



Being a helper of Imam Mahdi

Lesson 5D11



Learning Objectives

1. To be able to explain the term ansar
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the main themes of Du'a Ahd
3. To cite examples of how we can practice the characteristics required to be a helper of Imam al-Mahdi (a)

Ayat



Surat as-Saff, 61:14

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا أَنْصَارَ اللَّهِ
كَمَا قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ لِلْحَوَارِيِّينَ
مَنْ أَنْصَارِي إِلَى اللَّهِ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ نَحْنُ أَنْصَارُ اللَّهِ
فَأَمَّنَتْ طَائِفَةٌ مِّنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَكَفَرَتْ طَائِفَةٌ
فَأَيَّدْنَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا عَلَىٰ عَدُوِّهِمْ فَأَصْبَحُوا ظَاهِرِينَ

O you who believe! Be Allah's helpers, just as Isa son of Maryam said to the disciples: 'Who will be my helpers for Allah's sake?' The disciples said: 'We are Allah's helpers.' So a group of the Bani Isra'il believed and a group disbelieved. Then We strengthened those who believed against their enemy, and they became the dominant ones.



Ansar means helpers

- The Prophets and Imams had helpers, and in the ayah on the previous slide Allah invites mu'minin to be helpers in his cause, He gives the example of Nabi Isa and his disciples.
- Ansar was also used for the people of Medina who helped Rasulallah (s) and the Muslims who had migrated from Mecca. They were very generous and were willing to share a large part of their wealth with the newcomers for the sake of Allah.



Du'a Ahd

- Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq said: 'One who recites this du'a for 40 mornings will be regarded as a helper of Imam al-Mahdi. If he happens to die before the Imam reappears, Allah will raise him from his grave so that he can help the Imam.'



Du'a Ahd main themes

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1. Stating the greatness of Allah and asking Him to shower His blessings on Imam al-Mahdi (a) and the a'immah (a).
 2. Promising loyalty to the Imam (a). This is a commitment to be a helper of the Imam (a) and it is stated in the following beautiful words:

'O Allah, I renew my promise to him [Imam al-Mahdi (a)] in the beginning of this day and throughout the days of my life, a promise to which I commit myself and from which I do not change. O Allah, make me of his supporters and defenders and those who rush to carry out his orders.'

3. Praying that one sees and meets the Imam (a).
4. Praying to Allah to make him successful in his mission of spreading justice in the world.
5. Praying for his quick reappearance. At the end of the du'a, the supplicant is supposed to lightly strike his thigh and say:

'[We hope you come] quickly, quickly, O Sahib az-Zaman!'



Profile of a helper of the Imam

1. Strong iman: One needs to truly believe in his existence and that he will come back and create a just world. Learning more about the Imam will help develop stronger faith.
2. Love and connection: feel connected with the Imam by remembering him every day, by greeting him with salam, by praying for his safety and quick dhuhur, and praying through him for your needs.
3. Good akhlaq: In order to help the imam make the world a better place we need good character (ex. patience, compassion, hard work, selflessness, and honesty). Character takes time to develop through practice everyday.
4. Living according to Islam: Imam Mahdi will lead the world based off of Islamic teachings. A helper of the imam should be following those teachings from before hand.



Questions

- Why should we be ansar?
- What is the cause Allah is asking us to help him with?
- Why do we read Du'a Ahd?
- Which Imam recommended the recitation of Du'a Ahd?
- what are the main themes of Du'a Ahd? Explain in your own words.
- In todays environment of haram being all around us, how can we live according to Islamic teachings?