

Section Three

Those who saw him while his father was still alive, peace be on them both

Comprised of twenty traditions

811. Kamāl al-dīn¹: Narrated to us Muḥammad b. `Alī Majḥawayh, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Muḥammad b. Yaʿyā al-`Aḥḥār, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Malik al-Fazrī, from Mu`wiyat b. Ḥakīm, Muḥammad b. Ayyūb b. Nazzār, and Muḥammad b. `Uthmān al-`Amrī, may Allah be satisfied with him, whom all said:

We were forty people in Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī's house, peace be on him, when he showed us [his son] and said, "This is your Imam after me and my caliph upon you. Obey him and do not scatter after me regarding your religion otherwise you will perish. Know that you will not see him after this day." After we left, barely a few days had gone by when Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, passed away.

812. Al-ḥafṣ's Ghayba²: From (Hibat-Allah b. Muḥammad, from a person that Ahmad b. `Alī b. Nazzār Abū I-`Abbās al-Sairī has narrated) and Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Malik al-Fazrī al-Bazzāz, from a group of Shias which include: `Alī b. Bilāl, Ahmad b. Hilāl, Muḥammad b. Mu`wiyat b. Ḥakīm, and al-ḥasan b. Ayyūb b. Nazzār (who narrated a long tradition) and all said:

We were forty people who had gathered around Abū Muḥammad al-ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, and were asking him about the Proof after him. `Uthmān b. Saʿd al-`Amrī stood up and pleaded, "O Son of Allah's Messenger! I intend to ask you about an affair which you have more knowledge about than me." He replied, "Sit down, O `Uthmān!" Then, enraged, he stood up to go out and ordered, "No one shall leave." None of us left until some time had passed.

He then called `Uthmān—who stood up on his feet—and said, "Shall I inform you about the reason you came here?" They replied, "Yes, O Son of Allah's Messenger." He said, "You have come to ask me about the Divine Proof after me." They replied in the affirmative. Suddenly a boy [appeared] who was like a part of the moon and of all the people, he resembled Imam Abū Muḥammad the most.

He said, "This is your Imam after me and my caliph upon you. Obey him and don't scatter after me lest

you perish in your religion. Beware! You will not see him after this day until he completes his age. Accept from `Uthmān what he will say, obey his orders, and accept his saying, because he is the successor of your Imam and the affair is in his hands . . .”

813. Kamāl al-dīn³: `Alī b. al-ʿasan b. al-Faraj al-Muʾadhdhin, may Allah be satisfied with him, narrated to us from Muḥammad b. al-ʿasan al-Karkhī, from Abū Ḥarrīr—who is a man from our companions—who said: “I saw the Master of the Time and his face was shining like the full moon . . . (to the end of the tradition)”

814. Kamāl al-dīn⁴: Abū ʿAlī al-Muʿaffar b. Jaʿfar b. al-Muʿaffar al-ʿAlawī al-Samarqandī, may Allah be satisfied with him, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. Masʿūd, from his father Muḥammad b. Masʿūd al-ʿAyyūshī, from ʿAdām b. Muḥammad al-Balkhī, from `Alī b. al-ʿasan [al-ʿusayn] b. Ḥarrīr al-Daqḡḡ, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. al-Qasīm b. Ibrāhīm b. al-Ashtar, from Yaʿqūb b. Manqūsh [Manfīs], who said:

I went to see Abū Muḥammad al-ʿasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, while he was sitting on a bench in the house. On his right was a room with a drawn curtain. I asked him, “O my master! Who is the master of this affair?” He replied, “Raise the curtain.” When I raised the curtain, a boy emerged who was about five hand-spans tall and about ten or eight years old.

He had a wide forehead, white face, glittering eyes, and small hands and he had bent his knees. There was a mole on his right cheek and he had a forelock. He went and sat on Abū Muḥammad’s thigh, peace be on him, who said to me, “This is your Master.” He then leapt up and [the Imam] said to him, “Go inside until the appointed time.” He entered the room while I was [still] looking at him. [The Imam, peace be on him] said, “O Yaʿqūb! See who is inside the room.” I went inside the room but found no one there!

815. Al-Kāfī⁵: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-Kāfī, from Jaʿfar b. Muḥammad al-Makfī, from `Amr al-Ahwāzī who said: “Abū Muḥammad, peace be on him, showed me his son and said, ‘This is your master after me.’”

816. Al-Kāfī⁶: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from al-ʿusayn and Muḥammad—the sons of `Alī b. Ibrāhīm—from Muḥammad b. `Alī b. `Abd-al-Raḥmān al-ʿAbdī, a slave of Qays, from ʿAuʿ b. `Alī al-ʿIjlī, from a Persian man who he named, who said:

I went to Sāmarrāʾ and stayed beside the door of Imam Abū Muḥammad’s house and he called me inside. I entered and greeted him and he asked, “What has brought you [here]?” I replied, “The desire to serve you.” He ordered me to be the doorkeeper. So I stayed in the house along with the servants and also [had the duty of] buying their needs from the market and when there were men in the house I would enter without permission.

One day, I went to him while he was in the men’s quarters and I heard some movement in the room. He

suddenly called out to me, “Stay in your place and don’t move.” I didn’t dare to enter or go out. A slave-maid came out and with her was a covered thing. He then called out to me and said, “Come in,” and I went in. He called out to the slave-maid and she returned to him. He then said to her, “Uncover what you have with you.”

She removed the veil [which was covering] a white handsome boy. He uncovered his stomach and there was hair from his chest to his navel but it was green, not black. He said, “This is your master.” He then ordered her [to take him away] and she took him away. After this, I did not see him until Abū Muḥammad passed away.

817. Al-Kaḥḥī: `Alī b. Muḥammad, from Muḥammad b. Ismā‘īl b. Mūsā b. Ja‘far—who was a very old man from the descendants of the Messenger of Allah, Allah’s blessings be on him and his family, in Iraq—who said: “I saw him between the two mosques, while he, peace be on him, was a young boy.”

818. Al-Kaḥḥī: Muḥammad b. Ya‘yā, from al-Ḥusayn b. Rizq-Allah Abū `Abd-Allah, from Mūsā b. Muḥammad b. al-Qasim b. Ḥamzat b. Mūsā b. Ja‘far, from Ḥakīm—(Imam) Muḥammad b. `Alī’s daughter and the aunt of [the Mahdī’s] father—who said she had seen him in the night of his birth and also after that.

819. Al-Kaḥḥī: Muḥammad b. Ya‘yā, from al-Ḥasan b. `Alī al-Nasībī, from Ibrāhīm b. Muḥammad b. `Abd-Allah b. Mūsā b. Ja‘far, from Abū Naṣr Ḥarf—the servant—[who said] he had seen him, peace be on him.

820. Al-Kaḥḥī: `Alī b. Muḥammad from Fatā—the slave of al-Rizā [al-Zur‘ī]—who said: “I heard Abū `Alī b. Muḥammad mention that he had seen him and had described his height.”

The traditions with the following numbers also prove the above concept: 786–788, 796–797, 802, 804, and 808–810.

1. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 435, no. 2; Yan‘ab‘ al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 460, to where he says, “we left”; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 25–26, no. 19, which says, “Abū Muḥammad al-Ḥasan b. `Alī, peace be on him, showed us his son”; I‘lām al-warā, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 2, sect. 3; Tab‘īrat al-walā, pp. 48–49, no. 16.

2. Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 357, no. 319; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 51, chap. 16, pp. 346–347, no. 1; Tab‘īrat al-walā, pp. 183–185, no. 76; Ithbāt al-hudūd, vol. 3, chap. 31, pp. 415–416, no. 56, which is its beginning, and chap. 32, p. 511, no. 337, which is its end.

3. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, p. 434, no. 1; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 25, no. 18; I‘lām al-warā, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 1, sect. 3.

4. Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 436–437, no. 5; Yan‘ab‘ al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461, similar to it from Ya‘qūb; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 25, no. 17; I‘lām al-warā, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 2, sect. 2.

5. Al-Kaḥḥī, vol. 1, p. 328, no. 3, and vol. 1, p. 332, no. 12; I‘lām al-warā, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 2, sect. 3; al-Irshād, p. 349; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 234, no. 203; Yan‘ab‘ al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 60, no. 48; Tab‘īrat al-walā, pp. 50–51, no. 19, and p. 275, no. 111.

6. Al-Kaḥḥī, vol. 1, p. 329, no. 6, and a shortened version on p. 332, no. 14, and a longer one on pp. 514–515, no. 2; Kamāl al-dīn, vol. 2, chap. 43, pp. 435–436, no. 4; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, pp. 233–234, no. 202; Yan‘ab‘ al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461 (short version); Tab‘īrat al-walā, pp. 51–52, no. 20, and pp. 276–277, no. 115; Biḥār al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp.

26–27, no. 21; Taqrīb al-ma`rif, pp. 184–185.

7. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, p. 330, no. 2; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra’i al-Imam,” p. 350, with the difference that he said, “I saw the son of al-ʿasan b. `Alī b. Muḥammad, peace be on him, between the two mosques while he was a boy”; Yanābiʿ al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 268, no. 230; Biṭr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 13, no. 8; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 449; lʿim al-war, fourth rukn, part 2, chap. 1, sect. 2; Tabʿirat al-wal, p. 55, no. 22; al-ʿir al-mustaqim, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 4, p. 240.

I say: Perhaps the two mosques in the tradition refers to the two mosques of Mecca and Medina.

8. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, pp. 330–331, no. 3. His saying, “The aunt of his father” refers to the paternal aunt of Imam Abū Muḥammad—al-ʿujja’s father—peace be on him; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra’i al-Imam,” p. 376, with the difference that he said: “. . . and she is the paternal aunt of al-ʿasan who had seen the Qʿim . . .” and it mentions “al-ʿasan b. Rizq-Allah.”

9. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, p. 332, no. 13; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra’i al-Imam al-Thaqnī `Ashar,” p. 351; Biṭr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, pp. 60–61, no. 49; al-ʿir al-mustaqim, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 4, p. 241.

10. Al-Kāfī, vol. 1, p. 331, no. 5; al-Irshād, chap. “Dhikr man ra’i al-Imam al-Thaqnī `Ashar,” p. 350; Yanābiʿ al-mawadda, chap. 82, p. 461, which says, “From my father, `Alī b. Muḥahhar, who said, ‘I saw the son of Abū Muḥammad and he was very majestic’”; Tabʿirat al-wal fī man ra’i al-Qʿim al-Mahdī, p. 55, no. 23, and p. 273, no. 103; Biṭr al-anwār, vol. 52, chap. 18, p. 14, no. 11; Ghaybat al-Shaykh, p. 269, no. 233; Kashf al-ghumma, vol. 2, p. 450; al-ʿir al-mustaqim, vol. 2, chap. 11, sect. 4, p. 240.

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/selected-narrations-about-twelfth-imam-volume-2-lutfullah-safi-golpaygani/section-three-0#comment-0>