

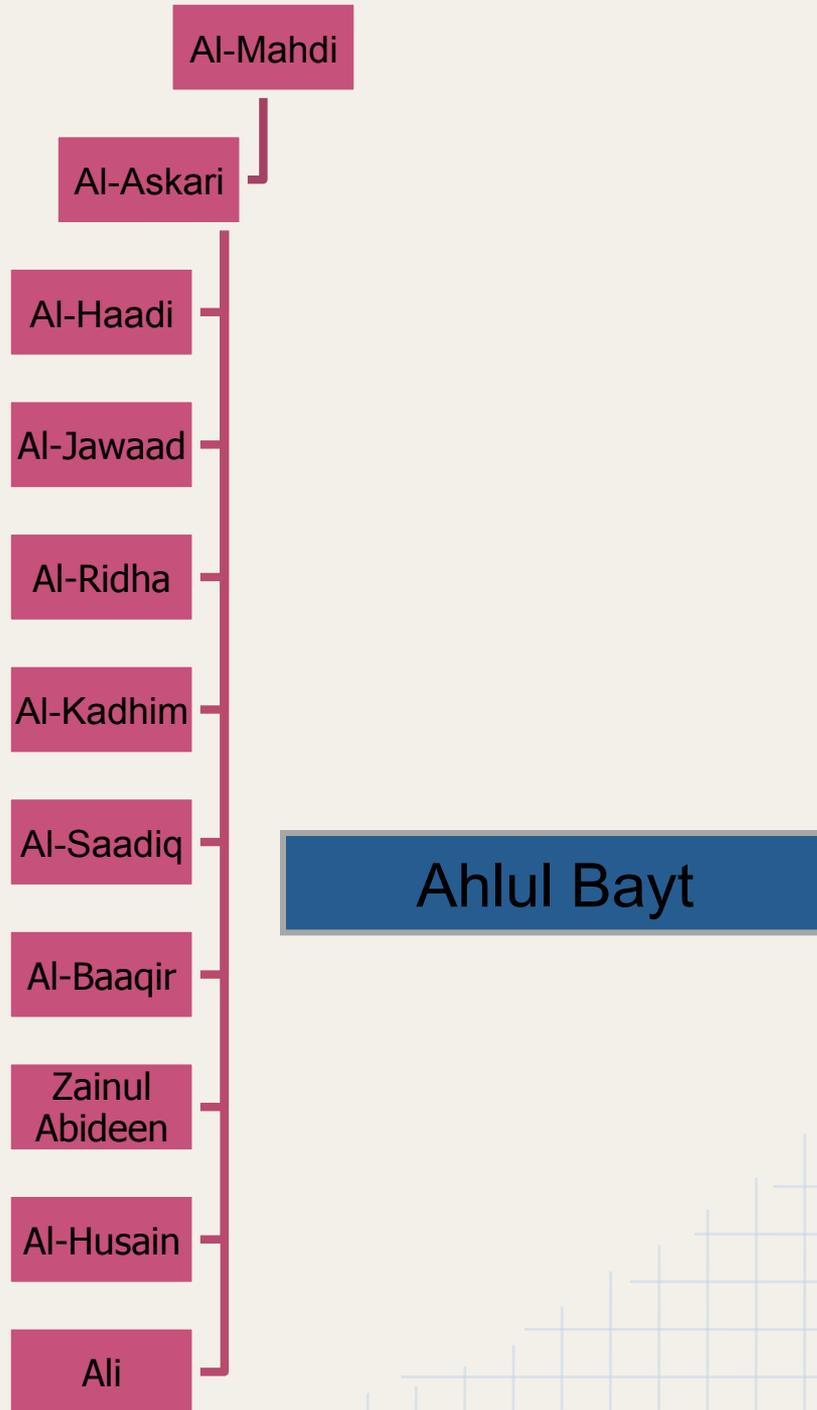
AL-MAHDI

THE TWELFTH IMAM

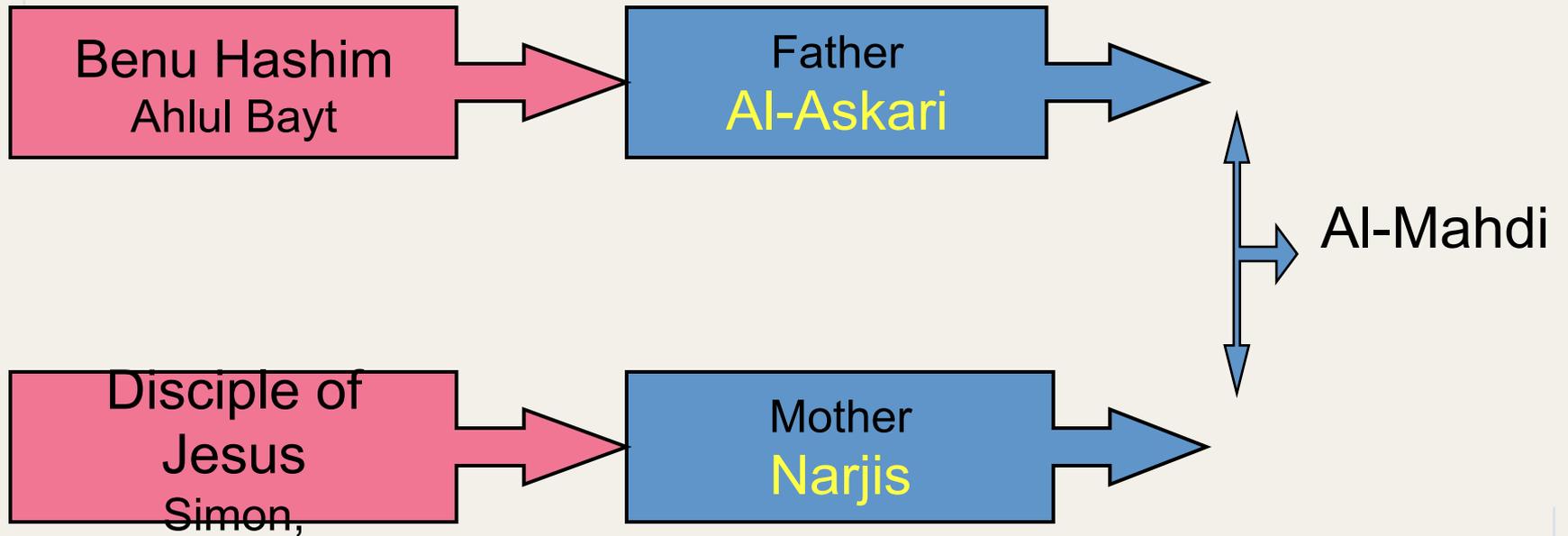
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LINEAGE



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- Al-Mahdi grew up in a limited environment
 - He was detached from contact with people, and his whereabouts were unknown to most people except for the trusted ones.
 - Al-Mahdi was cared for with love and tender care in a virtuous and pious home but away from people.
 - Al-Mahdi's lineage came from Ahlul Bayt and from Narjis,
 - Narjis was Christian whose line of heritage went back to Simon, the disciple of Isa (Prophet Jesus).
 - Narjis converted to Islam and became a woman of piety, virtue, and chastity.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BIRTH

- Pregnancy of Al-Mahdi's mother was top secret even to close family members and friends.
 - Imam Al askari and Narjis hid the birth of because Benu Abbas wanted to kill Imam Al Mahdi
 - Imam Al-Askari's great-aunt Hakimah assisted with the imam's birth
 - Hakimah was fasting, praying and waiting with Narjis during the labor stayed until early Imam Al-Mahdi was born.

- ◉ What type of environment did Imam Al Mehdi grow up in?
- ◉ Who are Imam Mehdi's Parents?
- ◉ Describe Narjis's background
- ◉ Describe the circumstances and birth of the Imam

BIRTH

- ◉ **Date:** Al-Mahdi was born the 15th of Sha'ban in the year 255H.
- ◉ **Location:** Samarraa
- ◉ **What happened:** His father, Al-Askari, said the Adhan in his right ear and the Iqaama in the left.
- ◉ For the Aqeeqah Al-Askari asked his close friend, Uthman Al-Amri, to purchase 300 rams, sacrifice them, then distribute them to members of Benu Talib.
- ◉ Al-Askari also asked him to distribute a large amount of meat and flour to the poor of Samur'raa.
- ◉ Aqeeqah was done in compliance with the Prophet's recommendation, however this Aqeeqah was special, for the newborn was very special too.

- ◉ When and where was Imam Al Mehdi born?
- ◉ What did Imam Al Askari do after Imam Al Mehdi was born?

AS AL-MAHDI GROWS UP

- ◉ Al-Mahdi was aware of his father's attachment to him and the special care he gave him.
 - His close relationship with his father Al-Askari was that of love and understanding, and extreme protection.
 - Al-Mahdi could not go out and was painstakingly sheltered at home by his family.
 - He noticed his father pray devotedly, excessively so, and often say Du'aa, and fast
 - Like his predecessors Al-Mahdi had a very investigative mind which was always thirsty for knowledge

- ◉ Describe the relationship between Imam Al Mahdi and his father

WHEN IMAM MEHDI COMES

- ◉ Many narrations say when Imam Mehdi comes his back will be towards the Ka'bah's, he will lean against the wall and call out loud for his supporters and followers, who will number 313 persons. Prophet 'Isa (a.s.) will come from the heaven down to the earth, and will pray in a prayer led by al-Mahdi. The Imam of the Age will cause the commands of Islam to reach all over the world, and the earth will become like heaven.

HADITHS ON HIS BEHALF

- Of the 38 Hadiths of the Prophet this stands out:
 - “Al-Mahdi is from my progeny. His name is similar to mine and his epithet is similar to mine. In his physique and character he looks like me. He will be in a state of Occultation and there will be confusion (Hayra) in which people will wander about. Then he will come forth like a shooting star to fill the earth with justice and equity as it was filled before with injustice and inequity.”

ALI'S SAYING ON HIS BEHALF

- ◉ Imam Ali had said

I thought about a child who will be from my flesh, the eleventh from my line of descendants.

He is Al-Mahdi who will fill the earth with justice and equity [righteousness] when the world has reached the height of injustice and Evilness.

He will live in a state of occultation, as a result of which a group of people will go astray and another remain faithful.

MORE SAYINGS ON HIS BEHALF

- ◉ Imam Al-Husain is quoted saying,
“The ninth in my lineage will establish Truth and Righteousness. Allah will infuse spirit into the earth through him and the religion of Allah will prevail over all others. His occultation will be very long, and [because of that] plenty of people will go astray but the truthful ones will remain firm in their belief.....”
- ◉ Imam Al-Saadiq is quoted saying,
“When Al-Mahdi rises he will summon the people to Islam anew and guide them to a matter which had become lost to them and from which people had gone astray.
He is the only one called Al-Mahdi because he guides to the matter from which men had deviated. He is called Al-Qaa'im because of his rising.”

TWO MORE SAYINGS ON HIS BEHALF

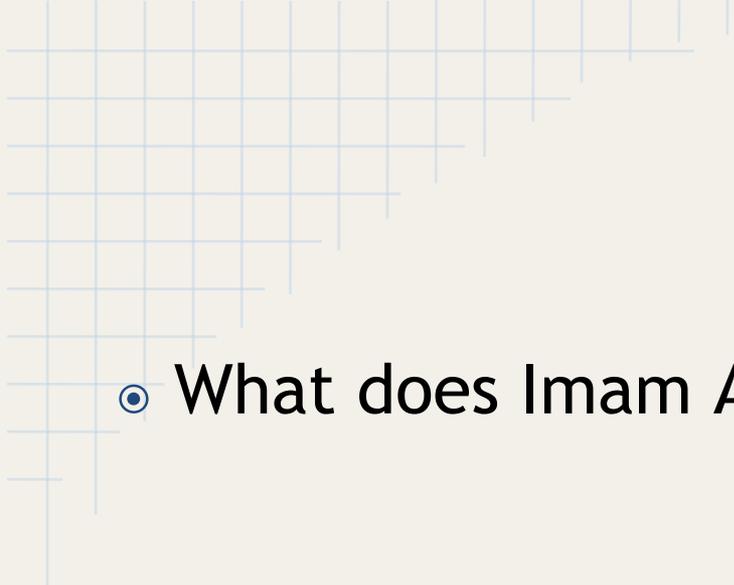
- ◉ Imam Al-Jawaad is quoted saying,
“Al-Qaa'im is from [us] and that he would be Al-Mahdi; he must be awaited by his followers during his Occultation and obeyed at his rising and that he would be my descendant in the third generation.”
- ◉ Imam Al-Haadi is quoted to have written to a loyalist,
“The Imam after me is my son Al-Hasan [Al-Askari] and after him will be his son Al-Qaa'im, who will establish justice [righteousness] as the world will be full of injustice and Evilness.”

QUOTING SUNNI HADITH BOOKS

- ◉ From Sahih Bukhari:
- ◉ Narrated Jabir bin Samura: I heard Muhammad saying, "Islam will continue to be strong to twelve Muslim rulers." He then said a sentence which I did not hear. My father said, "All of them (those rulers) will be from Quraish."
- ◉ In a Hadith widely regarded as authentic, Muhammad said,
- ◉ Even if the entire duration of the world's existence has already been exhausted and only one day is left before the Day of Judgment, Allah will expand that day to such a length of time, as to accommodate the kingdom of a person out of Ahlul Bayt who will be called by my name and my father's name. He will then fill the Earth with peace and justice as it will have been filled with injustice and tyranny before then.

AL-ASKARI EXPLAINS TO HIS SON AL-MAHDI

- Prophet Muhammad tells us that when your time comes, you will go through two Occultations, a *minor* and a *major* one.
 - Benu Abbas put me under house arrest many times, and detained me in cells of their Palace, just to prevent your birth.
 - You were born despite their attempts. And we kept your birth secret except for the confidantes.
 - You are unique, your works will be of *global dimensions*.
 - This is why we take precautions to evade the eyes of the people, to keep you safe from Benu Abbas.

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- ◉ What does Imam Al Askari explain to his son?

AL-MAHDI BECOMES THE IMAM

- Al-Askari got sick and his sickness lasted for 8 days (?poisoned).
 - Al-Askari had confidentially shown Al-Mahdi to his adherents and had designated him as the final Imam.
 - At one occasion (when asked about the subsequent Imam) Al-Askari showed Al-Mahdi to a group of 40 devotees despite the confidentiality of the matter.
 - Al-Askari died after:
 1. having entrusted all his Knowledge in the hands of Al-Mahdi,
 2. designating him as the last Imam, and
 3. having given him his will.

- ◉ How many days was Imam Al Askari poisoned?
- ◉ Did the people know about Imam Al Mehdi?
- ◉ What document was given to Imam Al Mehdi indicating he would be the next Imam?

SALAT OF JANAAZA

- The uncle of Al-Mahdi was about to lead a private Salat of Janaaza
 - Participants consisted of relatives and prominent devotees of Al-Askari called Al-Khaassah, (the Shi'a).
 - Just as he tried to lead Salat of Janaaza a boy came out and commanded:

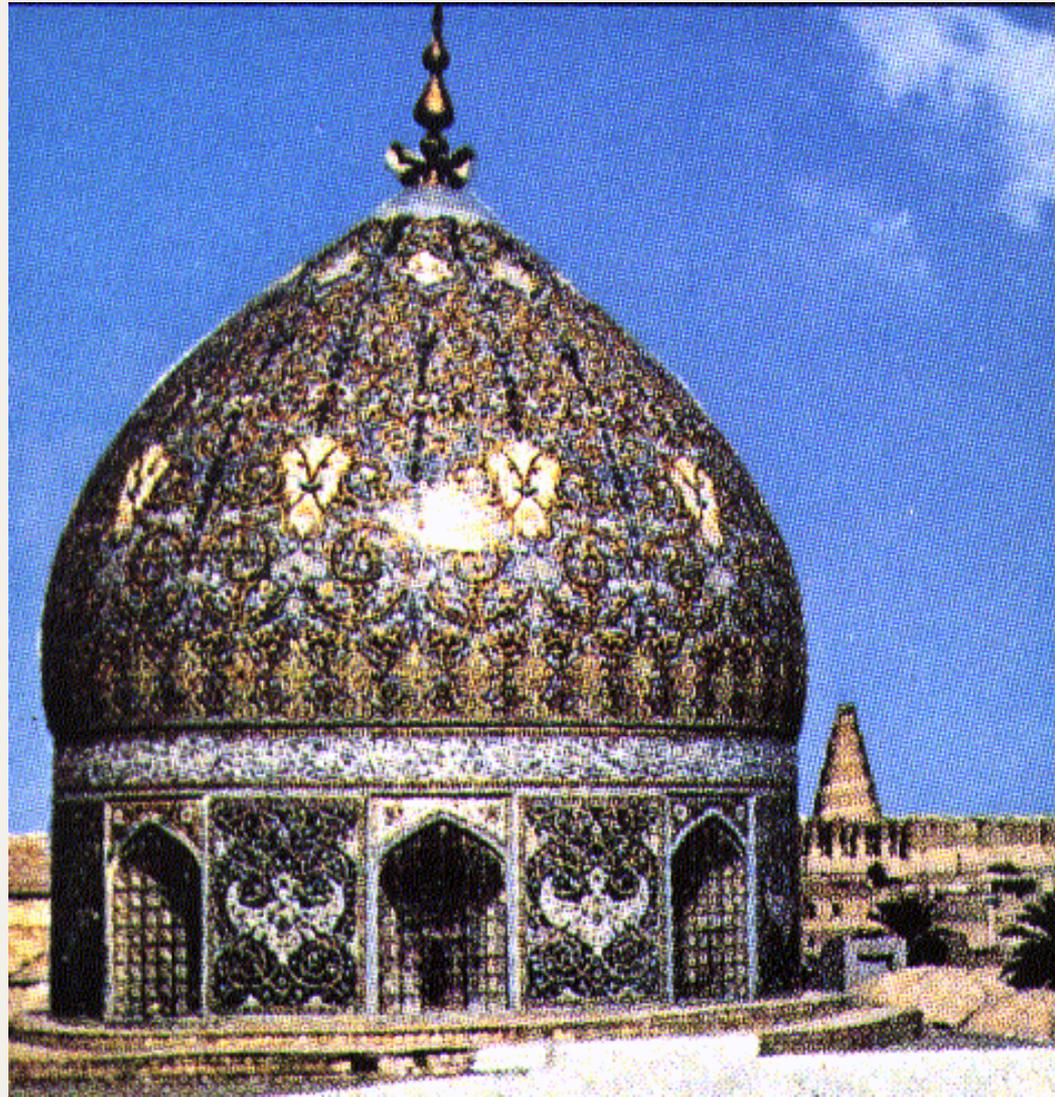
تَنَحَّ يَا عَمُّ، فَأَنَا أَحَقُّ مِنْكَ فِي الصَّلَاةِ عَلَى أَبِي
Uncle, move aside,
I have more right than you to pray over my father's body.
 - Startled, the uncle moved aside and Al-Mahdi led the Salat, now that he was the Imam.
 - Also surprised were the participants who had not seen but heard of Al-Mahdi.
 - Twelfth Imam led the funeral prayer of his father Imam Hasan al-Askari (as) .
 - He was only Five years old, yet the whole crowd of Muslims including the Abbasid caliph of that time Al-Mu'tamid followed the young Imam without question.

AFTER REALIZING IT WAS IMAM MEHDI

- ◉ Once the prayers were over and the Imam went inside the house
- ◉ Then the Calipha realized that it was the Imam Al Mahdi who lead the prayer and he immediately ordered his soldiers to enter the house and search for the young Imam.
- ◉ They did not find any one inside the house.
- ◉ The Caliph became very angry at his soldiers unable to find a five year old boy who had just led the prayers so Al Mutamid went back to his luxurious palace

- ◉ Who lead the first Salat Al Janaaza?
- ◉ Who was almost lead the first salat Al Janaaza?
- ◉ How old was Imam Al Mehdi during the first salat Al Janaaza?
- ◉ Who is the Calipha during Imam Mehdi's time?
- ◉
- ◉ What did Al Mutamid do when he realized it was Imam Mehdi who lead the first salat al Janaaza and where did he go?

BENEATH THE BLUE DOME IS THE CELLAR (SIRDAAB)
WHERE IMAM AL-MAHDI IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN LAST SEEN
AFTER THE DEMISE OF HIS FATHER



THE OTHER JANAAZA PRAYER

- Young Al-Mahdi was described as:
 - Radiant,
 - with fairly wide forehead, and
 - spaced front teeth.
 - When Al-Mahdi finished off the Janaaza Salat he left immediately and vanished.
 - This way Al-Mahdi was witnessed by the crowd
 - Another Salat of Janaaza was performed by a huge crowd:
 - Was led by the brother of the Khalifa
 - Quite possibly the private Janaaza Salat led by Al-Mahdi was followed sometime later by the public one.

WHEREABOUTS

- Initially Al-Mahdi concealed himself somewhere in Samur'raa.
 - Samur'raa was teaming with government employees, Benu Abbas, the Turkics, and militaries of various nationalities.
 - Al-Mahdi probably hid in the Sirdaab, an exclusive cellar built deeply underground and used by Imam Al-Askari for Salat and seclusion.
 - The Sirdaab's entrance must have been uniquely well camouflaged
 - It successfully evaded all attempts of Benu Abbas to find him
 - In later years Al-Mahdi's headquarters were possibly in Baghdad, known only to his Safeers.
 - Imam Al-Mahdi was seen at the Ka'ba during Haj time.

DURING THE MINOR OCCULTATION

- ◉ Imam al Mehdi could not appear in public so he appointed safeers
- ◉ Safeers represented the imam while he was in his minor occultation
 - They brought questions the muslims had about islam
 - All questions were answered briefly, clearly, some with constructive suggestions,
 - others time Imam al Mehdi would foretell future events that would happen later on.

DURING MINOR OCCULTATION: THE FOUR APPOINTED SAFEERS

1. Uthman Al-Amri

1st

Safeers

2nd

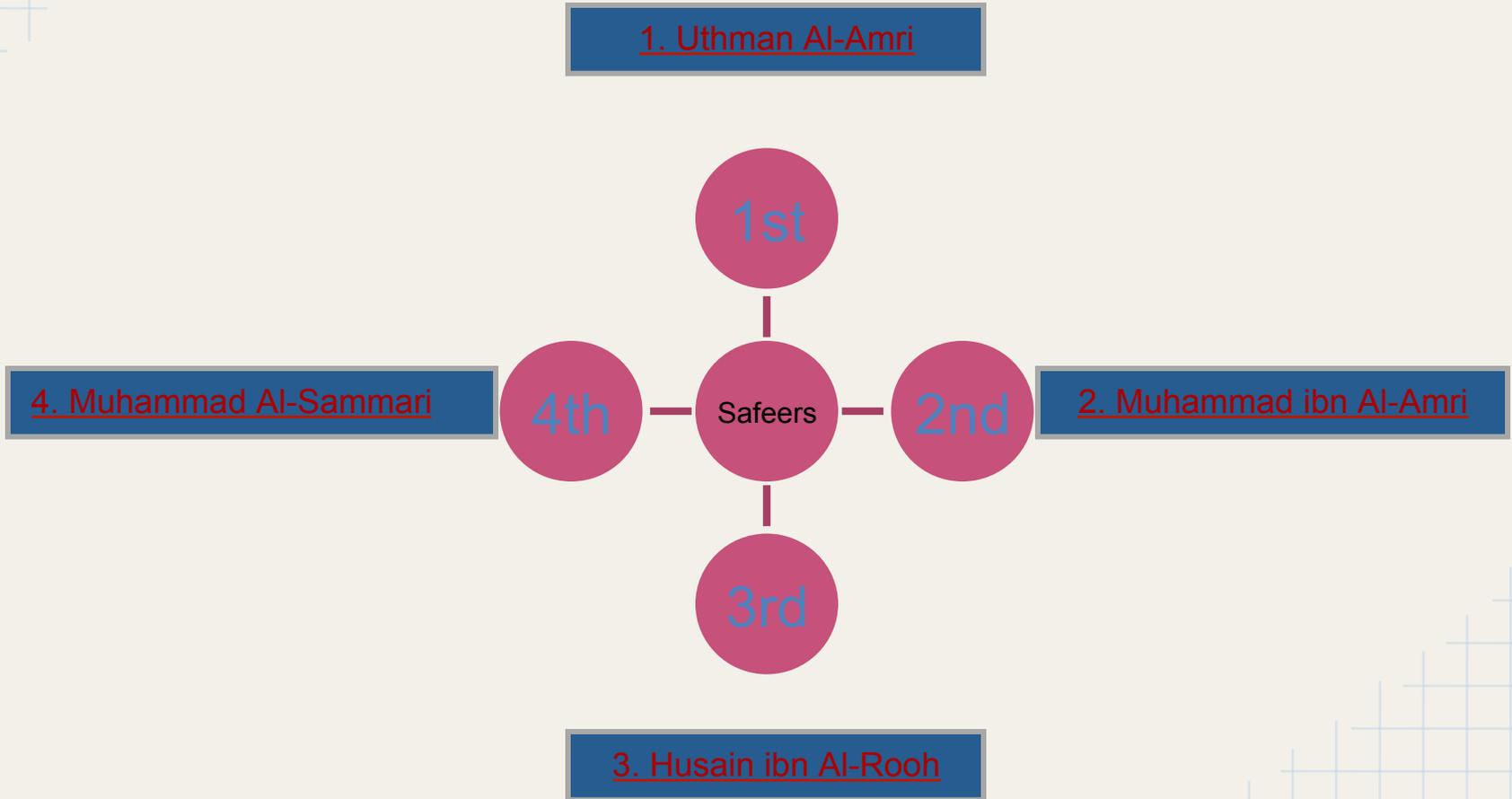
2. Muhammad ibn Al-Amri

3rd

3. Husain ibn Al-Rooh

4th

4. Muhammad Al-Sammari



TIME PERIOD OF SAFEERS

Appointed Safeers

4. Ibn Muhammad Al-Sammari: for 3 years
3. Husain ibn Al-Rooh: for 21 years
2. Muhammad ibn Uthman Al-Amri: for 40 years
1. Uthman Al-Amri: the 1st Safeer, for 5 years

CORRESPONDENCE

- ◉ Imam Al-Mahdi corresponded indirectly with the Shi'a, by way of the Safeer (Ambassador).
 - The Safeer had many Wakeels (representatives) for each Province.
 - Each Wakeel had their own representatives and so on
 - All of them communicated in strict confidentiality.
 - Imam Al-Mahdi's correspondence was:
 - personal sometimes
 - answering Fiqh inquiries at other times, and
 - giving edicts as the occasion arose.
 - Imam Al-Mahdi's writing was concise, and very clear. This mode and style continued for 69 years.

ATTESTANTS

- ◉ While available to his Safeers, Imam Al-Mahdi made provisions for meeting with certain adherents at certain occasions.
- ◉ This was certified by reports of the adherents in various areas, at different times.
- ◉ The names of 46 such people who had met him are in existence
- ◉ In addition to that 13 Wakeels (representatives) had reported about their meeting with him too

AL-MAHDI IN HAJ

- Al-Mahdi used to perform the Haj every year.
 - Haj season was to meet and exchange information, since people from far away and of different localities would gather
 - Haj time was used extensively to streamline the activities.
 - Al-Wakeels who had met Imam Al-Mahdi became affected with a form of disorientation, and only after he left did they come to the conclusion that it was Al-Mahdi himself.
 - Some people say they ate with him, others saw him while in Sujood in Mecca uttering Du'aa, then leaving with a narrator to the house of Khadija, the wife of the Prophet.

THE MINOR OCCULTATION

- Lasted 69 years: 260H to 329H
 - With 4 Safeers:
 1. Uthman Al-Amri
 2. Muhammad son of Uthman Al-Amri
 3. Husain Ibn Rooh
 4. Ibn Muhammad Al-Sammari
 - Keeping contact with the Imam, bring his written answers, Tawkii“ التوقيع to the Wakeels الوكيل .
 - The administration is called Wikaalah الوكالة

The Major Occultation

- Before the Imam ended his minor occultation he informed his safeers to not appoint anyone else
- We are currently in the major occultation
- the Imam is said to come out on the day of judgement
- The imam was not seen after this
- The only way to contact him now is by earnestly praying for his assistance.
- the imam will come to those of pure hearts

END OF THE MINOR OCCULTATION

329H IMAM AL-MAHDI'S LAST TAWKII' التوقيع SAID:

"May Allah give good reward to your brethren concerning you (i.e. on your death), for indeed you shall die after the sixth day. So prepare your affairs, and do not appoint anyone to take your place after your death. For the Major Occultation has now started, and there can be no appearance until (after a long time when Allah gives His permission) hearts become hardened and the world becomes filled with injustice....."

يا علي ابن محمد، أعظم
الله أجر إخوانك فيك،
إنك ميت ما بينك
وبين (الموت) ستة
أيام، فاجمع أمرك ولا
توصي إلى أحدٍ يقوم
مقامك بعد وفاتك، فقد
وقعت الغيبة التامة
فلا ظهور إلا بعد أن
يأذن الله تعالى، وذلك
على طول المدة وقوة



ZIYARAH OF AL-MAHDI

سَلَامٌ عَلَى آلِ يَسٍ السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا دَاعِيَ اللَّهِ وَرَبَّانِي
آيَاتِهِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بَابَ اللَّهِ وَدِيَانَ دِينِهِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَلِيفَةَ اللَّهِ وَنَاصِرَ حَقِّهِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حُجَّةَ اللَّهِ وَدَلِيلَ إِرَادَتِهِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا تَالِيَ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَتَرْجُمَانَهُ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ فِي أَنَاءِ لَيْلِكَ وَأَطْرَافِ نَهَارِكَ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بَقِيَّةَ اللَّهِ فِي أَرْضِهِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مِيثَاقَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي أَخَذَهُ وَوَكَّدَهُ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا وَعْدَ اللَّهِ الَّذِي ضَمَّنَهُ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْعَلَمُ الْمُنْصُوبُ وَالْعِلْمُ الْمُنْصُوبُ
وَالغُوثُ وَالرَّحْمَةُ الْوَاسِعَةُ

ZIYARAH OF AL-MAHDI

- ◉ Peace be unto the progeny of Yaseen
- ◉ Peace unto you; the caller to Allah and the interpreter of His Verses
- ◉ Peace unto you; the gateway to Allah and the applier of His religion
- ◉ Peace unto you; the viceroy of Allah and the backer of His right
- ◉ Peace unto you; the Claim of Allah and the sign of His volition
- ◉ Peace unto you; the reciter and the interpreter of the Book of Allah
- ◉ Peace unto you at the hours of the night and its two ends
- ◉ Peace unto you—the herald of Allah on His lands
- ◉ Peace unto you—the covenant of Allah that He has made and confirmed
- ◉ Peace unto you—the Promise of Allah that He has assured...

BE IN ALLAH'S CARE

Thank you and May God Bless you.

Dr. A.S. Hashim