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Titles of Imam Mahdi

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Imam Mahdi has many titles for which more than 180 titles have been mentioned. Here we mention the most important ones. Some of these titles, as they are, are mentioned in different religions and in their books with the same name, which refers to Imam Mahdi.

1. Baqiyat Allāh

Meaning : what God has remained for us upon the earth

That which is left to you by Allah is better, if you are true believers; yet I am not a warden over you^[1]

Imam Baqir (peace be upon him) said: Greetings to Hazrat Qā'im (may our souls be sacrificed for Him) is to say: "Peace be upon you, O Baqiyat Allāh upon the earth.

Amir al-Mu'minīn Ali (PBUH) said: He is the Baqiyat Allāh upon the earth, Imam Mahdi (a.s.), who will appear at the end of time after the expiration of this period and will fill the earth with fairness and justice as it has been filled with oppression and tyranny.

A letter has been issued from Hazrat Baqiyat Allāh al-Azam (may God hasten his reappearance) which includes the following: Whenever you want to turn to God, turn to us, and say as God Almighty has said: "Peace be upon you, O Baqiyat Allāh upon the earth"^[2]

2. Ahmad

The name Ahmad means: The most praised and glorified

And when Jesus son of Mary said, "O Children of Israel! Indeed I am the apostle of Allah to you, to confirm what is before

me of the Torah, and to give the good news of an apostle who will come after me, whose name is Ahmad." Yet when he brought them manifest proofs, they said, "This "is plain magic".^[3]

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said the following, mentioning the names of Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance): His names are Ahmad, Abdullah and al-Mahdi. These are three of his names.

Imam Ali (peace be upon him) said: A man comes from my descendants at the end of time ... He has two names: A name that is hidden and a name that is clear: As for the one that is hidden, it is Ahmad, and the one that is clear is Muhammad.^[4]

3. The Avenger

God the Almighty says in the Holy Quran: And even if We take you away (from this world) We shall take revenge on them.^[5]

One of the names and attributes of the Master of the Age, Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance), is the Avenger. On the day of Ashura, after the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (peace be upon him), God the Almighty gave solace to His angles by introducing the Avenger, as he said to them: I will take my revenge from the enemies by means of my last proof over my creation, Imam Qā'im, the Avenger.^[6]

4. Al-watr

Meaning : the one who is unique and individual

God the Almighty says in the Holy Quran: And [by] the even [number] and the odd.^[7]

Imam Baqir (as) said: "Al-watr" is the name of Imam Qāem (may Almighty Allah hasten his honorable reappearance).^[8]

The real name of Hazrat Mahdi (a.t.f.s.) is "M-H-M-D"(Muhammad) which is the same as that of the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.). The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.) had prophesied, "His name will be my name and his agnomen will be my agnomen."^[9]

His agnomen is Abul Qasim. He is also addressed as Abu Saaleh, Abu Abdillah, Abu Ibrahim, Abu Ja'far and Abu Husain.^[10]

5. Mahdi

This is his most famous title. The word "Mahdi" is derived from the infinitive of guidance and means the one who

has been guided by the Almighty.

In this context Imam As-Sadiq (a.s.) was asked, “Why is he called al-Mahdi?” He (a.s.) replied: “Because he will be guided to every hidden affair.”^[11]

Also, it has been narrated from Imam Al-Baqir (a.s.): “He is named Mahdi as, he will guide to a hidden affair.”^[12]

6. Qa'im

This means the one who will rise with the truth.

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.a.) said: “Al-Qa'im has been named so because he will rise after the oblivion of his name.”^[13]

When Imam Muhammad al-Taqi (a.s.) was asked: “Why has he been named al-Qa'im?” He (a.s.) replied: “Because he will rise after the oblivion of his name and the refutation of his Imamate by the majority of believers.”^[14]

7. Light of Allah

“They desire to put out the light of Allah with their mouths but Allah will perfect His light, though the unbelievers may be averse. He it is Who sent His Messenger with the guidance and the true religion, that He may make it overcome the religions, all of them, though the polytheists may be averse.”^[15]

While explaining the interpretation of this verse to Mohammed Ibn Fuzayl, Imam Musa Kazim (as) said: “They try to extinguish the Mastership of Ameerul Momeneen (as)”. Ibn Fuzayl asked Imam (as): Then what is the meaning of “But Allah will complete His Light”. Imam (as) replied: “Allah will complete (the light of) Imamate, like he has said ‘Those who believe in Allah and His messenger and the light which we have sent down upon them’. In this verse divine light refers to Imam (as)”.

Ibn Fuzayl asked further “What is the meaning of “He it is who send His Messenger with guidance and the true religion”. Imam (as) replied: “It means He it is who sent His Messenger with the order regarding the successorship of his successor. That is the true religion.”

Ibn Fuzayl inquired further “What is the meaning of “So that He Prevails it over all other religions”.

Imam (as) said: “So that He prevails it over other religions through the uprising of Qaem (as)”.

Imam (as) then said: Allah says “But He will complete His light”. This light refers to the Mastership of (Hazrat) Qaem (as) even if the polytheists were averse to the Mastership of Imam Ali (as).”^[16]

References

1. [^] *Surah al Hood, verse 86.*
2. [^] *Bihar Al-Anwar, vol. 53, p. 171.*
3. [^] *Surah al Saff, verse 6.*
4. [^] *Al-Ghaybah, p. 454 / Kamal al-Din, v. 1. p. 653.*
5. [^] *Surah Zukhruf, v. 41.*
6. [^] *Bihar al-Anwar, v. 37 p. 294.*
7. [^] *Surah Al-Fajr, verse 3.*
8. [^] *Al-Manaqib, vol. 1, p. 281 Interpretation of Ahl al-Bayt (peace be upon them vol. 18, p. 90).*
9. [^] *Kamaaluddin, p. 287.*
10. [^] *Ilzaamun Naasib, Shaikh Haaeri Yazdi, vol. 1, p. 483.*
11. [^] *Behaarul Anwaar, vol. 51, chapter 2, H. No. 6.*
12. [^] *Isbatul Hudaat, Shaikh Hurr Aameli, vol. 7, p. 110 & 169.*
13. [^] *Ma'anil Akhbar, Shaikh Saduq, p. 65.*
14. [^] *Kamaaluddin, p. 387.*
15. [^] *Surah Saff, verses 8-9.*
16. [^] *Kafi, volume 1, page 432.*