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Imam Hasan bin Ali

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Publisher's Word

Imamate, which means leadership, is a principle of Islam that is probably one of the most debated and, at the same time, most misunderstood of all its principles. Even the word “Imam” has been taken on as a general term of leader, where, in Islam it has a very precise designation.

The Imams of the Ahlul Bayt (as) were not leaders chosen by the people, although many times in order to take their rightful position among the ummah they were “selected” by the people. The true Imams, those descending from the first Imam, ‘Ali bin Abi-Talib (as) and Fatimah al-Zahra (as) were chosen by

Allah, Most High and number, including Imam 'Ali, twelve.

These twelve, Fatimah (as) and the Messenger of Allah (S) make up the Ahlul-Bayt (as). They were pure, sinless and possessed Divine knowledge of the seen and unseen. They are those who were “deemed weak in the land” and upon whom the “favor of Imamate” was bestowed. May they intercede for us on the Day of Judgment.

In these series of books about the Ahlul Bayt (as), Al-Balagh Foundation hopes to clear up many of the distorted “historical facts” about this most blessed group of human beings, may Allah, Most Gracious, count us among their lovers and followers.

The purpose of Imamate, through the kindness and love of Allah for His creatures, was to provide a guide for us after the death of the last Prophet, Muhammad bin Abdullah (S). These guides would keep us on the straight path and lead us to victory in this life and the next. The first of them was Imam 'Ali (as) and the last of them is Imam al-Mahdi, the Awaited One (as).

Eleven of these blessed Imams came to power and proceeded with their Divinely assigned task. All of them met with the same fate –assassination.

The last of them, Imam Mahdi, through Allah's most high grace, has been given a long life to manage the affairs of the ummah in occultation until Allah calls him forward to achieve the task for which he was created – to bring justice to a world filled with injustice and to bring mankind to its final stage.

This book is about the second Imam, Imam Hasan (as). He was the son of the first Imam who received his commission upon the death of his father, may Allah allow us to be called his Shi'ah. Many erroneous accounts have been given about Imam Hasan (as), the most treacherous of them being about the number of wives he had and attributing worldly passions to him, God forbid! The most misunderstood and underestimated act of this great Imam was the signing of a peace treaty with the usurper Mu'awiyah.

A large portion of this book has been dedicated to clarifying this treaty. Why it was made, why Imam Hasan (as) was forced to sign it. What it contained and how it was broken.

We pray that Allah is pleased with our efforts and that the true glory of this Imam shines forth for all to see.

Introduction

Praise be to Allah, the Praiseworthy, and peace and the blessing of Allah be upon the choice of His Messengers, Muhammad, and on the chosen people from among his ummah, his pure household and

his righteous companions.

Leaving aside what the “official” historians have written and the fabrications, lies and falsehoods they have made, we will see that the majority of unbiased analysts and the common biographers recounted the life of Imam Hasan bin ‘Ali (as), the Prophet's grandson, with no analysis or explanation about the great and unique position he took towards Mu'awiyah bin Abu Sufyan.

It is axiomatic that one cannot evaluate any historical event devoid of its major heroes, causes, reasons, the circumstances that led to it, and its results. Given objective, comprehension and unbiased examination into the event, the judgment can be correct, and the conclusion sound. History can, thus, say the truth.

The basil of the Messenger of Allah, peace and the blessings of Allah be with him and his progeny, the pure Imam Hasan bin ‘Ali, peace be with him, drew the most excellent image of political expertise and clever sense of jihad (Holy War), by his move against Mu'awiyah. It is not because he chose to seek peace or compromise that he agreed to a treaty in the Year of Unity as it was later called. It was because he wished to disclose the veiled falsities, and foil the plot of the unbelievers with the conditions he stipulated in the treaty with Mu'awiyah. Imam Hasan (as) was sure Mu'awiyah wouldn't honor any one of them. That is exactly what had happened. Mu'awiyah put the terms of the treaty under his foot!

Moreover, Hasan (as) wanted to reserve his brother, Husayn (as) for the Day of Taff (sacrifice). By so doing, the epic would be consummated. The family of the Messenger of Allah (S) would attain martyrdom. No child, youth or grown-up would be spared. The family of the Prophet, the trusts of Allah, the Compassionate, would be taken captive from Karbala to Yazid bin Mu'awiyah, bound up in fetters and shackles.

In signing and agreeing to this treaty, Imam Hasan (as) aimed at perpetuating the steadfastness of the right in the face of the falsehood, and supporting the uprising of the mujahidin (those who fight in the way of Allah) against any deviation from Islam.

In presenting “Rays from the Life of Imam Hasan bin ‘Ali (as)”, Al-Balagh Foundation hopes the present Muslim generation would find in it the light which brightens their path towards Allah, the Most High, and a flame which sharpens their determination, and solidifies their will to fight the enemies of Islam and humanity.

Allah, the Most High, is certainly, the best Patron, and best Supporter.

Glorious House

The companions of the Prophet (S) competed with one another to win the hand of Fatimah Al-Zahra (as), his only surviving child. They all knew the great status and high position she enjoyed in Islam. She was part of the Chosen Prophet (S), his beloved daughter, and the chief of Women of the World.

The Messenger of Allah (S) turned down all his companions' offers to marry Fatimah (as).

One day Imam 'Ali (as) was told of some of the companion's proposals. He heard of the Messenger's objection to her marriage to any of his companions. He felt a desire to go to the Messenger (S) and ask for his daughter's hand.

Before Imam 'Ali's (as) call on the Prophet (S), to tell him of his desire, Jibr'il (as) had informed the Messenger (S) of the command of Allah, the Exalted and High, to marry Fatimah to 'Ali (as).

The Divine command, as related by the Holy Revelation, was:

"...O Muhammad Allah, the Most high, sends His greeting to you, and says to you: "I have certainly married Fatimah, your daughter, to 'Ali bin Abi Talib in heaven. So marry her to him on the earth." 1

Imam 'Ali (as) knocked on the door of the room of Um-Salamah, may Allah be pleased with her. The Messenger of Allah (S) was inside. The Messenger of Allah (S) told him to come in. Imam 'Ali (as) seated himself next to the Messenger (S) who said to him:

"I see that you have come on business – Tell me about it. Unburden your soul. Any of your requests are granted..."

Imam 'Ali (as) told his dear leader that he desired Fatimah's hand. On hearing this, the Prophet's face lit up. He went to Al-Zahra (as) to tell her of 'Ali's request. By doing so, he set an eternal Islamic concept that marriage should be based on mutual consent and agreement, so that the future family would be built on co-operation, love and peace.

The Messenger of Allah said to his daughter:

"'Ali bin Abi-Talib is known to you, in his closeness (to us), his merits and profession of Islam...he talked about you. What do you say?"

Fatimah al-Zahra (as) was too shy to say a word. Silence fell on the room and lingered.

The Prophet (S) kept looking at her countenance. Satisfaction and consent were clearly drawn on it. Presently, he went out, repeating from the depths of his pure heart:

Allah is great! Her Silence signals her consent!”

As soon as he returned to Imam ‘Ali (as), the Prophet (S) asked him:

“Do you have anything with which I marry you (to Fatimah)?”

Once more, the Messenger (S) established an Islamic rule for his ummah throughout its generations which stipulates that the man should import the dowry to his wife as the first sign of maintenance, and of his responsibility of managing the affairs of the family.

Imam ‘Ali had nothing beside his sword, a camel for watering his field, and his coat of mail. He told the Prophet (S) of it. The Prophet (S) said:

“As for the sword, you cannot do without it; with it you strive in the way of Allah and fight the enemies of Allah. With your camel you water your date-palms and on it bring water to your family. When you travel you carry luggage on it.”

He ordered Imam ‘Ali (as) not to sell his sword and camel but allowed him to sell his coat of mail which was given to him by the Prophet (S), to protect him from the strikes of the enemies.

Imam ‘Ali (as) sold his coat of mail and brought the money to the Messenger of Allah (S) to buy the bride's trousseau.

The Holy Prophet (S) delivered the money to Bilal, Salman and Um-Salamah. They were assigned with the task of buying the needed furniture, perfumes, and clothes. They bought good, simple things.

The Messenger of Allah (S) wanted to inform the Muslims of al-Zahra's betrothal to ‘Ali (as). He gathered some of his companions to witness the ceremony of the blessed contract of marriage. He addressed them in the following words:

“Praise be to Allah, Who is praised through His favors, worshiped through His power, obeyed through His authority. He is the One feared, due to His trials and punishment, Whose order is executed in His heavens and earth. He created the creatures by His power, distinguished them with His laws, strengthened them with His religion, and honored them with His Messenger, Muhammad. Allah, may His name be blessed, and His greatness be high, made marriage an attached lineage and an ordained duty by which He solidified family ties and drew people together. He, the Mighty, says:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ الْمَاءِ بَشَرًا فَجَعَلَهُ نَسَبًا وَصِهْرًا ۗ وَكَانَ رَبُّكَ قَدِيرًا

“And He it is Who has created man from the water then. He has made for him blood-relationship and marriage-relationship and your Lord is Powerful.” Holy Qur'an (25:54)

“Allah's command certainly is executed as His decree. And His decree is obeyed as it is His will. Every decree is issued at a certain time, and every time has a duration, and every duration is fixed. Allah confirms or abrogates what he pleases. His is the Eternal Book. Allah, the Most High, ordered me to marry Fatimah, the daughter of Khadijah, to ‘Ali bin Abi Talib. Bear witness that I have married him (to Fatimah) with a dowry of four hundred mithqals (unit of weight equal to about 5 grams) of silver. That is, it ‘Ali bin Abi Talib agrees to that.”

Then he called for a dish of dates. It was placed in front of the gathering.

“Partake of it,” the Prophet (S) ordered, and they ate.

All were eating when Imam ‘Ali (as) entered. The Prophet (S) smiled. Then he said: *“Allah has ordered me to give to you Fatimah, in marriage with a dowry of four hundred mithqals of silver if you agree to it.”*

“I agree to it, O Messenger of Allah,” ‘Ali replied.

Anas said: *“The Prophet said: ‘May Allah strengthen the bond that connects you, make your grandfather happy, bless you, and cause you to produce much good.’”*

“By Allah,” Anas said, *“He caused them to produce much good.”*²

Before one month had slipped by after the ceremony of the contract of marriage, Aqeel bin Abi Talib, may Allah be pleased with him, contacted his brother, Imam ‘Ali (as), urging him to consummate the marriage.

“Why do you not?” he asked. *“Ask the Messenger of Allah (S) to bring her (to your house), so that your happiness, by your union, will be completed.”*

They agreed to approach the Messenger of Allah (S) on the matter. But before doing anything, they met with Um–Ayman Barakah, the daughter of Tha'labah, a respected woman and consulted her. She suggested that she would talk about it to the mothers of the faithful (Prophet's wives), who would, in turn, talk to the Messenger of Allah (S).

The women met with the Prophet (S). Um–Salamah, on behalf of them, explained the matter to the Messenger of Allah (S). He sent for ‘Ali. When he came, the Prophet asked him:

“Do you want your wife to be brought to your house?”

“Yes,” the Imam replied.

“With pleasure.” the Messenger (S) agreed. Then the Noble Prophet (S) asked Imam ‘Ali (as) to make a feast for the faithful. The wives of the Prophet (S) themselves cooked the food. The guests enjoyed it.

Then the Messenger of Allah (S) ordered Um–Salamah and the rest of his wives to take Fatimah to her

new house. A procession presently started off led by the Prophet (S) chanting: *“There is no god but Allah,”* and *“Allah is great.”*

The wives of the Prophet (S) recited some verses from the Holy Qur'an in honor of the occasion.

After the wedding ceremony, the Messenger of Allah (S) came to congratulate Imam 'Ali (as). He said to him:

“May Allah bless you on account of the daughter of the Messenger of Allah.”

He took a bowl of water, recited some Qur'anic verses over it, and ordered Imam 'Ali and Al-Zahra (as) to drink from it. Then he sprinkled a bit of it on their heads and faces and held his hands up in prayer:

“O Lord! They are the most beloved of the creatures to me. Bless their offspring and protect them. I command them and their descendants into Your protection from the accursed Satan.”

Thus glory dwelt in the most honored house. The school of Imamate was built in the shade of the revelation and the message. It was made under the care of Allah, in the light of His Shari'ah and His righteous path. These ceremonies speak volumes of Islam's simplicity and ease. It is Islam that responds to the needs of the spirit and the body. It doesn't flee in the face of human nature. It is harmonious with life, and the status quo, with no pretension, imposition or injustice.

1. Al-Hafidh Muhibul-Deen al-Tabari (died 894 A.H), Dhakha'ir al-Uqba (Treasures of the Hereafter), 1387 A.H/1967 AD ed., p.32.

2. Ibid., p.30.

What A Baby!

On the fifteenth of the holy month of Ramadhan, in the third year after Hijrah (migration), the Prophetic house announced the birth of the first grandson of the Prophet (S). This good news was given to the Chosen Prophet (S). A look of joy covered his noble face and happiness flooded his heart. He hastened to the house of his daughter, the chaste Zahra, to communicate his congratulations and show his delight.

The blessed newborn baby was taken to him, in the arms of Um-Salamah, or in another version, Asma', daughter of Umays. The Prophet (S) received him with the whole of his pure existence. He carried him in his arms. He kissed him and pressed him to his chest. Then he said the call to prayer (adhan) in his right ear and recited the call to begin the prayer (iqamah) in his left ear. The first voice that embraced the newborn hearing and entity was, thus, the voice of right.

The Holy Prophet (S) turned to Imam ‘Ali (as) and asked him:

“What name did you give my son?”

“I wouldn't precede you in doing it,” Imam ‘Ali (as) replied.

“Nor would I precede my Lord,” averred the Prophet (S). 13

No sooner did this short dialogue take place between the Messenger (S) and his trustee, about the name of the new baby, than the Divine, Holy revelation came to the Messenger of Allah (S) telling him that Allah, the Glorified, had named the baby, Hasan. 24

That was the first phase of the Islamic rituals in honouring Imam Hasan (as), the noble baby.

1. Ibid., p. 120.

2. Tawfeeq Abu–Alam, Ahlul Bayt/Imam Hasan, 1st ed., 1970, p.264. Al–Majalis al–Saniyyah (Bright Assemblies), vol.2, Sayyid Muhsin al–Ameen al–Amili, Life of Imam Hasan (as).

Prophet's Grandson In The Book And Sunnah

Imam Hasan (as), the grandson of the Prophet of Allah (S), like the rest of Ahlul–Bayt (as), enjoys a high position in the Book of Allah, the Most High, and the sunnah of His Messenger (S).

The Holy Qur'an, the constitution of the ummah, and Islam's eternal miracle, has many verses which speak volumes of the position of Imam Hasan (as), and Ahlul–Bayt in the sight of Allah, the Most High, and His Message, including:

1. The verse of Purification (Tathir):

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ لِيُذْهِبَ عَنْكُمُ الرِّجْسَ أَهْلَ الْبَيْتِ وَيُطَهِّرَكُمْ تَطْهِيرًا

“...Allah only desires to keep away the uncleanness from you O people of the house! And to purify you a (thorough) purifying.” Holy Qur'an (33:33)

It is reported that the reason the Verse of al–Tathir (purification) was revealed was that the Prophet (S) called for a Khaibari cloak (made in Khaibar), and covered Fatimah, Imams ‘Ali, Hasan and Husayn (as)

with it, and said:

“O Lord! These are my family. So keep away uncleanness from them and purify them.” 15

In response to the prayer of the Prophet (S), this ayah was revealed. It is a witness, given by Allah, in the Holy Qur'an, about the purity of Ahlul Bayt (as), and that they were Islam incarnate.

2. The Verse of Malediction (Mubahalah):

فَقُلْ تَعَالَوْا نَدْعُ أَبْنَاءَنَا وَأَبْنَاءَكُمْ وَنِسَاءَنَا وَنِسَاءَكُمْ وَأَنْفُسَنَا وَأَنْفُسَكُمْ ثُمَّ نَبْتَهِلْ
فَنَجْعَلْ لَعْنَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْكَاذِبِينَ

“...come let us call our sons and your sons and our women and your women and our near people and your near people,...” Holy Qur'an (3:61)

The exegetes, in explaining the cause of the revelation of this verse known as the verse of al-Mubahalah (malediction), say that the Christians of Najran agreed with the Messenger of Allah (S) to pray to Allah to kill the parry which espoused falsehood. The Messenger of Allah (S) went out accompanied only by his family; Fatimah, Imams 'Ali, Hasan and Husayn (as) to the contest.

When the Christians saw the blessed faces which the Messenger (S) had brought with him to pray to Allah for death on the liars, they backed out offering some excuse. They yielded to his authority and paid him the jizyah (a tax paid by the non-Muslims who live in the Islamic state).

As we can see, the holy verse calls Imams Hasan and Husayn (as) *“our sons”*, and the Holy Prophet (S) and Imam 'Ali (as) *“ourselves”*, while Her Holiness Fatimah Al-Zahra (as) represented the women of all the Muslims, as she is called *“our women”*. It is a frank, and incontrovertible proof of the great stature of Ahlul Bayt in the eyes of Allah and His Messenger (S).

3. The verse of Affection (Mawaddah):

قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ

“...Say: I do not ask of you any reward for it but love for my near relatives...” Holy Qur'an (42:23)

Exegetes say that this ayah called al-Muwaddah (love) was revealed concerning 'Ali, Fatimah, Hasan and Husayn (as). The two sahihs (authentic books of hadith), Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal (Book of Hadith with complete chains of transmission), the Qur'anic exegesis of al-Tha'labi, and the Qur'anic

exegesis of bin Abbas quotes bin Abbas as saying:

“When the verse ‘...say: I do not ask of you any reward for it..’ was revealed, they (the Muslims) asked: ‘O Messenger of Allah! who are your relations whom you ordered us to love?’ ‘Ali,’ he replied, ‘Fatimah, and her two sons.’” 26

Imam ‘Ali bin Husayn (as), Sa‘id bin Jubair, Amru bin Shu‘aib, Abu–Ja‘far, and Imam Husayn (as) quoted the Messenger of Allah (S) as having said when asked about the interpretation of the verse, *‘To love my relatives...’* 37

If we confine ourselves to these few verses, the lofty position in the eyes of Allah, of Imam Hasan (as), the grandson of the Messenger of Allah (S), and all of Ahlul Bayt, becomes clear. We deem it useful to cite some other texts, however, conveyed from the Messenger of Allah (S) about Imam Hasan (as), and his high status in the world of Islam, and in the sight of the leading Prophet (S):

1. Al–Bukhari and Muslim report on the authority of al Bara‘, that he said: *“I saw the Messenger of Allah (S) carrying Hasan bin ‘Ali (as) on his shoulder. He was saying: ‘O Lord! I love him, so love him.’”*
2. Al–Tirmidhi reports from bin Abbas as saying: *“The Messenger of Allah (S) was carrying Hasan bin ‘Ali (as), when a man said: “What an excellent mount you are riding, lad.” “What an excellent rider he is,” the Holy Prophet (S) replied.”*
3. Al Hafid Abu–Na‘im reports on the authority of Abu Bakr, who said: *“The Messenger of Allah (S) was leading us in prayer. Hasan, who was still a child, would come to him while he was in prostration, and sit on his back or sometimes on his neck. The Prophet (S) would lift him tenderly. When the prayer was finished, they (the Muslims) asked him: ‘O Messenger of Allah! You are doing to this boy what you do not do to another person?’ ‘He is my basil,’ he replied.”*
4. Anas bin Malik said: *“The Messenger of Allah (S) was asked: ‘Who is most loved by you from among your family?’ ‘Hasan and Husayn,’ he answered.”*
5. A‘ishah reports that *“the Prophet would pick up Hasan and embrace him and say: ‘O Lord! This is my son, and I love him. Love him, and love who loves him.’”*
6. Jabir bin Abdullah says: *“The Messenger of Allah (S) said: ‘He who pleases to look at the Lord of the Youths of Paradise, let him look at Hasan bin ‘Ali.’”*
7. Ya‘la bin Murrah says: *“We went with the Prophet (S) to a feast, to which we were invited. We ran into Hasan (as) who was playing near the road. The Holy Prophet (S) went ahead of the people hurriedly, and put out his hand to the boy. Then he pretended to pass by Hasan one time on his right hand, and another time on his left hand, to make the boy laugh. Then he approached him. He put one hand on his neck and the other on his head. Presently he embraced and kissed him. Then he said: ‘Hasan is from me and I am from him. Allah loves whoever loves him.’”*

8. Al-Ghazali in his book, *Al-Ihya'* (Revival), reports that the Prophet (S) had said to Hasan: *"You resemble me in my appearance and disposition."* 4

This is only a small number of the narratives about Imam Hasan (as). He who wants more should refer to: *Yanabee al-Muwaddah* (Springs of Love), by al-Qandoozi al-Hanafi, *Fada'il al-Khamasah min al-Sihah al-Sittah* (Outstanding Merits of the Five Persons from the Six Authentic Books of Hadith), by al-Firoozabadi, *Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal*, *Tadhkirat al-Khawas* (Reminder of the Pious), by Sibt Bin al-Jawzi, etc.

Through the Holy Qur'an, the Prophet's sunnah, and the many books of authentic ahadith, the exalted position of the Prophet's beloved grandson, Imam Hasan, becomes undeniable.

1. This tradition was reported by Muslim in his *Sahih* (Authentic Book of Tradition), al-Tirmidhi in his *Sahih*, al-Nisa'i in *al-Khasa'is* (Characteristics), al-Tabari in his Qur'anic exegesis, and others, *Sahih Muslim* mentions it in the 4th volume, No. 2424, through A'ishah, in a slightly different wording. For more details, refer to: al-Firoozabadi, *Fadha'il al-Khamsah fi al-Sihah al-Sittah* (Outstanding Merits of the Five in the Six Sahihis).

2. *Dhakhar'ir al-Uqba*, p.25.

3. *Ibid.*, p.28

4. We chose these authentic traditions from: Bin al-Sabbagh al-Maliki, *Al-Fusool al-Muhimmah* (Important Chapters), *Tawfeeq Abu-Alam*, *I'lam al-Wara* (Informing humankind), al-Tabarsi, *Ahlul Bayt*, and *Sayy'id Muhsin al-Ameen al-Amili*, *al-Majalis al-Saniyyah*. They were reported in many books other than these.

Imam Hasan's Character

The researcher who examines the life of the Holy Prophet's grandson, Imam Hasan and his brother, Imam Husayn (as), can't help drawing the conclusion that they enjoyed a high level of education and spiritual and ideological upbringing, which no other person had won next to their grandfather (S), mother and father (as).

The imprints of the revelation and Divine care marked their characters, in all its aspects, ingredients and angles. They were highly refined and brought up in line with Islam's teachings by their grandfather, the Messenger of Allah (S), their father, Imam 'Ali (as), and their mother Fatimah Al-Zahra (as), through excellent examples and direct daily guidance.

Although they lost both their grandfather and mother at an early age, their upbringing suffered no interruption. Their father, Imam 'Ali bin Abi Talib (as), the disciple of the Messenger of Allah (S), and the graduate from the school of Divine revelation, who was the beacon for the people, was alive, throwing his shade over them. There is no doubt that Imams Hasan and Husayn (as) wound up in the stage of

Divine preparation.

They were prepared to shoulder the responsibility of the Divine message, in form and content. The ultimate result was that both Imams Hasan and Husayn (as) became Islam personified, walking on the earth.

As the ingredients of the characters of the two Imams were the same, they were singular in their behavior, march, steps and goals, which were Islamic in their entirety.

Spiritual Side

The excellent preparation which was provided for the grandson of the Holy Prophet (S), helped his spiritual entity to sublimate. His closeness to Allah, and his attachment to Him was a source of awe and respect.

Following are a few narratives which shed light on this side of his character:

Imam al-Sadiq (as) said:

“Hasan bin ‘Ali (as) was certainly the most true worshiper, ascetic and merited man among the people of his time.”

Rawdhat al-Waideen (Orchard of the Preachers) mentions that whenever *“Hasan would do his ablution, he would tremble and his face would turn pale. He was asked about it, and he replied: ‘It is only natural that one who stands in the presence of the Lord of the Throne turns ashen, and trembles...’*“

Imam al-Sadiq (as) is also reported to have said:

“Hasan bin ‘Ali (as) had certainly gone to Hajj twenty-five times on foot. He shared his property with Allah twice...or three times.”

‘Ali bin Jadh'an, and Abu Na'im report in Hulyat al-Awaliya (Ornament of the Saints) and Tabaqat bin Sa'd (Castes of bin Sa'd) that Imam Hasan had given all his money to the needy twice, seeking Allah's pleasure, and had given half his money to the needy three times. He would even give a single shoe and retain the other, and give a single sandal and retain the other. When he approached the door of the mosque, he would say: *'O Lord! Your guest is at Your gate. O Generous! The transgressor has come to You. Forgive me my ugly deeds with Your Generosity. O Generous!'*

When he remembered death he wept. When he thought of the grave he wept. When he thought of the Resurrection and Day of Judgment he gasped so deeply and painfully that he fainted because of it.

When he recited the Qur'an and came across a verse addressing the faithful by these words: 'O you who believe...', he said: 'Here I am, my Lord, here I am...'

Scientific Side

If a living, receptive mind is rated as the mainstay of the Islamic character, and if the Messenger of Allah (S) and the guiding Imams of Ahlul-Bayt (as) had ascended to the top peg of the ladder of Islamic characteristics due to their direct subjugation to the Divine preparation, Imam Hasan (as), the grandson of the Prophet (S), as well as all of the blessed, guiding Imams (as) were pioneering activists in the sphere of thought. They had no match in that.

This can be attributed to the nature of their upbringing and the care they were favored with. All of the rightly guided Imams either received their education directly from the Messenger or indirectly from the preceding Imam.

As for the new questions and developments of life, the sublime, inner entity of the Imam himself; and his boundless spirituality, qualified him for self-acquired knowledge. That is why the Muslim orators dubbed the knowledge of the Imams, from the perspective of the "present knowledge". An Imam wouldn't need to be tutored or taught by others in this respect. He acquired knowledge by means of direct inspiration.

Inspiration, as it is known, is something different from revelation. Any good-natured reader would realize this fact, through his research into the lives of the Holy Imams (as). History would never stop hesitantly to say that an Imam found difficulty in any branch of knowledge. Nor, would it say that he couldn't offer and answer a question, inquiry or problem, either ideological, religious, scientific, or in any other field. Following are a number of reports about Imam Hasan's (as) vast knowledge.

A. Hasan al-Basri wrote to Imam Hasan (as), asking him about the Divine decree. The grandson of the Messenger of Allah (S) answered him in these words:

"Mind you, he who does not believe that all sudden incidents that happen, be they good or bad, are known earlier by Allah, is an infidel. He who blames sins on Allah, is unchaste. Allah is not obeyed against His will. He is not sinned against by force. He does not leave aside His servants in His Kingdom. He is the Owner of what He gives to them. He is the Powerful over whatever He puts at the disposal of them.

Nay, He orders them with no coercion, and prohibits them as a warning. If they opt to obey him, none would stand in their way, and if they choose to sin, He may prevent them from doing it. But if He does not, He is not to blame, because it is not He Who forces them to do it, or compels them into committing it

against their will.

But He does them a favor by opening their eyes, teaching, warning, ordering and prohibiting them. He does not force them to do what He orders, so as to be like the angels, not does He pressure them to keep away from what He forbids. Allah's is certainly the conclusive argument. If Allah willed, He would have guided you to the right path..." 19

By these eloquent, concise words the Imam explains one of the most complicated, and thorny matters of thought. It was so difficult, that many intellectuals were perplexed and at a loss because of it. Moreover, it gave rise to extremely fanatical groups.

Imam Hasan (as), however, expressively shows his profound and pristine knowledge in Islamic sciences. This discloses Imam Hasan's (as) firm connection with the fountainhead of the Message and its original concepts.

B. *"What is asceticism?"* the Imam was once asked.

"The desire to be pious and abstemious in this life," he replied.

"What is forbearance?" he was asked.

"Restraining one's anger and controlling oneself," he answered.

"What is righteousness?" he was asked.

"Replacing the bad with the good," came the answer.

"What is honor?" they asked.

"Being kind to one's relatives and shouldering people's burdens of sin."

"What is the succor?" he was asked.

"Defending the neighbor, patience in war, and advance during adversities," he said.

"What is glory?" he was asked.

"Giving while being in debt and forgiving others their offenses."

"What is manliness?"

"Holding onto the faith, keeping one's self-respect, being merciful, being kind, giving back people's trusts, and ingratiating oneself to the people..." 210

C. A man from Syria asked Imam Hasan (as):

“What distance is between the right and the falsehood?”

“Four fingers,” the Imam replied. “What you see with your own eye is the right. You may hear a lot of falsehoods with your ear.”

“What distance is between faith and certitude?” the Syrian asked.

“Four fingers,” Imam Hasan (as) again answered. “The faith is what we hear, and certitude is what we see.”

“What is the distance between the sky and the heaven?” asked the Syrian.

“The prayer of the wronged,” replied Imam.

“What is the distance between the east and west?” asked the Syrian.

“A day’s travel of the sun,” said the Imam. 3

D. Imam Hasan (as) is reported to have said:

“O people! He who is faithful to Allah, taking His words as a beacon, is guided to that which is most upright. Allah helps him to attain righteousness and leads him to goodness. The neighbor of Allah is certainly secure and protected. His enemy is fearful and in failure. Be cautious of Allah’s wrath by much remembrance of Him. Fear Allah by piety and draw close to Allah by obeying Him. He is Near and Answering. Allah, the Blessed and Most High, says:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۗ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا
لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

“And when My servants ask you concerning Me, then surely I am very near; I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he calls on Me, so they should answer My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way.” Holy Qur’an (2: 186)

Imam Hasan (as) continued,

“Be obedient to Allah, and have faith in Him. It is unbecoming of him who grasps the greatness of Allah, to be haughty. The loftiness of those who know the greatness of Allah is expressed in their modesty, and those who know the highness of Allah in humbleness before Him. The safety of those who know the power of Allah is expressed in their surrender to Him, undeniable after they have known the truth, and not straying after they have been guided. You should know for sure that you will not attain piety until after you have known the nature of guidance. You will not hold onto the covenant of the Book until after

you have known those who turned their backs on it. You will not recite it as you should, until after you have known those who tried to distort it.

Having known that, you can know the innovations and pretensions, see the lies against Allah and the distortion, and see how those who go astray will fall aside. Do not be influenced by the ignorant. Seek the knowledge from its bearers. They are the light with which one can enlighten oneself. They are the rightful Imams whom one can follow.

With their existence, knowledge revives and ignorance fades away. They are those whose knowledge tells you about the non-existence of ignorance in them, the way of their reasoning about the soundness of their judgments, their appearance about their inner self. They do not go against the right, nor do they differ on it. Allah set a sunnah for them, and issued His verdict on them. It is a reminder for those who want to remember. Understand what I say when you hear it, take care to act in compliance with it, and do not try to grasp it as if it were conveyed to you by the word of mouth. It is because the transmitters of the Book are many, but those who preserve it are few. Allah is the One Whose support is sought.” 412

E. One day Imam Hasan (as) was asked about politics. He said:

“Politics means observing the rights of Allah and the rights of the living and the rights of the dead. Rights of Allah are that you should obey His orders, and avoid what He forbids. Rights of the living are that you should observe your duty to your brothers, and not tarry in serving your ummah. You should be faithful to the one in authority among you as long as he is faithful to his ummah. You should speak up in his face should he deviate from the right path. Rights of the dead are that you should remember their good deeds and overlook their bad ones. They have a Lord Who shall ask them about whatever they did.”

1. Tuhaf al-Uqool an Aal al-Rasool (S) (Treasures of Reasons About the Family of the Messenger (S)), chapter of what was reported about Hasan (as), 5th ed., p. 166.

2. Ibid., p. 162.

3. Manaqib Aal Abi-Talib, chapter on the Imamate of Abu-Muhammad al-Hasan (as).

4. Tuhaf al-Uqool an Aal al-Rasool, chapter of what was reported from Imam Hasan (as), p. 163.

Ethical Side

Covering this aspect of the character of the grandson of the Prophet (S) by no means signifies a difference among the guiding Imams (as) in this respect, or in any other ingredient of the ideal Islamic character. They are equal in this. We will confine ourselves to presenting some narratives of the Imam's behavior with the people. We hope that his morals are the ones which we adopt and follow.

His Modesty

It is reported that he once chanced upon some poor men who put a few crumbs of bread on the ground in front of them which they had earlier picked up from the road. They were eating them. They invited him to eat with them. He accepted the invitation and said:

“Certainly Allah does not like the proud.”

Having finished eating with them he invited them to his house. He showered them with money, fed and clothed them.

1. Imam Hasan (as) reportedly passed by some boys who were eating. They invited him to share their food with them. He accepted their invitation, then called them to his house and generously rewarded them.

2. It is reported that he was sitting in some place. When the Imam (as) rose to go, a poor man came in. The Imam (as) greeted him, and spoke kindly to him. *“You have come at the time when I was taking leave,”* he said to the man. *“Do you permit me to go?”* *“Yes, O son of the Messenger of Allah,”* replied the man.

His Kindness To The Wrongdoers

1. He once found out that an ewe had a broken leg. He called one of his slaves and asked him: *“Who did it?”*

“I,” the slave answered.

“Why?”

“So as to disconcert you!” the slave retorted.

The Imam (as) smiled to him and said: *“But I will make you happy.”*

He freed him and generously rewarded him.

2. A Syrian, imbued with hatred and spite against the family of the Messenger of Allah (S), by Mu'awiyah bin Abu Sufyan, once saw the Imam on horseback. He at once emitted a series of curses! Imam Hasan (as) did not put in a word of protest or interruption. When the man finished, Imam Hasan (as)

approached him with a tender smile. He said to him:

“O old man! I think you are a stranger here. Maybe you mistook me for someone else? If you propitiate us, we will satisfy you. If you ask us, we will give you what you need. If you ask our advice, we will guide you. If you ask us to give you a ride, we will take you with us. If you are hungry, we will satisfy you. If you are naked, we will clothe you. If you are in need, we will make you rich. If you are a refugee, we will give you lodgings. If you have a request, we will grant it. If you join your luggage to ours, and be our guest until the time of your travel, it will be more useful to you, because we have a spacious place, a good social position, and a vast amount of money.”

Upon hearing these words, the Syrian broke into tears. Then he said: “I bear witness that you are the viceroy of Allah on the earth. Allah knows best whom to entrust with His message. You and your father were the most hateful creatures of Allah to me. But now you and your father are the most beloved from among all the creatures of Allah to me.”

His Generosity

Maybe the most eminent of Imam Hasan's (as) attributes is his generosity. He believed that money was only a means to clothe the naked, help the destitute, pay the debts of the indebted, or satisfy the hungry. Once, he was asked: “We do not see you disappoint a beggar. Why?”

He replied:

“I am asking Allah for His favors, and I love to be near Him. I am ashamed, as I am myself in need of Allah, to repulse a beggar. Allah got me used to a habit; to shower me with His bounties, and I get Him used to me showering His bounties on the people. I fear that should I stop my habit, He may stop His habit.”

Following are examples of his unlimited generosity:

An Arab desert-dweller once asked for help. In response Imam said: “Give him what is in the safe.” In it there was ten thousand Dirhams.

“Sir,” the Bedouin said, “won't you allow me to reveal my need and praise you?”

Imam's reply was something like this:

“We are people whose bounties are flowing. In them hopes and wishes dwell. Our souls give out before we are asked in fear of the disgrace of the one who asks. Should the sea know how much we give who

asks us, it will shrink, after its flooding, in shame.”

The grandson of the Holy Prophet (S) bought an orchard from the Ansars (the supporters of the Holy Prophet (S) in Madina), at the price of 400,000 Dirhams. Then he got word that they lost their wealth. He gave them the orchard back with no charge.

These are only a few insights into Imam Hasan's (as) generous acts. Such good deeds had the greatest effect in personifying his high Islamic ethics..

Now we are able to form a clear idea of the ingredients of the character of Imam Hasan (as). It was the top example of the Muslim character ever witnessed by this planet after the prophets (as). This was the character of the Ahlul Bayt (as) generally and all of them shared the same character and personality.

Imam Hasan's Role In Islamic Life

At an early age, the role of the grandson of the Holy Prophet (S) began to evidence itself. It was before he was officially appointed to the office of Imamate by his father. His positive role took shape clearly from the moment the Muslim ummah gave their pledge of allegiance to Imam 'Ali (as) as the new caliph. It rose to its zenith after the martyrdom of Imam 'Ali (as).

Stage One: During His Father's Lifetime

Imam Hasan's (as) role, during the lifetime of his father, and especially under his caliphate, was marked by his total obedience to his father, who was his example and leader. He dealt with him, not only as a kind son, but also as an obedient soldier in the deepest sense of the word, with its implications of compliance and discipline. The role of Imam Hasan (as) was expressed, during all the critical days his father, Imam 'Ali (as), lived through, in total submission to his father, his leader and the source of his inspiration.

Following are some of his deeds during this part of his life:

A. After the camp of Imam 'Ali (as) was attacked, due to the mutiny of Talha and al-Zubair in the city of Basrah, and after the rising of the deviants under the leadership of Mu'awiyah bin Abu Sufyan, Imam 'Ali (as) felt he needed the support of the masses of Kufa to protect the right and put down the sedition kindled by some people.

B. For that mission, he chose his elder son, Hasan (as). He ordered him to encourage the people of Kufa to champion the pure Islamic cause, represented by Imam 'Ali (as). Imam Hasan (as) accepted the mission and made for Kufa in the company of Ammar bin Yasir. Imam Hasan (as) was carrying an edict from Imam 'Ali (as) to his governor in Kufa, Abu-Musa al-Ash'ari, relieving him of his post due to his disgraceful stance in failing Imam 'Ali (as) and turning his back on the indisputable truth.

As soon as he entered Kufa, the multitudes swelled around Imam Hasan (as) declaring their loyalty and their readiness to help him. He made a speech, in which he blew enthusiasm into their inept souls, and urged the people to hoist the banner of jihad high. Imam Hasan (as) was most successful in accomplishing his mission. He exhorted them to support the right, defend the message and its noble state.¹¹³

C. The battle of al-Jamal (The Camel) had already ended in Basrah. Mu'awiyah was rapidly gathering Syrian forces, stationing them at Siffin. Imam 'Ali (as) got wind of the moves of the Ummayyad party. He divulged the news to his soldiers, and asked their council. They all announced their readiness to do whatever Imam 'Ali (as) ordered them.

In the meantime, Imam Hasan (as) was standing amid the masses calling them to rally around the truth. In one of his speeches he said:

“Thanks be to Allah. There is no god other than He. He has no partner. I praise Him and He is praiseworthy. Allah gave you great favors and showered you with His graces which are beyond number. One cannot possibly thank Him for them. Neither a statement nor saying can express them. We are angry only on behalf of Allah. He favored us with what cannot be given by anyone but Him. We should, therefore, thank Him for His bounties, tribulations and favors. Our praise should ascend to Allah, carrying our satisfaction to Him. It should be truthful.

Our praise has to be so true that Allah believes us. It has to make us entitled to receive more of his bounties. Our praise should increase rather than decrease Allah's favors. No group of people gather around some matter without making it firmer, and their beliefs solid. So mobilize yourselves for the fight against your enemy, Mu'awiyah, and his soldiers, because he has advanced against you. And do not discourage one another, for discouragement cuts asunder the heartstrings. Advancing under the spearheads is a sign of bravery and piety, for no people had ever observed jihad without the lifting of malaise from among them by Allah. He would spare them the tribulations of humility, and guide them to the hallmarks of denomination...”²¹⁴

In this speech, Imam Hasan's (as) aim was to solidify the bonds of unity, close the ranks of the people, and rally the people to challenge the party led by Mu'awiyah and a handful of opportunists.

D. The Commander of the Faithful, Imam 'Ali bin Abi Talib (as), had warned the people against the arbitration during the Battle of Siffin. He knew it was a trick. After the charade of arbitration was over – and it ended with Abu-Musa al-Ash'ari's failing Imam 'Ali (as) – the camp of Imam 'Ali (as) was thrown

into confusion. Chaos prevailed, and each group of people began to disassociate themselves from the other. They started reviling each other. Imam 'Ali (as) wanted to explain to the people the situation as it was, and to show that the arbitration was invalid because it was not based on truth and logic. He assigned this task to his son Abu Muhammad Hasan (as).

“Stand up, son, and talk about these two men: Abdullah bin Qais,³ and Amru bin al-Aas,” Imam 'Ali (as) told his son.

Imam Hasan (as) stood and addressed the people, telling them the real dimensions of the situation. He said:

“O people! You have talked too much about these two men. They were only chosen to judge according to the Book and in the light of its guidance. But, they judged according to their whims and not the Book. This being true, their verdict cannot be called a judgment. Rather, it was an opinion forced upon them. Abdullah bin Qais erred when he named Abdullah bin Umar as the caliph. He made mistakes concerning three points: First, he disagreed with his father who did not rate him as qualified for caliphate, nor did he appoint him as member of the Shura (consultative group). Secondly, he did not consult him on the matter. And thirdly, neither the immigrants nor the Ansar (helpers) rallied around him. These are those who appoint the ruler and establish his reign over the people. As for arbitration, the Messenger of Allah (S) himself had chosen Sa'd bin Ma'ath for this. And he did judge with what pleases Allah. Undoubtedly, if he had deviated, the Messenger of Allah (S) would not have approved of him”.⁴¹⁶

In these words, the grandson of the Holy Prophet (S), Imam Hasan (as), clarified the matter, disclosed the falsity of the arbitration, and proved to the people the mistake of Abu Musa al-Ash'ari, who was elected by the common people among the army of Imam 'Ali (as), and without thinking it over, they charged him with a task he could not fairly accomplish. The man had bad intentions.

Imam Hasan (as) demonstrated some of Abu Musa's mistakes. Among them was deposing Imam 'Ali (as) and calling Abdullah bin Umar bin al-Khattab the caliph of Muslims. His judgment involved three errors, not to mention the rest of his arbitration. Imam Hasan (as) was an astute thinker, had a sound foundation in logic and politics. His analysis of Abu Musa's actions in the arbitration process was acute and left no doubt in a reasonable mind that the analysis was without flaw. He said that:

1. When Umar bin al-Khattab appointed a six-man consultative group at his deathbed, he did not appoint his son Abdullah as one of the group. That was because he recognized that his son was not qualified to be a caliph, and a leader of the people.
2. The pledge of allegiance, as was the order of the day, was initiated by the immigrants and Ansar, then, the whole of the ummah followed suit. How could al-Ash'ari do something without consulting them?
3. Al-Ash'ari, when he appointed Abdullah as the caliph of Muslims, did it without seeking the view of the man himself. He could not tell whether Abdullah would consent or refuse. The man was not informed of

the question earlier, and he was not asked about this most historically critical matter.

Moreover, Imam Hasan (as) set an example of a just and good arbitration, which is approved of by Allah. He cited the arbitration of Sa'ad bin Ma'ath, who was chosen by the Messenger of Allah (S), to settle the question of Bani Quraidhah, after their military defeat by the Messenger of Allah (S). His judgment was firm and sound.

A. Imam Hasan (as) took part in all the wars fought by his father, Imam 'Ali (as), including those of Basrah, Nahrawan, and Siffin. He played a critical role in them. He fought in those battles and put down those seditions without any motives other than his concern over Islam.

1. Baqir Sharif al-Qarashi, *Hayat al-Imam Hasan (as)*, (Najaf:1965). vol.1, p.387.

2. *Ibid.*, p.432.

3. Abdullah bin Qais Abu-Musa al-Ash'ari.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 479.

Stage Two: During His Imamate

The second part or stage of the role of Imam Hasan (as) in the life of the Muslims commenced when his father appointed him as the next Imam. In the wake of the cruel attempt on his life by Abdul-Rahman bin Muljim and his cohorts, the dying Imam (as) said his last will to his son, Hasan (as):

“...my son, the Messenger of Allah (S) ordered me to inform you of my last will, and hand over my books and weapons to you, exactly as he told me his last will and gave me his books and weapons. He ordered me to order you to give them to your brother, Husayn, when death approaches you...”

Then he turned to his son, Husayn, and said:

“And the Messenger of Allah (S) ordered you to hand them to this son of yours.”

Thereupon, he took hold of the hand of 'Ali bin Husayn (as) and said to him:

“And the Messenger of Allah (S) ordered you to give them to your son, Muhammad bin 'Ali. Remember, the Messenger of Allah (S) and me to him.”¹¹⁷

Then he named as the witnesses to his last will, Husayn, his son Muhammad, all of his sons, and the chiefs and leading men of his Shi'ites (followers).

The last days of Imam 'Ali (as) teemed with many of his moral guidelines, which were aimed at

establishing the right, and sticking to it. Most of them were addressed to his sons and particularly to Imam Hasan (as). He emphasized his son's Caliphate and Imamate after him.

Shortly after the passing away of Imam 'Ali (as), the people of Kufa hurried to the mosque, dumbfounded and shocked at that great adversity. The grandson of the Messenger of Allah (S), Imam Hasan (as), stood amid this multitude, promulgating the first of his communiques, after the departure of his great leader. He said:

“...this night, a man has died whom the first Muslims did not outrun with good deeds, nor did the last ones catch up with him in pleasing acts. He used to fight by the side of the Messenger of Allah (S), risking his own life for the sake of the Prophet's. The Messenger of Allah (S) would send him as his standard-bearer. Jibra'il would protect him by fighting on his right, and Mika'il on his left. He would not return from the battlefield until Allah had given him victory. He died in this night, on which Isa bin Maryam (as) ascended to heaven, and Yusha' bin Noon, the trustee of Musa (as), passed away. He has left no Dirhams or dinars besides the 700 Dirhams which were left over from his pay.”²¹⁸

At this point Imam Hasan (as) halted his speech for his tears choked him. The image of the great departing man, with his eternal deeds and stances, loomed before his eyes. The Muslims could not help crying bitterly with him. Then he resumed his speech. He said:

“O people! Who has recognized me, that is that. Who has not, let him know that I am Hasan bin 'Ali. I am the son of the Holy Prophet. I am the son of the Trustee. I am the son of the bearer of the good news, and the warner. I am the son of the Caller to Allah by His permission. I am the son of the bright lamp. I am from the house at which Jibra'il used to descend to us, and ascend from us, and from the Ahlul Bayt whom Allah kept away from uncleanness and totally purified them. I am from a household whose love Allah made an obligation on every Muslim. Allah, the Blessed and the Most High, said to His Prophet:

قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ

'...say: I do not ask of you any reward for it but love for my near relatives;...' Holy Qur'an (42:23)

Imam Hasan (as) concluded his speech by saying, 'Doing a good deed means loving us, the Ahlul Bayt.'³¹⁹

In this speech, Imam Hasan (as) spelled out the qualities of the late leader. Also he presented his own qualifications and stature in the Muslim world, and asserted the fact that he, and not any other person, was entitled to be the next leader of the Muslims.

No sooner did Imam Hasan (as) wind up his speech, than Bin Abbas rose to his feet urging the people to

give their pledge of allegiance to the new Imam. And that was exactly what the people did.

Imam Hasan (as) received the pledge of allegiance from the people, and was acknowledged as the caliph and the ruler of Kufa, and later of the other Muslim cities. The news of the demise of Imam 'Ali (as) and the passing of the caliphate to his son, the grandson of the Messenger of Allah (S), soon spread.

Mu'awiyah rejoiced at the death of 'Ali (as). His capital witnessed noisy festivals. Happiness flooded it! On the other hand, Mu'awiyah was greatly shaken by the announcement of Imam Hasan (as) as the new caliph, and at the pledge of allegiance which he had received. He sent for his advisors, and his leading men. They got together in an emergency meeting at his palace to discuss the latest developments and draw the policy which they would adopt in challenging Imam Hasan (as). The participants decided to send spies to the Muslim community, under the rule of Imam Hasan (as) to frighten the people and float rumors against the rule of Ahlul Bayt (as), to the interest of the Syrian sedition.

Meanwhile the Umayyad party was busy winning over the leadership and the influential chiefs, who could influence the course of events in Iraq to the advantage of the Umayyad rule. They were generous in bribery, promising the people good rewards, presenting gifts to them, threatening them...and so on.

Mu'awiyah lost no time in implementing the resolutions of the meeting. He set up a network of spies, and appointed two men to surprise them. One of them was named Humairi. He made for Kufa. The other was called Qeeni. He headed for Basrah... 420

Imam Hasan's (as) plans of solidifying the government system, and establishing it on a firm ground, were soon effective in unearthing the plots of the Umayyads.⁵

In the wake of that, Imam Hasan (as) sent a letter to Mu'awiyah warning him, and threatening him with war:

"...Mind you. You have sent stealthily men to me. It is as if you like to go to war. I have no doubt about it. Then anticipate it, Allah willing. I have heard that you rejoiced about what the wise men do not gloat over. Your parable is like the one of whom the poet says: "I and the one who had died are like someone who goes home, goes to sleep, to wake up the following day. So, tell him who remains behind that who departs: 'Prepare for something like this. You, too, will be something of the past.'"⁶²²

Mu'awiyah, in a responding letter, dodged and denied that he had rejoiced at the death of Imam 'Ali (as), something which we will not discuss in length here. They exchanged letters. The most important of the letters was that which was sent by Imam Hasan (as) in which he called on Mu'awiyah to stop opposing him and submit to him as he was the legitimate leader. Tension heightened between the two parties, so much so, that Mu'awiyah wrote a letter in which he called on Imam Hasan (as) to abdicate and join him, with the promise that the caliphate would be his after Mu'awiyah's death!

Imam Hasan (as) sent a short letter which displayed his insistence and determination:

“Mind you, your letter has arrived. You mention in it what you mention and I did not answer you...I take refuge with Allah from that. Follow the right, you will know that I am its follower. I will be a sinner if I tell a lie. And peace be upon you.”⁷²³

That was the last letter. The situation went from bad to worst. War was declared between the two parties.

Mu'awiyah was the first to declare the state of war. He began to advance his armies towards Iraq. The Muslims communicated the news of Mu'awiyah's move to one another. Imam Hasan (as) took due measures to face the coming enemy.

Imam Hasan (as) announced, in a statement, the next move. He called the ummah to mobilize and prepare for war:

“Mind you, Allah ordained jihad on His creatures, and made it a duty which they receive reluctantly. Then He said to the combatants; 'Be patient, Allah is certainly with the patient.' You, O people, will not win what you love without enduring what you do not like. Go out, may Allah have mercy on you, to your camp at al-Nukhailah, till we think and you think, and see and you see.”⁸²⁴

It brings excruciating pain to know that the multitudes of people who listened to the statement of Imam Hasan (as) were susceptible to the Umayyad rumors and lies.

Instead of preparing themselves to defend the clear right, they were shocked and flustered. They responded coldly to the statement of their Imam. They did not accept his call to prepare for war and shoulder their responsibilities.

Some of the people were resigned to the status quo and they appeared drawn to life. Others were lured into apathy by Umayyad money. Imam Hasan (as) was disappointed when he saw the true feeling of the masses which he led, and in which he saw the base on which he was depending to ward off the dangers encircling the Islamic message because of the hostile activities of the Umayyad party.

Those listless multitudes were stolid. They lost their vitality because of only a slight shock. It was because of their weak faith. The followers of the Imam (as) were unaware of their historical responsibility to keep the Divine Message intact and keep it safe from sedition. They were oblivious to the line of Imamate represented by Imam Hasan (as), and to the fact that they should obey him and defend him because he was the actual representative of the same Islam which was revealed to the Messenger of Allah (S).

Amid those stunned, defeated lumps of people, the call of the few faithful of Islam and the true committed men who attached themselves to Ahlul Bayt (as), thundered. They expressed their deep loyalty. They reproached those cowardly multitudes, and spoke their minds uncompromisingly and

daringly.

At the top of the list of those faithful, pious men were: Uday bin Hatim, Qais bin S'ad bin Ubadah, Ma'qal bin Qais, and Ziyad bin Sa'sa'ah al-Timeemi. 925

They scolded, reprimanded and urged the people to take on their religious responsibility. At the same time they did not forget their Imam (as). They took his hand and made a pledge to march forward in support of right and face tyranny and sedition fearlessly until they achieved martyrdom or victory.

Imam Hasan (as) praised them for their true stance, and addressed them in these words:

“You are truthful, may Allah have mercy on you. I still know of your true intention and loyalty, your approval and true love. May Allah reward you the best of rewards.”¹⁰²⁶

The committed people hastened to al-Nukhailah and encamped there, in obedience to their Imam (as). Imam Hasan (as), afterwards, followed them with an army, estimated by some historians, at 4,000 men.¹¹ The rest of the people were to join him.

Imam Hasan (as) hoped that the people would support the right cause and so come to defend Islam. But their delay in joining him made Imam Hasan (as) return once again to his capital, Kufa, to egg on the people to join him.

He marched on, leading a tremendous army, which was paradoxically in low spirit, eaten away by weakness and disharmony. He arrived in al-Nukhailah, where he organized his army, and set plans for the commanders of the divisions. From there, he headed for Dair Abdul-Rahman. There he decided to send a military force ahead of his army. He elected his cousin Ubaidullah bin al-Abbas as its commander. He said to him:

“...Cousin! I am sending with you twelve thousand men, among whom there are famous horsemen of the Arabs, and the Qur'anic reciters of Kufa. Each one of them is equal to one battalion in courage. March with them, be kind to them, look at them with a smiling face, be humble to them, and consult them. They are the remaining men whom the Commander of the Faithful (as) trusted. Lead them along the bank of Euphrates.

Then march till you come face to face with the army of Mu'awiyah. If you meet him, keep him there till I join you. I will go, following you closely behind. Keep me informed of your moves on a daily basis. Consult these two men, Qais bin S'ad and Sa'eed bin Qais. If you meet Mu'awiyah, refrain from engaging him in battle till he fights you. Should he do so, then fight him. If you are injured or killed, Qais bin S'ad will succeed you as the commander of the army, and if he is injured or killed, Sa'eed bin Qais will succeed him.”¹²²⁸

The vanguard took its position at Maskin, on the banks of al-Dijail river in Iraq. The main army, under the command of Imam Hasan (as), encamped at Madhlam Sabat, near al-Mada'in.

It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah. It was not long before all the hitherto hidden ills came to the surface, in the forms of disunity, frailty, sedition, chaos, and conspiracy against the leadership itself. Imam Hasan (as) was pressured to sign a treaty with Mu'awiyah.

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1. See: Shaikh al-Tabarsi, *Alam al-Wara*, 3rd ed., p.206, and the following pages (Reports emphasizing the Imamate of Hasan (as) quoted from al-Kafi). See also: *Hayat al-Imam Hasan (as)*, vol. 1, p. 515, *Kashf al-Ghummah fi Ma'rifat al-A'immah* (Removing the Grief About the Knowledge About the Imams). vol. 2, p.155, *al-Bihar (Seas)*. vol. 42, p.250, and others.
 2. *Alam al-Wara* (Texts indicating the Imamate of Hasan), p.206 and the following pages. Al-Qarashi, *Hayat Hasan bin 'Ali* with a slight difference, vol.2, pp.31-32.
 3. *Hayat al-Imam al-Hasan (as)*, vol.2, p.33.
 4. *Al-Fusool al-Muhimmah*, chapter of Hasan (as), p. 135 and the following pages.
 5. Muhammad Jawad Fadhlullah, *Sulh al-Imam al-Hasan* (The Peaceful Agreement of Imam Hasan), 1973 ed., p.60.
 6. Tawfeeq Abu-Alam, *Ahlul Bayt*.
 7. Bin al-Hadeed, *Sharh Nahj al-Balaghah* (Commentaries on Nahj al-Balaghah), 1962 ed., vol.16, p.37.
 8. *Ibid.*, p.38.
 9. *Ibid.*, p.39.
 10. *Ibid.*
 11. Al-Nukhailah is a place near Kufa in the direction of Syria.
 12. See footnotes of *Hayat al-Imam Hasan*, vol.2, p.72 and 1965 ed., quoted from al-Kharayij wa al-Jarayih, p.228, and *Sharh Nahj al-Balaghah*, vol.16, p.40.

Justifications Of The Treaty With Mu'awiyah And Its Terms

All through our studies on the life of Imam Hasan (as), whether during the lifetime of his father or during his own reign, we witnessed his strength of character, his steely determination, and swift action to sort out problems and reach sound, logical solutions. This was something which was matchless. We witnessed all this and lived it, in the light of historical documents which cannot be doubted. We witnessed it in his stirring of the zeal of the people of Kufa to defend Islam in the battle of al-Jamal.

We saw him urging the people to fight against Mu'awiyah in the battle of Siffin. We saw him addressing the camp of his father after the arbitration. When he assumed the office of Imamate, we saw him, as he had been during his father's reign, possessed of determination, resolution, cleverness and skill. He took urgent measures to solidify the foundation of his state. He persisted in challenging the Umayyad falsehoods, and putting down the seditions of Syria, to stabilize the Islamic state.

He faced all the attempts of Mu'awiyah to corner him, before the start of the war, with a lofty, sublime spirit, the spirit which knew nothing but the right and would never lower his head before the forces of falsehood. The prevailing conditions at the time, however, kept him at bay, something which has rarely taken place throughout history.

The army led by Imam Hasan (as) became the prey of disorder. Spies, agents and the bearers of disrupting news found their way into it. Imam Hasan (as) was on the brink of being forced to surrender to his enemy! The ummah, which he was planning a bright and successful future for, and leading its march into history, diverted its course to the advantage of his foe! That was the result of the rumors and luring promises.

These factors caused the tip of balance of power to tilt on behalf of the Umayyad interests.

Following are the most important of the painful events which were inflicted on Imam Hasan (as) as a result of his stand in the face of the incursion or the treacherous Umayyads:

1. His top leader at the front line, Ubaidullah bin al-Abbas, betrayed him and joined Mu'awiyah. He induced two-thirds of the force, which was given the mission of stopping the advancing army, into breaking away with him. The camp of Imam Hasan (as) was thrown into disorder and confusion at the most critical juncture of its maneuvers. Ubaidullah bin al-Abbas was bribed by Mu'awiyah.
2. The military forces led by Imam Hasan (as) were torn between slogans, desires, interests and ideologies. 1 There were some who were only seeking spoils of war! There were those who held grudges against the Umayyad house, but who, at the same time, concealed their hatred of the Imamate

of Imam Hasan (as) and his household...!

In the army a great number of people who were sympathizers of the Umayyad party in Syria, cherished the rewards Mu'awiyah had promised them. To make matters worse, boredom began to creep into the camp of the Imam, particularly after the army had fought the three wars of Imam 'Ali (as), namely: Jamal, Nahrawan, and Siffin. Their memories were still alive in their minds.

Next to these people, there was a group who were loyal to Ahlul Bayt (as). They were a small number in comparison to the increasing number of the rag-tag, and the intensity of the hostile schemers.

3. Mu'awiyah showered large sums of money on the chieftains and the men who held sway in the Iraqi community, in unparalleled generosity. They were left listless and irresolute. They gave up their earlier plans of going hand in hand with the Imam to fight Mu'awiyah.²³⁰

Money was a doubled-edged sword. In addition to its sharp effect in changing the balance of power to the interest of Mu'awiyah, it left its most surprising imprints in the hearts of the Iraqis. They flooded Mu'awiyah with their letters declaring their loyalty and obedience to him. They promised to hand Imam Hasan (as) over to him as a prisoner when the fire of war blazed and zero-hour came!³³¹

Imam Hasan (as) referred to this treachery when he said:

“By Allah, if I had fought Mu'awiyah, they would have taken hold of my neck and handed me peacefully over to him. By Allah, making peace with him with nobility, is more lovable to me than being killed by him as a captive, or set free, which would be a stain for the tribe of Hashim.” ⁴³²

4. The grandson of the Messenger of Allah (S) saw to it that no drop of blood should be shed, especially the blood of the faithful.

Following are some of the statements of the Imam which display his noble intentions:

“I feared lest the Muslims should be uprooted from the surface of the earth. I wanted the faith to have men who call to it.”

“...I only wanted, by my treaty with Mu'awiyah, to spare you death.”

5. The army of his enemy was strong, highly disciplined because of their compliance with the orders of Mu'awiyah, and the non-existence of subversion among its ranks. But in Iraq, disunity prevailed. The various contradictory slogans, views, desires, and interests tore the army of Imam Hasan (as) to shreds and weakened its ability to fight.

6. Imam Hasan (as) enjoyed a first-rate spiritual power – as we have seen elsewhere – as he was purified from uncleanness, which is stated by the Qur'an. He is one pillar of the blessed family of the Messenger of Allah (S), to which fact the Holy Prophet (S) himself had testified. He would not think of

deception and treachery.

This soul, attached to Allah, the Most High, and inspired by Him and His noble shar'iah, made Imam Hasan (as), wherever he was, to keep away from entering into a war in which blood would be unnecessarily shed, and men killed without result. In addition to that, the factors in Islam's view, were not in the least available, as we have witnessed by the character of his unprincipled followers.

This is quite different from Mu'awiyah who would never care how many men were killed, and how much blood was shed, as long as he remained the ruler of the Muslims, to whom the income of taxes were brought. He was the ruler who basked in mundane luxury and fleeting pleasures in the palace of alKhadara'.

7. When Imam Hasan saw that Mu'awiyah succeeded in attracting the people towards him, he wanted to disclose the true colors of Mu'awiyah. It could only be done if Mu'awiyah monopolized power and took the affairs of the ummah into his own hands. The ummah would see the nature of his rule, and discover the wide gulf between it and the ideal image of the rule of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam 'Ali bin Abi Talib (as).

Those who obeyed Mu'awiyah would bear the responsibility for that historical tragedy in which the ummah lost the leadership of Ahlul Bayt (as) and their pioneering Imamate, not only during their blessed existence, but also after their deaths. The negative impact of that continued smashing the ummah, generation after generation, till the system of Islam, which was expected to prevail and rule, was reduced to a mere historical heritage buried in the books.

8. Historians report that Imam Hasan (as) was the target of three aborted assassination attempts.⁵ The first attempt occurred when a man shot him with an arrow, while he was offering his prayer. He did not harm the Imam (as). The first attempt occurred when a man shot him with an arrow, while he was offering his prayer. He did not harm the Imam (as).

The second attempt on the life of Imam Hasan (as) took place when a man jabbed him with a dagger while he was in prayer. Again the Imam (as) was unhurt.

In the third assassination attempt he narrowly escaped death. A mob attacked him, plundering his tent and taking his prayer-rug from under his feet! During the attack al-Jarrah bin Sinan al-Asadi stabbed him with a rapier in his thigh and gravely wounded him. ⁶The blade reached the bone.⁷³⁵

After that attempt, the Imam was bed-ridden and remained as a guest at the house of Sa'd bin Masood al-Thaqafi, his governor on al-Mada'in.

9. Mu'awiyah made good use of the weapon of propaganda, by causing confusion in the minds of the Iraqis. His spies and supporters appeared from time to time in order to spread vicious rumors. The rabble would be influenced by them, and would behave as they dictated. Here are some examples:

A. They claimed that Imam Hasan (as) corresponded with Mu'awiyah in order to make peace.

B. They rumored that Qais bin Sa'd had defected to Mu'awiyah.

C. The most effective of their rumors was floated when the Umayyad delegation had come in search of peace. When the Imam (as) refused to make peace with Mu'awiyah, the negotiating delegation went out, and claimed that Imam Hasan (as) had finally agreed to end the hostilities and spare the blood of the Muslims!

The mobs were angered beyond limits and attacked his tent. They condemned the alleged peace, but at the same time they were too indolent to fight.

1. The call to peace by Mu'awiyah had already made its way into the camp of Imam Hasan (as), and was already accepted by them, when the Imam (as) finally agreed to it. That call had an echo in the defeated souls in the camp of the Imam (as). The followers of Mu'awiyah welcomed it first and preached it. It slid into the camp of the Imam Hasan (as) and the Imam accepted it as a faith accomplish.

2. Imam Hasan (as) found the ummah, around him or Mu'awiyah, oblivious to its deviated life, and silent, not wanting to support the right and fight the infidels. Imam Hasan (as) wanted to unmask the callers to sedition, their promises and covenants, their yearning to seize power, whatever the means, and their abusing of the ummah and Islam's teachings.

By clarifying all these sides, Imam Hasan (as) paved the ground actually for the revolution of the Lord of Martyrs, Imam Husayn bin 'Ali (as).

These are, our dear readers, the most important justifications and causes which prompted Imam Hasan (as) to sign the document of treaty with the treacherous Mu'awiyah.

Would any other ruler or leader, if faced with what Imam Hasan (as) faced, take another course of action?

War, after all, would have been an impossible option. No sane man would have adopted it. Then how could a great man like Imam Hasan bin 'Ali (as), do it?

Some people would be of the opinion that it was better for Imam Hasan (as), if he had sacrificed all for the sake of his right. If, however, Imam Hasan (as) had fought, he would have surely been killed, along with all of his family. The Umayyads would have succeeded in extinguishing the light of Islam for good. No one could then tell the right from the falsehood. The ummah, would never have realized, as it did afterwards, how deviated were its rulers, and what bondage they were led to.

Imam Hasan's (as) concern for Islam made him sign the document to play his role, afterwards, in explaining the Shari'ah, its laws and dimensions to the ummah of Muhammad (S), during his remaining years, as we will see in this phase of his life.

We deem it suitable to cite the most important items of the document signed by Imam Hasan (as) and Mu'awiyah: 836

1. Mu'awiyah bin Abu-Sufyan takes the affairs of the ummah into his hands, on condition that he abides by the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (S).
2. Imam Hasan (as) assumes the leadership of the ummah after the death of Mu'awiyah. If Imam Hasan (as) was already dead, Imam Husayn (as) takes his place.
3. People are to enjoy freedom and security, be they Arabs or non-Arabs, Syrians or Iraqis, and they should not be harassed for their previous positions towards the Umayyad rule.

These are the items of importance of the treaty which were accepted by the two parties. As it is clear for the reader, it is of great benefit to the ummah and its noble Message. These terms were the most that Imam Hasan (as) could achieve for the ummah and its mission. If any better could be achieved, he would not have hesitated to take advantage of them.

A number of Muslims objected to the treaty. Imam Hasan (as) explained to them why he had taken this step. He said to Bashir al-Hamadani:

“I am, by no means, humiliating the faithful, but honoring them. By my making peace, I only wanted to spare you death, when I saw my followers lingering and refraining from going to war.”

Al-Hamadani was the first one who was too cowardly to fight.

To Malik bin Dhumrah, who talked to him about the document, he said:

“I feared, lest the Muslims should be uprooted from the surface of earth. I wanted the faith to have men who call to it.”

He said to Abu-Sa'eed:

“Abu-Sa'eed! The reason why I made peace with Mu'awiyah is the same one which made the Messenger of Allah (S) make peace with the tribe of Banu Dhumrah and Banu-Ashja', and the people of Mecca when he returned from al-Hudaibiyah.”⁹³⁷

Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (as) refers to the significance of the treaty, and its positive effects for the benefit of Islam and Muslims, in these words:

“By Allah, what Hasan bin 'Ali (as) did was better for this ummah than what the sun had shone on.”

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1. Shaikh al-Mufid, Al-Irshad (The Guidance), p.208, and al-Fusool al-Muhimmah, p.146

2. Muhammad Jawad Fadhlullah, Sulh al-Imam Hasan, p.76.
3. Al-Irshad, Life of Imam Hasan (as), p.209, and the following pages.
4. Tawfeeq Abu Alam, Ahlul Bayt, p.335.
5. Hayat al-Imam Hasan (as), 3rd ed., vol, 2. pp. 103–105.
6. Bin Abi al-Hadeed, in his commentaries on Nahj al-Balaghah, says that it is “ma'wal” (pickax) and not “maghwal” (rapier), see vol. 16. p. 41.
7. Al-Irshad, Life of Imam Hasan (as), p.209.
8. For details see: Al-Fusool al-Muhimmah by Ibn al-Sabbagh, and Ahlul Bayt by Abu Alam.
9. Statements of Imam Hasan (as) are quoted from Hayat al-Imam Hasan, vol. 2. “Protesters at the Peace Treaty”, p. 281.
10. Rawdhat al-Kafi (Orchards of al-Kafi), vol. 8, p. 330.

Post-Treaty Era

After signing the treaty, Imam Hasan (as), the grandson of the Holy Prophet (S), remained in Kufa for a few days. His heart was wrung by pain for what had happened. He prepared to return to Madina, the city of his illustrious grandfather, the Messenger of Allah (S).

When his noble procession set out, all the people of Kufa went out. They were deeply remorseful, with the look of great sorrow on their faces. They were either in tears or sad-looking. And why not? They would be humiliated after Imam Hasan (as) and Ahlul Bayt had departed. The seditionists were by now in control of their lives, they appeared helpless, and disgrace descended upon their city.

Mu'awiyah transferred the caliphate and general command from Kufa to Damascus. The Umayyad military forces entered Kufa, tightening their grip on it, striking fear into the hearts, and spreading their terror. Those who collaborated with the Umayyads were rewarded, and those who opposed them were put to the sword.

Imam Hasan's (as) caravan set off crossing the desert, while pain was striking at his heart, parting with his capital, and the places which held his memories. It was hard for him to abandon his Shi'ites and elite who supported him with firm determination and resolution, until they arrived at a blind alley. They were besieged and hunted down with the employment of every low and cheap method. The Umayyad clique began their vengeance.

On the other hand, when his caravan approached the holy city of Madina, its people rushed to welcome the Imam and his family (as). Rapture colored their faces. Why not?

The blessing of the presence of the Ahlul Bayt (as) had returned to them, and the goodness, all goodness, came to their city.

As soon as he settled, Imam Hasan (as) and his family set about to take up his religious responsibilities,

but on a new line.

If he was a ruler before who discharged the affairs of the ummah, and set plans for its future through the office of political Imamate, and steered the ship to the coast of happiness, goodness and guidance; after the signing of the treaty he tread upon a new path.

He established a great ideological school and leadership so as to be a seat of guidance and knowledge by which the ummah would be guided to the straight path of Allah, and His concluding Message.

That school played an effective part in ripening public opinion, correcting its course, and saving it from the deviation of the official bodies led by Mu'awiyah bin Abu-Sufyan.

The school of Imam Hasan (as) gave fruit twofold. It graduated the greatest scholars and traditionalists, like Hasan al-Muthanna, al-Musayyab bin Najbah, Suwaid bin Ghafalah, al-Sha'bi, al-Asbagh bin Nubatah, Abu-Yahya al-Nakha'i, Ishaq bin Yasar, and others...

If Imam Hasan (as) had scored a great and glorious victory for Islam by establishing this school; he obliged the ummah and the Message another great favor. He called the people to uprightness of behavior and faith, and the following of the Messenger (S) and his family (as), doing their best to spread good manners and fight every evil act.

Apart from this, he paid special attention to his society. He took care of the poor, the helpless and destitute. He looked after the needy. We cited some examples of his care of the poor previously.

Beside his ideological activities, it was only natural that Imam Hasan (as) would plan the future of his ummah, both in social and political spheres. In these fields, he took a good course for the benefit of the Divine Message and the ummah. He created an Islamic current of awareness among the ummah.

It became clear for the ummah that the legitimate Imamate was the right of Ahlul Bayt (as), and particularly Imam Hasan (as). Mu'awiyah and the likes of him were not fit to rule. Obedience to them was incompatible with the pristine Islamic line. Imam Hasan (as), and the Muslim intellectuals who graduated from his school, succeeded in bringing about an ummah with a sharp political awareness. An ummah which opposed the Umayyad rule, in thought, course of action, and method, and which defended Islam throughout the next generations.

The Umayyad rule was not unaware of these nascent Islamic activities. It was they, as a matter of fact, who were to be reckoned with. That is why the high-ranking officials of the Umayyad government held a meeting to discuss the matter. The meeting was attended by, in addition to Mu'awiyah, Amru bin al-Aas, al-Walid bin Aqabah bin-Mu'eet, Utbah bin Abu-Sufyan and al-Maghirah bin Shu'bah!

They said to Mu'awiyah, in part: "Hasan has certainly animated his father and revived his memory. He talked and he said the truth, gave orders and was obeyed, and was followed by the people. Such thing would raise him to a higher level. Every time we hear from him something which does us harm..."¹³⁹

This report, though brief, was the most dangerous report submitted by the chiefs of the Umayyad house and its leaders, to their chief, Mu'awiyah, about the activities of Imam Hasan (as).

The movement of Imam Hasan (as) gained strength, so much so that he left for Damascus, the capital of the Umayyads.

There he sat down with Mu'awiyah, explained to him the mistakes and schemes of the Umayyad rule, the superficiality of those in charge, and their diversion from the original Islamic line. His discussions there won him a lot of supporters and advocates. 240

The fresh activities of Imam Hasan (as), and the new, historical mission which he shouldered to preserve the sound Islamic line among the people, made the Umayyad rule lose its head, and forge a hostile policy to get rid of the Imam (as) and his Islamic leadership.

The main ingredients of that policy were:

1. Hunting down the faithful leadership in every Islamic region, and putting them to the sword. Men like Hijr bin Uday and his companions, Rasheed al-Hajari, Amru bin al-Hamq al-Khauza'i and others, were murdered, and persecuted.
2. Cracking down on all of the Shi'ites of Imam 'Ali (as) by resorting to terror, suppression, making people homeless, cutting off their income, tearing down their houses, and so on.
3. Employing some of the preachers and those loyal to the Umayyads, to tarnish the image of Ahlul Bayt and particularly Imam 'Ali (as) who was cursed, as a ritual, on the pulpits. Traditions were invented and attributed to the Holy Prophet (S). They were of great benefit to Mu'awiyah and his party. False beliefs were also made up and unfairly ascribed to Ahlul Bayt (as).

This is one of the most sad and enduring results of the Umayyad rule. So many false ahadith were introduced, first by the Umayyads and later by the Abbasids, that today, we Muslims of the 20th century have become so misguided by the lies which have remained in our ahadith and sunnah of our Prophet (S).

Surprisingly enough, the historians and narrators of hadith have not tried to eliminate and filter through these obvious lies. They continue to propagate them, confuse the ummah and misguide them to their own detriment. This is one of the main reasons that the Muslims of today remain weak and disunited.

4. Handing out money, boundlessly, to the tribal leaderships which posed a threat to the Umayyads in order to bring them under control. For example, Malik bin Hubairah al-Sakooni, who was shocked at the murder of Hijr bin Uday and his companions, planned to lead a military offense against the Umayyad rule. But Mu'awiyah dissuaded him with 100,000 Dirhams which he sent to him. 3He was pleased with this sum and forewent his earlier plans.

Others were hushed by money also. A poet described this phenomenon in these two lines of verse:

“When a tongue criticizes you, it is cut with dinars,

And when a conscience rocks you, it is shaken with a good official post.”

5. The last item of this unjust, oppressive policy, was the plan to murder Imam Hasan (as) with poison. Mu'awiyah presented it to him through Imam's wife, Ja'dah, the daughter of al-Ash'ath.

Thus, Imam Hasan (as) went to meet his Lord, while standing in the fields of jihad, for the sake of Islam, which was preached by his father, the Commander of the Faithful, Imam 'Ali (as) and his grandfather, the Great Messenger of Allah (S).

Imam Hasan (as) attained martyrdom on the seventh day of the month of Safar (or the fifth or twentieth of the month of Rabi' al-Awwal in some reports), in the year 50 A.H.

He had asked his family, in his last will, to be buried by the side of his grandfather, the Messenger of Allah (S), but the Umayyads and the governor of Madina refused to allow his burial there. 442

Ahlul Bayt (as) was thus forced to inter him at al-Baqi', by the side of his mother, Fatimah al-Zahra' (as).

Peace be upon you, Abu-Muhammad Hasan bin 'Ali, when you were alive, wronged, and dead.....

1. Tawfeeq Abu Alam, Ahlul-Bayt, p. 343, quoted from Sharh Nahj al-Balaghah.

2. See: Hayat al-Imam Hasan (as) to be acquainted with those arguments, vol.2, p. 305 and the following pages.

3. Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Deen, Thawrat al-Husayn (as) (Revolution of Husayn (as)), (Beirut: 1977) , 4th ed., p. 127.

4. Bin Abi al-Hadeed says: “Abu Faraj says: 'Hasan (as) was laid to rest in the tomb of Fatimah, the daughter of the Messenger of Allah, (S), at al-Baqi'. He had expressed his desire in his last will, to be buried with the Prophet (S) but Marwan bin al-Hakim did not allow it. The tribe of Ummayyad carried their weapons. Marwan said: 'O Lord! War is better than easy and comfortable life.'“ See: Sharh Nahj al-Balaghah, (Egypt: 1962), vol. 16, p. 50.

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