿmash through different chains of narrators; Abū Isḥāq Sulaymān b. Fāris al-Shaibānī through different chains of narrators; ʿafī b. ʿUmar; Sufyān al-Thaurī through different chains of narrators; Shuʿba through different chains of narrators; Wasi b. al-ʿarīth; Yazīd b. Muʿwiya Abū Shaiba from two different chains; Sulaymān b. Qarm through different chains of narrators; Jaʿfar al-Aʿmar, Qays b. Rabʿ, Sulaymān b. Qarm, and Asbāḥ whom he has put in a single chain; Salīm b. Abū l-Mundhir; Abū Shihāb Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Kinānī through different chains of narrators; ʿAmr b. ʿUbaid al-Tanfūsī through different chains of narrators; Abū Bakr b. ʿAyyūsh through different chains of narrators; Abū l-ʿajjīf Dāwūd b. Abū al-ʿAuf through different chains of narrators; Uthmān b. Shubruma through different chains of narrators; ʿAbd al-Malik b. Abū l-Uyayna; Muḥammad b. ʿAyyūsh from ʿAmr al-ʿamīrī through different chains of narrators; He has mentioned a chain: “Narrated to us Abū Ghassān from Qays”; ʿAmr b. Qays al-Mulḥī; ʿAmmār b. Zurāiq; ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿakḥm b. Jubair al-Asadī; ʿAmr b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Bashīr; Abū l-

Aḥwāḥ; Sa'd b. Ḥasan, the son of Thā'labā' s sister; Ma'ḥdīh b. Hishām, who says: "Narrated to me my father from `Aḥim"; Yūsuf b. Yūnus; Ghālib b. Uthmān; Ḥamzat al-Zayyāt; Shaibān; al-Ḥakam b. Hishām; It has been narrated from others than `Aḥim from Zirr like from `Amr b. Murra, from Zirr. All of the above have narrated 'his name is my name' except `Ubaid-Allah b. Mūsā, from Zayda, from `Aḥim who said: 'his father's name is my father's name.' No intelligent and wise person will have doubts that the addition: 'his father's name is my father's name' has no basis because of the consensus of the aforementioned leaders (of traditions) on its contrary.

The author of Kashf al-ghumma writes: "Our Shia companions deem this tradition to be incorrect because of what has been proved to them about his name and his father's name. The majority [i.e. the Sunnis] have recorded that Zayda [the narrator of this tradition] used to add parts to narrations, thus, we have to conclude that this part was one of his additions. This [point] reconciles all the opinions and traditions."

This was a brief discussion about the chain of narrators. With this said, there remains no reason for relying on Zayda's narrations for he is unquestionably unreliable. In fact, one can become sure that Zayda or other narrators of this tradition have deliberately added this sentence to it. It is very likely that this addition was the work of politicians and rulers, because narrations played an extremely important role in political success and the formation of governments in the early (Islamic) era. Hence, they ordered [scholars] to fabricate traditions and used these as a medium to attract the hearts of the people for strengthening their government. Proof of this lies in the actions of Mu'awiya and his punishments on those who narrated the excellences and merits of (Amr al-Mu'min) `Alī, peace be on him, and his rewards for those who fabricated traditions meant to defame `Alī and the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, or [his rewards] for those [fabricated traditions which] praised Uthmān and others from the Umayyads. Therefore, Abū Huraira and his kind—from the people of this world and the worshippers of money—were hired to forge traditions. The same pattern was followed in the initial stages of the rule of the Abbasids, during the formation of their government, and their uprising against the Umayyads. Fabricators forged traditions by their order or to gain stature before them, in order to reinforce their corrupt beliefs, views, and political theories, and to mend their evil deeds and strengthen their position amongst the public. Amongst the religious beliefs used by the Abbasids to form their government, were such traditions that gave glad-tidings about the Mahdī, peace be on him. Thus, it is not unlikely that the motive for adding this statement was to strengthen the government of Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Manṣūr al-Abbāsī—who had the title of al-Mahdī—or to support the claim of Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. al-Ḥasan, who was known as al-Nafs al-Zakiyya. I believe that this probability is quite strong. Some historians (like the author of al-Fakhr fī l-`adab al-sultāniyya wa l-duwal al-Islāmiyya) have recorded that `Abd-Allah al-Maḥdī proved to some groups of people that his son Muḥammad is the Mahdī that glad tidings have been given about. He used to narrate the addition "his father's name is my father's name" and Imam al-Ḥadiq, peace be on him, told his father, `Abd-Allah al-Maḥdī, that his son would not reach that position. Anyway, this addition has no validity especially when it is compared with mutawātir and definite traditions which have been recorded in the books of the companions [i.e. scholars]. Moreover, they have even mentioned reasons to reconcile between this addition and the recorded traditions, which are as follows:

(1) What is found in al-Kanj al-Shafi's al-Bayān is probably a copyist's error. He, Allah's blessings be upon him and his family, had actually stated: "The name of his father is the name of my son" and had referred to al-Ḥasan, peace be on him. Because it is well known that he used to refer to al-Ḥasan as 'my son' and to him and al-Ḥusayn, peace be on them, as 'my two sons.' Thus, the copyist probably made a mistake while writing and wrote 'my son (ibnī)' instead of 'my father (abī).' This probability is further reinforced by the tradition recorded in Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, p. 67.

(2) What has been stated by Kamāl al-dīn Muḥammad b. Ḥalīfa al-Shafi in Maḥlib al-Su'āl fī manḥiqib al-Rasūl: "Before mentioning the detailed reply we must explain two points on which our purposed will be based on:

(a) It is common in the Arabic language to use the word 'father' to refer to an earlier ancestor. The Holy Quran has also talked in this manner. He, the Exalted, says, 'The religion of your father Ibrāhīm' (Quran 22:78). He, the Exalted, also quotes Yūsuf as saying: 'and I followed the religion of my fathers Ibrāhīm and Ismā'īl and Isḥāq' (Quran 12:38). The Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has also used similar language in the tradition of ascension (mi'rāj) when he recounted: 'I said, "Who is he?" He replied, "Your father, Ibrāhīm."' So, it is well known that the word 'father' is used to refer to ancestors even if they are from many generations ago.

(b) The word 'name' can be used to refer to either an epithet or an attribute. Masters of literature (al-fuṣṣṣā) have used it extensively and their tongues have moved [to speak like this]. Even the two Imams—al-Bukhārī and Muslim—have

recorded this [concept] in their books where they narrated from Sahl b. Sa'd al-S'idi that "Al used to say that the messenger of Allah gave him the name Ab Tur and there was no name dearer to him than that." Thus, the word 'name' is used to refer to an epithet. This is a common and famous practice amongst the Arabs.

Now that the two points we wanted to mention have been clarified, then know—may Allah assist you with His support—that the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, had two grandsons: Ab Muhammad al-Hasan and Ab 'Abd-Allah al-Usayn. Since the last Ujja, the righteous successor, Muhammad, is from the descendants of Ab 'Abd-Allah al-Usayn and not Ab Muhammad al-Hasan, and since the epithet of al-Usayn, peace be on him, was Ab 'Abd-Allah, therefore the Prophet used the word 'name' to refer to 'epithet.' Also, the word 'father' is used to refer to 'ancestor' so it is as if he said: 'His name is my name. He is Muhammad and I am Muhammad. And the epithet of his ancestor is the name of my father because he is Ab 'Abd-Allah and my father is 'Abd-Allah.' These brief words, comprehensively describe his attributes and announce that he is from the descendants of Ab 'Abd-Allah al-Usayn in the most comprehensive and concise manner. Thereafter, the attributes are described and all of them are found in the last Ujja, the Righteous Successor, Muhammad, peace be upon him. This explanation is sufficient and enough for eliminating any doubt in this regard, so understand it."

(3) What has been recorded in Bi al-anwar from his contemporaries that the epithet of (Imam) Hasan al-'Askari, peace be on him, was Ab Muhammad; on the other hand, 'Abd-Allah, the father of the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be upon him and his family, was also Ab Muhammad. Thus, both the epithets were identical and epithets (as mentioned earlier) also come under the title of names.

(4) Some scholars have justified the tradition like this: "The best justification for this tradition is that its wording were as follows: 'His name is my name and my father's name.' It has been recorded in numerous traditions in the book al-Ghayba that (Imam) al-Mahdi has three names. One of these being 'Abd-Allah, which is the name of the Holy Prophet' father, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. In some traditions, it has been mentioned, 'his name is my father's name,' using this phrase. Based on this tradition, the following words have also been narrated, 'his name is my name and my father's name.' The narrator has added the phrase, 'his father's name' since he did not understand the meaning of the tradition and could not comprehend the fact that the Mahdi— may Allah hasten his relief—could have two names. So, he intended to correct the tradition himself and added this sentence. Of course, you already know that the tradition has no ambiguity because he has three names and hence it has been clarified that there is no contradiction between the (aforementioned) tradition and our traditions. This is the best of answers and I haven't seen anyone objecting to it due to its clarity."

(5) The scholar (mentioned in reason no. four) has also said that "it is probable that the tradition was as follows: 'his name is my name and the name of his son is the name of my father.' This can be inferred from some traditions that mention one of his children is called 'Abd-Allah. We will mention in the thirteenth chapter of this book that one of his epithets is Ab 'Abd-Allah. So, (it is probable) that 'the name of his son' has been changed to 'the name of his father.'" We have recorded the tradition that he pointed to in chap. 3, no. 397.

(6) The great learned scholar, al-Maul Muhammad Ri al-Imam, has mentioned in Jannat al-khuld that Imam Ab Muhammad al-Hasan al-'Askari, peace be on him, had two names: al-Hasan and 'Abd-Allah. Amongst our scholars, the author of Kifayat al-muwafiqin has also mentioned this and from the Sunni scholars, the king of the learned (malik al-'ulam), al-Q Shihb al-Din al-Daulatbadi—the author of the Quranic exegesis, al-Ba' al-mawwaj and also Manqib al-siddiq and Hidayat al-su'ad as has been cited in al-Najm al-thaqib—and also Maul Muhammad al-Harawi, the author of the Quranic exegesis Asrar al-fiti'a, as has been cited in al-Abqar al-fis. Thus, the problem is solved.

2. Kamal al-din, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 334, no. 4; l'im al-war, p. 404, which says: "and the successor, who is awaited, is M-U-A-M-M-A-D the son of al-Hasan b. 'Al b. Muhammad b. Muhammad b. 'Al b. 'Al b. M's, peace be on them."

I say: It seems that it indicates that 'the successor' (al-khalaf) is one of the titles of the Mahdi. Ibn al-Athar writes: "The word can be pronounced as khalaf as well as Khalf and (both) mean 'anyone that comes (or replaces) after someone goes (or dies).' The only difference is that when you say khalaf, it means (a successor of) goodness and khalf indicates (a successor of) badness. It is used like this: a khalaf of goodness and a khalf of badness." Maybe, this title is used to refer exclusively to him because he is the successor of all the prophets and imams and will come after all of them.

3. Al-Manqib, vol. 4, pp. 425–426; Mustadrak al-was'il (first edition), vol. 3, p. 527; Riy al-'ulam, vol. 4, p. 7; Rauq

al-jannat (first edition), vol. 3, p. 377; Majlis al-mu'minin, 5th session, p. 195; al-Kunwa l-alqab, p. 217.

4. Ithbat al-wa'iyya, p. 206 (From the old edition); Kamal al-din, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 501, no. 27. In some copies 'Khadja' has been recorded while in others it is 'al'ima' or 'ak'ima.' Khadja is more correct; al-Ghayba, p. 230, no. 196, through two chains (of narrators). Although 'Khadja' has been recorded but the researcher of the latest edition has corrected it in accordance with Bihar al-anwar and other books and has changed it to 'ak'ima.' This is merely his assumption and we have to rely on the original manuscripts of the book; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 363–364, no. 11; Ithbat al-hudat, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 506, no. 313, citing al-Ghayba which has also recorded 'Khadja.'

Section Twenty-Three

The traditions that indicate he is the son of the 'Master of the Maids' and the Best of them

Comprised of eleven traditions

572. Sharh nahj al-baligha (by ibn Abi l-Adad)1: And from it [i.e. from his sermons some of which have been mentioned by al-Ra'fi]:

Then pay attention to the Ahl al-Bait of your Prophet. If they stay put, then you should also stay put and if they seek your help, then you should help them. Indeed, Allah will remove the fitna through a person from us Ahl al-Bait. May my father be sacrificed for the son of the best of the maids! He will not bestow upon them but swords—with much bloodshed—and he will carry [a sword] on his shoulder for eight months.

The Quraish will say, "Had he been from the descendants of Fatima, he would have had mercy on us." Allah will dispatch him against the Umayyads until he crushes them and breaks them apart: "[They are] cursed (mal'una); wherever they are found, they will be seized and killed a [horrible] killing. [Such has been] the tradition of Allah amongst those who have passed before and you will not find any change in the traditions of Allah."2

573. Yanab al-mawadda3: Al-Mad'in has narrated in al-Siff that after the battle of Nahrawan was over, Amir al-Mu'minin `Al, peace be on him, delivered a sermon and mentioned some of the fierce battles [that will occur]. Then, he said:

This is the affair of Allah and it will occur in a joyful time. O Son of the Best of the Maids! Until when will you wait? I give you glad tidings about a help that is near from a Merciful Lord. May my father and mother be sacrificed because [of those] who are few in number! Their names are unknown on earth. Indeed, their appearance is drawing near. There will be a great marvel between [the months of] Jamad and Rajab because of the gathering of the scattered ones, the harvesting of the crops, and the voices followed by voices. (Then, he said:) Indeed, the decision has already been made (sabaqa al-qau'u

sabaqa).

[On hearing the above] a person from Baḥra said to a person from Kufa beside him, “I testify that he is a liar.” The one from Kufa says, “By Allah, `Alī, peace be on him, had barely descended from the pulpit when the person from Basra became paralyzed and he died the same night.”

The author of Yanāb al-mawadda says: “If we wanted to record his predictions about the hidden things whose truth the [people] have clearly witnessed, many volumes would be needed.”

574. Kamāl al-dīn4: Aḥmad b. Ziyād b. Ja`far al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Hāshim, from his father, from Abū Aḥmad Muḥammad b. Ziyād al-Azdī who said:

I asked my master (Imam) Mūsā b. Ja`far, peace be on him, about the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, “and bestowed upon you His favors both apparent and hidden?”⁵ He replied, “The apparent favor is the apparent Imam and the hidden favor means the hidden Imam.” I asked, “Amongst the Imams, will there be a hidden one?”

He replied, “Yes. His figure will be concealed from the eyes of the people but his memory will not be concealed from the hearts of the believers. He is the twelfth from us. For him, Allah will ease all strains, degrade all difficulties, reveal the treasures of earth, and bring close all the distant things. Through him, He will destroy all oppressive tyrants and annihilate every rebellious devil. He is the son of the Master of the Maids and his birth will be hidden from the people. It will not be permissible for them to say his name until Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, makes him appear. Then, he will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.”

575. Kamāl al-dīn6: Narrated to Aḥmad b. `Imrān, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Mūsā b. `Imrān al-Nakha`ī, from his (paternal) uncle al-Ḥusayn b. Yazīd al-Naufalī, from al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥamza, from his father, from Abū Baḥr, who said:

(Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah (al-Ḥādīq), peace be on him, said, “Whatever occurred for the prophets, peace be on them, concerning their occultation’s, will also occur for the Qa’im from us, in the exact same manner.”⁷ I asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Who is the Qa’im from you Ahl al-Bait?” He answered, “O Abū Baḥr! He is the fifth descendant of my son Mūsā; the son of the Master of the maids. He will have an occultation in which the people of falsehood will become skeptical.

Then, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will make him appear and Allah will make him conquer the Easts of the earth and its Wests. The Spirit of Allah, Jesus, son of Mary, peace be on him, will descend and pray behind him. The earth will shine with the light of its Lord. There will not remain a part of the earth in which anyone other than Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, is worshipped except that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will be worshipped in it. Religion—in its entirety—will be only for Allah even if the polytheists detest it.”

576. Ghaybat al-Nu`m⁹⁸: Informed us `Abd al-W⁹⁹id b. `Abd-Allah b. Y⁹⁹enus, from A⁹⁹mad b. Mu⁹⁹ammad b. Rab⁹⁹ al-Zuhr⁹⁹, from A⁹⁹mad b. `Al⁹⁹ al-⁹⁹imyar⁹⁹, from al-⁹⁹akam—the brother of Mushma`il al-Asad⁹⁹—from `Abd al-Ra⁹⁹m al-Qa⁹⁹r who said:

I asked (Imam) Ab⁹⁹ Ja`far, peace be on him, “Does the saying of Am⁹⁹ al-Mu`min⁹⁹ `Al⁹⁹ b. Ab⁹⁹ lib, peace be on him, ‘May my father be sacrificed for the son of the Master of the Maids,’ refer to F⁹⁹ima? He responded, “(No,) indeed, F⁹⁹ima, peace be on her, was the best of the free women. Rather, it refers to the one whose stomach is wide and whose complexion is reddish. May Allah have mercy on so and so.”

577. Ghaybat al-Shaykh⁹: Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Mu⁹⁹ammad b. `⁹⁹s⁹⁹ b. `Ubaid, from Ism⁹⁹ b. Ab⁹⁹, from `Amr b. Shimr, from J⁹⁹bir al-Ju`f⁹⁹, from (Imam) Ab⁹⁹ Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

`Umar b. al-Kha⁹⁹ asked Am⁹⁹ al-Mu`min⁹⁹ `Al⁹⁹, peace be on him, “Inform me about the Mahd⁹⁹, what is his name?” He replied, “As for his name, then certainly my beloved [i.e. the Messenger of Allah] took a covenant from me that I should not say his name until Allah sends him.” He asked again, “Inform me about his attributes.” He answered, “He is a medium-sized youth and handsome with beautiful hair. His hair flows over his shoulders and the light of his face covers the blackness of his hair and beard; may my father be sacrificed for the son of the Master of the Maids.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the above concept: 539, 553, 554, 568, and 651.

1. Shar⁹⁹ nahj al-bal⁹⁹gha, vol. 2, p. 179; Yan⁹⁹b⁹⁹ al-mawadda, chap. 96, p. 498. Ibn Ab⁹⁹ l-⁹⁹ad⁹⁹ writes: “If it is asked, ‘Who from the Umayyads will be present in that time that [`Al⁹⁹, peace be on him,] mentions regarding them that so and so and has spoken about this man [i.e. the Mahd⁹⁹] taking revenge on them to such an extent that they would wish `Al⁹⁹ had ruled over them instead of him?’ The answer is: The Im⁹⁹miyya (Shias) believe in the raj`a and think that when their awaited Imam returns, a group from the highest ranking Umayyads will be resurrected from their graves. From them, he will cut the hands and feet of a group, take out the eyes of others, and crucify some of them and thus take revenge from the enemies of the family of Mu⁹⁹ammad—both the early ones and the latter ones.”

Then, ibn Ab⁹⁹ l-⁹⁹ad⁹⁹ answers what has been questioned about the beliefs of his companions—after explaining that the Mahd⁹⁹, peace be on him, is from the descendants of F⁹⁹ima and will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. That he will take revenge on the oppressors and will punish them using the severest of punishments and that he is the sole child of his mother, as has been mentioned in this and other traditions, and that his name is Mu⁹⁹ammad, etc. — by stating that he will appear after most of Islam will be dominated by a person from the Umayyads and he is none other than the Sufy⁹⁹ who has been spoken about in a reliable tradition and who is a descendant of Ab⁹⁹ Sufy⁹⁹ b. ⁹⁹arb b. Umayya. The Fa⁹⁹im⁹⁹ Imam will kill him and his followers who are from the Ummayyads and other (groups), after which Jesus will descend from the sky, the conditions of the Hour will become apparent, and the Creature of the Earth (d⁹⁹bbat al-ar⁹⁹) will emerge, etc . . .”; Ghaybat al-Nu`m⁹⁸, chap. 13, p. 229, no. 11, and similar to it in Bi⁹⁹r al-anw⁹⁹, vol. 51, p. 121, under no. 23.

2. Quran 33:61–62.

3. Yan⁹⁹b⁹⁹ al-mawadda, chap. 99, p. 512.

4. Kam⁹⁹ al-d⁹⁹, vol. 2, chap. 34, pp. 368–369, no. 6; Kif⁹⁹yat al-athar, chap. “What has been narrated from M⁹⁹s⁹⁹ b. Ja`far, peace be on him,” p. 266, no. 3, from Mu⁹⁹ammad b. `Abd-Allah b. ⁹⁹amza, from his (paternal) uncle al-⁹⁹asan b. ⁹⁹amza, from `Al⁹⁹ b. lbr⁹⁹h⁹⁹ b. H⁹⁹shim; Bi⁹⁹r al-anw⁹⁹, vol. 51, chap. 7, pp. 150–151, no. 2.

5. Quran 31:20.

6. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, pp. 345–346, no. 31.

7. Al-Ḥakīm has recorded in al-Mustadrak, “Kitāb al-ḥimān,” vol. 1, p. 37, through his chain of narrators from Abū Huraira that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “You will certainly follow the customs (sunan) of those before you identically and similar in every manner, to an extent that even if they have entered the hole of a lizard you will certainly enter it with them.” He was asked, “O Messenger of Allah! (Do you mean) the Jews and the Christians?” He replied, “Who else (do I mean).”

Al-Ḥakīm says: “This tradition is correct (ṣāḥiḥ) according to the criteria set by Muslim but neither of them [i.e. al-Bukhārī and Muslim] have recorded it with this wording.”

I say: This tradition has been narrated in the books of both sects with different wordings.

8. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 13, pp. 228–229, no. 9.

9. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 281, no. 5; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 4, p. 36, no. 6, citing al-Nu`mān and al-Shaykh; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 56, p. 468, no. 3. He has recorded the beginning of the tradition with some variations in the wording; l’ilm al-warā, p. 434; al-Kharāj, vol. 3, p. 1152 (short version); al-Irshād by al-Mufīd, p. 363; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 464; Rauḥat al-wa`iḥ, vol. 2, p. 266; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 34, sect. 6, p. 730, no. 71. Know that there is no contradiction between this tradition and numerous other traditions that mention his longevity. We can reconcile between these by saying that such a tradition points to the brightness of his color and his handsome looks and that he will appear young and energetic and his face will not age with the passing of days.

Section Twenty-Four

The traditions that mention when the three names, Muḥammad, `Alī, and al-ḥasan, come after one other, then the fourth of them will be the Qa’im

Comprised of 2 traditions

578. Dal’īl al-imāma1: Narrated to us Abū l-Mufaḥḥal, from Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan al-Kāfi, from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Farsī, from Ya’qūb b. Maimūn al-Khurāsānī, from `Abd-Allah b. Sinān, from his brother Muḥammad b. Sinān al-Zuhrī, from our master, (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muḥammad, from his father, from his grandfather, from his father al-ḥusayn, from al-ḥasan, from Amīr al-Mu`minīn, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said to `Alī, peace be on him: “O `Alī! When the eleven Imams from your descendants are completed, the eleventh will be the Mahdī from my Ahl al-Bait.”

And through the same chain of narrators from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “When the four names, Muḥammad, `Alī, and al-ḥasan come consecutively, then the fourth of them will be the Qa’im, the wished, the awaited.”

579. Kamāl al-dīn2: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Abū `Alī Muḥammad b. Hammām, from Aḥmad b. Mubundūd, from Aḥmad b. Hilāl, from Umayyat b. `Alī al-Qaysī, from Abū l-Haytham al-Tamīmī, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him,

who said: “When three names Muḥammad, `Alī, and al-Ḥasan come consecutively, the fourth of them will be their Qa'im.”³

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1. Dalā'il al-imāma, chap. “Ma`rifat wujūb al-Qa'im,” p. 236, no. 9; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 9, sect. 69, p. 103, no. 832, citing the book Manāqib Fāḥima wa wuldihā through his chain of narrators from Amīr al-Mu'minīn, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.
 2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 32, p. 334, no. 3 and similar to it, pp. 333–334, no. 2. He has recorded it in the preface of Kamāl al-dīn from ibn Qubba in his answers to the objections of ibn Bashshār: “When the three names Muḥammad, `Alī, and al-Ḥasan come consecutively, the fourth will be the Qa'im” (vol. 1, p. 55); Kifāyat al-athar, p. 280, under the fourth tradition from the chapter on what has come from Imam Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Riḍā, peace be on him: “Through his chain of narrators from Abū al-Haytham al-Tamīmī who said that (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, said, ‘When the three names come consecutively, the fourth of them will be their Qa'im: Muḥammad, `Alī, and al-Ḥasan.’”; Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, p. 179, no. 26; I`lām al-warā, p. 403. He has recorded ‘come together’ instead of ‘come consecutively’.
 3. It is clear who these names refer to: Muḥammad refers to Imam Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā, `Alī refers to his son Imam `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā, and al-Ḥasan refers to his son Imam al-Ḥasan al-`Askarī, Allah's blessings be on them all.

Section Twenty-Five

The traditions that indicate he is the twelfth and last Imam, peace be on them

Comprised of 151 traditions

580. Al-Ghayba by Faḥl b. Shādhān¹: Narrated to us Ḥafwān b. Yaḥyā, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Ibrāhīm b. Abū Ziyād, from Abū Ḥamza al-Thumālī, from Abū Khalid al-Kabulī who said:

I went to see my master (Imam) `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on him, and asked, “O Son of Allah's Messenger! Inform me about those—whose obedience and love Allah has made compulsory and has made following them obligatory for His servants—after the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.” He replied, “O Kabulī! Surely, those who possess authority (auliā`l-amr) whom Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has appointed as leaders for the people and made their obedience obligatory are: Amīr al-Mu'minīn `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, then my uncle al-Ḥasan, my father al-Ḥusayn, and then the affair reached us.”

Saying this, he became silent. I said, “O my master! It has been narrated to us from Amīr al-Mu'minīn, peace be on him, that the earth will not become empty of a proof from Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, upon His servants. So, who is the proof and Imam after you?” He said, “My son Muḥammad and his name in the earlier [Holy] Books is Bāqir. He will split knowledge, a thorough splitting. He is the Proof

and the Imam after me. After Muḥammad, it will be his son Ja`far and he is known to the inhabitants of the sky as al-Ḥaḍiq.”

I asked, “O my master! Why is he only called as al-Ḥaḍiq (the Truthful) whilst all of you are truthful?” He answered, “Narrated to me my father, from his father, peace be on them, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said, ‘When my son, Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Usayn b. `Alī b. Abī Ḥabīb is born, name him al-Ḥaḍiq because his fifth descendant—who will also have the name Ja`far—will falsely claim to be an Imam and will dare [to disobey] Allah and lie against Him. To Allah, he will be known as Ja`far the liar (al-Kadhḥīb), the one who forges lies against Allah and claims the position for which he was not eligible. He will oppose his father and will be jealous of his brother. He is the one who will desire to disclose Allah’s secret, Majestic be His Majesty, during the occultation of the Guardian [appointed] by Allah.’”

Saying this, (Imam) `Alī b. al-Usayn, peace be on him, cried intensely and continued, “As if I am with Ja`far al-Kadhḥīb who will be assisting the tyrants of his time to find out about the Guardian [appointed] by Allah; the one who will be concealed in the protection of Allah and be in charge of his father’s dependents while [Ja`far] will be ignorant about his birth and seeks to kill him if he can get his hands on him, and will have greed for the inheritance of his brother which he will wish to seize unjustly.”

I asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Will these really happen?” He answered, “Yes, by my Lord! All this is written in the manuscript we possess which mentions the afflictions that will be inflicted on us after the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” I said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Then what will happen?” He replied, “Then, the occultation of the twelfth Guardian [appointed] by Allah will be prolonged. He will be from the heirs of the Messenger of Allah after him. O Abī Ḥabīb! The people who believe in his Imamate and await his reappearance during his occultation, are the best people of all times.

Because Allah, Blessed and High be He, has granted them such intellect (`aql), understanding (fahm), and recognition (ma`rifa) that occultation for them is the same as observation. He (Allah) has made them in that time like the holy warriors who fought with their swords before the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be upon him and his family. They are truly the sincere ones, our real Shias, and the callers towards the religion of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, secretly and openly.” He then said, “Awaiting the Relief is one of the best reliefs (intiḥār al-faraj min afḍal al-faraj).”

581. Kifāyat al-āthar²: Narrated to us `Alī b. al-Usayn b. Muḥammad, from Ḥarīr b. Mūsā at Baghdad in the month of Safar, 381 AH, from Aḥmad [Muḥammad] [b. Makhzūm] b. Muḥammad al-Muqrī—the slave of Banī-Ḥaṣhim—in 324 AH, from Abī Muḥammad from both: (a) Abī `Umar [ʿAmr] b. al-Faḍl al-Ḥabārī, from Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan al-Farḥānī, from `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. `Amr al-Balwā, and (b) `Abd-Allah [ʿUbad Allah] b. al-Faḍl b. Hilāl al-Ḥafḥ in Egypt, from `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. `Umar [ʿAmr] b. Maḥfūf al-Balwā; from Ibrāhīm b. `Abd-Allah b. al-`Alī, from Muḥammad b. Bukair who recounts:

I went to see Zaid b. `Alī, peace be on him, while `Alī b. Bishr was with him. I said hello to him and he intended to go Iraq. I said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Narrate to me something which you have heard from your father.” He said, “Yes. My father narrated to me from his grandfather [or my father from his father from his grandfather] that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘On whoever Allah has bestowed a favor, he should praise Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. One whose sustenance is delayed should seek forgiveness [from Allah. One who is grieved by an affair] should say, “There is no power and strength except by Allah.”’”

I said, “Please tell me more, O Son of Allah’s Messenger!” He said, “Yes. My father narrated to me from his grandfather [or my father from his father from his grandfather] that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘I will intercede for four people on the Day of Judgment: He who respects my seed (dhurriyyat), fulfills their needs, strives for them in their affairs when they need it, and loves them with his heart and his tongue.’” I said, “Please tell me more from the merits that Allah has bestowed upon you O Son of Allah’s Messenger.”

He said, “My father has narrated from his [father, from his] grandfather that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘Whoever loves us Ahl al-Bait for the sake of Allah will be gathered with us (ushira ma`an) and we will take him to Paradise with us. O son of Bukair! He who fastens on to us will be with us in the highest of ranks.’ O son of Bukair! Verily, Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, chose Muhammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and selected us as his seed (dhurriyya). If it was not for us, Allah, the Exalted, would not have created the world and the hereafter. O son of Bukair! Through us Allah is recognized and through us Allah is worshipped. We are the path to Allah; from us is al-Mu`af, [from us] is al-Murta`af, from us will be the Mahd, the Q`im of this nation.”

I enquired, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Did the Messenger of Allah inform you when your Q`im will rise?” He answered, “O son of Bukair! You will not meet him and surely this affair will continue on for another six heirs (was). Then, [Allah] will make our Q`im appear and he will fill [the earth] with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.” I asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Aren’t you the master of this affair?” He replied, “I am from the progeny. I asked again and he answered the same. I asked, “Were the things that you said from yourself or from the Messenger of Allah?” He answered, “Had I known the unknown, I would have massed much good. These are a covenant that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, has taken from us.” Then, he recited the following poem

We are the chiefs of the Quraish

The foundation of truth is within us

We are the lights that

Existed before the existence of all creatures

From us is the chosen Muḥaf

And the Mahd too is from us

Indeed, through us Allah is recognized

And we have stood with the Truth

Soon he will be thrown in the fire

He who turns away from us today

ʿAlī b. al-ḥusayn says: “Muḥammad b. al-ḥusayn al-Bazūfār narrated this tradition to us in the shrine of our master, (Imam) al-ḥusayn b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb al-Kulayn, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyū al-ʿAḥḥār, from Salmāt b. al-Khaḥḥāb, from Muḥammad b. Khālid al-ʿaylīs, from Saif b. ʿUmairā and ʿAlī b. Uqba, all of them from ʿAlqamat b. Muḥammad al-ʿaḥram, from ʿAlī [ʿul] who recounts: “I was with Zaid b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, when Muḥammad b. Bukair came to see him . . . (he then mentioned the previous narration).”

582. Kamāl al-dīn: Al-Muḥaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muḥaffar al-ʿAlawī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from his father, from Abū l-Qasīm—who recorded it from the book of Aḥmad al-Dahhān—from al-Qasīm b. ʿamza, from ibn Abū ʿUmair, from Abū Ismāʿīl al-Sarrāj, from Khaithamat al-Juʿfī, from Abū Ayyūb al-Makhzūmī [Abū Labīd al-Makhzūmī] who said: “(Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Bḥqir, peace be on him, mentioned the biography of the twelve rightly guided successors, Allah’s blessings be on them. When he reached the last one he said, ‘The twelfth is the one behind whom Jesus, son of Mary, peace be on him, will pray. [Follow] his customs and the Noble Quran.’” The traditions with the following numbers also show the above concept: 81, 113, 118, 153–165, 181, 196, 205–309, 553–541, 543–545, 547, 549–556, 574, 668, 1168, and 1230.

1. Kifāyat al-muḥtadī (al-Arbaʿīn), pp. 92–93, no. 20, which has some apparent mistakes. We have corrected it in accordance with the other references; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 21, pp. 319–320, no. 2, through two chains from al-Sayyid ʿAbd al-ʿAḥḥm al-ʿasanī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿafwān b. Yaʿyū; al-ʿitijāj, vol. 2, pp. 317–318, both of them have recorded “and from the greatest of reliefs (min aʿḥam al-faraj)”; Qiṣaṣ al-anbiyā, sect. 15, pp. 365–366, up to his saying, “secretly and openly”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 44, pp. 386–387, no. 1, which says: “and from the greatest of reliefs (wa min aʿḥam al-faraj)” and vol. 50, chap. 6, pp. 227–228, no. 2; lʿīm al-warī, sect. 2, p. 224, up to his saying: “secretly and openly”; lḥbḥ al-hudḥ, vol. 1, chap. 9, pp. 514–515, no. 247, from al-Faḥl b. Shḥdhān in lḥbḥ al-ghayba, al-ʿadāq in Kamāl al-dīn, al-ʿabarsī in al-ʿitijāj, and al-Rḥwandī in Qiṣaṣ al-anbiyā, which say, “from the greatest (min aʿḥam)”; al-Inḥāf, pp. 55–57, no. 47, which says, “from the greatest of deeds.”

2. Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 40, pp. 298–30, no. 1; Irshād al-qulūb, p. 414 (short version); Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 46, chap. 11, pp. 201–203, no. 77.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 32, pp. 331–332, no. 17; lḥbḥ al-hudḥ, vol. 1, chap. 9, p. 516, no. 251, which says: “follow his customs and the Wise Quran”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 137, no. 5. In the edition published by al-Maktabat al-Islāmiyya, vol. 1, p. 448, Abū Lubaid has been recorded instead of Abū Ayyūb. Also, “the one who will pray behind him

will be Jesus, son of Mary, peace be on him, in the year of 'Yūsuf, and by the Wise Quran' (Quran 36: 1–2)." This wording is in harmony with what is found in al-Inf (chap. 'al-Hamza,' p. 9, no. 12). Apparently, this is due to the copyist's error or his misjudgment, because the wording of the tradition—according to the copy that we have copied from which is the version corrected using the hand-written manuscript—are like this: "follow his customs and the Wise Quran." Its editor has mentioned that its wording in the precious copy does not have the words "follow his," thus, it will mean: Jesus, peace be on him, will act according to the Islamic sharia and pray behind him in accordance with his customs and the Noble Quran. What we mean by 'his customs,' are the customs of the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, or the customs of the Imam, peace be on him, which are none but the traditions of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. The versions in which the words "follow his" have been recorded are in accordance with Bi'r al-anwār and Ithb al-hud except that in its end 'Wise' is used instead of 'Noble'.

Section Twenty-Six

The traditions that indicate he will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness

Comprised of 148 traditions

583. Al-Fitan1: Al-Walīd narrated to us from Sa`īd, from Qatāda, from Abū Naṣra, from Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "[The Mahdī] will give away wealth munificently and will not count [what he is giving away]. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness."

584. Al-Fitan2: Al-Walīd narrated to us from Abū Rāfi' Ismā'īl b. Rāfi', from someone who narrated to him, from Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "His nation will take refuge in him like the bees that take refuge in their leader. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice; until the people return to their original state [and will become so peaceful] that no one will wake up someone who is asleep and no blood will be shed."

585. Al-Fitan3: Narrated to us ibn Wahb, from al-Ḥarith, from Minhāl b. `Amr b. Ziyād, from Abū Naṣra, from Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī, from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be upon him and his family, who said: "He will fill the earth with justice as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice before him. He will rule for seven years."

586. Al-Musnad4: Narrated to us `Abd-Allah, from his father, from Muḥammad b. Ja`far, from `Auf, from Abū I-ḥiddiq al-Najī, from Abū Sa`īd al-Khudrī that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said: "The Hour will not be established until the earth is filled with unfairness and oppression. Then, a person from my progeny—or from my Ahl al-Bait—will emerge who will fill it with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and oppression."

587. Kanz al-`umm̄l5: From `Al̄, peace be on him, who said:

The earth will be filled with unfairness and injustice to such an extent that fear and grief will enter every house. They will ask for two dirhams . . . but it will not be given to them. Wars will follow wars and wealth will follow wealth until Allah surrounds them in His land; then, he will fill the earth with justice and fairness.

588. Kam̄l al-d̄n6: Narrated to us `Al̄ b. Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan al-Qazw̄n̄, from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-ḥaḥram̄, from Aḥmad b. Yaḥyā al-Aḥwal, from Khall̄d al-Muqri', from Qays b. Ab̄ ḥaḥn̄, from Yaḥyā b. Wathth̄b, from `Abd-Allah b. `Umar, from al-ḥusayn b. `Al̄, peace be on him, who said:

If there remains but one day from the [end of the] world, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will prolong it until a man from my progeny emerges. He will fill it with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. This is what I heard from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

589. Kam̄l al-d̄n7: Narrated to us my father and Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa'd b. `Abd-Allah, `Abd-Allah b. Ja'far al-ḥimyar̄, Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-Aḥḥar̄, and Aḥmad b. Idr̄s, all of them, from Muḥammad b. al-ḥusayn b. Ab̄ al-Khaḥḥḥḥb, Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. `ḥs̄, Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Kh̄lid al-Barq̄, and Ibr̄h̄m b. H̄shim, all of them, from al-ḥasan b. `Al̄ b. Faḥḥḥḥ, from Tha'labat b. Maim̄n, from M̄lik al-Juhan̄; [and through another chain] narrated to us Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan b. Aḥmad b. al-Wal̄d, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan al-ḥaff̄r, and Sa'd b. `Abd-Allah, from `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad al-ḥayḥlis̄, from Mundhir b. Muḥammad b. Q̄b̄s, from al-Naḥr b. Ab̄ al-Sar̄, from Ab̄ D̄w̄d Sulaim̄n b. Sufȳn al-Mustariq, from Tha'labat b. Maim̄n, from M̄lik al-Juhan̄, from ḥḥrith b. al-Mughaira al-Naḥr̄, from al-Aḥbagh b. Nub̄ta who said:

I went to Am̄r al-Mu'min̄n `Al̄ b. Ab̄ ḥḥlib, peace be on him, and found him pondering over something and scratching the ground. I asked, "O Am̄r al-Mu'min̄n! Why am I seeing you pondering and scratching the ground; do you have any desire for it?" He answered, "No, by Allah! I never had any desire for it or for the world, even for a single day. But I was thinking about a child who will be from my loin (ḥahr̄) and my eleventh descendant. He is the Mahd̄ who will fill [the earth] with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. He will have a bewilderment and an occultation in which, some will be deviated and others will be guided."

I asked, "O Am̄r al Mu'min̄n! Will this really happen?" He replied, "Yes, just as he will be created. O Aḥbagh! Your knowledge about this affair will be very limited. They are the best of this nation along with the righteous ones of this progeny." I said, "What will happen after that?" He replied, "Then, Allah will do what He pleases, for surely, He has intentions, aims, and endings."

590. Kif̄yat al-athar8: Ab̄ I-Mufaḥḥal informed us from Ab̄ `Abd-Allah Ja'far b. Muḥammad al-

`Alaw^ع, from `Al^ع b. al-^عusayn [al-^عasan] b. `Al^ع b. `Umar, from his father (Imam) `Al^ع b. al-^عusayn, peace be on him, that he used to say: “Call for me my son al-B^عqir [i.e. Mu^عammad]!” I asked him, “O father! Why have you named him al-B^عqir?” On hearing this, he smiled—and I hadn’t seen him smiling before this.

Then, he performed a long prostration for Allah, the Exalted. I heard him say in his prostration, “O Allah! All Praise is for you O my Master, for all the blessings that You have endowed upon us Ahl al-Bait.” He repeated this sentence a number of times then said, “O my son! The Imamate is in his descendants until our Q^ع’im, peace be on him, rises. Then, he will fill it with fairness and justice.

He is an Imam and the father of the Imams [following him]. [He is] a mine of forbearance and the place of knowledge—which he will split as it should be split. By Allah, he is certainly the most similar of the people to the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” I asked, “How many Imams will follow him?” He replied, “Seven; and from them is the Mahd^ع who will emerge with the religion in the end of times.”

591. Dal^ع’il al-im^عma⁹: Through his chain of narrators (meaning Ab^ع I-^عusayn Mu^عammad b. H^عr^عn b. M^عs^ع from his father) from Ab^ع `Al^ع al-Nah^عwand^ع from Ab^ع I-Q^عsim b. Ab^ع ^عayya from Is^عq b. Ab^ع Isr^ع’^عl from Ab^ع `Ubaida al-^عadd^عd from `Abd al-W^عid b. W^عil al-Sad^عs from `Auf from Ab^ع I-^عidd^عq al-N^عjj^ع from Ab^ع Sa^ع’^عd al-Khudr^ع that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “The Hour will not be established until the earth is filled with unfairness and oppression. Then, a person from my progeny—or he said from my Ahl al-Bait—will emerge. He will fill it with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and oppression.”

592. Ghaybat of al-Shaykh¹⁰: Through his chain of narrators [meaning Ibr^عh^عm b. Salma, from A^عmad b. M^عlik al-Faz^عr^ع, from ^عaidar b. Mu^عammad al-Faz^عr^ع, from `Abb^عd b. Ya`q^عb, from Na^عr b. Muz^عim, from Mu^عammad b. Marw^عn, from al-Kalb^ع, from Ab^ع ^عli^ع,] concerning the saying of Allah, the Exalted: “Know that Allah will give life to earth after its death,” from ibn `Abb^عs who said: “It means, he will reform the earth through the Q^ع’im from the family of Mu^عammad. ‘After its death’ means after the injustice [committed by] its people. ‘Indeed, We have made clear the signs for you’ with the Q^ع’im from the family of Mu^عammad ‘so that you may understand.’”¹¹

593. Dal^ع’il al-im^عma¹²: Ab^ع I-^عusayn Mu^عammad b. H^عr^عn informed me from his father, from Ab^ع `Al^ع al-^عasan b. Mu^عammad al-Nah^عwand^ع, from al-`Abb^عs b. Ma^عar al-Hamd^عn^ع, from Ism^ع’^عl b. `Al^ع al-Muqr^ع, from Mu^عammad b. Sulaim^عn, from Ab^ع Ja`far al-`Araj^ع, from Mu^عammad b. Yaz^عd, from Sa^ع’^عd b. `Ab^عya, from Salm^عn al-Fars^ع who said: “Am^عr al-Mu`min^عn delivered a sermon in Medina. He had mentioned the fitna and its nearness, then, he spoke about the rising of the Q^ع’im from his descendant’s and that he would surely fill the earth with justice just as it would be filled with injustice . . . (to the end of the tradition in its entirety).”

594. Al-K^عf^ع¹³: A^عmad b. Idr^عs, from Mu^عammad b. A^عmad, from Ja`far b. al-Q^عsim, from Mu^عammad

b. al-Walīd al-Khazzāz, from al-Walīd b. `Uqba, from al-`Arith b. Ziyād, from Shu`ayb, from Abū amza who recounts:

I went to see (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah (al-`Adīq), peace be on him, and asked him, “Are you the master of this affair?” He replied, “No.” I asked again, “Is it your son?” He replied, “No.” I questioned again, “The son of your son?” He said, “No.” I asked, “The son of the son of your son?” He answered, “No.” I asked, “Then who is he?” He said, “He who will fill [the earth] with justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice; during the concealment (fatra) of Imams, just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, was sent when there was an absence (fatra) of Messengers.

595. Farīd al-simān¹⁴: Narrated to us `Abd al-Walīd b. Muḥammad b. `Abdūs al-`Arī al-Nasībī, [from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Nasībī, from amḍn b. Sulaimān al-Nasībī], from Muḥammad b. Ismā`īl b. Baz` , from `Alī b. `Uqba, from his father, from (Imam) Abū Ja`far, Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Baqir, from his father—the Master of the Worshippers—`Alī b. al-`Usayn, from his father—the Master of the Martyrs—al-`Usayn b. `Alī b. Abū `Alī, from his father—the Master of the Heirs—`Alī b. Abū `Alī, Allah be satisfied with them all, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said:

The Mahdī is from my descendants. He will have an occultation and bewilderment in which the nations will be deviated. [Then,] he will emerge with the treasures of the prophets, peace be on them, and will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.

596. Tafṣīr Furqān al-Kāfī¹⁵: Narrated to me `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Umar al-Zuhrī, through his sources from (Imam) Abū Ja`far, peace be on him, that

Al-`Arīth al-`Arī said to (Imam) al-`Usayn, peace be on him, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! May I be sacrificed for you! Inform me about the saying of Allah in His Book, ‘By the Sun and its daylight’ (Quran 91:1)?” He replied, “Woe to you, O `Arīth! This [verse] refers to Muḥammad, the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” I asked, “And His saying, ‘And the moon when it follows the sun’ (Quran 91:2)?” He said, “This refers to Amr al-Mu`minīn `Alī b. Abū `Alī, peace be on him, who follows Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” I enquired, “‘And the day when it reveals it’ (Quran 91:3)?” He said, “That refers to the Q`im from the family of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice.”

597. Al-Nukat al-`Itiqādiyya¹⁶: From the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family:

If nothing remains from the world but one hour, Allah will prolong that hour until a person from my progeny emerges. His name will be my name and his epithet will be my epithet. He will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. It is obligatory for every creature to follow him.

598. Al-Muḥkam wa l-mutashābih¹⁷: Concerning the saying of Allah, the Exalted, “Allah is the Light of

the heavens and the earth . . .”¹⁸ citing Tafsīr al-Nu`mān through his chain of narrators from (Imam) al-Ḥadiq, from Amīr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on them: “Niche refers to the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family; the lamp is the [first] heir (al-waḥīd) and the [following] heirs; the glass is al-Fāḥima, peace be on her; and the blessed tree is the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and the shining star is the awaited Q’im who will fill the earth with justice.”

The traditions with following numbers also show the above concept: 72, 80, 91, 95, 149, 153, 160, 161, 165, 181, 194, 205, 216, 217, 219, 221, 225, 226, 227 (which says, “Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will fill the earth through him with light after its darkness and with justice after its injustice and knowledge after its ignorance), 235, 241, 246, 247, 249, 253, 254, 257, 259, 263, 272, 275, 280, 281, 291, 295, 321, 339, 346, 353, 360, 365, 366, 367, 370, 371 (which says, “unfairness, injustice, and oppression”), 374, 375, 378, 382, 390, 396, 400, 404, 406, 428, 429, 431, 451, 453, 454, 458, 460, 461, 463, 484, 485, 492 (which says, “he will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice”), 494, 497, 498, 500, 502, 505, 507, 508, 511, 513, 524, 527, 528, 532, 535, 541, 543, 544, 547, 548, 551, 555, 556, 557, 563, 564, 567, 570, 581, 612, 653, 670, 701, 726, 748, 764, 775, 791, 796, 806, 807, 810, 828, 859, 910, 950, 983 (which says, “He will fill the earth with truth and justice”), 1028, 1094, 1095, 1097, 1101, 1113, 1129, 1130, 1136, 1155–1160, 1195 (which says, “fairness and justice, light, and reasoning”), 1198, and 1204.

1. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Sīrat al-Mahdī . . .,” p. 192.

2. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Sīrat al-Mahdī . . .,” pp. 192–93.

3. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “Sīrat al-Mahdī . . .,” p. 193 ; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 468 (short version).

4. Al-Musnad, vol. 3, p. 36; Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, p. 271, no. 38691; `Iqd al-durar, chap. 1, p. 16, and chap. 3, pp. 36–37; Dalā’il al-imāma, chap. “Ma`rifat wujūb al-Q’im,” p. 249, no. 40; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 82, no. 22, citing what has been gathered by al-Ḥafī Abū Nu`aim.

5. Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, p. 586, no. 39659.

6. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 30, pp. 317–318, no. 4; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 3, p. 133, no. 5; l’ilm al-warā, sect. 2, chap. 1, pp. 401–402.

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 26, pp. 288–289, no. 1.

I say: It is clear that when he says “my eleventh descendant,” he is obviously referring to the eleventh Imam from his descendant’s—who is al-Mahdī, may my soul be sacrificed at his feet—and its first chain of narrators is definitely correct. A similar tradition can be found in Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 4, pp. 60–61, no. 4: “I am thinking about the child who will be from my loin (dahr). He is the Mahdī who will fill it with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. He will have a bewilderment and an occultation in which some people will deviate and others will be guided.’ I asked, ‘O Amīr al-Mu`minīn! How long will this bewilderment and occultation last?’ He replied, ‘A period of time . . .’” In this version, “my eleventh descendant” has not been recorded. In some versions “from the loin of my eleventh descendant” has been recorded but it is unclear if this is a scribal error or a variation in the contents of the books. [We don’t know] how this happened while the copy that the learned scholar, al-Qummī, regarded as original for its first edition, which he corrected and compared with numerous ancient manuscripts, did not contain any of these two additions!

What is understood from Biḥār al-anwār regarding the compatibility of the contents of Ghaybat al-Nu`mān with that of al-Kāfi in the reply to the question about the duration of bewilderment and occultation, is inconsistent with the copy of Ghaybat al-Nu`mān which we possess. For, he said: “a period of time (sibtun min al-dahr)” which is different to what has been recorded in al-Kāfi, the contents of which we will soon mention with their wordings. ‘Sibtun min al-dahr’ means a period of time which can be long or short.

Similarly, the contents of the printed version of the old handwritten manuscript of al-Ikhtilāf are also incompatible with that of al-Kāfī. Also, it does not have the question about the duration of bewilderment and occultation.

Al-Ikhtilāf, chap. “Ithbāt al-a’imma,” p. 209, with the difference that he said: “But I was thinking of the child who will be from the loins of my eleventh descendant; he is the Mahdī who will . . .” Apparently this is incorrect, because Imam Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī—the father of Imam al-Mahdī, peace be on him—is without doubt the ninth descendant of Amīr al-Mu’minīn, peace be upon him. Therefore, al-Majlisī has written in Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl that “it means from the loins of the eleventh Imam and ‘my descendant’ is used to describe the new-born . . . (to the end).”

Dalʿil al-imāma, p. 289, which is like what was in al-Ikhtilāf except that it ends like this: “I asked, ‘O Amīr al-Mu’minīn! For how long will this bewilderment and this occultation last?’ He replied, ‘Why [do you want to know]? How [do you expect] to have the knowledge of this affair, O Aḥbāb? They are the chosen ones of this nation and the righteous ones of this progeny.’”

Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 29, pp. 219–220, no.2, which says, “but I was thinking about the child who will be from my loins; my eleventh descendant who is the Mahdī. He will fill it with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. He will have a bewilderment and occultation in which some people will deviate and others will be guided . . . (to the end of the tradition).” It must be noted that he has not recorded the entire tradition.

Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, p. 338, no. 7, with the difference: “I asked, ‘O Amīr al-Mu’minīn! How long will this bewilderment and occultation last?’ He said, ‘Six days or six months or six years.’” And also in the end: “for surely, He has alterations [in destinies], intentions, aims, and endings (badʿat wa ʿirādāt wa ghayyat wa nahyat).” The copies vary in his saying, “from my loins, my eleventh descendant.”

Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 103–104, same as al-Kāfī; Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, which is also the same as al-Kāfī which says, “from my loins.” Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, chap. “Al-Nuḥūḥ ʿala . . .,” pp. 357–358, no. 20, citing al-Kāfī, which also records ‘from my loins’ but he has dropped the question and answer concerning the duration of bewilderment and occultation just as he has dropped the last part of the tradition. Perhaps, he has done so because he was uncertain about what he had dropped as it was in contrast to the contents of the remaining part of the tradition and even that of other traditions. It is apparent that what has been recorded in al-Kāfī—regarding the answer (to the question) about the duration of bewilderment and occultation—is incompatible with his saying: “He will have an occultation and bewilderment in which some people will deviate and others will be guided,” because of the importance of the occultation, the examination of the people by it, the firmness of the deviated on their deviation, and the guided on their guidance. An occultation and bewilderment of merely six days, cannot be the cause of the bewilderment and deviation of the people and the same holds true for six months or six years. Once this time passes [the bewilderment] will be over but when its period is prolonged and extended, then some people will be deviated in it and will remain steadfast in their deviation.

To sum it up, the contents of the tradition in al-Kāfī are indeed confusing and muddled but there is no need to constrain ourselves to justify it because its chain is weak and because a narration with a correct chain and wording devoid of any disturbance and disorder and in accordance with other traditions exists [which opposes it]. This narration is what al-ʿAdāq has recorded in Kamāl al-dīn in one of his two chains of narrators for this tradition: “From his father and Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan, may Allah be satisfied with them, from Saʿd b. ʿAbd-Allah . . . (to the end of what we already cited from him).” This (tradition) is reliable and others cannot be relied upon because of their disturbance and disorder, the variations in the different versions of the texts, and the weakness of the chain of narrators due to some of its narrators being unknown (majhūl).

One can rely on what has been narrated in Ghaybat al-Nuḥūḥ and Kifāyat al-athar because their text does not contain the disturbance and disorder (of al-Kāfī’s tradition) and the weakness in their chain of narrators is compensated by their harmony with the other traditions.

If someone says: al-Shaykh (al-ʿAdāq) has recorded this tradition in his al-Ghayba with an authentic chain of narrators which also has the question about the duration of bewilderment and occultation and the same answer found in al-Kāfī has been mentioned; Then, we would answer: It has been narrated in Al-Kāfī—with a chain of narrators which consists of some unknown narrators (majhūl)—and al-Shaykh has recorded it using the wording of al-Kāfī through two chains of narrators, the first is the weak chain used in al-Kāfī but the second is other than that and is correct and authentic.

Apparently, the latter is the shortened chain mentioned by al-ʿAdāq in Kamāl al-dīn and it is the one which we have relied

on. It is clear for anyone who is skilled in the knowledge of traditions that the wordings of the tradition in Ghaybat al-Shaykh are exactly like those of al-Kāfī.

This is all we will say about the chain of narrators and the text of the tradition recorded in al-Kāfī. Furthermore, the consistency of the text recorded in Ghaybat al-Nu`mān—who was also the scribe of al-Kulainī—should also be taken into account.

The contents of this tradition in al-Kāfī are similar to the contents of the tradition recorded by al-ʿAdāq in Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 31, pp. 323–324, no. 8, through his chain of narrators from our master Imam Zain al-ʿAbidin. We did not find some of the narrators in the rijāl books. This narration comprises of the duration of the short occultation: “Surely, our Qa'im will have two occultations; one of them will be longer than the other. The first will last for six days, six months, or six years, but the second, will become so long that most of those who believed in this affair (i.e. Imamate) will reject it and no one will remain steadfast in it except those who have strong certitude and correct recognition. (Those) who will not become discomfited because of what we have decreed or decided and will submit completely to us Ahl al-Bait.” The same things that we said about the tradition in al-Kāfī can also be mentioned here. To that we will add: six days or six months cannot be used to describe the meaning of occultation in such situations. Apparently, this tradition is in contradiction with that found in al-Kāfī and it is not correct to reconcile between them. This tradition cannot be used to verify what al-Aʿbagh has narrated—like what our Shaykh, al-Majlisī, has done—just as al-Aʿbagh's tradition cannot be verified using this tradition. All we can say in such situations is that the owners of these traditions—i.e. the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them—know their meanings best.

It is wrong to justify this narration—with its weak chain and troubling contents that have restricted the duration of the occultation to six days, six months, or six years— using the concept of badʿ, which is one of the most important things on which the foundations of Prophethood and the benefits of dispatching the Messengers and sending down the Holy Books and even the system of religion, the world, legislation, and creation are laid. Because we believe badʿ will change only those things which can be proved by intellect (ʿaql) or sharia; things like death, illness, sustenance, calamities, afflictions, and etc., which can be changed by prayers, giving charity, bonding with relatives, and even through treatment with medicine. Also, any action which is effective in advancing or postponing the time of death or repelling calamities, changing blessings or reducing or increasing them—which we have proved elsewhere—are from the same category. Allah, the Exalted, says: “Allah erases what He wills and keeps (what He wills) and with Him is the Mother Book” (Quran 13:39), “Surely Allah does not change what is with a nation until they change what is with themselves” (Quran 13:11), “Had the people of the towns believed and were God-fearing, we would have certainly opened [or expanded] for them blessings from the sky and the earth, but they denied so we punished them because of what they used to do” (Quran 7:96), “If you be grateful, I will certainly give you more and if you be ungrateful, [then] My punishment is indeed severe” (Quran 14:7). It has also been narrated that “Protect your faith by giving charity and protect your wealth by paying zakāt and repel the waves of calamities through supplications” (Nahj al-balāgha, wisdom no. 146), and also “Bonding with relatives (ʿilat al-raʿim) increases age, prevents severe death, and keeps away poverty,” (Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 74, p. 174).

8. Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 32, pp. 237–238, no. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 44, pp. 388–389, no. 3, citing Kifāyat al-athar with this chain: “Alī b. al-ʿUsayn b. ʿUmar b. al-ʿUsayn, from ʿUsayn b. Zaid, from his (paternal) uncle ʿUmar b. ʿAlī, from his father.”

9. Dalʿil al-imāma, p. 249, no. 40.

10. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 175, no. 131; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 53, no. 32; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 12, p. 501, no. 287, and sect. 59, p. 581, no. 762; Muntakhab al-anwār al-muḥḥa, p. 18; al-Maʿajja, pp. 221–222.

11. Quran 57:17.

12. Dalʿil al-imāma, p. 253.

13. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 138, pp. 340–341, no. 21; Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, pp. 186–187, no. 38; Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, p. 54, no. 21. Al-Majlisī writes: “Absence (al-fatra) between two Messengers is the period in which sending Messengers is paused and their heirs (waṣāʾis) are hidden. The fatra of Imams means they are concealed and do not appear for a long duration or there is an absence of a powerful and dominant Imam. This includes the era of all the Imams except Amr al-Mu`minīn; and the first explanation seems more probable.”

14. Farʿid al-simāʿin, vol. 2, p. 335, no. 587; Yanʿabʿ al-mawadda, chap. 94, p. 448; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 25, p.

287, no. 5; l'ilm al-war, chap. 2, sect. 2; Bi'ir al-anwar, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 72, no. 17; Ghayat al-mar, chap. 141, p. 695, no. 30, and chap. 142, p. 695, no. 23; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 461, no. 105.

15. Tafsir Furat al-Kaf, p. 212; see Ta'wil al-ayt al-hira and you will find other traditions from al-alab, al-Fa Ab l-Abbs, and Sulaimn al-Daylam; all of whom have interpreted the verse, "And the day when it reveals it" to the Q'im and his rising, peace be on him.

16. Al-Nukat al-i'tiqdiyya, p. 35.

17. Al-Mukam wa l-mutashbih, p. 27; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 2, chap. 9, sect. 26, p. 506, no. 468. It is appropriate that we mention here what has been mentioned in the book al-Kun wa l-alqb, chap. 3, pp. 68–69, under the name 'Quftn' citing A`yn al-Sh`a: "Shaykh Muammad h Najaf has narrated from al-Shaykh A`mad b. al-Shaykh asan b. al-Shaykh `Al al-Najaf—the learned litterateur and poet (d. 1293 AH)—that he saw the Awaited Imam, peace be on him, in a dream and complained to him. The Imam answered him with these two lines of poetry:

For us is the return after a prolonged occultation

And we will fill it with justice just as it was filled with unfairness

Soon my promise will be fulfilled, say to those who disbelieve in me

Indeed this is a truth that my Lord will certainly (fulfill)

18. Quran 24:35.

Section Twenty–Seven

The traditions that indicate he will have two occultations and one will be shorter than the other

Comprised of ten traditions

599. Al-Kf1: Muammad b. Ya'y, from Muammad b. al-usayn, from ibn Ma`b, from Isq b. `Ammr, from (Imam) Ab `Abd–Allah, peace be on him, who said: "The Q'im will have two occultations: one of them will be short and the other long. In the first occultation, no one will know his whereabouts except his special followers (khqatu sh`atih). As for the other, no one will know his whereabouts except his special servants (khqatu maw`ih)."

600. Yanb` al-mawadda2: Citing al-Ma`ajja f m nazala f l-Q'im al-ujja, concerning the saying of Allah, the Exalted, "And he made it a firm word in his future generations so that they may return" (Quran 43:28). From Thbit al-Thum, from Imam `Al b. al-usayn, from his father, from his grandfather Amr al-Mu`minn `Al b. Ab lib, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said:

This verse was revealed about us. Allah has put Imamate in the generation of al-usayn until the Day of Judgment. Our Q'im will definitely have two occultations: one of them will be longer than the other and no one will remain steadfast in his Imamate except those who have strong certitude and correct recognition.

601. Ghaybat al-Nu`mn3: Narrated to us A`mad b. Muammad b. Sa`d, from `Al b. al-asan, from

`Abd al-Raḥmān b. Abī Najr, from `Alī b. Mahziyār, from Ḥammād b. `Aṣṣ, from Ibrāhīm b. `Umar al-Yamānī who said: “I heard (Imam) Abī Ja`far, peace be on him, say, ‘The master of this affair will surely have two occultations.’ I also heard him say, ‘The Q’im will not rise while having anybody’s allegiance on his neck [i.e. The Q’im will rise while he will not have pledged allegiance to anyone].”

602. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān⁴: Informed us Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Sa`d, from al-Qāsim b. Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. Ḥuzaym, from his book, from `Ubays b. Hishām, from `Abd-Allah b. Jabala, from Ibrāhīm b. al-Mustanʿir, from al-Mufaḥḥal b. `Umar al-Ju`fī, from (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah al-Ḥadiq, peace be on him, who said:

The master of this affair will surely have two occultations: one of them will be prolonged to such an extent that some of them will say, “He has died,” some will say, “He has been killed,” and some of them will say, “He has gone.” No one from his companions [i.e. followers] will remain [steadfast] in his affair except for very few. No one will know his whereabouts from his friends or anybody else except a servant who looks after his affairs.

603. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān⁵: Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Sa`d b. `Uqda, from Muḥammad b. al-Mufaḥḥal b. Ibrāhīm b. Qays and Sa`d b. [Sa`d] b. Isḥāq b. Sa`d and Aḥmad b. al-Ḥusayn [al-Ḥasan] b. `Abd al-Malik and Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. al-Ḥasan al-Qaḥawānī, all of them from al-Ḥasan b. Maḥbūb, from Ibrāhīm [b. Ziyād] al-Kharrīq, from Abī Baḥr who said:

I said to (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, that (Imam) Abī Ja`far, peace be on him, used to say, “The Q’im from the family of Muḥammad will have two occultations and one of them will be longer than the other.” He said, “Yes, and this will not occur until the family of so and so clash with each other, war rages (taḥāq al-ḥalqa), the Sufyān appears, calamities intensify, death and killings engulf the people, and they seek refuge in the Sanctum of Allah (ḥaram Allāh) and the Sanctum of His Messenger (ḥaram rasūlih), Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.”

604. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān⁶: `Abd al-Waḥid b. `Abd-Allah, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Rabʿ, from Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Ḥimyarī, from al-Ḥasan b. Ayyūb, from `Abd al-Karīm b. `Amr, from al-`Alī b. Razīn, from Muḥammad b. Muslim al-Thaqafī, from (Imam) al-Baqir Abī Ja`far, peace be upon him, who said: “The Q’im will have two occultations. In one of them, [some will say] ‘he has perished’ and [others will say,] ‘No one knows where he is.’”

605. Al-Kāfī⁷: Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā and Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-Kāfī, from `Alī b. Ḥassān, from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Kathīr, from al-Mufaḥḥal b. `Umar who said:

I heard (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, say, “The master of this affair will have two occultations: in one of them, he will return to his family. As for the other, [some will say] ‘he has perished’ and [others will say,] ‘No one knows where he is.’” I asked, “What should we do when this happens?” He replied, “When somebody claims [to be him], ask him about matters that only someone like him can answer.”

606. Al-Kāfī⁸: Al-ʿusayn b. Muḥammad, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad from al-Qasim b. Ismāʿīl al-Anbarī, from Yaʿyā b. al-Muthannī, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Bukair, from ʿUbaid b. Zurʿa, from Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “The Qaʿim will have two occultations. In one of them, he will be present during the Hajj season; he will see the people but they will not be able see him.”

607. ʿIqd al-durar⁹: From (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-ʿusayn b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, who said: “The master of this affair—meaning the Mahdī, peace be on him—will have two occultations. One of them will become so elongated that some will say, ‘he has died,’ others will say, ‘he has been killed,’ and others will say, ‘he has gone.’ No one will be aware of his whereabouts, not his friends nor anybody else, except the servants who look after his affairs.”

The following tradition also proves the above concept: 254.

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1. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. “Fī l-ghayba,” p. 340, no. 19; Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, p. 52, no. 19; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 10, p. 170, no. 2, with a slight difference. Al-Nuʿmān has also recorded this tradition on p. 170, no. 1: “From ibn ʿUqda, from ʿAlī b. al-ʿasan al-Taimulī, from ʿUmar b. Uthmān, from al-ʿasan b. Maʿbūb, from Isḥāq b. ʿAmmār al-ʿairafī, from (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said, ‘The Qaʿim will have two occultations: one will be long and the other short. In the first occultation, his special followers (khawṣatu shʿatih) will know his whereabouts. As for the other, no one will know his whereabouts except his special servants.’” In this tradition, the long occultation has been mentioned before the shorter one which should have been first. This does not affect our goal and intention for mentioning this tradition.
 2. Yanʿabʿ al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 427; al-Maʿajja fī mʿ nazala fī l-Qaʿim al-ʿujja, p. 200, under verse 43:28.
 3. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, p. 171, no. 3.
 4. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, pp. 171–172, no. 5.
 5. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, pp. 172–173, no. 7; Dalʿil al-imāma, sect. “Maʿrifat mʿ warada min al-akhbār fī wujūb al-ghayba,” p. 293, to his saying: “He said, ‘Yes.’”
 6. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, p. 173, no. 8.
 7. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 340, no. 12; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 10, pp. 175–176, no. 9, which says: “He will return in one of them” and “Then ask him about those great matters that only someone like him can answer”; Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, p. 54, no. 20.

I say: When he speaks about him returning in one of the occultations to his family, he might mean that his whereabouts will still be known to his special (followers) and that they will be in touch with him—may my father and mother be sacrificed for him—either through correspondence or the privilege of directly meeting him or through representatives and ambassadors between him and his followers. Al-Majlisī, may Allah have mercy on him, says: “‘He will return to his family,’ means the dependents of his father or to his representatives and ambassadors. ‘Only someone like him can answer,’ means that only someone like the Qaʿim, peace be on him, can answer such questions that are known to no one except an Imam; things like informing all the people about the unseen and questions about difficult issues and the sciences that only they have knowledge about. If he answers these correctly—and his answers are in accordance with what has reached you from their forefathers, peace be on them—then know that he is the Imam; and this [questioning] must be specifically performed by the knowledgeable scholars.”

8. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 339, no. 12; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 10, pp. 175–176, no. 16; Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, p. 47, no. 12.
9. ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 5, p. 134; al-Burhān fī ʿalimīyat Mahdī ʿakhr al-zamān, chap. 12, pp. 171–172, no. 4; Bishrat al-Islām, chap. 4, p. 81, no. 4.

The esteemed Shaykh, ibn Abū Zaynab al-Katīb al-Nuʿmānī, writes: “The traditions which mention that the Qaʿim, peace be on him, will have two occultations are regarded by us as true and authentic, Praise be to Allah. Allah has made clear

what the Imams, peace be on them, had said and has shown the proof of their truthfulness in these traditions. The first occultation, is the occultation in which there were ambassadors in it—whom connected the Imam and the people. The ambassadors were appointed from amongst apparent and prominent personalities. Difficult sciences, abstruse talks of wisdom, and the answer to all the hard and problematic questions which were asked were delivered by them. This was the short occultation; whose time has expired and its period has come to an end. The second occultation is the one in which the ambassadors and emissaries were removed because of an affair desired by Allah, the Exalted, and the strategy which He had implemented amongst His creation, so that those who claim (to follow) this affair will be sifted, examined, tested, separated, and purified—just as Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, says, ‘Allah will not leave the believers in the state which you are in until He distinguishes the evil from the good; nor will Allah inform you of the unseen . . .’ (Quran 3:179). Indeed, this time has certainly come and may Allah make us steadfast in the truth and make us one of those who will not pass through the sieve of fitnas. This is the meaning of the saying that ‘he will have two occultations.’ At the end, we ask Allah to hasten the relief (faraj) of His friends and appoint us amongst the best of those who obey him, and the purest of those who follow him, and from the best of those who He deems fit for and has selected to help His friend and Caliph. Surely, He is the Master of kindness, the Munificent, the Benefactor” (Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, pp. 173–174).

In I`lām al-war, sect. 1 of the 3rd chap., 2nd part of the 4th pillar, it has been mentioned that “the traditions of occultation precede the era of al-`ujja, peace be on him, and even the era of his father and grandfather, and that Shia traditionalists have immortalized them in their Principles (U`l books) compiled during the time of the two masters, al-B`qir and al-`diq, peace be on them, and traced (their chains) from the Holy Prophet and the Imams, peace be on them, one after the other, and this is why the belief in the Imamate of the Master of the Time is correct; because he possesses these attributes and an occultation that has been mentioned amongst his attributes and no one can refute this.” He then says: “Amongst the reliable Shia traditionists and authors is al-`asan b. Ma`b`b al-Zarr`d who wrote the book al-Mash`kha more than a hundred years before the period of occultation—which amongst the Shia U`l books is more famous than the book of al-Muzan and its kind. He has recorded in it some of what we have mentioned about the occultation. All these occurred just as they had been foretold and everything that they had guaranteed occurred without any variation. From these, is what he narrated from Ibr`h`m al-Kh`riq, from Ab` Ba`r, from (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah . . . (he then mentions the fifth tradition in this chapter and says,) see how the two occultations have occurred for the Master of the Affair, peace be on him, exactly like how the aforementioned narrations from his forefathers and ancestors had guaranteed” (Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, pp. 173–174).

Al-Muf`d writes in al-Fu`l al-`ashara: “The traditions narrated from the late Imams of the family of Mu`ammad, peace be upon them, complement each other in concluding that the awaited Q`im must definitely have two occultations and one of them will be longer than the other. In the shorter occultation, some special people will have news about him and in the longer occultation, no one from the public will know of his abode except for a few of his reliable companions who will have the privilege of being at his service and who will only serve him and no one else. Such traditions have existed in the writings of the Shia Im`m authors before the birth of Ab` Mu`ammad (al-`Askar), his father, and his grandfather, peace be on them. Their truth became apparent with the advent of the representatives and ambassadors—whom we already named, may Allah have mercy on them—and the truthfulness of the narrators also became clear with the start of the major occultation. This was indeed a magnificent sign about the truthfulness of the Shia Im`m belief.”

I say: The fact that these traditions were recorded in al-K`f during the minor occultation, and the minor occultation ending and the beginning of the second occultation after it, is also evidence of their authenticity. For `Al` b. Mu`ammad al-Samur, may Allah be satisfied with him—who was the last ambassador—passed away in the month of Sha`b`n, 329 AH, while al-Kulain died in 328 AH. According to another report, al-Kulain died in 329 AH, the same year in which the fourth ambassador died; who had died in the middle of Sha`b`n, 329AH. Others believe that even if al-Kulain died in the year 329 AH, it was before the death of al-Samur. The fact that he has recorded these traditions in al-K`f during the minor occultation is by itself proof of their authenticity and correctness.

You should know that the occultation of our master Imam al-Mahd—may my father and mother be sacrificed for him—has also been mentioned in the poems of Shia poets like al-`imyar (d. 173 AH), who said in his poem (see al-Ghadr, vol. 2, p. 247) addressed to our master al-`diq, peace be on him,

We have been informed about the successor of Mu`ammad

And what has been said is not a lie

That the master of this affair will be not be found and will become unseen
Hidden, like he who is fearful and waiting

Then the wealth of the lost one will be distributed as if
. . .

He will live for some time then will rise
Like the rising of a Star in the horizon

I hold my Lord as a Witness that your saying is a proof
Upon all the creatures, obedient and sinners

That the Master of the Affair and the Qa'im
Is the one whom my soul flies to with delight

For him is an occultation which is inevitable
And Allah sends salutations upon this concealed person

He will stay thus for a while and then appear
And fill with justice the East and the West

Section Twenty-Eight

The traditions that indicate he will have a long occultation until Allah, the Exalted, allows him to emerge

Comprised of one-hundred traditions

608. Kifayyat al-athar1: Ahmad b. Isma'il, from Muhammad b. Hammam, from `Abd-Allah b. Ja'far al-Imiyar, from Mas'ud b. Muslim, from Mas'ada who said:

I was with (Imam) al-Qadiq, peace be on him, when an old man—bent and leaning on his staff—came to him and greeted him. `Abd-Allah replied to his greetings and the old man said, “O son of Allah’s Messenger! Stretch your hand for me so that I may kiss it.” So he stretched his hand and he kissed it (and) then started to cry.

(Imam) `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, said, “Why are you crying, O old man?” He answered, “May I be sacrificed for you [O son of Allah’s messenger]! I have been waiting for your Qa'im for the last one hundred years, saying [to myself that he will come] this month or this year. Now, I have become old, my bones have turned fragile [thin], and my death is approaching me, but I don't see what I would like to see [and I see concerning you what I dislike]. I see you [Ahl al-Bait] being disdained and turned away. On the other hand, I see your enemies freely doing what they want. Why shouldn't I cry?”

The eyes of Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, filled with tears and he said, “O old man! If Allah allows you to live until you see our Qa’im, you will be with us on the highest pinnacle. And if death comes to you, you will come on the Day of Judgment along with the weight (thiq) of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be upon him and his family, and we are his weight. For indeed, he has said, ‘I leave amongst you two weighty things (thiqat); so fasten to them and you will never be deviated: the Book of Allah and my progeny, my Ahl al-Bait.’”

The old man said, “After hearing this tradition, I will no longer be concerned.” He said, “O old man! Our Qa’im will be from the loins of al-Ḥasan; al-Ḥasan will be from the loins of `Alī; `Alī will be from the loins of Muḥammad; Muḥammad will be from the loins of `Alī; `Alī will be from the loins of this son of mine—he then pointed to (Imam) al-Mūsā, peace be on him—and he is from my loins. We are twelve and all of us are infallible (ma`ṣūmīn) and purified (muḥaḥharīn).”

The old man asked, “O my master! Are some of you nobler than the others?” He answered, “No. We are equal in nobility but some of us are more knowledgeable than the others.” Then he said, “O old man! If nothing remains from the world except one day, Allah will certainly prolong that day until the Qa’im from us Ahl al-Bait emerges. Know that our Shias will be inflicted with a fitna and bewilderment during his occultation. Then, [Allah] will make the sincere ones steadfast in his guidance. O Allah! Help them in [being steadfast].”

609. Kamāl al-dīn2: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Malik al-Fazlī al-Kāfī, from Isḥāq b. Muḥammad al-Ḥairafī, from Abū Hāshim, from Furṭ b. Aḥnaf, from Sa`d b. Ḥarṭ, from al-Aḥbagh b. Nubṭa, from Amīr al-Mu`minīn `Alī, peace be upon him, who mentioned the Qa’im, peace be on him, and said: “He will certainly have an occultation [that will continue] until the ignorant will say, ‘The family of Muḥammad are unimportant for Allah.’”

610. Kamāl al-dīn3: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Shaibānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Ja`far al-Kāfī, from Sahl b. Ziyād al-Ḥadāmī, from `Abd al-`Aḥm b. `Abd-Allah al-Ḥasanī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥālib, from his father, from his forefathers, from Amīr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on them all, who said:

Our Qa’im will have an occultation whose duration will be prolonged. It is as if I am seeing the Shias during his occultation who are wandering like livestock in search of pasture but will not find it. Know that whoever remains steadfast from amongst them in his religion, and his heart does not harden—due to the prolonged occultation of his Imam—then he will be with me in my rank on the Day of Judgment. When our Qa’im rises, he will not have pledged allegiance to anybody. Because of this, his birth will be concealed and he will be hidden.

The exact same tradition has been narrated to us by `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Mūsā, may Allah

be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar al-Kaḥḥāfī, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Mūsā al-Rāyḥānī, from ʿAbdul ʿAḥḥād b. ʿAbd-Allah al-ḥasanī, from Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Riḥābī, from his father, from his forefathers, from Amr al-Muʿminīn, peace be on him.

611. Kamāl al-dīn4: Narrated to us my father, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-ḥimyarī, from Aḥmad b. Hilāl, from ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Abī Najrīn, from Faḥḥāḥ al-ḥafḥāfī b. Ayyūb, from Saḍr, in a tradition from Abī ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

The brothers of Yūsuf were the grandsons and children of prophets, [yet,] they traded Yūsuf and sold him whilst they were his brothers and he was their brother. They did not recognize him until he said to them, “I am Yūsuf.” Then, why does this umma deny the fact that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, might intend to conceal His Proof (ḥujja) at a specific time?

Indeed, Yūsuf, peace be on him, was the King of Egypt and the distance between him and his father was a journey of eighteen days. Had Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, intended to inform him of his place, He could have done so.

By Allah! On hearing the good news, Yaʿqūb and his sons traveled the distance in nine days from the time they started the [journey] to Egypt. So, why does this umma deny that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, might do with His Proof what He did with Yūsuf; he will walk in their markets and set foot on their carpets and they will not recognize him until Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, allows him to introduce himself, just as He allowed Yūsuf who said to them, ‘Do you know how you treated Yūsuf and his brother when you were ignorant? They said: Are you indeed Yūsuf? He said: I am Yūsuf and this is my brother . . .’5”

612. Kamāl al-dīn6: Narrated to us ʿAbd al-Wahīd b. Muḥammad b. ʿAbdūs al-ʿAḥḥādī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Nasībī, from ḥamdīn b. Sulaimīn, from Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl b. Bazī, from ḥayyīn al-Sarrīj, from al-Sayyid b. Muḥammad al-ḥimyarī in a long tradition in which he said:

I asked al-ḥadīq Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger, Allah’s blessings be upon him and his family! Traditions from your forefathers have been narrated to us about the occultation and that it will truly occur. Inform me for whom will this occur?” He replied, “It will occur for my sixth descendant and he is the twelfth guided Imam after the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. The first of them is Amr al-Muʿminīn ʿAlī b. Abī ḥalīb and the last of them is the one who will rise with the truth, Allah’s remnant on the earth, and the master of the time. By Allah! If he remains in occultation equal to the time Noah remained in his nation, he will not depart the world until he appears and fills the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.”

613. Kamāl al-dīn7: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-ʿAḥḥādī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from his father, from Ibrāhīm b. Ḥashim, from Muḥammad b. Abī ʿUmair, from ḥafwīn b.

Mihran al-Jammal, from al-Qadi, Ja'far b. Muhammad, peace be on him, who said: "By Allah, your Mahd will become hidden from you to the extent that the ignorant from amongst you will say, 'The family of Muhammad are unimportant for Allah.' Then, he will come like a shining meteor and will fill [earth] with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness."

614. Al-Kafi 8: `Ali b. Muhammad, from Ja'far b. Muhammad, from Mays b. Ja'far al-Baghdadi, from Wahb b. Shadhnan, from al-Asan b. Abi l-Rab', from Muhammad b. Is'eq, from Umm Hani' who said:

I asked Abi Ja'far Muhammad b. `Ali, peace be on him, about the saying of Allah, the Exalted: "I swear by [the planets] that disappear. Those that move in their orbits."9 He replied, "[It is about] an Imam who will disappear in the year 260 AH. Then, he will appear like a meteor glowing in the dark night. If you reach his time, your eyes will be soothed (qarrat `ainuk)."

615. Kamal al-din 10: Narrated to us Muhammad b. Mays b. al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Ali b. Ibrahim b. Hishim, from Muhammad b. `Is b. `Ubaid, from `Ali b. Muhammad, from Hani' al-Tammir who said: "(Imam) Abi `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, said to me, 'The master of this affair will certainly have an occultation. Thus, [Allah's] servant[s] should fear Allah and fasten to his religion."

616. Al-Kafi 11: Muhammad b. Ya'ya, from Ja'far b. Muhammad, from Is'eq b. Muhammad, from Ya'ya b. al-Muthanna, from `Abd-Allah b. Bukair, from `Ubaid b. Zur'ra, from (Imam) Abi `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: "People will not find their Imam. He will be present during the Hajj season and he will see them but they will not see him."

617. Al-Kafi 12: Muhammad b. Ya'ya and al-Asan b. Muhammad have both narrated from Ja'far b. Muhammad al-Kafi, from al-Asan b. Muhammad al-Airaf, from `Ali b. Khalid, from Yamn al-Tammir who said:

We were sitting with (Imam) Abi `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, when he said to us, "The master of this affair will certainly have an occultation. The one who fastens to his religion during this period is like someone one who pulls the qatd (a plant full of extremely sharp thorns) in his closed fist like this." Then, he showed with his hands and asked, "Who amongst you has grasped the thorns of the qatd tightly with his hands?" He then said nothing for a while said then continued, "The master of this affair will certainly have an occultation. Thus, [Allah's] servant[s] should fear Allah and fasten to his religion."

618. Kamal al-din 13: Narrated to me my father and Muhammad b. al-Asan, may Allah be satisfied with them, both from Sa'd b. `Abd-Allah and `Abd-Allah b. Ja'far al-Qimyar and Ahmad b. Idris, who all narrated from Ahmad b. Muhammad b. `Is and Muhammad b. al-Usayn b. Abi al-Kha'ab and Muhammad b. `Abd al-Jabbir and `Abd-Allah b. `Mir b. Sa'd al-Ash'ar, from `Abd al-Ram' b. Abi Najran, from Muhammad b. al-Muwir, from al-Mufal b. `Umar al-Jufi, who said:

I heard (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, say, “Keep away from fame (tanwīh) 14! By Allah, your Imam will disappear for many years and you will be sifted until it is said, ‘He has died or he has perished or no one knows where he is?’ The eyes of the believers will weep for him. You will overturn like ships which overturn in the waves of the ocean. No one will be saved except those whose covenant Allah has taken and has inscribed faith in their hearts and has assisted them by a Spirit from Himself. Indeed, twelve ambiguous flags will be raised, and you won’t know which belongs to who.”

I started crying [on hearing this] and he said to me, “Why are you crying, O Abū `Abd-Allah?” I replied, “Why shouldn’t I cry when you are saying that there will be twelve ambiguous flags and none will be distinguished from the other? What should we do [in these circumstances]?” [He] looked at the sunshine in the room and remarked, “O Abū `Abd-Allah! Do you see this sunshine?” I replied in the affirmative. He said, “By Allah, our affair is more apparent than this sunshine.”

619. Kamāl al-dīn¹⁵: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Alī b. ʿIṣṭim al-Naufal—known as al-Kirmānī—from Abū I-`Abbās Aḥmad b. `Iṣṣ al-Washsh al-Baghdādī, from Aḥmad b. ʿIḥir [al-Qummī], from Muḥammad b. Bahr b. Sahl al-Shaibānī, from `Alī b. al-ʿArith, from Sa`d b. Manṣūr al-Jawshīnī, from Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Budailī, from his father, from Sadūr al-ʿairafī who said:

I, al-Mufaḥḥal b. `Umar, Abū Baḥr, and Abūn b. Taghlib went to meet our master Abū `Abd-Allah al-ʿIḥḍīq, peace be on him. We saw him sitting on the earth while he was wearing a Khaibarī cloak that was fastened to his neck that didn’t have a collar and had short sleeves. He was crying like someone whose child had died and whose heart was burning.

Grief was visible from his face, change was apparent in him, tears had filled his eyes, and he was saying, “My master! Your occultation has taken away my sleep, strained my resting place, and seized the comfort of my heart. My master! Your occultation has made my calamities reach proportions of eternal misfortune. The loss of one after the other has destroyed us all. I no longer feel the tears flowing from my eyes and the moaning sounds from my heart on account of past afflictions and bygone calamities. [All] I see is the great tragedy that is before me which is greater, more sorrowful, more severe, and inhospitable [than all tragedies]. [They are] harsh calamities that are mixed with your anger and afflictions that are mixed with your wrath.”

Our minds were terrified with perplexity and our hearts were cleft asunder with impatience about a great disaster and a terrible misfortune. We thought that a knocking calamity had struck him or a misfortune had afflicted him. We asked, “O Son of the best of creatures! May Allah not make your eyes weep! What has made your tears flow and your eyes rain teardrops? What tragedy has brought you this sorrow?”

(Imam) al-ʿIḥḍīq, peace be on him, took [a deep] breath which filled his stomach and intensified his panic and then said, “Woe to you! This morning, I looked in the Book of Jafr which is comprised of the knowledge about [the times] of death, examinations, and afflictions and the knowledge about whatever existed/occurred and will exist/occur until the Day of Judgment, which Allah specifically gave to [the

Prophet] Muḥammad and the Imams after him.

I pondered over the birth of the one from us who will disappear, his occultation, his delay, his longevity, the examination/calamities of the believers during this time, the doubts that will arise in their hearts due to his prolonged occultation, and them becoming apostates and taking off the rope of Islam from their necks—which Allah, Holy be His Remembrance, says, ‘And We have made every person’s deeds cling to his neck,’¹⁶ which refers to [our] Mastership (al-wilāya). [On reading this,] I was filled with sympathy and overcome by grief.”

We said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Please honor us and do us a favor by sharing with us some of what you have learned from this knowledge.” He said, “Surely Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, will repeat for our Qa’im three things which He had done for three of His prophets. He made his birth like the birth of Moses, peace be on him; He made his occultation like the occultation of Jesus, peace be on him; and made His delay like the delay of Noah, peace be on him. Then, He made his age like that of the Righteous Servant— meaning al-Khiṣr, peace be on him—as a proof of his long life.”

We asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Uncover for us the aspects of these meanings.” He said, “As for the birth of Moses, peace be on him, when the Pharaoh found out that the downfall of his kingdom was at [Moses’] hands, he asked for the fortune-tellers who guided him to the lineage [of Moses] and [told him] that he would be from the Israelites. Then, he ordered his followers to rip apart the stomachs of the pregnant women from the Israelites until he killed more than twenty-thousand babies. But he did not succeed in killing Moses, peace be on him, because he was under the protection of Allah, Blessed and High be He.

The same thing happened with the Umayyads and the Abbasids; when they found out that the destruction of their kingdoms and the [destruction] of the government of the oppressors and tyrants from them would be at the hands of our Qa’im, they established enmity against us and drew their swords to kill the family [or Ahl al-Bait] of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and to destroy his generation in the hope of killing the Qa’im. But Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has refused to make evident His affair to any of the oppressors and He will make perfect His Light even if the polytheists detest it.

“As for the occultation of Jesus, peace be on him, the Jews and the Christians unanimously agreed that he had been killed. But Allah, Majestic be His Remembrance, falsified what they had said by His saying, ‘And they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them so.’¹⁷ The occultation of the Qa’im is also like this and the umma will deny it due to its elongation. One will speak nonsense that he has not been born yet; another will say he has passed the age of thirteen or more, and yet another will disobey Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, by saying, ‘Surely, the soul of the Qa’im speaks from the body of someone other than himself.’

“As for the delay of Noah, peace be on him, when he sought punishment on his people from the sky,

Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, sent the Trusted Spirit (Rūḥ al-Amīn), peace be on him, with seven seeds. He said, ‘O Prophet of Allah, Allah, Blessed and High be He, says to you, “These are My creations and My servants. I will not destroy them with a thunderbolt from my thunderbolts except after emphasizing [My] call and establishing [My] proof. So, continue your struggles in preaching to your people and I will definitely reward you for it. Plant these seeds, for in their growth, maturity, and fruition is relief and salvation. Give glad-tidings by these to those believers who follow you.”’

When the trees grew, became [covered with leaves], grew stems and branches, and dates began to grow on them—and this was after a long period of time—Noah, peace be on him, asked Allah, Purified and High be He, to fulfill His promise. Allah, Blessed and High be He, ordered him to plant the seeds of these trees [that had fully grown] and to continue his patience and struggles and to emphasize His proofs upon his people. So he informed the groups who believed in him about this and [on hearing this], three hundred people became apostates, arguing, ‘If what Noah had claimed was true, His Lord wouldn’t have violated His Promise.’ Then, Allah, Blessed and High be He, continued to order him to sow the seeds [of the new full-grown plants] one after the other until he had sowed them seven times. And each time, a group from the believers became apostates until only a little more than seventy men remained from them.

So then, Allah, Blessed and High be He, revealed to him and said, ‘O Noah, dawn has pierced the night and the affair has become pure from filth by the apostasy of those who had wicked essence. Had I destroyed the unbelievers and allowed those groups from your nation who turned apostates—after having earlier believed in you—to survive, I would not have fulfilled My earlier promise to the believers from your tribe whose belief in monotheism was pure and who had fastened to the rope of your prophethood. [The promise I had made to them] that I would make them the successors on earth, establish for them their religion, and convert their fear into security, so they would purely worship Me with the removal of doubts from their hearts. How could I make them successors, establish [their religion], and convert their fear into security when I knew about the weak faith of those who had become apostates, the wickedness of their essence, the evilness of their hidden secrets and their deviation which was the consequence of hypocrisy?’

Had they smelled the fragrance of My Kingdom which would be given to the believers when they become the successors [of my Kingdom] after I destroy their enemies, they would have taken away its serenity (lanaqish raw’iḥa ifṭih), their secret hypocrisy would have become stronger, the ropes of their hearts deviation would have become eternal, they would have openly shown hostility towards their brothers, and would have fought against them to become the leaders and sole commanders and prohibitors. So, how can religion be powerful and the affairs be at the hands of the believers whilst there is unrest and war? It shall never be like this, “So, make the ark before Our eyes and [according to] Our revelation.”¹⁸

“The same thing will occur for the Q’im. His occultation will be prolonged until the truth becomes clear

and faith becomes purified from darkness (al-kadir) by the apostasy of all those from the Shias who have wicked essence; those whom might become hypocrites when they sense the successorship, power, and widespread security during the Q'ım's reign." I said, "O Son of Allah's Messenger! The enemies of the Ahl al-Bait (al-nawā'ib) think that this verse was revealed in favor of Abū Bakr, `Umar, `Uthmān, and `Alī, peace be on him."

He answered, "May Allah not guide the hearts of these enemies! Has the religion which Allah and His Messenger were satisfied with which had power to spread security in the umma, dispel fear from their hearts, and remove skepticism from their chests, ever been present during the reign of any one of these [three Caliphs] or during the reign of `Alī, peace be on him, whilst so many Muslims became apostates, fitnas arose during their times, and wars took place between them and the infidels?" Then he recited the following verse, "Until the messengers despaired and thought that they were indeed told a lie, [then] Our help came to them" 19

As for the Righteous Servant—meaning al-Khiṣr, peace be on him—then surely Allah, Blessed and High be He, did not prolong his life because of a prophethood that he had destined for him, nor for a Book that he wanted to send down unto him, nor for a religion that would abrogate the religion of the prophets that [lived] before him, nor because of an Imamate whose following He would make compulsory for His servants, nor for an obedience that He would make obligatory for him. Rather, Allah, Blessed and High be He, knew from His prior Knowledge that He would [prolong] the age of the Q'ım during his occultation and He also knew that His servants would deny [him] because of his age, therefore, He prolonged the age of the Righteous Servant without any obvious reason for this longevity except for the fact that it be used to prove the age of the Q'ım and to sever the arguments of those who opposed him so that the people will not have any argument against Allah."

620. Kamāl al-dīn20: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Ziyād b. Ja`far al-Hamdānī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Hāshim, from his father, from Muḥammad b. Khālid al-Barqī, from `Alī b. Ḥasan, from Dāwūd b. Kathīr al-Rīqī who said: "I asked Abū I-Ḥasan Mūsā b. Ja`far, peace be on him, about the Master of this affair. He replied, 'He is the exiled, the lonely, the stranger, the one who will be absent from his family, and the one whose father has not been avenged.'"

621. Kamāl al-dīn21: Narrated to me my father, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Malik al-Fazārī, from `Alī b. al-Ḥasan b. Faḥḥā who heard al-Rayyān b. al-Ḥalt say: "(Imam) Abū I-Ḥasan al-Rīqī, peace be on him, was asked about the Q'ım. He replied, 'He will not be seen and he will not be called by his name.'"

622. Kamāl al-dīn22: Narrated to us al-Muḥaffar b. Ja`far b. Muḥaffar al-`Alawī al-`Umarī al-Samarqandī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from his father Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from Ja`far b. Aḥmad, from al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Faḥḥā, from Abū I-Ḥasan `Alī b. Mūsā al-Rīqī, peace be on him, who said:

Al-Khiṣr, peace be on him, drank from the water of life (māʾ al-ḥayāt) and he will live and not die until the Trumpet is blown (ṣattā yunfakh fī l-ḥūr). He comes to us and salutes us. We hear his voice but we don't see him. He appears wherever he is mentioned and whoever from you mentions him should salute him. He is present during the [Hajj] season every year and performs all the [Hajj] rituals. He stands in ʿArafa and says amen to the supplications of the believers. Through him, Allah will soothe our Qa'im's solitude during his occultation and dispel his loneliness.

623. Ghaybat al-Nu'mān²³: Narrated to us ʿAlī b. al-Ḥusayn, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb, from Muḥammad b. Ḥasan al-Riḍā, from Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Kaʿfī, from ʿṢṣ b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. ʿUmar b. ʿAlī b. Abū Ḥabīb, from his father, from his grandfather, from his father Amr al-Mu'minīn ʿAlī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on him, who said: "The master of this affair is from my descendants. He is the one about whom it will be said, 'He has died or perished. No one knows where he is.'"

624. Kamāl al-dīn²⁴: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Mūsā b. al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm, from his father, from ʿAbd al-Salām b. Ḥalīl al-Harawī, from (Imam) Abū l-Ḥasan ʿAlī b. Mūsā al-Riḍā, from his father, from his forefathers, from ʿAlī, peace be on them all, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said:

By the One Who raised me with the truth as a giver of glad-tidings! Certainly, the Qa'im from my progeny will have an occultation because of a covenant between me and him. [His occultation will continue] until most of the people will say, "The family of Muḥammad are unimportant for Allah!" Others will doubt he was born. Whoever reaches his era should fasten to his religion and must leave no path for Satan to reach him by being skeptical [about the Qa'im]. [If Satan reaches him] he will put him aside from my nation and bring him out of my religion, for he previously brought out your parents from Paradise. Surely, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has made the devils the guardians of those who do not believe.

625. ʿIlal al-sharʿī²⁵: Narrated to us al-Muʿaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muʿaffar al-ʿAlawī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Masʿūd and ʿAidār b. Muḥammad al-Samarqandī, both of them from Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from Jabraʿīl b. Aḥmad, from Mūsā b. Jaʿfar al-Baghdādī, from al-Ḥasan b. Muḥammad al-ʿAirafī, from ʿĀnān b. Sadīr, from his father who said:

(Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, said, "The Qa'im from us will have an occultation whose duration will be long." I asked, "Why is it so, O Son of Allah's Messenger?" He replied, "Surely, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has wanted naught except to carry out in him the customs of the prophets, peace be on them, during their occultations. O Sadīr! It is necessary that the periods their occultations are completed. Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, says, 'You will most certainly embark one stage after another'²⁶ meaning tradition upon tradition of those before you."

626. Ghaybat al-Nu'mān²⁷: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Hammām, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b.

Malik, from Isḥāq b. Sinān, from `Uбайд b. Kharija, from `Alī b. Uthmān, from furṭ b. Aḥnaf, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muḥammad, from his forefathers, peace be upon them, who said:

The river Euphrates overflowed during the reign of Amīr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on him. He and his two sons—al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, peace be on them—mounted and passed by [the neighborhood] of al-Thaqif. The [locals] said, “`Alī has come to drive away the water.” `Alī, peace be on him, answered, “By Allah, I and these two sons of mine will be killed. Then, Allah will definitely raise a person from my progeny in the end of times who will demand our blood. He will go in occultation until the people of deviation are distinguished from the [rightly guided]. [This situation will continue until] the ignorant will say, ‘The family of Muḥammad are unimportant for Allah.’”

627. Ghaybat al-Shaykh²⁸: Abū Baḥr narrated: “(Imam) Abū Ja`far, peace be on him, said, ‘The Qa`im has a similarity with [the Prophet] Yūsuf.’ I asked, ‘And what is it?’ He replied, ‘Bewilderment and occultation.’”

628. Kitāb tārīkh Qum²⁹: From Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Hamdānī and al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-Kashmīrī [al-Kamshīrī], from `Alī b. al-Nu`mān, from Abū l-Akrīd `Alī b. Maimūn al-Ḥāḡh, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

Surely, Allah has used [the city of] Kāfa as an argument over all other cities and the faithful from its inhabitants over the inhabitants of other cities. [Similarly,] he has used Qum as an argument over all other cities and its inhabitants over the inhabitants of the East and the West from the Jinn and the humans. Allah has not left Qum and its inhabitants as weak. Rather, he has made them successful and assisted them.

The religion and its followers in Qum are lowly. Had it not been so, people would have hurried towards it [to inhabit it] and consequently, Qum would have been spoilt and its inhabitants would have become the people of falsehood, resulting in it not being an argument/proof over all other cities. If this happened, then the heavens and the earth would have become dislocated and they would not have been reprieved—even a moment.

Verily, calamities have been warded off from Qum and its people. Soon, there will come a time when the city of Qum and its inhabitants will be an argument over the creatures. This will occur during the occultation of our Qa`im, peace be upon him, until he reappears. Had it not been so, the earth would have swallowed its inhabitants.

Surely, the angels dispel the calamities from Qum and its inhabitants. No tyrant ever intends something bad for Qum but that the destroyer of tyrants [i.e. Allah] destroys him and keeps them away from it either by a disaster or a calamity or an enemy. The tyrants forget about Qum during their rein just as they forget [the remembrance of] Allah.

629. Al-Kāf³⁰: `Alī b. Ibrāhīm, from his father, from ibn Abū `Umair, from Abū Ayyūb al-Khazzāz,

from Muḥammad b. Muslim, from Abū `Abd-Allah (al-ḥadiq), peace be on him, who said: “If you hear that the master of this affair is in occultation, don’t deny it.”

630. Al-Kḥf31: A group of our companions, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad, from al-ḥasan b. `Alī al-Washshī, from `Alī b. Abī Ḥamza, from Abū Baḥr, from Abū `Abd-Allah (al-ḥadiq), peace be on him: “The master of this affair will definitely have an occultation and he will definitely have an isolation during his occultation. Ḥabbā is a great dwelling and thirty people will not feel lonely.”

631. Ghaybat al-Shaykh32: A group narrated to me from Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. Sufyān al-Bazafarī, from Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba, from al-Faḥl b. Shādhān, from `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Abū Najrān, from Ḥafwān b. Yaḥyā, from Abū Ayyūb, from Abū Baḥr, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “If the news of the occultation of your master reaches you, don’t deny it.”

The following traditions also prove the above concept: 205, 242, 244, 245, 254, 257, 261, 305–308, 317, 465, 497, 498, 499, 511, 535–539, 541, 547, 549–557, 559–564, 574, 575, 580, 589, 595, 599–607, 632–635, 637, 641, 643, 644, 645, 647, 649, 653, 669, 685, 686, 688–691, 806, 810, 1104, and 1105

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1. Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 34, pp. 260–262, no. 3; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 36, chap. 46, pp. 408–409, no. 17; al-`Awlīm, vol. 15, chap. 7, pp. 280–281, no. 17; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 1, chap. 9, p. 603, no. 586; Tabyḥn al-ma`ajja, pp. 336–337, no. 31; al-Inḥif, chap. on the letter al-Mīm, pp. 294–296, 269.
 2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 26, p. 302, no. 9; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 340–341, no. 290; Taqrīb al-ma`rif, p. 189; l’ilm al-warī, chap. 2, sect. 2; Dal’īl al-imāma, chap. “Ma`rifat man shahad al-ḥabīb al-ḥamīd, `alayhi al-salām,” no. 14; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 2, p. 119, no. 19, and vol. 52, chap. 21, p. 101, no. 1; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 463, no. 110, and p. 464, no. 116, and p. 510, no. 333.
 3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 26, p. 303, no. 14; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 2, pp. 109–110, no. 1; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 464, no. 115.
 4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 341, no. 21; `Ilal al-sharḥī, chap. 179, p. 244, no. 3; Dal’īl al-imāma, chap. “Mā warada min al-akhbār fī wujūb al-ghayba,” p. 290; al-Kḥf, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 336, no. 4; Mir`at al-`uqūl, vol. 4, pp. 37–39, no. 4; l’ilm al-warī, chap. 2, sect. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 142, no. 1.
 5. Quran 12:89–90.
 6. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 342, no. 23; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, sect. 5, pp. 458–459, no. 96.
 7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, pp. 341–342, no. 22; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 472, no. 149; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 145, no. 11.
 8. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 341, no. 22, and similar to it no. 23; Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, p. 150, no. 6, from one of his two chains and no. 7 citing al-Kulainī, similar to it using another chain in chap. 10, p. 149, no. 6; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 159, no. 116, similar to it; Yanḥab` al-mawadda, p. 430, similar to it; al-ḥadīq has recorded in Kamāl al-dīn vol. 1, p. 330, no. 14: “Through his chain of narrators from Ibrāhīm b. `Aḥīyya, from Umm Hānī al-Thaqafiyya who said, ‘One morning, I went to my master, Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Baqir, peace be on him, and said to him, “My master! A verse from the Book of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, came to my mind and made me restless to the extent that I did not sleep the whole night.” He said, ‘Ask, O Umm Hānī.’ I said, ‘My master! It is the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, “I swear by [the planets] that disappear. Those that move in their orbits” (Quran 81:15–16).’ He said, ‘Yes. The question you have asked, O Umm Hānī, is about the one who will be born in the end of times. He is the Mahdī from this progeny. He will have a bewilderment and an occultation in which some groups will be deviated and others will be guided. Salvation is for he who

reaches him.”

Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, p. 201: “Through his chain of narrators from Umm H̄an̄ who said, ‘I met Imam Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, and asked him about this verse, ‘I swear by [the planets] that disappear. Those that move in their orbits.’” He replied, ‘It is about an Imam who will disappear in the year 260 AH, then he will appear like a glowing meteor. If you reach his time, your eyes will be soothed.’”; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 469, no. 136; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 51, no. 26; Taʿwīl al-ḥayāt al-ḥīra, citing the Tafsīr of Muḥammad b. al-ʿAbbās, Tafsīr nūr al-thaqalain, Tafsīr al-burhān, al-Maʿajja, Tafsīr al-ḥafḥ, and etc. under the verse.

9. Quran 81:15–16.

10. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 343, no. 25.

11. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 337, no. 6; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, p. 175, no. 14; Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, p. 42, no. 6; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 346, no. 33; Dalʿīl al-imāma, chap. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qʿim,” p. 259, no. 64, and chap. “Maʿrifat maʿ warada min al-akhbār fī wujūb al-ghayba,” p. 290, no. 6; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 161, no. 119; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 23, p. 151, no. 2; Ḥilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 11, p. 546, and chap. 29, p. 606; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 1, p. 485, no. 205, and sect. 12, p. 500, no. 279. Al-Nuʿmān has recorded through another chain of narrators from ʿUbaid: “The people will not find the Imam who will be present during the Hajj season. He will see them but they will not see him.”

12. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 138, pp. 335–336, no. 1; Mirʿat al-ʿuqūl, vol. 4, p. 33, no. 1; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 346, no. 34; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 10, p. 169, no. 11; Ithbāt al-waḥīyya (al-Maktabat al-Murtaʿawīyya), p. 226; Dalʿīl al-imāma, p. 290, using another chain; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 6, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 411, no. 153, with minor variations.

13. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 347, no. 35; al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. “Fī l-ghayba,” pp. 338–339, no. 11, similar to it from where he says: “. . . he will definitely have an occultation”; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 10, pp. 151–152, no. 9, similar to it with the difference that it says: “By Allah! He will go into occultation for a period of time,” instead of “years” or “some time,” which seems more probable and appropriate; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 204–205; Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, p. 200; Dalʿīl al-imāma, p. 292.

14. Al-Majlisī writes in Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, p. 282: “Al-tanwīh means fame. That is, don’t make yourselves famous and don’t invite people to your religion. Or, don’t expose what we say to you about the affairs of the Qʿim, peace be on him, and other issues that must be concealed from those who oppose [us]. ‘You will be sifted’ means you will be tested and examined . . . ‘Those who Allah has taken their covenant’ might mean those who accepted him on the Day that Allah took the covenant about His Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and his Ahl al-Bait along with the covenant of His Lordship which has been mentioned in the traditions. ‘Written faith in his heart’ is a referral to the verse, ‘You will not find a group of people who believe in Allah and the Last Day, whilst they love those who have enmity towards Allah and His Messenger, even though they were their [own] fathers, or their sons, or their brothers, or their kinsfolk. These are those into whose hearts He has inscribed faith, and whom He has assisted by a Spirit from Himself’ (Quran 58:22). ‘Spirit’ refers to the ‘Spirit of faith’ as we already mentioned. They will be ‘ambiguous’ for the people’ or they will be ambiguous because some . . . of them will resemble others and it will not be known which one is the truth and which one is false; and this is an interpretation for ‘ambiguous.’ Some have suggested it means that it will not be understood which side these flags belong to: truth or falsehood. Others say it means ‘it will not be understood which man belongs to which flag . . .’ The first interpretation is more probable.”

Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 6, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 411, no. 154 (short version).

15. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, pp. 352–357, no. 50; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 167–173, no. 129; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 13, pp. 219–223, no. 9; Yanḥabʿ al-mawadda, p. 444, short version citing al-Manḥiqib; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 475, no. 162 (only a part of it has been mentioned). It has also been recorded partially or wholly in al-ḥirḥīr al-mustaqīm, Tafsīr nūr al-thaqalain, lʿīm al-warḥ, al-ḥiqḥ min al-ʿajʿa, Ghayyat al-marḥm, Ḥilyat al-abrār, and etc.

16. Quran 17:13.

17. Quran 4:157.

18. Quran 11:37.

19. Quran 12:110.
20. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 34, p. 361, no. 4; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, pp. 476–477, no. 167.
21. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 35, p. 370, no. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 13, p. 33, no. 12.
22. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 38, p. 390, no. 4; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, pp. 480, no. 181 (short version).
23. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, p. 156, no. 18; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 425, no. 409: “From Faḥl b. Shādhān, from Aḥmad b. `Ṣṣ al-`Alawī, from his father, from his grandfather, from Amr al-Mu`minīn `Alī, peace be on him, who said, ‘The master of this affair is from my descendants about whom it will be said, ‘He has died or he has been killed or he has perished or to which land has he gone’”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 2, p. 114, no. 11; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 27, p. 533, no. 468.
24. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, p. 51; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 68, no. 10; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 459, no. 97.
25. `Ilal al-sharḥī, vol. 1, chap. 179, p. 245, no. 7; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 487, no. 212, citing Kamāl al-dīn and `Ilal al-sharḥī; al-Ma`ajja, p. 246 (short version).
26. Quran 84:19.
27. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, p. 140, no. 1; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 532, no. 462.
28. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 163–164, no. 125; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 501, no. 284.
29. Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 57, chap. 36, pp. 212–213, no. 22.
30. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 338, no. 10, and chap. 138, p. 340, no. 15: “From a group of our companions, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad, from `Alī b. al-Ḥakam, from Abū Ayyūb al-Khazzāz, from Muḥammad b. Muslim . . .”; Mir`āt al-`uqūl, vol. 4, pp. 46 & 50, no. 10 & 15; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 444, no. 22.
31. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 340, no. 16; Mir`āt al-`uqūl, vol. 4, p. 50, no. 16. Al-Majlis writes: “In some versions [it has been narrated like this]: ‘During his occultation, he will not be away from the people. Rather, he will be amongst them but they will not recognize him.’ The first is more probable and is in accordance with what is found in other books. ‘Ḥabbā’ is the name of Medina and ‘Thirty people won’t feel lonely’ means that thirty of his close followers and special companions will be with him.” Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 23, p. 157, no. 20. He also writes: “‘Ḥayyiba’ is the name of a city. It indicates that he will mostly be there or around it and that there will be thirty of his special followers and companions with him. If anyone from them dies, he is replaced with another.”; Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, p. 188, no. 41; Similar to it in Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 162, no. 121, through his chain of narrators from `Alī b. Abū Ḥamza, from Abū Baḥr, that he, peace be on him, said: “The Master of this affair will definitely have [a period of] isolation and there will definitely be strength during his isolation. With thirty people, there will be no loneliness and Ḥayyiba is a great dwelling.” Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 445, no. 27.
32. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 160–161, no. 118; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 6, p. 146, no. 15, a similar narration has already been mentioned from Muḥammad b. Muslim.

Section Twenty-Nine

The traditions that indicate the reason behind his occultation

Comprised of nine traditions¹

632. Kamāl al-dīn²: Narrated to us `Abd al-Wāhid b. Muḥammad b. `Abd al-`Azīz, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba al-Nisābūrī from Ḥamdān b. Sulaymān al-Nisābūrī, from Aḥmad b. `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-Madīnī, from `Abd-Allah b. al-Faḥl al-Ḥashīmī

who said:

I heard al-ʿAdiqa Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, say, “The master of this affair will definitely have an occultation in which every liar will become doubtful.” I asked, “Why, may I be sacrificed for you?” He replied, “Because of an affair that we have not been given permission to disclose to you.” I asked, “What is the rationale behind his occultation?” He answered, “The rationale behind his occultation is the same rationale behind the occultations of the Proofs of Allah, High be His Remembrance, who preceded him; Surely, the rationale will not be disclosed until he reappears, just as the rationale behind al-Khiṣr’s acts of drilling a hole in the ship, killing the boy, and erecting the wall were not disclosed to Moses, peace be on him, except at the time of their separation. O son of Faḍl! This affair is from the affairs of Allah, the Exalted, a secret from Allah’s secrets, and an unseen from Allah’s unseens. Once we know that He, Mighty and Majestic be He, is wise, then, we will acknowledge that all His actions are wisdom even if their reason is not disclosed [to us].”

633. Kamāl al-dīn: Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. ʿIṣmāʿil al-Kulainī, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb al-Kulainī, from Isḥāq b. Yaʿqūb, from the Master of Time (ʿAbd al-Zamān), Allah’s blessings be on him, in his last signed letter (al-tauqī) which was in reply to a question asked from him by Muḥammad b. Uthmān b. al-ʿAmrī:

As for the reason behind the occultation, then surely Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, says, “O you who believe! Do not ask about things which if disclosed to you will upset you.”⁴ Verily, all my forefathers had the allegiance of the tyrant of their time on their necks [i.e. were forced to pledge allegiance to them] but when I reappear, I will not have the allegiance of any oppressive king on my neck. As for benefiting from me during my occultation, then indeed, it will be like benefiting from the sun when the clouds conceal it from the eyes. I am security for the inhabitants of earth just as the stars are security for the inhabitants of the sky. So, don’t ask about things that you don’t need and don’t strain yourself in learning the knowledge of things that you will not be questioned about. Pray as much as you can for the hastening of the relief (al-faraj) because it is your relief. Peace be on you, O Isḥāq b. Yaʿqūb, and [on] whoever follows guidance.

634. ʿUyūn akhbār al-Riḥā: Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Hamdānī, from ʿAlī b. al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī b. Faḍl, from his father, from Abū I-ʿasan ʿAlī b. Mūsā al-Riḥā, peace be on him, who said: “It is as if I am with the Shias who are [wandering] like livestock—during the occultation of my third descendant—in search of pasture, but will not find it.” I asked, “And why will it be so, O Son of Allah’s Messenger?” He answered, “Because, their Imam will be concealed from them.” “Why?” I asked again. He answered, “So that he will not have the allegiance of anyone on his neck when he rises with the sword.”

635. Ghaybat al-Shaykh: Al-ʿusayn b. ʿUbaid Allah, from Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. Sufyān al-Bazāfarī, from Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba, from al-Faḍl b. Shādhān al-Nisābūrī, from al-ʿasan b. Maḥmūd, from ʿAlī b. Rīḥā, who said: “Zurāra said, ‘The Q’im will have

an occultation before he appears.’ I asked, ‘Why?’ He replied, ‘He will fear for his life.’”

The following traditions also prove the above concept: 337, 626, 654, 656, and 669.

1. Even though the reason behind the occultation is concealed from us, this cannot be used as a pretext to deny it hasn't occurred or the existence of a benefit in its occurrence. For, Allah's customs regarding this event and other events that occur by Allah's Wisdom are one. Just as there is no way to deny the benefits in some of His actions whose rationale and advantage are not known to us, likewise, there is no way one can deny the benefits in His Assigned-Guardian (walī) and Proof's occultation. Surely, our senses and intellect fall short of perceiving the benefits of most things including Allah's customs in his creations and religious laws. We have not even been given the power to comprehend many of the unknown things. Thus, it is best to acknowledge the deficiency in our understanding.

It has been narrated from our master, (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muḥammad al-Ḥadiq, peace be on him: “O son of Adam! If a bird eats your heart, it will not be satiated and if your eye is poked with a needle you will become blind; Yet, you intend to recognize through these two [i.e. heart and eye] the kingdom of the heavens and the earth!” Thus, basically, we shouldn't ask about these matters after the Prophet and the Infallibles from his Ahl al-Bait, Allah's blessings be on them all, informed us about their occurrence, and the indication of correct traditions about them, and such things occurring in the previous nations, just as the Imam mentioned in the long tradition narrated by Saḍr. Al-Mufīd says in al-Fuḥūḍ al-`ashara: “One of Allah's friends travels in the earth while worshipping his Exalted Lord and keeps away from the oppressors through his actions and distances himself from the abode of the criminals. Through his religion he stays far away from the place of the disobedient. None of the creatures is aware of his residence and no human from them can claim to have met him or to have been in his company. He is Khīr, peace be on him, who lived before the time of Moses [and still lives] today. This is a universally accepted fact amongst the traditionists and completely agreed on by historians and narrators. He travels in the earth and no one knows his abode and no one can claim to be in his company except what has been mentioned in the Holy Quran about Moses, peace be on him. Some people mention that he sometimes appears but he is not recognized. Some who have seen him think that they have met a God-fearing and abstentious person and when he leaves, they assume him to be Khīr even though they are neither sure nor convinced about it. Sometimes, he believes that he is one of the people of this time.” Then, he mentions the occultations of Moses, Joseph, Jonah, and others. (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, has explicitly stated that the reason for his occultation will not be revealed except after his reappearance and it is a divine secret—as has been discussed in the first tradition of this chapter from `Abd-Allah b. al-Faḍl al-Hāshimī. On this basis, it will be correct if we say: the real reason (for his occultation) is concealed from us in His Wisdom and it will not be revealed completely except after his reappearance.

Of course, there are numerous benefits and obvious advantages other than this. Some of these are:

The people will be tested by his occultation and the level of their submission, recognition, and belief in what was revealed to the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, will be examined. Indeed, it is the custom of Allah, the Exalted, to test the people. The creation of people, sending of Messengers, and ascension of divine scripts was naught but for testing. Allah, the Exalted, says: “We have created man from a mixed semen [and] We [will] test him” (Quran 76:2). He, Honorable is His Glory, also says: “[He] Who created death and life to test you as to which of you is the best in conduct” (Quran 67:2), and “Do the people think that they will be left alone if they say ‘we have believed’ and they will not be tested” (Quran 29:2). From the traditions that you will be acquainted with in this book, it can be understood that testing using the medium of occultation is one the most difficult of tests and fastening to religion in this period is like pulling thorns through your fist.

This is in addition to the fact that there is a special test and examination for acknowledging, believing from the depth of the heart, and being bound by what the Prophet, Allah's blessings be upon him and his family, has informed about the hidden affairs. The fruit of these will be internal purification and a strength to practice the religion of Allah, the Exalted. Through his occultation, the peoples actions, beliefs, and knowledge will be tested. As for their actions, during the occultation severe and intense fitnas will take place and the people will be placed in great dilemma in a way that the most difficult of things will

be to remain steadfast in performing one's religious duties. As for knowledge and belief, then believing in the occultation is believing in the unseen (al-ghayb) and no one will believe in it except he whose faith has been perfected, his recognition strengthened, and his intentions purified.

To sum it up, the people will be tested for belief in Allah and their submission and acknowledgement regarding the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and what he has said. It is likely that the tests regarding having faith in the unseen affairs is more severe than the other tests. Such believers have been clearly described in Allah's saying: "That Book which there is no doubt in, is guidance for the God-fearing, those who believe in the unseen" (Quran 2:2-3). This is because believing in everything that is hidden from us—from the things that the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has informed about—is not possible except for those who possess certitude and are God-fearing. Those who have been saved from the darkness of temptations and satanic doubts. Those who illuminated their souls with the light of recognition, certitude, and complete belief in Allah, His Messengers, and His Books.

The perfection of human preparedness for his reappearance; because his advent is not like that of others from the Divine Proofs and Prophets and it is not based on apparent and normal causes. His actions—as you will observe in the coming chapters—will be based on realities and he will judge relying on actualities. In his government, dissimulation (taqiyya) and tolerance will be done away with in religious affairs. He will be very strict regarding the governors and sinners. Such affairs will only be achieved when the world reaches a special capacity and mankind progresses in the fields of science, recognition, thought, ethics, and morality; so that they become prepared to accept his superb teachings and reformative programs.

Fear of being killed: History bears witness that apparently, the cause of his occultation is fear of being killed, because his enemies—as you will see in the coming chapters—were determined to kill him and to extinguish his light. They desired to eliminate this holy and blessed generation, but Allah wanted nothing except the perfection of His Light.

Other reasons which have been mentioned in books specially authored on this subject.

If someone objects and says: What is the use of an Imam who cannot be seen? There is no difference between him existing or not! Then I will answer:

The benefit in the presence of a divine proof is not confined to his authority in apparent affairs. Rather, the greatest advantage of his existence is the survival of the universe—by the permission of Allah, the Exalted—and his order. Just like what he, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has said: "My Ahl al-Bait are a cause of safety for the inhabitants of earth. If my Ahl al-Bait cease to exist, the inhabitants of the earth will also cease to exist." He also said, "This religion will continue to survive while twelve leaders from the Quraish exist in it. When they pass away, the earth will swallow its inhabitants." Amr al-Mu'minin `Alī b. Abī Talib, peace be on him, has said: "Yes, by Allah! The earth will not become empty of Allah's Proof..." In the next chapter, we will mention some of the traditions about how people will benefit from him during his occultation.

If he is not doing anything, it is not because this is what he wants. The people are themselves the cause of this problem.

Al-Ḥafṣ has pointed to two aspects in his book 'al-Tajrid' using the following words: "His existence is a grace and his authority is another grace, and we are the cause of his absence (‘adamuh minn’)."

We don't claim with certainty that he is concealed from all his special followers—like it has been recorded in al-Shaḥf and Tanzīh al-Anbiy'—and hence, some important affairs are performed by him through his followers and special companions and they will benefit from him.

What is certain and clear is the fact that he is concealed from the people and no one has access to him during his occultation except some of his special companions—and occasionally others, because of special reasons—but this does not mean that the people are also concealed from him. For, according to what can be derived from the traditions, he attends the Hajj pilgrimage every year and visits the shrines of his grandfather and infallible forefathers, accompanies the people, attends their gatherings, helps the distressed ones, visits some of the sick, and etc. Perhaps, he even fulfills their needs himself, may Allah sacrifice me for him. The impossibility of having access to him during the occultation means it is impossible to see him.

It is not compulsory for the Imam to execute his authority. Rather, he implements his authority through others just as he did during his minor and major occultations. Thus, he appointed the jurists and the just scholars who were learned about the laws of judgment. He made them as proofs upon the people. So, during the occultation, they apparently protect the sharia,

explain the Islamic laws, spread Islamic sciences, dispel the doubts, and take care of anything which the affairs of the people are maintained with. A detailed discussion can be found in the books on jurisprudence. If you seek more elaboration, refer to the books of our great scholars like al-Mufīd, Sayyid al-Murtaḍā, al-Ḥāṣṣi, al-ʿAdāq, al-Majlisī, etc. May Allah reward them on account of religion the best of rewards.

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 11, pp. 481–482, no. 44; ʿIlal al-sharḥī, pp. 245–246, no. 8; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 20, p. 91, no. 4; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol.3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 488, no. 217 (short version).

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, pp. 483–485, no. 4; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 290–293, no. 247; ʿIlm al-warḥ, chap. 3, sect. 3; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, pp. 530–532; al-Kharīj wa l-jarīʿ, vol. 3, pp. 1113–1117, no. 30; al-ʿItijā, vol. 2, pp. 281–284; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 53, chap. 31, pp. 180–182, no. 10, and vol. 75, chap. 30, p. 380, no. 1, citing al-Durrat al-bḥira.

4. Quran 5:101.

5. ʿUyūn akhbār al-Riḥā, vol. 1, chap. 28, p. 273, no. 6; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 44, p. 480, no. 4; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 8, p. 152, no. 1. I say: The third means Imam Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan—the father of al-ʿujja, peace be on him—and the concealed Imam refers to his son, al-ʿujja, peace be on them both.

6. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 332, no. 274; similar to it in al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 338, no. 9, from ibn Bukair from Zurāra; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, pp. 176–177. Similar to it through numerous chains of narrators and similar wordings can be found in numbers 19–22 from ibn Bukair; ʿIlal al-sharḥī, p. 246, no. 9; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 44, p. 481, no. 9, and similar to it from ibn Bukair and Khalid b. Najīb al-Jawwān and ibn Bukair from Zurāra in numbers 7, 8, and 10; similar to it in Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 6, p. 359, no. 23, with a difference in the narrators and minor differences in meaning.

Section Thirty

The traditions that indicate some of the benefits of his existence and how people benefit from him during his occultation and how he manages the affairs

Comprised of nine traditions

636. Nahj al-balāgha1:

Yes, by Allah! The earth will not become empty of a person who establishes Allah's proof—either apparently [while they are] known or afraid [while they are] hidden; so that Allah's proofs and clear arguments are not nullified. How many are they and where [are they]? By Allah, they are few in number but have great stature before Allah. Through them, Allah guards His proofs and clear arguments until they entrust them to others who are like themselves and sow its seeds in the hearts of those who are similar to them.

Knowledge has led them to real understanding and they have blended themselves with the spirit of certainty. They regard as easy what the extremely wealthy regard as hard. They find peace in what the ignorant have fright of. They live in this world with bodies whose souls are hanging in the highest place. They are the Successors of Allah on His earth and the callers to His religion. Oh, oh, how I yearn to see them!2

637. Yanḥab` al-mawadda³: Citing Nahj al-balḡha:

From us is the Mahdī. He will move in the world while carrying a radiant lamp and will tread on the path of the virtuous, in order to unfasten knots, free slaves, divide the united and unite the divided. He will be in concealment from the people. The stalker will not find his footprints even though he pursues with his eyes.

Also in Nahj al-balḡha ([Egypt], vol. 2, p. 47, no. 146):

O people! This is the time for the occurrence of every promised event and the approach of things which you do not know. Whoever from among us will be during these days will move through them with a burning lamp and will tread on the footsteps of the virtuous, in order to unfasten knots, free slaves, divide the united and unite the divided. He will be in concealment from the people. The stalker will not find his footprints even though he pursues with his eyes. Then a group of people will be sharpened like the sharpening of swords by the blacksmith. Their sight will be brightened by revelation, the [delicacies of the Quran's] commentary will be put in their ears and they will be given drinks of wisdom, morning and evening.⁴

638. Far`id al-simāin⁵: Informed us Abū Ja`far, ibn Bābawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Simnānī, from Aḥmad b. Yaḥyā b. Zakariyyā al-Qattān, from Bakr b. `Abd-Allah b. Ḥabīb, from Faḥl b. al-Ḥaqr al-`Abdī, from Muḥwiya, from Sulaimān b. Mihrān al-A'mash, from al-Ḥadīq Ja`far b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, from his father Muḥammad b. `Alī, peace be on him, from his father `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, who said:

We are the leaders of the Muslims, Allah's Proofs upon the worlds, the masters (sūdat) of the believers, the chiefs of those who will have shiny faces [on the Day of Judgment], and the masters (mawḥiq) of the faithful. We are security for the inhabitants of the earth just as the stars are security for the inhabitants of the sky. We are those due to whom the sky is withheld from falling on the earth except with His permission; due to us, the earth is withheld from shaking its inhabitants; due to us it rains and mercy is spread and the blessings of the earth come out.

If someone from us didn't exist on earth, the earth would have swallowed its inhabitants. Ever since Allah created Adam, the earth has not been empty of Allah's Proof—[who has been] either apparent and known or hidden and concealed—and it will not become empty until the Hour [i.e. Judgment Day] is established. Had it not been so, Allah would not have been worshipped.

Sulaimān says, "I asked (Imam) al-Ḥadīq, peace be on him, 'How will the people benefit from a hidden and concealed proof?' He answered, 'Just like they benefit from the sun when the clouds cover it.'⁶"

639. Kamāl al-dīn⁷: Narrated to me my father, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Ḥarūn b. Muslim, from Sa`dīn, from Mas`adat b. Ḥadaqa, from Abū `Abd-Allah [al-Ḥadīq], from his forefathers, from `Alī, peace be on them all, who said:

O Allah! There must exist on Your earth Your Proof upon Your creatures, who guides them to Your religion and teaches them [from] Your knowledge, so that Your argument is not negated and the followers of Your friends are not deviated after You guide them. [This proof must exist] regardless of him being apparent and not obeyed, or hidden and fearing [for his life]. Even though he is hidden from the people—while they are guided—his knowledge and his customs are firmly established in the hearts of the believers and they act upon them.

640. Kitāb Faḥl b. Shādhān: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Abī `Umair and Ḥafwān b. Yaḥyā, from Jamāl b. Darrāj, from (Imam) al-Ḥadiq, from his father, from his forefathers, from Amr al-Mu'min, peace be on them all, who said:

Islam and a just ruler are two brothers who are always together. One will not be corrected without the other. Islam is the foundation and the just ruler is the protector. What is without a foundation will be destroyed and what is without a protector will be spoiled. It is because of this that when our Q'im departs from this world, nothing will remain this world.

The following traditions also prove the above point: 245 and 609

1. Nahj al-balāgha, p. 497, saying no. 147; Tadhkirat al-Ḥuffā, vol. 1, p. 11; Dastūr ma`līm al-ḥikam, chap. 4, pp. 82–85, through his chain of narrators from Kumail; al-Ghurrat, vol. 1, p. 153; Tuḥaf al-`uqūl, section on his sayings to Kumail b. Ziyād, p. 170; al-Khiṭāb, chap. 3, p. 187; al-Amāl, pp. 19–20, no. 23; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 23, chap. 1, pp. 44–46, no. 91; al-Mufīd, al-Amāl, session 29, p. 250; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 26, p. 289, no. 2; Also see al-Bidāya wa l-nihāya, vol. 9, p. 46, and many other sources.

2. Nahj al-balāgha, saying no. 147.

3. Yanāb` al-mawadda, p. 437; Sharḥ nahj al-balāgha by Ḥubayr al-Ḥalī, Sermon 150, p. 208.

4. Nahj al-balāgha, trans. Sayed Ali Reza (Iran: Sayed Mujtaba Musavi Lari Foundation), sermon 149 (with some minor changes in the translation);

5. Far`id al-simāin, vol. 1, chap. 2, pp. 45–46, no. 11; Yanāb` al-mawadda, p. 477.

6. Al-Majlis, may Allah have mercy on him, has mentioned some aspects of his similarity with the sun when it is covered by the clouds:

The lights of existence, knowledge, and guidance reach the people through him; since it has been established through many traditions that they are the ultimate cause for the creation of the creatures. Was it not for them, the light of existence would not have reached anything other than them [i.e. no one would have come into existence]. Because of their blessings, us asking them for intercession, and by asking them for help, the sciences and knowledge have become manifest for the people and calamities have been dispelled from them. If it was not for them, the people would have [been punished with] various punishments due to their hideous deeds. As Allah, the Exalted, declares, 'Allah will not punish them while you are with them' (Quran 8:33). We have experienced many times in affairs which we reached a dead end, in difficult issues, in times when we became distant from [Allah], the Exalted, and when the doors of grace were closed, then, when we sought their intercession and implored [through] their lights—proportional to our spiritual connection with them in that time—the problems were solved. This has been experienced by those whom Allah has decorated the eyes of their hearts with the light of faith. We have already explained this in the Book of Imamate [in Biḥār al-anwār].

Just as the people long for the sun to be uncovered so that they benefit more from it compared to when it is covered with clouds, likewise, during his occultation, the sincere Shias await his reappearance every moment and second, and don't lose hope in him.

Those who deny he exists, even with the many clear signs [from him], are like those who deny the sun exists when the clouds hide it from the eyes.

Sometimes, it is better for the people that the sun hides behind the clouds. Similarly, his occultation is better for them in these times, hence, he is concealed from the people.

One who is staring at the sun cannot stare at it if it is not covered with clouds. One who looks at it can even become blinded due to the eyes' weakness in encompassing it. Likewise, the sun of his holy existence might be harmful for their power of discernment and can make them become blind regarding the truth. Thus, their power of discernment can tolerate having faith in him during his occultation just as man looks towards the sun from beneath the clouds and [his eyes] will not be harmed.

The sun emerges from the clouds while one person can see it and another can't. Likewise, it is possible that during his occultation, he shows himself to some people but not to others.

They [i.e. the Ahl al-Bait] are like the sun which is benefited by all, but, he who is blind cannot benefit from them. This has been mentioned in the traditions which explain the verse, 'He who is blind in this [world], he will [also] be blind in the hereafter and in a more deviated path' (Quran 17:72).

The sun's rays enter the houses proportional to the windows and hatches that they have and proportional to the number of obstacles that have been removed. Similarly, people benefit from the lights of their guidance proportional to the number of obstacles which they have removed from their senses and perceptions which form the windows of their hearts—things like their desires or physical interests—and also proportional to what they remove from their hearts from the evil coverings to the extent that they reach the position where they are like those who are beneath the sky and enveloped by the sun's rays from all sides without any veil. Indeed, eight doors from this spiritual paradise have been opened for you and Allah, on account of His grace, has opened for me another eight [doors], which cannot be discussed here. Hopefully, Allah will open for us and for you a thousand doors [which lead] to their recognition, which a further thousand doors open from each door.”

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 27, p. 302, no. 11; Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, p. 251; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, chap. 32, sect. 2, p. 363, no. 112.

8. Kifāyat al-muhtadī (al-Arbaʿīn), pp. 222–223, under no. 39; Kashf al-Haqq (al-Arbaʿīn), p. 203, no. 35, with the following wording: “When our Qaʿim departs nothing will remain from Islam and when nothing remains from Islam, nothing will remain from this world.”

Section Thirty–One

The traditions that indicate he will live a very long life

Comprised of 363 traditions

641. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Bashshār al-Qazwīnī, from Abū l-Faraj al-Muḥaffar b. Aḥmad, from Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar al-Kāfī, from Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl al-Barmakī, from al-ʿāsan b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Bazzāz, from (Imam) al-ʿāsan b. `Alī al-`Askarī, peace be on him, who said:

My son is the one who will rise after me. He is the one in whom the customs of the Prophets will occur by his long-life and occultation. [This will continue] until the people's hearts harden due to the prolonged duration. Then, no one will remain steadfast in believing in him except he who Allah, Mighty and Majestic

be He, has written faith in his heart and assisted with a Holy Spirit from Himself.²

642. Kamāl al-dīn³: `Alī b. Aḥmad al-Daqqāq and Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Shaibānī, from Muḥammad b. Abī `Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Mūsā b. `Imrān al-Nakha`ī, from his uncle al-Ḥusayn b. Yazīd al-Naufalī, from `Amzat b. `Umrān, from his father `Umrān b. A`yun, from Sa`īd b. Jubair who said: “I heard the Master of the Worshippers, `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn, peace be on him, say, ‘In the Qi`im there is a resemblance to Noah and that is long-life.’”

643. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān⁴: `Abd al-Wāhid b. `Abd-Allah b. Yūnus, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Rabī` al-Zuhrī, from Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Ḥimyarī, from al-Ḥasan b. Ayyūb, from `Abd al-Karīm b. `Amr, from Muḥammad b. al-Fuḥayl, from `Amr b. `Abd al-Karīm al-Jallīb who said: “The Qi`im was mentioned in the presence of (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, and he said, ‘When he appears, people will say [astonishingly], ‘How is this possible while his bones had decomposed years ago!’”

644. Al-Kharījī⁵: From Imam al-Ḥasan al-`Askarī, peace be on him, who said [the following] to Aḥmad b. Isḥāq who had come to ask him about his successor. When [the Imam] saw him, he himself began to answer before being asked:

His example is like that of Khidr and his example is like that of Dhul-Qarnain. Khidr drank from the elixir of life and he will live and not die until the trumpet is blown (nufikha fī l-`āqir). He is present during the [Hajj] season every year. He stands in `Arafa and says Amen to the prayers of the believers. Through him, Allah will dispel the loneliness of our Qi`im during his occultation and he will accompany [the Mahdi] during his solitude. He will continue to live in the world despite being concealed from the eyes.

I say: His similarity to Dhul-Qarnain is about him reaching the East and the West and possibly other aspects like occultation and longevity.

The following traditions also prove the above point: 497, 498, 535–539, 547, 549, 551–557, 559, 561, 562, 564, 574, 575, 580, 589, 599, 600, 602–605, 607–610, 612, 613, 618, 619, 623–626, 632, 645–650, 669, and 686. We can add to these all the traditions mentioned in chapters one and two—on account of the traditions that mention that surely the earth will not become empty of a Divine Proof and an Imam, and on account of definite rational arguments mentioned in dialectical books—because all of these indicate that the Imams and the Divine Proofs after the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, are limited to twelve. The first is `Alī the last is the Mahdi and the ninth from the progeny of al-Ḥusayn is the Qi`im and he is the son of Imam al-Ḥasan al-`Askarī, peace be on them all. Thus, the total number of such traditions will be 363 because all of these traditions indicate he has survived and has been alive from his birth until now. And Allah has the power to do what He pleases and He is the Wise, the Knowledgeable.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 46, p. 524, no. 4; Bīr al-anwār, vol.51, chap. 13, p. 224, no. 11.

2. Some Sunnis have considered his longevity as improbable to the extent that they have even condemned the Shia belief about his survival. As you are aware, in scientific matters and religious subjects, improbability has no value after proofs have been established, and definite arguments based on intellect and narration have been demonstrated. This [belief] is a kind of uncertainty about Allah's Power. It is based on our habit of opposing what we are used to and not on logic. Every day and night—in fact every hour and second—we agree to and witness thousands of normal phenomena and occurrences in the world of creation, even in the small creatures and the things that cannot be seen except with a microscope, that are more amazing and greater than the longevity of a man who has safe limbs and strength, who knows the rules of keeping himself healthy and well, and acts upon them. His longevity is not as strange as his creation, formation, and transfer from the realm of the loin (ʿalim al-aḥḥ) to the realm of the womb and then to this world. Using this reasoning in His Holy book, Allah refutes those who deny and view the hereafter as improbable. He, the Exalted, says, “O people! If you have doubts about resurrection, then surely We have created you from soil then from sperm . . .” (Quran 22:5). He also says, “Did not man see that We have created him from a sperm . . .” (Quran 36:77). In yet another place, He says, “And they say, ‘When we become bones and powder . . .’” (Quran 17:49). This is in addition to the longevity of some of the Prophets like al-Khiṣr, Noah, Jesus, and etc., peace be on them all. How can the belief about the Mahdī's longevity be a sign of ignorance whilst the Holy Quran has stated the possibility of similar occurrences: “Had he [i.e. Jonas] not been from the glorifying ones, he would have certainly remained in [the whale's] stomach until the Day they are raised” (Quran 37:143–144). Regarding the Prophet Noah, peace be on him, the Holy Quran says, “So, he stayed amongst his people for a thousand years save fifty” (Quran 29:14). Regarding Jesus, it says, “And there will not remain even one of the followers of the Book (ahl al-kitāb) except that they will most certainly believe in him before his death” (Quran 4:159). It also informs us about Satan and that he has been given time until the appointed hour—a fact that is neither denied by any of the Muslims nor considered improbable. Muslim has recorded in his Ṣaḥīḥ, vol. 2, chap. “Ibn ʿAyyūd,” al-Tirmidhī in his Sunan, vol. 2, and Abū Dāwūd in his Ṣaḥīḥ, chap. “The narration of ibn ʿUṣayd,” have recorded numerous traditions about ibn ʿAyyūd and ibn ʿUṣayd and that the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, considered it probable that he was al-Dajjīl who will emerge in the end of times. Ibn Māja has recorded in his Ṣaḥīḥ (part 2) in the chapters on fitnas, under the fitna of al-Dajjīl and the emergence of ʿĪsā, Abū Dāwūd has mentioned in vol. 2 of his Sunan from the book al-Malʿūm in the chapter on the narration of al-Jassāsa, Muslim in his Ṣaḥīḥ in the chapter on the Appearance of al-Dajjīl and his staying on earth from the narration of Tamīm al-Dārī—which clearly and explicitly mentions that al-Dajjīl was alive during the time of the Prophet, Allah's blessings be upon him and his family, and that he will reappear in the end of times. If belief in the longevity of someone is a sign of ignorance, then why are none of the aforementioned scholars attributed with ignorance, whilst they have narrated many traditions in their books and Ṣaḥīḥs about the longevity of al-Dajjīl? How can someone be regarded as ignorant because he believes in the Mahdī's longevity whilst the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has considered this permissible for al-Dajjīl, the enemy of Allah?!

To sum it up, once it is shown there have lived people who have had long lives, there remains no reason for being amazed and surprised, let alone considering it improbable or believing it to be impossible for others to have long lives too. Sayyid b. ʿUṣayd, may Allah have mercy on him, writes in sect. 79 of his book Kashf al-Maʿajja the story of his debate with some Sunnis: “If a person comes and says, ‘I can walk on water in Baghdad,’ people will gather to witness him thinking that perhaps he may be able to carry it off. If he does so successfully, they will indeed be surprised at his feat. Now, if a second man comes before they have dispersed and also claims to walk on water, their amazement will certainly be less than the first one. The second one too pulls it off successfully. When some of those present disperse, their amazement will surely have been reduced. If a third person comes and makes the same claim, only a few people will wait to see him perform the feat. If he does it successfully, the amazement will definitely diminish. Finally, if a fourth person comes and makes the same claim, no one will wait to see him walk on water and [no one] will be amazed at his feat. The same applies to the Mahdī, peace be on him, because you [Sunnis] narrate that [the Prophet] Idrīs is alive and present in the sky from his era until now. You have also narrated that Khiṣr has been alive from the time of Moses, peace be on him, or even before him until now. You also believe that Jesus is alive and in the sky and will return to earth along with the Mahdī. These are three human beings who have lived long lives and no one is amazed at their longevity. Then, why can't there be a person from the descendants of Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who follows their example as a

sign of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, in his nation with his longevity? Indeed, you have mentioned and narrated that he will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. If you ponder, you will verify that your acknowledgement and testimony that he will fill the earth's east, west, far, and near with justice and fairness, is more amazing than his long survival and a greater honor conferred by Allah, Mighty be His Majesty, on His friends. You have also testified that the great Prophet, Jesus, son of Mary, peace be on him, will perform prayers behind him, will accompany him, and will help him in his wars and battles. This is an even greater position than the long-life you are considering improbable."

Al-`Allama Sib b. al-Jauz writes in Tadhkirat al-khaw, p. 377: "Most Shias believes that the Successor, the Proof (al-khalaf al-`ujja), is present, alive, and being given sustenance. They put forward arguments to show he is alive, some of which are: There are many people whose lives have been elongated like al-Khi'r and Ily's and no one knows their age. Every year, they meet and . . . It has been mentioned in the Torah that Dh' l-Qarnain lived for three thousand years but the Muslims believe that it was one thousand and five hundred years. The [Shias] also narrate from Muhammad b. Isq the names of a large number of people who have been granted long lives. They have given a detailed presentation about the probability of him surviving since his occultation until now and that there is nothing extraordinary about his long-life."

Al-`afi al-Kanji al-Shafi' argues about his longevity through the long-lives of Jesus, Khi'r, and Ily's and also the survival of al-Dajj and Ibl's. For the longevity of al-Dajj, he has mentioned the lengthy tradition Muslim has recorded in his about al-Jassisa as a reason of al-Dajj's longevity (al-Bayn, p. 25).

The Old Testament contains the names of quite a few people who had long-lives and has mentioned their stories in the Book of Genesis, as per the Hebrew, Caledonian, and Greek translation into Arabic (Beirut: 1870):

Chap. 5, Verse 5: "Adam lived for a total of 930 years and died."

Verse 11: "Enosh lived for a total of 905 years and died."

Verse 14: "Kenan lived for a total of 910 years and died."

Verse 17: "Mahalalel lived for a total of 895 years and died."

Verse 20: "Jared lived for a total of 962 years and died."

Verse 23: "Enoch lived for 365 years."

Verse 27: "Methuselah lived for 969 years and died."

Verse 31: "Lamech lived for 777 years and died."

Chap. 9, Verse 29: "Noah lived for 950 years and died."

Chap. 11, Verses 10-17: "These are Shem's descendants; when Shem was 100, Arpachshad was born to him, two years after the flood and, after Arpachashad's birth Shem lived five hundred years, getting sons and daughters. Arpachashad got Shelah at thirty-five and lived 403 years after Shelah's birth, getting sons and daughters. At thirty, Shelah got Eber and he lived 403 years after Eber's birth, getting sons and daughters. Eber at thirty-four got Peleg and lived 403 years after Peleg's birth, getting sons and daughters.

In this chapter, more people with long lives have been discussed other than those that we have mentioned. Here, for the sake of conciseness, we will only mention some of their names: Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, and Terah.

In chap. Twenty-five, Verse 7, it has been mentioned that Abraham lived 175 years and in Verse 17, it is recorded that Ishmael lived for 137 years. These are some of the names that have been recorded in the Old Testament from those who have had long lives. This is proof for the Jews and the Christians.

Al-Karjuk writes in Kanz al-faw'id in the chapter called "Al-Burh' al-`at `umr al-im'ib al-Zam'":

"The people of all religions are unanimous on the possibility of longevity." After mentioning some names from the Old Testament, he says: "Islamic [books] too, contain similar contents. A single Muslim scholar cannot be found who opposes this or believes in its falsity. Rather, they have consensus on the possibility of longevity like what we mentioned." He has also recorded similar things from the books of the Zoroastrians, Hindus, Buddhists, and etc. Whoever desires to study more about those who had long lives must refer to the following books: Bi'r al-anwar, al-Mu`ammir by Ab' `tim al-Sajistn, Kam' al-d'n, Kanz al-faw'id in the treatise called "Al-Burh' al-`at `umr al-im'ib al-Zam'." In this treatise, he has mentioned a group of those who had long lives and has thoroughly discussed the many reasons that prove longevity.

This is in addition to what has been proved in biology, anatomy, and pharmacology about the possibility of longevity when

the laws of health and hygiene are observed with utmost care. The reason for a human's death is not because he has lived eighty, ninety, or whatever years. Rather, death is caused by the factors that prevent the continuation of life . . . Further explanation on this topic can be found in our book al-Imamat wa l-mahdawiyyat.

3. Kamal al-din, vol. 1, chap. 31, p. 322, no. 5; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 51, chap. 13, p. 217, no. 5; al-Khar'ij wa l-jar'i, vol. 2, p. 965; Ithbat al-hudud, vol. 6, chap. 32, p. 399, no. 25.

4. Ghaybat al-Nu'man, chap. 10, p. 155, no. 14; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 51, chap. 13, p. 225, under the 13th tradition with a slight variation; Ithbat al-hudud, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 27, pp. 66–67, no. 467.

5. Al-Khar'ij wa l-jar'i, vol. 3, p. 1174; Kamal al-din, vol. 2, chap. 38, p. 390, no. 4. He has narrated it from Imam al-Ri, peace be on him, with differences in the narrator(s) and slight variations in the wording; Bihar al-anwar, vol. 52, chap. 23, p. 152, no. 3. He has also narrated it from Imam al-Ri, peace be on him, in vol. 13, chap. 10, p. 299, no. 17; Muntakhab al-anwar al-mu'a, p. 40, from Imam al-Hasan al-Askar, peace be on him.

Section Thirty-Two

The traditions that indicate when he reappears, he will look young and the passing of time will not make him old

Comprised of ten traditions

645. Kamal al-din: Muhammad b. Muhammad b. al-Qasim, from Muhammad b. Ya'qub al-Kulaini, from al-Qasim b. al-'Al, from Isma'il b. 'Al al-Qazwini, from 'Al b. Isma'il, from 'Alim al-'annan, from Muhammad b. Muslim al-Thaqafi al-'a'ani, who recounts:

I went to see Abi Ja'far Muhammad b. 'Al al-Baqir, peace be upon him, with the intention of asking him about the Q'im from the family of Muhammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. He started the conversation [before I could ask my question]: "O Muhammad b. Muslim! Surely in the Q'im from the progeny of Muhammad, there are customs [i.e. similarities] from five Messengers: Yunus b. Matti, Yusuf b. Ya'qub, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. As for the custom from Yunus b. Matti, it is his return after his occultation while he will [look] young despite his old age. As for the custom from Yusuf b. Ya'qub, it is his concealment from his close companions as well as the masses, his concealment from his brothers, and the difficult situation for his father Ya'qub despite the little distance between him and his father, family, and followers.

As for the custom from Moses, it is the continuation of his fear, the lengthening of his occultation, the concealment of his birth, and the hardships his followers will experience after him from the tortures and degradations—until Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, allows him to appear and gives him victory and assists him against his enemies. As for the custom from Jesus, peace be on him, it will be the differences people have concerning him, to the extent that a group will say, 'He has not been born.' Another group will say, 'He has died,' yet another will say, 'He has been killed and crucified.'

As for the custom from his great grandfather, al-Mustafa Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, it is his emergence with the sword and the slaying the enemies of Allah, the enemies of His Messenger, the oppressors and the tyrants, and that he will be helped with the sword and awe. His flag will never return defeated. From the signs of his emergence are: the emergence of al-Sufyān from Syria, the emergence of al-Yamān [from Yemen], a loud cry from the sky in the month of Ramaḍān, and an announcer calling out his name and the name of his father from the sky.”

646. Kamāl al-dīn3: Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq al-Ḥaliqīnī, from Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Anḥarī, from Abū I-ḥalt al-Harawī who said:

I asked (Imam) al-Riḍā, peace be on him, “What are the signs of your Q’im when he emerges?” He replied, “His sign is that he will be old in age [but] young in appearance. When someone looks at him he will guess his age to be forty years or less. And from his signs is that he will not become old with the passing of the days and nights until the arrival of his death.

647. `Iqd al-durar4: From Imam Abū `Abd-Allah al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī, peace be on him: “[When] the Mahdī rises, the people will refute him because he will return to them as a healthy youth. One of the greatest tests is that their master will emerge for them as a youth while they had thought he would be a very old man.”

648. Ghaybat al-Nu`m5: From Abū `Abd-Allah [al-Ḥadiqī], peace be on him, in a tradition: “One of the greatest tests is that their master will emerge for them as a youth while they had considered him a very old person.”

649. Ghaybat al-Nu`m6: Narrated to us `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn al-Mas`ūdī, from Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-`Aḥḥār, from Muḥammad b. Ḥassan al-Riḍī, from Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Kāfī, from al-Ḥasan b. Maḥbūb, from `Abd-Allah b. Jabala, from `Alī b. Abū Ḥamza, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “[When] the Mahdī rises the people will refute him because he will return to them as a healthy youth. No one will keep faith in him except those whose covenant Allah has taken in the first [world of] particles (al-dharr al-awwal).”

650. Ghaybat al-Shaykh7: It has been narrated in a tradition that the Master of Time has a similarity with Jonah (Yūnus): “His return from his occultation while he is in the prime of his youth.”

Some of the traditions which we mentioned or will soon mention, interpret and clarify other traditions like the following two:

651. Ghaybat al-Shaykh8: Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Muḥammad b. `Ḥsā b. `Ubaid, from Ismā`īl b. Abūn, from `Amr b. Shimr, from Jābir al-Ju`fī, from (Imam) Abū Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

Umar b. al-Khaḍīb asked Amr al-Mu`minīn `Alī b. Abū Ḥalīb, peace be on him, “Inform me about the Mahdī, what is his name?” He replied, “As for his name, my beloved took a covenant from me that I

will not reveal his name until Allah sends him.” He then asked, “Then inform me about his attributes.” He replied, “He will be a young man of medium figure with beautiful hair that will flow over his shoulders. The light of his face will make the blackness of his beard and hair shine. May my father be sacrificed for the son of the best maid.”

652. Is`af al-r`ghibn: It has also been narrated about his characteristics that he is young, has applied kohl on his eyes, has arched eyebrows, an aquiline nose, a thick beard, and he will have a mole on his right cheek and another on his right hand.

The following traditions also prove the above concept: 539 and 555.

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1. Kam al-dn, vol. 1, chap. 32, p. 327, no. 7; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 51, chap. 13, pp. 217–218, no. 6.
 2. I say: The difficult situation of his father, peace be on him, is perhaps because Allah, the Exalted, did not inform his father about some of the things that he would go through—like the duration of his occultation and the time of his reappearance.
 3. Kam al-dn, vol. 2, chap. 57, p. 652, no. 12; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 52, p. 285, no. 16; al-Khar`ij wa l-jar`i, vol. 3, p. 1170, under no. 65; l`m al-war, chap. 4, sect. 4; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 3, chap. 34, sect. 8, p. 733, no. 91.
 4. `lqd al-durar, chap. 3, pp. 41–42; Yan`b` al-mawadda, p. 492 (short version).
 5. Ghaybat al-Nu`mn, chap. 10, p. 188, no. 43; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 420, no. 398; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 536, no. 483; `ilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 21, p. 583, no. 2.
 6. Ghaybat al-Nu`mn, chap. 10, p. 188, no. 43; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 420, no. 398; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 536, no. 483; `ilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 21, p. 583, no. 2.
 7. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 421, no. 399; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 512, no. 341.
 8. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 470, no. 487; l`m al-war, chap. 4, sect. 4; al-Irshd, chap. “The attributes of the Q`im, peace be on him,” no. 1; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 464; Bi`r al-anw, vol. 51, chap. 3, p. 36; lthbt al-hudt, vol. 3, chap. 34, sect. 6, p. 730, no. 71; `lqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 41 (short version).
 9. Is`af al-r`ghibn (published in the margin of the book N`r al-ab`r by Shablanj), chap. 2, p. 135.

Section Thirty–Three

The traditions that indicate his birth will be concealed

Comprised of thirteen traditions

653. Kif`yat al-athar1: Ab` Abd–Allah al–Khuz` informed us, from Mu`ammad b. Ab` Abd–Allah al–Kf, from Sahl b. Ziy`d al–dam, from `Abd al–`A`m b. `Abd–Allah al–asan, who said:

I said to (Imam) Mu`ammad b. `Al b. M`s, peace be on him, “I hope that you are the Q`im from the Ahl al–Bait of Mu`ammad who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.” He replied, “O Ab` I–Q`sim! There is no one from us but that he rises with

Allah's commands and is the guide towards the religion of Allah. But the Q'īm through whom Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will cleanse the earth from the disbelievers and deniers and will fill it with justice and fairness, is the one whose birth will be concealed² from the people.

He will disappear from them and they will not be allowed to say his name. His name will be the same as the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and also his epithet. He is the one for whom the earth's distances will be shortened, every difficulty will be eased for, and for him will gather his companions—who are equal to the ones who participated in the Battle of Badr, three hundred and thirteen men—from distant places on earth. This is the [meaning of the] saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He,

'Wherever you may be, Allah will bring forth all of you. Surely, Allah has power over all things' (Quran Surah Baqarah 2: 148).

When this number of sincere people gathers for him, he will make his affair evident. When ten thousand men are complete, he will emerge with Allah's permission. Then, he will continue slaying Allah's enemies until Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, becomes satisfied." I said to him, "My Master! How will he know that Allah has become satisfied?" He answered, "Mercy will be inspired in his heart . . . (to the end of the tradition)."

654. Kam'ī al-d'īn³: Through the same chain of narrators— meaning `Alī b. A'ḥmad al-Daqqīq and Mu'ammad b. A'ḥmad al-Shaibānī, may Allah be satisfied with them, from Mu'ammad b. Abī `Abd-Allah al-Kāfī, from Mūsā b. `Imrān al-Nakha`ī, from his uncle al-ḥusayn b. Yazīd, from ḥamzat b. ḥumrān, from his father ḥumrān b. A`yun, from Sa`d b. Jubair—from `Alī b. al-ḥusayn, the Master of the Worshippers, peace be on him, who said: "The birth of our Q'īm will be concealed from the people until they will say, 'He hasn't been born yet.' [It is concealed] so that when he reappears, he will not have pledged allegiance to anybody."

655. Kam'ī al-d'īn⁴: Narrated to us A'ḥmad b. Ḥarīr al-Farmī and `Alī b. al-ḥusayn b. Shādhawayh al-Mu`addib Ja`far b. Mu'ammad b. Masrūr and Ja`far b. al-ḥusayn, may Allah be satisfied with them, from Mu'ammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-ḥimyarī, from his father, from Ayyūb b. Nāḥ, from al-`Abbās b. `ḥmir al-Qaḥabānī, from Ja`far b. `Alī b. al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. `Abd-Allah b. al-Mughaira al-Kāfī, from his grandfather al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. `Abd-Allah, from al-`Abbās b. `ḥmir al-Qaḥabānī, from Mūsā b. Hilāl al-ḥabbī, from `Abd-Allah b. `Aḥḥ who said:

I said to (Imam) Abī Ja`far, peace be on him, "Your followers in Iraq are plenty. By Allah, there is no one in your Ahl al-Bait like you! So, why do you not rise [against the government]?" He replied, "O `Abd-Allah b. `Aḥḥ! You have filled your ears with nonsense. By Allah, I am not your Master (ḥḥḥibukum)." I asked, "So, who is our Master?" He answered, "See [who is the one] whose birth is concealed from the people; he is your master."

656. Kam'ī al-d'īn⁵: `Abd al-Wāḥid b. Mu'ammad al-`Aḥḥrī, from Abī `Amr al-Laithī, from

Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from Jabraʿīl b. Aḥmad, from Muḥammad b. ʿIṣṣāq, from Muḥammad b. Abū ʿUmair, from Saʿd b. Ghazwān, from Abū Baḥr, from (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “The birth of the Master of this affair will be concealed from these people so he will not have pledged allegiance with anyone when he reappears. Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will set right his affairs in one [single] night.”

657. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān⁶: Al-Kulainī, from a number of our companions, from Saʿd b. ʿAbd-Allah, from Ayyūb b. Nāṣir who said:

I said to Abū Iḥṣāsan al-Riḥābī, peace be on him, “We hope that you are the master of this affair and that Allah will hand it to you by pardoning [the people] and not by using the sword; because they have pledged allegiance to you and the coins have been forged with your name inscribed on them.” He responded, “There is no one from us except that when letters are sent to him or is pointed at by fingers [i.e. he becomes famous] or is asked questions or wealth is taken to him, that he is either assassinated or will die in his bed until Allah sends a boy⁷ from us for this affair. His birth and upbringing will be hidden but his parentage will not be concealed.”

658. Ithbāt al-Waḥīyya⁸: From Saʿd b. ʿAbd-Allah, through his chain of narrators from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him: “The Qaʿim is the one whose birth will be concealed from the people.”

659. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān⁹: Narrated to us ʿAlī b. Aḥmad, from ʿUbaid-Allah b. Mūsā al-ʿAlawī, from Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Qalānisī—in Mecca in the year 267 AH—from ʿAlī b. al-Ḥasan, from al-ʿAbbās b. ʿImr, from Mūsā b. Hilāl, from ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿAḥmad al-Makkī who said:

I started the Hajj pilgrimage from Wāsiṭ and I met (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, who asked me about the people and the prices. I replied, “I left the people while they were yearning for you. If you rise, the people will indeed follow you.” He answered, “O son of ʿAḥmad! You have listened to [the speech] of foolish people. By Allah, I am not your master (ʿibukum). None of us is pointed at with fingers or with eyebrows but that he will be killed or that he will die naturally.”

I asked, “What do you mean by he will die naturally?” He replied, “He will die in his deathbed but in a state of anger, until Allah raises the one whose birth is unknown.” I said, “And who is the one whose birth is unknown?” He answered, “See who is the one that the people are not sure whether he has been born or not. He is your master.”

The following traditions also prove the above concept: 539, 574, 610, 645, 686, and 688.

1. Kifāyat al-athar, chap. “What has been narrated from Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Riḥābī, peace be on him,” p. 277, no. 2; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 36, p. 377, no. 2, with an addition at the end; lʿilm al-warā, chap. 2, sect. 2, with the aforementioned addition at its end; al-Itijā, vol. 2, p. 449; Kifāyat al-muhtad, pp. 100–101, no. 26, citing Kamāl al-dīn.
2. The reason of his concealed birth was that when the Abbasids found out about the traditions from the Holy Prophet and

the Imams from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, that the Mahdī is the twelfth Imam who will fill the earth with justice, will conquer the forts of deviation, annihilate the governments of the merciless, will kill the tyrants, and will takeover the East and West of the earth, they decided to extinguish His light by killing him. Hence, they appointed spies, secret agents, and midwives to keep a watch on the house of the father of the Ujja, Imam Abū Muhammad al-ʿasan al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him. But Allah desired to complete His light. Therefore, He, Mighty and Majestic be He, concealed the pregnancy of his mother Narjis from the people. It has been narrated that al-Muʿtamid, the Abbasid Emperor, sent midwives secretly and ordered them to enter the houses of the Banū-Hāshim, especially the house of Imam al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, without permission whenever they wanted to investigate and find out about his condition and affairs. But they were unable to find anything for Allah had decided to repeat the custom of His Prophet, Moses, in His proof, just as his enemies adopted the tradition of the Pharaoh and implemented his policies. When the Pharaoh found out that his kingdom would be destroyed by a man from the Israelites, he appointed inspectors to check the pregnant women and monitored their births with strict surveillance. If the new-born was a male, they would kill him instantly and if it was a female, they would spare her. Consequently, they killed thousands of infants in their quest to find Moses. Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, says: “They killed your sons and let you daughters live” (Quran 2:49). In this situation, Allah, the Exalted, placed His Prophet under His protection and concealed his birth from them. Allah, the Exalted, says: “And We revealed to the mother of Moses, ‘Suckle him and when you fear for him, throw him in the river and neither fear nor grieve. Surely, We will return him to you and appoint him as a messenger’” (Quran 28:7). His similarities with Abraham and Moses have also been mentioned in numerous traditions.

It has been narrated in *Ilzām al-nūb* from one of the books of the highly learned scholar, Muḥammad Yūsuf al-Dihkhārī, which he authored during the reign of Shah Abbās II: “One day, he [i.e. Imam al-Mahdī] was in the room of his mother in the courtyard when Narjis realized that some midwives were near. She became extremely anxious but did not have enough time to hide that light. An announcer called out to her, ‘Throw the Proof of Allah, the defeater (al-qahhār), in the well in the courtyard.’ So she did. The midwives heard the voice of the child and rushed into the house. They thoroughly searched the house but found no trace of him. They went out confused and perplexed. When the house became empty of strangers, Narjis went towards the well to find out what had happened to the apple of her eye. As she looked over the well, she saw that its water had risen to the level of the ground of the house and the Divine Proof was floating on the water, safe and sound, like a shining full moon. His diaper had not become wet at all. So she took him, suckled him, and praised Allah and prostrated to express her gratitude for Him . . .”

From what we have mentioned, it becomes clear why al-Ujja’s birth was concealed—but not his forefathers’ births. The reason is the glad tidings that were given about him: that he would conquer the forts, destroy the foundations of polytheism and hypocrisy, and inherit the earth and rule it in the end of times. The enemies of his forefathers knew they were practicing dissimulation (taqiyya) and would not rise with the sword until the voice would be heard from the sky and the signs were manifested. They also knew that the Mahdī—who is the last Imam and their seal—would rise with the sword, would put aside dissimulation (al-taqiyya), and would kill the enemies of Allah and cleanse the earth from polytheism, merciless rulers, oppressors, and disbelievers.

3. *Kamāl al-dīn*, vol. 1, chap. 31, pp. 322–323, no. 6; *Ilzām al-war*, chap. 2, sect. 2; *Biḥār al-anwār*, vol. 51, chap. 4, p. 135, no. 3; *Ithbāt al-hudūt*, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 466, no. 126.

4. *Kamāl al-dīn*, vol. 1, chap. 32, p. 325, no. 2; *Ilzām al-war*, chap. 2, sect. 2; *Kashf al-ghumma*, vol. 2, pp. 522–523; *Ithbāt al-hudūt*, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 467, no. 129.

I say: Other traditions have also been recorded with this meaning, see *al-Kāfī*, vol. 1, chap. 138, p. 342, no. 26; *Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān*, pp. 167–168, no. 7–9; *Biḥār al-anwār*, vol. 51, p. 128.

5. *Kamāl al-dīn*, vol. 2, p. 480, no. 5; *Biḥār al-anwār*, vol. 52, chap. 20, p. 96, no. 15.

6. *Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān*, chap. 10, p. 168, no. 9; *Kamāl al-dīn*, vol. 2, chap. 35, p. 370, no. 1, similar to it.

7. The author of *Lisān al-ʿArab* writes: “It is said ‘so and so is the boy of the people’ even if he is old, which is like saying, ‘so and so is the youth of the army’ even if he is old” (*Lisān al-ʿArab*, vol. 12, p. 440).

8. *Ithbāt al-waḥīyya*, pp. 222–223.

I say: Here, ‘people’ means ‘non-Shias’ because in numerous traditions ‘non-Shias’ have been referred to as ‘people.’

9. *Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān*, chap. 10, p. 168, no. 8.

I say: As we already mentioned above, 'people' refers to 'non-Shias.'

Section Thirty-Four

The traditions that indicate he will not have pledged allegiance with anyone

Comprised of twelve traditions

660. Ghaybat al-Nu`m¹: `Alī b. al-`usayn, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā, from Muḥammad b. Ḥassan al-R², from Muḥammad b. `Alī al-K³, from Ibrāhīm b. Hishām, from Ḥammad b. `Ṣ⁴, from Ibrāhīm b. `Umar al-Yam⁵, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: "The Q⁶'im will rise and he will not have pledged allegiance with anybody."

661. Al-K⁷: Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad, from al-`usayn b. Sa`d, from ibn Abū `Umair, from Hishām b. Ṣ⁸lim, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah al-Ḥ⁹diq, peace be upon him, who said: "The Q⁶'im will rise while he will not have pledged an oath, promise, or allegiance to anybody."

662. Ithbāt al-Waḥ¹⁰yya: al-`imyar from Muḥammad b. al-`usayn, from Muḥammad b. Sin¹¹, from Abū I-J¹²rd, from Uthm¹³ b. Nash¹⁴, from Am¹⁵ al-Mu'min¹⁶, peace be on him, who said: "The Master of this affair will not have pledged an oath, promise, or pact to anybody."

663. Kam¹⁷ al-d¹⁸: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. M¹⁹s al- Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`A²⁰rr, from Muḥammad b. `Ṣ²¹ b. `Ubaid, from Muḥammad b. Abū `Umair, from Sa`d b. Ghazw²², from Abū Ba²³rr, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: "The birth of the master of this affair will be concealed from [these] people so that he will not have pledged allegiance with anyone when he emerges."

664. Kam¹⁷ al-d¹⁸: Narrated to us my father and Muḥammad b. al-`asan, may Allah have mercy on both of them, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Muḥammad b. `Ubaid and Muḥammad b. al-`usayn b. Abū I-Kha²⁴b, from Muḥammad b. Abū `Umair, from Jam²⁵ b. Ḥ²⁶li, from Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: "The Q⁶'im will be sent while he will not have pledged allegiance to anyone."

665. Kam¹⁷ al-d¹⁸: My father, may Allah have mercy on him, narrated to me from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Ya`q²⁷ b. Yaz²⁸d and al-`asan b. Ḥ²⁹arf, both from Muḥammad b. Abū `Umair, from Hishām b. Ṣ³⁰lim, from Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: "The Q⁶'im will rise while he will not have pledged allegiance to anybody."

The following traditions also establish the aforementioned concept: 539, 601, 610, 634, 654, and 656.

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1. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, p. 191, no. 45.
 2. Al-Kāfi, vol. 1, p. 342, no. 27; Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 10, p. 171, no. 4.
 3. Ithbāt al-wa`iyā, p. 223.
 4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 44, p. 479, no. 1.
 5. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 44, pp. 479–480, no. 2; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, chap. 32, p. 453, no. 208.
 6. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 44, p. 480, no. 3; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, chap. 32, p. 436, no. 209.

Section Thirty-Five

The traditions that indicate he will kill Allah’s enemies, purify the earth from polytheism and all injustice and unfairness, destroy the kingdoms of the tyrants, and will fight for the interpretation (yuq`til `alā l-ta`wāl) of the Holy Quran just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, fought for its descent (al-tanzīl)

Comprised of eighteen traditions

666. Kamāl al-dīn1: Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Masrūr, from al-ḥusayn b. Muḥammad b. `ḥmir, from his uncle `Abd-Allah b. `ḥmir, from Muḥammad b. Abū `Umair, from someone he mentioned, from Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “The Q`im will not reappear until the deposits of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, are brought forth. When these are brought forth, he will reappear and will fight against the enemies of Allah and kill them.”

667. Kamāl al-dīn2: Al-Muḥaffar b. Ja`far al-Muḥaffar, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from his father, from `Alī b. Muḥammad, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad, from al-ḥasan b. Ma`būb, from Ibrāhīm al-Karkhī who said:

I—or someone—asked (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, “May Allah set right your affairs! Wasn’t `Alī, peace be on him, strong in the religion of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He?” He replied, “Yes [he was].” I said, “Then how did the people defeat him and why didn’t he repel them? What stopped him from doing so?” He answered, “A verse from the Book of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, prevented him from doing so.” I said, “And what was that verse?”

He replied, “The saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, ‘Had they been separated, We would have surely punished those who disbelieved from amongst them with a painful punishment.’3 Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, put in the loins of the disbelievers and hypocrites the deposits of the believers. `Alī, peace be on him, did not kill the fathers until the deposits came out [i.e. their faithful children were born]. When the deposits came out, he stood up against [the opponents] and fought against them. The same applies to the Q`im from our Ahl al-Bait. He will not reappear until the deposits of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, appear. When they all appear, he will stand up against [his opponents] and will kill

them.”

The following traditions also prove the above concept: 283, 423, 432, 446, 450, 463, 529, 535, 537, 551, 553, 554, 574, 645, 653, and 1195.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, p. 641.

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, pp. 641–642; Tafsīr nūr al-thaqalain, vol. 5, p. 70; Tafsīr al-Qummī, vol. 2, p. 316; al-Maʿajja, verse 38, p. 206; ʿIlal al-sharḥī, vol. 1, p. 147, no. 3.

3. Quran 48:25.

Section Thirty-Six

The traditions that indicate he will manifest the affairs of Allah, make the religion of truth victorious, destroy innovations and falsehood, will be assisted with Allah’s help, will be helped with Allah’s angels, will spread Islam on earth and will rule it, and Allah will give life to the earth after its death

Comprised of 51 traditions

668. Kitāb Faḥl b. Shādhān¹: Narrated to us Faḥḥlāt b. Ayyūb, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Sinān, who said:

My father asked Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, about the Just Sultan (al-sultān al-ʿādil). He said, “He is the one whom Allah has made his obedience compulsory upon the Jinn and the humans—all of them—after the Prophets and the Messengers. There will be a sultan after a sultan until they terminate at the twelfth sultan.”

A person from his companions requested, “Describe them for us, O Son of Allah’s Messenger!” He replied, “They are those about whom Allah, the Exalted, has said, ‘Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those who have authority amongst you.’² They are those that during the rule of the last of them, Jesus, peace be on him, will descend, and pray behind him. He is the one who will slay the Anti-Christ (al-Dajj). Through him, Allah will conquer the Easts and the Wests of the earth. His government will remain until to the Day of Judgment.”

669. Kamāl al-dīn³: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. ʿIḥḥm, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb al-Kulainī, from al-Qāsim b. al-ʿAlī, from Ismāʿīl b. ʿAlī al-Qazwīnī, from ʿAlī b. Ismāʿīl, from ʿAḥim b. ʿAmād al-ʿannānī, from Muḥammad b. Muslim al-Thaqafī who said:

I heard Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-Bḥqir, peace be on him, say, “The Qʿim is from us. He will be helped with awe and assisted with victory. The earth’s [distances] will be shortened for him, treasures will be manifested for him, and his kingdom will extend to the East and the West. Through him, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will make his religion victorious over all other religions even if the polytheists detest it. Then, there will not remain a ruin on earth but that he will repair it. The Spirit of Allah, Jesus, son of Mary, peace be on him, will descend and pray behind him.”

I asked, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! When will your Qʿim emerge?” He replied, “When men will make themselves look like women and women will make themselves look like men. Men will fulfill [their sexual desires] using men and women using women. Women will mount on saddles, false testimonies will be accepted, the testimonies of the just will be rejected, bloodshed, adultery, and loans with interest will be regarded as normal, the wicked will be respected for fear of their tongue, al-Sufyān will emerge from Syria, al-Yamān will come from Yemen, the desert will sink in the earth at al-Baidʿ, a youth from the family of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who will be called Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan—al-Nafs al-Zakiyya (the Pure Soul)—will be killed between the Rukn and the Maqām (at Kaʿba). A cry will be heard from the sky that ‘the truth is with him and with his followers.’ It is then that our Qʿim will appear. When he appears, he will lean his back towards the Kaʿba and 313 men will gather around him. The first thing that he will say will be this verse, ‘The remnant of Allah is better for you if you are believers.’⁴

Then, he will say, ‘I am the Remnant of Allah on His earth; His Caliph and His Proof upon you.’ No Muslim will salute him except by these words, ‘Peace be on you, O Remnant of Allah (baqiyyat Allāh) on His earth.’ When the ʿiqd—meaning ten thousand men—gather around him, he will rise. Then, there will not remain anything being worshipped on earth other than Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He—from the idols or any other thing—except that it will catch fire and be destroyed. This will occur after a long occultation so that Allah [tests] and recognizes those who obey Him regarding the unseen and believe in Him.”

670. Kamāl al-dīn: Abū ʿAlī al-Muḥaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muḥaffar al-ʿAlawī al-Samarqandī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from his father, from Muḥammad b. Naʿr, from Muḥammad b. ʿas, [from ʿammād b. ʿas], from ʿAmr b. Shimr, from Jābir b. Yazīd al-Juʿfī, from Jābir b. ʿAbd-Allah al-Anṣarī who heard the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, say:

Dhī l-Qarnain was a righteous servant whom Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, appointed as a proof upon His servants. He called his people towards Allah and ordered them to fear Him but they struck his temple. Consequently, he went into occultation for some time until they said, “He has died, or perished, or to which land has he gone?”

After some time, he reappeared and returned to his people but they struck his other temple. Amongst you is the one who will follow his custom. Surely, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, gave power to Dhī

I-Qarnain on earth and gave him a means for everything and he conquered the East and the West. Allah, Blessed and High be He, will implement this custom in the Q'īm from my descendants. He will conquer the East and the West of the earth.

There will neither remain a waterhole nor a spot from the land or the mountains that Dhī I-Qarnain tread on but that the Q'īm will set foot on it. Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will bring out for him the treasures of the earth and its mines and He will help him with awe. Through him, He will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.

671. Tafsīr al-`Ayyūsh⁶: From Rif`at b. Mās who heard (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, say about the verse “And to Him submits whatever is in the heavens and the earth, willingly or unwillingly⁷”: “When the Q'īm, peace be on him, rises, there will not remain a land but that the testimony, ‘There is no god but Allah and that surely Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allah,’ will be called out in it.”

672. Tafsīr al-`Ayyūsh⁸: From Zurāra, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

My father was asked about the sayings of Allah, “And fight against all the polytheists just as they all fight against you”⁹ and “Until there remains no fitna and religion becomes exclusively for Allah.”¹⁰ He replied, “The interpretation of this verse has not occurred yet. When our Q'īm rises, those who will have reached his time will see the occurrence of the interpretation of this verse. The religion of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, will reach wherever that night reaches [i.e. everywhere]. There will remain no polytheism [or polytheist] on the face of earth just as Allah has stated.”

673. Yanḥīb al-mawadda¹¹: From Zain al-`ābidīn and from al-Bḥqir, [peace be on them]: “When the Q'īm, peace be on him, rises, Allah will make Islam victorious over all religions.”

674. Yanḥīb al-mawadda¹²: From Abū Baḥr, from Ja`far al-ḥadiq, may Allah be satisfied with him: “When the Q'īm rises, the believers will rejoice because of the victory from Allah.”

675. Tafsīr `Alī b. Ibrāhīm al-Qummī¹³: Regarding the interpretation of the verse, “Or He who answers the distressed one when he calls Him and removes the badness, and He will make you the successors on earth,”¹⁴ narrated to me my father, from al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. Faḥḥ, from ḥalī b. `Uqba, from Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “This verse was revealed concerning the Q'īm from the family of Muḥammad, peace be on them. By Allah, he is the distressed one. When he prays beside the Maqām [of Ibrāhīm] two units of prayers (rak`atain) and invokes Allah, He will answer him and will remove the badness and make him the successor on earth.”

676. Mā nazala min al-Quran fī Ahl al-Bait `alayhim al-salām¹⁵: Through his chains of narrators [from ḥumaid b. Ziyād, from al-ḥasan b. Muḥammad b. Sam`a, from Ibrāhīm b. `Abd al-ḥamīd], from `Abd al-ḥamīd, from Muḥammad b. Muslim, from (Imam) Abū Ja`far, peace be on him, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, “Or He who answers the distressed one when he calls,”¹⁶

he, peace be on him, said: “This verse was descended about the Q’im, peace be on him. When he emerges, he will wear a turban and will pray beside the Maqam [of Ibr’him]. He will plead to his Lord, then, none of his flags will return [defeated].”

677. M nazala min al-Quran f Ahl al-Bait `alayhim al-salam¹⁷: Narrated to us Yusuf b. Ya`qub, from Muhammad b. Ab Bakr al-Muqr, from Nu`aim b. Sulaimn, from Laith, from Mujhid, from ibn `Abbs, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, “So that He makes it victorious over all religions even if the polytheists detest it,”¹⁸ he said:

This will not happen until there remains no follower of Judaism, Christianity, or any other religion except Islam; until the sheep[s], the wolf[s], the cow[s], the lion[s], the men, and the snake[s] are all safe and secure; until the rat does not nibble at the sack; until jizya is imposed; the cross is broken; and the pig is killed. [This] is the saying of Allah, the Exalted, “So that He makes it victorious over all religions even if the polytheists detest it.” All this will happen when the Q’im, peace be on him, rises.

678. Kam al-d¹⁹: Through this chain of narrators [meaning `Al b. `atim, from `umaid b. Ziyd, from al-`asan b. `Al b. Sam`a], from Ahmad b. al-`asan al-Maitham, from al-`asan b. Ma`b, from Mu`min al-`aq, from Salam b. al-Mustanr, from Ab Ja`far, peace be on him, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He,

“Know that Allah will give life to the earth after its death” (Quran Surah Hadid 57:17)

He said, “Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will give life to it through the Q’im, peace be on him, after it has died. Its death means the disbelief (kufr) of its inhabitants and a disbeliever (kafir) is [regarded as] a dead person.”

679. Ghaybat al-Nu`m²⁰: Narrated to us Ab Sulaimn Ahmad b. Haudha, from Ibr’him b. Is`aq al-Nahwand, from `Abd-Allah b. `ammad al-An`r, from `Al b. Ab `amza, who said:

(Imam) Ab `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, said, “When the Q’im, Allah’s blessings be on him, rises, the angels [present during the Battle of] Badr—which are five thousand—will descend. One-third will be on white horses, one-third on black and white horses, and one-third on al-`uw horses.” I asked, “What is al-`uw?” He answered, “Red.”

680. `Uy²¹: In a tradition recorded by him from Muhammad b. `Al M`lawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Al b. Ibr’him b. Hshim, from his father, from al-Rayy²² b. Shab, from al-Ri, peace be on him, who said [in a part of it]:

O son of Shab! If you [want to] cry for anything, then cry for al-`usayn b. `Al b. Ab `lib, peace be on him. Because he was slaughtered like sheep are slaughtered and with him were killed eighteen of his family members whose kind could not be found anywhere on earth. The seven skies and the earths cried for his death. Four thousand angels descended on the earth to help him but they were not given

permission. They remain by his grave—disarrayed and dusty—until the Q’im, peace be on him, rises. Then, they will assist him and their slogan will be, ‘[Let us] avenge the blood of al-ʿusayn,’ (yā lathqirāt al-ʿussain).

681. ʿUyayn al-muʿjiz²²: It has been narrated from one of the knowledgeable [Imams] from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, that

Allah, the Exalted, sent down four thousand angels to [assist] al-ʿusayn. These were the same angels that had descended on the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, on the day of (the Battle of) Badr. He was asked to choose between being victorious against his enemies and meeting his grandfather. He chose meeting his grandfather. So, Allah, the Exalted, ordered the angels to stand by his grave while they are disarrayed and dusty, awaiting the rising of the Q’im from his descendants—the Master of the Time, peace be on him. The following traditions also prove the above concept: 161, 205, 243, 324–332, 337–339, 342, 343, 346, 373, 419, 423, 432, 435, 525, 529, 536, 538, 548, 553, 719, 807, 936, 1105, 1138, 1177, 1195, and 1199.

1. Kifāyat al-muhtad (al-Arbaʿīn), under no. 39; Kashf al-ʿāqq (al-Arbaʿīn), no. 34.

2. Quran 4:59.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, chap. 32, pp. 330–331, no. 16; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 25, pp. 191–192, no. 24.

I say: We already mentioned a similar tradition in the first section under no. 327 from Imam Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Sadiq, peace be on him, which mentioned: “His name is Muḥammad b. Muḥammad and his title is al-Nafs al-Zakiyya.”

4. Quran 11:86.

5. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 38, p. 394, no. 4; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 12, chap. 8, pp. 194–195, no. 19. I say: Apparently, Muḥammad b. Naḥr—the narrator from Muḥammad b. ʿṣ—refers to Muḥammad b. Naḥr al-Kashf, the highly reliable and extremely learned scholar. He should not be confused in such traditions and reliable narrations with Muḥammad b. Naḥr al-Numayr.

6. Tafsīr al-ʿAyyūshī, vol. 1, p. 182, no. 81; al-Maʿajja, Verse 4, p. 5; Yanḥbʿ al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 421, which says: “When the Q’im—the Mahdī—rises.”

7. Quran 3:83.

8. Tafsīr al-ʿAyyūshī, vol. 2, p. 56, no. 48; Majmaʿ al-bayʿn, vol. 4, p. 543, with very minor differences and the addition of the following at its end: “just as Allah, the Exalted, states, ‘They will worship only Me [and] will associate nothing with Me’” (Quran 24:55); Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 55, no. 41; al-Maʿajja, verses 21 and 25; Yanḥbʿ al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 423.

9. Quran 9:36.

10. Quran 8:39.

11. Yanḥbʿ al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 423, citing al-Maʿajja.

12. Yanḥbʿ al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 426, citing al-Maʿajja.

13. Tafsīr ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm al-Qummī, vol. 2, p. 129; al-Maʿajja, verse 73, p. 165.

14. Quran 27:62.

15. Taʾwīl al-ʿyāt al-ʿshira, p. 399.

16. Quran 27:62.

17. Taʾwīl al-ʿyāt al-ʿshira, p. 663; Yanḥbʿ al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 423 (short version); Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 61, no. 59.

18. Quran 9:33.

19. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 58, p. 668, no. 13.
20. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 13, p. 244, no. 44.
21. `Uyūn akhbār al-Riḥā, vol. 1, chap. 28, pp. 233–234, no. 58.
22. `Uyūn al-mu`jizāt, p. 70.

Section Thirty–Seven

The traditions that indicate he will return the people to guidance, the Quran, and the sunna

Comprised of many traditions

682. Nahj al-balāgha¹: One of his sermons, peace be on him, in which he mentioned the bloody battles:

He will direct desires towards guidance while people will have turned guidance towards desires, and he will turn their views to the direction of the Quran while the people will have turned the Quran to their views. [Before this enjoiner of good, matters will deteriorate] until war will rage among you with full force, showing forth its teeth, with udders full of sweet milk but with sour tip.

Beware! It will be tomorrow and the morrow will come soon with things which you do not know. The man in power, not from this crowd, will take to task all those who were formerly appointed for their ill deeds and the earth will pour forth its internal treasures and fling before him easily her keys. He will show you the just way of behavior and revive the Quran and the sunna which have become lifeless [among people].

The topic of this section has been mentioned in numerous narrations. This is because returning the people to the Book [of Allah] and the Sunna is one of the greatest feats of the Mahdī, peace be on him, and one of his main tasks. One can rarely find a tradition that doesn't directly or indirectly establish this fact.

Thus, only the person who fulfills this promises can be the Mahdī. He will not rise except to establish the Truth and he will not make the people rise but to return them to the Book of Allah and the Sunna of His Prophet. The world will not be filled with justice and fairness except through him. Allah's affairs will not be manifested and Islam will not defeat the other religions except by the return of the people to Allah's Book and the Sunna of His Prophet. Reformative actions will not be accomplished but through him and he will not appear, rise, and emerge except for the establishment of the sharia and for the implementation of the laws of Allah and His religion.

1. Nahj al-balāgha, trans. Sayed Ali Reza (Iran: Sayed Mujtaba Musavi Lari Foundation), sermon 138; Yanāb` al-

mawadda, chap. 72, p. 437, which says: “The Mahdī will direct desires . . .”; Shaykh Muḥammad `Abduh—the Egyptian jurist—and ibn Abī I-ʿadāḍ have both stated that this section of Nahj al-balāgha refers to the Mahdī.

Section Thirty-Eight

The traditions that indicate he will take revenge on the enemies of Allah, the enemies of His Messenger, and the enemies of the Imams, peace be on them

Comprised of thirteen traditions

683. Dalʿil al-imāma1: `Alī b. Hibat-Allah informed me, from Abī Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-ḥusayn b. Mūsā al-Qummī, from `Alī b. Aḥmad b. Mūsā b. Muḥammad al-Daqqīq and Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. `Iḥḥīm, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb, from al-Qasim b. al-`Alī, from Ismāʿīl al-Fazrī, from Muḥammad b. Jumhūr al-`Ammī, from ibn Abī Najrīn, from someone he mentioned, from Abī ʿamza Thābit b. Dhīr al-Thumālī who said:

I asked Abī Jaʿfar Muḥammad al-Baqir, peace be on him, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Why was `Alī, peace be on him, given the title of Amīr al-Muʾminīn (the Leader of the Believers) while no one before him had this title and it is not permissible for anyone to have this title after him?” He answered, “Because he is the source of knowledge and from him knowledge must be taken and not from anyone except him.”

I asked, “Why is his sword called Dhī I-Faqr?” He said, “Because he didn’t strike anyone from the people of the world with it but that his family and children lost him [in this world] and he lost Paradise in the hereafter.” I said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! Are not all of you the risers with the truth?” He answered, “When my grandfather al-ḥusayn, peace be on him, was martyred, the angels cried and wailed and said, ‘Our God! Are you going to pardon the one who has killed Your chosen one and the son of Your chosen one and the best one from Your creation?’

So Allah revealed to them, ‘Calm down, O My angels! [I swear] by My Might and My Majesty, I will certainly take revenge on them even after some time passes.’ Then, the Imams from the descendants of al-ḥusayn were revealed for them. The angels rejoiced because of this and saw one of them standing (qāʾim) and praying. Allah, Glorified be He, said, ‘I will take revenge on them through [the one] that is standing (al-Qāʾim).’”

684. Al-Amḥī2: Informed us Muḥammad b. Muḥammad, from Abī I-ʿasan Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan b. al-Walīd, from his father, from Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan al-ʿaffār, from Muḥammad b. `Ubaid, from `Alī b. Asbāḥ, from Saif b. `Umaira, from Muḥammad b. ʿUmrīn, from (Imam) Abī `Abd-

Allah, peace be on him, who said:

When the events about Imam al-ʿUsayn, peace be on him, occurred, the angels cried to Allah, the Exalted, “O Lord! [You stand aside] and they do this with al-ʿUsayn, Your chosen one and the son of Your Prophet?” So Allah showed them the figure of the Qʿim, peace be on him, and said, “Through him I will take revenge on those who oppressed him.”

685. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān³: Muḥammad b. Hammām, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Mʿlik, from Isḥāq b. Sinān, from ʿUbad b. Kharrīja, from ʿAlī b. ʿUthmān, from furṭ b. Aḥnaf, from Abū ʿAbd-Allah Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, from his forefathers, peace be on them, who said:

The (river) Euphrates overflowed during the reign of Amīr al-Muʾminīn, peace be on him. He and his two sons—al-ʿasan and al-ʿUsayn, peace be on them—mounted and passed by a village. The [villagers] said, “ʿAlī has come to drive away the water.” ʿAlī, peace be on him, answered, “By Allah, I and these two sons of mine will be martyred. Then, Allah will send a person from my descendants in the end of times who will avenge our blood (yuḥlibu dimʿanā). He will go in occultation so that the people of deviation will be separated [from the real believers]. [It will continue for so long] until an ignorant will say, ‘The family of Muḥammad are unimportant for Allah.’”

The following traditions also establish the above concept: 109, 255, 258, 266, 270, 293, 305, 424, 432, and 515.

1. Dalʿil al-imāma, chap. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qʿim . . .”, p. 239, no. 14; ʿIlal al-sharḥī, chap. 129, p. 160, no. 1, similar to it, through his chain of narrators from al-Thumālī. After “Don’t all of you rise with the truth?” he writes: “He replied, ‘Yes.’ I asked, ‘Then why is the Qʿim called the Qʿim (the one who will rise)?’ (To the end of the tradition)”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 37, chap. 54, p. 294, no. 8 (Al-Majlisī has explained this narration after narrating it).

2. Al-ʿaṣṣ, Al-Amālī, vol. 2, p. 33; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 45, chap. 41, p. 221, no. 3.

3. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 10, pp. 140–141, no. 1.

Section Thirty-Nine

The traditions that indicate in him will be customs (sunan) from the Divine Prophets, one of these customs being occultation

Comprised of twenty-three traditions

686. Kamāl al-dīn¹: Al-Sharḥ Abū I-ʿasan ʿAlī b. Mʿsʿ b. Aḥmad b. Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Mʿsʿ b. Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. al-ʿUsayn b. ʿAlī b. Abū ḥlib, peace be on

them, from Muḥammad b. Hammam, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. al-Naufal, from Aḥmad b. Hilāl, from `Uthmān b. `Ṣṣ al-Kilābī, from Khālid b. Najj [Najī], from `Amzat b. `Umr, from his father, from Sa`d b. Jubair, from the Master of the Worshippers, `Alī b. al-`Usayn b. `Alī b. Abī `Alī, peace be on him, who said:

In the Qur`im are customs from seven Prophets: A custom from our father Adam, a custom from Noah, a custom from Abraham, a custom from Moses, a custom from Jesus, a custom from Ayyūb (Job), and a custom from Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on them all. As for the [custom] from Adam and Noah, it is longevity. As for Abraham, it is concealed birth and solitude. As for Moses, it is fear and occultation. As for Jesus, it is the disagreement amongst the people about him. As for Ayyūb (Job), it is relief after calamity, and as for Muḥammad, it is emergence with the sword.

687. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān²: Informed us Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Sa`d, from Muḥammad b. al-Mufaḥḥal and Sa`d b. Isḥāq b. Sa`d, Aḥmad b. al-`Usayn and Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. al-`Asan al-Qaḥawānī, all of them from al-`Asan b. Ma`būb, from Hishām b. Sālim al-Jawāliqī, from Yazīd al-Kunāsī, from Abī Ja`far al-Baqir, peace be on him, who said: "The Master of this affair will have a similarity with Yūsuf. He will be the son of a dark-skinned slave-maid and Allah will set right his affairs in one night."

688. Kamāl al-dīn³: Narrated to us my father [and Muḥammad b. al-`Asan], may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from al-Mu`allī b. Muḥammad al-Baḥrī, from Muḥammad b. Jumhūr and others, from [Muḥammad] b. Abī `Umair, from `Abd-Allah b. Sīn who said:

I heard (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, say, "In the Qur`im, there is a custom from Moses, son of `Imrān, peace be on him." I asked, "What is the custom from Moses, son of `Imrān?" He replied, "His concealed birth and his occultation from his people." I asked, "How long was Moses, son of `Imrān, occulted from his nation and his family?" He replied, "Twenty-eight years."

689. Kamāl al-dīn⁴: Narrated to us al-Mu`affar b. Ja`far b. al-Mu`affar al-`Alawī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from his father Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd al-`Ayyūshī, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Shuj`ā, from Muḥammad b. `Ṣṣ, from Yūnus, from `Alī b. Abī `Amza, from Abī Baḥr, from (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

In the Master of this affair are customs from the prophets; a custom from Moses, son of `Imrān, a custom from Jesus, a custom from Yūsuf, and a custom from Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on them. As for the custom from Moses, son of `Imrān, he will be fearful and watchful. As for the custom from Jesus, it will be said about him what was said about Jesus. As for the custom from Yūsuf, it is the screen that Allah will put between him and the people as a covering; they will see him but will not recognize him. As for the custom from Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, he will guide with his guidance and will follow his ways.

690. Al-Imāma wa l-tabā'ira⁵: `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-`Imyārī, from Muḥammad b. `Ṣṣ, from Sulaimān

b. D`aw`d, from Ab` Ba`r, from Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

In the master of this affair, there are four customs from four Prophets: a custom from Moses, a custom from Jesus, a custom from Y`usuf, and a custom from Mu`ammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. As for the custom from Moses, he will be fearful and watchful. As for the custom from Y`usuf, it is imprisonment. As for the custom from Jesus, it will be said, "He has died," but he would be alive. As for the custom from Mu`ammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, it is the sword.

691. Ithb`it al-wa`iyya6: Al-`imyar, from Mu`ammad b. `s, from Sulaim`n b. D`aw`d, from Ab` Na`r [or Ab` Ba`r], from (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

In the Master of this affair, there are four customs from four Prophets: A custom from Moses [which is] his occultation; a custom from Jesus concerning his fear and his watchfulness regarding the Jews and them saying that he has died, whilst he hadn't died, [and them saying] he has been killed, whilst he hadn't been killed; a custom from Y`usuf concerning his handsomeness and his generosity; and a custom from Mu`ammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, is the sword with which he will emerge.

The following traditions also establish the above concept: 69, 249, 286, 540, 553, 557, 564, 575, 620, 626, 628, 632, 641, 642, 644, 645, and 650.

1. Kam` al-d`n, vol. 1, chap. 31, p. 321, no. 3; Ithb`it al-hud`it, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 466, no. 124, with slight variations; l`m al-war, chap. 2, sect. 2, which says, "Customs from six Prophets" instead of "From seven Prophets." It also says: "A custom from Noah" instead of "A custom from our father Adam, a custom from Noah"; Bi`r al-anw`r, vol. 51, chap. 13, p. 217, no. 4.

2. Ghaybat al-Nu`m`n, chap. 10, p. 163, no. 3; Kam` al-d`n, vol. 1, chap. 32, p. 329, no. 12; Bi`r al-anw`r, vol. 51, chap. 13, p. 218, no. 8; Ithb`it al-hud`it, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 469, no. 135, citing Kam` al-d`n with the wording: "In the master of this affair is a custom from Y`usuf [the son of a slave-maid], Allah will set right his affairs in a single night." The author of Bi`r al-anw`r writes: "His saying, 'the son of a black slave-maid' apparently contradicts the numerous narrations that mention the attributes of his mother, peace be on him, except if mother is interpreted as his grandmother." I say: This sentence does not exist in the copy of the Persian translation of Kam` al-d`n nor in the Najaf edition printed in the year 1389 AH, p. 320. See vol. 1, p. 445. This is in addition to the fact that his similarity with Y`usuf was in occultation and imprisonment. It is probable that something has been added to the tradition and Allah knows the best.

3. Kam` al-d`n, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 340, no. 18; Bi`r al-anw`r, vol. 51, chap. 13, p. 216, no. 2; Ithb`it al-hud`it, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, pp. 471-472, no. 147.

4. Kam` al-d`n, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 350, no. 46; Bi`r al-anw`r, vol. 51, chap. 13, pp. 223-224, no. 10, which says: "custom from the prophets"; Ithb`it al-hud`it, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 474, no. 159.

5. Al-Im`ma wa l-tab`ira, pp. 93-94, no. 84; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 424, no. 408, which says: "And as for the custom from Y`usuf, peace be on him, it is occultation" and on p. 60, no. 57, he has mentioned "imprisonment" which probably refers to occultation; Ithb`it al-hud`it, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 12, p. 499, no. 277, and chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 460, no. 101; Bi`r al-anw`r, vol. 51, chap. 13, pp. 216-217, no. 3; Kam` al-d`n, vol. 1, chap. 6, pp. 152-153, no. 16, which says: "and imprisonment," and also vol. 1, chap. 32, pp. 326-327, no. 6, which says: "confinement."

6. Ithb`it al-wa`iyya (first edition), p. 202.

Section Forty

The traditions that indicate he will rise with the sword

Comprised of ten traditions

692. Kamāl al-dīn¹: Narrated to me my father, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Mu`ammad b. al-`usayn b. Abī l-Khaḍīb, from al-`asan b. Maḥbūb, from `Alī b. Ri`āb, from (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, concerning the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, “On the day when some of the signs of your Lord will come, becoming a believer will be of no use to he who hadn’t already believed.”² He said: “Signs [refers to] the Imams and the awaited sign is the Q’im, peace be on him. On that day, becoming a believer will be of no use for anyone who had not become a believer before the rising of the Q’im with the sword, even if he had believed in his forefathers, peace be on them.”

693. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān³: `Alī b. al-`usayn, from Mu`ammad b. Ya`yā al-`Aḥḥar, from Mu`ammad b. `asan al-Riḥā, from Mu`ammad b. `Alī al-Kāfī, from Aḥmad b. Mu`ammad b. Abī Naḥr, from `Abd-Allah b. Bukair, from his father, from Zur`ira who said:

I asked (Imam) Abī Ja`far, peace be on him, “Name for me the Righteous from the righteous ones [and] I mean the Q’im, peace be on him.” He replied, “His name is my name.” I asked, “Will he follow the customs of Mu`ammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family?” He answered, “No, no, o Zur`ira! He will not follow his customs.” I asked, “May I be sacrificed for you! Why?” He replied, “The Messenger of Allah adopted the path of gentleness in his nation and was very friendly towards the people. But the Q’im will adopt the path of killing. He is ordered to adopt the path of killing in the book which is with him. He will not seek repentance from anyone. Woe to he who opposes him!”⁴

694. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān⁵: Informed us Aḥmad b. Mu`ammad b. Sa`d b. `Uqda, from `Alī b. al-`asan, from Mu`ammad b. Khālid, from Tha`labat b. Maimūn, from al-`asan b. Hārūn who said:

I was sitting with (Imam) Abī `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, when Mu`allī b. Khunais asked him, “When the Q’im appears, will his approach differ from that of `Alī?” He replied, “Yes. Because `Alī, peace be on him, adopted the path of kindness and restraint; because he knew that his followers would be dominated after him. But when the Q’im rises, he will adopt the approach of sword and captivity; because he will know that his followers will never be dominated [by anyone] after him.”

695. Tafṣīr al-Qurtub⁶: Concerning the saying of Allah, the Exalted: “And most certainly We will make them taste the lower chastisement before the greater chastisement,”⁷ he has narrated from Ja`far b. Mu`ammad, [peace be on him], that “it [i.e. the greater chastisement] refers to the emergence of the Mahdī with the sword and the lower chastisement refers to high prices.”

In Tafsīr al-ʿAḥsāʿ these words have been used: “From Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, may Allah be satisfied with him: ‘It refers to the emergence of the Mahdī with the sword.’”

696. Al-Kāfī: Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. ʿAḥsāʿ, from ibn Maʿbūb, from Hishām b. Sulaym, from Abū Khālid al-Kabulī, from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, who mentions that they saw in the Book of ʿAlī:

“The land belongs to Allah; He will [give it as] inheritance to whoever He wishes from His servants, and the end belongs the pious (al-muttaqīn)” (Quran 7: 128), I and my Ahl al-Bait are those whom Allah will give them the earth as inheritance and we are the pious (al-muttaqīn). All the earth belongs to us.

Whoever from the Muslims enlivens a piece of land and inhabits it, should pay its tax to the Imam from my Ahl al-Bait and what he eats from it [remains] for him. If he abandons it or spoils it and another person from the Muslims takes it, inhabits it, and gives life to it, then the latter has more right over it than the former who has abandoned it.

The latter should pay its tax to the Imam from my Ahl al-Bait and whatever he eats from it [remains] for him. [This will apply] until the Qaʿim from my Ahl al-Bait appears with the sword. He will take over all the [lands], deprive [their inhabitants] of them, and [force the inhabitants] out of [the lands] just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, took over [the lands] and deprived [their inhabitants] of them. [The only exception] will be the possessions of our Shias (shʿatun). He will leave them with what they possess and will leave the earth in their hands.

The following traditions also prove the above concept: 423, 426, 572, 713, and 715.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 1, p. 8, and vol. 2, p. 336; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 51, no. 25; Yanʿabū al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 422.

2. Quran 6: 158.

3. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 13, p. 231, no. 14; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 27, pp. 77–78, no. 500; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 26, p. 353, no. 109.

4. There is no contradiction between this tradition and those that indicate he will follow the customs of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. For, when it is said he will follow his customs, it means he will rise with the sword, which differs from Jesus’ approach from amongst the prophets. His similarity to him, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, is in destroying the signs of disbelief, and ending wicked habits and false regulations and the laws that will appear in the end of times.

5. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 13, p. 232, no. 16; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 26, p. 353, no. 111; ʿIlal al-sharʿī, vol. 1, p. 210, with some variations in the chain of narrators; ʿIlyat al-abrār, vol. 2, pp. 628–629.

6. Tafsīr al-Qurtubī (al-Jāmiʿ li-ʿaḥkām al-Quran), vol. 14, p. 107; Tafsīr al-ʿAḥsāʿ (Rafʿ al-maʿnī), vol. 21, p. 121; Rafʿ al-bayʿ, vol. 21, p. 124, from al-Lubāb from Tafsīr al-Naqqāsh: “The lower [chastisement] will be high prices and the greater [chastisement] will be the reappearance of the Mahdī with the sword”; Tafsīr al-tibyʿ, vol. 8, p. 306, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, peace be on him: “The lower punishment will be famine and the greater will be the emergence of the Mahdī with the sword”; Al-Maʿajja, p. 173, from al-Mufaḥḥal b. ʿUmar: “Lower refers to the punishment in the grave and greater refers to the Mahdī with the sword”; From Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan al-Shaibānī in Kashf al-Bayʿ: “Lower refers

to famine and drought and greater refers to the emergence of the Riser, al-Mahdī, with the sword in the end of times”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, p. 59, and Taʾwīl al-ʿayāt al-ʿaḥira, p. 437: “Lower chastisement refers to high prices while greater refers to [the reappearance of] the Mahdī with the sword; it has been mentioned in Ilzām al-Nabī that “Lower refers to the punishment in Hell and greater refers to [the emergence] of the Mahdī, peace be on him, with the sword in the end of times.”

I say: It is legitimate to interpret ‘lower punishment’ as famine and other things that will take place before the appearance of the Mahdī—may my mother and father be sacrificed for him—and it being one of its examples. Such an interpretation will not contradict the other interpretations which can be found in various exegeses. Likewise, it is legitimate to interpret ‘the greater chastisement’ as his reappearance with the sword or another event, because it is one of its examples. There is no contradiction with this interpretation and with interpreting the major chastisement as the punishment of the Hereafter. Moreover, when the commentators have differences about the interpretation of the verses, what should be relied upon is what has been narrated from of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, just as we have explained in our book Amn al-umma min al-ʿalā wa l-ikhtilāf.

7. Quran 32:21.

8. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. “The entire earth belongs to the Imam,” pp. 407–408, no. 1; Tafsīr nūr al-thaqalain, vol. 2, p. 56, no. 222, under the commentary of Sura al-Aʿraf; Tafsīr al-ʿAyyūshī, vol. 2, p. 25, no. 66; Tafsīr al-ʿaḥadī, vol. 2, p. 228, under the commentary of Sura al-Aʿraf; Tafsīr al-burhān, vol. 2, p. 28, under the commentary of Sura al-Aʿraf; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 100, chap. 9, p. 58, no. 2.

Section Forty-One

The traditions that indicate the people will assist his government

Comprised of three traditions

697. Sunan ibn Māja1: Narrated to us ʿArmalat b. Yaʿqūb al-Miḥrī and Ibrāhīm b. Saʿd al-Jauharī, from Abū ʿAlī ʿAbd al-Ghaḥfār b. Dāwūd al-ʿarrānī, from Abū Lahʿa, from Abū Zurʿa Amr b. Jābir al-ʿaḥramī, from ʿAbd-Allah b. al-ʿarth b. Jazʿ al-Zubaidī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “A [group of] people will emerge from the East and will prepare for the Mahdī—meaning his government.”

698. Sunan Abū Dāwūd2: From Hārūn, from ʿAmr b. Abū Qays, from Muḥarrif b. ʿArāf, from Abū I-ʿāsan, from Hilāl b. ʿAmr, from ʿAlī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said:

A person will emerge from Mawāʿ al-Nahr. He will be called al-ʿarīth b. al-ʿarrāth; in the vanguard [of his army] will be a person called Manḥūr. He will organize or prepare for the family of Muḥammad just as the Quraish prepared for the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family]. It is compulsory for every believer to assist him—or he said—to respond to his [call].

Tradition no. 720 also establishes the above concept.

1. Sunan ibn Mʿja, vol. 2, chap. “The emergence of the Mahd,” p. 1368, citing Kitāb al-fitan, chap. 34, no. 4088; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 5, p. 125, citing Sunan ibn Mʿja and al-Bayhaq. He has also recorded it in al-Tadhkira, p. 240, from Abū Dʿwād with the difference: “they will prepare for the Mahd the throne of his kingdom”; Farʿid al-simʿain, vol. 2, chap. 61, p. 333; al-ʿabar, al-Muʿjam al-awsa, vol. 1, p. 200, no. 287, with minor variation; al-Munʿir al-munʿif, sect. 50, p. 145, no. 332; Nihāyat al-bidʿya wa l-nihāya, vol. 1, p. 41; al-Burhān fī ʿalāmāt Mahd ʿakhir al-zamān, chap. 7, p. 147, no. 2, which says: “they will prepare for the Mahd his kingdom”; Mukhtaʿar tadhkirat al-Qurtubī by al-Shaʿrānī, p. 40, which says “they will prepare for the Mahd the throne of his kingdom”; al-Idhāʿa, p. 124; Kanz al-ʿummī, vol. 14, p. 263, no. 38657; Majmaʿ al-zawāʿid, vol. 7, p. 318, and many more references.
2. Sunan Abū Dʿwād, vol. 4, “Kitāb al-Mahd,” pp. 108–109, no. 4290; Maʿāb al-sunna, vol. 2, p. 194; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 5, p. 130, citing Abū Dʿwād, Sunan al-Nisāʿī, al-Bayhaq, and al-Maʿāb; Jamʿ al-jawāmiʿ, vol. 1, p. 997, citing Abū Dʿwād; al-Tadhkira, p. 240, with the difference: “a person from the ministers of al-Mahd will emerge who will be called al-ʿarth b. al-ʿarrāth” and “or he said—to help him”; Yanāb al-mawadda, chap. 72, p. 430; al-Taj al-Jāmiʿ lil-ʿu, vol. 5, p. 344, and many other references.

Section Forty-Two

The traditions that indicate his character and approach

Comprised of forty-seven narrations

699. Al-Fitan1: Narrated to us Abū Muʿwiya, from Dʿwād, from Abū Naʿra, from Abū Saʿd, may Allah be satisfied with him, from the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “In the end of times a Caliph will emerge [who] will distribute wealth without counting [it].”

700. Al-Fitan2: Narrated to us ʿAbd al-Razzāq, from Muʿammar, from Qatāda, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “He will bring out the treasures, will distribute wealth, and will correctly establish Islam.”

701. Al-Fitan3: Narrated to us al-Walīd, from Saʿd, from Qatāda, from Abū Naʿra, from Abū Saʿd al-Khudrī, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said: “He will give away wealth abundantly and will not even count it. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.”

702. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān4: Informed us ʿAbd al-Walīd b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Yūnus, from Aʿmad b. Muʿammad b. Rabʿī, from Aʿmad b. ʿAlī al-ʿimyarī, from al-ʿasan b. Ayyūb, from ʿAbd al-Karīm b. ʿAmr, from Aʿmad b. al-ʿasan b. Abūn, from ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿAʿʿ al-Makkī, who asked a Shaykh from the scholars, meaning, (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, “What will be the approach of the Mahd (sʿratuh)?” He replied, “He will act like the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. He will destroy all that was before him just as the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, destroyed the affairs of ignorance (amr al-jʿhiliyya). He will re-establish Islam from the beginning.”5

703. Ghaybat al-Nu`m⁶: Informed us Ahmad b. Muhammad b. Sa`d, from `Alī b. al-`asan, from his father, from Rif`at b. M^s, from `Abd-Allah b. `A` who said:

I asked (Imam) Ab^u Ja`far al-B^uqir, peace be on him, “When the Q^u’im rises, what will be his approach towards the people?” He replied, “Like the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, he will destroy what was before [him]; and he will re-establish Islam from the beginning.”

704. Qurb al-isn⁷: H^r b. Muslim, from Mas`adat b. Ziy^d, from Ja`far, from his father who said: “The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family . . . said, ‘When our Q^u’im rises fiefdom will vanish and no fiefs will remain.’”

705. Al-K^f⁸: `Alī b. Ibr^uh^m, from his father, from ibn Ab^u `Umair, from Man^ur, from Fa^ul al-A`war, from Ab^u `Ubaida al-`adhdh^u, in a hadith from (Imam) Ab^u `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Muhammad al-`^udiq, peace be on him, who said: “O Ab^u `Ubaida! When the Q^u’im from the family of Muhammad, peace be on them, rises, he will judge like [the Prophets] David and Solomon. That is, he will not ask for evidence.”⁹

706. Al-K^f¹⁰: Muhammad b. Ya^uy^u, from Ahmad b. Muhammad, from Muhammad b. Sin^un, from Ab^un, from (Imam) Ab^u `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said: “The world will not come to an end until a person from me emerges. He will judge like the judgments of the family of David. He will not ask for evidence and will give everyone their rights.”

707. Al-K^f¹¹: Is^uq narrates from al-`asan b. `ar^uf that

Two issues were making me restless and I intended to write about them to (Imam) Ab^u Muhammad, peace be on him. I wrote to him and asked him how the Q^u’im, peace be on him, would judge and where he would seat for judging between the people. I also intended to ask him for a [medicine] for Quartan fever¹² but I forgot to do so.

He replied like this: “You asked about the Q^u’im, then [know] that when he rises, he will judge amongst the people by his knowledge—like how David used to judge, without asking for evidence. You also intended to ask about Quartan fever but forgot. Write on a piece of paper [the following verse] and hang it on the person who has this fever and he will soon be cured with Allah’s permission, if Allah pleases, ‘O fire, be cold and safe on Ibr^uh^m.’” We hung it on him as (Imam) Ab^u Muhammad, peace be on him, had ordered and he was healed.

708. Al-Tahdh^b¹³: Muhammad b. al-`asan al-`aff^r, from Muhammad b. al-`usayn ibn Ab^u al-Kha^u^b, from Ja`far b. Bash^r and Muhammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Hil^ul, from al-`Al^u b. Raz^un al-Qall^u, from Muhammad b. Muslim who said:

I asked (Imam) Ab^u Ja`far, peace be on him, “When the Q^u’im—may Allah hasten his relief—rises, what will be his approach towards the people?” He replied, “He will adopt the approach of the Messenger of

Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, until Islam becomes victorious." I enquired, "What was the approach of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family?" He replied, "He extinguished what prevailed during the time of ignorance (al-jahiliyya) and dealt with the people with justice. The same applies to the Qa'im. He will remove the un-Islamic laws that will prevail [during the occultation, because of a lack of a true Islamic government] and will deal with the people justly."

709. Al-Tahdhīb 14: Muḥammad b. Ismā'īl b. Bazī, from ʿAmzat b. Zaid, from `Alī b. Suwayd, from (Imam) Abū I-ʿāsan Mūsā, peace be on him, who said:

When our Qa'im rises, he will call out, "O horsemen! Tread on the middle of the road. O pedestrians! walk on the two sides of the road." Then, if any rider goes to the roadside and hurts a pedestrian, he will have to compensate [the pedestrian, i.e. pay diya to him], but if a pedestrian walks in the middle of the road and is hurt, then he will not be compensated.

710. Al-Tahdhīb 15: From him [meaning Muḥammad b. al-ʿāsan al-ʿaffār], from Ya`qūb, from al-ʿāsan b. `Alī b. Faḥḥā, from Shu`ayb al-Aqarqūf, from Abū ʿAmza al-Thumālī, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

The earth will not survive unless if there is a learned person from us who can distinguish the truth from falsehood within it. The purpose of dissimulation (al-taqiyya) is to safeguard the blood [of the Shias]. When dissimulation (al-taqiyya) reaches the [threshold of] bloodshed, then [at that time] it should be put aside. By Allah! If you are called to help us you will say, "We will not do so because we are dissimulating." Dissimulation is indeed dearer to you than you fathers and mothers. When the Qa'im, peace be on him, rises, he will not be in need to ask you about this. Indeed, he will carry out Allah's punishments (ʿadd) on most of the hypocrites from amongst you.

711. Al-Tahdhīb 16: From him [meaning al-ʿusayn b. Sa`d], from al-Naḥr b. Suwayd, from `Abd-Allah b. Sinān, from his father who said:

I asked (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, "I have a piece of land that was taken as tax [from someone else and given to me by the government] and I don't have a good feeling towards it. Should I abandon it?" He was silent for a while, then said, "When our Qa'im rises, you will be granted much more land than that." He continued, "When our Qa'im rises, the people will have better than their current properties."

712. Al-Khiṣṣ 17: My father, Muḥammad b. al-ʿāsan, and Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`Aḥḥār, may Allah be satisfied with them, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from Muḥammad b. al-ʿusayn b. Abū I-Khaḥḥāb, from Mūsā b. Sa`dān, from `Abd-Allah b. al-Qāsim al-ʿaḥramī, from Mālik b. `Aḥiyya, from Abūn b. Taghlib, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

Soon, three hundred and thirteen men will come to this Mosque of yours—meaning Mecca. The people of Mecca will know that these people are not from them. With them will be swords and on each sword

will be scribed a word which will open up a thousand words. They will send the wind and it will call out in every valley, “This is the Mahdī. He will judge like the judgments of the family of David; he will not ask for evidence.”

The following traditions also establish the above concept: 344, 345, 346, 368, 383, 403, 405, 419, 425, 426, 432, 466, 481, 484, 535, 583, 682, 689, 692–695, 713–718, 719, 726, 732, 1115, and 1199.

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1. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 191.
 2. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 192; al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 146, p. 69, which mentions ‘Mu`ammar b. Qatāda’ which is wrong.
 3. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 192; al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 147, p. 69; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 713, no. 99. He writes: “This tradition is established and correct”; Muslim has recorded it in his ʿaḥḥ and has written “a caliph from your caliphs,” and he has not recorded the end of the tradition; ʿaḥḥ Muslim, vol. 18, “Kitāb al-Fitan,” p. 39, which says: “from your caliphs is a caliph who will give away wealth abundantly.” He too, has not recorded the end of the tradition.
 4. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. “What has been narrated about his attributes and his approach,” p. 230, no. 13; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 37, pp. 627–628.
 5. In this tradition and others, ‘all that was before him’ refers to all the evil traditions, condemnable habits, false foundations, and deficient and tyrannical laws that will appear in the end of times. “He will re-establish Islam from the beginning,” means he will call upon the people to acknowledge and practice what has been taught in the sharia.
 6. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. “What has been narrated about his attributes,” p. 232, no. 17; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 37, p. 69.
 7. Qurb al-isnād, p. 39.
 8. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 397, no. 1; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 23, chap. 4, pp. 85–86, no. 28, which ends like this: “he will not ask people for evidence”; Baʿīr al-darajāt, chap. 15, p. 259, no. 3, which ends like this: “he will not ask people for evidence”; Ithbāt al-hudāt, vol. 7, chap. 32, p. 45, no. 404; al-Kharīj wa l-jarīʿ, vol. 2, p. 861, under no. 77, which ends like this: “he will not ask people for evidence.”
 9. It is appropriate here to answer the objection raised by some those who oppose us, which is as follows: The Muslims are unanimous that there will be no prophet after the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, but you Shias think that when the Q’im rises, he will not accept the jizya from the People of the Book, he will kill all those who have attained the age of twenty but have failed to acquire deep knowledge in religion, will destroy all the mosques and shrines, will judge like the Prophet David and will not ask for evidence, and etc. All of these are an abrogation of the Islamic sharia. A group of scholars have answered this objection in their books. We will suffice here with the reply given by the majestic scholar al-Shaykh al-ʿabris in his book l’lām al-war. He writes: “We don’t believe in what has been mentioned in the question that he will not accept the jizya from the Peoples of the Book and will kill all those who have attained the age of twenty but have failed to acquire deep knowledge in religion. Because they have been mentioned in a tradition whose correctness has not been proved. As for the destruction of the mosques and the shrines, then we too have heard about that. It is legitimate to confine this to those mosques and shrines that have been built without having Allah in mind and in opposition to the commands of Allah. This is perfectly legal and is what the Prophet did himself. As for him judging like David (and) not asking for evidence, again this has not been mentioned [in a correct tradition]. If it is correct, then it means that he will judge using his knowledge. For, when an Imam or a judge knows about an affair, then he must judge according to his knowledge without asking for any evidence. There is absolutely no abrogation of the Sharia in these. Even if what they say about him neither accepting the jizya nor asking for evidence is correct, then that will also not be an abrogation of the Sharia. Because, an abrogating law is the one that comes after the abrogated one and not at the same time with it. If they exist together, then one will not be abrogating the other even if they are apparently contradictory to each other in judgment. Therefore, we agree that if Allah had said, ‘You restrict yourself until such and such time and not thereafter,’ then this will not be abrogation because the removal factor is accompanied with the obliging factor. If this statement is correct and the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, has informed us that it is obligatory to follow and agree

with the Q'īm from his progeny, then we have to follow what judgment he passes concerning us even if it is contradictory to some of the earlier laws and no abrogation will have occurred.”

10. Al-K'afī, vol. 1, pp. 397–398, no. 2.

11. Al-K'afī, vol. 1, p. 509, no. 13; al-Irshād, p. 343, with the difference that it says: “He said, ‘Narrated to me al-Usayn b. 'Arāf.’” The following section has not been recorded in it: “and he will soon be cured with Allah’s permission, if Allah so pleases.”; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 31, p. 403, no. 15; Bīr al-anwār, vol. 95, chap. 55, pp. 66–67, no. 46, and vol. 50, chap. 3, p. 264, no. 24; al-Man'iqib by ibn Shahr 'ashb, vol. 4, p. 431 (short version); al-Khar'ij wa l-jar'i, vol. 1, pp. 431–432, no. 10; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 413; l'īm al-war, p. 357; al-Da`awāt by Qu'ub al-D'n al-R'wand, p. 209, no. 567.

12. A mild form of malaria causing a fever that recurs every third day (Concise Oxford English Dictionary).

13. Al-Tahdhīb, vol. 6, chap. “The Imam’s attitude,” p. 154, no. 1 (270); Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, sect. 2, chap. 32, p. 377, no. 76.

14. Al-Tahdhīb, vol. 10, chap. 28, p. 314, no. 10 (1169); Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, chap. 32, sect. 2, p. 379, no. 81 (short version).

15. Al-Tahdhīb, vol. 6, chap. 79, p. 172, no. 13 (335).

16. Al-Tahdhīb, vol. 7, p. 149, no. 6 (660); Ithbāt al-hudūd, chap. 32, sect. 2, vol. 6, no. 78.

17. Al-Khiṣṣī, vol. 2, p. 649, no. 43; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 6, chap. 32, sect. 8, p. 455, no. 261, and vol. 7, pp. 91–92, no. 539, with variations in context and chain of narrators. The same has been recorded in Ghaybat al-Nu'mān, pp. 314–315, no. 7.

Section Forty–Three

The traditions that indicate his asceticism (zuhd)

Comprised of six traditions

713. Ghaybat al-Nu'mān¹: Informed us A'ḥmad b. Mu'ammad b. Sa`'d b. `Uqda, from A'ḥmad b. Y'suf b. Ya`q'ub Ab' l-`asan al-Ju`f, from Ism'īl b. Mihr'n, from al-`asan b. `Al' b. Ab' 'amza, from his father and Wuhaib, from Ab' Ba'ar, from (Imam) Ab' `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

When the Q'īm emerges, nothing will remain between him, the Arabs, and the Quraish except the sword and he will receive nothing from them but the sword. Why are they hastening for his emergence? By Allah, his clothes will not be but coarse; his food will not be but crude barley [bread]. [Life] will be accompanied by the sword and death is beneath the shadow of the sword.

714. Ghaybat al-Nu'mān²: Informed us `Al' b. al-Usayn, from Mu'ammad b. Ya'iy' al-`A'ar at Qum, from Mu'ammad b. 'asan al-R'z, from Mu'ammad b. `Al' al-K'f, from Mu`ammar b. Khall' who said:

The Q'īm was mentioned in of the presence of (Imam) Ab' l-`asan al-Ri', peace be on him. He said, “Today, you are more in comfort than you think you will be on that day.” They asked, “How?” He

answered, “When the Q’im, peace be on him, emerges, there will not be anything but blood, sweat, and sleeping on the saddles. The clothes of the Q’im will not be but rough and his food will be nothing but coarse.”

715. Ghaybat al-Nu`m`n`3: `Al b. al-usayn, through his chain of narrators from Muhammad b. `Al al-K`f, from al-`asan b. Ma`b`b, from `Al b. Ab` amza, from Ab` Ba`r, from (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah (al-`diq), peace be on him, who said: “Why are you in such a hurry for the appearance of the Q’im? By Allah! His clothes are not but rough and his food is not but coarse. [Life] will be accompanied by the sword and death is beneath the shadow of the sword.”

716. Al-K`f`4: `Al b. Ibr`h`m, from his father, from ibn Ab` `Umair, from `amm`d b. `Uthm`n, from al-Mu`all` b. Khunais who said:

One day, I said to (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah al-`diq, peace be on him, “May I be sacrificed for you! You mentioned the family of so and so (lu fulan) and the luxury that they enjoy! Had you been in power, we would have lived with you [in luxury].” He remarked, “Never, O Mu`all! By Allah, had this been the case [i.e. had we come to power], it would mean nothing except administration by night, traveling by the day, wearing rough clothes, and eating coarse food. [Now] these [hard tasks] have been removed [due to the Umayyads and Abbasids who have withheld our rights] and have you ever seen the withholding of a right that results in a blessing except this?”

717. Ghaybat al-Nu`m`n`5: Narrated to us `Abd al-W`id b. `Abd-Allah b. Y`nus, from Ab` Sulaim`n Am`ad b. Haudha al-B`hil, from Ibr`h`m b. Is`q al-Nah`wand, from `Abd-Allah b. `amm`d al-An`r, from al-Mufa`al b. `Umar who said:

I was with (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, performing the circumambulation (al-`awf). He looked at me and asked, “O Mufa`al! Why do I see you grieved and distressed?” I said to him, “May I be sacrificed for you! I see the Abbasids and the power, authority, and clout that they enjoy. Had this been for you, we would have enjoyed it with you.”

He answered, “O Mufa`al! Had this been the case [i.e. had we been in power], it wouldn’t be but administration by the night, traveling by the day, eating coarse food, and wearing rough clothes similar [to the lifestyle] of Am`r al-Mu`min`n, peace be on him; otherwise, [our abode] would be the fire. Since [power and kingdom] have been removed from us, we can eat and drink [as we like]. Have you seen an oppression that Allah has turned into a blessing like this?”

718. Ghaybat al-Nu`m`n`6: Ab` Sulaim`n, from Ibr`h`m b. Is`q, from `Abd-Allah b. `amm`d, from `Amr b. Shmr who said:

I was with (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, in his house—which was filled with people. People would come forward and ask him questions; and he would not be questioned about a thing except that he answered it. I started crying from one corner of the house and he said to me, “Why are you crying, O

‘Amr?’ I replied, ‘May I be sacrificed for you! And why shouldn’t I cry? Is there anyone in this nation like you? And yet, the door has been shut on you and a veil drawn over you!’ He replied, ‘O ‘Amr! Don’t cry. We eat delicious [food] and wear soft clothes. Had the case been what you say [i.e. had we been in power], it wouldn’t have been but eating coarse food and wearing rough clothes like Amr al-Mu’minin ‘Alī b. Abī Ḥabīb, peace be on him. [If we practiced anything other than this], the remedy would be chains in the hellfire.’”

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1. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 13, p. 234, no. 21; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 27, p. 79, no. 504 (short version); ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 37, pp. 629–630.
 2. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 15, p. 285, no. 5; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 27, p. 85, no. 527.
 3. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 13, p. 233, no. 20; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 277, which has the following chain of narrators: “From him—meaning al-Faḥl—from ‘Abd al-Raḥmān [b.] Abī Ḥashim, from ‘Alī b. Abī Ḥamza, from Abī Baḥr, from Abī ‘Abd-Allah, peace be on him.” Its text is like that of Ghaybat al-Nu`mān with the difference that it mentions the word barley before coarse; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 7, chap. 32, sect. 27, p. 79, no. 503; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 37, p. 629.
 4. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, p. 410, no. 2.
 5. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 1, pp. 286–287, no. 7; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 359, no. 127, with differences in the chain of narrators.
 6. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 15, pp. 287–288, no. 8; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 360, no. 128.

Section Forty-Four

The traditions that indicate his complete justice and the spread of justice and security during his government

Comprised of seventeen traditions

719. Al-Irshād1: Narrated ‘Alī b. ‘Uqba, from his father that

When the Qa’im, peace be on him, rises, he will judge justly and during his reign injustice will be eliminated. The roads will become safe, the earth will bring out its blessings, the right of each individual will be returned to him, and the followers of no religion will remain except that they will express [their belief in] Islam and acknowledge [the truth of this] faith. Have you not heard Allah, the Purified, say,

“And to Him submit those in the skies and the earth—willingly or unwillingly—and to Him they will be returned.”²

He will judge amongst the people like the judgment of the family of David and the judgment of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. It is then that the earth will reveal its treasures and expose its blessings. No one from you will find a needy person on that day to give him charity or be

beneficent to him, because all the believers will have become wealthy. Our government is the last of governments and there will not remain a group except that they will have ruled before us so that they will not say when they see our approach [in governance], “If we had the opportunity to rule, we too would have ruled in this manner.” And this is [the meaning of] the saying of Allah, the Exalted,

“And the Hereafter belongs to the pious (lil-muttaqin).”³

720. Al-Maʿajja⁴: (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, said:

By Allah, they will fight until [those being fought] will acknowledge the Oneness of Allah and will associate nothing with Him and until an old and frail lady comes out from the East intending to go to the West and no one will prevent her. Allah will bring out of the earth its seedlings and will send down from the skies its raindrops. The people will put their taxes on their necks [i.e. backs] and take them to the Mahdī, peace be on him . . . (to the end of the tradition).

721. Al-Fitan⁵: Narrated to us Muʿtamir b. Sulaimīn [Muʿammar b. Sulaimīn], from Jaʿfar b. Sayyid al-Shāmī who said: “The Mahdī, peace be on him, will return the usurped rights to their rightful owners. Even if a thing [unjustly taken] is beneath the molar tooth of a man, he will remove it and return it [to its rightful owner].”

The following traditions also support the above concept: 367, 368, 455, 505, 538, 554, 584, 726, 1204, 1210, 1213, 1214, 1217, 1246, and many other traditions.

1. Al-Irshād, pp. 364–365; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, pp. 465–466, which says: “and narrated ʿAlī b. ʿUqba, from Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him”; Iʿlām al-warāʿ, p. 432; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, p. 338, no. 83.

2. Quran 3:83.

3. Quran 7:128.

4. Al-Maʿajja; pp. 79–84, verse 22; It has been narrated in Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 71, p. 423, from Zurʿa, from him, peace be on him, with a slight variation in the words; Tafsīr al-ʿAyyūshī, vol. 2, pp. 56–61, which is a long tradition in which some aspects of his appearance and other details are mentioned.

5. Al-Fitan, p. 191, no. 5; al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 139, p. 68, from Nuʿaim; ʿIqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 36, with the difference that he said: “Jaʿfar b. Yasīr al-Shāmī.”

Section Forty-Five

The traditions that indicate his knowledge

Comprised of six traditions

722. `Iqd al-durar1: From al-`Uayyith b. al-Mughaira al-Na`r [al-Na`r] who said:

I asked (Imam) Ab` Abd-Allah al-`usayn b. `Al, peace be on him, “(What are the attributes) of Imam al-Mahd that he can be recognized with?” He replied, “Serenity and dignity.” I asked, “What else?” He said, “[He will] gave [complete] knowledge about the permissible (al-halal) and the prohibited (al-haram) and the people will need him but he will not need anyone.”

723. Kamal al-din2: `Al b. Ahmad b. Mays, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muhammad b. Ab` Abd-Allah al-Kaff, from Muhammad b. Isma`il al-Barmak, from Isma`il b. Malik, from Muhammad b. Sin, from `Amr b. Shimr, from Jubayr, from (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

The knowledge of the Book of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and the sunna of His Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, will grow in the heart of our Mahd like the finest things that a crop can grow. Whoever amongst you survives to see him must say when he sees him, “Peace be on you, O People of the House of Mercy and prophethood and the source of knowledge and the position of Messenger-ship.”

724. Ghaybat al-Nu`man3: `Al b. Ahmad, from `Ubaid-Allah b. Mays al-`Alaw, from Ab` Muhammad Mays b. Harun b. `Isa al-Ma`bad, from `Abd-Allah b. Muslimat b. Qa`nab, from Sulaim b. Bilal, from (Imam) Ja`far b. Muhammad, peace be on him, from his father, from his grandfather, from (Imam) al-`usayn b. `Al, peace be on them all, who said:

A man came to Amr al-Mu`min, peace be on him, and said, “O Amr al-Mu`min! Inform us about your Mahd?” He replied, “When the things that must pass away, pass away; the believers become rare, and the troublemakers perish, it is then, it is then.” The man asked, “Which [tribe] does this man belong to?”

He replied, “He is a Hashemite, the most exalted of the Arabs, a sea to which all waters pour into, a sanctuary for those who seek refuge, and the pure source when others become murky. He doesn’t cower when death attacks, doesn’t weaken when death shows its face, and doesn’t recede in the clashes in which the heroes fall. He is a skilled winner, a defeater, a lion, reaper [of the enemies], and fearless. He is a sword from the swords of Allah. He is a chief who possesses all goodness, is from a great glorious family, and whose glory originates from the best of roots. Let none of those who hasten towards mischief, speak the vilest of words, and hide their corruptions inside them when keeping silent, prevent you from pledging allegiance to him.”

He then returned to describing the attributes of the Mahd, peace be on him, and said, “He is the most generous in giving refuge, the most knowledgeable, and the kindest of you to his kin. O Allah! Make his advent an end to sorrows and unite the umma by him. If Allah chooses goodness for you, be determined and do not deviate from [the Mahd] if you have success in reaching him and do not turn away from him if you are guided to him.” Then, [Amr al-Mu`min, peace be on him] sighed and pointed at his chest with his hand and expressed his eagerness to see him.

725. Sunan al-Dīnī: Ibn Shaudhab said: “He is called the Mahdī (the guided one) because he will guide to a mountain from the mountains of Syria and will bring out of it the Scrolls of the Torah (asfūr al-turēt) and argue by them against the Jews; consequently, a group of Jews will accept Islam at his hands.”

The following traditions endorse the above concept: 726 and 1182.

1. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 3, p. 41.

I say: Abū `Abd-Allah—the person from whom the tradition has been narrated—is Imam Abū `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Mu`ammad al-`adīq, peace be on him, and not our master Imam Abū `Abd-Allah al-`usayn, the grandson of the Prophet and the chief of the youth of Paradise. This error has been repeated in numerous places in the book `Iqd al-durar. I do not know whether this error has been introduced by the author, already existed in the source from which he had recorded the narrations from, or made by the copyists.

(The narrator,) al-`arīth b. al-Mughaira al-Na`rī, is related to [the tribe of] Banū-Na`r, as has been recorded in Mu`jam rijāl al-`adīth by al-Kashī. He has narrated from Imam Abū Ja`far Mu`ammad al-B`qir, his son Imam Ja`far b. Mu`ammad, his son Imam Mūsā b. Ja`far, and Zaid the martyr, peace be on them all. It is written in Lisān al-m`zīn, vol. 2, p. 160: “Al-`arīth b. al-Mughaira al-Na`rī or al-Ba`rī. He has narrated from al-B`qir, his brother Zaid b. `Alī, and Ja`far b. Mu`ammad, may Allah be satisfied with him. Al-`asī and ibn al-Najīshī have mentioned him as one of the reliable Shia narrators. `Alī b. al-`akam has said, ‘He was the most pious (aura`) of men.’ Tha`labat b. Maimūn, Hishām b. S`lim, Ja`far b. Bashīr, and others have narrated from him.”

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 57, p. 653, no. 18; `ilyat al-abrīr, vol. 2, chap. 15, p. 557, and chap. 42, p. 639; Bi`r al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 27, pp. 317–318, no. 16.

3. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 3, pp. 212214, no. 1.

4. `Iqd al-durar, chap. 3, pp. 40–41; al-Burhān, chap. 8, p. 157, no. 7; Is`f al-r`ghībān, chap. 2, p. 139, which says: “It has been mentioned in some traditions, ‘. . . surely the Mahdī, peace be on him, will bring out the Ark of the Covenant (t`bēt al-sakāna) from the cave of Antioch (An`kiya) and the Scrolls of the Torah (asfūr al-turēt) from a mountain in Syria—by which he will argue with the Jews. Consequently, many of them will accept Islam.”

I say: The biography of ibn Shaudhab has been mentioned in Tahdhīb al-tahdhīb and his full name is `Abd-Allah b. Shaudhab al-Khurāsānī. We have mentioned what he has said amongst these hadiths on the basis that people like him do not express their own views about these events which are not known to anybody except those who has been given knowledge by Allah, the Exalted; except something that reached them from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Nevertheless, when similar things are narrated by him from Ka`b al-A`b`r—whose condition is well-known—it is probable that he was the source of what ibn Shaudhab and his ilk have narrated, without relying on the hadiths of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and hence, one cannot rely on those traditions.

Section Forty-Six

The traditions that indicate his generosity and that he will distribute wealth without counting it

Comprised of twenty-nine traditions

726. `Ilal al-shar`i`1: Narrated to me my father, may Allah have mercy on him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from al-`asan b. `Al al-K`f, from `Abd-Allah b. al-Mughaira, from Sufy`n b. `Abd al-Mu`min al-An`r, from `Amr b. Shimr, from J`bir who said:

A man came to (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, while I was with him and said, “May Allah have mercy on you! Take these five-hundred dirhams and donate them wherever [you deem] appropriate. It is the zak`t of my wealth.” (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, said to him, “No! Take it yourself and give it to your neighbors, the orphans, the poor, and your [needy] brothers from amongst the Muslims. [During the occultation you can donate the zak`t yourselves] but when the Q`im rises [it is compulsory to pay the zak`t to him].”²

He will distribute equally and deal justly with the creatures of the Beneficent, regardless of them being good-doers or sinners. Whoever obeys him has indeed obeyed Allah and whoever disobeys him has indeed disobeyed Allah. He has been named Mahd` (the guided one) because he will guide to a concealed affair. He will bring out the Torah and all the other Books of Allah from a cave in Antioch³.

Then, he will judge amongst the followers of the Torah using the Torah, amongst the followers of the Bible using the Bible, amongst the followers of the Psalms using the Psalms, and amongst the followers of the Quran with the Quran. All the wealth of the world will be gathered for him—whether it be inside the earth or on it.

He will say to the people, ‘Come and take this [wealth], for which, you broke off with your relatives, shed blood, and committed what Allah had prohibited.’ He will give things that no one before him had ever given. The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘He is a man from me; his name is like my name. Allah will protect my [religion] by him and he will act according to my sunna. He will fill the earth with fairness, justice, and light after it will be filled with unfairness, injustice, and evil.’”

727. Al-Mu`annaf⁴: Informed us `Abd al-Razz`q, from Mu`ammar, from Sa`d al-Jar`r, from Ab` Na`ra, from J`bir b. `Abd-Allah who said: “An Imam will rule over the people who will not count the dirhams but will just give them away.”

728. `a` Muslim⁵: Narrated to me Zuhair b. `arb and `Al b. `ajar, from Ism``l b. Ibr`h`m, from al-Jar`r, from Ab` Na`ra who said:

We were with J`bir b. `Abd-Allah when he said, “Soon, no money will reach the people of Iraq— even a small amount.” I asked, “Why will [they be in such a state?]” He replied, “The non-Arabs will deprive them of this.” Again, he said, “Soon, no money will reach the people of Syria—even a small amount.” I asked, “Why will [they be in such a state?]” He replied, “The Romans.” He was a silent for a while and then said, “The Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘In the end of my nation (k`hir ummat`), there will be a caliph who will give away wealth abundantly but will not even count it.’”

He says I asked Abū Naṣra and Abū I-`Alī: “Do you think (the caliph) is `Umar b. `Abd al-`Azīz?” Both of them replied in the negative.

And ibn al-Muthannī narrated to us, from `Abd al-Wahhīb, from Sa`d—meaning al-Jarīr—similar to the above narration through the same chain of narrators.

729. Muslim6: Narrated to us Naṣr b. `Alī al-Jahāmī, from Bishr b. al-Mufaḥḥāl and `Alī b. `Ujūr al-Sa`dī, from Ismā`īl b. `Ulayya, both of them from Sa`d b. Yazīd, from Abū Naṣra, from Abū Sa`d that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, said: “Amongst your caliphs is a caliph who will distribute wealth munificently without even counting it.”

730. Muslim7: Narrated to me Zuhair b. `Arb, from `Abd al-Ḥamad b. `Abd al-Warīth, from his father, from Dāwūd, from Abū Naṣra, from Abū Sa`d and Jubayr b. `Abd-Allah, both from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “In the end of times there will be a caliph who will distribute wealth but will not count it.”

And narrated to us Abū Bakr b. Abū Shaiba, from Abū Mu`āwiya, from Dāwūd b. Abū Hind, from Abū Naṣra, from Abū Sa`d, from the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], likewise.

731. Sunan al-Tirmidhī8: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Bashshār, from Muḥammad b. Ja`far, from Shu`ba, from Zaid al-`Ammī, from Abū I-`īddīq al-Najī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī who said:

We feared a tragedy [would occur] after our Prophet. So we asked the Prophet of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], about it. He said, “In my nation is the Mahdī. He will emerge and live for five, seven, or nine (the uncertainty [in the numbers] is from Zaid, one of the narrators).” We asked, “What are these [numbers]?” He answered, “Years.” He then continued, “A person will come to him and say, ‘O Mahdī! Give me, give me!’ He will put so much [wealth] in his dress that he will not be able to carry it.”

Abū `īsā says: “This is a good (ḥasan) tradition. It has also been narrated through other chains of narrators from Abū Sa`d, from the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family]. The name of Abū I-`īddīq al-Najī is Bakr b. `Amr. Some have also said it is Bakr b. Qays.”

732. Al-Fitan9: Narrated to us Fuḥayl b. `Ayyūb and ibn `Uyayna, both from Laith, from Ḥwāṣ who said: “The sign of the Mahdī is that he will be strict with the government agents, generous regarding wealth, and merciful to the poor.”

733. Al-Fitan10: Narrated to us `Abd al-Razzāq, from Mu`ammar, from Qatāda that the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], said: “He—meaning the Mahdī—will bring out the treasures, distribute wealth, and will correctly establish Islam.”

734. Al-Fitan11: Narrated to us ibn `Uyayna, from Ibrāhīm b. Maisara, from Ḥwāṣ who said: “I wish I don’t die until I reach the time of the Mahdī. He will increase the good-doers’ goodness and will forgive

the sinners.”

(It has also been mentioned in it,) narrated to us ʿUmaid al-Rawāsī, from Muʿammad b. Muslim, from Ibrāhīm b. Maisara, from ʿUwās who said: “When the Mahdī comes, he will increase the good-doers’ goodness and will forgive the sinners’ wrongdoings. He will give away wealth, be strict with the government agents, and be merciful towards the poor.”

735. Al-Fitan¹²: Narrated to us Yaʿyū, from Saif b. Wāʿil, from Abū Yūnus, from Abū Ruʿba who said: “As if [I am seeing] the Mahdī feeding the needy with his own hands.”

The following traditions also establish the above concept: 160, 358, 379, 380, 383–389, 436, 437, 453, 503, 583, 699, 700, and 701.

1. ʿIlal al-sharḥī, vol. 1, chap. 129, p. 161, no. 3; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, p. 29, no. 2; Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān, chap. 13, p. 237, no. 26, similar to it, through his chain of narrators from Jābir; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 27, pp. 350–351, no. 103, with some differences; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 14, p. 556.

2. The expressions in the brackets are al-Majlis’s explanations under this tradition—Ed.

3. An ancient city in Syria which is modern-day Antakya in South Turkey—Trans.

4. Al-Muʿannaf, vol. 11, no. 20774.

5. ʿaḥḥ Muslim, vol. 8, p. 185; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 713, no. 98 (short version); Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 482, with minor variations; al-Bayʿn fī akhbār ʿib al-Zamʿn, chap. 10, p. 121.

6. ʿaḥḥ Muslim, vol. 8, p. 185.

I say: It has been mentioned in the notes of ʿaḥḥ Muslim (the published edition from which we have recorded the hadith) that “Al-ʿib notes that Al-Tirmidhī and Abū Dʿwīd have mentioned this Caliph and referred to him as the Mahdī.” There is no doubt that this Caliph is the Mahdī, peace be on him, specially by considering the traditions that have been mentioned concerning him like: “in the end of my nation” and “in the end of times.” It will not be unknown to any specialist in the science of traditions that what has been mentioned about an Imam who will rise in the end of times or a Caliph or the one who will fill the earth with fairness and justice, all refer to one individual possessing all these attributes and he is the Mahdī, peace be on him.

Al-Shaykh ʿAlī Nḥīf writes in Ghayyāt al-maʿmū, vol. 5, p. 311: “This is the Mahdī, may Allah be satisfied with him, because of the hadith that will follow [in which the Mahdī is clearly mentioned] and this attitude is the result of abundant war booties and victories accompanied with his generosity and munificence towards all the people.”

ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 713, no. 99; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 483; al-Bayʿn fī akhbār ʿib al-Zamʿn, chap. 10, p. 122, and other references.

7. ʿaḥḥ Muslim, vol. 8, p. 185; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 713, no. 100; al-Bayʿn fī akhbār ʿib al-Zamʿn, pp. 122–123; Musnad Aḥmad b. ʿanbal, vol. 3, p. 333 & p. 38; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 483.

8. Sunan al-Tirmidhī, vol. 4, p. 506; Kitāb al-fitan, chap. 53, no. 2232; Maʿḥḥ al-sunna, vol. 2, p. 194; Kanz al-ʿummū, vol. 14, p. 262, no. 38654; Muntakhab kanz al-ʿummū, vol. 6, p. 29; Yanḥḥ al-mawadda, pp. 431 & 435; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 478.

9. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 191; ʿlqḍ al-durar, chap. 8, p. 167.

10. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 193.

11. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 193; ʿlqḍ al-durar, chap. 7, p. 143.

12. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 191; ʿlqḍ al-durar, chap. 9, sect. 3, p. 227.

Section Forty–Seven

The traditions that indicate Allah, the Exalted, will make him perform the miracles of the Prophets to complete His Proof (itm ʿm al-ʿujja) on the enemies. With him are the inheritances of the Prophets and the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family

Comprised of fifteen traditions

736. Ghaybat al-Nu`m 1: Informed us Ab ʿ Sulaim ʿn A ʿmad b. Haudha, from Ibr ʿh ʿm b. Is ʿq al-Nah ʿwand ʿ, from `Abd-Allah b. ʿamm ʿd al-An ʿr ʿ, from Ab ʿ I-J ʿr ʿd Ziy ʿd b. al-Mundhir, from (Imam) Ab ʿ Ja`far Mu ʿammad b. `Al ʿ, peace be on him, who said:

When the Q ʿim reappears, he will have with him the banner of Allah’s Messenger, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, the ring of Solomon, and the stone of Moses and his staff. Then, he will order his announcer to declare, “Know that none of you should carry any food, drink, or fodder.” His companions will say, “He wants to kill us and our animals with hunger and thirst.” He will travel and they will travel with him. The first place at which they stop, he will strike the stone [of Moses] and from it will come out food, drink, and fodder. They will eat and drink and so will their animals, until they reach Najaf—at the back of K ʿfa.

737. Al-Am ʿ ʿ by Shaykh al-Muf ʿd2: Informed me Ab ʿ I-Q ʿsim Ja`far b. Mu ʿammad b. Q ʿlawayh, may Allah have mercy on him, from his father, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from A ʿmad b. Mu ʿammad b. `s ʿ, from ibn Ab ʿ `Umair, from `Abd-Allah b. Musk ʿn, from Bash ʿr al-Kun ʿs ʿ, from Ab ʿ Kh ʿlid al-Kabul ʿ, from (Imam) `Al ʿ b. al-ʿusayn, peace be on him, who said:

O Ab ʿ Kh ʿlid! Soon, a fitna will arrive which is like the darkness of night. No one will be saved except those from whom Allah has taken his covenant. They are the lamps of guidance and the sources of knowledge. Allah will save them from every dark fitna. As if I am standing with your master on top of your [city], Najaf, behind K ʿfa along with about three hundred and ten men; Jabra` ʿl (Gabriel) is on his right and Mik ʿ ʿl (Michael) is on his left and Isr ʿf ʿl is in front of him. He has with him the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, which he has spread. He will not approach any group with this banner but that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will destroy them.

738. Al-Ghayba by Fa ʿl b. Sh ʿdh ʿn3: Narrated to us A ʿmad b. Mu ʿammad b. Ab ʿ Na ʿr, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿamm ʿd b. `s ʿ, from `Abd-Allah b. Ab ʿ Ya`f ʿr, from (Imam) Ab ʿ `Abd-Allah Ja`far b. Mu ʿammad, peace be on him, who said: “There won’t remain a miracle from the miracles of the Prophets and their heirs but that Allah, Blessed and High be He, will manifest its like at the hands of our Q ʿim to complete the proof against the enemies [of Allah].”

739. Al-K ʿf ʿ4: Mu ʿammad b. Ya ʿy ʿ, from Salmat b. al-Kha ʿ ʿ ʿb, from `Abd-Allah b. Mu ʿammad, from

Man` b. al-`ajj al-Ba`r, from Muj`shi`, from Mu`all, from Mu`ammad b. al-Fai, from (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

The staff of Moses belonged to Adam, peace be on him, then it was transferred to [the Prophet] Shu`ayb who gave it to Moses son of Amram (`Imr). Now, it is with us and I recently looked at it. Its [color] is green like its form when it was plucked from the tree and it speaks when spoken to. It has been prepared for our Q`im, peace be on him.

He will do with it what Moses did. It will frighten [the enemies], will devour their deceptions, and will do what it is ordered. Whenever it comes forward to devour their deceptions, it will open its jaws: One jaw will be on the ground and the other overhead. The distance between [these two] will be [the length] of forty arms (dhir). It will eat their deceptions with its tongue.”

740. Al-K`f5: Mu`ammad b. Ya`y, from Mu`ammad b. al-`usayn, from M`s b. Sa`d, from `Abd-Allah b. al-Q`sim, from Ab` Sa`d al-Khur`s, from (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, from (Imam) Ab` Ja`far, peace be on him, who said:

When the Q`im rises at Mecca and intends to go towards K`fa, his announcer will call out, “No one should carry with him food or drink.” He will carry with him the stone of Moses, son of Amram (`Imr) which can hardly be carried by a camel. They will not stop at any place except that a spring will flow from [the stone]. Whoever is hungry will be satiated and whoever is thirsty will be quenched. It will be their provision until they stop at Najaf [located] at the back of K`fa.

741. Kam`l al-d`n6: Through this chain of narrators (meaning ibn al-Wal`d from al-`aff`r, from Ya`q`b, from ibn Ab` Umair, from Ab`n b. `Uthm`n), from Ab`n b. Taghlib, from (Imam) Ab` `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

It is as if I am seeing the Q`im, peace be on him, in the outskirts of Najaf. When he reaches K`fa, he will mount a dark piebald horse which has a white stripe between his eyes. The horse will shake him [or he will move the horse] and there will not remain a city but that its inhabitants will think that he is with them in their city. When he spreads the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, thirteen thousand and thirteen angels will descend upon him who were all awaiting the Q`im, peace be on him.

They are the same [angels] who were with Noah, peace be on him, in the Ark, with Abraham, the friend (khal`l) of Allah, peace be on him, when he was thrown in the fire, and with Jesus, peace be on him, when he was taken up [to the sky]. [These angels will be joined by] four thousand marked angels—who will follow one-another in rows—and the three hundred and thirteen angels from the Battle of Badr and the four thousand angels who had descended to fight alongside al-`usayn b. `Al, peace be on him, but were not given permission and they ascended to seek permission [from Allah] but when they descended, al-`usayn, peace be on him, had already been martyred. They are in a disheveled state and dusty and will cry beside al-`usayn’s grave, peace be on him, until the Day of Judgment. Between the grave of

Imam al-ʿUsayn and the sky is the pathway of the angels.

742. Kamāl al-dīn⁷: Through the same chain of narrators from Abūn b. Taghlib, from Abū ʿAmza al-Thumālī who said:

(Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, said, “It is as if I am looking at the Qʿim, peace be on him, who has appeared at Najaf. When he appears at Najaf, he will spread the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, whose pole is [made] from the pillar of the Throne of Allah, the Exalted. The rest of it [is made from] the Assistance of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. He will not desire to approach with it anyone except that Allah, the Exalted, will destroy him.” I asked, “Is it already with him or will it be brought for him?” He replied, “It will be brought for him and Gabriel (Jabraʿīl), peace be on him, is the one who will bring it for him.”

743. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān⁸: Aʿmad b. Muḥammad b. Saʿd b. ʿUqda, from Muḥammad b. al-Mufaḥḥal b. Ibrāhīm, Saʿd b. Isḥāq b. Saʿd, Aʿmad b. al-ʿUsayn b. ʿAbd al-Malik, and Muḥammad b. Aʿmad b. al-ʿasan al-Qaḥawānī, all of them from al-ʿasan b. Maḥbūb, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Sinān, from (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

The staff of Moses is a stick from a myrtle (al-ʿas) [tree] grown in Paradise. Gabriel (Jabraʿīl), peace be on him, brought it for him when he wanted to go to [the city of] Midian (Madyan). This [staff] and the casket of Adam are in the lake of Tiberias (ḥabariyya)⁹ and will never decay nor change until the Qʿim, peace be on him, brings them both out when he rises.

744. Kamāl al-ziyārāt¹⁰: Narrated to me al-ʿUsayn b. Muḥammad b. ʿImir, from Aʿmad b. Isḥāq b. Saʿd, from Saʿd b. Muslim, from ʿUmar b. Abūn, from Abūn b. Taghlib, who said:

(Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, said: “It is as if I am with the Qʿim at Najaf [near] Kāfa while he is wearing the armor of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. He will shake [the armor] and it will fit [on his body]. Then, he will cover it with a howdah made of brocade and will mount a dark-colored horse between whose eyes there will be a white stripe. The horse will shake in such a way that there will not remain the inhabitants of a city but that they will think that he is with them in their city. He will spread the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, whose pole is from the pillars of the Throne (al-ʿArsh), and the rest of it is [made from] Allah’s Assistance.

He will not desire to approach with it against anyone except that Allah, the Exalted, will destroy him. When he waves it, there will not remain a believer but that his heart will become like a slab of iron. Each believer will be given the strength of forty men. There will not remain a [deceased] believer but that this [event] will make him joyful in his grave. They will visit each other in their graves and will give glad-tidings to each other about the rise of the Qʿim. Then, thirteen thousand three hundred and thirteen angels will descend upon him.”

I asked, “Are they all angels?” He answered, “Yes. They are the angels who were with Noah in the Ark, those who were with Abraham when he was thrown in the fire, those who were with Moses when he split the sea for the Israelites, and those who were with Jesus when Allah took him up towards Himself. [These will be joined by] four thousand marked angels who were with the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, with another one thousand—who follow one another row after row—and the three hundred and thirteen angels of [the Battle of] Badr. [These will be accompanied by] the four thousand angels who had come down to fight alongside (Imam) al-ʿusayn, peace be on him, but were not granted permission to fight.

They are at his grave in a disheveled state and dusty, crying for him until the Day of Judgment. The chief of these angels is an angel called Manʿūr. No pilgrim (zāʾir) will visit his grave except that they will welcome him, no one [from the pilgrims] departs but that they will bid him farewell; or becomes ill but that they will visit him; or dies but that they will pray on his body and seek forgiveness for him after his death. All of them are on earth, awaiting the rise of the Qʾim until the time of his appearance, Allah’s blessings be on him.”

745. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān 11: ʿAbd al-Wāʿid b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Yūnus, from Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar al-Qurashī, from Muḥammad b. al-ʿusayn b. Abī l-Khaḍīb, from Muḥammad b. Sinān, from ʿammād b. Abī ʿalā, from Abī ʿamza al-Thumālī who said:

(Imam) Abī Jaʿfar, peace be on him, said to me, “O Thābit! It is as if I am with the Qʾim from my Ahl al-Bait while he is looking at Najaf—and he pointed with his hand towards Kāfa. When he looks at Najaf, he will spread the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. When he spreads it, the angels from [the Battle of] Badr will descend on him.”

I asked, “What is the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family?” He replied, “Its pole is from the pillar of the Throne of Allah and His Mercy. The rest of it is [made from] the Assistance of Allah. He will not desire to approach anyone with it but that Allah will make him perish.” I asked, “Is this flag concealed with you until the Qʾim, peace be on him, rises or will it be brought for him?” He replied, “It will be brought for him.” I asked, “Who will bring it for him?” He answered, “Gabriel, peace be on him.”

746. Ghaybat al-Nuʿmān 13: Muḥammad b. Hammām, from Aḥmad b. Mubundh, from Aḥmad b. Hilāl, from Muḥammad b. Abī ʿUmair, from Abī l-Maghīr, from Abī Baḥr, from (Imam) Abī ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

When Amr al-Muʾminīn, peace be on him, faced the people of Baʿra [during the Battle of Jamal], he spread the banner—the banner of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family—due to which their feet started trembling. The sun had hardly become yellow [i.e. was beginning to set] when they said, “We surrender, O son of Abī ʿlīb!”

At this juncture, he declared, “Don’t kill the captives, don’t finish off the wounded, and don’t pursue the

fleeing ones. Whoever puts down his weapon is safe and whoever shuts the door [of his house] is safe.” When the day of [the Battle of] Ḥiffān came, [his soldiers] asked him to spread the banner but he refused. They tried to persuade him [to do this] through (Imams) al-Ḥasan and al-Ḥusayn, peace be on them, and `Ammār b. Yāsir, may Allah be satisfied with him. So he said to al-Ḥasan, “O my son! For this group is a time which they will reach (muddatan yablughānah); no one after me will spread this banner except the Qa’im, Allah’s blessings be on him.”

747. Al-Fitan¹⁴: Narrated to us Yaḥyā b. al-Yamān, from Qays, from `Abd-Allah b. Sharḥ who said: “With the Mahdī is the banner of the messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, which is the victory-bringer (al-mighlaba).”

I say : There were narrations from Ka`b al-Aḥbar which were suitable for this section, but we didn’t mention them because we didn’t need them. The following traditions also establish the above concept: 373, 555, and 1213.

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1. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 13, p. 238, no. 28; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 19, p. 579.
 2. Al-Am, session 5, p. 45.
 3. Kifʿyat al-muhtad (al-Arba`n), p. 141, no. 37; Kashf al-ʿaqq (al-Arba`n), p. 67, no. 13; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 33, sect. 7, p. 700, no. 137, citing Faḥl b. Shādhān’s book.
 4. Al-K, vol. 1, chap. “The things from the signs of the prophets that are with the Imams,” p. 231, no. 1; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 439, no. 2; Baʿir al-daraj, part 4, chap. “What is with the Imams from the weapons of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family . . .,” p. 183, no. 36; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, pp. 27, 318, and 319, no. 90; Kam al-d, vol. 2, chap. 58, p. 674, no. 27; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 19, p. 578.
 5. Al-K, vol. 1, chap. “What is with the Imams from the signs of the prophets, peace be on them,” p. 231, no. 1; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 19, p. 579; Kam al-d, vol. 2, chap. 58, pp. 670–671, no. 17, with some differences; Kashf al-ʿaqq, p. 207, no. 37, which is a short version and has variations in the chain of narrators; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 324, no. 37, with minor differences in the wording and the chain of narrators; lthbt al-hud, vol. 6, chap. 32, p. 351, no. 3.
 6. Kam al-d, vol. 2, chap. 58, pp. 671–672, no. 22; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 325, no. 40; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 44, p. 642 (short version); lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 493, no. 244–245 (short version).
 7. Kam al-d, vol. 2, chap. 58, p. 672, no. 23; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 326, no. 41; Al-Nawādir, chap. 66, p. 182; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 493, no. 245 (short version).
 8. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 13, p. 238, no. 27; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 351, no. 104; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 27, pp. 540–541, no. 508; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 19, pp. 579–580.
 9. A city in Palestine on the Western shore of the Sea of Galilee—Trans.
 10. Kam al-ziyar, chap. 41, pp. 119–120, no. 5; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, p. 328, no. 48, and chap. 27, p. 391, no. 214, citing the aforementioned book and mentioning a similar tradition; Dalʿil al-imāma, p. 243, with differences in some of the words; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 493, no. 244 (short version); al-`Udad al-qawīya, p. 74.
 11. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 19, pp. 308–309, no. 3; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, chap. 27, pp. 361–362, no. 130; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, pp. 545–546, no. 534.
 12. Thabit is Abū Ḥamza al-Thumālī’s name—Ed.
 13. Ghaybat al-Nu`mān, chap. 19, p. 307, no. 1; Biʿr al-anw, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 367, no. 151; lthbt al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 32, pp. 544–545, no. 532.
 14. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 191.

Section Forty–Eight

The traditions that indicate he will not reappear except after intense examinations (imtiḥān), the falling of believers into intense difficulties, and the occurrence of great calamities

Comprised of forty–two traditions

748. Al–Muḥannaḥ1: `Abd al–Razzāq informed us, from Mu`ammar, from Abū Isḥāq, from `Aḥim b. Ḥamra, from `Alī who said: “The earth will certainly be filled with injustice and unfairness to the extent that no one will say ‘Allah, Allah’ . . . Then, it will certainly be filled with fairness and justice just as it was filled with unfairness and injustice.”

749. Ghaybat al–Shaykh2: Al–Ḥusayn b. `Ubaid–Allah informed us, from Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. Sufyān al–Bazāfārī, from Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba, from al–Faḥl b. Shādhān al–Nāsībī, from ibn Abū Najrān, from Muḥammad b. Manḥūr, from his father who said:

We—a group of people—were talking in the presence of (Imam) Abū `Abd–Allah (al–Ḥadiq), peace be on him. He turned towards us and said, “What are you discussing? Alas! Alas! By Allah, whatever you are longing for will not occur until you are screened out. By Allah, whatever you are longing for will not happen until you are separated. By Allah, Whatever you are longing for will not take place until you are sifted. [By Allah,] whatever you are longing for will not happen except after despair. By Allah, whatever you are longing for will not happen until [those destined to become] wretched, become wretched, and [those destined to become] felicitous, become felicitous.”

750. Dal`il al–imāma3: Abū `Alī al–Nahwandī, from al–Qāshirī, from Muḥammad b. Sulaymān, from `Alī b. Saif, from his father, from al–Mufaḥḥal b. `Umar, from (Imam) Abū `Abd–Allah, peace be on him, who said:

A person came to Amr al–Mu`minīn `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on him, and complained to him about the length of the government of injustice (dawlat al–jur). Amr al–Mu`minīn, peace be on him, said to him, “By Allah, what you wish for [will not occur] until the people of falsehood perish, the ignorant disappear, and the pious (muttaqīn) become safe. Once this happens, you [will be deprived] to an extent that you will not be able to set foot on the ground and you will be regarded as worthless as a dead body . . . You will be in this condition when the help and victory of Allah will come. This is the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, in His Book, ‘Until when the apostles despaired and they thought that they were indeed told a lie, Our help came to them’ (Quran 12:110).”

751. Nahj al–balāgha4: Regarding the vicissitudes of time (the mischiefs that are to occur and the absence of lawful ways of livelihood):

May my father and my mother be sacrificed for those whose names are well-known in the sky and not known on the earth. Beware! You should expect such things as adversity in your affairs, the breaking of relations, and the rising up of inferior people to befall you. This will happen when the blow of a sword will be easier for a believer than to secure one dirham lawfully.

This will happen when the reward of the beggar is more than that of the giver. This will be when you are intoxicated, not by drinking, but with wealth and plenty, when you are swearing [oaths] without compulsion and are speaking lies without compulsion. This will be when troubles hurt you as the saddle hurts the hump of the camel. How long will these tribulations be and how distant the hope [for deliverance from them]?

752. Ghaybat al-Shaykh⁵: Aḥmad b. Idrīs, from `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Qutayba, from al-Faḥr b. Shādhān, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Abū Naḥr, from (Imam) Abū I-ḥasan, peace be on him, who said: “By Allah! What you desire will not happen until you are separated and sifted; until no one remains from you except few.” Then, he recited, ‘Or do you think that you will be left [as you are] while Allah has not yet made known those of you who have struggled hard and those who have patience.’⁶”

753. Ghaybat al-Shaykh: From Jābir al-Juʿfī who said:

I asked (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar, peace be on him, “When will your relief (faraj) occur?” He answered, “It is far! It is far! Our relief will not occur until you are screened out, then you are screened out [again], and then you are screened out [again]—and he repeated it three times—until Allah, the Exalted, removes the impure (al-kidir) and keeps the pure.”⁷

754. Ghaybat al-Shaykh⁸: From him (meaning Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-ḥimyarī), from his father, from Ayyūb b. Nāḥ, from al-`Abbās b. `Ḥmir, from al-Rabʿ b. Muḥammad al-Musḥabī, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

By Allah, you will be broken like the breaking of glass; glass can be restored and it takes its original form. By Allah, you will be broken like the breaking of earthenware and earthenware cannot be restored to its original form. [By Allah, you will be separated]. By Allah, you will be sifted. By Allah, you will be screened out like darnel is screened out from wheat.

755. Al-Kāfī⁹: Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā and al-ḥasan b. Muḥammad [al-ḥasan b. `Alī], from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, from al-ḥasan b. Muḥammad al-ḥairafī, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. al-ḥaiqal, from his father, from Manḥūr, from (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, who said:

O Manḥūr! Surely, this affair will not come to you except after despair. By Allah, [it will not come to you] until you are sifted. By Allah, [it will not come to you] until you are separated. By Allah, [it will not come to you] until [those destined to become] wretched, become wretched, and [those destined to become] felicitous, become felicitous.

The traditions with the following numbers also prove the above concept:

113, 245, 254, 286, 327, 337, 342, 407, 411, 427, 433, 456, 511, 527, 534, 538, 617, 618, 619, 641, 669, 908, 911, 912, 971, 1015, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1130, and 1195.

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1. Al-Muḥannaḥ, vol. 11, chap. “al-Mahdī,” no. 20776.
 2. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 335–336, no. 281; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 21, p. 112, no. 23; Ghaybat al-Nuḥmānī, pp. 208–209, chap. 12, no. 60, with differences in wording and that he has recorded it from Muḥammad b. Manṣūr b. al-Ḥaiqal, from his father who said: “I went to Abū Jaʿfar al-Bḥqir, peace be on him . . . (to the end of the tradition).” I say: Manṣūr b. al-Walīd al-Ḥaiqal was a resident of Kufa and his epithet was Abū Muḥammad. He has narrated from both of them (Jami` al-ruwṭ). In Ḥabaqat rijāl al-Kūfī—by our great teacher al-Sayyid al-Burjirdī, may his grave be sanctified—it is written that he is Manṣūr b. `Abd-Allah al-Ḥaiqal who has narrated from Imam Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him, and his son is Muḥammad b. Manṣūr.
 3. Dalʿil al-imāma, chap. “Maʿrifat wujūb al-Qurʿim,” pp. 251–252, no. 49; Ilzām al-nuḥib, vol. 1, p. 68, verse thirty-six, His saying, the Exalted, “Until when the apostles despaired and they thought that they were indeed told a lie, Our help came to them” (Quran 12: 110); al-Maʿajja fī mʿ nazala fī l-Qurʿim al-Ḥujja, verse 37, p. 107.
 4. Nahj al-balāgha, trans. Sayed Ali Reza (Iran: Sayed Mujtaba Musavi Lari Foundation), sermon 186.
 5. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 336–337, no. 283; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 21, p. 113, no. 24.
 6. This is a combination of verses 9: 16 and 3: 142 and is probably a mistake made by one of the narrators or scribes—Ed.
 7. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 339, no. 287; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 21, p. 113, no. 28.
 8. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 340, no. 289; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 21, pp. 101–102, no. 3; Ghaybat al-Nuḥmānī, chap. 12, p. 207, no. 13, with the addition: “From Rabʿ, from Mihzam and others, from Abū `Abd-Allah, peace be on him.”
 9. Al-Kūfī, vol. 1, chap. 141, p. 370, no. 3; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 33, p. 346, no. 32, with minor differences in wording, from Muḥammad b. al-Fuḥail, from his father, from Manṣūr.; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 21, p. 111, no. 20.

Section Forty-Nine

The traditions that indicate he will lead (the prayers) for Jesus, son of Mary, and Jesus will follow him in prayers

Comprised of thirty-six traditions

756. Al-Bayḥn fī akhbār ḥabīb al-Zamān: Al-Ḥafīz Yūsuf informed us at Aleppo², from al-Qurṭubī Abū l-Makrīm, from [Abū l-Ḥasan b. Aḥmad] Abū `Alī al-Ḥasan b. Aḥmad, from al-Ḥafīz [Abū l-Faraj] Abū Nu`aim, from Abū l-Faraj al-Iḥbāhī, from Aḥmad b. al-Ḥasan b. Shu`ba, from his father, from Ḥaḥḥn b. Mukharrīq, from al-Khalīl b. Laḥf, from Abū Ḥarīr al-`Abdī, from Abū Sa`d al-Khudrī, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who said: “From us is the one behind whom, Jesus, son of Mary, will pray.”

[The author of al-Bayḥn says] al-Ḥafīz Abū Nu`aim has recorded it in his book Manṣūb al-Mahdī

`alayhi al-salam.

757. Ghayyat al-ma'mu'at:

The Mahdī will turn his face [towards] Jesus, son of Mary— who will have descended. It will be as if water is dripping from [Jesus'] hair. The Mahdī will say to him, “Come forward and lead the prayers for the people.” He will reply, “The prayers have been established for you.” So, [Jesus] will pray behind a person from my descendants and he is the Mahdī.

758. Al-Fitan⁴: From more than one person, from Hammād b. Salma, from `Alī b. Zaid, from a person, from `Abd-Allah b. `Amr: “The Mahdī is the one that Jesus, son of Mary, will descend in his presence and will pray behind him—peace be on them.”

759. Al-Fitan⁵: Narrated to us Abū Usama, from Hishām, from Muḥammad who said: “The Mahdī is from this nation. He is the one who will lead the prayers for Jesus, son of Mary—peace be on them.”

760. Al-Muḥannaḥ⁶: Narrated to us Abū Usama, from Hishām, from ibn Saʿd that “The Mahdī is from this nation. He is the one who will lead the prayers for Jesus son of Mary.”

761. Al-Fitan by Abū `Alī al-Salāmī⁷: Narrated to us al-Ḥasan b. `Alī, from Sufyān b. Saʿd al-Thaurī, from Manḥūr b. al-Mu`tamir, from Raba` b. Khirsh, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, who mentioned a long tradition about the unrests (fitan) that will occur and said: “Triumphant is that nation from whom I am the first and Jesus is at its end. [Jesus] will pray behind a person from my descendants . . . (to the end of the narration).”

762. Al-Durr al-manthūr⁸: Ibn Abī Shaiba, Ahmad, al-Ḥabārī, and al-Ḥakīm have recorded the (following) tradition and have regarded it as authentic (ḥaḍīṣah): From `Uthmān b. Abī I-`ṣṣ, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who said:

. . . Jesus will descend at the time of the morning prayers (ḥaḍīṣat al-fajr). The commander of the people will say to him, “Come forward, O Spirit of Allah, and lead the prayers for us.” He will reply, “Surely, you from the people of this nation, some of you are commanders of others. You come forward and lead the prayers for us.”

Thus, [the Mahdī] will go forward and will lead the prayers. When he finishes, Jesus will take his spear towards the Antichrist (al-Dajjī). When he sees him, he will melt like the melting of lead. Then, he will pierce between his breasts with his spear and will kill him and then he will defeat his followers. On that day, nothing will give cover to [the Antichrist’s followers]—to such an extent that the stone will call out, “O believer! Here is a disbeliever, kill him.” And the tree will call out, “O believer! Here is a disbeliever, kill him.”

763. Sunan ibn Maja⁹: Narrated to us `Alī ibn Muḥammad, from `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Muḥribī, from Ismāʿīl b. Rāfi` Abī Rāfi`, from Abū Zur`a al-Shaibānī Yaʿyūb b. Abū `Amr, from Abū Umama al-

Bahil who said:

The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], gave a sermon to us and most of his sermon was about the Antichrist (al-Dajjal) and he cautioned us about him . . . He continued the narration until he said, "And their Imam will be a righteous man. When their Imam goes forward to lead the morning prayers, Jesus, son of Mary, will descend in the morning. Then, the Imam will withdraw a bit—walking backwards—so that Jesus would come forward to lead the prayers for the people. On [seeing] this, Jesus will place his hand [on the Imam's back] between his shoulders and say to him, 'Go ahead and pray! The prayers have been established for you.' So, their Imam will lead the prayers for them . . ."

764. `Uyayn al-mujizat10: From the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family . . . who informed about the emergence of the Mahd who is the seal of the Imams, who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice. That Jesus will descend upon him at the time of his emergence and reappearance and will pray behind him. [The author of `Uyayn al-mujizat says,] "This is a report on which the Shias, scholars, non-scholars, the Sunnis, the elite, the masses, the old, and the children are all unanimous and agree to due to its fame."

765. `Uyayn al-mujizat11: From Ab Sa`d al-Khudri, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "I swear by the One in Whose Hands is my life! The Mahd of this umma—behind whom Jesus will pray—is from us; then, he patted the shoulder of Imam al-usayn with his hand and exclaimed, 'From him, from him.'"

766. Al-Tafiq12: Some of the Shias and also some of the Sunni traditionists (muaddithin) have recorded that

When the Mahd appears, Allah, the Exalted, will send down Jesus upon him and they will come together. When the time of the compulsory prayers comes, the Mahd will say to Jesus, "Come forward, O Spirit of Allah" suggesting that he should lead the prayers. The Christ will reply, "No one is allowed to precede you Ahl al-Bait." So the Mahd will go forward and the Christ will pray behind him, peace be on them both.

767. shiyatu fat al-mubn13: One narration mentions that he will descend after the Mahd has commenced the prayers. He will go back a bit so that Jesus may lead the prayers. Jesus will place his hand between his shoulders and say to him, "You go ahead." Before narrating this tradition [the author of the book] says, "His descent will occur at the time of the morning prayers."

768. Anw'r al-tanzil14: It has been narrated that

Jesus will descend at a mountain pass in the Holy Land called Afq. In his hand will be a lance by which he will kill the Antichrist (al-Dajjal). Then, he will come to Bait al-Maqdas while the people are busy with the morning prayers. The Imam will withdraw but Jesus will stand back and will pray behind him in

accordance with the sharia of Muḥammad, blessings and peace be on him.

ʿAlī b. Burḥān al-Dīn al-Ḥalabī al-Shāfiʿī writes in al-Sīrat al-Ḥalabiyya, “[Jesus’] descent will be at the time of the morning prayers. He will pray behind the Mahdī after the Mahdī says to him, ‘Come forward, O Spirit of Allah!’ and he will answer, ‘You go ahead, for indeed, the prayers have been established for you.’”

Similar to the above has been recorded in Rūḥ al-bayḥīn under the saying of Allah, the Exalted, “And surely, it is a knowledge of the Hour” (Quran 43:61). Similar to it has also been mentioned in Tafsīr al-kashshaf.

It has been recorded in Tafsīr rūḥ al-maʿānī that “It is famous that his descent will take place at Damascus while the people are busy with the morning prayers. On his arrival, the Imam—and he is the Mahdī—will withdraw a bit but Jesus will want him to lead the prayers and will pray behind him saying, ‘It has been established for you.’”

Al-Suyūṭī—while refuting the claim of those who deny that Jesus will pray behind the Mahdī, peace be on him, because a Prophet’s position is so great that he cannot pray behind a non-Prophet—writes in al-ʿIlm bi-ʿUkmi ʿalayhi al-salām, “This is extremely amazing! The praying of Jesus behind the Mahdī is proved beyond doubt in a number of authentic traditions based on the news of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], who is the truthful and the verified whose prophecies no one can refute . . .” He then proceeds to mention some of these traditions and then says, “I am not surprised by their denial [because they are claiming something] they do not know, rather, I am amazed at them for writing these claims in pieces of paper which will remain forever after they have passed away.”

769. Tafsīr al-Qummī 15: My father narrated to me, from al-Qasim b. Muḥammad, from Sulaimān b. Dawūd al-Minqarī, from Abū ʿAmza, from Shahr b. ʿAushab who said:

Al-ʿAjjājī said to me, “A verse from the Book of Allah has exhausted me.” I asked, “O Emir! Which verse is it?” He replied, “‘And there is no one from the people of the Book (ahl al-kitāb) but that he will most certainly believe in him before his death’ (Quran 4: 159). By Allah, I summon the Jews and the Christians and [order] their heads to be chopped off. Then, I carefully observe them with my own eyes but I do not see them moving their lips until they die.”

I said, “May Allah redeem the Emir! The verse is not as you have interpreted it.” He said, “Then how is it?” I answered, “Jesus will descend to the world before the Day of Judgment. Then, no one will remain from the nation of the Jews and Christians except that he will believe in him before his death and [Jesus] will pray behind the Mahdī.” He said, “Woe to you! Where have you got this from? What is your source?” I answered, “Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. al-ʿUsayn b. ʿAlī b. ʿAlī b. Abū ʿAlī, peace be on him, informed me.” He exclaimed, “By Allah, You have brought this narration from a pure source.”

770. `Uyān akhbār al-Riḥān 16: Tamīm b. `Abd-Allah b. Tamīm al-Qurashī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from his father, from Ahmad b. `Alī al-Anḥarī, from al-ʿāsan b. al-Jahm who said:

One day, I went to al-Ma'mūn's court and (Imam) `Alī b. Mūsā al-Riḥān, peace be on him, was with him. The jurists and dialecticians from various sects had gathered there and one of them asked [the Imam], "O Son of Allah's Messenger! How can a person's claim of Imamate be verified?" He replied, "By divine text (al-naḥy) and reasons . . . (and the narration continues until he said,) Whoever claims divinity for the Prophets, or claims prophethood for the Imams, or claims Imamate for others other than the Imams, then we dissociate ourselves from such a people in this world and the hereafter."

At that point, al-Ma'mūn said, "O Abī l-ʿāsan! What is your opinion about the Return (al-raǰʿa)?" (Imam) al-Riḥān, peace be on him, answered, "Verily, it is the truth. It occurred in the previous nations and the Quran has talked about it. The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has said, 'Whatever has occurred in the previous nations will occur in this nation in the exact same manner.'" Then, he continued, "When the Mahdī from my descendants emerges, Jesus, son Mary, peace be on him, will descend and will pray behind him."

771. Al-Burhān fī tafsīr al-Quran 17: From ibn Bābawayh, through his chain of narrators from Mu`ammar, from Imam Abū `Abd-Allah (al-ʿādiq), peace be on him, in a long tradition from the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, who said: "From my progeny is the Mahdī. When he emerges, Jesus, son of Mary, will descend to help him and will ask him to lead [the prayers] and will pray behind him."

The traditions which encompass this concept are too many to be listed here and the chapter will become too long if they are all mentioned. The following traditions also prove the above concept: 118, 153, 219, 284, 327, 361, 399, 429, 530, 539, 553, 582, 668, 669, 910, 1066, 1071, 1081, 1083, and 1105.

1. Al-Bayḥaqī fī akhbār al-ʿāḥid al-Zamānī, chap. 7, p. 116; Kanz al-`ummī, vol. 14, chap. 266, no. 38673. He has recorded it from Abū Nu`aim in the Book al-Mahdī from Abū Sa`īd; Muntakhab kanz al-`ummī, vol. 6, p. 30; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 706, no. 73; al-Burhān fī `alāmāt Mahdī khīr al-zamānī, chap. 9, p. 158, no. 1.

2. A city in Syria with the Arabic name of ʿalab—Trans.

3. Al-ʿabarānī, Ghāyat al-ma`mūl (Sharḥ al-taj al-jamī` lil-uḥūd), vol. 5, p. 365; Is`āf al-rughibīn, p. 147, and he says, "Similar to this [has been recorded] in ibn ʿibbān's ʿaḥādīth, in Imḥmat al-Mahdī"; al-ʿArf al-wardī (al-ʿawwā lil-fatāwā), vol. 2, p. 158: "From Abū `Amr al-Dīnī in his Sunan, from ʿudhayfa, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: "The Mahdī will turn . . . (to the end of the tradition)"; al-ʿawwā iq al-muʿriqa, under the twelfth verse from the verses which are about [the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them], p. 164, citing al-ʿabarānī and ʿaḥādīth ibn ʿibbān; Yanābī` al-mawadda, chaps. 73 and 85, pp. 433 & 469; Jawāhir al-`iqdān, sect. 2, under no. 8, from ʿudhayfa. He says: "al-ʿabarānī has recorded it, and in ibn ʿibbān's ʿaḥādīth similar to it has been recorded from the tradition of `Aqabat b. `ʿmir about the Imamate of the Mahdī; al-Burhān fī `alāmāt Mahdī khīr al-zamānī, chap. 9, p. 160, no. 9, citing Abū `Amr al-Dīnī's Sunan; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 719, no. 121 (short version) from Mu`jam al-ʿabarānī and Abū Nu`aim's Manāqib al-Mahdī.

4. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 200.

5. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. "Nisbat al-Mahd," p. 200; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 719, no. 123; Yanʿab al-mawadda, chap. 78, p. 449.
6. Ibn Ab Shaiba, al-Muʿannaf, vol. 5, "Kitāb al-Fitan," p. 198, no. 19495; al-lʿim bi ʿukm ʿs alayhi al-salḥm (al-ʿwʿw lil-fatḥw), vol. 2, p. 299; al-ʿArf al-ward (al-ʿwʿw lil-fatḥw), vol. 2, p. 135.
7. Al-Malʿim wa l-fitan, chap. 83, p. 153, from what he has recorded from Ab ʿlī al-Salīl's al-Fitan.
8. Al-Durr al-manth, vol. 2, p. 243; al-lʿim bi ʿukm ʿs alayhi al-salḥm (al-ʿwʿw lil-fatḥw), vol. 2, p. 298; Majma` al-zawʿid, vol. 7, chap. "M j`a f l-Dajj," p. 342; Musnad Aʿmad, vol. 4, pp. 216–217, similar to it; al-Taʿr bi m tawʿtara f nuz al-Mas, pp. 162–164, no. 12; al-Mustadrak, vol. 4, p. 478.
9. Sunan ibn Mʿja, vol. 2, pp. 1359–1362, no. 4407; Sunan Ab Dʿwad, vol. 4, p. 117; ʿaʿ ibn Khuzayma (Manuscript); al-Mustadrak, vol. 4, p. 536, and al-Dhahab has endorsed it Talkh al-mustadrak; Fat al-bʿr, vol. 6, pp. 358 and 450, and vol. 13, pp. 83–84, 87–88, and 93; Tafsʿr ibn Kathʿr, vol. 1, p. 581; al-Taʿr bi m tawʿtara f nuz al-Mas, pp. 142–156, no. 13; ʿlq al-durar, chap. 10, p. 231; ʿilyat al-auly, vol. 2, p. 712, no. 94 (short version), and vol. 6, p. 108; al-lʿim bi ʿukm ʿs alayhi al-salḥm (al-ʿwʿw lil-fatḥw), vol. 3, p. 298; al-Burhʿn f ʿalḥmāt Mahd ʿkhir al-zamʿn, chap. 9, p. 160, no. 6; Nʿr al-abʿr, p. 188.

I say: This tradition does not clearly state that Jesus will pray behind the Mahd—peace be on them—but this meaning is apparent from the context of similar traditions and also the current tradition; because Jesus's turning away from the congregational prayers, not praying behind him, and praying along with the Muslims is highly improbable. It seems as if the narration has been summarized and only the details have been mentioned.

10. ʿUyʿn al-mu`jiz, p. 141.
11. ʿUyʿn al-mu`jiz, p. 64.
12. Al-Tafʿl, p. 24.
13. ʿshiyatu fat al-mubʿn (Egypt: 1307 AH), p. 76; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 54, p. 712, no. 94, citing al-ʿfi Ab ʿAbd-Allah.
14. Anwʿr al-tanz (under the saying of Allah, the Exalted, 'And surely, it is a knowledge of the Hour' [Quran, 43:61]), vol. 2, p. 370; al-Sʿrat al-ʿalabiyya (Egypt: Maʿba`atu Mustafa Muʿammad), vol. 1, p. 226; Rʿ al-bayʿn and al-Kashshʿf under the mentioned verse; Rʿ al-ma`ʿn, vol. 25, p. 95; al-lʿim bi ʿukm ʿs alayhi al-salḥm (al-ʿwʿw lil-fatḥw), vol. 2, pp. 297–299.

I say: It has been mentioned in some Sunni traditions that Jesus—peace be on our Prophet, his family, and him—will kill the Antichrist (al-Dajj), whilst reliable traditions narrated from the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, clearly establish that it is the Mahd, peace be on him, who will kill the Antichrist (see vol. 3, section 7, chap. 7). It is possible to reconcile between these two traditions by considering the verb killing as passive or by supposing that he will assist the Mahd in killing him or he will undertake the task of killing him by the order of the Mahd.

15. Tafsʿr al-Qumm, vol. 1, p. 158, under verse 4:159; Al-Majlis, al-ʿArba`ʿn, p. 411, no. 28, similar to it from `Al b. al-ʿusayn, peace be on him; Tafsʿr al-ʿf, vol. 1, p. 411; Tafsʿr nʿr al-thaqalain, vol. 1, p. 473; Tafsʿr al-burhʿn, vol. 1, p. 426; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 34, p. 619; al-Maʿajja, p. 62; Majma` al-Bayʿn, vol. 2, p. 137. Regarding this verse, he says: "There are numerous views about this verse. Some say both the pronouns refer to Jesus. In other words, no one from the People of the Book—the Jews and the Christians—will remain but that they will believe in Jesus before Jesus' death, when Allah sends him to the earth at the time of Mahd's reappearance in the end of times to kill the Antichrist (al-Dajj). Consequently, all the nations will be united [under one religion] and that will be the true religion of Islam, the religion of Ibrʿhʿm; ibn Abbʿs, Ab Mʿlik, al-ʿasan, Qatʿda, and ibn Zaid [have said] that is when becoming faithful will not benefit them; al-ʿabar also has this view and he has said, 'This verse is specifically for those who will live in that era.' `Al b. Ibrʿhʿm has mentioned in his Tafsʿr that his father has narrated from Sulaimʿn b. Dʿwad al-Minqar . . . (he then mentions the tradition)."

16. ʿUyʿn akhbʿr al-Ri, vol. 2, chap. 46, pp. 200–202, no. 1.

I say: In this noble tradition the Return (raj`a) has been mentioned. Authentic and mutawʿtir traditions from the Ahl al-Bait prove it conceptually and synoptically. The Holy Quran also establishes it. For example, "And on the day that We will gather from every nation a party from among those who rejected Our signs, then they will be formed into groups" (Quran 27:83). There is no doubt that the day is not the day of the great rising (qiyamat al-kubr) because in that day all the nations will be

raised as Allah, the Exalted, says, “And We will gather them and will leave none of them behind” (Quran 18: 47). A group of the early scholars have written exclusive books to prove it. Therefore, it is compulsory to believe in it in general without the details mentioned in the singular (فرد) traditions except what has been proved through mutawattir narrations or by other means which one can become certain.

What he means by “the Quran has spoken about them” are the verses of the Quran that have spoken about it. For instance, the saying of Allah, the Exalted, “Or like the one who passed by a town and it had fallen down upon its roofs. He said, ‘When will Allah give it life after its death?’ So Allah took his life for a hundred years, then raised him [to life again]” (Quran 2:259), and His saying, “Have you not considered those who abandoned their homes for fear of death—and they were thousands—then Allah said to them, ‘Die’ then He gave them life [again]” (Quran 2:243), and His saying to Jesus, peace be on him, “and you give life to the dead by My permission” (Quran 5:110), and His saying, Mighty and Majestic be He, about the chosen ones from the people of Moses for the meeting of his Lord, “Then We raised you up after your death so that you might be thankful” (Quran 2:56), and His saying in response to the supplications of Job (Ayyub), “Therefore We answered [his prayers] and took off what harm he had, and We gave him his family and the like of them along with them” (Quran 21:84). All such discussions concerning raj`a, views about it, questions about it and their answers, and its occurrence in the end of times are dealt with in exclusive books written on the subject like Bi`r al-anwar, vol. 53, chap. 29, pp. 39–144 and al-Majlis, al-Arba`in, pp. 400–448, no. 28.

17. Al-Burhan fi tafsir al-Quran, vol. 1, p. 89, no. 14.

Section Fifty

The traditions that describe his standard/flag, its bearer, and what is written on it

Comprised of nine traditions

772. Al-Fitan1: Rushdain narrated to us, from ibn Lah`a, from Ab` Zur`a, from ibn Zar`r, from `Amm`r b. Y`sir who said: “The standard-bearer of the Mahd` will be Shu`ayb b. `ali.”

It also mentions: Al-Walid and Rushdain narrated to us, from ibn Lah`a al-K`fi, from Ab` Zur`a, from ibn Zar`r, from `Amm`r b. Y`sir who said: “When al-Sufy`n reaches K`fa and kills the helpers of the family Mu`ammad, the Mahd` will emerge and his flag-bearer will be Shu`ayb b. `ali.”

773. Al-Fitan2: Narrated to us al-Walid and Rushdain, from ibn Lah`a, from Ka`b b. `Alqama, from Sufy`n al-Kalb` who said: “The standard-bearer of Mahd` will be a male—very young in age—with a scarcely grown yellow beard (al-Walid did not mention yellow). If he fights against the mountains, he will shake them (al-Walid said ‘he will break them down’) until ‘`ali descends.”

774. Al-Fitan3: Narrated to us Ya`y` b. al-Yam`n, from Sufy`n al-Thaur`, from Ab` Is`q, from Nauf al-Bik` who said: “It is written on Mahd`’s flag: Allegiance is only for Allah (al-bay`atu li-ll`h).”

775. Al-Bay`n fi akhb`ri `ib al-Zam`n4: Al-`abar`n has recorded in al-Ausa` from ibn `Umar who said:

The Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], held `Al's hand, [peace be on him], and said, "From his descendants will emerge a youth who will fill the earth with fairness and justice. When you see this, then it is necessary for you to look out for the Tam youth. Surely, he will come from the East and he is the standard-bearer of the Mahd."

776. Kam al-d: It has been narrated that on the standard of the Mahd is written: "Highness is only for Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He (al-raf`atu li-llh `azza wa jal)."

777. Bi al-anw: From al-Sayyid `Al b. `Abd al-am, through his chain of narrators to the Book of al-Fa b. Shdh who said: "It has been narrated that on the standard of the Mahd is written, 'Listen and obey.'"

778. Al-`Arf al-ward: He (meaning al-Nu`aim) has also recorded from ibn S that, "On the flag of the Mahd is written, 'Allegiance (al-bay`a) is only for Allah.'"

779. Al-Fitan: Rushdain narrated to us, from ibn Lah`a, from `Abd al-Ra b. S`lim, from his father, from Ab R and Ab Th`bit, from `Al, may Allah be satisfied with him, that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], said: "A person from my Ahl al-Bait will emerge with nine flags— meaning from Mecca."

780. Al-Fitan: Ya`y al-Yam narrated to us, from Qays, from `Abd-Allah b. Shar`k who said: "With the Mahd is the victorious flag of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. I wish I could meet him even if my ears, nose, and lips were chopped off."

1. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, pp. 166 & 168; al-Burh f `al-mat Mahd khir al-zam, chap. 7, p. 151, no. 19, and chap. 7, p. 152, no. 23, with the addition of "and he will defeat his followers" at its end; al-Mal`im wa l-fitan, chap. 96, p. 53, and chap. 103, p. 55.

2. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, chap. "al-Rayt al-sd lil-Mahd ba`d rayt Ban l-`Abb," p. 167, and, vol. 5, chap. "ifat al-Mahd . . .," p. 196; al-Mal`im wa l-fitan, chap. 98, pp. 53–54; al-Burh f `al-mat Mahd khir al-zam, chap. 7, pp. 151–152, no. 21.

3. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 191; Yanb` al-mawadda, p. 435; al-Mal`im wa l-fitan, chap. 141, sect. 1, p. 68.

4. Al-Burh f `al-mat Mahd khir al-zam, chap. 7, pp. 150–151, no. 16; al-`Arf al-ward (al-`w` lil-fatw), vol. 2, p. 130, citing al-`abar's al-Mu`jam al-`ausa; Majma` al-zaw`id, vol. 7, p. 318, with an addition in the beginning. It is worth mentioning that youth does not indicate that he is young in age. This can be inferred using other mutawtir narrations. It either means that he will look like a youth in appearance—as it has been mentioned in some traditions that he will be young in appearance and will not become old with the passing of time and when he reappears, he will look young while the people will have thought that he would be old in age and appearance—or it refers to his chivalry, nobility, and generosity. The word youth (fitya) in some places of the Quran (e.g. 18:10 & 13) probably has also been interpreted like this.

The author of Lisn al-`Arab writes, "Al-Qutayb says, 'Youth does not mean young in age or an adolescent. Rather, it means a complete/perfect man . . .' Al-Aswad b. Ya`far writes under the verse, 'and two youths entered the prison with him' (Quran 12:36), 'It is likely that both of them were either young or old because they used to call the slaves as young.' Al-Jauhar opines, 'Youth means generosity and nobility. It is said, "He is a youth amongst the youths"' (Lisn al-`Arab, vol.

15, p. 146, under the root of Fa-Ta-Ya)

5. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 57, p. 654, under no. 22; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 27, p. 324, no. 35.

6. Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 26, p. 305, no. 77.

7. Al-ʿArf al-wardī (al-ḥawāḍir lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 150; al-Burhān fī ʿalāmāt Maḥdī khir al-zamān, chap. 7, p. 152, no. 25; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, p. 654, no. 22.

I say: There is no contradiction between these traditions—which seem to disagree agreement on what will be written on his standard/flag—because he has multiple standards/flags. This fact has been mentioned in the eighth narration of this chapter.

8. Al-Fitan, vol. 4, chap. “Al-Rayḥ al-sūd lil-Maḥdī baʿd raiyāt Banī l-ʿAbbās,” p. 166

9. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 191; al-Burhān, chap. 7, p. 152, no. 24, with the difference that he said: “The velvet” instead of “the victorious”; al-ʿArf al-wardī (al-ḥawāḍir lil-fatḥ), vol. 2, p. 150.

Section Fifty-One

The traditions that indicate the second black flags that are different from the first black flags

Comprised of five traditions

781. Al-Fitan1: Informed us Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Aḥmad b. Rabadha, from Abū l-Qasim Sulaimān b. Aḥmad al-ḥabārī, from Abū Zaid ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Ḥatīm al-Murādī in Egypt in the year 280 AH, from Nuʿaim b. Ḥammād, from al-Walīd and Rushdān, from ibn Lahʿa, from Abū Qubail, from Abū Rḥmān from ʿAlī, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said:

The Sufyānī and the black flags will meet. Amongst them will be a youth from the Banī-Hāshim and on his left palm will be a mole. His commander will be a person from Banī Tamīm called Shuʿayb b. Ḥalīf, at the gateway if Iḥākhr. There will be a terrible bloodshed between these two armies. The black flags will be victorious while the cavalry of Sufyānī will take to their heels. It is then that the people will desire for the Maḥdī and will seek him.

782. Al-Fitan2: Narrated to us Saʿd b. ʿUthmān, from Jābir, from (Imam) Abū Jaʿfar who said:

The black flags from Khurāsān [in Iran] will reach Kufa. When the Maḥdī appears at Mecca, they will be sent to pledge allegiance to the Maḥdī.

783. Al-Fitan3: Narrated to us al-Walīd b. Muslim, from Abū ʿAbd-Allah, from ʿAbd al-Karīm (meaning Umayya), from Muḥammad b. al-ḥanafīyya who said:

Black flags will emerge [in support of] the Abbasids. Then, from Khurāsān, other black flags will appear; their hoods will be black and their dresses will be white. A person called Shuʿayb b. Ḥalīf or Ḥalīf b. Shuʿayb, from [Banī] Tamīm, will be their commander. They will destroy al-Sufyānī’s Army until they

reach Bait al-Maqdas. They will prepare for the Mahdī his government and Three hundred people from Syria will come to his aid. The time between his emergence and the handing over of the affairs to the Mahdī will be seventy-two months.

784. Al-Fitan4: `Abd-Allah b. Marwān narrated to us, from al-`Alī b. `Utba, from al-`Asan that “the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], mentioned a calamity that his Ahl al-Bait would encounter [which would continue] until Allah will send a black flag from the East. Whoever helps it, Allah will help him and whoever deserts it, Allah will desert him; until a man comes whose name is my name and He will rule them. Allah will support and assist him.”

785. Al-Fitan5: Mu`ammad b. `Abd-Allah b. `Abd-Allah al-Taihartī narrated to us, from `Abd al-Ra`mān b. Ziyād b. An`um, from Muslim b. Yasīr, from Sa`d b. al-Musayyib, from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him [and his family], who said: “Black flags [in support] of the Abbasids will emerge from the East. They will halt until Allah wishes. Then, smaller black flags will emerge from the east who will fight a person from the progeny of Abī Sufyān and his followers. They will call out [to the people] to obey the Mahdī.”

1. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 172; al-Burhān fī `alāmāt Mahdī fī khir al-zamān, chap. 7, p. 151, no. 20 (short version).

2. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, p. 173; al-Burhān fī `alāmāt Mahdī fī khir al-zamān, chap. 7, p. 150, no. 12; Bi`ār al-anwār, vol. 52, p. 217, no. 77.

3. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “al-Rayāt al-sād lil-Mahdī ba`d rāyāt Banī I-`Abbās,” p. 165.

4. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “al-Rayāt al-sād lil-Mahdī ba`d rāyāt Banī I-`Abbās,” p. 167.

5. Al-Fitan, vol. 5, chap. “al-Rayāt al-sād lil-Mahdī ba`d rāyāt Banī I-`Abbās,” p. 168.

Chapter Four

His birth, Its circumstances, Its history, His mother and her names, his miracles during the lifetime of his father, and those who saw him before occultaion

Comprised of Three Sections

Section One

Proof of his birth, its circumstances, its history, some information about his mother, and her names,

peace be on them both

Comprised of 426 traditions

786. Kitāb Faḥl b. Shādhān1: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Ḥamza b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Uбайд-Allah b. al-`Abbās b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥālib, Allah's blessings be on him, who said:

(Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, said, "Indeed, the Guardian appointed by Allah (walī Allah), His Proof upon His servants, and my successor after me, has been born circumcised [from birth], at the dawn of Sha`bān 15, 255 AH. The first who washed (ghusl) him was Riḥwān—the caretaker of Paradise—while a group of archangels accompanied him. [They washed him] with the water of Kauthar and Salsabīl.

Then, my aunt, Ḥakīma bt. Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Riḥā, peace be on them washed him." Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Ḥamza, may Allah be satisfied with him, enquired about his mother. He replied, "His mother is Malīka who is sometimes called Sāsān and sometimes Rayḥāna. Her other names are Ḥaiqal, and Narjis."

787. Kamāl al-dīn2: Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. al-Walīd, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-`Aḥḥār, from Abū `Abd-Allah al-Ḥusayn b. Rizq-Allah, from Mūsā b. Muḥammad b. al-Qāsim b. Ḥamzat b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥālib, peace be on them, from Ḥakīma, daughter of (Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥālib, peace be on them, who said:

(Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, called for me and said, "O Aunt! Break your fast this evening with us because it is the evening of the 15th of Sha`bān and Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, will reveal His proof (ḥujja) tonight and he will be His proof on earth." I asked, "Who is his mother?" He replied, "Narjis." I exclaimed, "May Allah sacrifice me for you! But there is no sign [of pregnancy] in her!" He replied, "It will [occur] like I am informing you."

[So] I went [to their house], said hello and sat down. [Narjis] came to take off my shoes and said to me, "How are you my master [and the master of my family]?" I replied, "No! You are my master and the master of my family." She denied what I said and replied, "O aunt! What are you saying?" I said to her, "O my daughter! Surely, Allah, the Exalted, will soon grant you in this very night a son (who will be) a master in this world and the hereafter." On hearing this, she expressed shyness. When I finished my `Ishā` prayers, I broke my fast, went to bed and slept. In the depth of the night, I got up for the night prayers.

When I finished my night prayers, I saw Narjis fast asleep while there were no signs [of pregnancy] in her. I sat and performed the rituals/supplications (ta`qībāt) recommended after the prayers and then lied down. Then I got up again fearfully and she was still asleep. Then, she got up, prayed and went to sleep.

I went out to check if it was dawn yet [i.e. whether the time of prayers had arrived or not]. At the first break of dawn (al-fajr al-awwal), she was still fast asleep. At this juncture, I became slightly skeptical. Immediately, [Imam] Abū Muḥammad [al-`Askar], peace be on him, cried out from where he was, “O Aunt! Don’t be in such a rush! Indeed the affair is near!” I sat down and began reciting the suras of Sajda and Yūsuf. While I was busy [reciting them], she woke up startled. I leapt towards her and said, “I seek Allah’s protection for you! Do you feel anything?” She replied, “Yes, O Aunt!” I said to her, “Be calm and hold your heart. This is what I had told you.”

Then suddenly I felt a weakness in myself and she felt a weakness in herself. I came to with the sound of my master [the Mahdī] and removed the cloth from over him. He was in a state of prostration and was touching the earth with the places [which touch the ground during] prostration. I embraced him and he was absolutely clean and immaculate. (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, called out to me, “O Aunt! Bring my son to me,” and I did. He placed his hands beneath his lower-back and back and put his feet on his chest. Then, he put his tongue in his mouth and caressed his eyes, ears, and joints.

He then said, “Speak, O my son!” He replied, “I testify that there is no god but Allah, He is One and has no partner. I testify that Muḥammad is the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” He then sent blessings on Amīr al-Mu’minīn and the Imams, peace be on them, until he reached his father. He then stopped and didn’t continue.

(Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, called out, “O Aunt! Take him to his mother so that he greets her and then bring him back to me.” I took him to her and he greeted her, then, I took him back [to his father] and put him on the ground. He said, “O Aunt! Come back to us on the seventh day.”

In the morning, I went to greet (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him. When I removed the curtain to see my master, I did not find him there. I said, “May I be sacrificed for you! What happened to my master?” He replied, “We have entrusted him to whom the mother of Moses entrusted her son, peace be on him.”

On the seventh day, I went [to them], greeted them, and sat down. He said, “Bring me my son.” I brought my master, peace be on him, while he was wrapped in a cloth. He did [with his son] what he had done earlier. Then, he put his tongue in his mouth as if he was feeding him milk or honey. He then said, “Speak, O my son!” He declared, “I testify that there is no god but Allah,” and he saluted and blessed Muḥammad, `Alī, Amīr al-Mu’minīn, and the infallible Imams, Allah’s blessings be on them all, and he paused [after] his father’s name. Then he recited,

“In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. And We intend to oblige those who have been rendered weak on earth and make them Imams and make them the inheritors. And to grant them power in the land, and show the Pharaoh and Haman and their armies what they feared.” 3

Mūsā (the narrator of this tradition), says, “I asked `Uqba, the servant, about this and he replied, ‘`Akāma has said the truth.’”

788. Kamāl al-dīn4: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Alī Mājilawayh and Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`Aḥḥār, may Allah be satisfied with them, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`Aḥḥār, from al-ḥusayn b. `Alī al-Nāsībī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, peace be on them, from al-Sayyār, from Nāṣim and Māriya who both said:

When the Master of the Time came out of his mother’s womb, he bent on his knees, raised both index fingers towards the sky, then sneezed and said, “All Praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. Blessings of Allah be on Muḥammad and his family. The oppressors thought that Allah’s Proof has been destroyed. Had we been permitted to speak, all doubts would have been dispelled.

789. Kamāl al-dīn5: Muḥammad b. `Alī Mājilawayh, Muḥammad b. Mūsā b. al-Mutawakkil, and Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`Aḥḥār, may Allah be satisfied with them, narrated to us from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`Aḥḥār, from Isḥāq b. Riyāz al-Baḥrī, from Abū Jaʿfar al-`Amrī who said:

When the Master, peace be on him, was born, (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, said, “Send someone to Abū `Amr.” Someone was sent to him and when he came, [the Imam] said to him, “Buy ten thousand pounds (raḥl) of bread and ten thousand pounds of meat and distribute it—I think he said among the Banū-Hāshim—and slaughter such and such number of sheep as his `aqqā7.”

790. Kamāl al-dīn8: Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. `Iḥḥām, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb al-Kulainī, from `Alī b. Muḥammad who said: “The Master was born on Shaʿbān 15, 255 AH.”

791. Al-Ghayba by Faḥr b. Shādhān9: Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. `Abd-Allah al-Ash`arī, from (Imam) Abū Muḥammad b. `Alī al-`Askarī, peace be on him, who said:

All praise is for the One who did not take me from this world until He showed me the successor after me, who is the most similar of people to the Messenger of Allah in creation and morals. Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, will protect him in his occultation. Then, He will reveal him, and he will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.

792. Kamāl al-dīn10: Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. `Iḥḥām, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb al-Kulainī, from `Allān al-Rāzī who said: “Some of our companions informed me that when the spouse of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, became pregnant, he said to her, ‘You will soon give birth to a boy; his name will be Muḥammad and he is the Qaʿim after me.’”

793. Kamāl al-dīn11: Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq al-ḥalīqīnī, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. Zakariyyā at Madīnat al-Salām, from Abū `Abd-Allah Muḥammad b. Khalīlīn, from his father, from his father, from his grandfather, from Ghiyāth b. Usaid who said:

I witnessed Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān al-ʿAmrī, may Allah sanctify his soul, say, “When the successor, al-Mahdī, was born, a light radiated from his head to the outskirts of the sky. Then, he went down in prostration for his Lord, Exalted be His remembrance, then he raised his head while he was saying, ‘Allah testifies that there is no god but He and so do the angels and the possessors of knowledge who stand with justice. There is no god but He, the Invincible, the Wise. Verily, the religion [approved] by Allah is Islam.’” [Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān] said, “His birth occurred on a Friday.”

794. Kamāl al-dīn¹³: Narrated to us ʿAlī b. ʿAbd-Allah al-Warrāq, from Saʿd b. ʿAbd-Allah, from Mūsā b. Jaʿfar b. Wahb al-Baghdādī that a signed letter (tauqīʿ) came from (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, that read: “They thought that by killing me, they would destroy this generation; indeed Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has refuted their saying and all praise is for Allah.”

795. Tārīkh al-Aʿimma¹⁴: From amongst the reasons that have been narrated from (Imam) al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, at the time of the birth of M-U-Ḥ-A-M-M-A-D b. al-Ḥasan, is what has been narrated from him numerous times: “The oppressors thought they would kill me to eliminate this generation; how did they find the power of the All-Powerful?” And he named him the Hoped (al-Muʿammal).

796. Kamāl al-dīn¹⁵: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Mūsā al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-Ḥimyarī, from Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-ʿAlawī, from Abū Ghānim, the servant, who said:

A boy was born to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, and he named him Muḥammad. On the third day, he showed him to his companions, saying, “He is your master after me and my successor upon you. He is the Qaʿim who will be desperately awaited. When the earth becomes filled with injustice and unfairness, he will emerge and will fill it with fairness and justice.”

797. Kamāl al-dīn¹⁶: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. ʿAlī Mājilawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqub al-ʿAḥḥār, from Abū ʿAlī al-Khayzarī, from a slave girl whom he had gifted to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, who had fled from Jaʿfar al-Kadhīb (the liar) when he had attacked the house and Abū ʿAlī (the narrator) had married her. Abū ʿAlī says:

She informed me that she had been present when the master was born and the name of the master’s mother is ʿAqā and Abū Muḥammad had informed her about the events that would befall his family. She had asked him to pray to Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, that He takes her life before him. She died while Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, was still alive. There is a tablet on her grave which says, “This is the grave of the mother of Muḥammad.”

I also heard this slave-maid mention that when the master, peace be on him, was born, she saw a light radiate from him towards the outskirts of the sky. She also saw white birds descend from the sky, caress his head, face, and, body with their wings and then soar again. When they had informed Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, about what they had witnessed, he had laughed and replied, “These

were angels who had come to gain blessings from this newborn and they will be his helpers when he emerges.”

798. Kamūl al-d̄n17: Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan b. Aḥmad b. al-Walīd, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan al-Karkhī, from `Abd-Allah b. al-`Abbās al-`Alawī, from Abū I-Faḥl al-ḥasan b. al-ḥusayn al-`Alawī, who said: “I went to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, at Sūmarrī’ and congratulated him on the birth of his son, the Qū’im.”

799. Kamūl al-d̄n18: Muḥammad b. Mūsā b. al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-ḥimyarī, from Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm al-Kāfī that “(Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, sent meat from a slaughtered sheep to some people whom he named for me and said, ‘This is from the `aqūqa for my son Muḥammad, [Allah’s blessings and salutations be on him].’”

800. Kamūl al-d̄n20: Muḥammad b. `Alī Mījīlawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-`Aḥḥārī, from al-ḥusayn b. `Alī al-Nāsībī, from al-ḥasan b. al-Mundhir, from ḥamzat b. Abū I-Fatī who said:

He came to me one day and said, “I have good news! A son was born to Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, yesterday and he has ordered that this news be kept a secret. He also ordered that three hundred sheep be slaughtered as his aqūqa.” I asked him, “What’s his name?” He replied, “His name is Muḥammad and his epithet is Ja`far.”

801. Kamūl al-d̄n21: Abū I-`Abbās Aḥmad b. al-ḥusayn b. `Abd-Allah b. Mihrān al-ḥabīb al-Azdī al-`Arḥzī at Marv, from Aḥmad b. al-ḥasan b. Isḥāq al-Qummī who said:

When the righteous successor, peace be on him, was born, my grandfather Aḥmad b. Isḥāq received a letter from (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, in his own handwriting—the [same handwriting with] which he had written all his other signed letters. It had been written in it, “A son of ours has been born. Let this fact be hidden with you and unknown to the general masses. For surely, we have not revealed this information about him to anyone except the closest of relatives because of their nearness and those who have accepted his Guardianship (wilāya). We wished to inform you so that Allah may make you joyful through him like He has made us rejoice through him. Wa al-salām.”

802. Kamūl al-d̄n22: Abū ḥalīb al-Muḥaffar b. Ja`far b. al-Muḥaffar b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. `Umar b. `Alī b. Abū ḥalīb, peace be on him, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from Abū I-Naḥr Muḥammad b. Mas`ūd, from ḥdam b. Muḥammad al-Balkhī, from `Alī b. al-ḥasan [al-ḥusayn] al-Daqqī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad al-`Alawī, from Nāḥm the female servant of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, who said:

I went to see the master of this affair, peace be on him, one night after his birth and sneezed in front of him. He said to me, “May Allah have mercy on you.” I became joyous at this remark. Then, he said to

me, “Shall I give you good news about sneezing?” I replied in the affirmative. He said, “It delays death for three days.”

803. Kamāl al-dīn²³: Through the same chain of narrators (i.e. the chain mentioned in the eighth tradition of this chapter) from Muḥammad b. `Uthmān al-`Amrī, who said: “The master was born circumcised. I heard ʿakma say, ‘Parturition blood was not seen in his mother and this is the custom of the mothers of all the Imams, peace be on them.’”

804. Ghaybat al-Shaykh²⁴: Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Rīzī, from Muḥammad b. `Alī, from `Abd-Allāh b. Muḥammad b. Khāqān al-Dihqān, from Abū Sulaymān Dāwūd b. Ghassān al-Baḥrī who said:

I read out for Abū Sahl Ismāʿīl b. `Alī al-Naubakhtī the birth of (Imam) Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Riḍī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far al-ḥadiq b. Muḥammad al-Baqir b. `Alī b. al-ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū ḥabīb, Allah’s blessings be on them all: “He was born in Sāmarrī in 256 AH. His mother was called ʿaqā and his epithet is Abū I-Qāsim—the same epithet as that of the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family—who had said, ‘His name will be my name and his epithet will be my epithet. His title is Mahdī and he is the Proof, the Awaited, and the Master of the Time.’”

Ismāʿīl b. `Alī said, “I visited Imam Abū Muḥammad al-`Askarī, peace be on him, during his illness in which he passed away. I was with him when he said to his servant `Aqīd—who was a black Nubian slave who had earlier served Imam `Alī b. Muḥammad and had brought up Imam al-ḥasan al-`Askarī, peace be on him—, “O `Aqīd! Boil some mastic gum for me in water.” He boiled it for him and then ʿaqā—the mother of the successor Imam, peace be on him—brought it for him. As he held the bowl in his hands and intended to drink, his hand started trembling and the bowl hit the teeth of Imam al-ḥasan. So, he put it down from his hands and said to `Aqīd, “Go inside the house. You will see a child in prostration. Bring him to me.”

Ismāʿīl b. `Alī said, `Aqīd said, “I entered [the house] to search for [the child], and lo! I saw a child in prostration. He had raised his index fingers towards the sky. I greeted him, due to which he shortened his prayers. I said, ‘My master has ordered you to come to him.’ At that very moment, his mother ʿaqā²⁵ entered, held his hand, and took him to his father (Imam) al-ḥasan, peace be on him.”

Abū Sahl continued, “When the child stood before his father, he greeted him and his color was like a pearl, his hair had short curls in them, and he had fissures between his teeth. When (Imam) al-ḥasan, peace be on him, saw him, he started crying and said, ‘O master of his Ahl al-Bait! Give me water to drink because I am going to my Lord.’ The child took the bowl of boiled mastic gum in his hand.

He moved his lips and the child helped him drink. When he finished drinking, he said, ‘Prepare me for prayers.’ A scarf was spread in his room. The child helped him perform ablution, step by step and wiped (masā) his head and feet.

Then, Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, said to him, ‘Receive good news, O my son! You are the

Master of the Time, you are the Mahdī, you are Allah's Proof upon His earth, you are my son and my heir, and I am your father. You are Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū ḥabīb. The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, is your ancestor and you are the last of the immaculate Imams.

The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, has given glad-tidings about you and has named and mentioned your epithet in the [glad-tidings]. My father has taken a covenant from me on behalf of your pure forefathers. The blessings of Allah, our Lord be on the Ahl al-Bait. He is the Praiseworthy, the Majestic.' Imam al-ḥasan b. `Alī passed away at that moment; may Allah's blessings be on them all."

805. Ithbāt al-waḥīyya²⁶: Al-ḥimyarī, from Aḥmad b. Isḥāq who said:

I went to see (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, who asked me, "O Aḥmad! How were you feeling when the people were in doubt and skepticism?" I answered, "O my master! When the letter reached us with the news of our master and his birth, no man, woman, or child who had attained understanding remained from us except that he spoke the truth." He continued, "Don't you know that the earth will not become empty of Allah's Proof?"

Then, (Imam) Abū Muḥammad ordered that his mother perform the Hajj in the year 259 AH and informed her about what will happen to him in the year 260 AH. Then, he called for the Master of the Time (ḥabīb al-Zamān) and willed to him. He handed over the Great Name (al-ism al-`aḥam), the inheritances, and the weapon to him. (Imam) Abū Muḥammad's mother and the master set off for Mecca and Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Muḥahhar Abū `Alī was in charge of fulfilling their needs. When they had gone some distance on the way to Mecca, some Bedouin tribes met them and informed them of the intense fear and scarcity of water. Consequently, most of the people returned except those who were in the [Holy] Region; they went ahead and were safe."

806. Al-Ghayba by Faḥl b. Shādhān²⁷: Muḥammad b. `Abd al-Jabbār who said:

I said to my master (Imam) al-ḥasan b. `Alī (al-`Askarī), peace be on him, "O son of Allah's Messenger! May Allah sacrifice me for you! I would like to know who is the Imam and Proof of Allah upon His servants after you?" He, peace be on him, replied, "The Imam and the Proof of Allah after me is my son whose name and epithet is the same as that of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. He is the last of Allah's proofs and the last of His caliphs."

I asked, "From whom will he be born?" He replied, "From the daughter of the son of the Caesar, the Emperor of Rome. Know that he will soon be born and will be concealed from the people in a long occultation. Then, he will appear and will kill the Antichrist (al-Dajjāl) and will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. No one is allowed to say his name or epithet before his reappearance, Allah's blessings be on him."²⁸

807. Kamāl al-dīn²⁹: Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Ḥusayn al-Naufalī, from Abū I-`Abbās Aḥmad b. `Uṣayn al-Washshī al-Baghdādī, from Aḥmad b. Ḥishir al-Qummī, from Abū I-Ḥusayn Muḥammad b. Baḥr al-Shaibānī who said:

I entered Karbala in 286 AH and visited the grave of the lonely [grandson] of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Then, I left for Baghdad with the intention of visiting the graves of the Quraish [meaning the place where Imams Kāsim and Javīd, peace be on them, were buried] at a time when it was blazing hot and hot winds were blowing.

On my way—when I reached the shrine of al-Kāsim, peace be on him—I inhaled the fresh air of his grave that was filled with mercy and surrounded with the gardens of forgiveness. I threw myself on it with tears flowing down unceasingly and non-stop sighs and moaning. My tears had concealed the vision of my eyes. When the flow of tears ceased and I stopped crying, I opened my eyes and saw an old man with a bent back and hunched shoulders who had callus on his forehead and palms.

He was saying to another person accompanying him at the grave, “O my nephew! Indeed, your uncle has been honored on account of the deep unseens (ghawāmiḡ al-ghuyūb) and privileged knowledge granted to him by the two masters. Such [knowledge] has not been given to anyone except Salmān.

Your uncles time is nearly up and his life is coming to an end but he has not found anyone from amongst the followers of wilāya [i.e. the Shias] to whom he could pass on his secrets.” I thought to myself, “Trouble and hardships have always afflicted you because you have always been in pursuit of knowledge.

Now your ears are being pounded by words from this old man that indicate immense knowledge [and you can seek knowledge from him without any affliction].” So I said, “O Shaykh! Who are these two masters?” He replied, “The Two stars concealed by soil in the land of Sāmarrā’.” I said, “I swear by the mastership and the revered position of these two masters of Imamate and inheritance, that I desire their knowledge and seek what they have left behind. I will try with utmost faith to conceal their secrets.”

He said, “If you are true in your speech, then come forth with what you have from what has been narrated from them.” When he examined the books and read through the narrations he said, “You speak the truth. I am Bishr b. Sulaimān al-Nakhkḥīs and a descendant of Abū Ayyūb al-Anḡarī. I am one of the servants of (Imams) Abū I-Ḥasan and Abū Muḥammad (al-`Askarī) and their neighbor in Sāmarrā’.”

I said, “Please honor your brother by narrating some of the things that you have witnessed from them.” He said, “Our master Abū I-Ḥasan `Alī b. Muḥammad al-`Askarī, peace be on him, granted me deep knowledge about the [trade] of slaves and consequently, I never bought or sold any except with his permission.

Because of this, I kept away from ambiguous cases until my knowledge about it was complete. Thus, I excelled in differentiating between the permissible (ḥalāl) and the prohibited (ḥarām). One night, I was in

my house at S^umarr^u’ and a part of the night had passed, when someone knocked on the door. I quickly ran [to the door] and saw K^uf^ur, the servant, who had come as a messenger of our master, Ab^u I-^uasan `Al^u b. Mu^uammad, peace be on him, to invite me to [his house].

I put on my clothes and went to him. When I entered, I saw him speaking with his son Ab^u Mu^uammad and his sister ^uak^uma from behind the curtain. When I sat down, he said, ‘O Bishr! Verily, you are from the descendants of the An^ur. You possess [i.e. you have accepted our] guardianship (wil^uya) and you inherit it one generation after another.

You are the reliable [people] for us Ahl al-Bait. Verily, I am going to increase your excellence and honor such that you will overtake the best of the Shias concerning [our] guardianship through a secret which I will tell you; and I will send you to purchase a slave-girl.’ Then, he wrote a letter in Roman handwriting and language and imprinted its seal with his ring. He brought out a yellow purse which contained two hundred and twenty dinars and said, ‘Take this and go to Baghdad.

Stand on the passageway of the Euphrates on so and so day after sunrise. When the boats of the captives are beside you and the slave-maids emerge from them, they will be encircled by groups of buyers representing the Abbasid leaders and by small groups of Iraqi youths. When you see this, keep a watch on a slave-trader by the name of `Umar b. Yaz^ud al-Nakhkh^us 30 all day long from a distance. [He will] bring forth a slave-girl possessing such and such characteristics who is wearing two clothes made of pure silk and does not allow anyone to unveil or touch her.

Whoever attempts to see her will have to do so from behind a thin veil. The slave-trader will strike her and she will cry out and say something in Roman. Know that she is saying, “Woe for the ripping of my veil!” One of the buyers will say, “Give her to me for three hundred dinars because her chastity has increased my desire for her.”

She will say to him in Arabic, “Even if you appear in the dress of Solomon and sit on the throne of his kingdom, I will never be inclined towards you. Do not waste your money on me.” The slave-trader will plead, “What is the solution? I have no choice but to sell you.” The slave-girl will say “Why are you rushing? It is necessary that I select a buyer whose trustworthiness and religiousness appeases my heart.”

After this, go to `Umar b. Yaz^ud al-Nakhkh^us and say to him, “I have a sealed letter with me written in the Roman language and handwriting of a noble man. He has described in it his munificence, loyalty, nobility, and generosity. Hand it over to her so that she may consider the moral qualities of its author. If she is inclined towards him and is satisfied with him, then I am his representative to purchase her from you.””

Bishr b. Sulaim^un al-Nakhkh^us continued, “I did everything as defined to me by my master (Imam) Ab^u I-^uasan, peace be on him, regarding the matter of the slave-girl. When she saw the letter, she started crying uncontrollably and said to `Umar b. Yaz^ud al-Nakhkh^us, ‘Sell me to the writer of this letter.’ She

then swore a solemn oath that if she was not sold to the writer of the letter, she would kill herself. Then, I started bargaining about her price until the amount reached the exact number of dinars given to me by my master, peace be on him, in the yellow purse.

He took the money from me and handed over the slave-girl who was very joyous and cheerful. I took her to the room I was staying in, in Baghdad. She was restless until she took out the letter of her master, peace be on him, from her pocket and started kissing it and placing it on her cheeks. She covered her eyes with it and rubbed it on her body.

I asked her out of amazement, ‘You are kissing a letter while you don’t even know its author?’ She said, ‘O weak and helpless regarding the stature of the descendants of the Prophets! Listen to me carefully and pay attention with your heart! I am Malika, the daughter of Yashub b. Caesar, the Emperor of Rome. My mother was from the descendants of the disciples (of Jesus) and related to his heir Simon (Shamun). I will inform you of the strangest of things. My grandfather Caesar intended to marry me to his nephew when I was only thirteen years old.

So, he gathered in his palace three hundred men from the descendants of the disciples (al-awariy), priests (al-qissis), and monks (al-ruhb) along with seven hundred important people. Moreover, four thousand others from the commanders of the armed forces, military leaders, and tribal chiefs had also been invited.

He had placed a throne studded with precious stones on top of forty pillars in the guest room. When his nephew stood on top of it and was encircled with crosses and the bishops came forward with honor and the Bibles were opened, the crosses fell to the ground and the pillars crumbled and collapsed on the floor. The one who had mounted the throne fell down unconscious.

When the bishops saw this, the color of their faces changed and their shoulders started trembling. The archbishop said to my grandfather, “O Emperor! Please excuse us from this [task due to which] bad omens have become manifest because these are the signs of the demise of Christianity and the imperial religion.” My grandfather too considered it as a bad omen. He ordered the bishops, “Put up the pillars and raise the crosses.

Bring the brother of this unlucky ill-omened [prince] to be married to this girl [instead], so that he might convert his bad-omen to welfare.” When everything was prepared, the same thing happened again. The congregation broke up and my grandfather became very sad and went inside the palace and the curtains were brought down. That night, I dreamt that Jesus, Simon (Shamun), and some of the disciples had gathered in my grandfather’s palace.

A pulpit was erected—which scraped the sky with elevation—in the royal palace in the same place where my grandfather had installed his throne. Soon after, Muhammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, joined them accompanied by a young man and some of his descendants. Jesus came forward and embraced him.

Then [the Holy Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family] said, "O Spirit of Allah! I have come here to ask your heir Simon, for the hand of her daughter Mal'ika, in marriage for my son here." He then pointed to Abū Muḥammad, the author of this letter. Jesus looked at Simon and said, "Great honor has come to you, bond with the messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family." He responded, "I accept." Then, Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, ascended the pulpit, delivered a sermon, and married me

[to Abū Muḥammad] while Jesus, the descendants of Muḥammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and the disciples were witnessing this marriage. When I woke up from sleep, I feared narrating this dream to my father and grandfather lest they kill me. So I kept it a secret in my heart and did not reveal it to anyone.

The love for Abū Muḥammad had filled my heart to such an extent that I could not eat or drink anything. As a result, I became very weak; my body became frail and I became severely ill. No Roman city remained except that its doctors had been summoned by my grandfather to come and treat me. When despair overtook him, he said, "O apple of my eye! Is there anything you desire so that I can fulfill it in this world?"

I replied, "O grandfather! I see all the doors of relief locked on me. If punishment is removed from the Muslim captives in your prison, there are chains removed, and you oblige them by releasing them, I hope that Christ and his mother may grant me health and cure me." When my grandfather did as I requested, I started putting on a little weight and ate a little food, which delighted my grandfather and he again honored the Muslim prisoners and showed munificence towards them.

After four nights, I dreamt that the Master of the Women [i.e. Fatima, peace be on her] had come to see me accompanied with Mary daughter of 'Imrān and a thousand Heavenly maids. Mary said to me, "This is the Master of All Women, the mother of your husband, Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him." On hearing this, I held her, started crying and complained to her that Abū Muḥammad was not coming to see me. The Master of all Women, peace be on her, replied, "My son Abū Muḥammad will not visit you whilst you associate others with Allah and are a Christian. My sister, Mary, too testifies before Allah, the Exalted, that she dislikes your religion.

If you desire the satisfaction of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, the satisfaction of Christ and Maryam, and desire that Abū Muḥammad visits you, then say, 'I testify that there is no God but Allah and I testify that Muḥammad—who is my father—is the Messenger of Allah.' When I uttered these words, the Master of All Women hugged me to her chest and assured me by saying, "Now wait for Abū Muḥammad to visit you because I will send him to you."

I woke up and cried out, "Oh, how much I desire to see Abū Muḥammad!" The following night, Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, came in my dream. I exclaimed, "O my beloved! You left me after you made my heart a prisoner of your love!" He replied, "Nothing kept me away from you except your

polytheism. Since you accepted Islam, I will visit you every night until Allah brings us together evidently [i.e. while awake].” Until now, his visits to me have not ceased.”

Al-Bishr continued, “I asked her, ‘How did you become a prisoner?’ She replied, ‘One night, Abū Muḥammad informed me that my grandfather would dispatch on so and so day, an army to fight against the Muslims and he will join them himself. [He told me] to join them disguised as a servant with the slave-maids who will accompany them and to take such and such path and I did accordingly.

The Muslim informers spotted us and thus, my situation is as you are seeing and witnessing. No one has found out that I am a Roman princess until now except you, and that too because I have informed you. An old man—in whose share I was given—asked me name and I hid my [real] name and said, “Narjis.” He said, “That is a name given to the slave-maids.””

Bishr continued, “I said, ‘Amazing! You are a Roman but are fluent in Arabic?’ She replied, ‘My grandfather loved me immensely. He desired to teach me lofty etiquette and hence he appointed a woman who was an interpreter to come to me. She would come in the morning and in the evening and would teach me Arabic. As a result, I learnt Arabic and became fluent in it.’”

Bishr said, “When I brought her to Sāmarrā’ and came to my master Abū I-ḥasan al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, he asked her, ‘How did Allah, the Almighty, show you the might of Islam, the humiliation of Christianity, and the excellence of the Ahl al-Bait of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family?’ She replied, ‘O son of Allah’s Messenger! How can I describe for you what you know better than me?’ He said, ‘I intend to dignify you. Which do you prefer: Ten thousand dirhams or good news for you about eternal honor?’ She replied, ‘I desire good news.’

He, peace be on him, said, ‘I give you glad-tidings about a son who will rule the East and the West of the world and will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with unfairness and injustice.’ She asked, ‘From Who?’ He, peace be on him, replied, ‘From the one whom the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, asked your hand in marriage for, in such and such night, in such and such city, and in such and such Roman year?’ She replied, ‘[You mean] from Jesus and his successor.’

He said, ‘To whom did Jesus and his successor marry you to?’ She replied, ‘To your son, Abū Muḥammad.’ He said, ‘Can you recognize him?’ She responded, ‘Ever since I became a Muslim through his mother, the master of all women, he has been coming to me in my dreams every night.’

Then (Imam) Abū I-ḥasan said, ‘O Kāfir! Summon to me my sister ʿAkma.’ When she came, he, peace be on him, said to her, ‘This is her.’ On hearing this, she hugged her for a long time and was very overjoyed. Our master advised her, ‘O daughter of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family! Take her to your house and teach her the obligatory acts and the customs [of Islam]; for, she is the wife of Abū Muḥammad and the mother of the Q’im, peace be on them.’”

The following traditions—directly and indirectly—show the above concept: 1–309, 543–545, 547, 549–558, 560–571, 574, 575, 580, 581, 589, 590, 608, 612, 614, 808–862, 864, 866–870, 873, 878, and 881–899 .

These are in addition to the fact that the mutawattir and correct traditions that confine the Caliphs to the twelve Imams—our masters, peace be on them—and also the authentic and reliable traditions which state that the earth can never be empty of a Divine Proof, can only be true if our master, the Master of the Time, has been born.

1. Kifayyat al-muhtad (al-Arba`in), p. 116, no. 30; Kashf al-`aqq (al-Arba`in), p. 24, no. 2, which mentions `aqq instead of `aiqal and `amzat b. al-`asan instead of `amzat b. al-`usayn. In the rijal books, al-`asan has been recorded; Ithbat al-hudud, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 570, no. 683.

I say: Al-Nuri, may Allah have mercy on him, writes in al-Najm al-thaqib: “The reason for the differences in the names of his revered mother becomes clear in this tradition: she was called by all of these five names.”

Fa`al b. Shadhun died after the birth of the Mahd, peace be on him, and before the martyrdom of his father Ab Muhammad al-`asan al-`Askar, peace be on him (i.e. between 255 and 260 AH). Al-Najsh says: “He was reliable (thiqa) and one of our jurists (fuqah), and dialectical theologian (mutakallim). He enjoyed great reverence and majesty in the [Shia] sect. He is so reputable that it is not possible for us to describe him.” Al-Kash has mentioned that he has written more than 150 books and even goes to mention the names of some of them. This demonstrates his proficiency in Islamic sciences and in what the people of the sects differ about, specially, the sciences of belief (`aqda), monotheism (ta`ud), Imamate, duties (far`), and etc. Al-`as has included him in his Rijal amongst the companions of (Imam) al-Hid on one occasion and (Imam) al-`Askar on another—peace be on them. He writes: “Al-Fa`al b. Shadhun was a jurist, dialectical theologian (mutakallim), and had a majestic stature. He has written many books and treatises . . . From amongst his books are Kitb al-mal`im, Kitb al-Q`im, and Kitb al-im`ma.

Regarding Muhammad b. `Al b. `amzat b. al-`asan b. `Ubaid-Allah b. al-`Abb b. `Al b. Ab `lib, peace be on him, al-Najsh writes, “Ab `Abd-Allah was reliable (thiqa), a fountain of traditions, and had correct beliefs. He has narrated traditions from (Imams) Ab I-`asan and Ab Muhammad, peace be on them, and he also had correspondences with them. The mother of the Owner of the Affair (`lib al-amr) stayed in his house after the death of (Imam) al-`asan, peace be on him.

Imam Mahd's birth, peace be on him, took place on the night of Sha`bun 15, 255 AH, as is mentioned in this noble and authentic tradition. Al-Mufid writes in al-Irshad, “The Imam after Ab Muhammad, peace be on him, was his son whose name was the same as that of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and so was his epithet. His father did not leave behind a child other than him—evident or hidden. He was occult and concealed just as we mentioned earlier. His birth took place in the night of Sha`bun 15, 255 AH. His mother was called Narjis. He was five years old when his father died. At this tender age, Allah bestowed him with wisdom just as He granted it to John (Ya`y) when he was a child. He, the Exalted, made him an Imam in his apparent childhood just as He made Jesus a prophet when he was in the cradle. Narrations about him preceded him in the Islamic nation [which were narrated] from the Prophet of Guidance, peace be on him. The same were narrated from Amr al-Mu`minin `Al b. Ab `lib, peace be on him. All the succeeding Imams gave news about him—one after the other—until [the time] of his father, (Imam) `asan al-`Askar, peace be on him. His revered father mentioned him in the presence of his reliable companions and special followers. The news of his occultation existed before his advent in this world and the prophecies about his government were abundant even before his occultation. Amongst the Imams of guidance, he is the possessor of the sword, peace be on them. He is the one who will rise with the truth and the one awaited [to establish] the government of [true] faith. Before his emergence, he will have two occultations. One will be longer than the other as has been mentioned in these traditions. The shorter one was from the time of his birth to the termination of ambassadorship between him and his Shias and the absence of emissaries because

of death. The longer one was immediately after the first one and it will end when he rises with the sword . . .”

Al-Kulaini writes in al-Kāfi: “He, peace be on him, was born on Sha`bān 15, 255 AH.” This has also been narrated by al-Karajiki in Kanz al-fawā'id and al-Shahid in al-Durūs. Al-Qāsi writes in Miṣbūḥ al-mutahajjid, “In this night was born the Successor [al-ʿujja], the Master of the Affair, peace be on him. It is recommended to recite the following supplication in this night, ‘O Allah! For the sake of this night and the one who was born in it . . .’” Shaykh al-Bahār says in Tauḥīd al-maqrūʿid, “In it—meaning the 15th day of Sha`bān—Imam Abū I-Qāsim Muḥammad al-Mahdī, the Master of the Era, was born at Sāmarrāʾ in 255 AH.” Al-ʿabris records in lʿilm al-warāʾ, “He was born in Sāmarrāʾ in the night of Sha`bān 15, 255 AH.” Al-Qāsi, in both of his Miṣbūḥs, Sayyid b. ʿAwḥad in Iqbāl al-aʿmāl, all the compilers of supplication books—according to Biḥār al-anwār—and al-Muḥadd in Masār al-Sha`a, have declared that he was born on the 15th of Sha`bān.

A group of celebrated Sunni scholars have also declared this fact. For example, ibn ʿabbāgh al-Malik writes in Fuḥūḥ al-muhimma, “Abū I-Qāsim Muḥammad al-ʿujjat b. al-ʿasan was born in Sāmarrāʾ in the night of Sha`bān 15, 255 AH . . . his mother was called ‘Narjis, the best of the maids.’ Some have said she had another name.” Ibn Khalkān writes in Wafiyat al-aʿyān, “His birth took place on Friday, Sha`bān 15, 255 AH. When his father—whom we mentioned earlier—died, he was five years old. His mother was called Khamḥ. She was also known as Narjis.” The author of Rauḥat al-ʿāfāʾ writes, “Imam Mahdī—whose name and epithet was the same as that of the Messenger [of Allah]—was born in Sāmarrāʾ in the night of Sha`bān 15, 255 AH. He was five years old when his father passed away. Allah granted him wisdom in this small age just as He did to John (Yaḥyā) when he was a child and made him an Imam in childhood just as He made Jesus a prophet.” These facts have also been declared by al-Sayyid Muḥammad Khajja Pārsī—the author of Rauḥat al-aʿbāb—and others.

There is no harm in mentioning the statements of reputable Sunni scholars concerning his birth and mentioning their names. Indeed, most of them agree with us that he is currently alive and that he will continue to live until Allah, the Exalted, gives him permission to reappear:

Al-Shaykh, ibn ʿajar al-Haytham al-Makkī al-Shāfiʿī (d. 974 AH) whom after speaking about Imam Abū Muḥammad al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, in al-ʿawāʾiq, writes: “He did not leave behind a successor except his son Abū I-Qāsim Muḥammad al-ʿujja—whose age at the time of his father’s death was five—and Allah bestowed him with wisdom [at such a young age].”

The author of Rauḥat al-aʿbāb—which was originally written in Persian—the famous traditionist, Sayyid Jamāl al-dīn ʿAbd Allah b. Sayyid Ghiyāth al-dīn Faḥr Allah b. Sayyid ʿAbd al-Raḥmān. It has been narrated that al-Qāsim ʿUsayn al-Diyārbakrī has considered this book as reliable in the beginning of his work Tārīkh al-khamīs. According to Kashf al-ʿunūn, it was written on the request of the vizier Mir ʿAlī Shāh after consulting his teacher and his cousin Sayyid Aḥmad al-dīn ʿAbd-Allah. It consists of three chapters in it. He passed away in the year one thousand AH as has been mentioned in this book. According to Kashf al-astar and al-Najm al-thaqib (in Persian), he says: “Most of the traditionists believe that the twelfth Imam—Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan, peace be on him—was born on Sha`bān 15, 255 AH at Sāmarrāʾ . . . He was his mother’s only child and her name was ʿaiqal, Sāsān, Narjis, or ʿakāma. The respected and honorable Imam’s name and epithet are the same as that of the Best of the Creations [i.e. the Holy Prophet]. His titles are Mahdī al-Muntaḥar, al-Khalaf al-ʿilī, and ʿib al-Zamān. At the time of his revered father’s death, his age was five as per authentic reports. Other reports mention he was merely two years old. Allah, the Granter of bounties, granted him wisdom in childhood just as He gave John son of Zechariah (Yaḥyā b. Zakariyyā), peace be on them. He attained the lofty position of Imamate while still a child . . . [He then mentions his desire that the Mahdī’s occultation comes to an end and says,] May Allah bless the poet who said:

Come O guiding Imam

For, awaiting has passed the limits of sorrow

Remove the veil from your shining face

The visage that is brilliant like the Sun

Come out from your place of hiding

And manifest the effects of benevolence and loyalty”

`Alī b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. `Abd-Allah al-Malik al-Makkī, known as ibn Ḥabbāgh, born in 734 AH and died in 855 AH—according to al-Ḥau' al-Ḥimī by Shams al-dīn Muḥammad b. `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Miṣrī, a disciple of ibn Ḥajar. In his book, al-Fuḥūl al-muḥimma fī ma`rifat aḥwāl al-A`imma, he has spoken about his birth and its date. He has also stated that his mother was Narjis, the best of the maids, as we earlier mentioned. Moreover, he has talked about his lineage, the names of his forefathers, their conditions, sayings, and miracles and that he is the twelfth Imam. He has also recorded some traditions in this regard.

Shaykh Shams al-dīn Abū l-Muḥaffar Yūsuf b. Qazwaghī b. `Abd-Allah, the grandson of Shaykh Jamāl al-dīn Abū l-Faraj b. al-Jauzī (d. 654 AH), the author of al-Tarīkh al-kabīr about which ibn Khalīkūn has written, “I saw it and it was 40 volumes with his hand-writing and it was titled Mir`at al-zamān.” The author of Tadhkira al-khawṣ says, “He is Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Riḥābī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on them, and his epithets are Abū `Abd-Allah and Abū l-Qāsim. He is the Successor (al-Khalaf), the Divine Proof (al-Ḥujja), Master of the Time (Ḥabīb al-Zamān), the Riser (al-Qā'im), the awaited (al-Muntaḥar), al-Tawḥīd, and the last Imam (Ḥakhir al-A`imma). `Abd al-`Azīz b. Maḥmūd b. al-Bazzāz informed us from ibn `Umar who said that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said, ‘A person from my descendants will emerge in the end of times. His name will be like my name and his epithet will be like my epithet. He will fill the earth with justice just as it will be filled with injustice; he is the Mahdī.’ This is a famous tradition. Abū Dāwūd and al-Zuhrī have recorded similar to it from `Alī. It says, ‘If only one day remains from the world, Allah will certainly send from my Ahl al-Bait one who will fill the earth with justice.’ He has been mentioned in numerous traditions and it said that he has two names: Muḥammad and Abū l-Qāsim. His mother was a female slave and she was called Ḥaiqal. Al-Suddī writes, ‘The Mahdī and Jesus will meet. When it is the time of the prayers, the Mahdī will say to Jesus, “Go ahead.” Jesus will reply, “You are more worthy of leading the prayers.” Then, Jesus will pray behind him as a follower (ma`mūm) . . .’”

Nūr al-Dīn `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Aḥmad b. Qiwām al-dīn al-Ḍaṣṭī al-Jamālī al-Ḥanafī, the poet, mystic (Ḥarif), and author of Sharḥ al-kifāya. According to Kashf al-astar, he has mentioned in his book Shawḥid al-nubuwwa that al-Ḥujjat b. al-Ḥasan is the twelfth Imam. He then discusses the strange conditions of his birth and some of his miracles and that he is the one who will fill the earth with justice and fairness. Then, he mentions Ḥakīmā's narration concerning his birth and also other narrations which state that when he was born, he immediately knelt on his knees, raised his index finger towards the sky, sneezed, and then said, “All praise is for Allah, the Lord of the Worlds.” He has also recorded the narration about the person who came to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad (al-`Askarī), peace be on him, and enquired about his successor. He went inside his house and came out with a three year old child in his arms who was [shining] like the full moon. [The Imam] then told the enquirer, “O so and so! If you were not high esteemed before Allah, I would not have shown you this boy. His name is the name of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and his epithet is his epithet. He is the one who will fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness.” He has recorded yet another tradition about a man who came to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, while there was a curtain in the room. He asked the Imam about the Master of the Affair after him. The Imam told him to raise the curtain . . . He has also mentioned the tradition about the person who was sent by al-Mu`taḥid . . .

Shaykh al-Ḥafīf Abū `Abd-Allah Muḥammad b. Yūsuf b. Muḥammad al-Kanjī (d. 658 AH)—the author of al-Bayān fī akhbār Ḥabīb al-Zamān and Kifāyat al-Ḥabīb fī man`iqib Amr al-Mu`minīn `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb. In the eighth chapter—from the chapters which he has added to the Faḥḥīl chapters of Kifāyat al-Ḥabīb—after mentioning the Imams from the descendants of Amr al-Mu`minīn, peace be on him, he writes, “He (meaning Imam `Alī al-Ḥadī, peace be on him) was succeeded by his son Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan who was born in Medina in the month of Rabī` al-Ḥakhir, 232 AH and passed away on Friday Rabī` al-Awwal 8, 260 AH, at the age of twenty eight. He was buried in his house in Sāmarrī in the same room that his father was buried. He was succeeded by his son who is the awaited Imam, Allah's blessings be on him. We will end the book with a separate section about him.”

He writes in al-Bayān fī akhbār Ḥabīb al-Zamān, “The twenty fifth chapter: the proofs about the possibility of the Mahdī's survival—peace be on him—since his occultation until now and that there is nothing impossible about it because [others like] Jesus, Ilyās, and al-Khiṣr from amongst the friends of Allah, the Exalted, and al-Dajjīl and Iblīs, the cursed enemies of Allah, have survived . . . (to the end of his long statement in this chapter).”

Abū Bakr Aḥmad b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. `Abd-Allah b. Mūsā al-Bayhaqī al-Khusraujardī al-Nāsībī, the Shāfi`ī jurist

(d. 458 AH). The author of Wafiyat al-a`yan writes about him: “The famous and great memorizer, unique in his era, outstanding amongst his companions in sciences, and amongst the greatest companions of al-Shaykh . . . in this world, he was satisfied with little.” Imam al-Qaramain says about him, “There is no follower of al-Shaykh but that they are indebted to Imam al-Shaykh except Ahmad al-Bayhaqi, for he has obliged al-Shaykh.”

According to Kashf al-astar, al-Bayhaqi writes in Shu`ab al-Iman—which is enumerated amongst his writings according to b. Khalik—“The people have differed about the Mahdi. Some have stopped at it and have left the matter to its knower. They believe that he is one of the descendants of Fatima, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. Allah will create him whenever He wills and will send him to help His religion. Another group believes that the promised Mahdi was born on Friday, Sha`ban 15, 255 AH, and he is the Imam titled the Divine Proof (al-Ujja), the Riser (al-Q'im), and the Awaited (al-Muntafar), Muhammad b. al-Hasan al-Askari. He entered the cellar (sardab) at Samarra and is alive and concealed from the eyes of the people. He awaits his emergence and he will soon reappear and fill the earth with justice and fairness just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. There is no improbability in his longevity and the prolongation of his life just like Jesus, son of Mary, and al-Khiar, peace be on them. The Shias—specially the Imamiyya—have such a belief and a group of ahl al-kashf also agree with them.”

By ahl al-kashf, he does not mean—as some scholars have suggested—al-Shaykh Mu`ayyid al-din, al-Shahrani and al-Shaykh Hasan al-Iraqi, whom God willing, we will discuss later; because, al-Bayhaqi preceded them by many years. For instance, al-Bayhaqi expired in 458 AH whilst Shaykh Mu`ayyid al-din died in 638 AH as has been claimed by al-Iraqi in the beginning of the first chapter of al-Yawziqat. Likewise, al-Shahrani lived many centuries after al-Bayhaqi. He finished writing al-Yawziqat in 955 AH. Al-Iraqi and al-Khawwari were contemporaries of al-Shahrani. Therefore, from what al-Bayhaqi has said, it is clear that he too is inclined towards this view about the Mahdi. In fact, he believes in it, otherwise he would have rejected it.

Shaykh Kamal al-din Abi Salim Muhammad b. al-Hasan al-Shaykh al-Qurashi al-Nasibi (b. 582 AH), the author of al-Iqd al-farid. It has been written about him in al-Ibraqat al-Shaykhia, “He had profound knowledge about religion and excelled in it. He heard traditions at Nisabur from al-Mu`ayyid al-Hasani and Zainab al-Shariyya and narrated (traditions) at Aleppo and Damascus. Al-Hasani al-Dimyati and Majd al-din b. al-Adam have narrated from him. He was from the chiefs of the people and became a minister in Damascus for two days, but then deserted everything including his clothes, slaves, and etc. due to asceticism. Ibn al-Hasan passed away on Rajab 7, 652 AH.

According to Yanabi` al-mawadda, p. 410, ibn al-Hasan has written in his book al-Durr al-munawwar, “Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, has a caliph who will emerge in the end of times whilst the earth will be filled with injustice and unfairness. He will fill it with justice and fairness . . . this is Imam al-Mahdi who will rise with the command of Allah and do away with all the religions, then, nothing will remain except the pure religion [of Allah] . . .”

In Ma`alib al-su`al fi man`aqib al-Rasul, which is a book in which he has mentioned the names of the twelve Imams, peace be on them, and discussed their lives. He writes, “The Eleventh chapter: Abi Muhammad al-Hasan b. `Ali, the Pure (al-Khaliq), born in 231 AH. As for his paternal and maternal lineage, his father was Abi I-Hasan `Ali al-Mutawakkil b. Muhammad al-Qasbi b. `Ali al-Riqi—whom we have already discussed earlier. His mother was called Susan. His name was al-Hasan, his epithet was Abi Muhammad, and his title was the Pure (al-Khaliq). His virtues: know that the highest virtue and greatest merit for which Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, chose for him, made him exclusive in it, and rendered it a permanent attribute—the novelty of which cannot be worn out with the passage of time nor will the tongues forget to recite and repeat—is that the Mahdi from the generation of Muhammad has been created from him, is his son that is attributed to him, and is a part of his existence which has been separated from him. God willing, we will discuss his virtues and the details of his life in the following chapter.

“The Twelfth chapter: Abi I-Qasim Muhammad b. al-Hasan al-Khaliq b. `Ali al-Mutawakkil b. Muhammad al-Qasbi b. `Ali al-Riqi b. Masi` al-Kasim b. Ja`far al-Qadi b. Muhammad al-Baqir b. `Ali Zain al-`Abidin b. al-Qasim al-Zakariya b. `Ali al-Murtaza Amir al-Mu`minin b. Abi Talib, the Guided (al-Mahdi), the Divine Proof (al-Ujja), the Righteous Successor (al-Khalaf al-Khaliq), the Awaited One (al-Muntafar), peace be on them and Allah's Mercy and His blessings. “He [then writes a poem] and praises him greatly and mentions the date of his birth, his paternal and maternal lineage, and some of the traditions about the Mahdi which he narrates from Abi Dawud, al-Tirmidhi, al-Baghawi, Muslim, al-Bukhari, and al-Thalabi. He then mentions some questions about him and answers them.”

Al-ʿaḍī Abū Muḥammad Aḥmad b. Ibrāhīm b. Ḥshīm al-Ḥās al-Balḍhurī, a resident of Ḥḥs. It has been narrated in Kashf al-astʿr from al-Samʿānī: “He was a memorizer, very understanding, and knowledgeable about the traditions . . . He was unique in his era in memorizing and preaching. He was great in socializing and was beneficial to most people. He mostly stayed in Nāsībūr where he had two congregations every week with the two teachers of the city, Abū Ḥasan al-Muḥammī and Abū Naṣr al-ʿAbdī. Abū ʿAlī al-Ḥāfiḥ and our teachers used to attend his gatherings and were joyous of him mentioning the traditions in public. I never saw them taunting him about the chains of narrators or names or traditions [that he mentioned]. He wrote [narrations] at Mecca from the Imam of the Ahl al-Bait, Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Mūsā al-Riḍī, peace be on them.

Abū l-Walīd—the jurist—writes, “Abū Muḥammad al-Balḍhurī learned (samīʿa) the Book of Jihād from Muḥammad b. Isḥāq, while his mother was ill in Ḥḥs . . . al-Ḥakīm writes, ‘He was martyred in Ḥḥir in 339 AH and he was the learned scholar of his era.’” Shah Walī-Allah al-Dihlawī—the father of ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz famous as Shah Ḥḥīb—and the author of Tuḥfat al-Ithnā ʿAshariyya fī l-raddi ʿAlī l-Immiyya, who has been described by his son like this: “The last of the mystics, the destroyer of the opposers, the chief of the muʿaddithīn, the authority of the dialectical theologians, the proof of Allah upon the worlds . . .” He writes in al-Nuzha, “My father has written in al-Musalsalāt—which is well known for its evident merits saying, ‘ibn ʿAqla verbally gave me permission to narrate everything that he had permission to narrate. I found in his series of narrators (musalsalāt) a tradition whose narrators all possessed great attributes. He, may Allah have mercy on him, had written, ‘The unrivaled of his era, Shaykh Ḥasan b. ʿAlī al-ʿAjāmī informed me from the memorizer of his time, Jamaal al-dīn al-Bḥilī, from the trusted person of his time, Muḥammad al-Ḥijāzī, the preacher, from the Sufi of his time, Shaykh ʿAbd al-Wahhāb al-Shaʿrīnī, from the mujtahid of his era, Jalāl (al-dīn) al-Suyūṭī, from the memorizer of his era, Abū Nuʿaim Riḥwānī al-ʿAqabī, from the reciter of his time, al-Shams Muḥammad b. al-Jazarī, from Imam Jamāl al-dīn Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Jamālī, the ascetic of his era, from Imam Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, the traditionist of the Persian lands in his era, from our shaykh, Ismāʿīl b. Muḥaffar al-Shirāzī, the learned one of his time, from ʿAbd al-Salām b. Abū l-Rabʿ al-Ḥanafī, the traditionist of his time, from Abū Bakr ʿAbd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. Shabbūr al-Qalnisī, the shaykh of his era, from ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz, from Muḥammad al-Ḥadamī, the Imam of his era, from Sulaimān b. Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. Sulaimān, the exceptional of his era, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Ḥshīm al-Balḍhurī, the memorizer of his time, from M-U-ʿ-A-M-M-A-D the son of al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī the concealed, the Imam of his time, from al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī, from his father, from his grandfather ʿAlī b. Mūsā al-Riḍī, peace be on them, from Mūsā al-Kāḥimī, from Jaʿfar al-Ḥadiqī, from Muḥammad al-Bḥqirī b. ʿAlī, from ʿAlī b. al-Ḥusayn Zayn al-ʿAbidīn al-Sajjīd, from al-Ḥusayn, the chief of the martyrs, from ʿAlī b. Abū Ḥḥīb, the chief of the successors, peace be on them, who said, “The Chief of the Prophets, Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, informed me from Gabriel, the Chief of the Angels, from Allah, the Exalted, the chief of all chiefs, Who said, ‘Verily, I am Allah and there is no god but Me. Whoever confesses to My Oneness, enters My Fort, and whoever enters My Fort, is safe from My punishment.’”” Al-Shams b. al-Jazarī says, “This tradition has come from a blessed chain of narrators and the responsibility of its authenticity lies on al-Balḍhurī. The aforementioned Shḥ Walī-Allah writes in his treatise al-Nawādir min ʿadāth sayyid al-awḥīl wa l-awḥkhir, ‘The narration of M-U-ʿ-A-M-M-A-D b. al-Ḥasan from his noble forefathers, whom the Shias believe to be the Mahdī: I have found in the Musalsalāt of al-Shaykh b. ʿAqla al-Makkī, from al-Ḥasan al-ʿAjāmī, from Abū Ḥḥir who was the most capable of his time regarding the chain of narrators. He says, “Informed us the unique of his era, al-Shaykh Ḥasan b. ʿAlī al-ʿAjāmī . . . (to the end of what we already mentioned),” with slight differences in some of the titles and arrangements of names.”

It has been mentioned in al-Burhān al-wujūd Ḥḥīb al-Zamīn, after mentioning what we quoted from Kashf al-astʿr: “It has been written in Shaykh ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Jabratī al-Ḥanafī’s ʿAjīb al-Ḥthūr (Egypt: 1301 AH) in the margins of ibn al-Atharī’s al-Kāmil, about the incidence of the month of Dhū l-Ḥijja in the year 1215 AH: ‘As for those who died in this year, worth mentioning is the virtuous and righteous Imam, the highly learned Shaykh, ʿAbd al-ʿAlīm b. Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. Uthmān al-Malikī al-Azharī al-Ḥarīrī, who attended the lessons of al-Shaykh ʿAlī al-Ḥāḍidī in both topics of narrating (riwāya) and dirāya and learned (samīʿa) from the ʿaḍāḥ, al-Muwattaʿ, al-Shamʿīl, al-Jamī al-Ḥaghīr, and the Musalsalāt of ibn ʿAqla. He has also narrated from al-Malwī, al-Jauharī, and al-Balḍurī . . . Whenever Allah was mentioned, he cried excessively; tears came to his eyes quickly, and he was very God-fearing. Al-Suyūṭī writes in Risālat al-tadrīb, ‘The author of Sharḥ al-nukhba mentions that a musalsal tradition leads to certainty.’ Based on these

facts, the statement of ibn al-Jazar [ؒ] ‘The responsibility of its authenticity lies on al-Bal[ؒ]dhur[ؒ]’ is unfounded and baseless. This is in addition to what he heard from al-Sam[ؒ] in favor of al-Bal[ؒ]dhur[ؒ], specially his saying, ‘I never saw them taunting him . . .’ Mu[ؒ]addith al-N[ؒ] has also mentioned this tradition in al-Najm al-th[ؒ]qib.

Al-Q[ؒ] Fa[ؒ]l b. R[ؒ]zbah[ؒ]n—the commentator of al-Tirmidh[ؒ]’s al-Sham[ؒ]’il and the author of the book, lb[ؒ] nahj al-b[ؒ]il f[ؒ] radd kit[ؒ]b kashf al-[ؒ]aqq wa nahj al-[ؒ]idq wa l-[ؒ]aw[ؒ]b, which is a refutation of Ayatullah `All[ؒ]ma al-[ؒ]ill[ؒ]’s Kashf al-[ؒ]aqq wa nahj al-[ؒ]idq wa l-[ؒ]aw[ؒ]b. The former was refuted by the great martyr al-Q[ؒ] N[ؒ]r Allah b. Shar[ؒ]f al-Mar`ash[ؒ] al-[ؒ]usayn[ؒ]—may Allah cover him with His Mercy—through his famous book l[ؒ]q[ؒ]q al-[ؒ]aqq wa izh[ؒ]q al-b[ؒ]il. The book of Fa[ؒ]l b. R[ؒ]zbah[ؒ]n was also refuted by a contemporary scholar in his book Dal[ؒ]’il al-[ؒ]idq.

Al-Q[ؒ] Fa[ؒ]l b. R[ؒ]zbah[ؒ]n, under the fifth issue of the third section in the explanation of al-[ؒ]ill[ؒ]’s view (the second concept: Concerning his wife and children . . .) writes the following, “I say: What he has been narrated about the merits of F[ؒ]’ima—Allah’s blessings be upon her father, upon her, and upon all the family of Mu[ؒ]ammad and His salutations—is undeniable. For, denying the ocean’s mercy, the richness of the earth, the light of the sun, the manifestations of all lights, the generosity of the clouds, and the prostration of the angels, is a denial that will lead to nothing but increased mockery of the denier. [The same holds true for those] who refute a group who are on the right path, the keepers of the mine of Prophethood, and the protectors of the etiquette of chivalry, blessings and salutations of Allah be upon them all. How beautiful is the poem that I have composed about them:

Salutation upon al-Mu[ؒ]raf[ؒ] al-Mujtab[ؒ]

Salutation upon al-Sayyid al-Murta[ؒ]

Salutation upon our lady F[ؒ]’ima

Whom Allah has chosen as the Best of all women

Salutation upon the one whose breath is musk

Upon [ؒ]asan the brilliant, the satisfied

Salutation upon the God-fearing [ؒ]usayn

The martyr with his body at Karbala

Salutation upon the chief of the worshippers

`Al[ؒ] b. al-[ؒ]usayn the chosen one

Salutation upon al-B[ؒ]qir the guided

Salutation upon al-[ؒ]idq the followed

Salutation upon al-K[ؒ]im the tested

Content in nature, the Imam of the pious

Salutation upon the Eighth, the trusted

Upon al-Ri[ؒ] the chief of the pure ones

Salutation upon the pious, the God-fearer

Mu[ؒ]ammad the pure, the hoped one

Salutation upon the fragrant, al-Naq[ؒ]

Upon the noble, the guide of the people

Salutation upon the Sayyid, al-`Askar[ؒ]

The Imam who will mobilized the army of the pure ones

Salutation upon the Q[ؒ]’im, the Awaited

Ab[ؒ] l-Q[ؒ]sim, the saint, the light of guidance

He will rise like the sun in darkness

He will save with his un-sheathed sword

You will see the earth filled with his justice

As it will be filled with the injustice of transgressors

Salutation be upon him and his forefathers

And his helpers as long as the skies exist”

The famous scholar, Abū Muḥammad `Abd-Allah b. Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Khashshab (d. 567 AH); According to Kashf al-astar, al-Najm al-thaqib, and A`yūn al-Sha`a, he has narrated in his book Tārīkh mawḥid al-A`imma wa wafayatihim: “Through his chain of narrators from Abū Bakr Aḥmad b. Naḥr b. `Abd Allah b. al-Fatḥ al-Darrī al-Naharawānī, from ʿadaqat b. Mūsā, from his father, from al-Riḥā, peace be on him, who said, “The righteous successor is from the descendants of Abū Muḥammad al-ʿasan b. `Alī and he is the Master of the Time and the Mahdī.’

“Al-Jarrī b. Sufyān narrated to us, from Abū I-Qāsim ʿāhir b. Ḥarīr b. Mūsā al-`Alawī, from his father Ḥarīr, from his father Mūsā, from his master Ja`far b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, who said, “The Righteous Successor (al-Khalaf al-ḥaqq) is from my descendants and he is the Mahdī. His name is M-U-ʿ-A-M-M-A-D and his epithet is Abū I-Qāsim. He will emerge in the end of times. His mother will be called ʿaiqal . . .””

I say: His book Mawḥid al-A`imma has been published and is available.

Al-Shaykh Muḥyī al-dīn Abū `Abd Allah Muḥammad b. `Alī, known as ibn al-`Arabī al-ḥimī al-ʿAndalusī (d. 638 AH)—according to what has been mentioned in Kashf al-ḥunūn. He was buried in ḥalīyya in Syria and his grave is famous and a place of visitation. Shaykh `Abd al-Wahhāb al-Sha`rānī has narrated from him in the sixty fifth chapter of al-Yawḥqūt wa l-jawāhir ([Egypt: al-Maḥba`atu l-Azhariyyat al-Miḥriyya, 1307 AH], vol. 2, p. 145). He writes: “This is what al-Shaykh Muḥyī al-dīn has said in the 366th chapter of al-Futūḥ, ‘Know that the emergence of the Mahdī, peace be on him, is inevitable but he will not emerge until the earth is full of injustice and unfairness and he will fill it with fairness and justice. If there remains from the world none but one day, Allah, the Exalted, will prolong that day until that caliph rules. He is from the progeny of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and from the descendants of Fātima, may Allah have mercy on her. His ancestor is al-ʿusayn b. `Alī b. Abū ḥalīb and his father is al-ʿasan al-`Askarī, the son of Imam `Alī al-Naqī, the son of Muḥammad al-Taqī, the son of Imam `Alī al-Riḍā, the son of Imam Mūsā al-Kāḥim, the son of Imam Ja`far al-ḥadiq, the son of Imam Muḥammad al-Baqir, the son of Imam Zain al-`abidīn, the son of Imam al-ʿusayn b. `Alī b. Abū ḥalīb, may Allah be satisfied with him. His name will be the same as that of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. The Muslims will pledge allegiance to him between the Rukn and the Maqām [in Mecca]. He will be like the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, in creation and he will be slightly lower than the Messenger of Allah in morality because no one can be equal to him in this attribute. Allah, the Exalted, says, “And surely you are on a great morality” (Quran 68:4). He will have a wide forehead and an aquiline nose. The most fortunate of the people with respect to him will be the residents of Kūfa. He will distribute wealth equally and be just towards the citizens. A man will come to him and ask [for wealth] in a time that there is wealth before him. He will fill the man’s cloth with so much wealth that he will not be able to carry it . . .” He then mentions his attributes, characteristics, and deeds. The learned teacher Shaykh Muḥammad al-ḥubbānī has recorded the exact same words from al-Futūḥ in his book Is`āf al-rāghibīn ([Egypt: al-Maḥba`atu al-Maymaniyya, 1312 AH], chap. 2, p. 142).

I could not find this exact statement in what I observed in other copies [of al-Futūḥ] like the copy published in Egypt by Dīr al-Kutub al-`Arabiyya. Its wording differs with what is found in al-Yawḥqūt. I feel that those who distort the words from their places have altered the book and erased the Imam’s noble lineage. Such distortions and alterations are commonplace in the books published in Egypt. By Allah, indeed, this is a great crime inflicted against knowledge, religion, the Islamic nation, and those who seek the truth. It seems that they consider it obligatory upon themselves to make such changes and distortions whenever they find in a book the virtues and merits of the Ahl al-Bait of the Prophet and his heirs and what doesn’t conform to their whims and desires. May Allah grant refuge to us and them from prejudice and obstinacy!

The following is part of a poem by Shaykh Muḥyī al-dīn in al-Futūḥ, chap. 366:

He is the Chief, the Mahdī from the progeny of Aḥmad

He is the Indian sword when he destroys

He is the sun that dispels sorrows and darkness

He is like the monsoon rain that pours heavily when he bestows

Regarding the Mahdī and his ministers, some lines of poetry have also been narrated from him in Yanābī al-mawadda, p. 467, citing his book `Unaqī al-maghrib

Al-Shaykh Sa`d al-dīn Muḥammad b. al-Mu`ayyid b. Abī l-Ḥusayn b. Muḥammad b. Ḥammawayh, known as Shaykh Sa`d al-dīn al-Ḥimawī. He has written a book exclusively about the Master of the Time (Ḥabīb al-Zamān), which is in accordance with the beliefs of the Shias as has been narrated from `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Jamī in Mir`at al-asrār from the author of al-Maqḥad al-aqḥ. He has also narrated from the author of al-`Aqḥid al-Nasafiyya that the mentioned Sa`d al-dīn had declared the Imamate of the Mahdī and that he is the Master of the Time (Ḥabīb al-Zamān), peace be on him, the last of the twelve heirs, and that there are no more than these twelve Imams. Allah, the Exalted, has made them His representatives in the religion of Muḥammad, and the Messenger of Allah was referring to them when he said, “The scholars are the inheritors of the prophets” and “The scholars of my nation are like the Israelite prophets.”

The author of Yanābī al-mawadda writes on p. 474: “It has been written in the book of Shaykh `Azīz b. Muḥammad al-Nasafī, may Allah have mercy on him, “The Shaykh of the Shaykhs, Sa`d al-dīn al-Ḥimawī, says that ‘prior to our Prophet Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him, the word ‘guardian’ (walī) was not used in previous religions but the word ‘prophet’ (nabī) was used. All those who were close to Allah and were the inheritors of the bringers of [new] religions were called ‘prophets.’ In every religion, there was not more than one bringer of religion. Therefore, in the religion of Adam, peace be on him, there were some prophets who were his inheritors. They invited the people towards his religion and his sharia. The same was the case in the religions of Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, peace be on them. With the advent of the new religion and sharia of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, Allah, the Exalted, chose twelve people from his Ahl al-Bait and appointed them as his inheritors. He made them close to Himself and singled them out for his guardianship (wilāya). He appointed them as the representatives of Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, and his inheritors. The traditions, ‘The scholars are the inheritors of the prophets,’ and ‘The scholars of my nation are like the Israelite prophets,’ was said by him in their favor. The last successor—which is the last and twelfth representative—is the seal of the successors. His name is Mahdī, the Master of the Time. Shaykh says that there are no more than twelve successors in the world; but those 356 hidden people are not called successors (auliyya’), rather, they are called substitutes (al-Abdī).”

I say: This can be found in al-Nasafī’s al-Insān al-kāmil ([Tehran], p. 319), with minor variations.

Abī-Mawḥib al-Shaykh `Abd al-Wahhīb b. Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Sha`rānī (d. 973 AH [according to one place in Kashf al-Ḥunūn; in another place 960 AH has been mentioned]) says in al-Yawḥiqat wa l-jawāhir, ([Egypt: al-Maḥba`atu al-Azhariyyat al-Miḥriyya], vol. 2, p. 145): “The 65th chapter: All the ‘conditions of the Hour’ (ashrāt al-s`a) which have been mentioned in the traditions, will inevitably occur before the Hour is established. Things like the emergence of the Mahdī . . . and he is from the descendants of Imam Ḥasan al-`Askarī, and his birth, peace be on him, took place on the night of Sha`bān 15, 255 AH, and he will remain until he unites with Jesus, son of Mary, peace be on him. Today—i.e. the year 958 AH—his age is 706 years. Shaykh Ḥasan al-`Irāqī who is buried at Egypt has informed me like this from Imam al-Mahdī when he met him. This has also been endorsed by our Shaykh, my master, `Alī al-Khawwānī, may Allah have mercy on them both.”

Al-Shaykh Ḥasan al-`Irāqī (the aforementioned). He has mentioned the Ḥujja and his meeting with him as has been narrated by al-Sha`rānī in Lawḥiqī al-anwār fī ḥabāqat al-akhyār ([Egypt: 1305 AH], vol. 2, p. 140). After narrating the journey of Ḥasan al-`Irāqī he has narrated from this book: “I asked the Mahdī about his age. He replied, ‘O my son! Today my age is 620 years.’ . . .” Al-Sha`rānī writes, “I mentioned this to my master `Alī al-Khawwānī and he agreed with him about the age of the Mahdī, may Allah have mercy on him.”

The aforementioned Shaykh `Alī al-Khawwānī. He was called al-Khawwānī because he made crafts using palm-leaves. Al-Sha`rānī has greatly praised him in Lawḥiqī al-anwār (vol. 2, pp. 151–170).

Ḥusayn b. Muḥsin al-dīn al-Maybudī. In his commentary on Imam `Alī’s Dīwān, peace be on him, under the poem which starts with the following line:

O my sons! When the Turks mobilize their armies then await
the rule of a Mahdī, who will rise and be just

He writes on p. 371, “I hope that the Almighty Lord illuminates my eyes by the precious kohl of the dust of his feet. May the sun of his great reality shine on the door and roof of our personalities. Indeed, this is not difficult for Allah.” On p. 123, he has declared his birth and its date.

Al-ʿAṣṣafi Muḥammad b. Muḥammad Maṣmūd al-Bukhārī, known as Khajja Pārsī who is one of the celebrated Ṣānaʿī scholars and one of the great Naqshbandī teachers. According to Kashf al-Ḥunūn, he passed away in 822 AH. He writes in his book Faḥl al-khiṭāb: “The son of Abī Muḥammad al-ʿAsan al-ʿAskarī, M-U-Ḥ-A-M-M-A-D, was known to his father’s close companions and the trusted ones of his family. (He then mentions the narrative of al-ʿAkma and the incident of al-Muṭaʿid and some of the signs of his reappearance, then he says,) Traditions in this regard are more than can be enumerated. The virtues of the Mahdī, the Master of the Time, who is hidden from the eyes and is present in every era, are numerous. There are many narrations that talk about his reappearance, the resplendence of his light, him renewing the sharia of Muḥammad, fighting in the way of Allah as it should be fought, cleaning all of earth from all impurities, his era is the era of the pious, his companions are free from skepticism and doubt, free from defects, they follow his guidance and his path, they receive the truth through him, through him caliphate and Imamate will end, he is the Imam since his father passed away until the Day of Judgment, and Jesus, peace be on him, will pray behind him and will confirm his claim and will call the people towards his religion which is the one brought by the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family.” Al-Nūrī has narrated this from him in Kashf al-astar. His statements about the birth of the Mahdī, his occultation, and concealment have also been narrated from him in Yanḥabʿ al-mawadda (p. 451).

Al-ʿAṣṣafi Abī I-Fatḥ Muḥammad b. Abī I-Fawrīs. In his al-Arbaʿīn—a copy of its manuscript is available in the Ḥastīne Quds library (Mashhad, Iran)—he has narrated the following tradition: “He who loves to meet Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, while He is facing him, then he should accept the guardianship of ʿAlī to the last of the twelve.” At the end of his statement—according to what is recorded in this book—he says, “I was inclined towards their excellence and merits (meaning the Ahl al-Bait) after I moved along with the sects and understood them. The truth became clear for me and I recognized it. The path became obvious so I tread it with clear witnesses and authentic and evident traditions. I was informed of them by reliable, pious, and religious people. I have conveyed them just as they were narrated to me.”

Abī I-Majd ʿAbd al-ʿAqq al-Dihlawī al-Bukhārī who authored many books. It has been narrated that his books were in excess of one hundred volumes. He passed away in 1052 AH. According to Kashf al-astar, he has written in his treatise about the Imams and their virtues, peace be on them, “The son of Abī Muḥammad al-ʿAsan al-ʿAskarī [is called] M-U-Ḥ-A-M-M-A-D who was known to his special and trusted companions.” Thereafter, he mentions the story of his birth in Persian.

According to Yanḥabʿ al-mawadda (p. 472) and the sixth session of Majlis al-muʿminīn, Al-Shaykh Aḥmad al-Jīmī al-Nīmiqī has composed the following poem (in Persian):

Because of ʿAidār’s love, every moment, I feel serenity in my heart
After ʿAidār, al-ʿAsan is our Imam and guide

Like a dog, I am lying in his court
The dust on al-ʿUsayn’s shoe is the kohl of my eyes

The Worshipper is my crown and al-Baqir the light of my eyes
Al-Jaʿfar’s religion is the truth and al-Mūsā’s religion should be followed

O Servants! Hear the characteristics of the King of Khurāsān
A speck of his grave’s dust cures the ill and needy

O Muslims! Al-Taḥqīq is the leader of the faithful
You love al-Nāḩiq and everyone else should too

Al-ʿAskarī is the light of the eyes of all men and creatures
Where can anyone find a commander like the Mahdī

The Poets compose for the hope of acquiring gold and silver

Amad al-Jam is the special servant of the King of the Guardians

Al-Shaykh Farid al-din Muhammad al-`Asqar al-Nisaburi, who—according to Majlis al-mu'minin—was killed in 627 or 589 AH. According to Yanabi al-mawadda (p. 473), he composed the following poem in his book Muahir al-`ifit:

In the world, Mustafa is the seal of the Prophets

Murta is obviously the seal of the successors

All of `aidar's children are successors

They are all one light, as the Lord has said

After mentioning the names of the Imams he continues:

There are hundreds of thousands of saints on earth

Who are definitely asking Allah for the Mahd

O Lord! Bring the Mahd out of occultation

So that the world of justice becomes manifest

Mahd the guider, is the crown of the pious

The best of the creations and the tower of the saints

O seal of the successors of this era!

You are hidden from everything, O spirit of our lives!

O both manifest and hidden!

Your servant, al-`Asqar, has come to praise you

Jal al-din Muhammad al-Balkh al-Ram, the famous mystic, better known as al-Maulaw (d. 672). According to Yanabi al-mawadda (p. 473), he has composed in his large Dewan—which is arranged in alphabetical order—the following poem:

O lord of the men, `Al, the joyous salute you

O lion of the men, `Al, the men salute you

. . . (to where he says)

Tell the killer of the infidels, tell religion and the religious

Tell `aidar, the continuous attacker, that the joyous salute him

Tell the Durj of the two jewels, tell the constellation of the two stars

Tell Shabbar and Shabar that the joyous salute them

Tell the ornament of religion, the worshipper, tell the light of religion, al-Baqir

Tell Ja`far al-`adiq that the joyous salute them

Tell Mas al-Khim, tell the one from al-`is

Tell al-Taq, the riser, that the joyous salute them

Tell the prince of religion, al-Had, tell the guided one, al-`Askar,

Tell the successor, al-Mahd, that the joyous salute them

Shaykh al-din al-`afad (d. 764 AH), who knew the secrets of the alphabet. According to Yanabi al-mawadda, he has said in his book Shar al-d`ira, "The promised Mahd is the twelfth Imam from the Imams; the first of whom is our master `Al and the last of them who is the Mahd, may Allah be satisfied with all of them."

Al-Maulaw `Al Akbar b. Asad-Allah al-Mu`ad, who is one of the more recent Indian scholars. According to Kashf al-astar (p. 80) and Istiq al-af`im (p. 98), in his book al-Mukshif—which he wrote in the margins of `Abd al-Ram al-Jam's Nafa al-uns—he has explicitly stated in the forty-fifth chapter, the Imamate and infallibility of al-`ujat b. al-`asan al-`Askar and his forefathers to Amir al-Mu'minin `Al. He states that the Mahd was the pole (qub) [of the

mystics] after his father al-ʿAsan al-ʿAskari, peace be on them, who too was a quṭb after his father—proceeding in this manner to Imam ʿAlī b. Abī Ḥabīb. Moreover, he was concealed from the eyes of the ordinary people as well as the elite except for the very, very special ones. He then speaks about the infallibility of the twelve Imams.

Shaykh ʿAbd al-Raḥmān the author of *Mirʿat al-asrār*, who was one of the greatest ṣūfī shaykhs. Shih Walī-Allah al-Hindī al-Dihlawī—the father of Shih ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz, the author of *Tuḥfat al-lithn ʿAshariyya*—has narrated from him.

According to al-Najm al-thaqib and *Kashf al-astār*, he has written the following in *Mirʿat al-asrār*: “The Sun of religion and governance, the guide of the entire nation, the successor of Aḥmad, and the true Imam, Abī l-Qāsim Muḥammad b. ʿAsan al-Mahdī, may Allah be satisfied with him, is the twelfth Imam from the Imams of the Ahl al-Bait. His mother was a female slave and was called Narjis. His birth took place on the night of Friday, Shaʿbān 15, 255 AH . . . His name and epithet is like that of the Messenger [of Allah]. His titles are: Mahdī, ʿUjja, Qāʾim, Muntazar, Ḥabīb al-Zamān, and Khṭam lithn ʿAshar. He was five when his father Imam ʿAsan al-ʿAskari passed away and he was appointed as an Imam [at this young age], just as Allah, the Exalted, granted wisdom to John (Yaʿyū), son of Zachariah, in childhood, and gave high stature to Jesus while he was an infant. He became an Imam at a young age and his miracles are more than can be mentioned here. (He then mentions what the aforementioned Shaykh Muḥyī al-dīn al-ʿArabī has said, then continues,) Our master ʿAbd al-Raḥmān Jāmī was a well-experienced ṣūfī who followed the Shāfiʿī sect. He has written about the birth and occultation of Imam Muḥammad b. ʿAsan al-ʿAskari, peace be on him, in great detail in his book *Shawḥid al-nubuwwa*. He has extensively narrated from the Imams of the Ahl al-Bait and the authors of biographies. The author of *Maqādi aqṣā* writes, ‘Shaykh Saʿd al-dīn al-ʿimawī—the successor of Najm al-dīn—has written a book about Imam Mahdī and has spoken about a lot of related subjects to such an extent that no other creation can write [such a book]. When he reappears, absolute guardianship will become manifest and the differences between sects, unfairness, and evil will be completely uprooted—like it has been mentioned in prophetic traditions about his characteristics. These traditions state that the Mahdī will reappear in the end of times and will cleanse every corner of the earth from injustice and unfairness. Then, only one religion will remain. If the Antichrist (al-Dajjī), the evil-doer, can be alive and hidden, Jesus, peace be on him, can be born and concealed from the people, then it is no surprise if the son of the Holy Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, Imam Muḥammad Mahdī b. ʿAsan al-ʿAskari, peace be on him, is too covered from the eyes of the masses, and like Jesus and the Antichrist, will reappear on Allah’s Command. It is not strange that some great scholars have denied some concepts related to Mahdawiyya. It is wrong to deny these facts out of sheer prejudice.

Some of al-Shaʿrānī’s teachers; According to Yanḥūb al-mawadda (p. 470): “Shaykh ʿAbd al-Wahhāb al-Shaʿrānī has written in his book *al-Anwār al-qudsiyya*, ‘Some of our teachers have acknowledged that “We pledged allegiance to Imam al-Mahdī in Damascus and stayed with him for seven days.” Shaykh ʿAbd al-Laṭīf al-ʿalabī said to me in the year 1273 AH, “My father, Shaykh Ibrāhīm, may Allah have mercy on him, said ‘I heard from some Egyptian ṣūfī saints that they pledged allegiance to Imam Mahdī.’””

The lord of the scholars, al-Qāṣim Shihāb al-dīn b. Shams al-dīn al-Dawlatābādī (d. 849 AH), the author of *Manḥiq al-sūdūt* and the *Tafsīr al-Bahr al-mawwāj*—both in Persian—and *al-Manḥiq al-mausūm bi hidḡyat al-suʿad*. According to al-Najm al-thaqib and *Kashf al-astār*, in the latter, he has clearly declared the Imamate of the twelve Imams and their names. He has narrated the Tradition of the Tablet (*ʿadth lau*) and has said about al-ʿUjjat b. al-ʿAsan, peace be on him, “He is in occultation and has a long life like Jesus, Ilyās, and al-Khiṣr from amongst the believers and al-Dajjī and al-Sūmirī from amongst the infidels.”

I say: Refer to al-Hidḡya, the second manifestation from the thirteenth guidance.

Shaykh Sulaimān b. Shaykh Ibrāhīm, known as Khāja Kalīn al-ʿusaynī al-Balkhī al-Qundūzī (d. 1294 AH), the author of *Yanḥūb al-mawadda*. He has mentioned in a number of places of this book, Imam Mahdī’s life, his miracles, his birth date, his lineage, and some of the traditions that are related to him. After mentioning the views about the date of his birth, he writes on page 452, “The news regarded obvious and verified by reliable scholars, is that the Qāʾim, peace be on him, was born on Friday night, Shaʿbān 15, 255 AH in Sūmarr . . .”

Shaykh ʿImir b. ʿImir al-Baḥrī, the composer of *al-Qaḥḥat al-Tāʾiyya* or *Dhāt al-anwār*, comprised of twelve [sections called] lights, concerning knowledge, judgment, secrets, and etiquette. According to *Kashf al-astār*, he has written in the ninth light—which is about the recognition of the Master of the Time and his reappearance—a poem which starts with the following line:

O Imam of guidance! Until when will you be occult

Oblige us O father by paying attention to us

Al-Qadī Jawād al-Sabbāghī, who was a Christian and converted to Islam and wrote al-Barḥān al-Sabbāghīya fī l-radd `alā l-Naḥḥīya in refutation of the Christians. According to al-Najm al-thaqib and Kashf al-astar—after mentioning the differences between the Muslims about the Mahdī—he writes: “The view of the Imāmiyya [i.e. Shias] is closer [to the truth] as it is more in conformity with the divine texts (al-naḥḥīya).”

Shaykh Abū l-Ma`ādr al-dīn al-Qanawī, the author of Tafsīr al-Fatīḥa, Miftāḥ al-ghayb, and etc. Kashf al-astar has reported that he has composed a poem which starts like this: “He will rise by Allah’s order . . .” He has also said to his students in his will, “Sell what books I have in my library on the topics of medicine, wisdom, and philosophy and give its money in charity to the needy. Keep the Tafsīr, Hadith, and Sufism books in the library. Recite the word of oneness, ‘There is no god but Allah’ seventy thousand times in the first night [of my death] with utmost attention of the heart and convey my salām to the Mahdī, peace be on him.”

The great learned scholar `Abd Allah b. Muḥammad al-Maḥḥī has clearly talked about him in his book al-Riyāz al-ḥīra fī faḥḥ al-Bait al-Nabī wa `itratih al-ḥīra. According to Kashf al-astar, he has named the Imams one after the other, and he says: “The eleventh is his son, al-ḥasan al-`Askarī, may Allah be satisfied with him. The twelfth is his son, Muḥammad al-Qaḥīm al-Mahdī, may Allah be satisfied with him. Divine texts are available about him in the Islamic nation which date back to the Prophet Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him [and his family], his ancestor `Alī b. Abī ḥlib, may Allah approve of him, and from his other noble, high statured forefathers. He is the Possessor of the Sword, the Riser, and the Awaited one, as has been mentioned in authentic traditions. Before his emergence, he will have two occultations . . .”

The author of Kashf al-astar writes, “The manuscript which I used was very old and belonged to the author himself. In his own hand-writing he had written on the cover, ‘al-Riyāz al-ḥīra fī faḥḥ al-Bait al-Nabī wa `itratih al-ḥīra, written by the needy toward Allah, `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad al-Maḥḥī al-Madanī, follower of the Shī`ī religion, the Ash`arī belief, and the Naqshbandī path. May Allah benefit us from their blessings, Amen.”

Shaykh al-Islam Abū l-Ma`ādr Muḥammad Sirj al-dīn al-Rif`ī al-Makhzūmī, the honorable Sharḥ. According to Kashf al-astar, he has mentioned in his book al-akhbār fī nasab al-sadat al-Fatīmiyya al-akhīr, under the biography of Abū l-ḥasan al-Ḥadī, peace be on him: “Imam `Alī al-Ḥadī, the son of Imam Muḥammad al-Jawād, peace be on them. His titles are: al-Naqī, al-ḥalīm, al-Faqīh, al-Amīr, al-Dalīl, al-`Askarī, and al-Najīb. He was born in Medina in 212 AH and was martyred with poison during the reign of al-Mu`tazz al-`Abbāsī on Monday, Rajab 3, 254 AH. He had five children: Imam ḥasan al-`Askarī, al-ḥusayn, Muḥammad, Ja`far, and `īsha. Al-ḥasan al-`Askarī was succeeded by the Companion of the Cellar, al-ḥujja, the Awaited One, the Guardian assigned by Allah, Imam al-Mahdī, peace be on him. Mīr Khānd, the famous historian, Muḥammad b. Khāwand Shāh b. Maḥmūd (d. 903 AH [according to Kashf al-ḥunīn]). He has mentioned his birth, life, and miracles in the third volume of Tārīkh rauḥat al-ḥafī.

Naḥr b. `Alī al-Jahḥāmī al-Naḥrī, one of the great and reliable Sunni scholars. According to al-Najm al-thaqib, he has talked about his birth, his mother’s name, and his janitors name. He is the same Naḥr about whom the First Martyr (al-Shahīd al-Awwal) has said, “He stated in the presence of al-Mutawakkil that the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, held (Imam) al-ḥasan and al-ḥusayn’s hands and declared, ‘Whoever loves me, these two, and their mother, will be with me in my rank in Paradise.’ On hearing this, al-Mutawakkil ordered that he be whipped one thousand times. Abū Ja`far `Abd al-Wahīd said, ‘He is a Sunnī!’ and so he was pardoned.”

Shaykh al-Islam, the great traditionist, Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. al-Mu`ayyid al-Juwainī al-Khurāsānī (d. 730 AH). In his book Farḥīd al-simāin (published in two large volumes), he has mentioned his birth in a number of places and has recorded traditions which speak about him and about the twelve Imams, peace be on them.

Al-Qadī al-Muḥaqqiq Buhārī Bahjat Afandī, the author of al-Muhākama fī tārīkh Muḥammad in Turkish which was translated into Persian. It has been published several times due to demand from the readers. It is truly an excellent book which has investigated important incidents in history and removed the numerous veils placed on historical events by prejudiced writers and historians. In this book, he has explicitly talked about the Imamate of the twelve Imams, some of their merits and conditions, the birth of the twelfth Imam—and that he was born on Sha`bān 15, 255 AH—the name of his mother was Narjis, that he had two occultations: the minor and major, that he is alive and will appear when Allah, the Exalted, permits him to do so, and he will fill the earth with fairness and justice. He also writes, “His [eventual] appearance

is agreed upon by all Muslims, and hence, there is no need to prove it.” He then praises him with great words and mentions some of his attributes and signs.

Shaykh Shams al-dīn Muḥammad b. Yusuf al-Zarandī who according to Ilzām al-nātib, has written in his book Miʿrāj al-wuḥūd ilā maʿrifat faḍilat al-Rasūl: “The twelfth Imam is the possessor of famous miracles whose stature is because of his great knowledge and him following the truth and the traditions of the Prophet. He will rise with the truth and will invite the people to the right path. He is Imam Abū I-Qāsim Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan.” He then mentions his birth date.

Shams al-dīn al-Tabrizī—the teacher of Maulawī Jalāl al-dīn al-Rūmī. Kashf al-astar has cited Yanīb al-mawadda as stating that he has acknowledged the birth of the Mahdī.

The famous historian, Ibn Khaliq in Wafiyat al-aʿyān. We already mentioned what he has said in the section about his birth and its history.

Ibn al-Azraq, the famous historian in Tārīkh mayyūfīrīqān (according to what has been narrated by Ibn Khaliq in Wafiyat al-aʿyān).

Mawlā `Alī al-Qāṣim whom according to Ilzām al-nātib and Kashf al-astar, has mentioned in his book al-Mirqāt fī sharḥ al-mishkāt, the names of the twelve Imams and pointed to some of their virtues and miracles.

The great ṣūfī saint for whom `Abd al-Raḥmān al-Ḥafīf’s book Mirʿat al-asrar was written about (as reported in Kashf al-astar).

The famous historian Ibn al-Wardī. According to Naṣr al-abḥār (chap. 2, p. 153), he has written in his Tārīkh, “Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan, the purified one, was born in 255 AH.”

Al-Sayyid Muʾmin b. Ḥasan al-Shablanjī, the author of Naṣr al-abḥār. He writes in chapter 2, page 152: “The section concerning the virtues of Muḥammad b. Ḥasan al-Khāliq b. `Alī al-Ḥadī b. Muḥammad al-Jawād b. `Alī al-Riḍā b. Mūsā al-Kāṣim b. Jaʿfar al-Ḥadīq b. Muḥammad al-Baqir b. `Alī Zayn al-ʿAbīdīn b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, may Allah be satisfied with them. His mother was a female slave and her name was Narjis. Others have said ʿAqā and Sāsān. His epithet is Abū I-Qāsim and the Shias have given him the titles of al-Ḥujja (the Divine Proof), al-Mahdī (the Guided), al-Qāʾim (the Riser), al-Muntaḥar (the Awaited), and Ḥabīb al-ʿamān (the Master of the Time). The most famous of these is al-Mahdī.”

Shaykh al-Nassāba Abū I-Fawz Muḥammad Amīn al-Baghdādī al-Suwaydī, the author of Sabʿīk al-dhahab fī maʿrifat qabḥil al-ʿArab. He has mentioned the names of the twelve Imams and some of their merits and virtues. He mentions Imam Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī in chap. 6, p. 77. He writes on p. 78, “Muḥammad al-Mahdī whose age was five when his father passed away. He had an average figure, pleasant visage and hair, an aquiline nose, and a wide forehead.”

Shaykh al-Islām Ibrāhīm b. Saʿd al-dīn which has already been mentioned.

Chief of the Imams, ʿIyāʾ al-dīn Muwaffaq b. Aḥmad al-Khāṣṣ al-Malikī al-Kh̄wrazmī, who was the most eloquent of the speakers of Kh̄wrazm (according to Kashf al-astar). He has recorded traditions in al-Manḥiqib that clearly establish this point.

Al-Mawlā Ḥusayn b. `Alī al-Kāshif—the author of Jawāhir al-tafsīr—who according to Kashf al-ʿunḥān died in 906 AH. It has been mentioned in Kashf al-astar that some of the knowledgeable have attributed this belief to him and Kashf al-astar has narrated some of his views that show his inclination towards it.

Al-Sayyid `Alī b. Shihāb al-Hamdānī has openly stated this in the tenth chapter of his book al-mawadda fī l-qurbā.

Al-Shaykh Muḥammad al-Ḥubbān al-Mīrī (d. 1206 AH), as is apparent in some of his words in Isʿaf al-r̄ghībān.

The Abbasid caliph, al-Nāṣir Li-dīn Allah Aḥmad b. al-Mustaʿṣim Bi-Naṣr Allah. According to Kashf al-astar and Ilzām al-nātib he ordered that the building of the noble cellar (sardāb) be reconstructed and a wooden window be placed in the room on top of it. It was inscribed on the window: “In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. ‘Say, “I do not ask you for any reward for it except the love of the close ones,” and whoever does a good deed, We will increase it for him in goodness. Surely, Allah is Forgiving and Grateful’ (Quran, 42:23). This was ordered to us by our master—the leader whose obedience is obligatory on all the creatures—Abū I-ʿAbbās Aḥmad al-Nāṣir Li-dīn Allah, the commander of the faithful, the caliph of the Lord of the Worlds, whose kindness has covered the lands and his mercy and grace is prevalent in the countries. May Allah establish his affairs with continuation of success and facilitation, decorate them with help and support, make for his eternal days a limit . . . And Allah suffices for us and He is the best of those relied upon. Allah’s blessings be upon our master, the seal of the Prophets, and upon his pure family and progeny.”

Inside the room, it was also inscribed on wood and hung on the walls: “In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Muḥammad the Messenger of Allah, Amr al-Mu’minin `Alī Walī Allah, Fātima, al-ʿasan b. `Alī, al-ʿusayn b. `Alī, `Alī b. al-ʿusayn, Muḥammad b. `Alī, Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad, Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, `Alī b. Mūsā, Muḥammad b. `Alī, `Alī b. Muḥammad, al-ʿasan b. `Alī, the Riser with the truth, peace be on them. This is the work of `Alī b. Muḥammad who loves the family of Muḥammad, may Allah have mercy on him.”

The author of Kashf al-astar also says: If al-Nawair did not believe that the cellar (sardab) was related to the Mahdī and was the place of his birth, occultation, or miracles (and not the place of his residence during his major occultation as has been attributed to the Shias by some ignorant people, which has absolutely no basis in their books, old or new), he would not have ordered for it to be renovated or decorated. If the beliefs of the scholars of his time were contrary to this and they had rejected the Mahdī’s birth, it would have been very difficult or almost impossible for the caliph to undertake such a project. Inevitably, if there was a consensus amongst the scholars [of his time] that the Mahdī had not been born, it would have been fairly impossible for al-Nawair to do what he had done. The reason we mentioned al-Nawair in this category is because of the advantages he had like his merits, science, and being enumerated amongst the traditionists. Ibn Sukayna, ibn al-Akḥar, ibn al-Najjir, and ibn al-Damghani have all narrated from him.

I say: These inscriptions still exist in the noble cellar. We have seen and read them many times. Refer to the book Dalil Sāmarrī by Yūnus al-Shaykh Ibrāhīm al-Sāmarrī, pp. 33–36 and you will find all of these in it. According to the book Nasmat al-saʿar bi dhikr man tashayya`a wa sha`ar, vol. 1, p. 253, it appears that al-Nawair considered himself the representative of the Mahdī, peace be on him. This has also been reported from al-Dhahab.

The author of the book Shadharat al-dhahab, Abū I-Falāh `Abd al-ʿayy b. al-`Imād al-ʿanbalī (d. 1089 AH), has declared the birth of the Mahdī in the second section of his book, pp. 141 & 150.

Shaykh `Abd al-Raḥmān Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Aḥmad al-Basāmī, who according to Yanḥbū` al-mawadda (p. 401), has said in Durrat al-ma`rif, “The Mahdī is the most knowledgeable and forbearing of the people. He has a mole on his right cheek and he is from the descendants of al-ʿusayn.” According to Yanḥbū` al-mawadda, he has composed some poetry about him [these can be found in the original Arabic edition of the current book—Ed.].

Shaykh `Abd al-Karīm al-Yamānī, the author of Yanḥbū` al-mawadda writes on p. 466, “The majestic Shaykh, `Abd al-Karīm al-Yamānī, writes and confers his knowledge upon us . . .” He then mentions some lines of poetry composed by him about the Mahdī.

Al-Sayyid al-Nasīm whom Kashf al-astar has quoted citing Yanḥbū` al-mawadda.

`Imād al-dīn al-ʿanafī: According to Kashf al-astar, some of the distinguished scholars have attributed this belief to him. The respected scholar `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad al-Maḥḥirī in al-Riyā al-ḥira fī faḥlī Bait al-Nabī wa `itratih al-ḥira. He begins this book by including all of Imam Jalāl al-dīn al-Suyūṭī’s treatise called Iyyū` al-mayyit bi-faḥlī Ahl al-Bait `alayhim al-salām, which is comprised of sixty traditions. He has extended these traditions to 151 and he writes in the last one, “From the seed of al-ʿusayn b. `Alī will be the Mahdī who will be sent in the end of times. . . The first Imam is `Alī b. Abū ḥlib, peace be on him . . . (he names each one of the Imams until he says) The eleventh Imam is his son, al-ʿasan al-`Askarī, and the twelfth is his son Muḥammad al-Qāʾim al-Mahdī. Divine texts concerning him have preceded him in the Islamic nation from the Prophet Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, his ancestor `Alī b. Abū ḥlib, and from his other noble and high statured forefathers. He is the Possessor of the Sword, the Riser, the Awaited.”

The virtuous scholar, Rashīd al-dīn al-Dihlawī al-Hindī. According to the book al-Imām al-thānī `ashar, he has recorded in his book Iḥfāfat al-maqāl, what Khāja Pīrs has said in Faḥlī al-khibb and has agreed with him.

Shaykh Walī Allah al-Dihlawī, the father of the author of al-Tuḥfa fī kitāb al-nuzha, and many others who have narrated the tradition about the Musalsalat which we mentioned under al-Balḥdur (refer to no. 9).

Shaykh Aḥmad al-Farīqī al-Naqshbandī, known as the ‘Restorer of the Second Millennium’ (al-mujaddid fī l-alf al-thānī) as has been recorded in al-`Abqar al-ʿisnī citing al-Makṭūb (vol. 3, letter 123).

Abū I-Walīd Muḥammad b. Shaḥna al-ʿanafī. In his history book known as Rauḥat al-manḥūr fī akhbār al-awḥl wa l-awḥkhir, which has been published in the margins of Murāj al-dhahab ([Egypt: al-Maḥba`atu al-Azhariyya al-Miḥriyya, 1303 AH], vol. 1, p. 294). He writes: “This al-ʿasan (meaning al-ʿasan al-`Askarī, peace be on him) was granted a son, the Awaited One, the twelfth amongst them; he is called the Mahdī, the Qāʾim, the ḥujja, and Muḥammad. He was born in

255 AH.”

Shaykh Kh̄līd al-Naqshbandī (d. 1242 AH)—the author of Farʿīd al-fawʿīd and Ris̄lat al-r̄bita. He has a compilation of poems which have been published in Istanbul. He has mentioned the twelve Imams in a poem in which he praises the eighth Imam, `Alī b. Mūsā al-Rīṣī, peace be on him. In one part of this poem (which is in Persian) he mentions the Mahdī and his forefathers.

Sayyid Bāqir b. Sayyid `Uthmān Bukhārī, the author of Jawāhir al-aulyāʾ, published in 1396 AH. He has expressed this meaning on pp. 31, 32, 307, 378, 471, 541, 544, and 556.

Jamāl al-dīn Kh̄ja Aḥmad Haqqānī. Refer to Jawāhir al-aulyāʾ, p. 478.

Sayyid Widyat b. Sayyid `Uthmān Bukhārī. Jawāhir al-aulyāʾ (p. 544) has narrated from him a supplication in Persian which comprises of the names of the twelve Imams to our Master, al-Mahdī, peace be on them.

Shaykh `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. `Imir al-Shabrīwī al-Shāfiʿī, the Dean of al-Azhar University, in his book al-Itḥāf bi-ḥubb al-ashrīf, has clearly declared the Imamate of the twelve Imams, peace be on them, and the birth of our Master, al-Mahdī, the twelfth Imam, peace be on him. He has also mentioned some of their merits and positions.

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 424, no. 1; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 234–237, no. 204, similar to it through his chain of narrators from Abū `Abd-Allah al-Muḥahharī, from Ḥakīma, which says: “My nephew, (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, called for me in Shaʿbān 15, 255 AH . . .” no. 205–207 mention the same story with some variations; Yanābīd al-mawadda, chap. 79, pp. 449–451, no. 1. He has narrated this tradition through many different chains; Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, pp. 218–220; lʿlīm al-warī, chap. 1, sect. 2; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, no. 3.

3. Quran 28:5–6.

4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 430, no. 5; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 147; Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, p. 221, concerning his birth: “From a group, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā, from al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī al-Nāsībī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad, from Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Sayyirī . . .,” similar to it, with the difference that after saying “Allah’s blessings be on him and his family,” he continued, “a humble servant for Allah, who was neither disobedient nor arrogant.”; al-Kharīj wa l-jarīʿī, vol. 1, p. 457, no. 2; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 668, no. 34–35; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, pp. 498–499, under “The Miracles of Ḥabīb al-Zamān”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 4, no. 1; ʿilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 10, p. 544; al-Wasʿīl, vol. 8, chap. 59, p. 461, no. 1, which only mentions the last section of the tradition; Muntakhab al-anwār al-muḥīʿa, p. 160 (short version); lʿlīm al-warī, part 4, sect. 2, chap. 1.

5. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, pp. 430–431, no. 6; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 5, no. 9; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, sect. 5, chap. 32, p. 483, no. 195.

6. A unit of weight—Ed.

7. `Aqḥqa is a sheep which is slaughtered on the occasion of the birth of a child—Ed.

8. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, p. 430, no. 4; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 6, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 430, no. 194.

9. Kifāyat al-muḥtadī (al-Arbaʿīn), p. 111, no. 29; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 39, pp. 290–291, no. 4; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 38, pp. 408–409, no. 7, which says: “Narrated to us al-Muḥaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muḥaffar al-`Alawī al-Samarqandī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Masʿūd al-`Ayyūshī, from his father, from Aḥmad b. `Alī b. Kulthūm, from `Alī b. Aḥmad al-Rīzī, from Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. Saʿd, from Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-`Askarī, peace be on them, who said, ‘All praise is . . .’”

10. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 38, p. 408, no. 4; Kifāyat al-athar, chap. 39, pp. 489–490, no. 2; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 481, no. 185; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 9, p. 161, no. 13.

11. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 433, no. 13; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 669, no. 37.

12. Quran, 3:18.

13. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, p. 38, no. 3; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 9, pp. 160–161, no. 8; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 481, no. 184.

14. Tārīkh al-Aʿimma, chap. “The Son of al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-`Askarī,” p. 14; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 223, no. 686, and p. 231, no. 197; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 31, sect. 10, p. 430, no. 116.

I say: The book Tārīkh al-Aʿimma or Tārīkh al-Rasūl or Tawārīkh al-Aʿimma or al-Mawḥīd, is a short and concise book about the birth dates of the Messenger of Allah, Fāḥīmat al-Zahrā, and the twelve Imams, Allah’s blessings be on them all. It has been written by ibn Abū l-Thalj al-Baghdādī (325 AH). His complete name is Abū Bakr Muḥammad b.

Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allāh b. Ismāʿīl, known as ibn Abī Ṭalḥ. Ibn Nadīm writes in al-Fihrist, “He was a Shia who was inclined towards Sunnism but he was inclined more towards Shiʿism. He has narrated many traditions from Sunnis and has authored books on different topics. He was very religious, learned, and extremely pious.” His biography can be found in other biography books.

As for the aforementioned book, some believe that this is the work of Naṣr b. ʿAlī al-Jahḥamī, because at its beginning, ibn Abī Ṭalḥ has narrated the birth dates of the Prophet, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, the Master of the Women (Fāṭima), and the Imams up to al-Riḍā, peace be on them, through his chain of narrators from al-Naṣr, from (Imam) al-Riḍā, peace be on him. Therefore, they have thought that the entire book was narrated from al-Naṣr. The falsity of this idea becomes apparent by referring to the book itself. Moreover, Naṣr b. ʿAlī died during the reign of the caliph al-Mustaʿīn in 250 or 251 AH. If Naṣr had written this book about the birth dates of the Imams, peace be on them, up to our Master al-Mahdī, Allah’s blessings be on him, as has been stated by Sayyid b. Ḥawṣ in Muhaj al-daʿawāt, p. 276 where he says: “Naṣr b. ʿAlī al-Jahḥamī who is a reliable scholar from the opponents (al-mukhalifīn), has mentioned . . . in the book Mawḍūʿ al-aʿimma, ‘From the reasons is what has been narrated from al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī al-ʿAskarī when Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan was born, ‘The oppressors think . . . he named him the Hoped (al-Muʿammal).’” Thus we must inevitably accept that he passed away after the birth of the Mahdī in 255 AH. The following story has been narrated about him: Al-Mustaʿīn asked for him to make him a judge. So he said to the Emir of Basra, “I will go back [home] so that I may ask Allah, the Exalted, for the best decision (astakhḍru Allah).” He returned to his house, performed two units (rakʿa) of prayers and said, “O Allah! If being with you is better for me, then take me to yourself [i.e. take my life].” He then went to sleep. When they came to wake him up, he was dead. This narration is incorrect and the person who sought him was not al-Mustaʿīn. Rather, it was either al-Muḥtadī or al-Muṭamid. It is probable that al-Naṣr’s book only consisted of the births and deaths of the Imams up to Imam Riḍā, peace be on him, and that Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Faryḥbī—the narrator from Naṣr and the one from whom ibn Abī Ṭalḥ has narrated through ʿUtbat b. Saʿd b. Kināna—has completed his book up to our Master, al-Qaʿim, may my father and mother be sacrificed for him.

Even with all the probabilities, attributing the book to ibn Abī Ṭalḥ will not be incorrect, because either, he has narrated it from al-Faryḥbī who has narrated a part of it from al-Naṣr and completed the rest of it himself or he has compiled what he has narrated from al-Naṣr and al-Faryḥbī and integrated them into this book.

Anyway, the book which has been called Mawḍūʿ al-Aʿimma or Tārīkh al-Aʿimma or etc., is this book which Abī Ṭalḥ al-Shaibānī and others have narrated from ibn Abī Ṭalḥ. Hence, attributing the book to him is justified and so is relying upon him and regarding his book as reliable, especially when considering the fact that it has been narrated from someone like ibn Abī Ṭalḥ and Allah knows the best.

15. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 431, no. 8; Yanḥbī al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 460; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 100; Iḥbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, pp. 483–484, no. 196.

16. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 431, no. 7; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 5, no. 10; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 45–46, no. 12.

I say: Her death before the death of Imam Abī Muḥammad, peace be on him, which has been mentioned in this tradition, contradicts other traditions like no. 804. We will discuss this issue under that tradition.

17. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 434, no. 1; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 229–230, no. 195; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 17, no. 24; Iḥbāt al-hudūd, chap. 32, p. 506, no. 312.

18. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 432, no. 10; Iḥbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 484, sect. 5, no. 198; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 15, no. 17.

19. ʿAqḥqa is a sheep which is slaughtered on the seventh day after an infant is born—Ed.

20. Kamāl al-dīn (Published by al-Islāmiyya), vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 106, no. 11; Kamāl al-dīn (Published by Maktabat al-ʿadāq), vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 432, no. 11, in this version, his saying “And he ordered that three hundred sheep be slaughtered for his ʿaḥḥqa,” is missing; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 15, no. 18; Iḥbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 484, no. 199, in which the following section is missing: “And he ordered that . . .”

I say: Perhaps his saying, “his epithet is Jaʿfar” in this tradition and in the fifth tradition from the 30th chapter of Kamāl al-dīn (vol. 1, p. 318): “his epithet is derived from his (paternal) uncle,” refers to his uncle and the uncle of his forefathers, Jaʿfar al-ḥayyār, the martyr. This was done to enliven his name and to honor his majestic position. It does not refer to his

uncle, Ja'far b. `Alī b. Muḥammad. In the tradition narrated from `Aqīd, the servant (narrated in Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 474, no. 25), it has been mentioned: “he was given the epithet Abū I-Qasim, others have said Abū I-Ja'far.” 21. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, pp. 433–434, no. 16; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 5, p. 16, no. 21; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 5, p. 484, no. 202.

22. Kamāl al-dīn (Published by Maktabat al-ʿAdāq), vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 441, no. 11; Kamāl al-dīn (Published by al-Isḥāmiyya) vol. 2, chap. 47, pp. 114–115, no. 12.

It is worth mentioning that the variations and differences in the numbers of the chapters and traditions in the two versions of Kamāl al-dīn are insignificant except that in one version the researcher has in some places merged two chapters as one and has done the same to some of the traditions (or has thought they were really one) and in the other version the researcher has done the opposite. References from both copies have been mentioned to prevent errors.

As for ‘Nasīm’, it is clear in this tradition as well as what has been narrated in Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 430, no. 5 (Maktabat al-ʿAdāq) and vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 104, no. 5 (al-Isḥāmiyya) that she is a woman. But in Ghaybat al-Shaykh (chap. “His Birth, Peace be on Him,” p. 139), Muḥammad b. Ya`qūb reports directly from Nasīm and states that he is a male-servant. I believe that ‘Nasīm’ refers to a female servant because she and Māriya—another woman—have both narrated in another tradition (no. 788) what we mentioned that when he was born, he knelt down and prayed . . . (to the end of the tradition). Obviously, only women-servants were permitted to witness his birth. This fact is not refuted by the argument that these women do not explicitly state that they have actually witnessed the moment of his birth. Perhaps, both have testified to what was clearly known to them through the testimony of other women. Surely, this is against the literal meaning of the tradition; so ponder on it.

In Ghaybat al-Shaykh, “ten nights after his birth” has been recorded instead of “one night after his birth.”

Al-Kharāj, vol. 2, p. 692, which says: “From Ibrāhīm al-Karkhī, from Nasīm the servant of Abū Muḥammad . . . I went to see him ten days after his birth . . .”

Ithbāt al-waḥīyya, p. 198: “From `Allān, from Nasīm the slave of Abū Muḥammad . . . one night after his birth . . .”

I say: Such differences in the traditions do not weaken the essential substance of the tradition which all the narrators and sources are unanimous about. Such differences occur because only the main concepts of some of them have been narrated and a word-by-word recount has not been used. Those who have good understanding of traditions are aware of such differences. Therefore, they take the common and definite parts from them—which are agreed upon by all the tradition, or those in which the narrators are more reliable and trustworthy, or those that are preferable according to the intellectual preferences mentioned in dirḡya books. A tradition cannot be rejected merely on account of it having minor differences with another.

Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 30, no. 24; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 500; Muntakhab al-anwār al-muḥḥaḥḥa, p. 160; al-Wasḥīl, vol. 8, chap. 59, p. 461, no. 1; ʿIlyat al-abrār, vol. 2, chap. 10, p. 544

23. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 433, no. 14; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 484, no. 201; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 1, p. 16, no. 20.

24. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 271–273, no. 237; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 16–17, no. 14; Tabḡirat al-walā, pp. 164 & 166, no. 69; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 31, p. 415, no. 55 (short version). He has recorded its beginning and its end in chap. 32, p. 509, no. 325.

I say: This tradition proves that Abū Sahl al-Naubakhtī believed that his birth occurred in the year 256 AH. The tradition narrated from Abū Hurrīn is also like this (see Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 42, p. 432, no. 9).

25. The traditions differ concerning the fate of the Imam’s mother, peace be on him. Some state that she died after Imam Abū Muḥammad al-`Askarī in the house of Muḥammad b. `Alī b. ʿamzat b. al-ʿasan b. `Ubaid-Allah b. al-Abbās b. Amr al-Mu`minīn `Alī b. Abū ʿlīb, peace be on him—who has been described as a reliable person and as a source in traditions, who was true in his beliefs and had written a book—while other traditions mention that she asked Imam Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, to pray for her death before his. The Imam obliged and his prayers were accepted. In others (like the current tradition), it has been said that she was present when the Imam, peace be on him, passed away. Yet, other traditions say that she migrated to the Holy city of Mecca during the lifetime of Imam al-`Askarī, peace be on him, along with her son al-ʿujja, peace be on him, on the instructions of Imam Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him. Most of these traditions indicate that she lived after the death of the Imam, peace be on him, which is more probable and more preferable.

The proof for this fact lies in her grave which is behind the grave of Imam Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him.

Nevertheless, such differences will not impact our purpose because our reliance in this book is based on traditions that are mutawātir or non-singular, not on singular narrations (al-ḥadīth). The traditions support each other in what we have agreed on. It is worth mentioning that such secondary differences also exist in the biographies of the Prophets, other Imams, and historical figures. The details of such important incidents—regardless of their essential subjects—cannot be the cause of skepticism in the existence of those people, their obvious conditions, and famous historical incidents related to them. This is in addition to the fact that the conditions prevalent during the lifetime of Imam Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, and after his death demanded that he, peace be on him, concealed such secondary issues.

26. Iṭḥāṭ al-waḥīyya, pp. 194–195; ʿUyūn al-muʿjizāt, p. 138, similar to it from Aḥmad b. Maḥqala with the difference that it does not mention the migration of the Master of Time along with Imam Abū Muḥammad's mother to Mecca. Its wording is: "Thereafter, he handed over the Great Name (al-Isḥm al-Aḥḥam), the inheritances, and the weapon to the Qa'im, the Master, peace be on him; and the mother of Imam Abū Muḥammad left for Mecca."

I say: The aforementioned Aḥmad b. Maḥqala in ʿUyūn al-muʿjizāt is probably Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿṢṣ b. Maḥqalat b. Saʿd al-Ashʿarī al-Qummī, who has been attributed to his more famous grandfather, as can be inferred from many chains of narrators in the traditions. It is also possible that he is one of the cousins of Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. ʿAbd-Allah b. Saʿd b. Mʿlik b. al-Aḥwā al-Ashʿarī Abū ʿAlī al-Qummī, who has narrated from Imams ʿAlī al-Naqī and Abū I-Ḥasan. He was very close to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, and had also seen the Master of Time, peace be on him. Al-Najīshī writes about Aḥmad b. Abd-Allah: "He was a reliable person and has narrated a book from Imam ʿAlī al-Naqī, peace be on him." According to this, he was contemporary with his cousin Aḥmad b. Isḥāq, and had been alive during the life of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, and was still alive after 260 AH.

The probability of Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah and Aḥmad b. Isḥāq being the same person, is baseless except for the fact that they were both descendants of Saʿd and Aḥmad b. Isḥāq's grandfather had the same name as Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah's father. It is also probable that 'Isḥāq' has been dropped from the lineage of Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah and 'Ṣṣ b. Maḥqala' has been dropped from the lineage of Aḥmad b. Isḥāq. If so, the lineage would be as follows: Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿṢṣ b. Maḥqalat b. Saʿd b. Mʿlik b. al-Aḥwā al-Ashʿarī. Although this probability is weak, but perhaps some evidence can be found by referring to the biographies of all the men of this family, just as it is also likely that Aḥmad b. Isḥāq is the nephew of Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah.

With all this said, considering them as two different people is still closer to the truth. Yes, the likelihood of Aḥmad b. Maḥqala being Aḥmad b. ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿṢṣ b. Maḥqala is also high.

Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 56, p. 579, no. 750, which is a shortened version narrated from al-Masʿūdī.

27. Kifāyat al-muḥtad (al-Arbaʿīn), p. 104, no. 28; al-Arbaʿīn known as Kashf al-ḥāqq, p. 8, no. 1 and pp. 136–137, no. 22; Iṭḥāṭ al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, sect. 44, p. 569, no. 680.

28. Al-Mufīd, may Allah be satisfied with him, writes in al-Fuḥūl al-ʿashara fī I-ghayba, p. 9: "The fact that (Imam) al-Ḥasan (al-ʿAskarī's) son has been born has been established in the most emphatic manner by which the lineage of the people are proved. For, lineage is established by the testimony of a mid-wife, other women who are usually present during birth, and those who assist them in it. Also, the acknowledgement of the father will suffice and if required the testimony of two men from the Muslims upon the confession of the man that the child is his. Indeed, information from a group of religious people, scholars, pious, ascetic, and highly knowledgeable people has been narrated from Imam al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī who acknowledged the birth of the Mahdī, peace be on him, informed them of his existence, and gave them news about his Imamate after him. Some saw his child (in his house), others saw an adolescent or a young man. After his father, he ordered his Shia's about what they should or shouldn't do and answered their questions . . . I have mentioned the names of a group of people who I have already described their conditions, who were trusted by (Imam) al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī, peace be on him. They were very close to him and were known for serving him and fulfilling (his orders). I have also proved what they have narrated from him about the existence of his son, them seeing him after his father (passed away), and them hearing the divine news about his Imamate. These can be found in my books specially the two famous ones known as al-Irshād fī maʿrifat ʿUjaj-Allah ʿalī I-ibād and al-ḥadīth fī I-imāma wa I-ghayba. Because of what I have mentioned in those books, there is no need to prove them here again."

29. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 41, pp. 417–423, no. 1; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 208–214, no. 178; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51,

chap. 1, pp. 6–10, no. 12, citing Ghaybat al-Shaykh and pp. 10–11, no. 13, citing Kamāl al-dīn; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 29, sect. 2, pp. 363–365, no. 17 and chap. 31, sect. 1, pp. 408–409, no. 37 (short version).
30. Al-Nakhhās means slave-trader—Ed.

Section Two

His miracles during the lifetime of his father, peace be on them both

Comprised of ten traditions

808. Ghaybat al-Shaykh1: Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mīlik, from Muḥammad b. Ja`far b. `Abd-Allah, from Abū Nu`aim Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Anḥarī who said:

A group of Mufawwiḥa and Muqassira2 sent Kāmil b. Ibrāhīm al-Madanī to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him. Kāmil said, “I thought to myself that ‘I will ask him [if it is true] that no one will enter Paradise except those who know what I know and say what I say.’ When I went to my master (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, I saw him wearing a soft white dress. I thought, ‘Allah’s friend and His Proof wears soft dresses while he orders us to be charitable to the brothers and restrains us from wearing such dresses.’ He said smilingly, ‘O Kāmil!’ Then he pulled up his sleeve and lo! He was wearing a rough black woolen dress [under the white one]. Then he said, ‘This is for Allah and that is for you.’ I greeted him and sat down before a doorway which was covered with a curtain.

A strong breeze came and uncovered one side of the doorway. [There,] I saw young boy that looked like he was a part of the moon and barely four years old or thereabout. [The boy] said to me, ‘O Kāmil b. Ibrāhīm!’ I shivered at this address and was inspired to reply, ‘Yes, O my master!’ He said, ‘You have come to Allah’s friend, His Proof, and His Gateway to ask him [if it is true] that no one will enter Paradise except those who know what you know and say what you say?’ I replied, ‘Yes, by Allah!’ He continued, ‘If this is the case, then many few will enter it. By Allah! A group called al-ḥaqqiyya will enter it.’

I asked, ‘O my master! Who are they?’ He replied, ‘A group who on account of their love for `Alī, testify to his rights, but do not know his rights and his excellences.’ He, Allah’s blessings be on him, was silent for a while and then continued, ‘You have also come to ask about the Mufawwiḥa. They have lied. Rather, our hearts are the containers of Allah’s Will. When He wills [to do something] then so do we. Allah says,

“And you don’t will anything except what Allah wills” (Quran Surah Takwir 81:29).’

Then, the curtain went back to where it was and I couldn’t raise it. (Imam) Abū Muḥammad looked at me with a smile and said, ‘O Kāmil! Why are you still sitting here now that the Proof after me has informed

you of what you desired?' I got up and left and didn't see him again."

Abū Naʿīm said, "I met Kamil and asked him about this tradition, and he narrated it for me."

Al-Shaykh (al-ḥafṣī) says, "ʿAḥmad b. ʿAlī al-Rāzī has narrated this tradition from Muḥammad b. ʿAlī, from ʿAlī b. ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿĪdih al-Rāzī, from al-ʿāsan b. Wajīd al-Naḥḥībī who said, "I heard Abū Nuʿaim Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Anḥarī . . . (and he mentions the same things)."

809. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Muḥammad b. ʿĪtim al-Naufalī—known as al-Kirmānī—from Abū I-ʿAbbās Aḥmad b. ʿĪsā al-Washshī al-Baghdādī, from Aḥmad b. ʿĪhīr al-Qummī, from Muḥammad b. Baḥr b. Sahl al-Shaibānī, from Aḥmad b. Masrūr, from Saʿd b. ʿAbd-Allah al-Qummī who said:

I was very fond of collecting books comprised of subtle and complex sciences. I tried hard to uncover the realities in them that seemed correct to me and I memorized their ambiguous and obscure sections. I kept to myself the problematic and deviant [concepts] that I found in them. I firmly believed in the Shi) religion and I kept away from peace and security by quarreling and arguing [with the opponents] and having enmity against them and saying bad things to them.

I would expose the shortcomings of the opponents and I would mention the faults of their Imams and I used to uncover [the defects] of their leaders. This continued until I was afflicted with an enemy who would put forward very strong arguments, showed the greatest enmity, argued the most, asked the most outrageous questions, and was the most steadfast in falsehood.

One day when I was arguing with him, he said, "O Saʿd! Woe on you and your companions! You heretics insult the Muḥjirīn and the Anḥār by slanderous remarks. You deny the guardianship and Imamate of [Abū Bakr and ʿUmar] which was authorized by the Messenger of Allah. This truthful [i.e. Abū Bakr] is superior to all the companions due to his precedence in belief.

Don't you know that the Messenger of Allah took [Abū Bakr] along with himself to the cave because he knew that he would be the Caliph after him and that he would be the leader in interpreting [the Quran] and that the reins of the umma would be in his hands? He would be relied on to mend the differences, compensate the defeats, close the cracks [in the nation], establish the laws, and dispatch the armies to conquer the lands of the polytheists.

Just as [the Prophet] worried for his own prophethood he also worried for [Abū Bakr's] caliphate. A fugitive who is fleeing from evil and goes into hiding does not intend to ask someone else for help. Thus, when the Messenger [of Allah] went to the cave—while he did not expect anyone to help him—it is clear that his intention was to take Abū Bakr to the cave like we explained. On the other hand, he ordered ʿAlī to sleep in his bed, because he did not care much about him and did not bother about him and because he knew that even if ʿAlī was killed, there would be others who could replace him."

(Sa`d continued), I answered a number of his questions but he refuted all of them. He then said, “O Sa`d! I have another argument that will cripple you heretics. You believe that the Truthful [i.e. Abū Bakr], who was pure from doubt and skepticism, and Fārisīq [i.e. `Umar], who was the protector of Islam, were both hypocrites. You cite the incident of the Night of `Aqaba4 to prove your point. Alright, tell me, did Abū Bakr and `Umar accept Islam willingly or out of coercion?” I talked my way out of this question because I feared being tied down by it.

If I said that they had willingly accepted Islam, then he would say that hypocrisy can only occur and grow in the heart, only when the winds of subjugation and defeat start blowing [i.e. someone becomes a hypocrite if they are forced to accept Islam], and when extreme and burdensome difficulties force someone to utter what he does not believe in his heart.

As Allah, the Exalted, says,

“But when they saw Our might, they said, ‘We believe in Allah alone and we deny what we used to associate with Him.’ But their faith had no benefit for them once they had seen Our might.”⁵

And if I had said that they believed out of coercion, then he would have answered that there were no swords there to frighten them into [accepting Islam].

I managed to wriggle out of this situation but I was swelling with rage and my heart was crumbling with grief. I had written in a scroll more than forty such difficult questions—for which I could find no answer to. I intended to ask these questions from Aḥmad b. Isḥāq—the most learned person of our city—who was also one of the companions of Imam Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him. He had left on a journey to visit our master at Sāmarrā and I went after him.

After I caught up with him and we greeted each other he asked me, “You have come to meet me [here!]. Is everything ok?” I replied, “The love of seeing you and the habit of asking questions [have caused me to come here].” He answered, “Then we both have the same problem. The urge to meet our master Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, has displaced me. I intend to ask him some problematic questions about interpretations (ta’wīl) and some difficulties about revelations (tanzīl). So, don’t miss the blessed opportunity of being a companion [in this journey]. [If you come], you will stand on the shores of a sea whose marvels will not end and its wonders will not finish. That [sea] is our Imam.”

We reached Sāmarrā and were soon at the door of our masters [residence]. We sought permission to enter, which was granted. Aḥmad b. Isḥāq was carrying a leather sack on his shoulder which he had hidden under a ḡabarian cloak. It contained 160 purses filled with dirhams and dinars. Every bag had its owners seal on it. I can only compare our masters face—whose light had covered us— with the full moon.

A child was sitting on his right lap, who resembled [the planet] Jupiter in creation and features. His front hair was exactly parted from the middle and curled to the sides just like a line with two curves on each

side. In front of our master, there was a golden pomegranate, which was shining with its amazing shape and rare precious stones studded in it. One of the chiefs of Basra had gifted it to him.

He had a pen in his hand and whenever he wanted to write something on a white paper, the child would hold his fingers [and prevent him]. Our master would roll the pomegranate in front of him to keep the child busy with it so that he could write what he wanted. We saluted him and he replied with utmost kindness and beckoned us to seat.

When he finished writing, Aḥmad brought out the leather sack from under his cloak and placed it in front of him. (Imam) al-Hādī looked at the child and said, “O My Son! Break the seals of the gifts of your followers and friends.” The child responded, “O my master! Is it permissible that I extend a pure hand towards impure gifts and unclean wealth whose ḥarām and ḥalāl are mixed together?” Then, my master said, “O ibn Isḥāq! Bring out what is in the leather sack so that he may separate the ḥalāl from the ḥarām.” When ibn Isḥāq removed the first purse, the child remarked, “This belongs to so and so who lives in such and such district of Qum.

It contains sixty-two dinars. Forty-five of those are from the money of a small room which its owner inherited from his father and sold. Fourteen dinars are from the money of nine clothes and three are from the rental money of shops.” Our master said, “My son! You have spoken the truth. Now, tell this man which ones are ḥarām and which ones are ḥalāl.” The child continued, “Find the dinar which was minted in [the city of] Riyy. Its date is so and so and the inscriptions on one side have been partly erased.

Also the gold piece from [the city of] Ḥmul which weighs a quarter of a dinar. They are ḥarām because their owner had given 1.25 mans⁶ of wool to his neighbor to weave for him. A thief stole the wool from the weaver and the weaver informed their owner but the owner didn’t believe the weaver and instead, took 1.5 mans of softer wool from him and made a cloth out of them and sold it. This dinar and the piece of gold were paid for it.” When the purse was opened, there was a letter in it which had the name of the person who was described and the number of dinars written on it—exactly as mentioned by the child. The aforementioned dinar and piece of gold were also in it.

Ibn Isḥāq removed another purse. The child said, “This belongs to so and so person who lives in such and such place of Qum. It has fifty dinars and it is not permissible for us to touch them.” [Ibn Isḥāq] said, “Why not?!” He replied, “Because it is from the revenue of wheat belonging to a landlord who has cheated on the peasant [who has planted them].

When they were dividing the shares, he filled the containers completely for himself but left some of it empty when separating [the wheat] for the peasant.” Our master remarked, “My Son, you have spoken the truth.” Then, he said, “O Aḥmad b. Isḥāq! Take back all these purses and return them to their owners or will that they be returned to them because we do not need them. Give us the cloth from the old woman.” Aḥmad b. Isḥāq said, “I left that cloth behind in my bag and I had completely forgotten

about it.”

When A‘mad b. Is‘aq went to fetch the cloth, our master Abū Mu‘ammad looked at me and said, “O Sa`d! Why have you come here?” I replied, “A‘mad b. Is‘aq had encouraged me to meet [you], our master.” He said, “What about those questions that you wanted to ask him?” I replied, “Their status hasn’t changed yet.”

He remarked, “Ask them from the apple of my eye” and pointed towards the child. The child said, “Ask whatever you want.” I said, “O my master and the son of my master! It has been narrated to us from you [i.e. your forefathers] that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, had given Am‘r al-Mu‘min‘n, peace be on him, the right to divorce his [i.e. the Prophet’s] wives.

Therefore, on the day of the Battle of Jamal, he sent a messenger to ‘isha and said to her, ‘You have caused riots amongst the Muslims by your mischievous acts. You have brought your children [i.e. the Muslims] to the ponds of death by your ignorance. If you retreat I will leave you alone but if you don’t, I will divorce you.’ How can this be whilst the death of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, had already caused his women’s divorce [from him]?”

He questioned, “What is the meaning of divorce?” I replied, “Clearing the path [to remarry].” He said, “If the Messenger of Allah’s death, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, was their divorce and the path was cleared for his wives, then why weren’t they allowed to remarry?” I said, “Because Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, had prohibited them from marrying anybody else.” He said, “Why should it be so whilst [the Prophet’s] death had cleared their path [for remarriage]?”

I said, “O Master! Explain for me the meaning of the divorce that the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, had transferred its right to Am‘r al-Mu‘min‘n, peace be on him.” He replied, “Allah, Holy be His Name, raised the status of the Prophet’s wives, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and designated them as the mothers [of the believers]. The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, said to ‘Al‘, ‘O Abū I-‘asan! They will have this honor as long as they obey Allah. After my death, if any of them disobeys Allah by rebelling against you, then divorce her and strip her of the honor of being a mother of the believers.’”

I said, “Please inform me about the ‘evident indecency’ (fa‘ishatun mubayyina) that if a woman commits during the period of her ‘idda7, the husband has the right to expel her from his house?” He replied, “‘Evident indecency’ refers to lesbianism, not adultery.

For, if a woman commits adultery and is punished for it [in accordance with Islamic law], then any man who desires to marry her should not refrain from doing so on the grounds that she has been punished. But if a woman commits lesbianism, her punishment is stoning to death. Being stoned to death is absolute disgrace and whosoever Allah has ordered to be stoned, He has truly disgraced him/her. And whoever Allah has disgraced, He has distanced him/her and whoever Allah has distanced, no one has the right to go near him/her.”

I said, "Please inform me about what Allah ordered His Prophet Moses, peace be on him, (when He said), 'So, remove your shoes [for] you are in the holy valley of Buwaiyib .'⁸ The scholars of both sects believe that [his shoes] were made from the skin of a dead animal⁹." He replied, "Whoever believes this has slandered Moses and has thought him to be ignorant regarding his own prophethood. [If it is as they say], then it was either permissible for Moses to pray in those shoes or it wasn't.

If it was permissible, then he would also have been allowed to wear them in that valley. Even if that valley was holy and pure, it couldn't have been holier and purer than the prayers. [On the other hand], if prayers were not allowed in those shoes, then it can be concluded that Moses was not aware about what is permissible and what is prohibited; and that he did not know what things are permissible to wear in prayers and what things are prohibited. Having this opinion [about Moses] is equal to disbelief (kufr)."

I pleaded, "O my master! Please inform me about its interpretation!" He said, "Moses invoked his Lord in the holy valley and said, 'O Master! My love is purely for You and I have cleansed my heart of all other [affections].'⁷ He [said this whilst he] loved his family very much. Then, Allah, the Exalted, said to him, 'Remove your shoes,' meaning, 'Remove the love of your family from your heart if your love is exclusively for Me and the love of others is washed from your heart.'"

I said, "O Son of Allah's Messenger! What is the interpretation of ' $\text{Karbala-Hajj-Yazid-Ayn-usayn}$ '¹⁰?" He said, "These letters refer to the unseen news (anb \AA) al-ghayb) which Allah informed His servant, Zachariah. He then narrated them to Muhammad, Allah's blessings be on him and his family. This is the story: Once, Zachariah asked Allah, his Lord, to teach him the names of the five [holy people]. So Gabriel descended and taught them to him.

Whenever Zachariah uttered the names of Muhammad, `Al \AA , F \AA ima, and Hasan, his worries would disappear, but when he mentioned the name of al-usayn, he would choke on tears and would nearly perish. One day, he enquired, 'O Lord! Why is it that when I mention [the first] four, I become calm, but when I mention al-usayn, my tears flow and I sob.'⁹ So Allah, the Exalted, told him his story and said, " $\text{Karbala-Hajj-Yazid-Ayn-usayn}$." Karb refers to Karbala, Hajj refers to h \AA k al-`itra (the perishing of the progeny), Yazid refers to Yazid, the one who oppressed al-usayn, peace be on him, `Ayn refers to `Atashuh (his thirst), usayn refers to usayn (his patience)."

When Zachariah heard this, he did not emerge from his prayer-place for three days and did not allow anyone to meet him. He kept crying and wailing and would say, 'O Lord! Will You make the best of your creatures mourn his son? O Lord! Will you inflict on him such hardships? O Lord! Will you make `Al \AA and F \AA ima wear the robe of this tragedy? O Lord! Will you allow such a great catastrophe to befall them?'

Afterwards he would say, 'O Allah! Grant me a son who will be the apple of my eye when I grow old and make him my inheritor and my heir. Make him for me what al-usayn [was to his grandfather]. Make me extremely attached to him and then afflict me with his grief just as You will afflict your beloved Muhammad with the sorrow of his son.'⁸ Thus, Allah granted him John and afflicted him with his sorrow.

John was born in the sixth month of pregnancy as was the case for al-ʿusayn, peace be on him. [John's] story is very long.”

I asked, “Why were the people not given the right to select their own Imam?” He replied, “A righteous [Imam] or a corrupt one?” I answered, “Righteous.” He asked, “Is it possible that a corrupt leader is selected [by the people instead of a righteous one] since no one really knows if another person is really righteous in his heart or corrupt?” I answered, “Yes, it is.” He continued, “This is the reason. I will use another argument that will be acceptable to your intellect.

Consider the Messengers who Allah, the Exalted, chose and sent down for them [divine] texts and assisted by revelation and infallibility. Those who were prominent amongst their people and had the ability to make a better choice than them. [Prophets] like Moses and Jesus, peace be on them. Is it possible—even with their high intellects and great knowledge—that they [wrongly] choose a hypocrite who they think is a true believer?” I said, “No.”

He continued, “But Moses who was the one with whom Allah spoke (Kalām Allah), who had high intellect and great knowledge, and who revelations descended upon, selected seventy learned people and military commanders from his people for the appointment [he had with] his Lord—in whose faith and sincerity he had no doubts.

But nevertheless, he had selected the hypocrites. Allah, the Almighty says, ‘And Moses chose from his people, seventy men for Our appointment¹¹—to where He says—we will never believe in you until we evidently see our Lord.’¹² We observe that even someone who Allah has selected as a Prophet, selects the corrupt instead of the righteous whilst he thinks that he [has selected] the righteous and not the corrupt.

Thus, the right of choosing [an Imam] only belongs to the One who knows what is concealed in the chests, resides in the thoughts, and is aware of the secrets. Therefore, once we see that a Prophet selects corrupt people whilst he intends to select righteous ones, then the selection made by the Muhājirīn and Anṣār has no value.

Then our master said, “O Sa`d! When your enemy said, ‘The Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, took along the chosen one from this nation with him to the cave because he knew that he would be the caliph after him, the leader in interpreting [the Quran], the holder of the reins of the nation, the one who would be relied on to mend the differences, compensate the defeats, close the cracks [in the nation], establish the laws, and dispatch the armies to conquer the lands of the polytheists; and Just as [the Prophet] was worried about [his] prophethood he was also worried for [Abū Bakr's] caliphate.

A fugitive who is fleeing from evil and goes into hiding does not intend to ask someone else for help. On the other hand, he ordered `Alī to sleep in his bed because he did not care much about him and did not bother about him and because he knew that even if `Alī was killed, there would be others who could

replace him,' you should have refuted him by saying, 'Didn't the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, say that the caliphate will last for thirty years after me?'

And according to your beliefs, these [thirty years] are equal to the years of the caliphate of the four Rightly-Guided caliphs (i.e. Abū Bakr, `Umar, `Uthmān, and `Alī, peace be on him).' Then he wouldn't have had any choice but to agree. Then you would have told him, 'What's your opinion about this: Just as the Messenger of Allah knew that after him Abū Bakr would be the caliph, he also knew that the caliphs after him would be `Umar, `Uthmān, and then `Alī?' Again, he would have had no choice but to agree.

Then you would have told him, 'Thus, it should have been obligatory for the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, to take all of them with him to the cave and worry about all of them just as he worried for Abū Bakr. He shouldn't have reduced their stature by leaving them back and only taking Abū Bakr with him.'

"When your enemy asked you about the Truthful [i.e. Abū Bakr] and Farūq [i.e. `Umar] and whether they had accepted Islam willingly or through coercion, why didn't you give the answer, 'They accepted Islam because of greed.' These two used to sit with the Jews and [the Jews] used to inform them about the things written in the Torah and the other ancient Divine Scriptures. They had told them the story of Muḥammad and his fate—Allah's blessings be on him and his family.

The Jews had mentioned that Muḥammad would dominate the Arabs just like Nebuchadnezzar (Bukht al-Naḥr) who had overpowered the Israelites. He would undoubtedly gain victory over the Arabs just like Nebuchadnezzar who gained victory over the Israelites. The only difference is that [Nebuchadnezzar] was a liar in his claim that he was a Prophet.

Consequently, [Abū Bakr and `Umar] both came to the Holy Prophet and assisted him regarding the testimony of "there is no God but Allah" and pledged allegiance with him while they had the greed that when his government was established, he would appoint them as the governor of a province.

When they lost hope [in attaining this goal]—they and a few other hypocrites like them—covered their faces and went up the mountain pass (al-`aqaba) to kill him. But Allah, the Exalted, repelled their foul actions and they retreated with rage without achieving any of their goals. `Alī and Zubayr also pledged allegiance to `Alī while they too had greed in becoming governors. But once their hopes diminished, they broke their allegiance and rebelled against him. Therefore, Allah, the Exalted, knocked them down the same way that He had knocked down other allegiance-breakers like them."

At this point, our master, al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-Ḥadī stood up along with the child to perform the prayers. I left and went in search of Aḥmad b. Isḥāq. He came to me crying. I asked him, "What has delayed you and what has made you cry?" He replied, "I have lost the cloth that my master had asked for." I said to him, "It is not your fault. Go and tell our master." So he hurriedly went inside and emerged after a while smiling and invoking blessings on Muḥammad and his family. I asked him, "What happened?" He

replied, “The cloth was spread under our master’s feet and he was praying on it.”

We thanked Allah, the Exalted, for this event. We visited our master for a number of days but did not see his son. When the time arrived to bid farewell, I and Ahmad b. Isḥāq went to him accompanied by two elderly men from our city. Ahmad b. Isḥāq stood in front of him and said, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! The time to bid you farewell has come and this has saddened us to no end. We ask Allah, the Exalted, to send His blessings upon al-Muḥafīf, your grandfather; al-Murtaḍī, your father; the Master of all Women, your mother; the Masters of the youths of Paradise, your uncle and your father; and the immaculate Imams after them, who are your fathers.

We [also ask Allah] to send his blessings on you and your son. We hope that Allah elevates your status and disgraces your enemy and does not make this our last meeting with you.” When he said these words our master became saddened to such an extent that he started crying and tears rolled from his eyes. He said, “O son of Isḥāq! Do not over-distress yourself by your invocations because you are going to meet Allah in this very journey.” On hearing this, Ahmad b. Isḥāq fainted. When he regained consciousness, he pleaded, “I ask you by Allah and by the sanctity of your ancestors that you give me a worn out dress [worn by you] so that I use it as a burial-shroud.

Our master put his hand under the carpet and brought out thirteen dirhams and said, “Take these and don’t spend more than this amount for yourself. What you have asked for will not be neglected. Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, does not waste the rewards of the good doers.”

After we left our master, we were approximately three kilometers short of Ḥulwān when Ahmad b. Isḥāq caught such a high fever that he lost all hope of life. On reaching Ḥulwān, we stopped at an inn and Ahmad b. Isḥāq summoned one of his fellow townsmen who dwelled there. He then said, “Go and leave me alone tonight.” Thus, we all left him and went to our sleeping quarters.

When the night passed and it was near dawn, I started worrying. I opened my eyes and I saw Kāfir, our master Abū Muḥammad’s servant, saying, “May Allah grant you goodness for this mourning and recompense your calamity through his beloved [successor]. We have finished bathing and shrouding your companion.

Get up and bury him. He was one of the most honorable in the eyes of your master.” He then disappeared from before us. Wailing and crying, we reached his body, paid tribute to him, and buried him. May Allah have mercy on him.”

810. Faḥl b. Shādhān’s al-Ghayba¹³: Narrated to us Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. Fāris al-Nasabūrī:

When the governor, `Amr b. `Auf—who was a very staunch enemy of the Ahl al-Bait and was fond of killing their followers—decided to kill me, I was informed about it and I was extremely frightened. I bid farewell to my family and friends and went to Abū Muḥammad’s house, peace be on him, to bid him goodbye as well because I intended to flee [the city]. When I went to him, I saw a boy sitting next to him

whose face was shining like the full moon. I was amazed by his light and brightness and nearly forgot my fears and fleeing.

He said to me, “O Ibrāhīm! Don’t flee. Surely, Allah, Blessed and Exalted be He, will soon relieve you of his evil.” This statement increased my astonishment about him. I said to (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, “O Master! May Allah sacrifice me for you! Who is this child who informed me about what is in my heart?” He replied, “He is my son and my successor after me. He is the one who will have a long occultation and will reappear after the earth has been filled with injustice and unfairness.

Then, he will fill it with justice and fairness.” I asked him about his name. He said, “His name and epithet is the same as that of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family. No one is allowed to say his name or his epithet until Allah reveals his government and authority. O Ibrāhīm! Hide whatever you have seen and heard from us today—except from those who are worthy [of being informed].”

I invoked blessings on both of them and their forefathers and emerged while I was awaiting for Allah’s Grace to come to my assistance and was confident about what I heard from the Master, peace be on him. Later, my uncle `Alī b. Fāris gave me the good news that al-Mu`tamid had sent his brother Abū Aḥmad to kill `Amr b. `Auf and Abū Aḥmad had got hold of him on that day and had chopped him into pieces. And all Praise is for Allah the Lord of the worlds.

The traditions with the following numbers also show the above concept: 787, 788, 793, 797, 802, 804, and 814.

1. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 246–248, no. 216; Dal’īl al-imāma, pp. 273–274, through his chain of narrators from Abū Naḥm; al-Khar’ij, vol. 1, pp. 458–459, no. 4; Ithbāt al-waḥy (Manshūr al-Raḥmān publications), p. 222, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mawlik; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 25, pp. 336–337, no. 16, and vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 50–51, no. 35. The first section of this tradition is in vol. 50, chap. 3, p. 253, no. 7, and vol. 67, chap. 51, p. 117, no. 5, and vol. 76, chap. 109, p. 302, no. 12; Tabḥīrat al-walā, pp. 59–61, no. 26; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 499; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 31, p. 415, no. 54, and chap. 32, p. 508, no. 320, and chap. 33, p. 683, no. 91; Yanḥab al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461, which says: “From Kāmil b. Ibrāhīm al-Madanī who said, ‘I went to Imam Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan al-`Askarī and there was a curtain hanging on the doorway. The wind moved one side of the curtain and I saw a boy who was like the moon. (Imam) Abū Muḥammad said, “O Kāmil! This [is the] Divine Proof after me. He will inform you about what you [had come to] ask.””

2. These are two non-Shia sects—Ed.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 454–465, no. 21; Dal’īl al-imāma, chap. “Those who saw him during the lifetime of his father,” pp. 274–281, no. 2, which says: “From Abū I-Qāsim `Abd al-Bāqī b. Yazdīd b. `Abd-Allah al-Bazzāz, from Abū Muḥammad `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad al-Tha`libī on Friday Rajab 1, 370 AH, from Abū `Alī Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-`Aḥḥār, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah b. Abū Khalaf al-Qummī (to whom he says), ‘We visited our master for some days but did not see the boy, peace be on him.’”; al-Khar’ij, vol. 1, pp. 481–484, no. 22 (short version); Tabḥīrat al-walā, pp. 93–108, no. 48; al-ḥijab, vol. 2, pp. 461–467; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 19, pp. 78–89, no. 1; ḥilyat al-abrār, vol. 2, pp. 557–568, al-Manhaj, chap. 15, no. 3; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 1, chap. 7, p. 380, no. 106, and vol. 7, chap. 33, p. 347, no. 121 & 122 (short version); Ilzām al-nawāib, vol. 1, pp. 342–351; Mikyāl al-makrīm, vol. 1, chap. 2, pp. 16–24, no.

14.

Some of our contemporary scholars have considered this tradition's chain of narrators as weak and others have regarded its contents as unreliable. They have even deemed it as fabricated! Since we have already spoken too much in refutation of these claims and have explained the truth and investigated this tradition and its like in an exclusive treatise called *al-Nuqūd al-latīfa*, we will refrain from further discussing it for the sake of conciseness. God willing, we will mention the entire treatise in the third volume of this book.

Muntakhab al-anwār al-muḥḥa, pp. 145–175; Ta'wīl al-ḥyāt al-ḥīra, pp. 292–294, which is a short version, under the first verse from the sura of Maryam; Yanḥab al-mawadda, chap. 81, p. 459; al-Thaqib fī l-manḥiqib, chap. 15, sect. 2, pp. 585–589, no. 534/1.

4. After the Battle of Tabūk the hypocrites planned to kill the Prophet—while he was crossing a mountain-pass—but failed. This is referred to as the 'incident of the Night of `Aqaba'—Ed.

5. Quran 40:84–85.

6. A unit of mass—Ed.

7. `Idda is the period of time after a woman's husband dies or is divorced from her and during that period her meeting and speaking with non-maḥrams must be extremely limited—Ed.

8. Quran 20:12.

9. Meaning an animal that had died naturally or was not slaughtered in accordance with Islamic law—Ed.

10. Quran 19:1.

11. Quran 7:155.

12. Quran 2:55.

13. Kifāyat al-muḥḥa (al-`Arba`n), p. 122, under no. 32; Kashf al-ḥaqq (al-`Arba`n), p. 32, no. 7.

Section Three

Those who saw him while his father was still alive, peace be on them both

Comprised of twenty traditions

811. Kamāl al-dīn: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Alī Mājilawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaḥyā al-`Aḥḥār, from Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mālik al-Fazrī, from Mu`wiyat b. ḥakīm, Muḥammad b. Ayyūb b. Nāḥ, and Muḥammad b. `Uthmān al-`Amrī, may Allah be satisfied with him, whom all said:

We were forty people in Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī's house, peace be on him, when he showed us [his son] and said, "This is your Imam after me and my caliph upon you. Obey him and do not scatter after me regarding your religion otherwise you will perish. Know that you will not see him after this day." After we left, barely a few days had gone by when Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, passed away.

812. Al-ḥās's Ghayba2: From (Hibat-Allah b. Muḥammad, from a person that Ahmad b. `Alī b. Nāḥ Abū l-`Abbās al-Sairī has narrated) and Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. Mālik al-Fazrī al-Bazzī, from a group of Shias which include: `Alī b. Bilāl, Ahmad b. Hilāl, Muḥammad b. Mu`wiyat b. ḥakīm, and al-

ʿasan b. Ayyūb b. Nūʿmān (who narrated a long tradition) and all said:

We were forty people who had gathered around Abū Muḥammad al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, and were asking him about the Proof after him. ʿUthmān b. Saʿd al-Amrī stood up and pleaded, “O Son of Allah’s Messenger! I intend to ask you about an affair which you have more knowledge about than me.” He replied, “Sit down, O ʿUthmān!” Then, enraged, he stood up to go out and ordered, “No one shall leave.” None of us left until some time had passed.

He then called ʿUthmān—who stood up on his feet—and said, “Shall I inform you about the reason you came here?” They replied, “Yes, O Son of Allah’s Messenger.” He said, “You have come to ask me about the Divine Proof after me.” They replied in the affirmative. Suddenly a boy [appeared] who was like a part of the moon and of all the people, he resembled Imam Abū Muḥammad the most.

He said, “This is your Imam after me and my caliph upon you. Obey him and don’t scatter after me lest you perish in your religion. Beware! You will not see him after this day until he completes his age. Accept from ʿUthmān what he will say, obey his orders, and accept his saying, because he is the successor of your Imam and the affair is in his hands . . .”

813. Kamāl al-dīn3: ʿAlī b. al-ʿasan b. al-Faraj al-Muʿadhhdhīn, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan al-Karkhī, from Abū Ḥarīrīn—who is a man from our companions—who said: “I saw the Master of the Time and his face was shining like the full moon . . . (to the end of the tradition)”

814. Kamāl al-dīn4: Abū ʿAbdillāh al-Muʿaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muʿaffar al-ʿAlawī al-Samarqandī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from his father Muḥammad b. Masʿūd al-ʿAyyūshī, from ʿAdām b. Muḥammad al-Balkhī, from ʿAlī b. al-ʿasan [al-ʿusayn] b. Ḥarīrīn al-Daqqīq, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah b. al-Qasīm b. Ibrāhīm b. al-Ashtar, from Yaʿqūb b. Manqūsh [Manfīs], who said:

I went to see Abū Muḥammad al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, while he was sitting on a bench in the house. On his right was a room with a drawn curtain. I asked him, “O my master! Who is the master of this affair?” He replied, “Raise the curtain.” When I raised the curtain, a boy emerged who was about five hand-spans tall and about ten or eight years old.

He had a wide forehead, white face, glittering eyes, and small hands and he had bent his knees. There was a mole on his right cheek and he had a forelock. He went and sat on Abū Muḥammad’s thigh, peace be on him, who said to me, “This is your Master.” He then leapt up and [the Imam] said to him, “Go inside until the appointed time.” He entered the room while I was [still] looking at him. [The Imam, peace be on him] said, “O Yaʿqūb! See who is inside the room.” I went inside the room but found no one there!

815. Al-Kāfī5: ʿAlī b. Muḥammad, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-Kāfī, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-

Makfūf, from `Amr al-Ahwazī who said: “Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, showed me his son and said, ‘This is your master after me.’”

816. Al-Kāfī6: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from al-Ḥusayn and Muḥammad—the sons of `Alī b. Ibrāhīm—from Muḥammad b. `Alī b. `Abd-al-Raḥmān al-`Abdī, a slave of Qays, from ʿAuʿ b. `Alī al-`Ijlī, from a Persian man who he named, who said:

I went to Sāmarrāʾ and stayed beside the door of Imam Abū Muḥammad’s house and he called me inside. I entered and greeted him and he asked, “What has brought you [here]?” I replied, “The desire to serve you.” He ordered me to be the doorkeeper. So I stayed in the house along with the servants and also [had the duty of] buying their needs from the market and when there were men in the house I would enter without permission.

One day, I went to him while he was in the men’s quarters and I heard some movement in the room. He suddenly called out to me, “Stay in your place and don’t move.” I didn’t dare to enter or go out. A slave-maid came out and with her was a covered thing. He then called out to me and said, “Come in,” and I went in. He called out to the slave-maid and she returned to him. He then said to her, “Uncover what you have with you.”

She removed the veil [which was covering] a white handsome boy. He uncovered his stomach and there was hair from his chest to his navel but it was green, not black. He said, “This is your master.” He then ordered her [to take him away] and she took him away. After this, I did not see him until Abū Muḥammad passed away.

817. Al-Kāfī7: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from Muḥammad b. Ismāʿīl b. Mūsā b. Jaʿfar—who was a very old man from the descendants of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, in Iraq—who said: “I saw him between the two mosques, while he, peace be on him, was a young boy.”

818. Al-Kāfī8: Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā, from al-Ḥusayn b. Rizq-Allah Abū `Abd-Allah, from Mūsā b. Muḥammad b. al-Qasim b. ʿAmzat b. Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, from ʿAkma—(Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī’s daughter and the aunt of [the Mahdī’s] father—who said she had seen him in the night of his birth and also after that.

819. Al-Kāfī9: Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā, from al-ʿasan b. `Alī al-Nasībī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Mūsā b. Jaʿfar, from Abū Naṣr ʿArf—the servant—[who said] he had seen him, peace be on him.

820. Al-Kāfī10: `Alī b. Muḥammad from Fatmā—the slave of al-Razī [al-Zurʿī]—who said: “I heard Abū `Alī b. Muḥahhar mention that he had seen him and had described his height.”

The traditions with the following numbers also prove the above concept: 786–788, 796–797, 802, 804, and 808–810.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 435, no. 2; Yanāb` al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 460, to where he says, “we left”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 25–26, no. 19, which says, “Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, showed us his son”; Iḥm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 2, sect. 3; Tabḥirat al-wal, pp. 48–49, no. 16.
2. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 357, no. 319; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 346–347, no. 1; Tabḥirat al-wal, pp. 183–185, no. 76; Iḥb al-hud, vol. 3, chap. 31, pp. 415–416, no. 56, which is its beginning, and chap. 32, p. 511, no. 337, which is its end.
3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 434, no. 1; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 25, no. 18; Iḥm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 1, sect. 3.
4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 436–437, no. 5; Yanāb` al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461, similar to it from Ya`qūb; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 25, no. 17; Iḥm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 2, sect. 2.
5. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 328, no. 3, and vol. 1, p. 332, no. 12; Iḥm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 2, sect. 3; al-Irshād, p. 349; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 234, no. 203; Yanāb` al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 60, no. 48; Tabḥirat al-wal, pp. 50–51, no. 19, and p. 275, no. 111.
6. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 329, no. 6, and a shortened version on p. 332, no. 14, and a longer one on pp. 514–515, no. 2; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 435–436, no. 4; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 233–234, no. 202; Yanāb` al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461 (short version); Tabḥirat al-wal, pp. 51–52, no. 20, and pp. 276–277, no. 115; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 26–27, no. 21; Taqrīb al-ma`rif, pp. 184–185.
7. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 330, no. 2; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra` al-Imam,” p. 350, with the difference that he said, “I saw the son of al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, between the two mosques while he was a boy”; Yanāb` al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 268, no. 230; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 13, no. 8; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 449; Iḥm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 1, sect. 2; Tabḥirat al-wal, p. 55, no. 22; al-ḥir al-mustaqm, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 4, p. 240.
I say: Perhaps the two mosques in the tradition refers to the two mosques of Mecca and Medina.
8. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, pp. 330–331, no. 3. His saying, “The aunt of his father” refers to the paternal aunt of Imam Abū Muḥammad—al-`ujja’s father—peace be on him; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra` al-Imam,” p. 376, with the difference that he said: “. . . and she is the paternal aunt of al-ḥasan who had seen the Q`im . . .” and it mentions “al-ḥasan b. Rizq-Allah.”
9. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 332, no. 13; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra` al-Imam al-Th` Ashar,” p. 351; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 60–61, no. 49; al-ḥir al-mustaqm, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 4, p. 241.
10. Al-Kḥf, vol. 1, p. 331, no. 5; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra` al-Imam al-Th` Ashar,” p. 350; Yanāb` al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461, which says, “From my father, `Alī b. Muḥahhar, who said, ‘I saw the son of Abū Muḥammad and he was very majestic’”; Tabḥirat al-wal f man ra` al-Q`im al-Mahd, p. 55, no. 23, and p. 273, no. 103; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 14, no. 11; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 269, no. 233; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 450; al-ḥir al-mustaqm, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 4, p. 240.

Chapter Five

His life and miracles after his father’s death, the story of those who had the honour of being his representatives, and those who had the privilege of seeing him during the minor occultation

Comprised of Three Sections

Section One

Those who were fortunate enough to meet him during the minor occultation, peace be on him¹

Comprised of twenty–seven traditions

821. Kam^{al} al–dⁱⁿ2: Mu^{hammad} b. M^us^{ayyib} b. al–Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from `Abd–Allah b. Ja`far al–^{imyar} who said: “I asked Mu^{hammad} b. `Uthm^{an} al–`Amr^u, may Allah be satisfied with him, ‘Have you seen the Master of this Affair?’ He replied, ‘Yes. My last meeting with him was beside the sacred House of Allah while he was saying, “O Allah! Fulfill for me what You have promised me.””

822. Kam^{al} al–dⁱⁿ3: Mu^{hammad} b. M^us^{ayyib} b. al–Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Abd–Allah b. Ja`far al–^{imyar}, who said: “I heard Mu^{hammad} b. `Uthm^{an} al–`Amr^u, may Allah be satisfied with him, say, ‘I saw him—Allah’s blessings be on him—while he was holding the curtains of the Ka`ba beside the Mustaj^{ir}4 and saying, “O Allah! Take revenge for me from my enemies.””

823. Al–K^{uf}5: He has recorded from `Al^u b. Mu^{hammad} and other Shias of Qum, from Mu^{hammad} b. Mu^{hammad} al–^{mir}, from Ab^u Sa`^{id} Gh^{an}im al–Hind^u, a long tradition in which Ab^u Sa`^{id} mentions how he accepted Islam. In the end, he has mentioned the good fortune he had of meeting the Imam, peace be on him, the miracles that he saw from him, and that he gave him a purse [of money] for his expenses. As we mentioned, this tradition is quite long. Whoever wishes can read it from either al–K^{uf} or Kam^{al} al–dⁱⁿ.

824. Kam^{al} al–dⁱⁿ6: Through the same chain (of narrators) from Ibr^{ah}im b. Mu^{hammad} al–`Alaw^u, from ^{ar}f Ab^u Na^{asir} who said:

I went to the Master of the Time, peace be on him, who said to me, “Get me a red sandal.” I brought it for him and he said to me, “Do you know who I am?” I replied in the affirmative. He asked, “Who am I?” I answered, “You are my master and the son of my master.” He said, “I did not ask you about this.” I said, “May I be sacrificed for you! Explain for me.” He elaborated, “I am the last of the successors. Through me, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, repels the calamities from my family and my followers (ahl^u wa sh^{at}’at^u).”

825. Kam^{al} al–dⁱⁿ7: Narrated to me Mu^{hammad} b. al–^{asan}, may Allah be satisfied with him, from `Abd–Allah b. Ja`far al–^{imyar} who said:

I said to Mu^{hammad} b. `Uthm^{an} al–`Amr^u, may Allah be satisfied with him, “I want to ask you a question like the one Abraham asked his Lord—Mighty is his Majesty—when he said, “O Lord! Show me how You give life to the dead.” He asked, “Do you not believe?” He replied, “Yes [I do believe] but [I

am asking] for the assurance of my heart.”⁸ So, tell me about the Master of this affair; have you see him?” He replied, “Yes, and his neck is like this,” then pointed to his own neck.

826. Kam⁹ al-d⁹n9: Al-Mu⁹affar b. Ja`far b. al-Mu⁹affar al-`Alaw⁹ al-`Amr⁹, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from Ja`far b. Mu⁹ammad b. Mas`⁹ud, from his father, from Ja`far b. Ma`r⁹f, from Ab⁹ `Abd-Allah al-Balkh⁹, from Mu⁹ammad b. ⁹li⁹ b. `Al⁹ b. Mu⁹ammad b. Qanbar al-Kab⁹r—the slave of (Imam) al-Ri⁹, peace be on him—who said:

After Ab⁹ Mu⁹ammad al-`Askar⁹, peace be on him, died, the Master of the Time suddenly emerged from out of no-where upon Ja`far al-Kadh⁹b [the liar] who was arguing about [Ab⁹ Mu⁹ammad’s] inheritance. He said to him, “O Ja`far! Why do you seek [what is] my right?” Ja`far was confused and stunned. Then, the Imam disappeared from his sight. Ja`far searched for him amongst the people but did not find him. When [his] grandmother—the mother of (Imam) al-⁹asan died—she had ordered to be buried in the house but Ja`far had argued with them and had said, “This is my house. She cannot be buried here.” Again, [the Imam] had emerged upon him and had said, “O Ja`far! Is this your house?!” Then he disappeared and after this, Ja`far never saw him again.

827. Kam¹⁰ al-d¹⁰n10: Mu¹⁰ammad b. Ibr¹⁰h¹⁰m b. Is¹⁰q al-¹⁰liq¹⁰, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from `Al¹⁰ b. A¹⁰mad al-K¹⁰f—known as Ab¹⁰ I-Q¹⁰sim al-Khad¹⁰j—from Sulaim¹⁰ b. Ibr¹⁰h¹⁰m al-Riq¹⁰, from Ab¹⁰ Mu¹⁰ammad al-¹⁰asan b. Wajn¹⁰ al-Na¹⁰b¹⁰ who said:

During my fifty-fourth Hajj, after one-third of the night had passed, I was in prostration beneath the drainpipe (al-M¹⁰z¹⁰b) [of Ka`ba]. I was crying and wailing in supplication when somebody shook me and said, “Stand up, O ¹⁰asan b. Wajn¹⁰!” I stood up and saw a yellow skinny slave-woman who was less than forty years old. I went along with her without asking any questions until we reached Khad¹⁰ja’s residence, peace be on her. There was a house there whose entrance was in the middle of the wall and had a wooden staircase. The slave-girl went up then I heard, “O ¹⁰asan! Come up.” I went up and stood at the door.

The Master of the Time said to me, “O ¹⁰asan! Do you think that I was unaware of you? By Allah! I was with you every moment of your Hajj.” Then, he recounted everything that I had done. I [fainted] and fell on my face. I felt a hand touching me and stood up.

Then, he said to me, “O ¹⁰asan! Stay at Ja`far b. Mu¹⁰ammad’s house, peace be on him, and don’t worry about your food, drink, and clothing.” Then, he gave me a book in which the prayer called al-Faraj (du`¹⁰ al-faraj) and salutations upon him were written. He said to me, “Say this prayer and send salutations upon me as mentioned over here. Don’t disclose this book to anyone except my rightful friends. Allah, Majestic is His Might, will grant you success.” I asked, “Master! Will I see you after this?” He replied, “O ¹⁰asan! If Allah wills.”

I finished my Hajj and stayed in Ja`far b. Mu¹⁰ammad’s house, peace be on him. I would go out of the house and only return to it to do one of three things: To renew my ablutions, to sleep, or to eat food.

Whenever I entered the house to eat, I would find there a square bowl filled with water; on top it there would be a loaf of bread and on top of that whatever I had desired [to eat] during the day. I would eat it and it would be enough for me.

During the winter there would be winter-clothing and during summer, summer-clothing. During the day, I would bring the water in and sprinkle some of it in the house and I would leave the jug empty.

Sometimes, food would be brought for me that I didn't need and I would give it in charity at night so that those who stayed with me would not find out about my affair."

828. Kamāl al-dīn¹¹: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq al-ḥalīqīnī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Abū I-Qāsim `Alī b. Aḥmad al-Khadījī al-Kāfī, from al-Azdī who said:

I was performing ḥawf¹² and had finished six rounds and had just intended to start the seventh round when I saw that on the right side of the Ka`ba a circle [of people had gathered]. There was a very handsome youth there, who had a fragrant smell. He was very majestic and with all his majesty he would come close to the people and speak with them.

I had never heard a better speech, sweeter words, and a better session than his. I went forward to speak with him but the crowd pushed me back. I asked some of them, "Who is he?" They replied, "He is the son of Allah's Messenger and appears for his close companions once every year and speaks with them." I cried out, "O my master! I have come to you for guidance, so guide me; May Allah guide you!"

[On hearing this], he, peace be on him, gave me a pebble and I turned back. One of the people asked, "What did he give you?" I replied, "A pebble," and opened my fist but found a piece of gold instead! I continued going and suddenly there he was, beside me. He said to me, "My proof has been completed upon you and the truth has become manifest for you and blindness has been removed from you? Do you know who I am?" I replied in the negative.

He answered, "I am the Mahdī. I am the Qā'im of the time. I am the one who will fill [the earth] with justice just as it will be filled with injustice. The earth will never be devoid of Allah's Proof and the people will not be left without a divine proof. This is a trust [secret]; don't talk about it to anyone except your brothers who are on the right path."

829. Kamāl al-dīn¹³: Narrated to us Aḥmad b. Ziyād b. Ja`far al-Hamdānī, from Abū I-Qāsim Ja`far b. Aḥmad al-`Alawī al-Rīqqī al-`Urayī, from Abū I-`āsan `Alī b. Aḥmad al-`Aqqī, from Abū Nu`aim al-Anḥarī al-Zaidī, who said:

I and a group from the Muqāḥira were in Mecca beside the Mustajīr. Among them were: al-Maḥmūdī, `Allīn al-Kulainī, Abū I-Haytham al-Dīnī, and Abū Ja`far al-`Awwāl al-Hamdānī and they were approximately thirty people. I knew not a single sincere person amongst them except Muḥammad b. al-Qāsim al-`Alawī al-`Aqqī.

On that day—which was Dhul-Hijja 6, 293 AH—a youth emerged from the ḥawḍ who was wearing two pieces of clothing which he had used as iḥrām-clothing¹⁴ and he was carrying his slippers with him. When we saw him, we all stood up because of his majesty. None of us remained except that he stood up and greeted him. He then sat down and looked towards his right and his left.

Then, he said, “Do you know what (Imam) Abū `Abd-Allah used to say in the prayer of al-Ilḥḍ?” We replied, “What did he say?” He said, “He used to say, ‘O Allah! Surely, I ask You by Your Name by which the sky and the earth stand, and you differentiate between the truth and the falsehood, and You gather the scattered ones, and You scatter the gathered ones, and You enumerate the number of sand particles, the weight of the mountains, and the capacity of the ocean, that You send Your blessings upon Muḥammad and the family of Muḥammad and that You grant me relief and an exit-way regarding my [difficult] affairs.’” Saying this, he stood up and continued the ḥawḍ. When he stood up to go, we too stood up but forgot to ask him who he was.

The next day—at the same time—he emerged again from the ḥawḍ and came to us. Like the previous day, we stood up. He sat in his place right in the middle, then looked towards his right and then left, and asked, “Do you know what Amīr al-Muʾminīn `Alī, peace be on him, used to say after his obligatory prayers?” We replied, “What did he say?” He said, “He used to invoke, ‘O Allah! Voices are raised towards You, [invocations are made to You], faces are downcast before You, necks bow down for You, and You judge about the deeds. O the Best Who is asked and the Best Who gives! O Truthful, O Creator, O the One Who does not violate His promises! O the One Who has ordered to invoke and has taken the responsibility of responding [to the invocations]!

O the One Who said,

“Invoke Me, I will answer your prayers” (Quran Surah Ghafir 40:60).

O the One Who said,

“And when My servants ask you about Me, [tell them] surely I am Near, I respond to the supplication of the supplicant when he supplicates to Me; They should invoke Me and believe in Me; perhaps they may be guided” (Quran Surah Baqarah 2: 186).

O the One Who said,

“O My servants who have been extravagant to themselves! Don’t despair of Allah’s Mercy, surely Allah forgives all the sins; Verily, He is the Forgiving, the Merciful” (Quran Surah Najm 53:39).”

After saying this supplication, he looked left and right, then said, “Do you know what Amīr al-Muʾminīn, peace be on him, used to say in the prostration-of-thanking (sajdat al-shukr)?” We replied, “What did he say?” He answered, “He used to say, ‘O He who the insistence of the insisters (ilḥḍ al-mulī) increases nothing in Him except generosity and munificence! O He who owns the treasures of the skies

and the earth! O He who owns the large and small treasures! let not my misdeeds prevent You from Your obligations on me. I ask You that You deal with me as is worthy of You and You are Worthy of generosity, munificence, and forgiveness.

O Lord! O Allah! Deal with me as is worthy of You. You have the power to punish me and I am eligible for it. I have no argument and no excuse before You. I confess to all my sins and I acknowledge them all so that You may pardon me while You are more Aware of them than I am. I confess to all the sins that I have engaged in and to all the mistakes that I have committed and to all the bad deeds that I have performed. O Lord! Forgive me, have mercy, and ignore what You know [of my sins]. Surely, You are the Mightiest, the most Munificent.”

Then, he stood up and continued the *ḥawḥ* and we too stood up in his reverence. He returned at the same time the next day and we stood up to welcome him as we had done in the past. He sat in the middle, looked right and left, and said, “Imam `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn, the Master of the Worshippers, used to recite the following supplication in prostration at that place—and he pointed towards the *ḥijr* near the drainpipe (al-Mizāb)—“Your servant is at Your doorstep, Your beggar is at Your door, I ask You what no one can fulfill but You.”

Then, he looked right and left, then looked at Muḥammad b. al-Qāsim al-`Alawī and said, “O Muḥammad b. al-Qāsim! You are on [the path of] goodness (anta `alī khair), if Allah wills.” Saying this, he got up and resumed the *ḥawḥ*. None of us remained but that he had learnt the supplications which he had mentioned. We forgot to discuss him until the end of the day. Al-Maḥmūdī said to us, “O people! Do you know him?” We replied in the negative. He said, “By Allah! He was the Master of the Time, peace be on him.”

We enquired, “Why so, O Abī `Alī?” He replied that he had been asking his Lord, Mighty and Majestic be He, for the last seven years that He show him the Master of the Affair. Then he said, “On the night of the day-of-`Arafa, I saw the same person. He was reciting a supplication that I memorized. I asked him who he was. He replied, ‘From the people.’ I questioned, ‘From which people? The [free] Arabs or their slaves and servants?’ He replied, ‘From the [free] Arabs.’ I asked, ‘From which Arabs?’ He replied, ‘From the noblest and highest amongst them.’

I asked, ‘And who are they?’ He replied, ‘The Banī-Hāshim.’ I asked, ‘From which tribe from the Banī-Hāshim?’ He replied, ‘The highest and most elite of them.’ I asked, ‘From whom amongst them?’ He said, ‘From those who split the skulls [of the enemies], fed food [to the people], and prayed during the night while the people were asleep.’ I said: ‘He is an `Alawī [i.e. a descendant of Alī b. Abī Ḥālib] and I love the `Alawīs.’

Then, he disappeared from right in front of my eyes. I didn’t know where he went, [up] in the sky or [down] in the earth. I asked the people who were around him, ‘Do you know this `Alawī?’ They replied, ‘Yes. He performs Hajj with us every year on foot.’ I exclaimed, ‘Glory be to Allah! By Allah, I did not see

the effect of walking in him [i.e. swollen or bruised feet, etc.].’ I went to Muzdalifa¹⁵ while I was grieving and sorrowful because of his separation. When I slept that night, I saw the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, in my dream and he said, ‘O Muḥammad! Did you see what you were looking for?’

I asked, ‘And what is that, my Master?’ He replied, ‘The person whom you met at the beginning of the night. He is the master of your time.’” When we heard this [story] from him, we protested to him for not informing us [earlier]. He said that he had completely forgotten about it until he mentioned it to us.

(Al-Ḥadīq says): `Ammār b. al-Ḥusayn b. Isḥāq al-Asrīshan, may Allah be satisfied with him, also narrated this tradition to us at the mountain of Bṭak in the land of Farghāna¹⁶. He said, “Abū I-Ḥusayn Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Iskafī narrated to me, from Sulaim, from Abū Nu`aim al-Anṣarī who said, “I and a group of the Muqāṭirā were in Mecca beside the Mustajīr. Among them were: al-Maḥmūdī, `Allān al-Kulainī, and . . .” He mentioned the exact same tradition.

And also narrated to us Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Ḥatīm, from Abū I-Ḥusayn `Ubaid-Allah b. Muḥammad b. Ja`far al-Qaṣabīnī al-Baghdādī, from Abū Muḥammad `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. al-Ḥusayn al-Madhārī, from Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Munqidhī al-Ḥasanī at Mecca who said, “I and a group of the Muqāṭirā were in Mecca beside the Mustajīr. Amongst them were: al-Maḥmūdī, `Allān al-Kulainī, and al-Ḥasan b. al-Wajīn and they were approximately thirty people . . .” He mentioned the exact same tradition.

830. Kamāl al-dīn¹⁷: Abū I-Adyān narrates that

I used to serve Imam al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on them, and I used to carry and convey his letters to the cities. I went to him when he was afflicted with the disease that became the cause of his death. He wrote a letter and said to me, “Take it to Madīn. You will be absent for fifteen days and when you return to Sāmarrā’ on the fifteenth day, you will hear the voices wailing in my house and you will find me in the place where I will be given the ritual bath.”

I said, “O my master! When that happens then who [will succeed you?]” He replied, “The one who will seek the reply of these letters from you.” I asked for more [explanations on the issue]. He said, “The one who will lead my funeral prayers is the Qa’im after me.” I asked for more. He said, “The one who will inform about the contents of the money-bag.” Awe prevented me from asking him about the contents of the money-bag.

I took the letters to Madīn received their answers and entered Sāmarrā’ on the fifteenth day like he—peace be on him—had said to me. I heard the wails from his house and saw his body at the place of the ritual bath. His brother Ja`far b. `Alī was standing at the doorway. People had surrounded him and were expressing their condolences to him and congratulating him [on being the next Imam]. I thought to myself, “If this person is an Imam, then the position of Imamate has been scrapped.” I knew

him too well. He would drink alcohol, gamble in the royal palace, and would play the *qanbūr*18.

Anyway, I went forward and expressed my condolences to him and congratulated him but he did not ask me about anything. At this juncture, `Aqīd the servant emerged from the house and said, “O master! Your brother has been shrouded. Kindly come and say the [funeral] prayers.”

Hence, Ja`far b. `Alī and the Shias who were with him entered the house accompanied by al-Sammān and ḡasan b. `Alī—known as Salma who was later killed by al-Mu`ta`im. When we entered the house, I saw the shrouded body of al-ḡasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, on the bier. Ja`far b. `Alī stepped forward to lead his brothers [funeral] prayers. Just as he intended to say the Takbīr [i.e. the commencing Allah-Akbar of the prayer], a child emerged whose complexion was neither dark nor white, had curly hair, and his teeth had spaces between them.

He pulled Ja`far b. `Alī's robe and said, “O Uncle! Step back. I am more worthy of leading the [funeral] prayers for my father.” Ja`far stepped back while he had turned pale. The child came forward and led the prayers and [the Imam] was buried beside his father's grave, peace be on them.

Then, he said to me, “O Baḡrī! Bring forth the replies of those letters that are with you.” I handed him the replies of the letters and thought to myself that [I saw] two of the signs but the issue of the money-bag is still pending. Then I went out to Ja`far b. `Alī who was breathing heavily with grief.

ḡajiz al-Washshā asked him, “O my Master! Who is this child so that we establish an argument against him?” He replied, “By Allah, I had not seen him before this day and I don't know who he is.” While we were sitting, a group of people came from Qum and asked for (Imam) al-ḡasan b. `Alī, peace be on him. They were informed about his death and wanted to know to whom [they must offer their condolences]. The people pointed to Ja`far b. `Alī. They went towards him, said hello, and expressed their condolences and congratulated him. They said, “We have with us letters and money. Inform us about the owners of the letters and the amount of the money.” On hearing this, Ja`far stood up and shook his clothes and said, “Do you expect us to have knowledge about the unseen?”

Instantly, the servant appeared and said, “You have with you letters from so and so and you have a money-bag which contains a thousand dinars, of which ten are worn out.” They immediately handed over the letters and the money and said, “The one who has asked you to take these is the Imam.” Ja`far went to al-Mu`tamid and told him what had happened. Al-Mu`tamid dispatched his soldiers and they arrested ḡaqī the slave-woman and demanded the child from her. She denied [he was born] and claimed she was presently pregnant, to divert them [from investigating further] about the child. She was handed over to ibn Abī l-Shawḡrib the judge. The unexpected death of `Ubaid-Allah b. Yaḡyā b. Khḡqḡn and the revolt of ḡḡib al-Zanj in Baḡra, kept them busy and they ignored the slave-woman who managed to escape from them. And all praise is for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

831. Al-Kḡf19: `Alī, from Abī `Alī Aḡmad b. Ibrāhīm b. Idrīs, from his father who said: “I saw him, peace be on him, after the death of (Imam) Abī Muḡammad when he was an adolescent. I kissed his

hands and his forehead.”

832. Kamāl al-dīn²⁰: Abū I-`Abbās Aḥmad b. al-ḥusayn b. `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. Mihrān al-ḥabīb al-`Arḥḥī, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us at Marv, from [Abū] I-ḥusayn [b.] Zaid b. `Abd-Allah al-Baghdādī, from Abū I-ḥasan `Alī b. Sinān al-Mauḥilī, from his father who said:

When our master—Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī al-`Askarī, peace be on him—passed away, a delegation from Qum and from the mountains came with the wealth that was customary for them to bring and they were not aware of (Imam) al-ḥasan’s death. When they reached Sāmarrā’ they asked about our master, al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, and they were informed that he had died.

They asked, “Who is his inheritor?” They were told, “His brother, Ja`far b. `Alī.” They asked, “Where is he?” They were told that “He is drinking [wine] in a boat on the Tigris River accompanied by some singers.” The delegates consulted amongst themselves that these [acts] are not the attributes of an Imam. Some of them suggested that they go back and return the wealth to their respective owners. Abū I-`Abbās Muḥammad b. Ja`far al-ḥimyarī al-Qummī said, “Let us wait for this person to return and verify the news ourselves.”

When he returned, they went to him and greeted him and said, “O our master! We are residents of Qum and amongst us, there are some Shias and some others. We used to bring the wealth and give it to Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī.” (Ja`far) asked, “Where is [the wealth]?” They replied, “It is with us.” He said, “Bring it for me.” They argued, “We can’t. There is a method of handing over this wealth.”

He said, “And what is that?” They explained, “This wealth has been collected from the Shias one coin or a few coins at a time. These are then put in a sack and sealed. Whenever we presented them to our master Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, he would say, ‘The total number of dinars in the sack is so and so. Such and such person has sent so and so number of them . . .’ and he would mention the name of all the people. He would even describe the inscriptions on the seals of the money-bags.” Ja`far answered, “You are lying! You are attributing to my brother what he did not do. [What you except from me] is the knowledge of the unseen that no one knows except Allah.” When they heard this statement from Ja`far, they exchanged glances amongst themselves. Then, he said, “Hand this wealth over to me.” They replied, “We are only the deliverymen.

The owners of this wealth have entrusted them to us. We will not hand them over except after [seeing] the signs that we know from our master, al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him. If you are the Imam, then prove it; otherwise we will return these monies to their owners and then, let them do whatever they like.”

Ja`far complained to the caliph who happened to be in Sāmarrā’ at that time. The caliph summoned them and ordered them to give the money to Ja`far. They said, “May Allah make the Emir righteous! We are a group who have been paid and entrusted to these money by their owners whom we represent. They have given them to us on the condition that we only hand them over [after seeing] signs and proofs. This was our custom when Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, was still alive.”

The Caliph responded, "What was the sign that Abū Muḥammad used to show?" They said, "He used to describe the dinars, their owners, the wealth, and their amount.

When he did this, we handed over the wealth to him. We have come to him many times and always, this was the sign and proof. Now that he has died, if this man is the owner of his affairs, then he should show us [the miracles] that his brother used to. Otherwise, we will return them to their original owners." Jaʿfar said, "O Emir! These people are liars and are lying about my brother.

This is the knowledge of the unseen (ʿilm al-ghayb)." The caliph shot back, "They are merely messengers and a messenger duty is to convey the message." Jaʿfar was stunned and had no option but to keep silent. The delegation then said, "May the caliph oblige us by sending an escort with us until we exit the city." So al-Muṭamid sent one of his servants and he escorted them out of the city. Just as they exited the city, a very handsome boy appeared who looked like a servant.

He called out, "O son of so and so and O son of so and so! Answer the call of your master." They asked, "Are you our master?" He replied, "I seek refuge in Allah! I am the slave of your master, so proceed towards him." We walked along with him until we entered the house of our master, al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī, peace be on him. We saw his son, our master, the Qaʿim, peace be on him, sitting on a chair. His visage was like the moon and he was wearing a green robe. We exchanged greetings then he said, "The total number of coins is so much dinars; such and such person carried so and so amount of it . . ." He continued describing until he had described everything. He then described our clothes, belongings, and animals.

[On hearing these], we fell down in prostration to thank Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, for what we had recognized. We kissed the earth in front of him and asked him what we wanted and he answered everything. We handed the wealth to him and the Qaʿim ordered us not to bring wealth to Sāmarrāʾ anymore. He said that he would appoint a person in Baghdad to whom all the money should be given to and that all the signed letters (al-tauqāt) would come through him.

When we were about to return, he gave Abū I-ʿAbbās Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar al-Qummī al-ʿimyarī, some 21 and a shroud, saying, "May Allah give you great reward concerning yourself!" Abū I-ʿAbbās had barely reached the passageway of Hamadan when he passed away; may Allah have mercy on him. Ever since, we have been taking the money to Baghdad to the appointed deputies and his signed letters are with them.

833. Al-ʿṣṣī's al-Ghayba²²: It has been narrated from Rashīq ibn al-Madrīy that

Al-Muṭamid sent for us and we were three people. He ordered each of us to mount a horse and take a spare one with him and take along the least things necessary [for travel]. He told us to go to Sāmarrāʾ and he described for us the exact area and house. He then said, "When you reach there, you will see a black slave at the door. Raid the house and bring for me the head of whoever you find in it." We reached Sāmarrāʾ and found the facts exactly as he had told us. At the entrance, there was a black slave, in

whose hand was a cloth which he was weaving. We asked him about the house and those who were inside.

He replied, “Its owner.” By Allah! He did not pay attention to us and didn’t even care [about what we were going to do]. We raided the house as ordered and found a dark room in it. Opposite the room, there was a curtain; we had never seen anything finer than it before. It was as if it had just been woven a few moments ago.

So, we raised the curtain and we saw a huge house filled with water like a sea. In the farthest end of the room, there was a mat which we realized was [floating] on water. Standing on the mat was a very handsome man who was praying. He neither paid heed to us nor to any of our means. Aḥmad b. `Abd-Allah took the lead in crossing the room but started drowning in the water.

He was struggling until I stretched my hand towards him, rescued him, and brought him out. He became unconscious and remained in this condition for some time. Our second companion repeated the same act and met the same fate. I was stunned and said to the owner of the house, “I seek apology from Allah and from you. By Allah! I did not know about this [affair] and had no idea to whom I was coming. I repent to Allah.” But the owner of the house did not pay any attention to what I said and did not cease from what he was doing.

We were struck with fear and left him. Meanwhile, Muṭaʿid was waiting for us and had instructed his doorkeepers to let us in regardless of the time we arrived. We arrived at night and they allowed us to see him. He asked us about our expedition and we informed him about what we had seen. He said, “Woe to you! Have you met anyone before me or have you spoken to anyone [about this]?” We said, “No.” He said, “I am not my ancestor’s descendant²³—and he solemnly vowed—if I don’t instantly chop off your heads if any news about this incident reaches me [from someone other than you].” So, we didn’t dare mention this incident to anyone except after he died.

834. Al-Kḥf²⁴: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Ibrāhīm, from Abū `Abd-Allah b. ʿAlī that he saw him near the Black-Stone (ḥajar al-Aswad) while the people were [wrestling each other] to reach it, and he was saying, “They have not been ordered to do this.”

835. Ghaybat al-Shaykh²⁵: A group informed us from al-Talla`ukbar, from Aḥmad b. `Alī al-Rāzī, from `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn, from a man—who he said was from Qazwin but did not mention his name—from ʿAbū b. Muḥammad b. Yūnus b. Shādhān al-Ḥanānī who said:

I went to `Alī b. Mahziyār al-Ahwāzī and asked him about the family of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on them. He said, “My brother! You have asked about a great matter! I performed Hajj twenty times with the purpose of seeing the Imam with my eyes but had no luck. One night, I was sleeping in my sleeping-place, when someone called out to me, ‘O `Alī b. Ibrāhīm! Allah has given me permission to perform Hajj.’”

I was restless the whole night until morning. I was in deep thought about my affair and was waiting for the Hajj season, day and night. When the Hajj season finally arrived, I made preparations and started my journey towards Medina. I continued until I reached Yathrib. I asked about the family of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, but found no trace of them nor heard any news about them. I kept thinking about this affair until I went out of Medina and commenced my journey towards Mecca.

I entered Juʿfa and stayed there for a day then set off for al-Ghadīr which is about four miles²⁶ beyond Juʿfa. There, I entered the mosque, prayed, and put my forehead on the earth [in prostration] and greatly prayed to Allah and invoked Him, asking about them. Then, I set off for ʿUsfūn and continued until I entered Mecca. I stayed in Mecca for a few days performing ḥawḥ and worshipping Allah. One night, while I was performing ḥawḥ, I noticed a handsome fragrant youth who walked nicely and was circumambulating Kaʿba. My heart inclined towards him and I stopped near him and slightly touched him. He asked me, “Where are you from?” I replied, “From Iraq.”

He asked, “Wherefrom in Iraq?” I answered, “Ahwāz²⁷.” He asked, “Do you know al-Khaṣīb in Ahwāz?” I replied, “May Allah have mercy on him! He was called and he has answered the call [i.e. he has died].” He rejoined, “May Allah have mercy on him! How lengthy were his nights, how intense was his devotion, and how plentiful were his tears! Do you know ʿAlī b. Mahziyār?” I replied, “I am ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm.” He greeted me, “May Allah keep you safe, O Abū Iḥṣān! What did you do to the sign that was between you and (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī, peace be on him?”

I replied, “It is with me.” He said, “Bring it out.” I put my hand in my pocket and brought it out. When he saw it, he could not control the tears from pouring out of his eyes. He cried and wailed until his old clothes became wet. He said, “O son of Mahziyār! You have been permitted now. Pack up and prepare yourself until it becomes pitch dark in the night and its darkness overwhelms the people. Go to the Canyon of Banū ʿUmīr and you will meet me there.” I returned to my residence and when I felt that the time had come, I prepared my saddle, readied my she-camel, packed my belongings, sat on my mount, and traveled very fast until I reached the Canyon.

There, I saw the youth standing. He called out, “O Abū Iḥṣān! Come to me.” I went towards him and when I reached him, he greeted me first and said, “O brother! Come along with me.” He talked with me and I with him until we crossed the mountains of ʿArafāt and set off towards the mountains of Minā. When the rays of the first dawn (al-fajr al-awwal) appeared, we still hadn’t reached the mountains of Ḥif. On reaching there, he ordered me to dismount and said, “Descend and perform the night-prayers.” I performed the prayers.

He told me to perform the Waṭr prayer and I obliged—this was a useful lesson from him. Then, he ordered me to perform the thanking-prostration (sajdat al-shukr) and the advised deeds after the prayers. After he finished his prayers, he mounted his ride and told me to do so too. We traveled until we reached the pinnacle of Ḥif.

He asked me, "Do you see anything?" I replied, "Yes. I can see a sand-dune on which is a hair-tent. The tent glows with light." When I saw it, I felt inclined towards it. He said to me, "That is [the place of] wishes and hopes." He then said, "Come along with me, O brother!" He went and I went along with him until he descended from the peak and reached the foot of the mountain. He told me, "Come down, for it is here that every arrogant is degraded and every despot has to bow down." He continued, "Drop the reins of the she-camel." I asked, "In whose care should I leave it?" He replied, "[This is] the sanctuary of the Q'aim, peace be on him. No one enters it except a believer and none exits it except a believer." So, I dropped the reins of my camel.

He walked and I walked along with him until he reached the tent's door. He went inside and ordered me to wait until he came out. [When he came out] he said, "Enter! Therein lies safety." I entered and saw him sitting wearing one garment on top and another as a trouser. His outer garment was tied around him in such a way that one of its ends was on his shoulder. He was like a purple daisy on which dew had formed . . . He was like a ḅn28 tree branch or basil sprout. He was benevolent, generous, pious, pure, and neither very tall nor very short, but had average height.

He had a round head, a wide forehead, long thin eyebrows, aquiline nose, thin cheeks, and on his right cheek was a mole like a grain of musk on a piece of ambergris. When I saw him, I greeted him and he returned my greetings in a better way. He spoke to me and asked me about the people of Iraq. I replied, "They have been forced to wear the robe of disgrace and they are lowly amongst the nation."

Then, he said to me, "O son of Mahziỵr! Soon, your [people] will rule them like they are ruling you now and then, on that day, they will be the lowly ones." I said, "My master! Indeed, my homeland is far and it has taken me a long time to reach to you." He answered, "O son of Mahziỵr! My father, Aḅ Mụammad, has taken a covenant from me that I not stay in the neighborhood of a people on whom is Allah's wrath and His curse and whom are disgraced in this world and the Hereafter and will have a painful torment.

He has ordered me that I not stay in the mountains except the rugged ones and in the lands except the dusty ones. Allah, your Guardian, has manifested dissimulation (al-taqiyya) and has ordered me to practice it. So, I will practice dissimulation until the day I am given permission to emerge." I asked, "My master! When will this happen?" He replied, "When the path to Ka`ba is blocked, the sun and the moon come together, and the planets and the stars revolve around them." I enquired, "When, O son of Allah's Messenger?" He said, "In such and such year when the Land-Creature (Ḍbat al-Aṛ) emerges from between (the mountains) of ʿaf̣ and Marwa. He will have with him the Staff of Moses and the Ring of Solomon. He will drive the people to the gathering place."

I stayed with him for a few days. He permitted me to leave after I reached my greatest desire and set off for my home. By Allah! I journeyed from Mecca to Ḳfa and with me was a slave who served me. I saw nothing except goodness. And Allah's blessings be on Mụammad and his family.

836. Kamāl al-dīn29: Muḥammad b. Mūsā b. al-Mutawakkil, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-`imyarī, from Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār who said:

I entered the city of the Messenger, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, and sought news about the family of Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, but found nothing. I went to Mecca for the same reason and during ḥawfī, I saw a youth who had a tanned complexion and was very handsome and good-looking. I went to him with the hope of finding what I was seeking. I greeted him and he replied to my greetings nicely, and asked me, "Which city do you belong to?" I replied, "I am from Iraq." He enquired, "Which city of Iraq?" I answered, "I am an inhabitant of Ahwāz."

On hearing this, he said, "Good to meet you! Do you know Ja`far b. ḥamdān al-ḥuḥaynī in Ahwāz?" I responded, "He was called and he answered [i.e. he passed away]." On hearing this, he remarked, "May Allah have mercy on him! His nights were long and his reward will be great. Do you know Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār?" I answered, "I am Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār."

He embraced me for a long time and exclaimed, "Welcome, O Abū Isḥāq! Where is the sign which was between you and (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him?" I replied, "You mean the ring from Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī al-ḥayyib, peace be on him, by which Allah, the Exalted, granted me high stature." He answered, "I am asking for nothing else." I took out the ring and when he saw it he cried and kissed it.

He then read out what was written on it: "O Allah, O Muḥammad, and O `Alī." He then said, "May my father be sacrificed for the hand that wore it . . . O Abū Isḥāq! Tell me what you intend to do after completing your Hajj." I said, "I swear by your father, my aim was nothing but what I will ask you about its hidden [affairs]."

He replied, "Ask whatever you intend and God Willing, I will explain them for you." I questioned, "Do you have any news about the family of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan, peace be on him?" He replied, "By Allah, I observe light in the foreheads of Muḥammad and Mūsā, the two sons of (imam) al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him. I am a courier sent by both of them to you, to inform you about their affair." If you desire to meet them and decorate yourself by their blessings, then come along with me to ḥīf but don't inform any of your friends about it."

So, I went along with him and passed through sandy lands until we reached the outskirts of a large desert. There, we saw a fur-tent which had been erected on top of a sand dune, due to which the lands around it were glittering. He hurried forward to seek permission and entered and greeted them and told them about me. The older one emerged from the tent. He was M-U-Ḥ-A-M-M-A-D, the son of (Imam) al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him.

He was a youngster whose facial hair had barely started growing and his complexion was pure-white. He had a shiny forehead, separated eyebrows, smooth cheeks, aquiline nose . . . and was exceptionally handsome like a bīn tree branch. His forehead was like a shining star. There was a mole on his right

cheek [which was] like a piece of musk on the whiteness of silver. He had thick black hair which was hanging over his ears.

His visage was so fine that I had never seen such beauty, grace, and modesty. I rushed towards him and started kissing his feet and hands. He said, “O Abū Isḥāq! The passing days were [telling me] that I would meet you very soon. Although our residences were far apart and we were far from meeting, but the love for each other and the desire to meet you, had created for me an image of you that it was as if a single moment had not passed but that we were having pleasant conversations with each other and were imagining seeing each other. I express my gratitude to my Lord who is the owner of all praise for making this meeting possible and bringing to an end our waiting and separation.”

He then asked me about all [my brothers]. I said, “May my father and mother be sacrificed for you! Ever since Allah took the life of my master Abū Muḥammad, I have been in search of your affairs from one land to another—and your affair was hidden from me until Allah obliged me by someone who guided and led me to you.

All praise is for Allah who obliged me by guiding me to your generosity. He then introduced himself and his brother Mūsā to me and then took me to another place and said, “My father took a covenant from me that I reside in no land but those who are the most concealed and the farthest away; so that my affairs would remain hidden and my place would remain protected from the plots of the deviated people and the conspiracies of those who are astray.

Thus, he sent me to the great deserts and the lonely lands. An ending awaits me in which this [problem] will be solved and the sorrows will be dispelled. He, peace be on him, acquainted me with the treasures of wisdom and hidden knowledge. If I make you aware of a small part of them, you will be needless of the others.

“O Abū Isḥāq! [My father], peace be on him, said, ‘Allah, the Exalted, will not leave any region of his earth and those who stride in obeying and worshipping him, without a (Divine) proof who will be the cause of their promotion, the leader they will follow, and will be their model whose customs they will practice and his clear path they will stride on. O my son! I have great hope that you will be one of those whom Allah, the Exalted, has enumerated amongst those [who He has selected] to spread the truth, eliminate falsehood, give stature to religion, and extinguish deviation. So O son! Stay in the most concealed of places and far-off locations, because for every friend of Allah, there is a harsh enemy and a disputing opponent, because they must fight the hypocrites and uproot the heretics and the stubborn. This should not scare you.

Be certain that the hearts of the people of obedience and sincerity fly towards you with desire like the birds towards their nests. They are a people who are regarded as lowly and humble, but before Allah, they are very dear. They seem disturbed and needy but [in reality] they practice contentment and abstention.

They have understood the religion and assist it against those who try hard in opposing it. Allah has destined them to suffer from oppression in this world so that He greatly honors them in the eternal abode [of Paradise]. He has created them with the characteristic of forbearance so that they attain the best of outcomes and the respects [of the Hereafter].

Therefore, my son, take the light of forbearance in all your tasks and you will be successful in reaching what Allah has made. Make honor the slogan of your intentions and God willing you will obtain the praised things. O my son! [It is as if I am seeing the time] when you will be assisted with divine help and its time will have arrived, victory will have been facilitated, and dominance will have been brought forward.

[It is as if I am seeing] you beside yellow flags and white banners which are flapping over you between the **al-Bayt** and the Zamzam [in Mecca]. I see you [amongst your followers] who are in line to pledge allegiance to you and are expressing their love. They are organized around you like pearls on a necklace. [I hear] beside the Black-Rock (**al-Jabar al-Aswad**) the hands being [pressed against each other as a gesture] of allegiance. They seek refuge to you and are those whom Allah has created out of clean birth (**al-ahwat al-wilada**)³⁰ and the best essence (**nafsat al-turba**).

Their hearts (**qulubuhum**) are sanctified from the impurity of hypocrisy and their hearts (**af'ida**) are purified from the filth of heresy. They are gentle towards religion and very harsh towards tyranny. Their faces are shining with grace. They believe in the true religion and its followers. When their columns become firm and their pillars become upright, then with their support, the different ranks of the nation will come to the Imam.

They will pay allegiance to you under the shadow of a large tree whose branches stretch over the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias)³¹. It is then that the morning of truth will dawn and the darkness of falsehood will vanish. Allah will break tyranny by you and will bring back the teachings of faith. By you the resistance of the horizons and the peace of leniency will become manifest (**istiqlamat al-fiq wa salam al-rifq**).

The children in the cradle would wish that they could get up and come to you and the wild [animals] would wish that they had a path towards you. By you, the world will shake with joy. The branches of honor will sprout over your head, the framework of truth will firmly settle in its place, the runaways from religion will return to their nests, and the clouds of victory will pour onto you.

Then, you will choke the enemies and will assist all the friends. There will remain on the face of earth no powerful oppressor, no ungrateful denier, no vengeful hater, and no opposing enemy. Whoever relies on Allah, [Allah] is sufficient for him. Allah will surely complete His affairs and Allah has appointed to everything a value.”

He then said, “O **Ab Isq**! Keep this meeting a secret except from those who are the people of acknowledgement and are your true brothers in religion. So, when the signs of reappearance and victory appear for you, don't lag behind your brothers in coming to us and rush towards the banners of certitude

and the light of the lamps of religion, so that God willing, you will acquire guidance.”

I stayed with him for some time and learnt from him lucid knowledge and illuminating laws. I irrigated the plants of my chest by the freshness of the refreshing wisdoms and delicate sciences Allah had stored in him. This continued until I feared that I might lose those who I had left behind in Ahwāz because such a long time had passed [since I last saw them]. I sought his permission to return and also informed him about the intense loneliness that I felt because I was going to leave him and had no choice but to depart.

Thus, he granted me permission and bestowed me with great supplications, which God Willing, will be reserved for me with Allah and useful for my descendants and relatives. When my departure neared and I was ready to set off, I gave him the more than fifty thousand dirhams that I had with me and asked him to accept them from me.

He smiled and said, “O Abū Isḥāq! Use it for your return because the [long Journey] will be hard and you will have to pass many deserts. Don’t be sad that we have refused to accept it. We thank you and will remember this. May Allah bless what he has given you, maintain his bounties [upon you], grant you the best reward of the good-doers, and the most magnificent abode of the obedient.

Undoubtedly, grace is for Him and from Him. I ask Allah to return you to your companions with maximum benefits and safety and that you be in the shade of welfare because of a comfortable return. May Allah not make your course difficult and not baffle you in finding your way. I entrust you to Him. God willing, you will not get lost nor perish because of His Benevolence and Obligation. O Abū Isḥāq! We are satisfied with the favors of what he has bestowed upon us and the welfare of what He has obliged us with. He has made the sincere intentions of our friends, them seeking goodness for us, and them doing what is immaculate, closer to piety, and has greater honor as an alternative to them helping us.”

Then, I set off while I was thanking Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, for guiding me and putting me on the right path. I then knew that Allah would not leave His earth empty of an evident proof or a standing Imam.

(Al-Ḥadīq the author of Kamāl al-dīn says,) I mentioned this narration to increase the insight of those who possess certitude and to portray to them Allah’s grace upon us by obliging us with this immaculate progeny. By narrating this report I intended to convey the [knowledge] entrusted to me so that Allah fortifies the illuminated path of [this religion] and its correct course through the power of determination, correct intentions, and firm will.

837. Kamāl al-dīn³²: Abū I-ḥasan `Alī b. Mūsā b. Aḥmad b. Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on him, who said that he saw written in his father’s book, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Ḥuwā, from his father, from al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-Ḥabār, from Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār, from his father, from his grandfather, who said:

I was sleeping in my bed when I dreamt that somebody said to me, “Perform Hajj, for you will meet the master of your time.” I woke up and was joyous and delighted. I continuously performed prayers (ṣalāt) until twilight, then, I finished the prayers and went out and asked about the Hajj pilgrimage. I saw a group who were ready for departure and very quickly joined [the caravan] that was ready to leave first.

I kept [joining the caravans that were ahead of my caravan] until one left for Kūfa and I was with them. When I reached Kūfa, I dismounted from my camel and left my luggage with my trustworthy brothers and left in search of the family of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him. But I found no trace nor did I hear any news [about them]. From there, I left for Medina with the first caravan.

When I reached it, I dismounted from my camel involuntarily and left my luggage with my trustworthy brothers and left to ask about and search for a sign of him, but I heard no news about him and found no trace of him. This continued until the people started to leave for Mecca and I joined them.

On reaching Mecca, I descended [from my mount], entrusted my luggage [to trustworthy people], and went in seek of the family of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him. Yet again, I heard no news nor found a trace. I was constantly in a state between hope and despair and I kept thinking and scolding myself until it became night. I said to myself, “I’ll wait until the area around Ka`ba becomes less crowded then I’ll perform ṣawf and pray to Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, to fulfill my desire.” When it became less crowded, I got up to perform ṣawf. I spotted a handsome youth who was very fragrant and was wearing two clothes—one on his shoulders and another as a trousers.

I startled him and he turned towards me and said, “Where are you from?” I replied, “From Ahwaz.” He asked, “Do you know ibn al-Khaṣṣb?” I answered, “May Allah have mercy on him! He was called and he answered [i.e. he died].” He said, “May Allah have mercy on him! He used to fast during the days and used to stand up [in prayer] during the nights. He recited [the Holy Quran and loved us.” Then, he asked, “Do you know `Alī b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyūr?” I answered, “I am `Alī [b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyūr].”

On hearing this, he said, “Welcome O Abū I-ḥasan! Do you know who are the ḥariḥayn? I replied in the affirmative. He asked, “Who are they?” I said, “Muḥammad and Mūsā.” He asked, “What did you do with the sign which was between you and (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him?” I said, “It is with me.” He said, “Show it to me.” I brought out a beautiful ring. On its gem was inscribed “Muḥammad and `Alī.”

On seeing the ring, he cried for a long time while he was saying, “May Allah have mercy on you O Abū Muḥammad! You were a just Imam, the son of an Imam, and the father of an Imam. May Allah make you reside in the most exalted Paradise along with your forefathers!” He then said, “O Abū I-ḥasan! Go to your lodging place and prepare your belongings for the journey. When a third of the night passes and two thirds remain, then come to us and [you will God willing], see what you wished.”

I went to my lodging place and was deep in thought until the time for departure came. I got up, readied my mount, sat on it, and moved. When I reached the gully I found the youth there. He said, “Welcome,

O Abū I-ʿāsan! Congratulations, for you have been given permission [to meet your Imam].

He set off and I went along with him until I passed by ʿArafāt and Minā and I reached the lowest hill of the Ḥif mountains. He then said to me, “O Abū I-ʿāsan! Dismount and ready yourself for prayers (al-ḥaḥt).” He dismounted and I did too. He completed [his prayers] and so did I. He then said, “Perform the morning prayers and keep it brief.” He briefly performed the prayers and said the [finishing] salutations and then put his face on the earth.

Then, he mounted and ordered me to do so. I obliged and he set off and I went along with him until we reached the highest hill. He said to me, “Take a look. Can you see anything?” I took a look and saw a lush piece of land filled with grass and pasture which was different from its surroundings. I replied, “Yes, my master. I can see a lush piece of land filled with grass and pasture which is different from its surroundings.” He asked again, “Do you see anything on its most elevated section?” I looked [again] and saw a tent made of fur on a sand dune from which light was radiating.

He said, “Do you see anything?” I answered, “Yes, I can see such and such.” He said, “O son of Mahziyūr! Purify [your] soul and light up [your] eyes! Therein lies the hope of the hopeful.” He then said, “Come with me,” and set off. I followed him until we reached the lowest hill. He then said, “Dismount, for this is the place where you will overcome all your difficulties.” He dismounted and I did too and he said, “O son of Mahziyūr! Release the reins of your camel.” I asked [surprised], “To whom should I entrust my mount? There is no one here!” He answered, “This is a sanctuary where only the friends [of Allah] can enter and only the friends [of Allah] can exit.” Hence, I released the camel.

He went forward and I followed him until we were near the tent. He then went ahead and said, “Stay here until you are given permission.” He returned shortly and said, “Congratulations! What you had desired has been given to you.” I went inside and saw him—may Allah’s blessings be on him—seated on a mattress which was covered by a red leather and he was leaning on a leather pillow.

I greeted him and he greeted me. I took a look at him and his face was like a piece of the moon, it was neither thin nor fat and not very long nor very short. He was tall and had a smooth forehead. He had long thin eyebrows, large dark eyes, an aquiline nose, and smooth cheeks and there was a mole on his right cheek.

When I saw him, his attributes and characteristics bewildered me. He then said to me, “O son of Mahziyūr! In what condition did you leave your brothers in Iraq?” I replied, “In miseries and hardships. The swords of Banū I-Shaiḥabīn are continuously above their [heads].” He said, “May Allah kill them! Where are they deviating to? As if I am seeing a people who have been killed in their lands and the order of their Lord seizes them day and night.” I asked, “When will this occur, O Son of Allah’s Messenger?” He replied, “When the path between you and Kaʿba will be blocked by a group who are empty of goodness and Allah and His Messenger detest them. [When] redness appears in the sky for three days and silver pillars of light shine out of it. Then, al-Sarḥ will rise from Armenia and

Azerbaijan with the intention [of reaching] the Black Mountain beyond Riyy³³ which is connected to the Red Mountain and joined to the mountain of ³³liqⁿ.

A catastrophic battle will occur there between him and al-Marwaz³⁴ [which will be so severe that] children's hair will turn white and grown men will become old. When bloodshed occurs between the two, then expect him to move to Zaur³. From there, he will travel to B^ht and then to W^{si} in Iraq. He will stay there for a year or less then he will move to K^{fa} and a battle will occur between them between Najaf, ³⁴ra, and Ghar³⁵. [It will be so intense] that the intellects (al-`uq³) will be stupefied.

It is then that the two groups will be destroyed and their survivors will be mowed down by Allah.” He then recited His saying, Exalted be He: “In the name of Allah, the Beneficent the Merciful. Our command came to it—by night or by day—so We reaped it as though it had not sprouted [at all] the day before.”³⁶ I asked, “My master! O Son of Allah's Messenger! What does command mean [in this verse]?” He replied, “We are the command of Allah and His army.” I asked, “My Master, O son of Allah's Messenger! Has that time arrived?” He replied, “The hour drew near and the moon split.”³⁷

838. Ghaybat al-Shaykh³⁸: A³mad b. `Ubdⁿ—known as ibn al-³⁸shir—from Ab³ I-³⁸asan Mu³ammad b. `Al³ al-Shuj³ al-K³tib, from Ab³ `Abd-Allah Mu³ammad b. Ibr³h³m al-Nu`mⁿ, from Y³suf b. A³mad [Mu³ammad] al-Ja`far³ who said:

I performed Hajj in the year 306 AH and stayed there in that year and the following years to 309 AH. Then, I exited Mecca and moved towards Syria. I was travelling on a path and had missed my morning prayers (³⁹al^t). I descended from the howdah³⁹ and was preparing for the prayers when I saw four people in the howdah. I stopped in amazement when one of them said, “Why are you surprised? You have missed your prayers and opposed your religion.”

I responded to the one who addressed me, “And what do you know about my religion?” He answered, “Would you like to see the master of your time?” I replied in the affirmative. He pointed towards one of the four individuals.

I said, “Surely, [my master] has evidences and signs [as proof].” He asked, “Which one do you prefer: Do you want to see the camel and what is on it ascending to the sky? Or, do you want to see the howdah ascending to the sky?” I responded, “Either of them is [enough as] evidence.” Then I saw the camel and what was on it ascending towards the sky. That man had pointed towards another person with a golden-tanned complexion who had the mark of prostration between his eyes.”

839. Ghaybat al-Shaykh⁴⁰: A³mad b. `Al³ al-R³z³, from Ab³ Dhar A³mad b. Ab³ Saura—who is Mu³ammad b. al-⁴⁰asan b. `Abd-Allah al-Tam³m³, a Zaid³—who said:

I heard this incident from a group who narrated it from my father, may Allah have mercy on him. He had set off for ⁴⁰ayr and he had reported, “When I reached ⁴⁰ayr, I saw a handsome youth who was praying (yu⁴⁰all⁴⁰). [After finishing his prayers], he came out and so did I. We came out and went to the riverside.

He then asked me, ‘O Abū Saura! Where are you going?’ I replied, “Kufa.” He asked, “With whom?” I answered, “With the people.” He said, “Don’t [go with the people]. We will go together.” I asked, “And who is with us?” He answered, “We don’t want anyone with us.” We walked through the night until we reached the graves of the Mosque of Sahla. He said, “This is your destination. If you want, go ahead.” He continued, “You will pass by ibn al-Zur‘arī `Alī b. Ya‘yī.

Tell him to give you the wealth that is with him.” I said, “He won’t give it to me.” He said, “Tell him the sign that they are so and so dinars, so and so dirhams, and they are in such and such place covered with such and such things.” I asked him, “Who are you?” He replied, “I am Mu‘ammad b. al-‘asan.”

I continued, “If it is not accepted from me and evidence is demanded from me?” He answered, “I am behind you.” So, I went to ibn al-Zur‘arī and told him [what I had been ordered] but he rejected me. I said to him, “He has told me that I am behind you.” He replied, “That is enough evidence and no one knew about this [money] except Allah the Exalted,” and he handed them over.

840. Al-Hid‘ya41: From him (i.e. Al-‘usayn b. ‘amd‘n), from Abū Mu‘ammad `‘s b. Mahd‘ al-Jauhar‘ who said:

In the year 268 AH, I set off for Hajj. My destination was Medina because we believed then that the Master of the Time had appeared. While we were leaving Faid42, I fell ill but had an irresistible desire to eat fish [and dates]. When I entered Medina and met our brothers, they gave me the good news that he, peace be on him, had appeared at ‘‘riy‘. I went to ‘‘riy‘ and when I went to the top of the valley I saw some ferocious Arab nomads.

I entered the palace and was waiting for something to happen until after I performed the two night prayers (‘allaytu al-‘ish‘ayn). Meanwhile, I was supplicating, pleading, and invoking. Suddenly, Badr the servant called out to me, “O `‘s b. Mahd‘ al-Jauhar‘! Enter.” I said “All‘hu akbar, la ll‘ha ill‘ All‘h” and excessively praised Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and glorified Him. When I reached the courtyard of the palace, I saw a spread tablecloth. The servant took me to it and sat me beside it.

He said, “Your master has ordered you to eat what you had desired in your illness while you were emerging from Faid.” I said to myself, “This is sufficient proof for me. But, how can I eat while I have not seen my master and my guardian?” He called out to me, “O `‘s! Eat from your food; for surely, you will see me.” I sat down on the tablecloth and saw a hot sizzling fish and beside it were dates most similar to our dates and there was milk next to the dates. I thought, “I am ill and there is fish, dates, and milk here [which will deteriorate my health].” He called out to me, “O `‘s! Do you have doubts about our affair? Do you know more [than me] as to what will benefit you and harm you?” I cried, sought forgiveness from Allah, and ate from everything.

Whenever I raised my hand from the [food to put something in my mouth], its empty place could not be seen [i.e. food would be replaced from where I had taken some]. I found it to be the most delicious thing I had ever tasted in the world. I ate a lot until I felt ashamed. He called out to me, “O `‘s! Do not feel

ashamed. These are from the foods of Paradise. They have not been prepared by the creations.”

I resumed eating until I realized I would not become full of it. I said, “O Master! I have had enough.” He called out to me, “Come to me.” I thought to myself, “How can I go to my master while I have not washed my hands?” He called out, “O `ʿs! How [do you say this] whilst you hadn’t washed your hands when you started eating?” I smelled my hand and it was more fragrant than musk and camphor.

I went near him and a light covered my vision. I became frightened to an extent that I thought I had lost my mind. He said to me, “O `ʿs! You would not have seen me if it wasn’t for the deniers who are saying: ‘Where is he? When did he come into existence? When was he born? Who has seen him? Has anyone received anything from him? What has he informed you about? Has he shown you any miracles?’ I swear by Allah, they rejected Amʿr al-Muʿmin despite all the things they had narrated [about him] and they chose others instead of him and conspired against him and killed him.

They did the same to my forefathers and they did not acknowledge them. Instead, they attributed them to magicians, cohen, and the serving of Jinn.” He then continued explaining until he said, “O `ʿs! Inform our friends about what you have seen and refrain from disclosing them to our enemies, else this grace will be taken from you.” I said, “My master! Pray that I remain steadfast.” He replied, “If Allah had not made you steadfast, you would not have seen me. Now go with your need rightly fulfilled.” I left while I was greatly praising and thanking Allah.

841. Al-Kʿf43: `Al b. Muammad, from Muammad b. Shdh b. Nu`aim, from the female-servant of Ibrhm b. `Abda [ʿUbaida] al-Nʿsbr, who said: “I was standing with Ibrhm on [the mountain of] ʿaf when he, peace be on him, came and stopped near Ibrhm and took his book of Hajj rituals then spoke with him about some things.”

842. Muhaj al-da`aw44: I found in a very old copy of a book from our companions whose date of writing was [the month of] Shaww, 396 AH, these words:

A supplication taught by our hoped-for master, Allah’s blessings be on him, to a man from his followers in a dream. He was oppressed, so Allah granted him relief and killed his enemy: Informed me Ab `Al Aʿmad b. Muammad b. al-usayn b. Isq b. Ja`far b. Muammad al-`Alaw al-`Uray at ʿarrn, from Muammad b. `Al al-`Alaw al-usayn—who was a resident of Egypt—who said, “A serious matter and great worry from the ruler of Egypt had distressed me and I feared for my life for he had complained about me to Aʿmad b. ʿn.

I left Egypt to perform Hajj and then departed from ijz to Iraq and set off to visit the martyrdom-place of my master Ab `Abd-Allah al-usayn b. `Al, Allah’s blessings be on them, to seek refuge to him, take shelter at his grave, and ask him for protection from the aggression of whom I feared. I stayed in ʿir [i.e. Karbala] for fifteen days—praying and supplicating day and night.

The Guardian of the Time and the Friend of the Beneficent appeared before me while I was [in a state]

between sleeping and awake. He said to me, ‘Al-ʿUsayn says to you, “O my son! Do you fear from so and so?”’ I replied, ‘Yes. He intends to kill me and hence, I have taken refuge in my master and have complained to him about the intensity of what he wants to do against me.’ He said, ‘Why didn’t you invoke Your Lord Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and the Lord of your forefathers, using the supplication through which the bygone prophets invoked Him? Indeed, they too [were suffering] from hardships but Allah granted them relief.’

I asked, ‘What was their supplication?’ He replied, ‘On the night [before] Friday, perform the ritual bath (ghusl) and pray the night-prayers (ṣalāt al-layl). After you perform the thanksgiving-prostration (sajdat al-shukr), recite this supplication while you are on your knees.’ He then mentioned the supplication for me. I saw him again at the same time [on another night] while I was in a state between asleep and awake. He appeared to me for five consecutive nights and repeated the same things and the supplication until I memorized it.

He didn’t appear on the night [before] Friday, so I performed the ritual bath, changed my clothes, applied perfume, performed the night-prayers, and the thanksgiving-prostration. Then, I knelt down and invoked Allah, Majestic and Exalted be He, using the supplication [he taught me]. On the night [before] Saturday, he came to me and said, ‘Your prayers have been answered, O Muḥammad! Your enemy was killed—the moment you finished your supplication—in the presence of the one he had complained to, against you.’ In the morning, I bid farewell to my master and left for Egypt.

When I reached Jordan, I saw a man from amongst my neighbors in Egypt who was faithful. He informed me that your enemy was captured by Aḥmad b. ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz and he ordered that he [be executed] and his head was cut off from behind his neck. He continued, ‘This happened in the night [before] Friday and he gave orders that His [body] be thrown in the Nile River.’ A group of my family members and our Shia brothers also informed me that it was reported to them that this event coincided with the time of the completion of my supplications—as was informed to me by my master—Allah’s blessings be on him.”

843. Kamāl al-dīn45: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Khuzʿī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Abū ʿAlī al-ʿAsadī, from his father, from Muḥammad b. Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Kāfi, that he mentioned the number of those he knew that had witnessed the miracles of ʿAbī al-Zamʿān, peace be on him:

Amongst his representatives, those who saw him are as follows, From Baghdad: (1) al-ʿAmrī, (2) his son, (3) ʿAbī Jiz, (4) al-Bilālī, (5) al-ʿAḥḥār. From Kāfa: (6) al-ʿʿīmī. From Ahwāz: (7) Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār. From Qum: (8) Aḥmad b. Isḥāq. From Hamdān: (9) Muḥammad b. ʿʿlī. From Riyy: (10) al-Bassāmī, (11) al-ʿAsadī—meaning himself. From Azerbaijan: (12) al-Qāsim b. al-ʿAlī. From Nīsābūr: (13) Muḥammad b. Shādhān.

Those who were not his representatives, From Baghdad: (14) Abū I-Qāsim b. Abū ʿʿulais, (15) Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Kindī, (16) Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Junaydī, (17) Ḥarīr al-Qazzīz, (18) al-Niyālī, (19) Abū I-

Qasim b. Dubays, (20) Ab `Abd-Allah b. Farrakh, (21) Masr the Chef—the slave of (Imam) Ab I-
asan—peace be on him, (22) Ahmad, (23) and Muhammad, the two sons of al-
asan, (24) Isq the
writer (al-Katib) from Ban-Nabakht, (25) `Ab al-Naw', (26) the owner of the sealed purse. From
Hamd: (27) Muhammad b. Kishmard, (28) Ja`far b. `Amd, (29) Muhammad b. Hr b. `Imr.
From Dnawar: (30) asan b. Hr, (31) Ahmad b. Ukhayya, (32) Ab I-
asan. From Ifah: (33) ibn
Bzshla. From `aimara: (34) Zaydn. From Qum: (35) al-
asan b. al-Nar, (36) Muhammad b.
Muhammad, (37) `Al b. Muhammad b. Isq, (38) his father, (39) al-
asan b. Ya`qb. From Riyy: (40)
al-Qasim b. Ms, (41) his son, (42) Ab Muhammad b. Hr, (43) `Ab al-
aat, (44) `Al b.
Muhammad, (45) Muhammad b. Muhammad al-Kulain, (46) Ab Ja`far al-Rif'. From Qazw: (47)
Mirds, (48) `Al b. Ahmad. From Fqtar: (49) & (50) Two men. From Shahraz: (51) Ibn al-Khl.
From Firis: (52) al-Marj. From Marw: (53) The owner of one thousand dinars, (54) The owner of some
wealth, (55) The owner of the white paper, (56) Ab Thbit. From Nsb: (57) Muhammad b. Shu`ayb
b. `l. From Yemen: (58) al-Fa b. Yazid, (59) His son al-
asan, (60) al-Ja`far, (61) Ibn al-
A`jam, (62) al-Shimsh. From Egypt: (63) Father of two sons, (64) The owner of some wealth at
Mecca, (65) Ab Raj'. From Nabayn: (66) Ab Muhammad b. al-Wajn. From Ahwz: (67) al-
usayn.

I say: Al-Nr, may Allah have mercy on him, in the beginning of the seventh chapter of al-Najm al-
thqib, has narrated the aforementioned tradition in Persian. Then, he has mentioned another group of
people who have witnessed the miracles of `Ab al-Amr, peace be on him, and have had the honor of
meeting him and the privilege of seeing him.

There is no harm in mentioning their names here. Whoever intends to know more about them and the
details of their reports, must refer to the writings of our fellow companions concerning the occultation and
the rijl books.

Here, we will only mention their names as has been recorded in the aforementioned book: (68) Al-
Shaykh Ab I-Qasim al-usayn b. R, (69) Ab I-
asan `Al b. Muhammad al-Samur, (70) akma,
the daughter of Imam Muhammad al-Taq, peace be on him, (71) Nasam, the servant of (Imam) Ab
Muhammad, peace be on him, (72) Ab Nar al-
arf, the servant, (73) Kamil b. Ibrhm al-Madan,
(74) Al-Badr, the servant, (75) The old woman who had brought up Ahmad b. Bil b. Dawd al-Katib,
(76) Mriya, the female-servant, (77) The slave-girl of Ab `Al al-Khayzar, (78) Ab Ghnim, the
servant, (79) A group of (our Shia) companions, (80) Ab Hr, (81) Mu`wiyat b. akam, (82)
Muhammad b. Ayyb b. N, (83) `Umar al-Ahwz, (84) A man from Firis, (85) Muhammad b.
Ism' b. Ms b. Ja`far, peace be on them, (86) Ab `Al b. Muahhar, (87) & (88) Ibrhm b. `Abda
al-Nsb and his slave-girl, (89), (90) & (91) Rashq and his two companions, (92) Ab `Abd-Allah
b. `l, Ab `Al Ahmad b. Ibrhm b. Idr, (93) Ja`far b. `Al al-Hd, peace be on him, (94) A
guard, (95) Ab I-usayn Muhammad b. Muhammad b. Khalaf, (96) Ya`qb b. Manfs, (97) Ab Sa`d
al-Ghnm al-Hind, (98) Muhammad b. Shdh al-Kabul, (99) `Abd-Allah al-Sr, (100) Al-
`aj al-
Hamdn, (101) Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah al-Qumm al-Ash`ar, (102) Ibrhm b. Muhammad b. Firis al-

Nes̄b̄er̄, (103) `Alī b. Ibr̄h̄m̄ b. Mahziȳr̄, (104) Ab̄ Nu`aim al-An̄`alī al-Zaid̄, (105) Ab̄ `Alī Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Maḥmūd̄, (106) All̄n̄ al-Kulain̄, (107) Ab̄ I-Haytham al-Anb̄r̄ [or al-D̄n̄r̄], (108) Sulaim̄n̄ b. Ab̄ Nu`aim and Ab̄ Ja`far al-Aḥwal al-Hamd̄n̄, (109–139) Muḥammad b. Ab̄ al-Q̄sim al-`Alaw̄ al-`Aq̄q̄ along with a group of about thirty men, (140) The grandfather of Ab̄ I-ḥasan b. Waj̄n̄, (141) Ab̄ I-Adȳn̄, (142) Ab̄ I-ḥasan Muḥammad b. Ja`far al-ḥimyar̄ and a group of people from Qum, (143) Ibr̄h̄m̄ b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-An̄`alī, (144) Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-Qumm̄, (145) Ȳsuf̄ b. Aḥmad al-Ja`far̄, (146) Aḥmad b. `Abd-Allah al-H̄shim̄ al-`Abb̄s̄, (147–186) Ibr̄h̄m̄ b. Muḥammad al-Tabr̄z̄ along with thirty-nine people, (187) Al-ḥasan b. `Abd-Allah al-Tam̄m̄ al-Zaid̄, (188) al-Zuhr̄, (189) Ab̄ Sahl Ism̄`īl̄ b. `Alī al-Naubakht̄, (190) Al-`Aq̄d̄ al-N̄b̄, the servant, (191) The lady who had taken care of Imam Ab̄ Muḥammad al-ḥasan al-`Askar̄, peace be on him, (192) Ya`q̄b̄ b. Ȳsuf̄ al-ḥarr̄b̄ al-Ghass̄n̄ or al-Ifah̄n̄, the narrator of al-ḥalaw̄t̄ al-kab̄ra, (193) The old female-servant of Imam al-`Askar̄, peace be on him, who lived in Holy Mecca, (194) Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah al-ḥam̄d̄, (195) `Abd-Aḥmad b. al-ḥasan al-M̄dir̄n̄, (196) Ab̄ I-ḥasan al-`Amr̄, (197) `Abd-Allah al-Sufȳn̄, (198) Ab̄ I-ḥasan al-ḥasan̄, (199) Muḥammad b. `Abb̄s̄ al-Qaḥr̄, (200) Ab̄ I-ḥasan `Alī b. al-ḥasan al-Yam̄n̄, (201) & (202) Two men from Egypt, (203) The great worshipper (al-`ḥbid̄ al-mutahajjid̄) from Ahw̄z̄, (204) Umm Kulth̄m̄, the daughter of Ab̄ Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Uthm̄n̄ al-`Amr̄, (205) The messenger from Qum, (206) Sin̄n̄ al-Mauḥil̄, (207) Aḥmad b. ḥasan b. Aḥmad al-K̄tib̄, (208) ḥusayn̄ b. `Alī b. Muḥammad, known as ibn al-Baghd̄d̄, (209) Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan al-ḥairaf̄, (210) Al-Bazz̄z̄ al-Qumm̄, (211) Ja`far b. Aḥmad, (212) Al-ḥasan b. Waḥ̄t̄ al-ḥaidal̄n̄ who was in charge of the endowments (waqf) in W̄sī, (213) Aḥmad b. Ab̄ R̄, (214) Ab̄ I-ḥasan Khiḥr̄ b. Muḥammad, (215) Ab̄ Ja`far Muḥammad b. Aḥmad, (216) The woman from al-D̄nawar̄, (217) Al-ḥasan b. al-ḥusayn̄ al-Asb̄b̄bad̄, (218) A person from Astar̄b̄d̄, (219) Muḥammad b. al-ḥusayn̄ al-K̄tib̄ from Marv, (220) Two people from Mad̄`in̄, (221) `Alī b. ḥusayn̄ b. M̄s̄ b. B̄bawayh̄ al-Qumm̄, the father of al-ḥad̄q̄, (222) Ab̄ Muḥammad al-Da`laj̄, (223) Ab̄ Gh̄lib̄ Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. Sulaim̄n̄ al-Zur̄r̄, (224) ḥusayn̄ b. ḥamd̄n̄ N̄ḥir̄ al-Daula, (225) Aḥmad Ab̄ S̄ra, (226) Muḥammad b. al-ḥasan b. `Ubaid-Allah al-Tam̄m̄, (227) Ab̄ ḥ̄hir̄ `Alī b. Yaḥȳȳ al-Zur̄r̄ [al-R̄z̄], (228) Aḥmad b. Ibr̄h̄m̄ b. Makh̄lad̄, (229) Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Aswad al-D̄w̄d̄, (230) Al-`Af̄f̄, (231) Ab̄ Muḥammad al-Thum̄ḥ̄, (232) Muḥammad b. Aḥmad, (233) A man to whom a signed letter (tauq̄) was given at `Ukbar̄, (234) `Alȳn̄, (235) Al-ḥasan b. Ja`far al-Qazw̄n̄, (236) A man from F̄ynam̄, (237) Ab̄ I-Q̄sim al-Jal̄s̄, (238) Naḥr̄ b. ḥabb̄, (239) Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-Sarr̄j̄ al-D̄nawar̄, (240) Ab̄ I-`Abb̄s̄, (241) Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Ja`far al-Qatt̄n̄, the representative, (242) ḥusayn̄ b. Muḥammad al-Ash`ar̄, (243) Muḥammad b. Ja`far, the representative, (244) A person from ḥba, (245) Ab̄ ḥ̄lib̄, the servant of a man from Egypt, (246) Mird̄s̄ b. `Alī, (247) A person from Rabaḥ̄ ḥam̄d̄ (248) Ab̄ I-ḥasan b. Kath̄r̄ al-Naubakht̄, (249) Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Shalmagh̄n̄, (250) The companion of Ab̄ Gh̄lib̄ al-Zur̄r̄, (251) Ibn al-Ra`īs̄, (252) H̄r̄n̄ b. M̄s̄ b. al-fur̄t̄, (253) Muḥammad b. Yazd̄d̄, (254) Ab̄ `Alī al-N̄l̄, (255) Ja`far b. `Amr̄, (256) Ibr̄h̄m̄ b. Muḥammad b. al-Faraj al-Zaḥj̄, (257) Ab̄ Muḥammad al-Sarw̄, (258) The slave-girl of M̄s̄ b. `ḥs̄ al-H̄shim̄, (259) The female owner of a small box, (260) Ab̄ I-ḥasan Aḥmad b. Muḥammad b. J̄bir

al-Baladhuri, the author of *Tarikh al-ashraf*, (261) Abi Ishaq al-Asad b. Muhammad b. Buha, (262) Ahmad b. al-Hasan b. Abi al-Hasan al-Khujandi, (263) The nephew of Abi Bakr al-Ashraf al-Ashraf, (264–302) Muhammad b. Uthman al-Amri, as is recorded in *Tarikh Qum*, from Muhammad b. Ali al-Majlawi, through an authentic chain of narrators, from him, who said: “One day, (Imam) Abi Muhammad al-Hasan b. Ali, peace be on him, presented to us his son, M-U-A-M-M-A-D, the Mahdi, peace be on him, while we were in his house and we were forty people . . . (to the end of the tradition).”

Some contemporary scholars have narrated from the book *Bughyat al-Aslib*, the names of those who have seen him and have witnessed his miracles during the minor occultation and have recorded their stories. Some of these have been mentioned in *al-Najm al-thaqib* and the rest in other books.

In *Tadhkirat al-Aslib*, the names of three hundred people have been recorded who have seen him.

Al-Sayyid Hashim Baqrani has written an exclusive book on this subject which he has named *Tabqirat al-walid f man ra'it I-Q'im al-Mahdi*. He has mentioned in it the names of a large number of people who had the privilege of seeing him during the lifetime of his father, peace be on him, and during the minor occultation.

The following traditions from this chapter also prove the above point: 859 (it is probable that this incident occurred during the major occultation), 862, 864, and 867.

1. Know that numerous traditions—some of which we mentioned in the twenty-seventh section of the third chapter—indicate that he has two occultations and one is longer than the other. The minor occultation lasted until 329 AH, the same year that Abi Ishaq al-Asad b. Muhammad al-Samuri died. By his death, the period of the special representation (*al-niyabat al-khassia*) came to an end and the period of ambassadorship was terminated. Its duration was seventy-four years—if we calculate it from the birth of al-Ujja, peace be on him—and sixty nine years if we calculate it from the death of his father in the year 260 AH. During this period, the representatives were the media between him and his followers. His representatives and some special Shias had access to him and signed letters (*al-tauqut*) were written by him to these elite. The representatives also brought his replies to those who had questions about religious issues and laws and other matters. The Shia elite knew his holy hand-writing and recognized it.

Perhaps, the secret of the minor occultation was to make the Shias familiar with complete occultation. Therefore, the minor occultation took place before the major one so that they would not feel hopeless when it occurred. A quick look into history will show that they, peace be on them, used to accustom their Shias to the occultation of the Imam since the time of Imam Abi Ishaq al-Asad b. Muhammad al-Hasani, peace be on him. Al-Mas'udi, the great historian, has mentioned in *Ithbat al-waliyya* that “It has been narrated that Abi Ishaq al-Askari was concealed from most of the Shias except for a small number of people who were close to him. When the affair [of Imamate] was handed to Abi Muhammad, he would speak with his close followers and also others from behind a curtain—except those times when he rode to the royal court. This behavior practiced by him and his father was a prelude to the occultation of Abi al-Zam'in so that the Shias would become familiar with the occultation and not deny it and so that they would become accustomed with hiding and concealment.”

After the minor occultation ended, the major occultation began. His reappearance will take place only after Allah, the Exalted, permits. No one will be permitted to be in his service except a very few. The doors of special representation and ambassadorship were closed and the matters were delegated to the jurists (*al-fuqaha*), who were proficient in divine laws

and are the bearers of the traditions and sciences of the immaculate Imams. Al-ʿAdāq has narrated in Kamāl al-dīn from Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. ʿIḥṣām, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb, from Isḥāq b. Yaʿqūb who reports, “I asked Muḥammad b. Uthmān al-ʿAmrī to convey for me a letter [to Imam Mahdī] in which I had asked numerous problematic issues. Soon, a signed letter (tauqīʿ) reached me with the handwriting of our Master Gholib al-Zurʿī, peace be on him, which said, ‘As for what you have asked, may Allah guide you and make you steadfast . . . As for the events that will occur [in the future], then regarding those, refer to the narrators of our traditions (ruwāt ʿadithin); for undoubtedly, they are my proof upon you and I am the proof of Allah upon them.’” Al-ʿḤasī has recorded the same tradition in al-Ghayba from a group of people, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-Qulawayh, Abū Gholib al-Zurʿī, and others, who have all narrated it from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb. It has also been narrated in al-Ittijāʿ from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb, from Isḥāq. Imam Abū ʿAbd-Allah has said in a famous tradition recorded by al-Kulainī through his chain of narrators from ʿUmar b. ʿĀnāla that “Whoever from amongst you who narrates our traditions, has insight into what we have allowed or prohibited, and knows our laws, then they should be satisfied with him as a judge because I have appointed him as a judge upon you. When he judges [in accordance] with our judgment but [his judgment] is not accepted, then [the one who has not accepted the judgment] has neglected the judgment of Allah and has rejected us; and he who rejects us is like he who rejects Allah and [he who performs this act] is standing on the borderline of polytheism.” Shaykh (al-ʿĪmilī) has also narrated it through his chain of narrators in Wasʿīl al-shahā, vol. 18, chap. 11, from the chapters about the attributes of a judge, no. 1.

It has been narrated in al-Ittijāʿ from Imam Abū Muḥammad al-ʿAskarī, in a tradition from (Imam) Abū ʿAbd-Allah, peace be on him, who said, “From amongst the jurists (fuqahā), whoever protects himself (ʿīnan li nafsih), guards his religion (ʿifiān li dīnih), disobeys his desires (mukhalifin li hawāh), and obeys the commands of his Master, then it is obligatory upon the people to follow him.” It has also been narrated in al-Ittijāʿ through his chain of narrators from Imam Abū Muḥammad al-ʿĀsan, from his father ʿAlī b. Muḥammad al-Ḥadī who said, “After the occultation of your Qaʿim, if it was not for those scholars who will call towards him, guide to him, will protect his religion with Allah’s proofs, and will save the servants of Allah from the traps of Iblīs and his rebels and the snares of the enemies of the Ahl al-Bait, no one would remain but that he would reject the Religion of Allah. These scholars are those who firmly hold the reins of the hearts of the weak Shias just like captains who firmly grip the ships steering wheel. These are the most superior people before Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He.” The Second Martyr (Shahīd al-Thānī) has recorded a similar tradition from Imam al-Ḥadī, peace be on him, in Munyat al-murīd. This concept can be inferred from traditions other than those that we mentioned which our companions have narrated in their books. May Allah be satisfied with them.

An important note: Know that—as we have indicated earlier—special representation and ambassadorship terminated with the end of the minor occultation and the commencement of the major occultation. Thereafter, no one has the right to claim the esteemed positions of being an ambassador (safīr), door (bāb), representative, special attorney (wikālat al-khṣā), or a medium between the Imam and the people until Allah manifests the affair of the guardian appointed by him and His proof, peace be on him. Whoever makes any of the above claims must be refuted and rejected. This is one of the necessary beliefs of our religion—that has been unanimously agreed upon by all the great scholars, generation after generation without exception. This is also proved by the traditions which speak about his major occultation and mention that the people will be tested with intense examinations and calamities. For our purpose, the quote of the majestic teacher, Abū I-Qāsim Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar b. Mūsā al-Qulawayh (d. 368 or 369 AH)—the author of the book Kāmil al-ziyārat—will suffice: “We believe that whoever claims the affair [of representation or deputyship] after al-Samurī, may Allah have mercy on him, is a mischievous, deviated, and deviating disbeliever.”

2. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43: “Those who have witnessed the Qaʿim, peace be on him, seen him, and talked to him, p. 440, no. 9; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 251, no. 222; Bīḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, p. 351, and vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 30, no. 23; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 452, no. 69; Tabʿirat al-walā, p. 71, no. 37; ʿĪlyat al-abrār, vol. 2, p. 607.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43: “Those who have witnessed the Qaʿim, peace be on him, seen him and talked to him,” p. 440, no. 9; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 251, no. 222, which says, “O Allah! Take revenge for me from Your enemies”; Yanʿīb al-mawadda, chap. 83, p. 463; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 453, no. 70; Tabʿirat al-walā, p. 71, no. 38; ʿĪlyat al-abrār, vol. 2, p. 607.

4. A section of Kaʿba approximately located on the side which is opposite its door—Ed.

5. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. “The birth of the Master, peace be on him,” pp. 515–517, no. 3; Kamāl al-dīn has narrated it

using three different chains (chap. 43, pp. 437–440, no. 6); Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 83, p. 463.

6. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 441, no. 12; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 246, no. 215, which says, “from ʿarāf”; al-Kharʿij, chap. “al-ʿAlīm al-dīn al-ʿib al-Zamʿn”; Ithbāt al-waʿiyya, pp. 221–222; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 83, p. 463 (similar to it); Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 30, no. 25; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 499; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 508, no. 219 (short version); ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, pp. 544–545; Tabʿirat al-wal, p. 72, no. 39.

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 435, no. 3, and pp. 441–442, no. 14. The latter has some differences like: “from his father and Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan, may Allah be satisfied with both of them, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-ʿimyar,” and an addition at its end which indicates the prohibition of saying his name; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 26, no. 20; Tabʿirat al-wal, pp. 49–50, no. 17; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, chap. 20, p. 581.

8. Quran 2:260.

9. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 442, no. 15; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461 (similar) to it; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 42, no. 31; Iʿq al-ʿaqq, vol. 19, p. 642.

10. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 443–444, no. 17; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, p. 464 (similar to it); Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 31–32, no. 27; Tabʿirat al-wal, pp. 76–78, no. 44; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 671, no. 38.

11. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 444–445, no. 18; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 253–254, no. 223, through his chain of narrators from al-Awd; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 83, p. 464 (similar to it); Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 1–2, no. 1; lʿm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 3, sect. 2; Tabʿirat al-wal, pp. 78–79, no. 45; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, pp. 670–671, no. 39; ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, p. 573; al-Thʿqib, pp. 613–614, no. 559/7; al-Kharʿij, chap. 15, pp. 784–785.

I say: al-Azd or al-Awd is Aḥmad b. al-ʿusayn (or al-ʿasan) b. ʿAbd al-Malik al-Awd or al-Azd. He was a Kʿf, a reliable person (thiqa), and referred to [by the people for their needs/questions]. See Jʿmi al-ruwāt, etc.

12. The ritual circumambulation around Kaʿba—Ed.

13. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 470–473, no. 24, which has narrated “Abū l-Q̄sim Jaʿfar b. Aḥmad al-ʿAlaw” instead of “Abū l-Q̄sim Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-ʿAlaw”; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 259–263, no. 227, which has recorded it using two chains: “From Aḥmad b. ʿAl al-Rzz, from ʿAl b. ʿidh al-Rzz, from al-ʿasan b. Wajʿ al-Naʿb, from Abū Nuʿaim Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Anʿr” and “A group informed us from Abū Muḥammad Ḥrʿn b. Mʿs al-Tallaʿukbar, from Abū ʿAl Muḥammad b. Hammʿm, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Mʿlik al-Kʿf, from Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar b. ʿAbd-Allah, from Abū Nuʿaim Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Anʿr.” He then mentions all the tradition; Dalʿil al-imma, pp. 298–300, no. 3, which says: “Narrated to me Abū l-ʿusayn Muḥammad b. Ḥrʿn, from his father, from Abū ʿAl Muḥammad b. Hammʿm, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Mʿlik al-Fazʿr al-Kʿf, from Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar b. ʿAbd-Allah, from Ibrʿhʿm b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad al-Anʿr who said, ‘I was present at the Mustajʿr . . . (to the end of the tradition)’”; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 83, pp. 465–466; Tabʿirat al-wal, pp. 115–122, no. 50; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 6–9, no. 5, and vol. 61, chap. 35, pp. 187–190, no. 2, and vol. 62, p. 157, and vol. 83, pp. 27–28; Mustadrak al-wasʿil, vol. 5, pp. 70–72, no. 5382/3 and 5383/4; Falʿ al-sʿil, pp. 179–182; Nuzhat al-nʿir, chap. “A gleam from the words of al-Imam al-ʿujjat ibn al-ʿasan b. ʿAl, peace be on him,” pp. 147–151

14. Special garments worn by those who are performing Hajj—Ed.

15. After the stay in ʿArafāt, the pilgrim must stay at Muzdalifa. Muzdalifa is the name of a place which is about six kilometers from ʿArafāt and fourteen kilometers from Mecca—Ed.

16. A place in modern-day Afghanistan—Ed.

17. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43: “Those who have seen the Q̄ʿim, peace be on him,” pp. 475–476; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 50, chap. 5, pp. 322–333, no. 4, and vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 67–68, no. 53; Tabʿirat al-wal, pp. 127–130, no. 41; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461 (similar to it from Abū l-ʿAdyʿn); ʿilyat al-abr, vol. 2, pp. 547–549; al-Thʿqib fʿ l-manʿqib, pp. 607–608, no. 554/2; al-Kharʿij, chap. “al-ʿAlīm al-dīn al-ʿib al-Zamʿn”

18. A guitar-like musical instrument—Ed.

19. Al-Kʿf, vol. 1, p. 331, no. 8; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 268, no. 232, through his chain from Ibrʿhʿm b. Idrʿs; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 14, no. 10; al-ʿrshʿd, chap. “Those who have seen the twelfth Imam, peace be on him,”; Tabʿirat al-wal, pp. 61 and 274, no. 18 and 107; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 450; Yanʿabī al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461, which says: “From the book al-Ghayba, from Ibrʿhʿm b. Idrʿs who said, ‘I saw the Mahd while he was an

adolescent after Abū Muḥammad passed away. I kissed his hand and his holy head.”

20. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 476–479, no. 26; al-Kharāj, vol. 3, p. 1104, no. 24, similar to it through his chain of narrators from al-Mauḥilī; Tabʿirat al-walī, pp. 130–136, no. 55; Yanʿabū al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 462 (short version); Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 47–50, no. 34. A part of it has been narrated in vol. 73, chap. 108, pp. 63–64, no. 4; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 7, chap. 33, p. 301, no. 43; al-Kharāj, chap. “al-ʿAlīm al-dīn al-ʿalī al-Ḥusaynī al-Zamʿānī”; al-Thaqib, pp. 608–611, no. 555/3.

21. Any kind of aromatic powder which is used to make a corpse fragrant—Ed.

22. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 248–250, no. 218, in the section concerning the birth of Ḥusayn al-Zamʿānī, peace be on him; al-Kharāj, vol. 1, chap. 13, p. 460, no. 5; Yanʿabū al-mawadda, chap. 81: “The extraordinary feats and miracles of the Mahdī which he will show to the people,” p.248; Faraj al-mahmūd, p. 248; Tabʿirat al-walī, pp. 56–58, no. 25; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 51–52, under footnote of no. 36; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, pp. 683–684, no. 92; Rashīq was the slave of al-Muḥtaḍid (see al-Kāmil, vol. 7, p.365).

Amongst the made-up beliefs of some Sunnis and their baseless accusations, is attributing the belief to the Shias that the Qʿim disappeared in the cellar (sardīb) and he has remained there and not emerged from it until now; No one has seen him and he will reappear from it and the Shias are waiting for his reappearance from it. They have gone to the extent that Ibn ʿAjar writes in al-ʿawāʾiq a couplet which says: How can a cellar give birth to a child and how can the Shias believe in such things.

I say: Allah, the Exalted, says, “Those who forge lies are those who do not believe in the signs of Allah and they are the liars” (Quran 16:105). O scholars! O reciters of the Quran! O people of justice! These are the books of the Shia scholars—since the period of occultation and even before it, until now. They are in front of you. Browse through them so that the intensity of prejudice and enmity dawns upon you. Go through them and realize that these are worthless lies. Read them thoroughly so that you see that there is no sign—absolutely whatsoever—of these accusations even in a single book written by the lowest statured Shia scholars, let alone the renowned and celebrated ones like al-Kulainī, al-ʿAdāq, al-Nuʿmānī, al-Mufīd, al-Shaykh al-ʿḤāsī, the two Sayyids—al-Murṭaḍī and al-Raḥīmī—al-Ḥillī, and etc. Browse through these books so that you become aware of the only reason that this umma is divided and the single obstacle in their unity and oneness of their word. By Allah! Such accusations make one tremor and baffle the intellects. These are men who regard themselves as scholars, thinkers, researchers, and Muslims but forge such lies and accusations against a large group of the Muslims. A group amongst whom, in every era and generation, thousands of scholars, philosophers, litterateurs, poets, theologians, writers, compilers, and experts of different fields of sciences have lived who have written books read by the Muslims, the scientists, and the knowledgeable, generation after generation. Through these books they can understand the level of their knowledge and the extent of their efforts. We seek refuge in Allah from all those things that the pens and tongues say!

If we place the Shia books—old and new—in front of our eyes, we will definitely find them filled with traditions, narrations, and stories, all of which deny and falsify these baseless and unfounded accusations and fabrications. We have mentioned a large group of these traditions in the current book. The great traditionist, al-Nūrī, may Allah have mercy on him, writes in Kashf al-astūr: “No matter how much we searched and investigated, we could not find the slightest trace of what they have mentioned. In fact, there is no mention of the cellar (sardīb) at all except in the incident of al-Muḥtaḍid which has been narrated by Nūr al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Jāmī in Shawḥid al-nubuwwa, which has also been recorded in Sunni books and with their chains of narrators. Instead, they have narrated what Rashīq al-Ḥusaynī al-Madrī has mentioned (he then mentions what we mentioned here from Ghaybat al-Shaykh from Rashīq, then says.) And there is no mention of the cellar in it whatsoever, except that al-Quḥb al-Rawānī has mentioned this narration in al-Kharāj and according to our companions, he has said in another place (although we could not find such thing in the copy available with us) that “Then they sent a huge army. When they entered the house, they heard the recitation of Quran from the cellar. So, they gathered at its door and guarded it so that no one could come up or exit it. The chief was standing there until the entire army had come. He, peace be on him, emerged from the alley adjacent to the door of the cellar and passed through them. When he disappeared, the chief ordered, “Go down and get him.” They said, “Didn’t he just pass by you?” He replied, “I did not see him. Why did you let him go?” They said, “We thought you were watching him.”” Apparently, this narration is the reason that some of the scholars have called the cellar as the Cellar of Occultation (Sardīb al-Ghayba). This can particularly be seen

in the books of ziyāra.” What has been narrated from al-Kharājīj (although I could not find it in the copy available with me), does in no way prove or indicate what the Shias have been accused of. Rather, it invalidates such unfounded allegations because it clearly mentions he came out of the cellar then disappeared.

Moreover, this incident occurred many years after the beginning of his occultation. His occultation, peace be on him, commenced in 260 AH while al-Muṭaʿid became the caliph in the month of Rajab, 279 AH. If you seek more details, refer to the book Kashf al-astar because he has indeed discussed it as it is worthy of being discussed. As for the Shia custom of visiting the cellar and reciting the ziyāra of our master, the Mahdī, peace be on him, it is certainly not on account of the belief that he is hiding in the cellar and that he will reappear from it. Rather, it is because this place—which is known as the cellar (al-sardāb)—and the shrines of the tenth and the eleventh Imams, were the place of their residence and their blessed houses, which Allah has permitted to be Exalted and His Name be mentioned in. Moreover, it is the birthplace of the Qaʿim and the place some of his miracles and extraordinary feats occurred. Besides the above, there is nothing special about it, but these are enough to attract his Shias and lovers there, to recite his ziyāra and the Quran and to pray to Allah for his relief and the hastening of his appearance and to send blessings upon him, his father, his grandfather, and his mother, peace be on them all. Besides the cellar, Shias recite his ziyāra in many other holy sites that have been proven to be a place that he, peace be on him, has visited.

23. Meaning I am not from the Abbasids.

24. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. “Those who have seen him, peace be on him,” p. 331, no. 7; al-Irshād, chap. “Those who have seen the Imam, peace be on him,” p. 377; Yanābīʿ al-mawadda, p. 463; Tabʿirat al-walā, p. 61, no. 27, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb through his chain of narrators from Abū ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿAlī; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 450.

25. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “Those who have seen him, peace be on him,” pp. 263–267, no. 228; Dalʿil al-imāma, chap. “Those amongst our companions who have seen ʿAlī b. al-Ḥamīn, peace be on him, and recognized him during his occultation,” pp. 269 and 297; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 9–12, no. 6; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 143–147, no. 60, and pp. 156–161, no. 65.

26. A unit of distance—Ed.

27. Ahwāz is now part of Iran—Ed.

28. A tree that has long leaves and fragrant white blossoms—Ed.

29. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 445–452, no. 19; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 32–37, no. 28; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 80–90, no. 46; al-Kharājīj, vol. 3, pp. 1099–1101.

I say: Apparently, what has been recorded in Yanābīʿ al-mawadda (chap. 83, p. 466) from the Book al-Ghayba, from Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār, is a short version of this tradition.

30. This literally means that the child was born to parents who were legally married to each other—Ed.

31. Located in northeastern Palestine—Trans.

32. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 465–470, no. 23; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 42–46, no. 32; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 109–115, no. 49.

I say: It is very probable that the last three traditions and the narration we cited from Dalʿil al-imāma are all the same. The difference in their wordings, the difference in their contents, the existence of concepts in them that are not popular amongst the Shias, and the narrator being ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār in traditions 835 and 837 but Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār in tradition 836—which we narrated from Kamāl al-dīn from a correct chain of narrators—do not weaken the tradition and the meeting of Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār or ʿAlī b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār with the Mahdī, peace be on him, even though his name has not been recorded in the rijāl books. Such differences occur where the tradition has not been narrated word-for-word and errors have occurred in the names because of the existence of many similar names or other reasons. We have completely discussed this issue in a treatise which we have named al-Nuqūd al-latīfa, which will be mentioned in the third volume of this book, if Allah, the Exalted, wills.

Moreover, when a tradition is narrated through many different chains of which one or more of the chains are unreliable, the correctness of the contents of the tradition cannot be disputed, especially when scholars like al-ʿAdāq and al-ʿAṣṣā, may Allah be satisfied with them, have relied on them and have even used them as arguments.

33. A city located just south of present-day Tehran (Iran)—Ed.

34. Al-Marwāzī means ‘the person from Marw’. Marw is a city located in northeastern Iran in the province of

Khurāsān—Ed.

35. Najaf, Ḥīra, and Gharq are all places located near Kūfa—Ed.

36. Quran 10:24.

37. Quran 54:1.

38. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 257–258, no. 225; al-Kharāj, vol. 1, chap. 13, pp. 466–467, no. 13; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 5, no. 3; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 684, no. 93; al-Thaqib, pp. 614–615, no. 562.

39. A seat or pavilion on the back of an elephant or camel (Merriam–Webster Collegiate Dictionary)—Ed.

40. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 269–270, no. 224 ; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 14, no. 12; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 161–162, no. 66; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, pp. 684–685, no. 94.

41. Al-Hidāya (Manuscript), chap. “The twelfth Imam, Allah’s blessings be on him and his forefathers”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 68–70, no. 54, citing the writings of some of our companions from al-ʿusayn b. ʿamdan, from Abū Muḥammad ḥS b. Mahdī al-Jauharī; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 195–198, no. 83.

42. A fort near Mecca.

43. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 135, p. 331, no. 6; lʿīm al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 1, sect. 3: Through his chain of narrators from the female-servant of Ibrāhīm b. ʿAbda—and she was a righteous person—who said, “I was standing with Ibrāhīm on [the mountain of] ʿaf when the Master of the affair, peace be on him, came and stopped beside him . . . (to the end)”; al-Wafī, vol. 1, chap. “The names of those who have seen him,” p. 172; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 13–14, no. 9; al-Irshād, chap. “Those who have seen the twelfth Imam, peace be on him,” p. 350; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “Those who have seen him,” p. 268, no. 231, which mentions “Ibrāhīm b. ʿAbda”; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 55–56, no. 24, and p. 274, no. 105; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 450.

I say: I did not find the biography of this female-servant in the rijāl books available to me, although her name has been mentioned in al-Kulainī’s chain of narrators. As for Ibrāhīm b. ʿAbda, al-Kashf has recorded in his Rijāl that signed letters (al-tauqī) have been sent in his favor from Imam Mahdī, peace be on him. Tanqī al-maqāl mentions that he was above justness and reliability (fauq martabat al-ʿidāla wa l-thiqa).

44. Muhaj al-daʿawāt, pp. 278–279; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 307–308, no. 23, and vol. 92, chap. 107, pp. 266–279, no. 34; Tabʿirat al-walā, chap. 233, p. 210, no. 90–91.

I say: Similar to it has also been narrated in Muhaj al-daʿawāt (p. 280) under the explanation of this supplication from Abū l-ʿasan ʿAlī b. ʿammād al-Miḥrī, from al-ʿusayn b. Muḥammad al-ʿAlawī, from Muḥammad b. ʿAlī al-ʿAlawī al-ʿusaynī al-Miḥrī . . . The supplication is quite long and whoever desires it, should refer to Muhaj al-daʿawāt and other supplication compilations.

45. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 442–443, no. 16; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 30–31, no. 26; Tabʿirat al-walā, pp. 74–76, no. 43, and pp. 269–271, no. 99.

Section Two

Some of his miracles during the minor occultation

Comprised of twenty-nine traditions

844. Al-Kāfī 1: ʿAlī b. Muḥammad, from Muḥammad b. ʿAlī b. Shādhān al-Nāsībī, who said:

Four hundred and eighty dirhams had been given to me [from different people] and I disliked sending [this odd amount] which was twenty [dirhams] less than five hundred; so I added twenty dirhams to it

from my own money and sent it to al-Asad [to give it to the Imam] without mentioning that twenty of them were my own. Later, a letter reached me which said, “Five hundred dirhams have been received—of which twenty dirhams belonged to you.”

845. Al-Kufi²: `Alī b. Muḥammad recounts:

A person from al-Sawād³ conveyed some wealth to [the Mahdī] but he returned it to him saying, “Remove from it what belongs to your cousin and is four hundred dirhams.” The man had in his possession the estate of his cousin and had withheld their share. When he paid attention, he realized that his cousin’s share was exactly four hundred dirhams. He removed it and handed over the remaining, which was accepted.

846. Kamāl al-dīn⁴: Narrated to me my father, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Riẓī, from a group of our (Shia) companions that

Once, [the Imam] sent a slave to Abū `Abd-Allah b. Junayd, who was in Wāsiṭ, and ordered him to sell it. He sold [the slave] and received its fee. When he weighed the dinars, he realized that they were about eighteen-twentieth of a dinar short. He added the missing amount from his [own wealth] and sent them [to the Imam]. A dinar was returned to him that weighed the exact amount that he had added [from himself].

847. Kamāl al-dīn⁵: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Riẓī, known as `Allīn al-Kulainī, from Muḥammad b. Jabra`īl al-Ahwāzī, from Ibrāhīm and Muḥammad the two sons of al-Faraj, from Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyūr that He entered Iraq as a skeptic and in a state of confusion. He received a letter which said:

Say to Mahziyūr, “We have heard what you have narrated from our friends in your homeland. Tell them [i.e. our friends in your homeland], “Have you not heard the saying of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, ‘Obey Allah and obey His Messenger and those who have authority amongst you.’⁶ Won’t this order be valid until the Day of Judgment? Don’t you see that Allah has granted you forts that you take refuge in and known people that you are guided with? [This has been happening] from the era of Adam until the appearance of the one who has passed away [meaning Abū Muḥammad], peace be on him.

Whenever a sign disappears, another becomes manifest and whenever a star sets, another rises. Did you [people] think that when Allah took him towards Himself, he had ripped the rope that was between Himself and His creations? No! It will never be so until the Hour is established and the commands of Allah become manifest and they will dislike it. O Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm! Don’t let skepticism enter your [heart] regarding what you were in seek of, for Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will never make the earth empty of a proof. Didn’t your father say to you before he died that ‘Quickly bring someone here to weigh the dinars that are with me.’ There was a delay and the Shaykh feared that he would die soon, so he ordered you to weigh those dinars yourself and gave you a big bag.

You had three bags yourself and a purse which contained dinars with different [weights]. You weighed them and the shaykh put a seal on them with his ring and asked you to seal them too. He then said, 'If I live, I am more worthy of them than you [i.e. I know what to do with them], and if I die, then fear Allah regarding yourself firstly and regarding me secondly.

Then free me [from this debt] and do what I believe you will do. May Allah have mercy on you! Separate the extra dinars from amongst the money— which are more than ten dinars—and send the remaining on your own behalf for the times are much harsher than they used to be. And Allah is enough for us and He is the Best that can be relied upon.”

(Muhammad b. Ibrahim continued,) I went to the garrison [of Samarra'] as a pilgrim and wanted to go to the [Holy] Region when a woman came to me and asked, "Are you Muhammad b. Ibrahim?" I replied in the affirmative. She said, "Return! You cannot meet at this time. Come back at night and the door will be kept open for you. Enter the residence and go to the room in which there will be a lamp." I did accordingly and went to the door. It was open and I entered the residence and went to the room she had described. I [came to myself] and found myself wailing and crying between two graves. Suddenly, I heard a voice saying, "O Muhammad! Fear Allah (ittaq Allah) and repent from the beliefs that you had for you have accepted a great responsibility."

848. Kamal al-din7: Narrated to us Muhammad b. al-Hasan b. Ahmad b. al-Walid, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa'd b. Abd-Allah, from `Ali b. Muhammad al-Razi, from Na'ir b. `Abd al-Balkh who said:

In Marv, there was a scribe who was from Khazistan—and al-Na'ir told me his name. He had accumulated One thousand dinars from the Imam's money and he consulted me [to see who he should give the wealth to]. I advised him to send it to al-Jiz. He asked, "Will you claim responsibility for them if Allah questions me about them on the Day of Judgment?" I answered, "Yes." I departed from him and after two years I went to meet him and asked him about the money. He informed me that he had sent 200 dinars from the money to al-Jiz. A receipt had been given to him in which he had prayed for him and he had then said, "The money was one thousand dinars of which you have sent two hundred dinars. If you want to transact [with us], then do it through al-Asad at Riyy."

When the [news about] the death of al-Jiz reached me, I became extremely anxious and very sorrowful.9 I said to him, "Why are you sorrowful and anxious. Allah has obliged you through two signs: One, you were informed about the total and exact amount of wealth and two, you were informed about the death of al-Jiz beforehand."

849. Kamal al-din10: Ab Ja'far Muhammad b. `Ali al-Aswad, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said:

After the death of Muhammad b. `Uthman al-Amr, may Allah be satisfied with him, `Ali b. al-usayn b. Mas b. Babawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, requested that I tell Ab I-Qasim al-Rau to

ask our master, ʿAbū al-Zamʿān, peace be on him, to pray to Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, to grant him a son. I asked him to do so and he conveyed [the request]. After three days, he informed me that [the Imam] had prayed for `Alī b. al-ʿUsayn and that he will soon be [the father] of a blessed son whom [Allah] will make to be a cause of benefit; and after him, more children [would come].

I too requested that he pray to Allah to grant me a son but my request was not answered and he had said, “This is not possible.” Soon, Muḥammad b. `Alī was born to `Alī b. al-ʿUsayn, may Allah be satisfied with him, and after him, more children. But I had no children.

The author of this book [i.e. al-ʿAdab] says:

Whenever Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. `Alī al-Aswad, may Allah be satisfied with him saw me attending the classes of our teacher Muḥammad b. al-ʿAsan b. Aḥmad b. al-Walīd, may Allah be satisfied with him, and my crave for seeking knowledge and memorizing the books, he would say to me, “I am not surprised that you have such crave in seeking knowledge; because you were born through the prayers of Imam [Mahdī], peace be on him.

850. Kamāl al-dīn¹¹: Muḥammad b. Hārūn al-Qāṣim, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-ʿImyārī, from his father, from Isḥāq b. ʿAmīd al-Katīb, who said:

There was a faithful cloth-seller in Qum who had a partner who belonged to the Murjiʿa sect. Once, they received a precious cloth. The believer said, “This cloth is appropriate for my master.” The partner answered, “I don’t know your master. But you can do as you please.” When the cloth reached the Imam, peace be on him, he cut it into two from top to bottom and kept one half and returned the other and said, “We do not need the wealth of the Murjiʿa.”

851. Dalʿīl al-imāma¹²: Abū I-Mufaḥḥal Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah narrated to me, from Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-Muqrī, from Abū I-`Abbās Muḥammad b. Shabbūr, from al-ʿAsan b. Muḥammad b. ʿAyawān al-Sarrāj al-Qāsim, from Aḥmad al-Dīnawārī al-Sarrāj—whose epithet was Abū I-`Abbās and his title was Istīrā—who said:

I went from Ardabīl to Dīnawar with the intention of performing Hajj. This was a year or two after the death of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ʿAsan b. `Alī and the people were in a state of confusion. The people of Dīnawar were giving each other the good news that I had arrived and the Shias gathered around me.

They told me, “We have sixteen thousand dinars which we must give to [the Imam]. We want you to take them with yourself and give them to the one to whom they must be given.” I said, “O people! [We are in] a state of confusion and we don’t know who the door to the Imam is [i.e. representative of the Imam].” They responded, “We have chosen you to carry this wealth because of what we know about your reliability and nobility. So, take them with the condition that you don’t hand them over [to anyone]

except that [he shows you] proof.”

They gave me the money in various purses with the names [of the owners written] on them. I took the money and left. When I reached Qarmṣīn, I went to say hello to Aḥmad b. al-Ḥasan who lived there. He was delighted by seeing me and he gave me one thousand dinars in a sack and a bag of dark colored clothes that I couldn't figure out what it contained. He said, “O Aḥmad! Carry this along with you but don't hand it over to anyone except [he who shows you] proof.” I took the money from him and the bag of clothes with whatever was in it.

When I entered Baghdad, I had no worry but to search for someone who would be pointed to as the bāb (door) [to Imam Mahdī, peace be on him]. I was told, there is a man here known as al-Bḥqānī who claims to be a bāb (door); another person called Isḥāq al-Aḥmar also claims to be a bāb; and there is yet another person known as Abū Jaʿfar al-ʿAmrī, who also claims to be the bāb. I started with al-Bḥqānī.

I went to him and found him to be a radiant old man. He showed apparent pomp and had Arabian carpets [or horses]. He had many slaves and people had gathered around him and were speaking. I went to him and greeted him. He welcomed me, called me near him, showed me kindness, and expressed his joy. I sat with him for a long time until most of the people left. He then asked me the reason of my visit.

I introduced myself as a person from Dīnawar and that I had some wealth which I wanted to hand over to him. He said, “Hand it over to me.” I said, “I need proof.” He replied, “Come back tomorrow.” I returned the next day but he failed to show any proof. I returned the third day but he showed no proof again.

So, I went to Isḥāq al-Aḥmar and found him to be a neat young man. His house was bigger than that of al-Bḥqānī. His carpets [or horses], clothes, and pomp were better than that of al-Bḥqānī and he had more slaves and more visitors than him. I went in and greeted him. He welcomed me and asked me to come near him. I waited until the crowds dwindled. He then asked me why I had come. I said to him what I had said to al-Bḥqānī, and went to see him for three days but he failed to show any proof.

Finally, I went to Abū Jaʿfar al-ʿAmrī. I found him to be a humble old man. He was wearing a white garment and was sitting on a felt mattress in a small house. He neither had slaves nor apparent pomp nor the carpets [or horses] that I found with the others. I greeted him and He replied to my salutations. He brought me close to himself and reached towards me. Then, he asked about me.

I told him that I had come from the region of Jabal and was carrying wealth. He replied, “If you desire to transfer this wealth to where [it should be transferred], then it is necessary that you go to Ṣūmarrāʾ and ask for the house of ibn al-Riḥān and ask for so and so person, the representative—whose house will be teeming with its residents. You will find there what you are after.” I left his company and went to Ṣūmarrāʾ. I reached the house of ibn al-Riḥān and asked for the representative.

The door-keeper said that he is busy inside the house and will come out soon. I sat beside the door waiting for him to come out. He emerged after some time and I stood up and greeted him. He held my hand and took me inside his house. He asked me how I was and the reason for my visit. I told him that I was carrying some wealth from the land of Jabal and intended to hand it over to him after [he showed me] proof. He said, "Yes." Then, he brought food for me and said, "Eat this and rest because you are tired and there is still some time left until prayer time. I will bring for you what you want." I ate and slept.

When the time of prayers arrived, I got up and prayed. I went to the stream, had a bath, and returned. I waited until about one-fourth of the night had passed when he came to me and with him was a piece of paper, on which was written: "In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Ahmad b. Muhammad al-Dinawar has come and is carrying sixteen thousand dinars and they are in so many purses.

One of them belongs to so and so and contains so many dinars. Another belongs to such and such and contains so many dinars . . ." Until he enumerated all the purses and finally said, "the purse of al-Dharr` which contains sixteen dinars." At this juncture, Satan tempted me [to ask myself], "Is it possible that my master knows more about these purses than me?" Then I started mentioning the purses—one after the other along with the names of their owners—until I reached the last one.

[The letter] continued, "He has brought a bag from Qarm'sin from Ahmad b. al-Hasan al-Bidar—the brother of the moneychanger—which contains one thousand dinars and so many clothes. One of them belongs to so and so person. Another's color is such and such . . .," until he described [all] the clothes as to whom they belonged to and their colors. I praised Allah and thanked Him for what He had obliged me by dispelling the doubts from my heart. He had also ordered me to give everything that I was carrying to whoever Ab Ja`far al-`Amr ordered. [I left for Baghdad and went to Ab Ja`far al-`Amr] and my entire journey to Samarra' and back was completed in three days.

When Ab Ja`far al-`Amr saw me, he asked, "Why haven't you gone yet?" I replied, "My master! I have [just] returned from Samarra'." I was informing Ab Ja`far about [my journey] when a note was brought to him from our master, peace be on him, accompanied with a piece of paper like the one which was with me.

The money and clothes had been mentioned in it and he had ordered that they all be handed over to Ab Ja`far Muhammad b. Ahmad b. Ja`far al-Qattin al-Qumm. Ab Ja`far al-`Amr wore his clothes and said to me, "Take what is with you to the house of Muhammad b. Ahmad b. Ja`far al-Qattin al-Qumm." I carried the money and the clothes to the house of Muhammad b. Ahmad b. Ja`far al-Qattin al-Qumm, handed them to him, and then left for Hajj.

When I returned to al-Dinawar, the people gathered around me. I brought out the scroll which the representative of our Master had given to me and read it out for the people. When they heard [me] mention the purse with the name of al-Dharr`, [its owner] fell down and fainted. We revived him until he regained consciousness. Immediately, he went into prostration to thank Allah, Mighty and Majestic be

He, and said, “All Praise is for Allah Who obliged us with guidance. Now, I am sure that the earth cannot be empty of a [divine] proof. By Allah, this purse was handed over to me by this al-Dharr` and no one was aware of this except Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He.”

I left and after some time met Abū I-ʿāsan al-Bādar and informed him about the entire incident and read the scroll for him. He exclaimed, “O subḥān Allah! I have never doubted anything and you should never doubt that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, will empty His earth of a (divine) proof.

Know that when Irtak attacked Yazīd b. ʿAbd-Allah at Suhraward, conquered his cities, and took hold of his treasury, a man came to me and said that Yazīd b. ʿAbd-Allah had put aside such and such horse and sword for our master, peace be on him. I started transferring the treasures of Yazīd b. ʿAbd-Allah to Irtak and was protecting the horse and the sword until nothing remained [in the treasury] except these two things.

I was hoping that I could keep these two things for our master but the demand of Irtak intensified and I had no choice but to hand them over. I estimated that they were worth one thousand dinars and I gave this sum to the treasurer and said, ‘Put these dinars in the safest of places and don’t ever give them to me—no matter how intense [my] need to them may be.’ Then I handed over the horse and the sword. Later, I was sitting at my [special place] at Riyy, settling affairs, listening to reports, and giving orders, when Abū I-ʿāsan al-Asad came to me. He would visit me time after time and I used to fulfill his needs. He stayed with me for a very long time and I was extremely miserable.

I asked him, ‘What do you want?’ He replied, ‘I want some privacy.’ So, I ordered the Treasurer to prepare for us a private place in the Treasury. We entered the Treasury and He took out a small piece of paper from our master, on which was written, ‘O Aḥmad b. al-ʿāsan! Hand over to Abū I-ʿāsan al-Asad the thousand dinars that belong to us and are the price of the sword and the horse.’ I immediately went into prostration for Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, to express my gratitude for His obligation on me and then I knew that he was truly Allah’s Caliph because no one was aware of this except me. So, I added to that money three thousand more dinars because of my delight at the obligation of Allah upon me on account of this event.”

852. Dalʿil al-imāma14: Informed us Abū I-Mufaḥ al Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿqub, from al-Qasim b. al-ʿAlī who said:

I wrote three letters to the Master of the Time and mentioned my needs. I informed him that I am an old man and have no children. He replied to me about my needs but said nothing about children. So, I wrote a fourth letter to him and asked him to pray for me to Allah to grant me a son. He replied to me and wrote about my needs and wrote, “O Allah! Grant him a boy which will be the apple of his eyes and make [the child] from this pregnancy his heir.” When I received the letter, I was not aware about any pregnancies. I asked my slave-girl about it and she informed me that she was no longer experiencing menstruations. [Some time later], she gave birth to a boy.

853. Dal'īl al-imāma15: `Alī b. Muḥammad narrated to me from Naṣr b. al-ḥabbāb who said: “A person from Balkh sent five dinars to the Master along with a [note] in which he had changed his name. When he sent it to the Master, he received a receipt in which his [real] name and lineage had been mentioned and he had prayed for him.”

854. Dal'īl al-imāma16: Abū Ja`far said, “A son was born to me and I wrote to [the Imam] seeking permission to circumcise him on the seventh day. The reply was, ‘No.’ The child died on the seventh day and I wrote to him and informed him about his death. He replied, ‘Allah will replace him with another [son] then another. Name [the new child] Aḥmad and the next one Ja`far.’ It happened like he had said.”

855. Al-Kḥf17: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from Abū `Aqīl `ḥs b. Naṣr who said: “`Alī b. Ziyād al-ḥaimar wrote [a letter to him] and asked for a burial-shroud. He wrote in reply, ‘You will need it at eighty.’ He died at eighty and [the Imam] sent him a shroud a few days before his death.”

856. Al-Kḥf18: From Al-Qḥsim b. al-`Alī who said: “A number of sons were born to me and I wrote to him asking him to pray (for the). But, he did not write anything to me about them and (soon) all of them died. When my son al-ḥasan was born, I wrote to him and asked him to pray (for him), I received the response, ‘He will survive and all praise is for Allah.’

857. Al-Kharājij19: And from amongst them (meaning the miracles of Imam ḥib al-Zamān, peace be on him) is:

Abū Muḥammad al-Da`laj had two sons and he was one of our best companions and had heard a lot of traditions. One of his two sons was on the right path. His name was Abū I-ḥasan and he used to bathe the dead. His second son was walking on the path of the youth who indulged in prohibited acts. Abū Muḥammad had been given some money to perform Hajj on behalf of ḥib al-Zamān, peace be on him, and this was the practice of the Shias in those times. He handed over some of this to his second son who was infamous for his corruption and left for Hajj.

When he returned, he narrated that while he was at one of the stations [during the pilgrimage], a handsome young man with a tanned complexion and with two locks of hair who was busy supplicating, praying, invoking, and worship.

When some of the people went near [him], he turned towards me and said, “O Shaykh! Are you not ashamed?” I asked, “Why, O my Master?” He replied, “You have been given some money to perform Hajj from whom you know and you handed some of it over to a corrupt [man] who drinks wine. The time that you will lose one of your eyes is close” and he pointed towards my eye. From that day on, I was in a state of constant alarm and fright.

Abū `Abd-Allah Muḥammad b. Muḥammad al-Nu`mān heard about this and said, “Barely forty days had passed from his return [from the Hajj pilgrimage] that he developed an ulcer in the eye which had been pointed to and he lost his eyesight.”

858. Kamāl al-dīn²⁰: Narrated to me my father, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Sa`d b. `Abd-Allah, from `Allān al-Kulainī, from al-A`lam al-Miqrī, from Abū Rajā` al-Miqrī who said:

After the death of Imam Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, I went out in search [of his successor] for two years but in these two [years] I found nothing. In the third year, I was in Medina seeking the son of Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, at Quraysh and Abū Ghannim had asked me to have dinner with him. I was sitting, engrossed in deep thought, and saying to myself, “If there was anything, it should have appeared after three years.”

Suddenly, a caller who I could hear but I could not see, called out, “O Naḥr b. `Abd-Rabbih! Say to the people of Egypt, ‘Did you become believers in the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, only after you saw him?’” I did not know my father’s name because I was born in Madīn and al-Naufalī had adopted me when my father had died and had brought me up. When I heard this voice, I instantly got up and instead of going to Abū Ghannim, I took the road to Egypt.

Two men from Egypt had written [to the Imam] about their two sons. The answer they received was: “As for you, O so and so, may Allah reward you!” And he prayed for the other. Soon, the son of the one who had been consoled died.

859. Al-Ghayba (by the renowned jurist, traditionist, and ascetic, al-Ḥasan b. Ḥamza, may Allah be satisfied with him [d. 385 AH])²¹: A righteous person from our companions narrated to us:

One year, I went to the Holy Ka`ba to perform Hajj. It was a year of extreme heat and intense hot winds. I was separated from my caravan and lost my way. I was so overcome with thirst that I fell down and was about to die when I heard a horse neighing. I opened my eyes and saw a handsome fragrant youth riding a white animal.

He gave me water to drink—that was colder than ice and sweeter than honey—and he saved me from death. I asked, “O My Master! Who are you?” He replied, “I am the Proof of Allah upon His servants and the Remnant of Allah on His earth. I am the one who will fill the earth with fairness and justice just as it will be filled with injustice and unfairness. I am the son of al-Ḥasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Mūsā b. Ja`far b. Muḥammad b. `Alī b. al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Abū Ḥabīb, peace be on them.” He then said, “Close your eyes” and I closed them. Then, he said, “Open them.” I opened my eyes and I saw myself ahead of the caravan. Then, he disappeared from my sight, Allah’s blessings be on him.

860. Al-Dalīl (by al-Shaykh Abū I-`Abbās `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-Ḥimyarī—one of the great scholars of the third century AH)²²: A person from the outskirts of Ḥumaid wrote to [the Imam] and asked him to pray for his child who was not born yet. The reply was: a prayer is (useful) only within the first four months of pregnancy and that he will soon have a son. Things turned out as he had said, Allah’s blessings be on him.

861. Faraj al-mahmūd²³: From the aforementioned book (apparently referring to al-Ḥimyarī’s al-

Dalʿil) is what we have narrated from al-Shaykh al-Mufīd and have recorded it from a very old manuscript from the Usūl's of our companions that was written during the life of the representatives. This is what he cites from Al-ʿafwān, may Allah have mercy on him:

I saw al-Qāsim b. al-ʿAlī who lived for 117 years. Of these, he could see until the age of eighty. In those [eighty years], he had seen our Master Abū I-ʿāsan and our Master Abū Muḥammad, peace be on them. After the age of eighty, he became blind but regained his sight seven days before his death. I lived with him in the city of Arḡn in Azerbaijan.

The letters (tauqīḥ) of our master, ʿAbīb al-Zamān, Allah's blessings be on him, would continuously reach him through Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān al-ʿAmrī and after him, through Abū I-Qāsim b. Rīḥ, may Allah sanctify their souls. For about two months, no letters came to him and he became worried, may Allah have mercy on him.

We were with him when the doorkeeper entered with good news and said, "The messenger from Iraq has entered." Al-Qāsim became delighted and turned his face towards the Qibla and prostrated. A short man entered carrying parcels and wearing the messengers uniform. He was wearing an Egyptian overcoat, shoes from Amul²⁴ adorned his feet, and on his shoulder was a bag. He stood up, embraced him, removed the bag from his neck, called for a tray of water, washed his face, and made him sit next to himself.

We ate and washed our hands then the man stood up and removed a note greater in size than half a paper. He handed it over to al-Qāsim who kissed it and gave it to his scribe called ʿAbd-Allah b. Abū Salma. He took it, opened it, read it, and started crying to the extent that al-Qāsim sensed his weeping. Al-Qāsim asked, "O ʿAbd-Allah! Is everything okay?" He replied, "Nothing unpleasant." He asked, "And what is that?" He said, "The Shaykh will pass away forty days after he receives this letter. He will become ill on the seventh day after receiving this letter. Then, Allah will restore his eyesight and seven clothes will be taken to him." Al-Qāsim asked, "[Will I die] while my faith is safe?" He replied, "Yes, while your faith is safe." [On hearing this], he laughed—may Allah have mercy on him—and remarked, "What more can I expect after this age?" The man stood up, removed from his bag three red Yemeni trousers, a turban, two clothes, and a handkerchief and the Shaykh took them.

With him was a shirt that was given to him by our Master Abū I-ʿāsan b. al-Riḥ, peace be on him. He had a friend called ʿAbd al-Raḥmān b. Muḥammad al-Sarī who had great enmity towards the Shias. But, between him and al-Qāsim—may Allah brighten his face—there was great affection in worldly matters and he was fond of him.

ʿAbd al-Raḥmān would come to Arḡn to reconcile between Abū Jaʿfar b. ʿUmdān al-Hamdān and ʿAyyūn al-ʿAyn and would often visit him. [Al-Qāsim] said to the two elderly people who lived with him—who were called Abū ʿImīd ʿImrān b. al-Mufallas and Abū ʿAlī Muḥammad—, "I want to read this letter for ʿAbd al-Raḥmān because I would love him to be guided and I hope that Allah, Mighty and

Majestic be He, guides him by this letter.”

[One of them] said, “There is no god except Allah! When the Shias do not have the capacity to bear the contents of this letter, how can `Abd al-Raḥmān do so?” He answered, “I know that I am revealing a secret that I should not, but for the sake of my affection for `Abd al-Raḥmān, I desire that Allah guides him towards this affair, so I will read it for him.” That day passed and it was a Thursday, Rajab 13, 304 AH. `Abd al-Raḥmān entered and greeted him. He said, “Read this letter and see for yourself.”

He started reading it and when he reached the part where his death was foretold, he threw the letter and said to al-Qasim, “O Abū Muḥammad! Fear Allah! You are a learned person in your religion and sound in intellect. Verily, Allah says, ‘And no one knows what it will achieve tomorrow and no one knows in which land it will die.’²⁵ And He says, ‘Knower of the unseen; He does not reveal his unseen for anybody.’²⁶” Al-Qasim laughed and said, “The verse is finished by ‘Except for a Messenger he approves of’²⁷ and my master is one who is an approved messenger.

I knew that you would say such things but take note of this day. If I live after the mentioned date in the letter, then be sure that I was wrong [in my beliefs]. And if I die [as mentioned in the letter] then check [the date again].” `Abd al-Raḥmān took note of that day and they left each-other.

On the seventh day after the letter was received, al-Qasim caught a fever and became severely ill. He was leaning towards the wall while in bed and his son, al-Ḥasan b. al-Qasim who was an alcohol addict, was married to [the daughter of] Abū `Abd-Allah b. Ḥumdān al-Hamdānī. Abū `Abd-Allah b. Ḥumdān al-Hamdānī was sitting in one corner of the house and he had covered his face with his cloth while Abū Ḥamid was in another corner.

Abū `Alī b. Muḥammad and a group of people from the city were crying when al-Qasim leaned back on his hand and began to say: “O Muḥammad! O `Alī! O Ḥasan! O Ḥusayn . . . (to the last Imam). O my masters! Be my intercessors before Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He.” He repeated this for a second time and started saying it for the third time. When he reached “O Mūsā! O `Alī!”, his eyelids burst open like the windflowers which are burst open by children.

His irises opened and he began rubbing his eyes gently with his sleeve. A liquid oozed out from his eyes which was similar to blood serum. Then, he looked at his son and said, “O Ḥasan! Come to me. O Abū Ḥamid! Come to me. O Abū `Alī! Come to me.” They all gathered around him and looked at his cured pupils. Abū Ḥamid asked, “Can you see us?”

Then he placed his hand on each one of us. The news [about al-Qasim regaining his eyesight] spread amongst the people who flocked to see him. The Chief Justice of Baghdad, `Ayniyat b. `Ubaid-Allah Abū Thābit al-Mas`ūdī²⁸, came to him and said, “O Abū Muḥammad! What is on my hand?” He then showed him his ring with a turquoise gem on it and brought it closed to him. He replied, “It is a ring with a turquoise gem and three lines have been written on it.” Al-Qasim then took it from him but could not read [what was written on it]. The people left in amazement and were spreading his story.

Then, al-Qasim turned to his son al-Hasan and said, "O my son! Allah, Mighty is His Name, has made your position my position and your status my status. So, accept it with gratitude." Al-Hasan replied, "I accepted it." Al-Qasim said, "With what conditions?" He replied, "With [the conditions] you order me [to accept]." He said, "On the condition that you stop drinking wine." Al-Hasan said, "O father! I swear by the One Whom you are mentioning, I will stop drinking wine and also those things which you do not know about." Al-Qasim raised his hands towards the sky and said three times, "O Allah! Inspire al-Hasan with Your obedience and keep him away from Your disobedience."

Then, he called for a piece of paper and wrote his will with his own hands, may Allah have mercy on him. The estates which were in his position belonged to our master, peace be on him, and were endowed to [the Imam] by his father (waqafah lah). [Al-Qasim] had written in his will to al-Hasan, "If you become eligible for this affair—meaning the representation (wikala) of our master—you will get a share of half of my estates at Farjand and the rest of it is the property of my master, and if you do not become eligible, then seek goodness from wherever Allah sends it to you." Al-Hasan accepted the will on these terms. On the fortieth day, al-Qasim died after the break of dawn.

On hearing the news of his death, `Abd al-Rahman b. Muhammad came to him while running in the markets barefooted and head uncovered, crying, "O my master!" The people were amazed at this behavior and were asking him, "What are you doing to yourself?" He replied, "Keep quiet! I have seen what you have not seen." Then, he participated in his funeral procession and converted from his previous beliefs and endowed (waqafa) most of his estates [to the Imam]. Ab `Al b. Muhammad undertook the task of giving al-Qasim [the burial] bathe and Ab `Amid poured water for him.

He was wrapped in eight clothes. On his body was the shirt of our Master followed by the seven clothes that had come from Iraq. After a short period, al-Hasan received a letter of condolence from our Master and he had prayed at the end of it that Allah Inspire him with His obedience and keep him away from His disobedience. This was the same prayer invoked by his father. The letter finished like this: "Indeed, we made your father as an Imam for you and set his actions as examples."

We narrated this narration—which we have also mentioned from Ab Ja`far al-Qasim—may Allah be satisfied with him.

862. Al-Khar`ij wa l-jar`i: It has been narrated from Ab l-Hasan al-Mustariq al-Zar:

One day, I was in the court of al-Hasan b. `Abd-Allah b. `Amd Nair al-Daula. We started discussing the Imam and I said, "I used to neglect the affair of the [Holy] Region (al-niyaya) until one day, I went to the court of my uncle al-Hasayn and I began discussing this topic. He said, 'O my son! I used to have your belief until I was told to take the governorship of Qum as it had become a difficult problem for the King.

Anybody who entered it on behalf of the King was met with stubborn resistance from its inhabitants. He gave me an army and I marched towards it. When I reached the area of `Irz, I went out for hunting and

[my arrow] missed an animal and I rushed after it until I reached a river.

I went in the river and the more I went forward, the vaster it became. In this state, a rider appeared before me on a white mount, wearing a green silky turban. I could see nothing of [his face] but his eyes and he was wearing red shoes. He addressed me, “O ʿUsayn,” without saying my title—Emir—or my epithet. I asked, “What do you want?” He said, “Why do you neglect the affair of the (Holy) Region³⁰ (al-nawḍiyā)? And why do you prevent my companions from one-fifth of your wealth?” I was indeed a lordly person who feared no one but there I was trembling and overcome by fright.

I replied, “My Master! I will do whatever you order.” He commanded, “When you reach the place you intend to go [i.e. Qum], enter it and pardon [its inhabitants]. After you acquire what you will acquire, give a fifth of it to those who deserve it.” I said, “I have heard and I will obey.” He said, “Go with guidance.” Then, he turned the reins of his horse and went away.

I did not understand which path he took. I searched for him right and left but he was concealed from me. This frightened me even more and I returned to my camp and forgot the entire incident. When I reached Qum with the intention of fighting them, its citizens came out and said, “We fought those who came to us because they opposed us. But you have come and there is no opposition between us.

Enter the city and govern it as you like.” I stayed there for quite some time and acquired more wealth than I had calculated. Some of the commanders complained against me to the King because they were jealous of my long stay and the excessive wealth I had acquired. Consequently, I was dismissed and I returned to Baghdad. I directly went to the King, greeted him, and then went to my house.

Amongst my visitors was Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān al-ʿAmrī. He overtook the people and sat on my sitting place [beside me]. This angered me but he continued to sit and didn’t get up while the people were coming and going and my anger was increasing. When the people left and the gathering dispersed, he came close to me and said, “Between you and me is a secret, so listen to it.” I said, “Speak.”

He said, “The companion of the white horse and the river says, ‘We fulfilled what we promised.’” Suddenly, I remembered the entire incident and changed my attitude and said, “I listen and I obey.” Then, I stood up, held his hand and opened the treasury. Then, he started separating one-fifth of the wealth until he even removed one-fifth from those things that I had forgotten that I had collected. He then left. After this incident, my doubts were dispelled and the affair was proved.’

Ever since I heard this from my uncle, Abū ʿAbd-Allah, all my doubts were dispelled.”

The following traditions also prove the concept of this chapter: 823, 827, 828, 830, 832, 833, 838, 839, 840, and 868.

1. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, pp. 523–524, no. 23; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, pp. 485–486, no. 5, through his chain of narrators

from Muḥammad b. Shādhān b. Naḥm al-Nāsībī; al-Irshād, p. 383, (pp. 353 and 354, [Beirut: Mu’assisat al-A`lam]); Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, chap. “Proofs of the Master of the time, peace be on him,” p. 456; l’ilm al-warḥ, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 3, sect. 2; Dal’il al-imāma, p. 286, all of them through their chains of narrators from Muḥammad b. Shādhān; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 295, no. 8, and p. 325, no. 44; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, pp. 663–664, no. 22; al-Thaqib fī l-manḥiqib, p. 604, no. 552/16, from Muḥammad b. Shādhān b. Naḥm al-Nāsībī.

I say: The aforementioned Muḥammad b. Shādhān in Kamāl al-dīn, al-Irshād, Kashf al-ghumma, and al-Dal’il, is either Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Shādhān who has been mentioned in the chain of narrators of al-Kḥfī, or he is Muḥammad b. Aḥmad b. Shādhān whose biography has been recorded in the rijāl books—as some of the authors of the lexicons have mentioned. It is also possible that he is other than Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Shādhān although, apparently, it is the same incident. However, neither of these possibilities is a cause of weakness for the chain, because his high stature will become obvious by referring to the rijāl and Hadith books. He has been mentioned amongst the representatives (al-wukalā) in the sixteenth tradition of the chapter on those who have seen the Q’im, peace be on him, in Kamāl al-dīn. Therefore, no attention should be paid to the view of some contemporary scholars who believe he was unknown (al-majhūl).

As for Muḥammad b. `Alī b. Shādhān—if we suppose he is other than Muḥammad b. Shādhān—it will suffice in proving his reliability the fact that he has narrated the tradition of `Alī b. Muḥammad from him, who was from the teachers of al-Kulainī, and that many traditions have been narrated from him in al-Kḥfī. If it is argued that this does not prevent him from still being unknown (al-majhūl), the reply will be as follows: His reliability can be deduced from the fact that al-Kulainī has narrated numerous traditions from him and has trusted his narrations and has recorded them in his book. This argument is enough to prove that al-Kulainī had regarded him as reliable. Even if we overlook this argument, this narration in particular can be relied upon due to the fact that there is no doubt that it occurred just like other narrations that we have no doubt about their occurrence because of the existence of legitimate presumptions.

It is appropriate to mention here that we believe it strongly probable that `Alī b. Muḥammad—the aforementioned in the narrations of al-Kḥfī, al-Irshād, and Kamāl al-dīn—is `Alī b. Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Abū al-Raḥḥ, known as `Allān, who was one of al-Kulainī’s teachers. For, he had a book named Akhbār al-Q’im, peace be on him. He was amongst the most respected scholars of the third century and had apparently lived during the periods of two Imams: Imam Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, and his son al-Mahdī, peace be on him, during the minor occultation.

2. Al-Kḥfī, vol. 1, chap. “Birth of the Master, peace be on him,” p. 519, no. 8; al-Irshād, p. 378, no. 3, with a minor difference ([Beirut: Mu’assisat al-A`lam], p. 352); Similar to it, Dal’il al-imāma, chap. “Ma`rifat shuyḥkh al-ḥifā al-ladhna `arafa ḥabīb al-Zamān `alayhi al-salām,” pp. 286–287, no. 6, from Abū al-Mufaḥḥal, from Muḥammad b. Ya`qūb, from Isḥāq b. Ya`qūb, from al-Shaykh al-`Amrī Muḥammad b. Uthmān, who said, “Two people from the inhabitants of al-Sawād . . . (to the end).” He has narrated it from `Alī b. Muḥammad.; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 326, no. 45; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 659, no. 7; al-Thaqib fī l-manḥiqib, p. 597, no. 540/4, from Isḥāq b. Ya`qūb, from al-Shaykh al-`Amrī; l’ilm al-warḥ, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 3, sect. 2, from `Alī b. Muḥammad.

3. The dwellings and villages near Kūfa—Ed.

4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 486, no. 7; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 326, no. 46; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 673, no. 45; l’ilm al-warḥ, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 3, sect. 2; al-Thaqib, p. 597.

5. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, pp. 486–487, no. 8; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 326, no. 47. He has only mentioned the last part of the tradition; Dal’il al-imāma, chap. “Ma`rifatu shuyḥkh . . .,” p. 287, no. 7, similar to it through his chain of narrators from Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Mahziyār, to where he says, “Some dinars.”

6. Quran 4:59.

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 488, no. 9; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 326–327, no. 48, with the difference that he says, “he sent two hundred dinars from the wealth to ḥijāz”; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 673, no. 46.

8. A province in southwest Iran—Ed.

9. Apparently part of the tradition has been deleted. See al-Kharīj, vol.2, p.696, no. 10.

10. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, pp. 502–503, no. 31; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 320, no. 266; Rijāl al-Najāshī, pp. 184–185; al-Kharīj wa l-jarīi, vol. 3, p. 1124, no. 42; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 335–336, no. 61; Faraj al-mahmūm, pp. 258 and 130; Yanḥab al-mawadda, chap. 81, p. 460; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 678, no. 76 and 77; al-Thaqib fī l-manḥiqib, p. 614, no. 560/8.

11. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 510, no. 40; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 340, no. 66; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 680, no. 83; al-Thiqib, p. 600, no. 547/11.

12. Dalʿil al-imʿama, chap. “Maʿrifat al-shuyūkh al-ʿifā alladhna `arafū ʿib al-Zamʿn `alayhi al-salām,” pp. 282–285, no. 1; Faraj al-mahmūm, pp. 239–244, through his chains of narrators from Muḥammad b. Jarīr; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 300–303, no. 19.

13. Ibn al-Riʿ refers to the tenth and eleventh Imams who were known by this title because they were the descendants of Imam al-Riʿ, peace be on them—Ed.

14. Dalʿil al-imʿama, p. 286, no. 4; Faraj al-mahmūm, p. 244, citing al-ʿimyar and al-ʿabar; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 303–304, under no. 19; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 701, no. 141.

15. Dalʿil al-imʿama, p. 287, no. 8; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 327, no. 49; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 673, no. 47.

16. Dalʿil al-imʿama, p. 288, no. 10; Faraj al-mahmūm, p. 244, citing al-ʿabar and al-ʿimyar, with a very minor variation; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 308, no. 24, which says, “name the first one Aḥmad”; al-Irshād, p. 355; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 283, no. 242, with a very minor variation; al-Kāfī, p. 522, no. 17, with a very minor variation; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 455, with a very minor variation; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 662, no. 16.

17. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 125, p. 524, no. 37; Mirʿat al-uqūl, vol. 6, chap. “Birth of the Master,” p. 199, no. 27. “Eighty” can either mean his age or the year 280 AH; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 283–284, no. 243, similar to it through his chain of narrators from Abū Aqīl; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 306, no. 20; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 456; Taqrīb al-maʿrif, p. 196; al-Thiqib, p. 590, no. 535/1; In Dalʿil al-imʿama, a similar miracle has been narrated which occurred for `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Samurʿ (pp. 285–286). It has been mentioned in Faraj al-mahmūm, p. 244, what has been narrated in Dalʿil al-imʿama, from al-ʿabar—the author of Dalʿil al-imʿama—and al-ʿimyar; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 501, no. 26; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 32, p. 664, no. 26; lʿim al-warʿ, sect. 2, p. 421; al-Kharʿij wa l-jarʿi, vol. 1, pp. 463–464, no. 8.

I say: It is probable that some error has occurred while copying from Dalʿil al-imʿama because `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Samurʿ died in 328 or 329 AH. Otherwise, he might have meant eighty years of his age.

18. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, chap. 125, p. 519, no. 9; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 309, no. 27; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 659, no. 8; lʿim al-warʿ, sect. 2, pp. 418–419.

19. Al-Kharʿij, vol. 1, chap. “The miracles of Imam ʿib al-Zamʿn,” p. 480, no. 21, printed at al-Imam al-Mahdī Organization; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 59, no. 42; Faraj al-mahmūm, p. 256, with a very minor variation at its end. He also says, “Al-Daʿlaj refers to those attributed to a place behind the gateway of Kāfa—towards Baghdad—whose inhabitants are called al-Daʿlaja. He was a jurist (faqīh) and an `rif. Al-Najsh has mentioned him in his rijāl book likewise.” He writes, “I learned the laws of inheritance from him and he has a book on Hajj.” Therefore, it most possible that this miracle took place during the major occultation, because al-Najsh was born in 372 AH and died in 450 AH; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 695, no. 120; Wasʿil al-Sh`a, vol. 8, chap. 24, p. 147, no. 2; Mustadrak al-wasʿil, vol. 8, pp. 70–71, no. 4.

20. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, pp. 491–492, no. 15; al-Kharʿij wa l-jarʿi, vol. 2, pp. 698–699, no. 1, with some variations, published at al-Imam al-Mahdī Organization; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 295, no. 10; Faraj al-mahmūm, sect. “Dalʿil al-Mahdī `alayhi al-salām,” p. 239; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, p. 696, with differences in the wording.

21. Al-Arbaʿn known as Kifāyat al-muhtad, p. 140, no. 36; al-Arbaʿn by al-Khṭn ʿbd, p. 49, no. 12.

I say: Although, this miracle possibly occurred in the major occultation, the probability of it taking place in the minor occultation is greater due to what we have mentioned here. And Allah knows the best.

Know that the rijāl scholars have praised this person with the attributes of profound knowledge, piety, asceticism, etc. Al-ʿS writes, “He was noble (fīl), a litterateur (adīb), a mystic (`rif), a faqīh, an ascetic, God-fearing (warʿ), and had many good characteristics. He wrote a number of books . . .” Al-Najsh says, “He was amongst the most famous of the Shias.” Tanq al-maqāl mentions, “He was amongst the chiefs of the good (people) and one of the greatest of the teachers. The rijāl scholars have mentioned him, praised him with every beautiful (attribute), and have immensely glorified him.”

22. Faraj al-mahmūm, p. 247. He says: “A section about what we have narrated through our chain of narrators from al-

- Shaykh Abū I-ʿAbbās ʿAbd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-ʿImyārī from vol. 2 of the book al-Dalʿil . . .”; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 675, no. 558; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 332, no. 56.
23. Faraj al-mahmūm, pp. 248–253. Wherever this copy contained errors, we have corrected them using Biḥār al-anwār; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 310–315, no. 263, which mentions ʿAbd-Allah b. ʿUbaid-Allah. Apparently, this is the scribe’s error, because ʿUtbat b. ʿAbd-Allah is correct. The latter is ibn Mūsā b. ʿAbd-Allah al-Hamdānī who was a judge in Marāgha, then Azerbaijan, Hamdān, and Baghdad. He died in 351 AH and lived for eighty six years. See Siyar al-ʿIm al-nubalāʾ, vol. 16, p. 47, and Tārīkh Baghdād, vol. 12, p. 320; Al-Thaqib fī l-manāqib, p. 590, no. 536/2, which mentions Abū I-Sʿīb ʿUtbat b. ʿUbaid-Allah al-Masʿūdī; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 313–316, no. 37, which also mentions ʿUtbat b. ʿUbaid-Allah; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, pp. 690–692, no. 106; Muntakhab al-anwār al-muḥḥa, pp. 130–134; al-Kharīj wa l-jarīʿa, vol. 1, pp. 467–470, no. 14, which also mentions Abū I-Sʿīb ʿUtbat b. ʿUbaid-Allah al-Masʿūdī.
24. A city located in Iran on the southern coast of the Caspian sea—Ed.
25. Quran 31:34.
26. Quran 72:26.
27. Quran 72:27.
28. As we already mentioned, it seems that the correct name is ʿUtbat b. ʿUbaid-Allah Abū I-Sʿīb al-Masʿūdī.
29. Al-Kharīj wa l-jarīʿa, vol. 1, pp. 472–475, no. 17; Faraj al-mahmūm, pp. 253–254; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 56–57, no. 40; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, sect. 3, p. 694, no. 118 (short version); Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, pp. 500–501, under “The miracles of the Master of the time, peace be on him.”
30. Meaning what is related to the Mahdī, peace be on him—Ed.

Section Three

His ambassadors (sufarʿ) and deputies (nuwwāb) during the Minor Occultation

Comprised of twenty-seven traditions¹

863. Ghaybat al-Shaykh²: A group from Abū Muḥammad Ḥarḥan b. Mūsā informed me from Abū ʿAlī Muḥammad b. Hammām al-Iskafī, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-ʿImyārī, from Aḥmad b. Isḥāq b. Saʿd al-Qummī who said:

One day I went to see Imam Abū I-ḥasan ʿAlī b. Muḥammad, Allah’s blessings be on him. I said, “My Master! Sometimes I am present and at other times I am absent. It is not always feasible for me to contact you even when I am present; So, whose word should we accept and whose command should we obey?” He replied, “This is Abū ʿAmr, the reliable, the trustworthy. Whatever he says to you, he is narrating from me and whatever he is conveying to you, he is conveying from me.”

After (Imam) Abū I-ḥasan passed away—one day—I went to his son Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him, and repeated what I had said to his father. He replied, “This is Abū ʿAmr, the reliable, the trustworthy. He was deemed reliable by the one who passed [away] and I deem him trustworthy during my life and death. Whatever he says to you, he is narrating from me and whatever he

conveys to you, he is conveying from me.”

Abū Muḥammad Ḥurrīn narrates from Abū `Alī, from Abū I-`Abbās al-`imyarī that “We used to mention this saying and describe the majestic position of Abū `Amr.”

864. Ghaybat al-Shaykh3: A group from Abū Muḥammad Ḥurrīn informed us from Muḥammad b. Hammām, from `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far who said:

After (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, passed away, we went to perform Hajj one year. I went to Aḥmad b. Isḥāq at Baghdad and saw Abū `Amr with him. I said, “Verily, we regard this Shaykh—and I pointed to Aḥmad b. Isḥāq—as reliable and approved. He has narrated such and such things to us about you,” and I repeated what was mentioned earlier regarding the excellence of Abū `Amr and his position.

I continued, “Now, you are someone whose word and truthfulness cannot be doubted. So I ask you for the sake of Allah and the two Imams who endorsed your reliability, have you seen the son of Abū Muḥammad who is the Master of the Time?” He cried and said, “[I will tell you] if you promise not to disclose this to anybody while I am alive.” I agreed and he said, “Indeed, I have seen him, peace be on him, and his neck is like this—indicating that it is nice shaped and perfect.” I enquired, “What is his name?” He replied, “You have been forbidden [from asking] this.”

865. Ghaybat al-Shaykh4: Aḥmad b. `Alī b. Nūḥ Abū I-`Abbās al-Sairīfī, from Abū Naḥr `Abd-Allah b. Muḥammad b. Aḥmad known as ibn Barniyyat al-Katīb, from some of the noble Shia traditionists, from Abū Muḥammad al-`Abbās b. Aḥmad al-`Ighī, from al-`usayn b. Aḥmad al-Khaḥḥbī, from Muḥammad b. Ismā`īl and `Alī b. `Abd-Allah al-`asaniyyīn who both said:

We went to see (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-`asan, peace be on him, at Sāmarrā` and with him were a group of his friends and followers. After some time, Badr, his servant, entered and said, “My Master! There is a group of disheveled and dust-covered people at the door.” He said to them, “These are our Shias from Yemen.” (The narration is long and it continues until the Imam says to Badr,) “Go and call `Uthmān b. Sa`d al-`Amrī.” `Uthmān entered after a short time and our Master Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, said to him, “O `Uthmān! Be steadfast because you are the representative and the reliable trustee upon Allah’s wealth. Take from these Yemenis what they have brought of their wealth . . .”

(The tradition continues to where they said), we all said together, “O our Master! By Allah, `Uthmān is one of your best Shias and you have increased our knowledge regarding his position in serving you. He is your representative and your trustee upon the wealth of Allah, the Exalted.” He replied, “Yes. Testify before me that `Uthmān b. Sa`d al-`Amrī is my representative and his son, Muḥammad, is the representative of my son, your Mahdī.”

866. Ghaybat al-Shaykh5: From him (meaning Aḥmad b. `Alī b. Nūḥ), from Abū Naḥr Hibat-Allah b.

Aḥmad al-Kaṭīb, the son of the daughter of Abū Jaʿfar al-ʿAmrī—may Allah sanctify his soul and satisfy him—from his teachers that

When (Imam) al-Ḥasan b. ʿAlī died, ʿUthmān b. Saʿd—may Allah sanctify his soul and satisfy him—came for his ritual bath and took care of his shrouding, embalment, and preparing his grave. Apparently, he was appointed for all these things which cannot be denied or disputed except at the cost of denying the reality of things in all their apparentness.

The signed letters (tauqīn) of the Master of the Affair which comprised of orders and prohibitions and also answers, were delivered through ʿUthmān b. Saʿd and his son Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān, to his Shias and the special companions of his father (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him.

[The letters] were written with the same handwriting as the ones which were delivered during the lifetime of [Imam] al-Ḥasan, peace be on him. The Shias never doubted their credibility until ʿUthmān b. Saʿd—may Allah have mercy on him and be satisfied with him—died and his son Abū Jaʿfar gave him the ritual bath and became his successor and all the affairs were referred to him. The Shias were unanimous in his credibility, reliability, and trustworthiness due to what had been said about his trustworthiness and credibility during the lifetime of (Imam) al-Ḥasan, peace be on him, and after his death, in the lifetime of his father ʿUthmān, may Allah have mercy on him.

867. Al-Kaṭīb: Muḥammad b. ʿAbd-Allah and Muḥammad b. Yaʿqūb both of them, from ʿAbd-Allah b. Jaʿfar al-Ḥimyarī who said:

I and shaykh Abū ʿAmr, may Allah have mercy on him, were together with Aḥmad b. Isḥāq. Aḥmad b. Isḥāq indicated to me that I ask him about the heir. I said, “O Abū ʿAmr! I want to ask you about something. Although I have no doubt about it, nevertheless, I desire to question you about it. Surely, it is my belief and my religion that the earth cannot remain empty of a (divine) proof except forty days before the Day of Judgment.

When that happens, the (divine) proof will be taken away and the door of repentance will be closed. Then, becoming faithful will no longer benefit one who had not believed earlier or hadn't earned goodness in his faith.

They will be the worst from the creations of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and they are the ones whom the Day of Judgment will be established upon. I intend to increase my certitude like Abraham who asked his Lord, Mighty and Majestic be He, to show him how He raises the dead. The answer was, ‘Do you not believe?’ and he replied, ‘I do but I am asking for the contentment of my heart.’ Abū ʿAlī Aḥmad b. Isḥāq informed me that he had asked Imam Abū Ḥasan, peace be on him, ‘With whom must I deal with or from whom must I take and whose words should I accept?’ He had replied, ‘Al-ʿAmrī is my trustee.

Whatever he conveys to you from me, he has [really] conveyed it from me and whatever he says to you, he has said it on my behalf. Listen to him and obey [him], because surely, he is reliable and trustworthy.’ Abū `Alī also informed me that he had asked (Imam) Abū Muḥammad a similar question and he had replied, ‘Al-`Amr and his son are both reliable.

Whatever they convey to you from me, they have [really] conveyed it from me and whatever they say to you, they have said it on my behalf. Listen to both of them and obey them because they are both reliable and trustworthy.’ This is what two Imams have said about you.” [On hearing this], Abū `Amr prostrated and cried.

Then, he said, “Ask your need.” I enquired, “Have you seen the successor of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him?” He replied, “Yes, by Allah. His neck is like,” and he indicated with his hands. I said, “Now, one [question] remains.” He said, “Come forth with it.” I replied, “His name?” He said, “It is prohibited for you to ask about it and I am not saying this from myself because I cannot make anything permissible or prohibited. This instruction is from him, peace be on him.

The King is under the impression that (Imam) Abū Muḥammad has died and has not left behind a successor. As a result, his inheritance has been divided and those who did not have a right to it have taken it. He has a family who move freely and no one has the courage to harm them. When the name is mentioned, the search [for him] begins. So, fear Allah and refrain from this.”

Al-Kulainī, may Allah have mercy on him, says, “A shaykh from our companions—whose name I have forgotten—narrated to me that Abū `Amr was asked the same question while Ahmad b. Isḥāq was with him and he gave a similar reply.”

868. Kamāl al-dīn: `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-`imyar says:

Al-shaykh Abū Ja`far Muḥammad b. `Uthmān al-`Amr received a letter of condolence [for the death] of his father, may Allah be satisfied with them. In one part of the letter was written, “Surely, we are from Allah and to Him we will return. We submit to His commands and are satisfied with His decree. Your father lived a blissful life and died with praise. May Allah have mercy on him and unite him with his masters and friends, peace be on them. He always strived to implement their command and worked hard to do the things that would draw him closer to Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and to [his masters]. May Allah brighten his face and overlook his faults.”

It was written in another part, “May Allah multiply your reward and offer you the best of condolences. You are in mourning and so are we. You have become lonely by his separation and so have we. Allah will make him happy in the place where he has returned to. From amongst his good fortune was that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has granted him a son like you to succeed him and take his place by His orders and to ask [Allah] to have mercy on him. [Imam Mahdī continued,] All praise is for Allah, for, the souls have become pure by your position and whatever Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, has granted you and near you. May Allah help you, strengthen you, support you, and grant you success.

Allah is your Guardian, Protector, Caretaker, and He suffices you and is your Helper.”

869. Ghaybat al-Shaykh8: A group informed me from Hurr b. Mansur, from Muhammad b. Hammam, from `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far al-`imyar that “When Ab` Amr, may Allah be satisfied with him, passed away, letters came to us—with the same handwriting that we used when corresponding with him—concerning the appointment of Ab` Ja`far, may Allah be satisfied with him, as his successor.”

870. Ghaybat al-Shaykh9: (Through the same chain of narrators) from Muhammad b. Hammam, from Muhammad b. Hammawayh b. `Abd al-`Aziz al-Razi in the year 280 AH, from Muhammad b. Ibrahim b. Mahziyar al-Ahwaz that he received [a letter] after Ab` Amr’s death that said:

The son—may Allah protect him—was always considered reliable by us during the lifetime of his father, may Allah be satisfied with and satisfy him and brighten his face. He is like his father and has his position. He ordered his son by our command and acted accordingly; May Allah guard him. Obey him and tell others about our attitude towards him.

871. Kamal al-din10: Ab` Ja`far Muhammad b. `Ali al-Aswad, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us that Ab` Ja`far al-`Amr dug a grave for himself and leveled it with teakwood. I asked him about it and he replied, “For people, there are causes.” I asked him again and he replied, “I have been ordered to gather my affairs.” He died two months after this incident; May Allah be satisfied with him.

872. Kamal al-din11: Muhammad b. `Ali b. Matti, from his uncle Ja`far b. Muhammad b. Matti who said:

Ab` Ja`far Muhammad b. `Uthman al-Samm—known as al-`Amr, may Allah be satisfied with him—summoned me and gave me some small clothes with signs [on them] and a purse filled with dirhams.

He said, “It is necessary that you travel alone to Wasil right now and hand these over to the first person who comes to you when you dismount on the beach of Wasil.” This made me extremely sorrowful and I said to myself, “A person like me is being sent for a mission like this and made to carry such an insignificant thing.” Anyhow, I went to Wasil and dismounted and asked the first person who met me about al-`asan b. Muhammad b. Qasim al-`aidal, the person in charge of endowments (wakil al-waqf) at Wasil. He said, “That’s me. Who are you?” I replied, “I am Ja`far b. Muhammad b. Matti.”

He recognized me with my name and greeted me. I greeted him too and we embraced each other. I said to him, “Ab` Ja`far al-`Amr has conveyed his greetings to you and handed me these clothes and this purse to give to you.” He replied, “All Praise is for Allah; Muhammad b. `Abd-Allah al-`ir [al-`mir] has died and I had come to prepare his shroud.” He opened the parcel and in it were the necessary things for shrouding. The purse contained camphor and the wage of the bier-carriers and the grave-digger. We participated in his funeral procession and I returned.

873. Ghaybat al-Shaykh12: Al-ʿusayn b. Ibrāhīm, from Abū Nūr, from Abū Naʿr Hibat-Allah b. Muḥammad, from his (maternal) uncle Abū Ibrāhīm Jaʿfar b. Aḥmad al-Naubakhtī, from his father Aḥmad b. Ibrāhīm, his uncle Abū Jaʿfar ʿAbd-Allah b. Ibrāhīm, and a group of his family members—i.e. the tribe of Naubakht, that

When the condition of Abū Jaʿfar al-ʿAmrī worsened, he gathered a group of influential Shiites including Abū ʿAlī b. Hammām, Abū ʿAbd-Allah b. Muḥammad al-Kaṭīb, Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Bayqaqīnī, Abū Sahl Ismāʿīl b. ʿAlī al-Naubakhtī, Abū ʿAbd-Allah b. al-Wajīdī, and other influential figures and elders. They all came to Abū Jaʿfar, may Allah be satisfied with him, and asked him, “If (the inevitable—meaning death) happens, who will be your successor?”

He replied, “He—meaning Abū I-Qāsim al-ʿusayn b. Rauḥ b. Abū Baʿr al-Naubakhtī—will take my place. He is the ambassador between you and ʿAbū ʿAlī al-ʿAmrī, peace be on him. He is the representative and the reliable and trustworthy. Refer to him in your affairs and seek help from him in important issues. I have been ordered [to convey] this and indeed, I conveyed.”

874. Ghaybat al-Shaykh13: A theologian (mutakallim) known as Turk al-Harawī asked [ʿusayn b. Rauḥ], “How many daughters did the Messenger of Allah have?” He replied, “Four.” He said, “Who amongst them was the most superior?” He replied, “Fāṭima, peace be on her.” He said, “How did she become the most superior while she was the youngest of them and had accompanied the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, less than them?” He replied, “Due to two characteristics with which Allah had distinguished her and given to her as an advantage, honor, and reverence: First, she inherited from the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, whilst none of his other children inherited from him.

Second, Allah the Exalted, preserved the generation of the Messenger of Allah, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, through her and not through his other children. He did not distinguish her with these [characteristics] except due to the excellence of the purity He had known of her intention.” Al-Harawī replied [in astonishment], “I have never seen anyone speak and reply in this context better and more concise than him.”

875. Ghaybat al-Shaykh14: A group informed me from Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-ʿusayn b. ʿAlī b. al-ʿusayn b. Mūsā b. Bābawayh, from a group of his townsmen who lived in Baghdad—in the year in which the Qarāmiya attacked the hajis and it was the year of the falling stars—that “My father, may Allah be satisfied with him, wrote to al-Shaykh Abū I-Qāsim al-ʿusayn b. Rauḥ, may Allah be satisfied with him, to seek permission to perform Hajj.

He received the reply, ‘Don’t go this year.’ He wrote again asking, ‘It is an obligatory vow (nadhṛ). Is it permissible for me not to go?’ The response was, ‘If you have no choice [because it is obligatory], then go with the last caravan.’ He joined the last caravan and was saved whilst those who had gone in the earlier caravans were killed.”

876. Kamāl al-dīn¹⁵: From Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq al-Ḥaliqīn, may Allah be satisfied with him, who said:

I was with Shaykh Abū I-Qāsim al-Ḥusayn b. Rauḥ, may Allah sanctify his soul, with a group—amongst whom was `Alī b. `Isḥāq al-Qaḥrī. A man stood up and said to [al-Ḥusayn b. Rauḥ], “I want to ask you something.” He replied, “Ask whatever comes to your mind.” He asked, “Inform me about al-Ḥusayn b. `Alī, peace be on him; was he a guardian [appointed] by Allah?” He replied in the affirmative.

The man said, “Was his killer an enemy of Allah?” He replied in the affirmative. The man said, “Is it permissible that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, allows His enemy to dominate His friend?” Abū I-Qāsim al-Ḥusayn b. Rauḥ—may Allah sanctify his soul—replied, “Understand what I am telling you. Know that Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, does not address the people [in a way that] the eyes can witness nor does He converse with speech. Rather, He—Majestic is His Majesty—sent to them messengers from their species and their kind, who were humans like them.

Had He sent to them Messengers from other than their kind and their forms, they would have certainly fled from [the messengers] and would have not accepted [their claims’]. When they came to them while they were from their species who ate food and walked in the markets, the people said to them, ‘You are mortals like us. We will not accept [what you claim] until you perform for us a thing which we cannot do.

Only then will we know that you are the chosen ones instead of us because [you can perform] what we are incapable of.’ So, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, gave them miracles which the people were incapable of performing. Some of them brought the storm—after warning and cautioning—and drowned all those who oppressed and rebelled.

From them was he who was thrown in the fire which became cold and safe for him. From them was he who brought forth a she-camel from solid stone and made milk to flow from its udders. From them was the one for whom the sea was split and springs flowed for him from a stone and a dry cane was turned into a snake for him that devoured their lies.

From them was the one who cured the blind and the leper, gave life to the dead with the permission of Allah, and informed them of what they ate and stored in their houses. From them was the one for whom the moon was split and with whom the animals like the camel, the wolf, and etc. spoke. When they performed such [miracles] and the people were helpless from performing the like of such deeds, Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, ordained by His grace upon His servants and His wisdom, that He make His Prophets, peace be on them—with all their powers and miracles—at times victorious and at other times defeated; at times triumphant and at other times suppressed.

Had Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, made them victorious and triumphant on all occasions and had not afflicted them nor tested them [by these defeats], certainly the people would have taken them as Gods instead of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He, and their excellent patience during calamities, misfortunes, and tests would have remained unknown [to the people]. But He, Mighty and Majestic be

He, made them in these situations like [ordinary people], so that they would be patient and forbearing during ordeals and calamities, grateful in times of safety and domination over the enemies, and humble in all conditions and not proud and arrogant.

Thus, the people would know that they, peace be on them, have a Lord Who is their creator and planner and [as a result, the people] would worship Him and obey His Messengers. Hence, the proof of Allah would be established against those who exceed the limits concerning them and view them as deities, or disobey, oppose, defy, and refute what the Messengers and Prophets, peace be on them, have brought. ‘So that he who perishes, perishes by clear proof, and he who lives, lives by clear proof.’¹⁶”

(Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm b. Isḥāq, may Allah be satisfied with him, says), The next day, I returned to Shaykh Abū I-Qāsim b. Rauḥ, may Allah sanctify his soul, and was saying to myself, “Did he make up what he said to us yesterday?” He initiated [the conversation] and said, “O Muḥammad b. Ibrāhīm! It is more preferable for me to fall from the sky, and then have a bird snatch me or the wind carry me away to a barren land, than to say my own opinion or something from myself in the religion of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. Rather, [what I said] was from the [true] source and was heard from the ḥujja, blessings and salutations of Allah be on him.”

877. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹⁷: A group informed us from Abū `Abd-Allah al-ḥusayn b. `Alī b. Bābawayh al-Qummī, from a group of people from Qum—whom `Alī b. Bābawayh was amongst—from another group of people from Qum, amongst whom were `Imrān al-ḥaffār, his relative `Alawiyat al-ḥaffār, and al-ḥusayn b. Aḥmad b. `Alī b. Aḥmad b. Idrīs, may Allah have mercy on them all, who all narrated:

We were in Baghdad in the year that Abū `Alī b. al-ḥusayn b. Mūsā b. Bābawayh died. Abū I-ḥasan `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Samurī, may his soul be sanctified, continuously asked us [who were] close to him about `Alī b. al-ḥusayn, may Allah have mercy on him, and we always answered, “A letter has reached us about his wellbeing.”

The day when [`Alī b. al-ḥusayn] died, he asked us about him and we gave him the same answer but he said, “May Allah reward you concerning `Alī b. al-ḥusayn. He has just died.” We recorded the hour, date, and month of [his death] and after about seventeen or eighteen days, news reached us that he had died at the exact time mentioned by shaykh Abū I-ḥasan, may his soul be sanctified.

878. Kamāl al-dīn¹⁸: From Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. Aḥmad al-Mukattib, who said:

I was in Baghdad in the year that shaykh `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Samurī, may Allah sanctify his soul, died. I went to him a few days prior to his death. He brought a letter for the people which I made a copy from that read, “In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. O `Alī b. Muḥammad al-Samurī! May Allah increase the reward of your brothers concerning you! You will die within six days, so, wrap up your affairs and don’t appoint anyone as your successor after your death because the second occultation has commenced.

There will be no reappearance except after Allah's permission, Mighty and Majestic be He, and this will happen after a long time has passed and the hearts will have become hard, and the earth will have been filled with injustice. Some of my followers will claim to have met me. Beware! Whoever claims to have met me before the emergence of the Sufyān and the [heavenly] cry (al-ʿaiṣa) is a lying slanderer. There is no power and strength except through Allah, the Exalted and the Great.”

We copied this letter and left him. On the sixth day, we returned to him while he was on his death bed. Someone asked him, “Who is your successor?” He replied, “For Allah is an affair which he will take to its extent.” Saying this, he passed away; may Allah be satisfied with him. These were the last words [anyone] heard from him.

879. Ghaybat al-Shaykh¹⁹: Muḥammad b. Muḥammad b. al-Nuʿmān and al-ʿusayn b. ʿUбайд-Allah informed me from Abū ʿAbd-Allah Aḥmad b. Muḥammad al-ʿafwān, who said:

Al-Shaykh Abū I-Qāsim, may Allah be satisfied with him, willed to Abū I-ʿasan ʿAlī b. Muḥammad al-Samurī, may Allah be satisfied with him. Thus, he took his place and performed Abū I-Qāsim's duties. When he was about to die, the Shias gathered around him and asked him about the representative after him and his successor. He had said nothing about it and had mentioned that he was not ordered to will to anyone after himself about this matter.

880. Rijāl al-Kash²⁰: Jaʿfar b. Maʿrūf al-Kashī who said, “Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-Balkhī wrote to me and narrated from al-ʿusayn b. Rauḥ al-Qummī that Aḥmad b. Isḥāq wrote to [the Mahdī, peace be on him] to seek permission for Hajj. Permission was granted and a cloth was sent to him. Aḥmad b. Isḥāq said, ‘He has informed me about my death.’ He died at ʿulwān after returning from Hajj.”

The traditions with the following numbers also show the above concept: 789, 793, 811, 812, 821, 822, 825, 849, and 861.

1. Know that during the minor occultation, his representatives (wukalāʾ) and his deputies (nuwwāb) were a number of people who were known for their reliability, trustworthiness, and truthfulness. This can be verified by referring to credible books. His letters (tauqūʿāt) and orders were transmitted through them. They demonstrated extraordinary acts and told of the unseen—by the assistance of their master, peace be on him. I will make this short by only speaking about the four most famous ones whose trustworthiness, justice, elevated position, and high status is agreed upon by all the Shias: Al-Shaykh Abū ʿAmr ʿUthmān b. Saʿd al-ʿAmrī, may Allah the Exalted be satisfied with him: He was appointed by Imams Abū I-ʿasan ʿAlī b. Muḥammad al-ʿAskarī and Abū Muḥammad al-ʿasan b. ʿAlī al-ʿAskarī, peace be on them. He was from the Banī-Asad tribe and was known as al-ʿAskarī and also al-Sammān (meaning the oil trader) because he traded cooking oil as a cover-up for his activities. The two aforementioned Imams have spoken about him as well as our master ʿAbī al-Zamān, Allah's blessings be on him. Al-ʿaṣṣā has mentioned him in his Rijāl book amongst the companions of Imam al-Hādī, peace be on him. He writes, “Uthmān b. Saʿd al-ʿAmrī, whose epithet is Abū ʿAmr al-Sammān and who is also known as al-Zayyāt. He served him when he was merely eleven years old and was famous for his inclination towards him.” Al-ʿaṣṣā also mentions him as a companion of (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ʿasan al-ʿAskarī, peace be on him. He says, “Highly honored, reliable, and his representative.” Yet again, he writes: “Muḥammad b. Uthmān b. Saʿd al-ʿAmrī whose epithet was Abū Jaʿfar and his father's epithet was Abū ʿAmr; both of them were the representatives of ʿAbī al-Zamān

al-Zamʿīn, peace be on him, and enjoyed a great position amongst the Shias.” The author of Tanqīḥ al-maqāl writes, “He was more majestic and famous than can mentioned.”

Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. Uthmān b. Saʿīd al-ʿAmrī: When his father—Abū ʿAmr—died, he replaced him by [Imam] Abū Muḥammad’s order as well as the order of his own father which was commanded by the Qaʿim, peace be on him. Al-ʿIṣṣā has narrated in al-Ghayba from Abū I-ʿAbbās from Hibat-Allah b. Muḥammad, from his teachers, that the Shias are unanimous in his justice, reliability, and trustworthiness because of the statements regarding his justice and the order to refer to him during the lifetime of (Imam) al-ʿAsan (al-ʿAskarī), peace be on him, and after his death while his father was alive. He writes, “Numerous arguments [in support of Shia] have been narrated from him and the miracles of the Imam have been manifested at his hands . . .”

The author of Tanqīḥ al-Maqāl writes, “His majesty, high position, and status is so famous amongst the Imāmiyya that there is no need to mention it . . .” He had written some books using what he had directly heard from (Imam) Abū Muḥammad al-ʿAsan and from the Master, peace be on them, and what he had heard from his father, Uthmān b. Saʿīd, from (Imams) Abū Muḥammad and al-ʿAsan al-Hādī, peace be on them. Al-ʿIṣṣā writes in al-Ghayba, “Abū Naʿr Hibat-Allah says, ‘I saw in the writings of Abū Gholib al-Zurʿī—may Allah have mercy on him and forgive him—that Abū Jaʿfar Muḥammad b. Uthmān al-ʿAmrī died in the end of (the month) Jumād al-Aulā, 305 AH. Abū Naʿr Hibat-Allah b. Muḥammad b. Aʿmad has mentioned that Abū Jaʿfar al-ʿAmrī, may Allah be satisfied with him, died in the year 304 AH. He was in charge of these affairs for almost fifty years. The people took their wealth to him and he would give them signed letters which had the same handwriting as those which they received during the lifetime of (Imam) al-ʿAsan (al-ʿAskarī), peace be on him. [The letters] were about the difficulties [encountered] in religious and worldly matters and replies to questions they had asked him and comprised of amazing answers. May Allah be satisfied with him and satisfy him.’”

Al-Shaykh Abū al-Qāsim al-ʿUsayn b. Rauḥ b. Abū Baʿr al-Naubakhtī, may Allah have mercy on him: He attained the position of special deputyship after Muḥammad b. Uthmān, may Allah have mercy on them. He succeeded Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān by the orders of the Imam which were transmitted by Muḥammad b. ʿUthmān. He was viewed by both Shias and Sunnis as one of the wisest of the people and enjoyed a great position and elevated status amongst the latter too. Muḥammad b. Uthmān had about ten close confidants; Abū I-Qāsim b. Rauḥ was amongst them but the others were closer to Muḥammad b. Uthmān than him. Amongst these, Jaʿfar b. Aʿmad b. Mattīl was so close to him and spent so much time in his house that the Shias had no doubt that if something happened to al-ʿUsayn b. Rauḥ, he would surely inherit his position. When the Imam appointed Abū I-Qāsim, no one denied and they all submitted [to this order] including Jaʿfar b. Aʿmad b. Mattīl who showed the same attitude towards him which he had showed towards Abū Jaʿfar al-ʿAmrī. He continued this manner until he passed away. Shaykh Abū I-Qāsim died in the month of Shaʿbān, 326 AH. The duration of his ambassadorship was twenty-one or twenty-two years. May Allah be satisfied with him

Al-Shaykh Abū I-ʿAsan ʿAlī b. Muḥammad al-Samurī: He succeeded Shaykh Abū I-Qāsim by his order and he was the last representative. With his death, the major occultation commenced and the affair was delegated to the jurists and those who possessed the traditions and sciences of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them. During the major occultation, the people must refer to them. This is a fact which has been established by numerous traditions—some of which have already been mentioned. Abū I-ʿAsan ʿAlī b. Muḥammad al-Samurī passed away in 329 AH; may Allah have mercy on him.

2. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “ʿArāfun min akhbār al-sufarī,” pp. 354–355, no. 315; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 344–345.

3. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “ʿArāfun min akhbār al-sufarī,” p. 355, no. 315; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 345.

4. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “ʿArāfun min akhbār al-sufarī,” pp. 355–356, no. 317; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 345.

5. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “ʿArāfun min akhbār al-sufarī,” pp. 355–356, no. 318. He says on page 320 that Abū Naʿr Hibat-Allah b. Muḥammad said, “Uthmān’s grave is on the western side of Baghdad at the beginning of Mayadīn Street in the place known as the gate of Jibilla in the right section of the mosque of al-Darb. The grave is located in Qibla side of the mosque itself—may Allah have mercy on him. Muḥammad b. al-ʿAsan—the author of this book—says, ‘I saw his grave in the aforementioned place. A wall was built on its side and the prayer-niche was built on its other side. There was a door on

one side which opened into the place of the grave in a dark narrow room. We used to visit it publicly during my stay in Baghdad from the year 408 to after 430 AH. Then, the chief, Abū Manẓūr Muḥammad b. Faraj, broke down the wall, raised the grave to ground level and built a box on top of it which was beneath the roof. Whoever wanted to visit his grave would go there and do so. The neighbors of the area sought blessings by visiting it and used to say, “He was a righteous man” or “He was the son of (Imam) Ḥusayn’s nurse,” while they were ignorant of the reality and it is still the same today which is the year 447 AH.”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16 p. 346.

6. Al-Kāfī, chap. “The names of those who have seen him,” pp. 329–330; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” pp. 359–361, no. 317, and chap. “Wilādat Ḥabīb al-Amr `alayhi al-salām,” pp. 243–244, no. 209; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 347–348.

7. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 510, no. 41; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” p. 361, no. 323, through his chain of narrators from `Abd-Allah b. Ja`far; al-Kharaj wa l-jaraj, vol. 3, p. 1112, no. 28; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 348–349; al-Ittijāj, vol. 2, pp. 300–301.

8. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” p. 362, no. 324; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, p. 349, no. 2.

9. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” p. 362, no. 325; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, p. 349, no. 2.

10. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 502, no. 29; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” pp. 365–366, no. 333, from ibn Bābawayh, from a group; al-Kharaj wa l-jaraj, vol. 3, p. 1120, no. 36; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 351–352, under the fourth tradition; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 677, no. 74; l’ilm al-warā, p. 422.

11. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 504, no. 35; al-Kharaj wa l-jaraj, p. 1119, no. 35; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 7, chap. 33, pp. 314–315, no. 79; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 336–337, no. 63.

12. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” pp. 371–372, no. 342; Biḥār al-anwār, chap. 16, p. 355, no. 6.

13. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, chap. “‘Arāfun min akhbār al-sufar’,” p. 388, no. 353; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 43, chap. 2, p. 37, under no. 40. He has recorded Buzl al-Harawī; al-Manāqib, vol. 3, chap. “Virtues of Fāṭimat al-Zahrā, peace be on her,” pp. 323–324, which also mentions Buzl al-Hirawī. This is probably a scribal error. According to the traditionists, al-Farāz ḥabīb, the correct name is Badī b. Aḥmad al-Harawī.

14. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 322, no. 270; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 51, p. 293, no. 1; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 692, no. 110.

15. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, pp. 507–509, no. 37; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 321–322, no. 269, and pp. 324–326, no. 273; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 44, chap. 33, pp. 273–274, no. 1; l’al-sharaj, vol. 1, chap. 177, pp. 241–243, no. 1; al-Ittijāj (Beirut), vol. 2, pp. 285–288 and pp. 471–473.

16. Quran 8:42.

17. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 395–396, no. 366. In some copies, the word companion instead of close has been used; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 503, no. 32; Rijāl al-Najshī, p. 262, no. 684; Faraj al-mahmūd, p. 130; l’ilm al-warā, chap. 3, sect. 2, pp. 422–423; lthbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, sect. 12, chap. 33, p. 693, no. 113, which has recorded Harthamat b. al-`Alawīyya; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, p. 361, no. 8; al-Kharaj wa l-jaraj, vol. 3, p. 1128, no. 45, which is a shorter account.

18. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 45, p. 516, no. 44; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 395, no. 365; l’ilm al-warā, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 3, sect. 2, which says: soon my followers will come; al-Kharaj wa l-jaraj (Mu`assisat al-Imām al-Mahdī), vol. 3, p. 1128, no. 6; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 360–361, no. 7; Jannat al-ma`wā (printed with the 53rd volume of Biḥār al-anwār), p. 318.

I say: In some copies of Kamāl al-dīn and other books, it has been written, “the complete (al-tamma) occultation has commenced.” The original printed copy of Ghaybat al-Shaykh mentions, “[people] will come to some of my followers.” Al-Kharaj and Jannat al-ma`wā have recorded “and from amongst my followers some will claim,” and other books have narrated “and amongst my followers.” It might be said that this letter apparently contradicts numerous, consecutive, and definite reports that cannot be enumerated due to their abundance and are an indication that the Imam was seen and some people had the privilege of being in his presence. It also contradicts the unanimous belief of the Shias—including the belief

of al-ʿadāq, the narrator of this story—about a large group of people who have met him. The scholars have mentioned a few reasons to resolve this contradiction or to reply to this question. Six of these answers have been mentioned in Jannat al-maʿwā. One of them is what a few scholars have stated and has also been stated by al-Majlis in Biʿr al-anwār: The context of the tradition indicates that what is meant by seeing him, is a seeing accompanied by the claim of representation and ambassadorship and the conveying of news from him to the Shias—as was the prevalent practice during the minor occultation. This probability is highly likely. Another justification is that this tradition is a single and weak narration that neither its narrator—al-ʿadāq—nor our other Shia companions have acted upon. Hence, the many incidents which certainty is obtained from are not contradicted. Rather, some of them comprise of miracles and extraordinary deeds that could not have been performed by anyone but him.

Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, sect. 3, chap. 33, p. 693, no. 112 (short version); al-Iʿtibār (Beirut), vol. 2, p. 478.

19. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 394, no. 363; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, p. 360; lʿIm al-war, chap. 3, sect. 1, p. 417.

20. Rijāl al-Kashf (Jāmiʿat al-Mashhad), p. 557, no. 1052; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 7, sect. 12, chap. 33, p. 363, no. 148;

Muʿjam rijāl al-ʿadāth, vol. 2, p. 49, no. 433; Biʿr al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, p. 306, no. 21.

Chapter Six

His conditions and miracles during the major occultation and the stor of some of those who had the honour of meeting him

Comprised of two sections

Section One

His miracles during the Major Occultation

Comprised of fifteen traditions

881–882. Kashf al-ghumma¹: I will mention two incidents which occurred fairly recently and a group of my reliable brothers narrated them to me. In the suburbs of ʿilla, there was a man called Ismāʿīl b. al-ʿasan al-Hirqal who belonged to a village called Hirqal. He died during my lifetime but I did not see him. His son, Shams al-Dīn, narrated to me the following:

My father informed me that during his youth, an abscess had appeared on his left thigh which was the size of a fist. Every spring, it would crack and open and blood and puss would flow out of it. Its pain prevented him from performing many of his tasks. He resided in Hirqal and one day went to ʿilla to see the blessed [scholar] Sayyid Raḥīm al-Dīn `Alī b. ʿawās, may Allah be satisfied with him, and complained to him about his suffering and he had expressed his desire to get it treated. [Sayyid Raḥīm

al-Diqn] had gathered the doctors of Qilla and had showed them the abscess.

They had said, “This abscess is on the saphenous vein and its treatment is dangerous. If it is cut, there is a chance of excessive blood loss and consequent death.” Sayyid Raḥmān al-Diqn, may Allah sanctify his soul, had said to him, “I am going to Baghdad, where the doctors may be more knowledgeable and skillful than [the doctors] here, so accompany me.” He mounted along with him and they had gone to see the doctors.

[The doctors] had repeated what the [doctors of Qilla] had said and he had become heartbroken. Sayyid b. Ḥawṣ had told him, “The sharia permits you to perform prayers in these clothes. Try to keep yourself clean [from the blood] but don’t strain yourself because Allah, the Exalted, and His Messenger have prohibited it.”

My father had replied, “When the state of affairs is such, and since I have come to Baghdad, I will visit the Holy shrines at Samarra’, peace be on them, and then return to my family.” Sayyid (b. Ḥawṣ) had appreciated the idea. So, he had left his clothes and belongings with Sayyid Raḥmān al-Diqn and had left. He recounted, “After entering the shrine and visiting the Imams, peace be on them, I descended into the cellar (sardāb) and appealed to Allah, the Exalted, and to the Imam, peace be on him.

I stayed in the cellar for some part of the night and remained in the shrine until Thursday. Then, I went to the River Tigris, bathed, and put on some clean clothes. I filled a jug I had with me with water and mounted to set off towards the shrine. On my way, I saw four horsemen emerging from the gates of the city.

On the outskirts of the city lived some nobles who watched over their sheep and I thought that these men were from them. We reached each other and I saw that there were two youths among them. One of them was a slave who was beginning to grow a beard. They were all armed with swords.

There was an old man amongst them whose face was covered and had a lance in his hand. Another was armed with a sword and had a cloak which was covering the sword and was under his armpit. The old man—who had a lance—stopped on the right side of the road and placed the end of the lance on the ground. The two youths stood on the left side of the road and the man with the cloak stood in front of me.

Then, they all greeted me and I greeted them. The man with the cloak asked, ‘Are you returning to your family tomorrow?’ I replied in the affirmative. He said, ‘Come forward so that I may see what is distressing you.’ I didn’t like them to touch me and I said to myself, ‘These are Bedouins who do not keep away from impure things (al-najīsa). I have just come out of water and my shirt is wet.’ Nevertheless, I went near him.

He held me with his hand and pulled me to himself. Then, he started feeling one side of my body from my shoulder until he reached the abscess. He squeezed it with his hand and I felt its pain. Then, he sat

on his saddle as he was earlier. The old man said to me, 'You have become successful, O Isma'el!' I was amazed that he knew my name. I answered, 'God willing, we are successful and so are you.' The old man said to me, 'This is the Imam.' I rushed towards him, clung to him, and kissed his thigh.

"He started riding while I was following him and was still clinging to him. He said, 'Go back.' I replied, 'I will never leave you.' He said, 'It is better that you return.' But my answer was the same. The old man said, 'O Isma'el! Don't you have any shame? Your Imam has ordered you to return twice and you are disobeying him?' Confronted with such a statement, I let go of him. He went ahead a few steps then turned to me and said, 'When you reach Baghdad, Abū Ja'far—meaning the caliph al-Mustansir—will inevitably ask for you. When you go to him and he offers you something refuse to accept it.

Tell my son, Sayyid Ra'ed al-Din, to write to `Alī b. `Iwān. I will advise him to give you what you want.' Saying this, he went along with his companions. I was standing there and watching them until they disappeared from my sight. The grief of his separation seized me and I sat down on the ground for some time then started walking towards the shrine.

The caretakers of the shrine gathered around me and said, 'We see that the color of your face has changed. Has something troubled you?' I replied in the negative. They asked again, 'Has someone fought with you?' I answered, 'No. Nothing of this sort has happened to me. But, I ask you, do you know the horse riders who were with you?' They replied, 'These were noble sheep-owners.' I said, 'No, he is the Imam, peace be on him.'

They asked, 'Which one is the Imam? The old man or the man with cloak?' I replied, 'The man with the cloak.' They asked again, 'Did you show him what was causing you pain?' I replied, 'He held it firmly and caused me pain.' Then, I uncovered my leg but there was no trace of it.

I was confused from astonishment and checked my other leg but there was nothing there too. When the people saw this they took hold of me and tore my shirt. The caretakers took me to the storeroom and withheld the people from coming close to me. The supervisor of Mesopotamia was in the shrine at that time.

He heard the shrieks and had asked about the reason. They had informed him about the incident and he came to the storeroom and asked me my name and the time I had come from Baghdad. I told him that I had come at the beginning of the week. He then left. I slept in the shrine, performed the morning prayers, and left. The people came out with me until I was quite far from the shrine and then they returned.

I reached [the village of] Uwān and spent the night there, then left early in the morning and set off for Baghdad. [When I reached there] I saw a huge congregation of people at the old arch. They asked anyone who was entering the city about his name and lineage and where he was coming from. They asked me my name and where I had come from. When I informed them, they gathered around me and tore off my clothes and there was no strength left in me [to protect myself].

The supervisor of Mesopotamia had written to Baghdad and informed them about my conditions. Then, they carried me to Baghdad and a massive crowd gathered around me and I was nearly killed by their pressure. The Qummī Minister had summoned al-Sa`īd Raḥīq al-Dīn and he had come to verify the authenticity of this news. May Allah have mercy on both of them.

“Sayyid Raḥīq al-Dīn b. ʿUwāṣ came with a group of people and we met at the gateway of al-Nābī. His companions dispersed the people who had surrounded me. When he saw me, he asked, “Are they talking about you?” I replied in the affirmative. He dismounted and uncovered my thigh and there was nothing there. He fainted for a while then held my hand and took me to the minister while he was crying.

He said, “Your honor! This is my brother and the closest of people to my heart.” The minister asked me about my story and I informed him. He summoned the doctors who had examined me earlier and had been ordered to cure me. They said, “It has no cure except that it be cut off, which would lead to death.”

The minister said to them, “Suppose it was cut off and he did not die. How much time would it take for it to heal?” They said, “At least two months and a white hole would remain in its place where no hair would grow.” The minister asked, “When did you last see him?” They replied, “Ten days ago.” Then, the minister uncovered the ailing thigh and it was exactly like the other thigh and there was absolutely no sign of [a wound] on it. One of the doctors shrieked, “This is the work of Christ.” The minister remarked, “Since it is not your work, we know whose work it is.”

(His son continued), then, he was taken to al-Mustanṣir, the caliph, who asked him about the story. He had told him what had happened and the caliph had offered him a thousand dinars. When the dinars were brought, the Caliph had said, “Take these and spend them.” He had replied, “I don’t dare to take even one coin.” The Caliph said, “Whom do you fear?” He answered, “From the one who did this to me. He said, ‘Do not accept anything from Abū Ja`far.’” The Caliph started crying and became angry and [my father] left without taking anything from him.

The most needy of Allah’s Mercy from his servants, `Ali b. `Ḥsīn—may Allah forgive him—says:

I was narrating this incident to a group of people who were with me. Shams al-Dīn Muḥammad (Ismā`īl al-Hirqalī’s son) was present there and I did not know him. When I finished the story he said, “I am his son from his loin.” I was amazed at this coincidence. I asked him, “Had you seen his wound before it was healed?” He said, “No. At that time, I was just a child. But I did see it when it had healed.

There was no sign of the wound and hair had grown on it. I asked ʿAḥmad al-Dīn Muḥammad b. Muḥammad Bishr al-`Alawī al-Mṣawī and Najm al-Dīn ʿAidar b. al-Aisar, may Allah have mercy on them, who were respected, noble, and distinguished people. They were my friends and very dear to me.

They informed me that this story is true and that they had both seen him during his illness and after he had been cured.” His son told me that after this incident, his father used to be in a state of intense grief due to his separation; to such an extent, that he had gone to Baghdad in the winter and had every day,

visited S^{amarr} and returned to Baghdad.

In that year, he had gone back and forth [between Baghdad and S^{amarr}] forty times in the hope that this would occur for him again but we don't always attain what we desire. He died with this desire and passed off into the Hereafter with his grieves. May Allah be his guardian and ours on account of His Mercy, His Obligation, and His Nobility.

Al-Sayyid B^{aq} b. `A^{wat} al-`Alaw^{al-usayn} narrated to me that his father `A^{wa}—who was a Zaid^{al}—was suffering from hernia. He used to protest to his sons about their Im^m beliefs and would say to them, “I will not testify to your beliefs and will not believe in what you believe until your master—i.e. the Mahd^{al}—comes to me and relieves me of this illness.” He used to repeat this sentence quite often.

Once, we were sitting together late at night when my father shrieked and called us to help him. We rushed to him and he said, “Go and join your master. He left me just now.” We went out but saw no one. We returned to him and asked him [what happened]. He replied, “A man came to me and said, “O `A^{wa}!” I said, “Who are you?” He answered, “I am the master of your sons. I have come to relieve you [of your illness].” Then, he extended his hand, squeezed the place of my ailment and left. I touched that place with my hand but found no trace of the ailment.” His son continued, “He then lived like a gazelle without an illness and this incident became very famous.” I asked others—other than his son—who informed me about and acknowledged [this story].

Many similar stories have been narrated about him. For instance, groups of people who had got lost on their way to ^{ijz} and other places had been saved by him and he had taken them to where they had intended to travel. I am not mentioning them for the sake of conciseness. I will suffice with the stories that I have narrated which occurred nearer to my time.

883. Jannat al-ma'w³: Story Thirty-Two:

In the month of Jum^{ad} al-Aul^{al}, 1299 AH, a man named ^q Muhammad Mahd^{al} entered the city of K^{dhimain}. He was a resident of Burma . . . He had traveled at sea for six days with a steamer. His father was from Shiraz but he was born and lived in the aforementioned port. Three years before the aforementioned date, he fell terribly ill. Although he was cured from it, he had become deaf and dumb.

He had beseeched (tawassala) the Imam's [who were buried] in Iraq, peace be on them, for cure. He had some relatives in K^{dhimain}—who were amongst its famous traders. He came to them and stayed with them for ten days. By chance, at the time of departure of the steamer for S^{amarr}, the water was turbulent.

So, [his relatives] came to the ship, handed him to the other passengers—who were from Baghdad and Karbala—and asked them to take care of him and look after his needs due to his inability to express them. They also wrote to some of the dwellers of S^{amarr} to take care of him.

When they reached that noble land and holy region, he went to the illuminated cellar (sard^۴b) in the afternoon of Friday, 10th Jum^۴d al-Th^۴ni^۴ of the aforementioned year. In the cellar was a group of reliable and holy people. He had gone to the blessed ledge (al-^۴uffa) and cried and pleaded for a long time.

He had written his condition on a wall in front of him and would ask those who were looking at him to pray for him and intercede on his behalf. His crying and beseeching had not come to an end when Allah, the Exalted, returned to him his speech.

Due to the miracle of the ^۴ujja, peace be on him, he went out of that holy place with an expressive tongue and eloquent speech. On Saturday, he was taken to the class of the chief of the jurists, the teacher of the scholars, the leader of the Shias, the crown of sharia, the leader of the Im^۴miyya, our majestic master and great teacher, al-^۴ij M^۴rz^۴ Mu^۴ammad ^۴asan al-Sh^۴raz^۴—may Allah delight the Muslims by his long life. This man recited the blessed Sura of al-F^۴ti^۴a in a way that those present acknowledged it was [recited] correctly and pronounced perfectly. That day became a day of witnessing and that place became a place of praise.

On the 21st night [of the month], the scholars and the learned had gathered in the holy courtyard with joy and happiness. The air was lit up with lamps and lanterns. They rendered the above incident into a poem and distributed it in the cities. In the steamer, along with the cured person, was a poet of the Ahl al-Bait, peace be on them, who was none but the learned and intelligent al-^۴ij Mull^۴ `Abb^۴s al-^۴aff^۴r al-Zan^۴z^۴ al-Baghdadi. He had seen this man in both his conditions of sickness as well as complete recovery. He had recited a long poem⁴ in this regard which he read there.

When this news reached the great composer of poetry, the supported master, the intelligent litterateur, the pride of the seekers, and the honor of the `Alaw^۴s, al-Sayyid ^۴aidar b. al-Sayyid Sulaim^۴n al-^۴ill^۴, may Allah support him, he sent a letter to S^۴marr^۴, the contents of which were as follows: “In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. The winds of the Imam’s generosity blew from the Holy Region and its beautiful fragrance has spread far and wide.

The tongue of its dumb visitor was set free after he stood in their presence; beseeching and supplicating. Therefore, from amongst the group who has served His Holiness, I desired to compose a poem about this great miracle and to distribute it. I would also like to congratulate the most learned scholar of the time, the chief of the handsome, the branch of the tree of Mu^۴ammad, the lighthouse of the Islamic nation, the symbol of the sharia, and the Imam of the Shias, so that I may perform both forms of worship in the presence of these two holy personalities.

So, I have composed this poem and I gift it to his place of residence, S^۴marr^۴, in the hope of it being accepted. And Allah will bring out what is desired (he then mentions the poem⁵).

884. Tanb^۴h al-khaw^۴ir (aka Majm^۴ at al-warr^۴m)⁶: Narrated to me the majestic and noble Sayyid, Ab^۴ I-^۴asan `Al^۴ b. Ibr^۴h^۴m al-`Uray^۴ al-`Alaw^۴ al-^۴usayn^۴, from `Al^۴ b. Nam^۴, from Ab^۴

Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī b. Ḥamza al-Aqṣan—while they were in the house of the honorable `Alī b. Ja`far b. `Alī al-Madīnī al-`Alawī. He said:

There was an old cloth-washer in Kufa who was famous for his piety, asceticism, and worship and followed the path of the righteous. One day, I was sitting with my father and this old man was speaking with him while he was faced towards him. He said, “One night, I was in the mosque of Ju`fī which is an old mosque.

It was midnight and I was there alone for solitude and worship. All of a sudden, three people entered the mosque. When they reached the center of the courtyard, one of them sat down and touched the earth with his right and left hands. Suddenly, water started coming out from it. He performed ablution (wuḥūḍ) with it and indicated to the other two to do the same. Then, he went forward and they prayed behind him and I too prayed with them.

When he finished his prayers, I was dazed by him and his amazing act of bringing out the water. I asked the person who was on his right, ‘Who is he?’ He replied, ‘He is Ḥabīb al-Amr, the son of al-ḥasan.’ I went near him, kissed his hand and asked, ‘O Son of Allah’s Messenger, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family! What is your view about `Umar b. Ḥamza? Is he on the right path?’ He replied, ‘No. But perhaps, he may receive guidance. He will not die until he sees me.’”

This news was new for us. A long time passed and `Umar b. Ḥamza died and no one spoke about him having seen the Imam. When I met the pious Shaykh, Ibn al-Nadīya, I mentioned the above incident to him. Then, in refutation of the incident, I said, “Didn’t you mention that `Umar b. Ḥamza will not die until he meets the Ḥabīb al-Amr about which I mentioned?” He answered, “And how do you know that he did not meet him?” Later, I encountered Abī l-Manḥiqib, the son of `Umar b. Ḥamza and talked with him about his father.

He said, “One night we were with my father while he was suffering from the illness that ultimately led to his death. His energy was sapped, his voice could hardly be heard, and all the doors of the house were closed. Suddenly a man came to us. His entry frightened us but we were too astonished to ask him. He sat beside my father and talked to him for a long time and my father was crying.

Then, he stood up and when we no longer saw him, my father faintly said, ‘Make me sit up.’ We made him sit up and he opened his eyes and asked, ‘Where is the man who was with me?’ We replied, ‘He left from where he had come.’ He said, ‘Go look for him.’ We went in search of him but all the doors were locked and there was no sign of him. We returned to our father and informed him of the situation and that we could not find him. We asked him about that person and he replied, ‘He is the Ḥabīb al-Amr.’ Then, his condition worsened and he lost consciousness.”

885. Al-Sulṭān al-mufarrij `an ahl al-ḥamān: In the month of Ḥafar, 759 AH, my master, the great, the majestic, the most learned, the complete example, the precise researcher, the possessor of all great characteristics, the one who the learned referred to, the honor of the scholars, the one with perfect faith,

`Abd al-Raḥmān b. al-`Ammān, informed me the following through a letter with his own handwriting:

The servant of Allah, the Exalted, who is in dire need of His mercy, `Abd al-Raḥmān b. Ibrāhīm al-Qabīqī states, “I used to hear in [the city of] Ḥilla—may Allah the Exalted protect it—that the revered Jamāl al-Dīn, the son of the most majestic Shaykh, the jurist, Najm al-Dīn Ja`far b. al-Zahdār was afflicted with paralysis. His paternal grandmother treated him after the death of his father with every possible treatment for paralysis but to no avail.

She was advised to take him to the doctors in Baghdad and she took him to them who treated him for a very long time but without success. Someone told her, ‘Why don’t you put him for one night under the dome of the famous place in Ḥilla called ‘Maqām Ḥabīb al-Zamān’? Perhaps, Allah, the Exalted, may make him healthy and cure him.’ She did so and put him under its dome for one night and the Master of the Time, peace be on him, made him stand up and rid him of his paralysis.

“After this incident, we became companions and it seemed that we would continue [being friends] forever. His house was a place of companionship and all the high statured people of Ḥilla, their youth, and the children of their kind would gather there. I asked him about this incident and he said, ‘I was paralyzed and the doctors failed to cure me . . .’ and he told me the story that I had heard many times in Ḥilla.

He said, ‘The [Divine] Proof, Ḥabīb al-Zamān, peace be on him, told me, when my grandmother had put me under the dome, “Stand up.” I pleaded, “O Master! I have not been able to stand up for more than a year.” He repeated, “Stand up, with the permission of Allah, the Exalted,” and he helped me stand up. I stood up and my paralysis was dispelled. The people rushed towards me and almost killed me. They tore off my clothes and took them as blessings and [some others] gave me some clothes to wear. I returned to my house whilst there was so sign of paralysis in me and I sent the clothes to their owners.’

I heard him narrating this story repeatedly to the people and to those who would ask him to narrate it, until he died. May Allah have mercy on him.”

886. Al-Sulṭān al-mufarrij `an ahl al-Ḥamān: A reliable person narrated to me an incident that is very famous amongst the inhabitants of Najaf al-Ashraf, may Allah protect it. It goes as follows:

The house which I am living in now—and the year is 789 AH—belonged to a good and righteous person called Ḥusayn al-Mudallal. The sabbat called Mudallal, which connects the two walls of the Holy Shrine are named after him and [the story] is well known in the holy city of Najaf. He had a wife and children and was struck with paralysis. Consequently, he couldn’t stand up and his wife would make him stand up when it was necessary. This continued for a long time and his family experienced extreme tribulations. Soon, they became dependent on the people who treated them harshly. In the year 720 AH, one night, after a quarter of the night had passed, he woke up his family.

They got up and saw that the entire house and the roof were shining with light to the extent that their

eyes were dazzled. They asked him, “What has happened?” He had replied, “The Imam, peace be on him, came to me and said, ‘Stand up, O ‘Usayn!’ I answered, ‘O Master! Do you think I can stand?’ So he held my hand and helped me up. And here I am, as healthy as I can be.

He then said to me, ‘O ‘Usayn! I use this *sab‘at* to visit my ancestor [Amr al-Mu‘minin]. Lock it every night.’ I responded, ‘I heard and I will obey Allah and you, my Master.’” Then, he had stood up and had gone to the holy shrine at Najaf, visited the grave of the Imam, peace be on him, and had praised Allah, the Exalted, for the graces that he had received. To this day, that *sab‘at* is a place that the needy go to fulfill their desires and no seeker returns disappointed due to the blessings of the Qa‘im, peace be on him.

887. Qabas al-mi‘rab‘at 10: The truthful shaykh, Abi ‘Asan Ahmad b. ‘Alī b. Ahmad al-Najashī al-‘airafī—known as ibn al-Kāfi in Baghdad and who was a brilliant and reliable person and was considered truthful by both Shias and Sunnis—informed us in the last days of the month of Rab‘ al-Awwal, in the year 442 AH, from al-‘Asan b. Mu‘ammad b. Ja‘far al-Tamīmī, from Abi I-Wafī‘ al-Sh‘razī, who was a friend, that

Abi ‘Alī Ilyās, the governor of Kerman, arrested and imprisoned me. Those who were guarding me kept telling me that he intended to harm me. I became very worried and began supplicating to Allah, the Exalted, through the Prophet and the Imams, peace be on them. On the eve of Friday, I finished my prayers and went to sleep.

I saw the Prophet, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, in my dream and he said to me, “Don’t ask me, my daughter, and my sons from the desires of this world except what you seek for the obedience and satisfaction of Allah, the Exalted. As for my brother, Abi I-‘Asan [‘Alī b. Abi ‘‘lib], he will take revenge for you on he who has oppressed you.” I asked, “O Messenger of Allah! How can he take revenge from the one who has oppressed me whilst a rope was put around his neck and he did not take revenge and his rights were taken from him and he said nothing?!”

He, peace be on him, looked at me with a state of surprise and said, “That was because of a covenant that I had taken from him and an order that I had given him. He had permission for nothing but to act in accordance [with what I told him] and he did so. Woe to those who act aggressively towards the guardian [appointed] by Allah. As for ‘Alī b. al-‘usayn, [you must ask him] to save you from the rulers and insinuations of the devils.

As for Mu‘ammad b. ‘Alī and Ja‘far b. Mu‘ammad, peace be on them, [you must ask them] for the Hereafter and the obedience of Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. As for Mūsā b. Ja‘far, peace be on him, seek safety through him from Allah, Mighty and Majestic be He. As for ‘Alī b. Mūsā, peace be on him, ask him for safety on the land and the seas. As for Mu‘ammad b. ‘Alī, peace be on him, seek sustenance through him from Allah, the Exalted. As for ‘Alī b. Mu‘ammad, peace be on him, ask through him for the recommended-tasks (*musta‘ab*), doing good for the brothers [in religion], and the

obedience of Allah, the Exalted.

As for al-ʿAsan b. ʿAlī, peace be on him, ask him for the Hereafter. As for the Master of the time, when the sword reaches here—and he put his hand on his neck—seek help from him for he will help you.” I cried out in my sleep, “O ʿAbī al-Zamʿān! Help me, for I have lost my patience.” I woke up from my sleep and the guards were releasing my shackles.

888. Kashf al-astʿr¹¹: During these days, a splendid miracle appeared from the Mahdī, peace be on him, for the relatives of the officials of the Ottoman Empire who lived in Najaf. It was as apparent and manifest as the midday sun. We seek blessings and are privileged to mention it here using a reliable chain of narrators: The respected scholar, Sayyid Muḥammad Saʿīd Afandī al-Khātib, narrated in a letter in which he wrote himself:

There is a miracle performed by the progeny of the Messenger, Allah's blessings be on him and his family, which is appropriate for mentioning here for our Muslim brothers. There was a woman whose name was Malika bint ʿAbd al-Raḥmān, the wife of Mullā Amīn, who helped us in the ʿUmāid School in the holy city of Najaf. In the second night of Rabīʿ al-Awwal, 1317 AH, which was the eve of Tuesday, she got a terrible headache. In the morning, she had lost her eyesight and couldn't see anything.

They informed me about her condition and I said to her husband, “Tonight, take her to the holy shrine of (Imam) al-Murtaḍā [ʿAlī b. Abī ʿAbīlib], peace be on him, to seek intercession from him and to make him an intermediary between her and Allah; perhaps Allah, Glorified and Exalted be He, may cure her.” She did not go there that night—which was Wednesday eve—because of the discomfort that she was in.

She had slept part of the night and had dreamt that her husband and a lady called Zainab were going with her to visit the shrine of Amīr al-Muʾminīn, peace be on him. On their way, they had seen a great mosque filled with people.

They had entered to see it and the afflicted woman had heard a man from amongst the congregation saying, “O woman who has lost her sight! Don't fear. God willing, both [your eyes] will be cured.” She had asked, “God bless you! Who are you?” He had replied, “I am the Mahdī.” She had woken up rejoicing and in the morning—which was Wednesday—she had gone to the station (maqām) of our master, the Mahdī, which is outside the city, accompanied by a large group of women. She had entered it alone and had begun crying, wailing, and beseeching, due to which she had lost consciousness.

In her state of unconsciousness, she had seen two majestic men; the elder of the two was in front and the younger, a youth, was behind him. The elder had addressed her, “Don't fear.” She had asked, “Who are you?” He had replied, “I am ʿAlī b. Abī ʿAbīlib and the man behind me is my son, the Mahdī.” Then, the elder had said to a woman who was there, “Stand up, O Khadīja, and touch the two eyes of this needy woman.” She had touched both her eyes and she had woken up and could see even better than before [becoming blind]. All the women had started cheering, rejoicing, and sending blessings on the

Prophet and his family. Then, they had accompanied her to visit the holy shrine of (Imam) al-Murtaḍā [Amr al-Mu'min], peace be on him. Thank God, now her eyesight is even better than before [her illness].

What we have mentioned here is very little because many more instances have occurred for their righteous servants with the permission of Allah, the Majestic . . .

These were what this humble preacher, Sayyid Muḥammad Sa`īd, has been informed about in the holy city of Najaf.

889. Ithbāt al-hudūd¹²:

We—a group of students and righteous people—were sitting in the village of Mashghar¹³ in our homeland in one of the Eids. I said to the others, “I wish I knew how many of us would be alive next year on the same Eid and how many of us would have died?” A person whose name was Shaykh Muḥammad and who was my colleague in the class, said, “I know that I will be alive in the next Eid and the next and the next until twenty six years.” From his talk, it appeared that he was really serious about what he was saying and was not joking.

I asked him, “Do you have knowledge of the unseen?” He replied, “No. But I saw the Mahdī, peace be on him, in a dream while I was afflicted with a serious illness. I said to him, ‘I am ill and I fear that I will die whilst I don’t have any good deeds to meet Allah with.’ He reassured, ‘Don’t worry! Surely, Allah will cure you of this ailment and you will not die by it. Rather, you will live for twenty six years.’ Then, he handed me a cup which he was holding. I drank from it and my ailment was dispelled and I became cured. I sat down and I was sure that this was not [a dream] from Satan.”

When I heard this talk from this man, I wrote down the date which was in the year 1049 AH. A long time passed from this incident and I went to the holy city of Mashhad in the year 1072 AH. When the last year passed, I felt in my heart that the [twenty six] years had passed.

I referred to the note I had written and saw that exactly 26 years had passed. I thought to myself, “In all likelihood, that person must have died.” Barely a month or two had passed when I received a letter from my brother—who was in our homeland—in which he informed me about the death of that person.

890. Al-Imāma wa l-mahdawiyya¹⁴: The incident in which the righteous wife of Shaykh Muḥammad al-Muttaqī al-Hamdānī—the highly learned scholar at the Islamic Seminary at Qum—was cured. He was famous for the purity of his soul and his piety. I have known him for many years for his religiousness and virtuous moralities. The following are the exact words that he wrote to narrate this incident:

I deemed it appropriate to mention my tawassul to the Imam—which is the remnant of Allah on His earth—al-Ḥujjat b. al-Ḥasan al-`Askarī, and his attention towards me; because the subject of this book is about proving his existence through miracles and extraordinary feats.

It was Tuesday, Safar 18, 1397 AH. There was an issue that shook us and hundreds of others. The wife of this servant—Muḥammad Muttaqī Ḥamdānī—was in a constant state of sorrow, grief, crying, and weeping, for more than two years, due to the death of two of her children in the prime of their youth in the mountains of Shimḥrān.

On this day, she was afflicted with a [disease similar to] malaria and despite spending whatever possible on the doctors, there was no cure. She remained in this state until the eve of Friday, 22nd of Safar, four days after she had been afflicted with the illness. It was approximately 11 o'clock and I had gone to my room to rest. After reciting some verses from the Holy Quran and a few brief supplications of the eve of Friday, I supplicated to the Exalted Lord to permit my master and my chief, Ḥabīb al-Zamān, al-Ḥujjat b. al-Ḥasan—Allah's blessings be on him and his infallible forefathers—to come to my aid.

The reason that I made tawassul to this great master and did not ask Allah directly was that approximately a month before the strike, my younger daughter Fāḥima had asked me to narrate for her some stories and incidents about those people who were fortunate to receive the direct grace of his Honor, Baqiyat-Allah, and his beneficence and obligations, may I and the souls of the inhabitants of the worlds be sacrificed for him.

I had responded to her request by reading to her some of the incidents in al-Nūr's al-Najm al-thaqib. Thus, it occurred to me that why shouldn't I be one of those hundreds who have received salvation at his hands. So I made tawassul to the awaited proof, the twelfth of the infallible Imams, peace be on them. Therefore—as I mentioned earlier—at approximately 11 p.m., I invoked this great master with a heart laden with sorrow and eyes overflowing with tears. I went to sleep and woke up as usual at about 4 a.m. Suddenly, I felt a sound and a murmur coming from the room downstairs where my ill [wife] was sleeping. The sounds became louder and then completely ceased. At 5.30 a.m.—which in those days was the time of the morning prayers—I went down to perform ablution.

Suddenly, I saw my older daughter—who was usually asleep at this time—and she was extremely happy and joyous. On seeing me, she screamed, “Daddy! Good news! Good news!” I asked her, “What has happened?” I thought that either my brother or my sister had arrived from Hamadan. She said, “Good news! My mother has been cured.” I asked surprisingly, “Who has cured her?” She said, “Four hours after midnight, she woke us up with a loud, panicked, and distressed voice. Her daughter, her brother Haj Mahdī, and her nephew Ghaffār—the engineer—who had come from Tehran to take her there for treatment were all sleeping in the room to keep a watch on her.

All of a sudden, they had heard her cries and shouts and she was saying, ‘Get up and follow the master . . . get up and follow the master . . .’ She had thought that if she had waited until they got up from their sleep, the Imam would leave.

Therefore, she had got up from her bed and had followed the Imam to the door—although she had not been able to move for the last four days. Her daughter, who was nursing her mother, had woke up by

her loud screams of follow the master and had followed her mother to the door to see where she had gone.

When her mother had come to herself, she could not believe that she had gone there by herself and had asked her daughter Zahra: ‘Zahra! Am I dreaming or am I awake?’ She had answered, ‘Mother! You have been cured . . . Where is the master about whom you were saying, “follow the master,” because we cannot see anyone?’ Her mother had replied, ‘He was a majestic Sayyid who was dressed like the scholars and was very high statured. He was neither very young nor very old. He came and stood beside me and said, “Get up for you have been cured.” I replied, “I cannot get up.”

He repeated with a stronger tone, “Get up for you have been cured,” and then I moved in awe of his majesty. He said, “You have been cured, so don’t take any more medicines and don’t cry.” When he was about to leave the room, I woke you all up so that you may follow him. But since you were too slow, I stood up to follow the master myself.”

All praise is for Allah! After this incident which I have mentioned, her condition immediately improved and her left eye, with which she could not see with clearly due to the stroke, was cured for good. In these four days, she had no appetite but [after this incident] she had immediately said, “I am hungry. Get me some food.” We gave her a bowl of milk which we had in the house and she drank it with great appetite.

The color of her face returned to normal. She was relieved of her grieves and sorrows due to the Imam ordering her not to cry. Although she was suffering from rheumatism for the last five years and the doctors had failed to treat her, she was cured of this as well due to the grace of Imam, peace be on him.

To complete the story, it is worth mentioning that since it was near the anniversary of the martyrdom of Fāṭima al-Zahrā, peace be on her, we expressed our gratitude for this great favor by holding a commemoration service.

Later, I mentioned the story of her being cured to the revered doctor Sayyid Dānishwar, who was one of her doctors. He remarked, “Surely, her illness was the result of a stroke and it is not possible to treat it through ordinary means. By Allah! It can only be cured through miracles and extraordinary feats.” All Praise is for Allah the Lord of the worlds. Allah’s blessings be on Muḥammad and his infallible progeny, specially the Imam of the Time, the Honor of the Era, the Pivot of this Abode, the Imam and the Master of the Humans and the Jinn, the King of the Earth and Time, the one in whose hand are the reins of the universe, al-Ḥujjat b. al-Ḥasan al-`Askar, Allah’s blessings be on him and his infallible forefathers until the Day of Judgment.

The traditions with the following numbers also show the above concept: 892, 895, 897, 898, and 899.

1. Kashf al-gḥumma, vol. 2, pp. 493–497; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 61–66, no. 51; al-Anwār al-nu`māniyya, vol. 2, pp. 44–46.

2. The author of Kashf al-ghumma.
3. Jannat al-ma'wā, printed with the 53rd volume of Biḡr al-anwār, pp. 265–269.
4. The poem can be found in Jannat al-ma'wā—Ed.
5. The poem can be found in Jannat al-ma'wā—Ed.
6. Tanbīh al-khawāfir, vol. 2, pp. 303–305; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 55–56, no. 39; Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 7, sect. 15, chap. 364, p. 365, no. 151.
7. Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 73, under no. 55, citing the aforementioned book.
8. Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 73–74, under no. 55, citing the aforementioned book.
9. An arched roof which covers a section of an alley—Ed.
10. Al-Kalim al-ayyib, pp. 63–66, citing the book Qabas al-miḡb by Shaykh al-Sihrashtī.

I say: The majestic Sayyid `Alī Khan, may his grave be sanctified, has mentioned in al-Kalim al-ayyib from al-sihrashtī, a tawassul to the Prophet and the Imams, peace be on them, and after that, another one.

11. Kashf al-astūr, p. 206.
12. Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 712, no. 170; Biḡr al-anwār, vol. 53, pp. 273–274; Jannat al-ma'wā, 37th incident.
13. Located in southern Lebanon—Ed.
14. Al-Imma wa l-mahdawiyya (Persian = Immat wa mahdawiyyat) written by the author of the current book: vol. 2, pp. 171–174.

I say: Numerous similar incidents have been mentioned in Biḡr al-anwār and in Ithbāt al-hudūt, vol. 7. Likewise, al-Muḡaddith al-Nūrī has mentioned many incidents in Dār al-salām, Jannat al-ma'wā, and al-Najm al-thaqib, as has al-Maitham al-`Irāqī in Dār al-salām and many other traditionists and scholars who have recorded numerous miracles that far exceed the limit of taḡtur. The chains of many of these narrations are extremely authentic and strong and comprise of the most pious and God-fearing of scholars. These are in addition to what we witness every day and night, from the blessings of his existence and the results of asking him to help us and to intercede on our behalf. May Allah, the Exalted, enlist us amongst his helpers, followers, and those who fight alongside him, for the sake of Muḡammad and his pure family, Allah's blessings be upon them all.

Section Two

Those who have seen him during the Major Occultation

Comprised of Thirteen Traditions

891. Al-Anwār al-nu`māniyya 1: (After mentioning the great precautionary-piety [wara`] of Muqaddas al-Ardabī and his abstinence, piety, and miracles), he says: Narrated to me the most reliable of my teachers in knowledge and practice that this man—referring to Muqaddas al-Ardabī—had a student from Tafrish. His name was Mūr `Allām [Fai`-Allah] and he was very virtuous and pious. The student had said:

I had a room in the school which was surrounded by the Holy Dome. I had finished my studies and a considerable part of the night had elapsed. I went out of the room to look at the courtyard of the shrine and it was terribly dark. Suddenly, I saw a man moving towards the holy shrine. I thought to myself “perhaps he is a thief who has come to steal the lanterns.” I came down and approached him and I

could see him but he couldn't see me. He went to the door and stopped.

The lock opened by itself and the second door opened for him [too]. Then, the same happened with the third door. He approached the holy grave and said hello. Someone replied to him from the holy grave. I recognized the voice of this man and he was discussing some religious issues with the Imam.

[When he finished], he went out of the city towards the Mosque of Kāfa. I followed him but he couldn't see me. When he reached the Mosque's prayer-niche, I heard him speaking to another man about the same issue. He returned and I returned behind him. When he reached the city gates, the morning had become bright. I announced myself to him and said, "Our master! I was with you right from the beginning to the end.

Please inform me about the first person with whom you spoke to in the Holy Shrine and the other one with whom you spoke in the Mosque of Kāfa?" He took a covenant from me that I will not inform anyone about his secret until he dies. He then enlightened me, "My son! When some issues were unclear for me I would some nights go to the grave of our master Amr al-Mu'min, peace be on him, to discuss the issues with him and hear the answers from him. Last night, he referred me to our master 'Abd al-Zam and said to me, 'Tonight my son Mahd is in the Mosque of Kāfa. Go to him and ask your questions.' The [second] person was the Mahd, peace be on him."

892. Bi' al-anwār: A group from the citizens of Najaf informed me that

A person from Qash came to Najaf on the way to the Sanctuary, the House of Allah (Bait Allah al-ʿarām). He became severely ill to the extent that both his legs became paralyzed and he was unable to walk. His friends left him behind and entrusted him to a righteous person—who lived in a room in the school surrounded by the holy shrine—and went ahead for Hajj. Every day, this righteous man would lock the door and go to the desert to seek sustenance. One day, the ill-man said to him, "I am bored and I am fed up with being confined to this place. Today, take me someplace and leave me there and go wherever you like." (The ill-man narrates,) "He accepted and carried me to the Station (maqam) of the Q'im outside Najaf. He made me sit there, washed his shirt in the pond, and hung it on a tree, then left for the desert. I was alone and sorrowful and was thinking about my fate. Suddenly, I saw a handsome youth with a tanned complexion. He entered the courtyard, greeted me, and went inside the building and started praying some units (rak'a) in the prayer-niche with a humility and humbleness the like of which I had never witnessed before. When he finished his prayers, he came out to me and enquired about my condition. I said to him, 'I have been afflicted with a calamity that has straitened me. Allah neither cures me so that I am freed from it nor does he make me die so that I am relieved of it.'

He said, 'Don't be sad! Soon, Allah will give you both.' Saying this, he left. When he went away, I saw that the shirt had fallen on the ground from the tree. I stood up and washed it and hung it back on the tree. Then, it struck me that I could not move. So how did I get up and do all these things? I inspected myself but found nothing of [my ailment].

I realized that he was the Qa'im—Allah's blessings be on him. I went out in the desert but saw no one and became very sorrowful. When the owner of the room returned, he asked me about my condition and was amazed at my condition. I informed him about what had happened. He too became sorrowful about the opportunity both of us had lost and I walked along with him to his room.”

He was in sound and healthy condition until the pilgrims and his friends returned. When he saw them, he stayed with them for a short time but fell ill and died. He was buried in the courtyard [of the Holy Shrine]. The truth about what the Imam, peace be on him, had said became evident—for both things had occurred.

893. Jannat al-ma'wā: The 9th Incident: The practicing-scholar (al-'alim al-'amil), the complete mystic, the diver in the depths of fear and hope, the traveler in the lands of abstinence and piety, our beneficial companion, our true friend, al-gha' Al-Ri, the son of the great scholar al-'aj Maul Muhammad al-Na'—may Allah have mercy on them both—informed me from the pious scholar, the possessor of miracles and high stations, Maul Zain al-'bid b. Muhammad al-Salmis, may Allah have mercy on him, who was the student of Ayatollah al-Sayyid . . . Muhammad Mahd, known as Ba' al-'Ul, may Allah elevate his position. The aforementioned person was one of [Ba' al-'Ul's] very special students regarding both secret and open matters. He said:

I was present in the assembly of the Sayyid in the Shrine of Najaf when Mu'aggiq al-Qumm—the author of al-Qawān—came to visit him. This occurred in the year in which he had returned to Iraq from Iran to visit the graves of the Imams, peace be on them, and to perform Hajj. All those who were present in the assembly dispersed—and were about a hundred people who had come to learn from him.

Only three people remained who were all pious and righteous and had attained the high position of Ijtihad. The Mu'aggiq turned towards the Sayyid and said, “You [who live in Najaf] have seen many miracles . . . please narrate some of these to us so that the hearts may become assured.” The Sayyid replied without hesitation, “Three nights ago or less (the doubt is from the narrator), I was in the Great Mosque of Kāfa and was performing the night-prayers (al-'at al-layl). I had the intention of returning to Najaf early in the morning so that the religious debates and classes would be performed on schedule—and this was his practice for many years.

When I came out of the Mosque, I felt a great desire to go to the Mosque of Sahla but I dropped the idea fearing that I might not reach the city in time to perform the classes. But my desire increased every moment and my heart was inclined to that place. I would take one step forward and would stop the other one.

Suddenly, a wind blew which was full of dust and I lost my way [in the dust]. But since divine-success (taufiq) is the best of friends, I landed at the gate of the Mosque of Sahla. I entered and it was empty of worshippers and visitors except for a majestic man, who was engrossed in supplicating to Allah. He was using words that would melt the hardened hearts and would make tears flow from the dried eyes.

My tiredness vanished, my condition changed, my knees started trembling, and my tears started flowing by hearing these words—that my ears hadn't heard and my eyes had seen nothing like them in the prayer-books. I realized that the supplicant was making up the words at the same moment that he was reciting them and he wasn't saying something he had memorized. I stood in my place and listened with pleasure until he finished supplicating.

Then, he turned to me and called out in Persian, 'Come here, O Mahdī!' I went a few steps toward him and stopped. Again, he ordered me to come forward. I walked a little then I stopped. Once again, he ordered me to proceed, saying, 'Surely, etiquette lies in obedience.' I went ahead and our distance was such that my hand reached him and his hand reached me. He then said some words."

Al-Salmī, may Allah have mercy on him, said, "When the talk of the Sayyid reached this stage, he stopped and started answering another of Muḥaqqiq al-Qummī's questions. Muḥaqqiq al-Qummī changed the topic again and asked about those words. He indicated with his hand—in a gesture of denial—that this was a secret that could not be disclosed."

894. Jannat al-ma'wā: The 11th Incident: Through the same chain of narrators (from al-Salmī):

We were praying behind the Sayyid in the holy shrine of the 'Askariyyain [in Sāmarrā']. When he intended to proceed from the tashahhud to the third unit (rak'a), his conditions changed. He stopped for a while then stood up.

When we finished, we were all surprised and could not understand its reason. None of us dared to ask him until we returned to the house and the dining cloth was laid. One of the Sayyids from amongst our companions indicated to me to ask him about it. I said, "No. You are closer to him than me." He, may Allah have mercy on him, turned to me and said, "What are you speaking about?" I replied—and I was the most audacious of all towards him—"They want to know as what happened to you during the prayers." He responded, "The 'ujja—may Allah hasten his reappearance—entered the holy shrine to salute his father, peace be on him.

So, whatever you saw of the change in my condition was on account of witnessing his illuminated beauty, until he went out."

895. Al-Kharīj wa l-jarī: From them is what has been narrated from Abū l-Qasim Ja'far b. Muḥammad b. Qilawayh, who recounts:

When I reached Baghdad in the year 339 AH, I decided to go to Hajj. It was the year when the Qarīmī'a returned the Black-Stone (al-Aswad) to its place in Ka'ba.⁶ My greatest concern was to reach the one who would place the stone [back in its place] because it had been written in some books that whenever it had been removed [the only person that had been able to] put it back in its place had been the Divine Proof of that time.

For example, during the reign of al-ʿajjāj, Imam Zain al-ʿabidin, peace be on him, had placed it back and it had stayed in its place. Meanwhile, I became so ill that I feared for my life and it became impossible for me to do what I had intended. I appointed a representative who was known as ibn Hishām and gave him a sealed letter in which I had asked about the length of my life and that whether I would die in this illness or not.

I told [ibn Hishām] that my concern was to convey this letter to the one who would place the Black-Stone back in its place and to get the answer to it. [After he returned), ibn Hishām reported, “When I reached Mecca, I spent a lot [of money] on the custodians of the Holy House until they allowed me to see who places the Black Stone back in its place. I stood there and some of them remained with me to keep away the crowd of people.

Whenever someone put it in its place, it would start shaking and would not remain in its place. Then, a youth with a tanned complexion and handsome visage came forward. He took it and placed it in its place and it stuck there as if it had never been taken out. Due to this, [the crowd] roared and the youth returned and left from the door. I stood up from where I was and followed him and tore the crowd apart [sending them] right and left.

The people thought I had lost my mind and moved out of my way. My eyes were fixed on him until he moved out of the crowd. I rushed towards him yet I couldn’t reach him, although he was walking calmly. When he reached a place that no one could see him except me, he stopped, turned to me, and said, ‘Bring forth what is with you.’ I gave him the letter and without reading it he said, ‘Tell him that there is no fear for him in this illness. The inevitable [i.e. death] will occur after thirty years.’ I was astonished to the extent that I could not move and He left me and went away.”

In the year 369 AH, Abū I-Qāsim became ill. He started organizing his affairs, acquiring the needs for his grave, and writing his will and was very serious in this regard. He was asked, “What do you fear? We hope that Allah, the Exalted, will grant you good health? You need not fear!” He had replied, “This is the year I was told to fear,” and he died from his illness.

896. Muhaj al-daʿawāt: I was in Sāmarrāʾ when I heard him, peace be on him, supplicating in the morning. I memorized a part of his supplication in which he mentioned the living and the dead then said: “And make them survive—or—and make them live in our honor, our nation, our kingdom, and our government.” This was on the eve of Wednesday, Dhū l-ḥijja 13, 638 AH.

897. Durr al-salām (Comprised of the stories of those who had the honor of meeting the Imam of our time, peace be on him): The 19th Incident: The virtuous scholar Muzā Muḥammad al-Tunkbun in his book Qiṣaṣ al-ʿulamā, from the learned al-Lḥajj Maulā ʿAfar ʿAlī, from the author of al-Mafṭūḥ, al-Sayyid Muḥammad—the son of the author of al-Riyāṣ— from Ayatollah al-ʿAllāma in the margins of one of his books in which he mentions that

One night he went to visit the grave of our master, Imam Abū ʿAbd-Allah al-ʿUsayn, peace be on him.

He was riding a donkey and in his hand was a whip to drive his beast. On his way, he met a man dressed like an Arab, who joined him [on the journey] while the latter was walking in front of him. Gradually, they started talking and discussing.

From the talks of the Arab, he realized that this Arab was very learned and well informed and very few people were like him [in knowledge]. So, he informed him about some difficult problems and found him to be the solver of problems and puzzling issues and the key to scientific dilemmas. He asked him the questions that had baffled him and [the Arab] had revealed the answer to all of them.

The discussion reached an issue in which the Arab's fatwa differed with his view. He refuted him by saying, "Your fatwa is absolutely against the basic principles and laws [of jurisprudence]. It is necessary that some proof be put forward to establish it." The Arab replied, "The proof is the tradition recorded by al-Ḥafṣ in al-Tahdhīb." Ḍalīl answered, "I am not aware of any such tradition in al-Tahdhīb and neither Shaykh nor anyone else have recorded it." He replied, "Refer to the manuscript of al-Tahdhīb which is with you now; go to such and such page and such and such line and you will find it." When the Ḍalīl heard this from him and realized that this news was of the unseen (al-ghayb), he was astonished and became startled.

He thought to himself, "Perhaps this man who has been walking in front of me for such and such time whilst I was on my mount, is the pivot around whose existence the universe rotates." Due to him being engrossed in deep thought and astonishment, his whip fell from his hand. While the whip was falling down from his hand, he asked, "Is it possible to have the privilege of meeting our master and guardian, Ḥafṣ al-Zamʿān, during the Major Occultation? The man bent down and picked up the whip and put it in Ḍalīl's hand and said, "Why is it impossible whilst his hand is in your hand?" On hearing this, Ḍalīl threw himself on [the Imam's] feet and became unconscious. On regaining consciousness, he saw no one and became sorrowful and sad. He returned to his family and browsed through the copy of al-Tahdhīb. He found the tradition just as the Imam had informed him in the margins of his copy. He wrote in his own handwriting on that place, "My master and my chief informed me about this tradition—which is in such and such page and such and such line."

The virtuous al-Tunkūn has narrated from Maulā Ḥafṣ al-Zamʿān, from the aforementioned Sayyid, may Allah have mercy on him, that he had seen that copy with Ḍalīl's writing in its margin.

898. Dal'īl al-imāma: Abū Iḥṣayn Muḥammad b. Ḥarūn b. Mūsā al-Talla'ukbarī, narrated to me from Abū Iḥṣayn b. Abū I-Baḡhl al-Katīb, who said:

I accepted a responsibility from Abū Manṣūr b. al-Ḥalīq but something occurred between me and him that I went into hiding. He sought me and frightened me and I remained in hiding and was fearful. On the eve of Friday, I went to the graves of the Quraish and stayed there that night to pray and supplicate.

It was a windy and rainy night and I asked the warden, ibn Ja'far, to close the doors so that I could pray and supplicate in solitude and be safe from the entry of anyone with whom I felt unsafe with and feared

to meet. He did so accordingly and locked the doors. As it became midnight, heavy wind and rain prevented anyone from venturing to that place. I stayed there and supplicated, recited ziyarat, and prayed.

Suddenly, I heard footsteps near the grave of our Master (Imam) Mūsā, peace be on him. There was a man visiting [his grave]. He sent salutations to Adam and the Resolute Prophets (Aulī-`Azm) followed by the Imams, one by one, up to ʿAbī al-Zamʿān. I was stunned and thought to myself, “Perhaps, he has forgotten [the last Imam] or he does not know or this is the religion of this man.” When he finished his ziyarat, he performed two units of prayers. I feared him because I did not know him. He was a youth and a perfect man.

He was wearing a white dress and a turban—whose ends were suspended and lowered around his shoulders. He said to me, “O Abū I-ʿusayn b. Abū I-Baghī! Why don’t you recite the supplication of Faraj?” I replied, “What (supplication) is that, my master?” He replied, “Perform two units of prayers, then say, ‘O He who exposed the beautiful [deeds] and covered the nasty ones, O He who does not rebuke for crimes and does not rip the veil [which covers our crimes], O generous pardoner, O noble excuser, O He who has broad forgiveness, O He who has opened His hands with mercy, O He who all whispers [of supplications] end at Him, O He who all complaints are sent to Him, O helper of all those who seek help, O He who bestows graces before they are deserved, O my Lord (ten times), O my Master (ten times), O my chief (ten times), O my final destination (ten times), O my uttermost desire (ten times), I ask you for the sake of these Names, and for the sake of Muḥammad and his pure family, to remove my agony, and to remove my worries, and to free me from my sorrows, and to set right my affairs.’ After this, supplicate as you wish and ask your need. Then, place your right cheek on the earth and say a hundred times while in prostration, ‘O Muḥammad O `Alī, O `Alī O Muḥammad, suffice me for you are sufficient for me, help me for you are my helpers.’

Then place your left cheek on the earth and say a hundred times, ‘Reach me (adrikn),’ and repeat it many times. Then, say, ‘Aid me (al-ghauth),’ until you run out of breath. Then, raise your head, because Allah will surely fulfill your needs on account of His munificence, if He, the Exalted, wills.”

I started the prayer and supplication and he left. After finishing, I went to ibn Ja`far to ask him about the man and how he had entered. But I saw that all the doors were closed and locked like earlier. I was surprised and thought to myself, “Perhaps there is another door which I am not aware of.” I called ibn Ja`far and he came out of the lamp-oil store and I asked him about the man and how he had entered.

He replied, “All the doors are locked and as you can see I have not opened them.” I informed him about what had happened and he said, “That was our master, ʿAbī al-Zamʿān. I have seen him many times in such nights when no one is here.” I became sorrowful because of what I had missed. I left near morning and set off for Karkh—near the place where I had been hiding in.

The sun was rising when the companions of ibn al-ʿAlī requested to meet me and were asking

about me from my friends. They had a letter of amnesty from the vizier and a note in his own handwriting in which he had greatly praised me. I went to him with a few of my reliable friends.

He stood up and hugged me and dealt with me in a manner that he had not done before. He said, “You reached such a state that you complained about me to ʿAbū al-Zamʿān.” I replied, “I only supplicated and asked.” He answered, “Woe to you! Last night—meaning the eve of Friday—I saw my master ʿAbū al-Zamʿān in a dream.

He ordered me to be gracious [to you] and he treated me so harshly that I became scared.” I said, “There is no God but Allah! I bear witness that the [the Imams] are the truth and the pinnacle truthfulness. Last night, I saw our master ʿAbū al-Zamʿān while I was awake. He instructed me to do so and so,” and I explained in detail what I had seen the previous night in the Holy Shrine. He was surprised and I attained things that I had not expected and I acquired such a position before him that I could not even think of. All these were because of the blessings of our master, ʿAbū al-Zamʿān.

899. Al-Imāma wa l-mahdawiyya¹⁰: In the Name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful. His Holiness Shaykh Muḥammad al-Kāfī was famous for abstinence, piety, and righteousness amongst the great scholars and learned men of Najaf al-Ashraf.

He would continuously go to Najaf on the eve and day of Friday. I had heard from a scholar about his meeting with the Master of the Time—may Allah hasten his relief (faraj)—on a Friday in the Sadr School in Najaf, in the room of one of his noble friends. He had the privilege of being in his presence and at his service.

I asked him to recount the story of his meeting with the Imam, may Allah hasten his relief (faraj), so that I could hear it directly from him. Here, I am narrating what I remember from the things he mentioned to me. He said:

I had gone with my father to Mecca and we only had one camel with us. My father would ride it while I walked and my main concern was to serve him. When we were returning, we reached al-Samʿāwa where we hired a mule from a Sunni, whose profession was to transfer corpses between al-Samʿāwa and Najaf.

[We hired the mule] because our camel travelled slowly and would usually stop and lie down and we had to make him stand up again with great difficulty. My father mounted the mule and I sat atop the camel. We moved from al-Samʿāwa and the camel was lagging behind because in most places, the path was filled with mud and water. I was afflicted with the bad temper of this Sunni whose mule we had hired.

This situation continued until we reached a land which was extremely muddy. The camel lied down and refused to budge. We tried our best to make it move but to no avail. Due to our attempts in making it move, our clothes became soaked in mud. The Sunni was forced to stop so we could wash our clothes with the water that was there. I distanced myself a little from them to take off my clothes and wash them.

I was worried about our fate and bewildered because I didn't know what would happen to us and how everything would end. Moreover, the valley was dangerous because of bandits. I felt the need to make tawassul to the Guardian of the Time, may our souls be sacrificed for him; but nothing happened.

The desert was empty to where the eyes could see. Suddenly, I saw near me a youth who resembled Sayyid Mahdī b. Sayyid ʿUsayn al-Karbalī. [I don't recollect whether he said that there were two people or only this person. Also, I don't remember who greeted the other first.]¹¹ I said, "What's your name?" He replied, "Sayyid Mahdī." I asked, "The son of Sayyid ʿUsayn?" He replied, "No, the son of Sayyid ʿAsan." I asked again, "Where are you coming from?" He replied, "From Khuḏair." In this desert, there is a place known as Maqām al-Khiḏr, peace be on him.

I thought that he was referring to that place. He asked, "Why have you stopped here?" I told him about the incident in detail and that the camel had lied down and complained to him about my bad condition. He looked at the camel and put his hand on the camel's head and it immediately stood up on its feet.

I saw him, peace be on him, speaking with the camel and pointing right and left with his index finger and showing it the path. Then, he turned to me and asked, "Do you need anything else?" I answered, "I have a lot of needs but I cannot mention them in this state of restlessness and discomfort. Specify a place for me so that I may come there prepared and I will ask you." He said, "The mosque of Sahla," and suddenly disappeared from before my eyes. I went to my father and asked, "Where did the person who was talking with me go?" (I wanted to know whether he had seen him, peace be on him, or not). He replied, "No one came here and I can't see anyone—as far as my eyes can see—in this desert." I said, "Mount [the mule]! Let's go." He asked, "What will you do with the camel?" I replied, "Leave it to me." They mounted and I sat atop the camel. It moved very fast and overtook them. The Sunni hirer screamed, "We cannot catch up with you with this speed." Everything had turned upside-down. The Sunni asked amazingly, "What has happened? The camel is the same camel and the path is the same path?!" I answered, "That is a secret." Suddenly, a big river appeared right in the middle of the road.

For a second time, I was bewildered and didn't know what to do with the water. While I was in the state of bewilderment, the camel went inside the river. Sometimes he would go to the right and other times to the left. When my father and the Sunni hirer reached the river, they called out, "Where are you going? You will drown. It is not possible to cross this river." But when they saw how fast I was crossing it with the camel and nothing was happening to me, they too dared to cross. I said to them, "Go right and left and follow the same path the camel had crossed." They crossed accordingly and we safely reached [the other side]. It was then that I remembered the Imam pointing right and left to the camel with his index finger. He had been showing [the camel how to cross] the river.

Anyway, we started traveling until we reached some nomads in the night and we dismounted near them. They all asked us surprisingly, "Where did you come from?" We replied, "Al-Samḥa." They all said, "The bridge has collapsed and there is no other way to cross the river except with a ship." They were all amazed and the most amazed amongst them was the Sunni hirer. He pleaded, "Inform me about the

secret of this whole affair.” I said, “When the camel sat down, I made tawassul to the twelfth Imam of the Shias. He came to me and solved all our problems. [I don’t remember whether he said that he (the Sunni) became a Shia along with the others or not].¹² Then, we traveled a few miles towards Najaf. The camel sat down again and I put my head near its ear and said, “You have been ordered to take us to Kufa.” I had barely finished my sentence when it got up from its place and completed the journey. At the door of our house in Kufa, it lowered its knees and sat down on the ground. I neither sold it nor slaughtered it until it died. During the day, it would go around Kufa for grazing and in the evening, it would return to the house to sleep.

After this, I asked him, “Did you have the honor of meeting our great master in the Mosque of Sahla?” He answered, “Yes. But I am not permitted to disclose the details of that conversation.”

Yours truly,

Imam al-Sidih.

The traditions with the following numbers also show the above meaning: 881, 882, 884, and 886

What we mentioned in this section are only a handful from the many incidents and stories that have been mentioned in reliable books. We have sufficed with these because we did not want to make the book lengthy. Moreover, these incidents are so many that it is impossible to enumerate all of them.

The scholars have mentioned many of them in their books. To realize their vast number, you can refer to *Biḥār al-anwār*, *al-Najm al-thaqib*, *Jannat al-ma’wā*, *Dir al-salām* (comprised of the accounts of those who had the privilege of meeting the Imam), *al-`Abqar al-`isn*, and etc. Whoever browses through the books which have mentioned such incidents, narratives, and accounts—most of which are authentic and reliable due to the correctness of their chains of narrators, and the fact that their narrators were famous for their trustworthiness, knowledge, and piety—will become sure and certain about his existence, peace be on him.

We ask Allah to grants us the grace to compile an exclusive and large book in this regard. Surely, He is the Best Facilitator and Helper.

1. *Al-Anwār al-nu`maniyya*, vol. 2, p. 303; *Biḥār al-anwār*, vol. 52, chap. 24, pp. 174–175

I say: The aforementioned *Mār Faiḥ*—Allah, is the glorious Sayyid *Amār Faiḥ*—Allah b. `Abd al-Qāhir al-`usayn al-Tafrishī. The author of *Amal al-`mil* writes: “He was a virtuous and great traditionist. He has penned several books like *Sharḥ al-mukhtalif* and a book about *Uḥḥ*. My father’s maternal uncle, Shaykh `Alī b. Maḥmūd al-`milī, informed us about these two books. He had the privilege of being his student in the city of Najaf and was given permission by him to narrate traditions. He used to describe his virtues, knowledge, righteousness, and worships. Sayyid *Muḥafaf al-Tafrishī* has described him in his *Rijāl* as “Our immaculate Sayyid who had vast knowledge and great forbearance. He was a dialectical-theologian (*mutakallim*), a jurist, reliable, and respected. He was born in Tafrish and acquired knowledge in the city of Mashhad. He now resides under the dome of the shrine of his ancestor, `Alī [b. *Abū ḥalīb*], peace be on him, in

Najaf. He had great manners, was soft in nature, and very polite. All the attributes of the righteous, the scholars, and the pious were accumulated in him. He has written some books like Sharḥ al-mukhtalif and Sharḥ al-lithn `Ashariyya. He has narrated from Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan Shahīd al-Thānī al-Ḥimilī.”

It has been mentioned in al-Rauḍat that he was one of Muqaddas al-Ardabīlī's special students and was aware of his secrets.

2. Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 24, pp. 176–177; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, pp. 708–709, chap. 33, no. 163.
3. Jannat al-ma'wā (printed with Biḥār al-anwār), vol. 53, pp. 234–236.
4. Jannat al-ma'wā (printed with Biḥār al-anwār), vol. 53, p. 237.
5. Al-Kharīj wa l-jarī'ī, vol. 1, chap. “Concerning the miracles of the master of the time, peace be on him,” pp. 475–478, no. 18; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 58–59, no. 41; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, pp. 694–695, no. 119; Faraj al-mahmūm, pp. 254–255, with minor difference in some of the words; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, chap. 25, p. 502.
6. The Qarḥmīya were followers of the Ismailia sect who had taken ʿAḥar al-Aswad to Bahrain and had kept it there for twenty-two years before returning it to Mecca again—Ed.
7. Muhaj al-da`awāt, p. 296.
8. Dir al-salām, 15th story; al-Tunkūbun, Qiṣa al-`ulam, p. 359.
9. Dalīl al-imāma, chap. “Those from amongst our companions who have seen the Master of the Time, peace be on him, during his occultation and have recognized him,” pp. 304–306, no. 5; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 33, p. 702, no. 145; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 15, pp. 304–306, the last part of no. 19, with some variations and additions in the wording and some parts of the prayer; Faraj al-mahmūm, pp. 245–247, with some variations in the prayer.
I say: Abū Manḥūr b. al-Ḥalīlī was a Buyid vizier. A part of his biography can be found in al-Kḥmil, vol. 9. Sharaf al-Daula appointed him as a vizier in the year 374 AH. Bahū al-Daula endorsed him in 379 AH but put him aside in 380 AH. Then, he and Abū Naḥr b. Shābūr were appointed as viziers in 382 AH. Finally, he resigned in the year 383 AH. Anyway, there is no doubt that this incident occurred during the major occultation. This is also confirmed by the fact that Ḥarūn b. Mūsā al-Talla`ukbarī was from the tenth generation (al-Ḥabagha—in the chain of narrators) and his son Muḥammad b. Ḥarūn (d. 413 AH)—who was a contemporary of al-Mufīd, may Allah have mercy on him—was from the eleventh generation (of narrators).
10. Al-Imāma wa l-mahdawiyya (Originally in Persian = Imāmāt wa mahdawiyyat), vol. 2, pp. 168–171. The narrator of this story is the majestic, righteous, and pious scholar, al-Sayyid ʿIḡḥ Imām al-Sidihī—Allah's mercy be on him—who wrote this incident by my request and I have his Persian notes which are in his own hand-writing.
11. What is within the brackets is the quote of the person who narrated from Shaykh Muḥammad al-Kḥfī.
12. What is within the brackets is the quote of the person who narrated from Shaykh Muḥammad al-Kḥfī.

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[9] <https://www.al-islam.org/person/imam-mahdi>

[10] <mailto:h.akhoondali@yahoo.com>