

TIMELINE OF IMAM ZAIN AL ABIDEEN (A)



Father:
Husayn Ibn Ali (a)

Mother:
Lady Sheharbanu

Period of Imamat:
34 Years

Titles:
Zain Al Abideen, Abu Al Hasan, Sajjad, Syed Az Sajideen

38-50AH

38 AH: Birth

- Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) was born on the 5th of Sha'ban, in the city of Medina. In other narrations it is reported that he was born on 15th Jamadi ul Awwal.
- He spent the first two years of his life under the loving care of his Grandfather Ameer ul Momineen Imam Ali (a).
- Imam Ali (a) taught Imam Zain al-Abideen(a) with the knowledge he received from Rasulullah(s).



40-50 AH: (2 -12 years old)

- He experienced the loss of his beloved grandfather Imam Ali (a).
- His family moved back to Medina.
- His Uncle Imam Hasan Al Mujtaba (a) became the new Caliph for the next 6 months but later he signed a peace treaty with Muawiya in order to maintain peace amongst the Muslims.



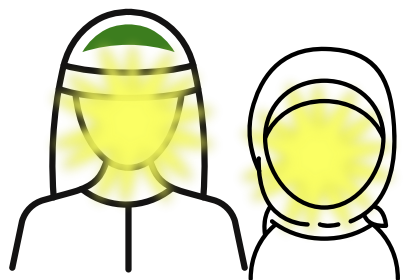
- He used to accompany his father during his frequent visits to Mecca.
- On one such occasion Ibrahim bin Idham spotted Imam Zain al-Abideen (a), who was a young boy, and inquired him about his destination, resources and purpose of traveling. Imam (a) replied great wisdom:

**" I carry Taqwa with me, my feet are the means of traveling and my Mula
(Creator) is my destination."**

Ibrahim became astonished with such a deep answer.



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Year: (Unknown) Marriage

- He got married to Imam Hasan's (a) daughter Lady Fatimah. She was a woman of great character. Because of her piousness Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) used to call her as "as-Siddīqa" ("the truthful one").

- In the year 50 AH, his uncle Imam Hasan(a) was poisoned and once again he witnessed the cruel treatment of society towards his family.



- His father, Imam Husayn (a) became the 3rd Imam.

51-60 AH



51-56 AH: (13-18 years old)

- During these years he helped his father in educating and taking care of the most deserving in the society.

- He also learned from the political insight of Imam Husayn (a), who was acting on the peace treaty which was put in place by his uncle Imam Hasan (a).

57 AH: Birth of Imam Muhammad Al Baqir (19 years old)

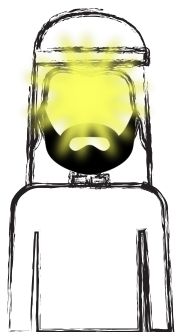
- His wife Lady Fatimah gave birth to their first son Muhammad (a) on 1st of Rajab.



60 AH: Emigration to Mecca (22 years old)

- As the political situation changed after the death of Muawiya. He witnessed how his father Imam Husayn (a) was forced to pay allegiance to Yazid. He, along with the rest of his family members was forced to leave his hometown of Medina. They all moved to Mecca and stayed there for the next 4 months. During their stay, they received hundreds of letters from the people of Kufa, asking his father Imam Husayn(a) to lead.

- On the 8th of Dul hajjah, Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) left Mecca, with his family members towards Kufa. Unfortunately they were all forced to change their direction from Kufa to Karbala.



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61-66 AH

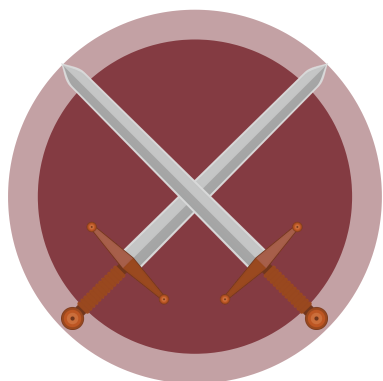


61: The Battle of Karbala (23 years old)

- Due to his illness he wasn't granted permission to partake in the jihad.
- On the day of Ashura he witnessed the massacred of his entire family.
- On the night of 11th of Muharram, he took charge of the Imamate and became the 4th Imam in most difficult of situations.
- He was taken captive and sent to the cities of Kufa and Sham along with the women of the Ahlul Bayt (a).
- After reaching the city of Sham, he along with his aunt, Lady Zaynab (a), gave powerful speeches in the court of Yazid.
- Out of the fear of inspiring an uprising, Yazid freed Imam Zayn al-Abideen (a), the women and children of Ahlul Bayt (a) from prison.
- Imam Zayn al-Abideen (a) and his family return to the city of Medina.

63 AH: The Event of Harra (25 years old)

- An uprising against the Umayyads occurred by the people of Medina.
- Imam Zayn al-Abideen (a) stepped away from the uprising since its beginning because he (a) knew its destiny.
- He protected the family of Marwan, who was an enemy of Ahlul Bayt (a) along with other 400 families and paid all their expenses while the army of Muslim b. 'Aqaba (the commander of Yazid's army in the event of Harra) was in Medina.



64 AH: The Tawwabūn (26 years old)

- The uprisings of the Tawwabūn (those who repented) started this year, as they demanded revenge for the massacres of Karbala.

66 AH: Avenge of his father (28 years old)

- Mukhtar al-Thaqafi started an uprising and took revenge on some of the killers of Imam al-Husayn (a) and his family.

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76-95 AH



76 AH : Risalat al-Huquq (38 years old)

- Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) gave a lengthy narration that became the Risalat al-Huquq (Treatise of Rights) which is a deep look at the rights of people.

80 AH: Various Duas (42 years old)

- He recited many duas in Masjid al-Nabi which taught and solidified the spiritual roots of the Muslims.

87 AH: Dua Abu Hamza (49 years old)

- His companion, Abu Hamza al-Thumali, recorded a lengthy dua that he recited in the month of Ramadan

95 AH: Martyrdom (57 years old)

- On the 25th of Muharram, he passed away by poisoning and was buried in Jannat al-Baqi in Medina.

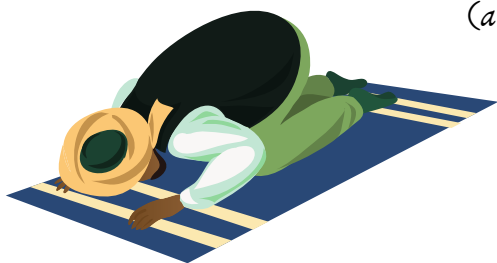


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Merits and Virtues of Imam Zain al-Abideen(a)

"Ali bin al-Husayn (a) made a thousand Rak'a prayer everyday before he (a) passed away. Thus, he (a) was called Zain al-'Abideen (adornment of the worshipers)." - Malik b. Anas



Excessive worship:

- Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) was known for his excessive worship. He used his worship and duas as a means for the propagation of true Islam in the time when people were forgetting the basis of the religion.

"There were people living in Medina unknowing how their daily provision was provided; and after Zain al-Abideen (a) passed away, their night food delivery stopped." - Muhammad b. Ishaq

Helping the poor:

- Following in footsteps of his father, uncle and grandfather, Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) made sure to constantly help the most deserving of the society.



Behavior towards the slaves:

- After he returned to Medina, he was under constant surveillance from the government. As he wasn't allowed to preach in public, Imam Zain al-Abideen (a) found a way to free the slaves and taught them. He also married some slave women in order to provide them with a proper provision as well as to protect them from the evils of the society. Many of his children were born through his maid servants.