

Imam Hasan ibn Ali ibn Abi Talib *(Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhu)*



Excerpted from:
Tarikh al-Khulafa by Imam Jalaluddin as-Suyuti (Alayhir Rahmah)

Translated by:
Abu Hasan (Allah bless him with better reward)

Abu Muhammad Imam Hasan ibn Ali ibn Abu Talib (Radi Allahu Anhu), the grandson of RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) was born on the 15th of Ramadan, the third year after hijrah. He has narrated Hadith from RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam). Sayyidatuna Aayishah (Radi Allahu Anha) has narrated from him; also, a multitude from among the tabi'un (the successors) have narrated from him. Like his own son Hasan the Second (Hasan al-Muthanna), Abu Hawra'a Rabi'ah ibn Sinan, Sha'abi, Abu Wayil and Ibn Sirin.

He resembled RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) very much. RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) named him Hasan. He sacrificed two lambs on his behalf on the seventh day (performed the Aqiqah) and shaved the newborn's head. He instructed that the weight of this hair in silver, to be given away as charity. And he is among the five, known as the 'folk of the cloak' (Ahl al-Kisa'a).

Ibn Saad reports from Imran ibn Sulayman said: 'Hasan and Husayn are two names from paradise; none of the Arabs knew of this name prior to these two in Jahiliyyah (i.e. the pagan times; the period before Islam).

Imam Askari says: This name (Hasan) was not known at all in the pagan times.

Mufaddal says: Allah had concealed the names Hasan and Husayn, until the Prophet (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) named his two grandsons with these names.

Bukhari reports from Anas: 'No one resembled the Prophet (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) more than Hasan ibn Ali.'

Bukhari and Muslim report from Bara'a: I have seen RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) with Hasan upon his shoulder, saying: 'O Allah I love him, so (Ye) love him too'.

Bukhari reports from Abu Bakr: I have seen RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) on the pulpit (minbar) with Hasan on his side. He looked at the assembly and Hasan alternately, and said: 'Verily, this son of mine is a great leader. Mayhap that Allah will unite two groups of Muslims on his account.'

Bukhari reports from Ibn Umar: 'Both Hasan and Husayn are my two perfumes in this world'.

Tirmidhi and Hakim report from Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri: RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) said: 'Hasan and Husayn are the two leaders of young men in paradise'.

Tirmidhi reports from Usamah ibn Zayd: I once saw Hasan and Husayn on the lap of RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) and he said: 'These two are my children, my grandsons. O Allah I love them; (You) love them too. And love all those who love them'.

It is reported from Anas: RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) was asked, which member of his family were his favorite; he replied: 'Hasan and Husayn'.

Hakim reports from Ibn Abbas, that RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) was once carrying Hasan on his shoulders. A man met him on the way and said: 'What a magnificent mount that you

ride, young man.’ RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) replied, ‘And what a magnificent rider is he!’

Ibn Saad reports from Abdullah ibn Zubayr: Hasan ibn Ali resembled RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) the most in his family and was the dearest to him. I have seen him (Hasan) ride upon RasoolAllah’s neck (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) – or he said back – when he was in prostration and RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) wouldn’t arise until Hasan dismounted himself. I have seen him (RasoolAllah SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) in ruku when Hasan would crawl by his feet. RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) would let him go between his legs to the other side.’

Ibn Saad reports from Abu Salamah ibn Abd ar-Rahman: RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) would put out his (blessed) tongue to Hasan ibn Ali; the little child would cheer up, on seeing the redness of his tongue.

Hakim reports from Zuhayr ibn al-Arqam: Hasan ibn Ali stood up to speak; a man from the Azd tribe stood up and said: ‘I bear witness that I have seen RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam) holding him (Hasan) in his arms and say: ‘Whoever loves me, loves him; those present should convey this to those who aren’t.’ If it was not for the love and honor of RasoolAllah (SallAllahu Alayhi wa Sallam), I would not have narrated this to anyone.’

Imam Hasan (Radi Allahu Anhu) was a man of many qualities; he was a leader of men, forbearing and patient, a man of dignity and sobriety, staid and demure; and very generous. He disliked war and fighting. He would give away a hundred thousand (as a present or charity) without giving it a thought.

Hakim reports from Abdullah ibn Ubayd ibn Umayr: ‘Hasan went on Hajj twenty-five times on foot, even though very fine camels were driven alongside.’

Ibn Saad reports from Umayr ibn Ishaq: ‘Never has anyone spoken, whose speech has left me wanting (that i wished his speech to never end) other than Hasan ibn Ali. I have never heard harsh speech (kalimata fuhushin) from him except once. Amr ibn Uthman and Hasan had a disagreement over a piece of land. Hasan proposed something which Amr did not accept. Hasan said: ‘He hath not with us, except what he loathes’. These were the harshest words I have heard coming from him.’

Ibn Saad reports from Amr ibn Ishaq: Marwan was appointed as our governor. Every Friday, he would swear at Ali on the pulpit. Hasan would hear him but wouldn’t say a word. Marwan (out of frustration) sent a man to him with a message ‘Ali is such and such and such... and you are so and so and so... and you are like a mule when it is asked, ‘Who is your father’, replies: ‘My mother is a horse’. Imam Hasan said to the man: ‘Go back and tell him (Marwan), by Allah, I cannot erase that which you have said by swearing back at you. However, we shall be presented to Allah at an appointed time. If you are saying the truth, then may Allah reward you for saying the truth. And if you are lying, then (fear) Allah, for He has a painful torment (for the transgressors).

Ibn Saad reports from Zurayq ibn Suwar: Marwan and Imam Hasan had an argument and Marwan began to speak rough; Imam Hasan kept silent. And then Marwan began picking his nose with his

right hand. Hasan said: 'Woe unto you. Did you not learn to use the right hand for clean things, and the left, to clean? Shame on you.' This silenced Marwan.

Ibn Saad reports from Ash'ath ibn Suwar from somebody else, who said: A man came in and sat with Hasan. Hasan said: 'you have come, when we were about to leave. Will you (please) permit us to leave?'

Ibn Saad reports from Ali ibn Zayd ibn Jad'aan: Hasan would give (charity) from his wealth twice.

Ibn Asakir reports from Juwayriyyah ibn Asma'a: When Hasan died, Marwan sobbed at his funeral. Husayn said: 'Now, you cry? Weren't you impudent when he was alive?' Marwan replied: 'I used to do all that I did, to a man who was more forbearing than this...' and he pointed towards the mountain.

Ibn Asakir reports from Mubarrad: Someone said to Hasan, 'Abu Dharr used to say: I desire poverty instead of wealth; being sick is better than being healthy'. Imam Hasan replied: 'May Allah have mercy on Abu Dharr; as for myself, I say: He who trusts in that which Allah has chosen for him, shall not seek a state different from what Allah has ordained.' This is an example of extreme submission to Allah's Will and Command.

Imam Hasan (Radi Allahu Anhu) became the caliph after his father was martyred, by the allegiance of the Kufans. He remained such for six months and a few more days and then Imam Hasan sent an envoy seeking peace, and wished to renounce the post in favor of Sayyiduna Mu'awiyah. After this, Imam Hasan left Kufah and retired to Madinah.

Hakim reports from Jubayr ibn Nufayr: I said to Hasan, 'people say that you desire the caliphate.' He replied: 'I had Arab warriors at my command to fight whom I did and befriend those I wished; but I renounced war, seeking to please Allah and to avert spilling the blood of the followers of Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam) just for the sake of power.'

Ibn Saad reports from Imran ibn Abdullah ibn Talha: Imam Hasan saw in his dream as if 'Qul huwa Allahu Ahad' was written between his eyes. When this dream was related to Sa'eed ibn al-Musayyib, he interpreted: 'If this dream is true, then his death is very near'. He lived for only a few days after this event.

Imam Hasan (Radi Allahu Anhu) died in Madinah Munawwarah after he was poisoned in the year 49 AH. It is said that he died on the 5th of Rabi al-Awwal, 50 AH. It is also said that it was in 51 AH. Imam Husayn, his brother entreated him to name the poisoner; Imam Hasan declined and said: 'If it is the one I suspect, Allah shall take that person into account. If not, I do not wish that an innocent is killed on my account'.