

# TIMELINE OF IMAM AL-MAHDI (A)



**Father:**  
Imam Hasan Al-Askari (a)

**Titles:**  
al-Mahdi (The rightly guided'), al-Qa'im.  
(he who will rise)

**Mother:**  
Lady Narjis Khatun

**Period of Imamat:**  
1185 years and counting...

(\*This timeline was created in Islamic  
year 1445 AH)

## 255-260 AH

255 AH: (Miraculous Birth)

- Imam Muhammad al-Mahdi was born on Friday, 15th of Sha'ban—around Fajr time— in Samarra. The event of his birth was narrated by Sayyida Hakima (sister of 10th Imam), who was visiting her nephew, Imam Hasan al-Askari (a) on the eve of 15th Sha'ban. Our 11th Imam requested her Aunt to stay behind for the night as the birth of his son, our 12th Imam was near.

-Lady Hakimah was astonished on this news and inquired Imam al-Askari (a) as there were no signs of pregnancy on Lady Narjis.

-The 11th Imam mentioned:

"Her example is similar to the mother of Musa. Pregnancy didn't appear in her and none knew of it until the time of delivery, because Firon was ripping the abdomens of pregnant women in search of Musa.

This is like Musa (a)."



-Imam Hasan al-Askari to Lady Hakimah

-Near Fajr prayers, the signs of labor appeared on Lady Narjis. Imam (a) call out to Lady Hakima to recite Surah Qadr on Lady Narjis. As Lady Hakima began reciting the verses, the baby responded from the womb of Lady Narjis and greeted Lady Hakima while leaving her in great state of shock. Imam Hasan Askari responded:

"Do not wonder about the Command of Allah, The Exalted; He gives us speech at infancy and makes us Proof on earth at maturity."

-Soon after, Lady Narjis was covered with immense light and the miraculous birth of Imam Mahdi (a) occurred. Upon his arrival to this world, Imam Mahdi (a) prostrated on his face, he then raised his finger to heavens and glorified Allah (swt), testified his belief and recited the following verse of Surah al Qasas:

And We wanted to confer favor upon those who were oppressed in the land and make them leaders and make them inheritors (28:5)

وَنُرِيدُ أَنْ نَمُنَّ عَلَى الَّذِينَ اسْتُضِعُوا فِي  
الْأَرْضِ وَنَجْعَلَهُمْ أَئِمَّةً وَنَجْعَلَهُمُ الْوَارِثِينَ ﴿٥﴾



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## A Divine Plan of Protection:



-As reported by Allama Majlisi in, Haqqul Yaqeen, Imam Hasan Askari (a) took Imam Mahdi (a) in his arms and call out to one of the birds and said: "Carry him and protect him and return to us every 40 days."

-The bird flew away with him to the heavens and Imam Hasan Askari (a) said: "I entrust you to the one that mother of Musa entrusted."

-Lady Narjis became unsettled with this sight and cried out. So the 11th Imam informed her that the baby will be returned to her just as Musa was returned to his mother and he recited the following verse:

"So We gave him back to his mother that her eye might be refreshed, and that she might no grieve..."

Surah al Qasas, verse 13.

-When Lady Narjis inquired about the bird Imam replied:

**"It is Ruhul Qudus (Holy Spirit), who is assigned to the Imams to make them successful and firm and facilitate their growth through knowledge."**

-Imam Hasan al Askari (a) didn't make any public announcement of the birth of Imam Mahdi (a) and the news was only shared with the following family members, reliable companions and female house helpers :

-Lady Hakima -Lady Khadija (another aunt) -Mariyah (Maid) -Nasim (Maid) -Muhammad b. Isma'il b. Musa b. Ja'far (a) -Abu 'Ali b. Mutahhar -'Amr al-Ahwazi -Abu Nasr al-Turayf (servant of Imam Hasan Askari (a))

## The Unusual Growth Pattern:

-On the account of the growth pattern of Imam Mahdi (a), Lady Hakima said:

"After forty days, the boy was returned. My nephew (a) called me over and I went to him and saw a child of 2 years old running before him."

-Seeing her astonishment Imam Hasan Askari (a) smiled and said:

" Sons of apostles and successors, when they are the Imams, they grow differently than others. a child of ours can talk in the womb of his mother, recites Quran, worships Lord. At the age of suckling, angels obey him and descends to him every morning and evening.

-Lady Hakima saw Imam Mahdi (a) every forty days, until she saw him as a grown man few days prior to the demise of his father.



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258 AH: (3 years old)

-According to some narrations Ahmad bin Ishaq Qummi asked the 11th Imam who would be the Imam after him. Imam Hasan Askari (a) introduced him to Imam Mahdi (a) whose face looked like full moon. Imam also invited chosen believers from Qum and revealed the birth of the 12th Imam.

259 AH: (4 years old)

-In this year his mother, Lady Narjis passed away.



260 AH: Becoming the Last Hujjah (5 years old)

-Imam Hasan al Askari (a) was martyred under the severe surveillance of al-Mu'tamid al-'Abbasi who sent five of his reliable officers to Imam's (a) house in order to monitor him.



-After his demise, Abasid caliph sent his agent to confiscate Imam's property and to look out for his heir. The Imam's wives and female servants of the house were arrested, tortured and were checked for signs of pregnancies. There is not much history available about the suffering of the honorable ladies and female servants of Imam's family but one can only imagine the height of pain and suffering that must be induced upon them to find the details about the arrival or news of the 12th Imam.

-Imam Mahdi (a) gained the title of the 12th Imam after the martyrdom of his father at the young age of 5 years.

-It is reported by Abul Adyan (servant of 11th Imam) that Imam Askari (a) informed him that when he will return after 15 days, he would have passed away. Adyan asked who will be the next Imam. The Imam said, *"The one who will lead my funeral prayers. He will ask you about the replies to my letters and will inform you about the contents of the bag."*

-When Abul Adyan returned, he heard about the demise of the 11th Imam. As funeral prayers were underway, he saw a young boy appeared and removed Jafar (brother of 11th Imam) from leading the prayers. Afterwards, the boy came to Adyan and inquired him about the letters and informed him the exact amount of money that he had carried. That is when Abul Adyan recognized the 12th Imam and he returned him the bag.



# TIMELINE OF IMAM AL-MAHDI (A)



Imam Mahdi (a) had two occultations (*period of concealment*) that were divided into minor and major occultations. The references of these occultations were made by other Imams as well.

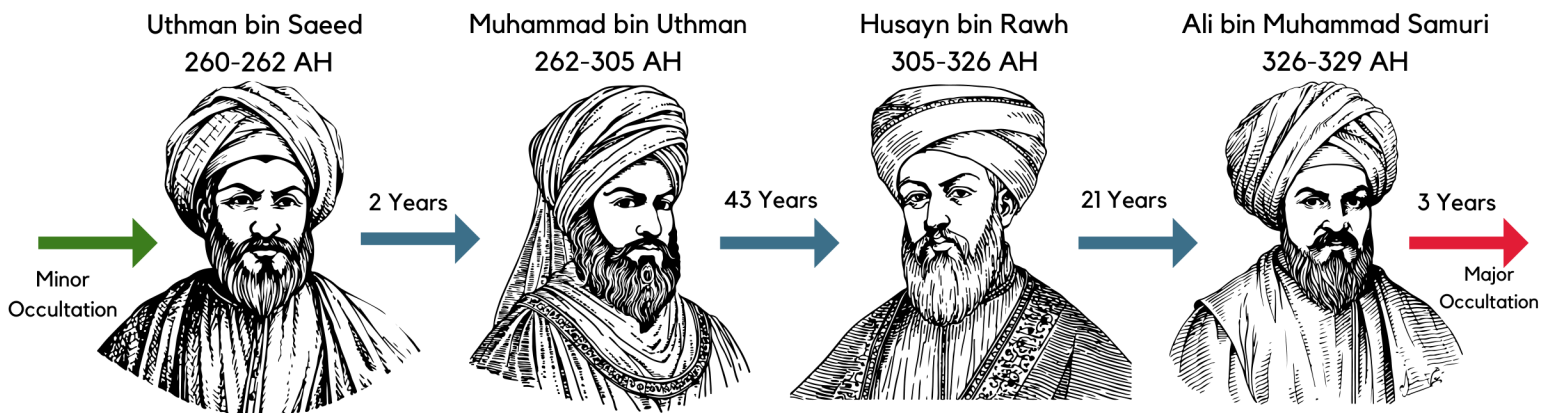
**“The Occultation of the Twelfth Imam would be much prolonged. Those who have faith in his Imamate during his occultation and await his reappearance are the best people of all times.”**

- Imam Zainul Abideen (a)

During the minor occultation, a large number of people met Imam Mahdi (a). To sort their affairs, Imam Mahdi (a) appointed many deputies, but the following four are most recognized amongst the Shias.

## The Period Of Minor Occultation

\*Not actual photos



- His integrity was certified by Imam Ali Naqi (a) & Imam Hasan Askari (a).
- The Imams told the Shias that whatever he said, was truth and from us.
- When he passed away his son, Muhammad Bin Uthman, succeeded him.

- He was appointed by Imam Mahdi (a), who wrote the letter to condole the death of his father which stated:  
*“Your father lived with righteousness and passed away from this world when he was praised. Amongst his merit is that Allah gave him a son like you...”*
- He authored books on Islamic jurisprudence.
- Narrated the attendance of Imam Mahdi (a) on Hajj every year.

- His kuniyya was Abul Qasim. He was from the family of Nawbakhti.
- He managed to keep his activities a secret from the rulers whilst maintaining good relations with them.
- It is to him that we address the 'areeza' to be delivered to Imam.

- He served for only three years. A week before his death he received a letter from Imam telling him of his forthcoming death and that there would be no representative after him. He died on 15th Sha'ban 329 A.H.

# TIMELINE OF IMAM AL-MAHDI (A)



## The Period Of Major Occultation

"O 'Ali b. Muhammad al-Samuri! You will die within six days. So, finish your works and do not recommend anyone as your successor, because the second occultation has now started, and there will be no Reappearance until God permits."

Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 530

Imam Mahdi's (a) instructions to his last deputy.

329 AH: (74 years old)

-The major occultation started after the passing of Muhammad Samuri. The letter which he received days before his death indicated the concept of major occultation.

-During this occultation Imam Mahdi (a) continues to guide all the creations. Many esteemed scholars have reported to communicate with the Imam through letters. Amongst them are Ishaq bin Yaqub, Sheikh Mufid etc...

-The length of this long occultation which is drawn upon us is unknown. But the directions were given to the followers to remain in the constant waiting for the awaited Imam Mahdi (a).

## The Words Of Imams About Occultation

"The best act for the people is waiting for the reappearance of the Imam."

-Imam Ali (a) \*

"A time will come for the people, when their Imam would disappear from them. Thus: glad tidings to those, who remain steadfast on our Imamate during that period.

The best deed at that time is to hold your tongue and remain in your houses."

-Imam Jafar Sadiq (a) \*

"There will be two occultations of the Qaim: a short one and a prolonged one. During the first occultation, only special Shia would know his location; and in the second; none will know his location, except very few selected confidants of the Imam."

Imam Jafar Sadiq (a) \*



\*HAQQUL YAQEEN, PAGE #: 465-467

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## The Role Of The Followers During Occultation:

“There is always enough light for the one who wishes to see.”

-Imam Ali (a)

It is clear in the light of various Ahadith that a momin should always remain in the state of desire to meet and help the Imam (a) of his time. So what should be our responsibility during the time of major occultation?

This is the age of technological advancements and the knowledge is easily accessible to everyone. In fact the light of guidance from the Imams (a) always reaches the creation in every state that they are in, except to the ones who remain in the state of denial and ignorance. The Almighty have stated those people in the following words:

وَمَنْ كَانَ فِي هَذِهِ أَعْمَىٰ فَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا ﴿٧٢﴾

“And whoever is blind in this, he shall (also) be blind in the hereafter; and more erring from the way.”

(Surah Isra, Verse: 72)

It is crucial for the followers of Imam Mahdi (a) to adapt the following habits in this waiting period.



Improve their knowledge related to Qur'an. Be mindful in observing the religious obligations.

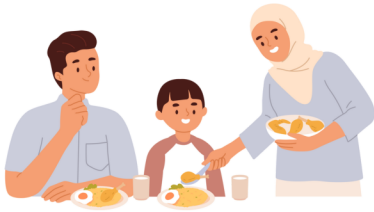


Remain connected with the knowledge of esteemed Marja and scholars to sort their religious affairs.

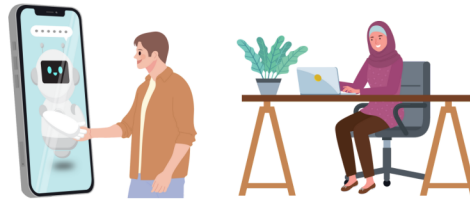


Seek guidance from the Imam. One can write areeza (letter)/ perform certain amal to seek direct guidance from Imam Mahdi (a).

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Keep harmony in their homes.



Learn the latest technology of their time and remain polished with the skills needed to strengthened them financially.



Know how to defend themselves. Keeping up with their physical fitness.



Build a strong relationship with their Momin brothers.

## Removing doubts about Imam Mahdi (a) and his age:



It is narrated that the prolonged occultation will create doubts in the hearts of even those who previously believed in Imam Mahdi (a). Some will also have the doubts about his age. Therefore, it is important to remind oneself about the power and might of the Creator as He has maintained the lives of the following in the past and present:

### Prophets / Scholar that are alive today:

- Hazrat Isaa or Jesus Christ
- Hazrat Idris or Enoch
- Hazrat Ilyas or Elijah
- Hazrat Khizar or Khidr (scholar)

**\*Dajjal bin Saib is alive from the time of Holy Prophet (s)**

### Those who lived a long life:

- Luman bin Aad (3000 years)
- Prophet Nuh ( More than 1000 years)
- Prophet Dhu'l-Qarnayn or Alexander of Rome (was given life twice. In each span he lived for 500 years)

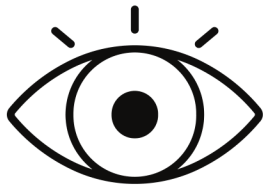
# TIMELINE OF IMAM AL-MAHDI (A)



## The Signs Of His Reappearance / Zahoor

The return or reappearance of Imam Mahdi's (a) is tied with some signs. These are divided into two categories, **essentials and inessentials**. Essential signs are those that must occur before the reappearance of the Imam. Whereas, inessentials signs may or may not complete before his return. These signs are given as a reminder for us to keep up with the preparations of his esteemed return.

### Essential Signs



- The emergence of Dajjal. Scholars have debated on the concept of Dajjal as a human or as the power of corrupt nations. However, it is noted that Dajjal will be defeated by Prophet Isa (a).



- Various narrations state about the series of calls from the sky that will appear before the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (a).
  1. First set of calls will be in the month of Rajab.
  2. The second call will be heard on the 23rd of Ramadan with the glad tidings of his return.
  3. Lastly, the call will be made after Imam Mahdi (a) reappear from Mecca. This will be the invite to join him and his companions. This call will be heard in the entire world.



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## The Signs Of His Reappearance / Zahoor

- The emergence of Suffiyani. His name will be Utman bin Anbah. He will be from the descendant of Yazid bin Mawayiah and will rule over Palestine, Jordan, Damascus etc.
- He will also send his army towards Baghdad, Karbala and Najaf. There will be a bloodshed of Momineen by his army.
- The second group of his army will go to Madina and Mecca but they wont be able to conquer Mecca and will be destroyed in the earthquake.
- His third group will go towards Syria where they will fight the army of Imam Mahdi (a).
- He will eventually die by the army of Imam Mahdi (a) near Jerusalem (Baitul Muqaddas).

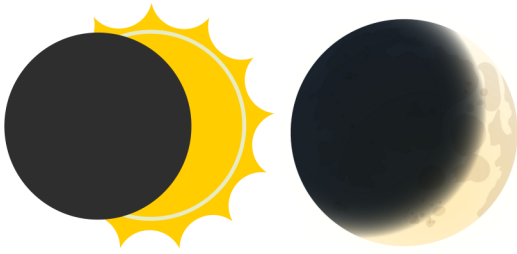


- The emergence of Sayyid Hassni. He will be from the descendant of Imam Hasan (a) and will assist Imam Mahdi (a) in his strategic goals towards forming the government. He will also be the one to ask evidence from Imam Mahdi (a) over his Imamate. Imam Mahdi (a) will satisfy him with concrete evidence which will eventually make everyone understand the Divinely Authority of the Imam.

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## The Signs Of His Reappearance / Zahoor



- One solar eclipse in the middle of the month of Ramadan and towards the end of the month of Ramadan there will also be a lunar eclipse. Both eclipses which will happen in the same month will cause a stir in the world over its unprecedented occurrence.



- The face of the Imam will either appear on the sky or the sun. This will be a sort of an announcement over the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (a).



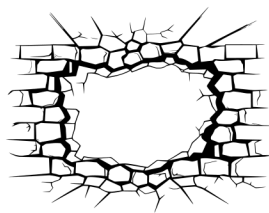
- The murder of Nafs e Zakiyyah. The exact details are hidden over this. However, some pious personality from the descendent of the Holy Prophet (s) will be murdered in the Holy Kaaba near the Maqaam and Rukun.

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## Inessential Signs

There are numerous signs in this category. Majority of them have reoccured or have been completed in past years. Also note that we don't have the geographical recorded history of the past 1000 years of all the incidents. Therefore, one should not set his heart on some signs and assume the time of his immense reappearance. The time of the return of Imam Mahdi (a) is the secret knowledge that belongs to the Almighty Allah (swt) alone.



- The falling of the wall of Masjid al Kufa.
- The famine around the world.
- Excessive earthquakes in various countries.
- Excessive bloodshed.
- One group of humans will change into pigs / monkeys.
- The rise of the black flag from Khurasan.
- Excessive rains in the month of Jamad al Thani and Rajab.
- The sky will turn red.
- Fire that will rise from the East and will stay for either 3 or 7 days.
- The Arabs will engage in non religious lifestyles.
- A bright star will rise from the East. It will be as bright as the moon.

# TIMELINE OF IMAM AL-MAHDI (A)



It is recommended that Momineen should read Dua al Faraj for the reappearance of Imam Mahdi (a) and continuously pray for his safety and return.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

اللَّهُمَّ كُنْ لَوْلِيِّكَ الْحُجَّةِ ابْنِ الْحَسَنِ  
صَلَوَاتِكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آبَائِهِ  
فِي هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ وَفِي كُلِّ سَاعَةٍ

وَلِيًّا وَحَافِظًا

وَقَائِدًا وَنَاصِرًا

وَدَلِيلًا وَعَيْنًا

حَتَّى تُسْكِنَهُ أَرْضَكَ طَوْعًا

وَتُمَتِّعَهُ فِيهَا طَوِيلًا

SOURCES: KITAB AL IRSHAD BY SHEIKH AL MUFID, HAQQUL YAQeen BY ALLAMA MAJLISI, AL-ISLAM, WIKISHIA,  
KISAKIDS, 14 SITAREY, Q FATIMA.