

10 MOST IMPORTANT DUTIES OF A BELIEVER DURING THE OCCULTATION OF IMAM AL-MAHDI (MAY GOD HASTEN HIS REAPPEARANCE)

“Allah makes the believers steadfast with the firm word in this worldly life and the Hereafter. And Allah leaves the wrongdoers to stray. For Allah does what He wills.” [The Holy Quran, 14:27]

It has been narrated from the Prophet (pbuh&hp) that, “The best action of my ummah is awaiting the reappearance.” “Awaiting” is to anticipate the reappearance of the hidden Imam (may God hasten his reappearance) who will fill the earth with justice and equity, just as it had been filled with injustice and inequity. It fundamentally requires two elements:

- Resisting evil, deviation, and misguidance in all its forms
- Doing good and encouraging it in every capacity

The following ten duties, which have been narrated from the Prophet and his infallible Ahl al-Bayt (pbut), are some of the most important examples of these principles.

01

KNOWING IMAM AL-MAHDI

The most fundamental aspect of religion is knowing God Almighty, His messengers, and books, and then knowing their true successors since the creation of Adam (p) to the final successor of the seal of the prophets. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) has said, “whoever does not know the Imam of their time dies a death of ignorance.” In addition, God has said, “On the day when We call every nation with their leaders.” Therefore, one must know the Imam of their time to whom obedience is obligatory, that he is al-Mahdi, son of al-Hasan al-Askari (p).

02

LOVING THE IMAM

Loving the Prophet and his Ahl al-Bayt is an obligation that God has directed in His book, “Say: No reward do I ask of you for except the love of those near of kin.” In the tradition of the heavenly ascension or Miraj, God presented the Prophet’s successors (i.e., the 12 Imams) and said about the last one, “O’ Muhammad, endear him [to your followers] because I love him, and I love those who love him.” As such, believers must increase their love for the Imam, because this will benefit them and manifest in their behavior, manners, and character.



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03

RENEWING ALLEGIANCE TO HIM

Allegiance is a covenant in the heart and attestation with the tongue by pledging to obey, conform, and support. A person who is awaiting the Imam remains prepared and immune from heedlessness and regression. The Supplication of Ahd, or allegiance, states, "O' God, I renew my pledge to him in the morning of this day, and every day that I live, a binding covenant to him within me such that I will never deviate or falter from it ever. O' God, make me of his supporters and helpers, and those who promote his cause and hasten to fulfill his needs." This is a supplication and testament that should be fulfilled every day.

06

PERSISTENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

Those who await the Imam face difficult challenges and trials that may cause doubt in adherence to him and question their belief in his existence. Imam al-Sadiq (p) states that "This matter will not become manifest to you except after [experiencing] despair, and by God, not before [your good] are distinguished [from bad], and by God, not before you are refined [by being tested]." Thus, the solution is to maintain patience, perseverance, and persistence in one's connection to the Imam. God states, "Believers, have patience, help each other with patience, establish good relations with one another, and have fear of God so that you may have everlasting happiness."

04

PRAYING FOR HIM AND PRIORITIZING HIM IN IT

Almighty God says, "Say: My Lord would not concern Himself with you but for your prayer." the Messenger of God states, "Supplication is the essence of worship." Hence, supplication is essential in a person's relationship with their Creator. One of the best types of supplication is praying for the hastening of the reappearance of the Imam of the time. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) states, "Increase your supplication for the hastening of reappearance because that will mean relief for you."

07

CALLING PEOPLE TO KNOW HIM

It is the obligation of all enlightened believers to teach the uninformed, awaken the oblivious, and remind the knowledgeable about the Imam. Imam al-Kadhim (p) states, "Whoever aids someone who loves us against our enemy, giving them strength and encouragement... God Almighty will resurrect them on the Day of Judgment in the highest levels of Paradise."

05

OBSERVING PIETY AND GOOD ETHICS

No matter how much a person attains [and claims] faith, belief, and certainty, it remains internalized until it is reflected in their behavior and actions. A person who truly believes in the Imam and sincerely awaits him must engender what pleases God, His Messenger, and the Imam of their time. Imam al-Sadiq (p) states, "Whoever would like to be among the companions of the Qaim [Imam Mahdi] should observe and perform acts of piety and good manners while waiting."

08

ALMSGIVING ON HIS BEHALF AND PAYING HIS RIGHT OF KHUMS

In regards to God's saying, "You will not attain virtue until you spend what you love," Imam al-Sadiq (p) states, "it (i.e., spending of good) is the annual connection to the Imam, however much it may be, and I want for you to be purified [by it]." Thus, it is necessary to fulfill what is required in paying khums. It has been narrated in a letter from the Imam that "whoever fears their Lord of your brothers in religion and pays their dues to those who deserve it will be safe from the difficult trial and its dark misleading difficulties. Whereas those who are miserly in paying their dues, on that which God has bestowed on them, to those who they have been commanded to assist will be in a manifest loss from beginning to end."

09

REJECTING THE STATEMENTS OF THOSE WHO SET A TIME [FOR HIS REAPPEARANCE]

Anyone who sets and declares a specific time, claiming it to be when the Imam will reappear is attempting to interpret the unknown without knowledge, which is prohibited. Moreover, the Imam's reappearance will be sudden. Imam al-Sadiq (p) states, "Anyone who sets a time, do not be afraid of rejecting them. Verily, we do not set a time for anyone."

10

REJECTING THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE HIS DEPUTY

Some people who have gone astray use times of difficulty for their own despicable agendas by taking advantage of people who need help. The Imam attested to this fact in his renowned instructions to his fourth and final deputy during the minor occultation, "the second occultation has come, so there will be no appearance until God Almighty gives permission...some will come to my followers claiming to have seen me. Surely, whoever claims to have seen me before the emergence of the Sufyani and the announcement [of Jibrail] is a lying slanderer."