

10 Stories From Imam Reza (a.s)

For Children

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Bitten

Apples

Bitten Apples

There were many fruit gardens in city .Gardens full of apple and pear trees. All apples were ripe and ready to be picked. In most of the gardens, workers used to pick the apples and put them inside the boxes.

Yunes, a young man who was busy like others. He was standing on a ladder and was picking apples. He was whistling and singing and sometimes chatting and laughing with other workers. Friend of Yunes was also busy picking apples on another tree. Yunes sat on branch and said: “what a nice weather! We’ve been working all together since morning. Common lets rest for a while.”

And then, he looked at a crow which was sitting on the other side. He said: “look at this crow! It’s moving around from day till night without doing anything, and God sends his day! But we humans should always work.”

Friend of Yunes who was going to bring another box for apples, laughed and said: “what words you are saying Yunes! Now you are comparing yourself with a crow? Can’t you see how much he is cawing and in search of food in winters! Mind your own work and thank god that you’re not a crow.”

Yunes was sitting on a branch and was waving his legs. He picked a big and juicy apple. After giving it two or three bites, he threw the apple down. Friend of Yunes put a new box beside the tree. He looked at the apple which Yunes had thrown away, and said: “Yunes! What have done? Is there any warm inside of it? But it seems to be good.”

Yunes laughed and said: “These apples on this tree are free of any worms. I have eaten most of them. But there are lots of apples here. No need to finish them all. Take it easy!”

Friend of Yunes said: “yeah, it’s full of apples here. But it was better to finish it. After all apple is an apple!”

Yunes ignored his friend. He got back to work and said: “what are you saying? Look at this bunch of apples! What happens if I bite some and throw them away?”

Imam Reza (a.s) was also there on that day. When workers saw Imam, they greeted him with loud voice. When Imam came by the tree, he stopped and looked at the half bitten apple. Which was on the ground and said: “too many bitten apples here! Who ate these apples?”

All workers were silent. Finally Yunes said: “me.” Imam said with annoyance: “you know what you have done is called wasting?”

You have been regardless to God’s blessings. Do you know that God doesn’t love who wastes?”

Yunes lowered his head and said with shame: “you are right, I’m sorry.”

Bitten Apples

Imam said nothing and took his way. Friend of Yunes looked at him.

Yunes could imagine his Friend saying: “see! I told you so!”

Friend of Yunes was quite, but Yunes said: “yeah! You were right. I made a mistake. Now I think that Imam is right. There are many poor and needy people in this city and I’m wasting these apples.”

And then he began to picking big and red apples with much effort.

A

New

Lesson

A new lesson

Imam Reza (a.s) had finished his daily work and wanted to return back to home. He had class that day, and after that he went to visit one of his old friends. Sulayman was with him too. When they were returning back to home, they reached upon a city market.

The market was crowded. Everybody who saw Imam Reza (a.s). They went towards him and greeted him. Imam Reza (a.s) was so tired on that day but he was cheerful and kind as usual. Sometimes he used to stop and talk to them for a moment.

They passed through the market and reached at a dilemma. Sulayman wanted to leave Imam but imam said:

“Let’s go to my home and have dinner, if you are not up to anything else.”

Sulayman wanted to be with Imam the whole day and night. He got happy by hearing this. But he said: “Thank you! You know better that I always want to be with you but I’m afraid of bothering you.”

Imam smiled and said: “you are not bothering me! Set the compliments aside and let’s go.”

And they start moving towards the home. When Imam entered his yard, he saw a worker working. The worker was a black man and had a strong body. He was repairing the barn wall. Imam looked at the black man from afar and said: “greetings! Hope you are well! “

And then, slowly asked his servant: “who is this man? “

Servant replied: “we brought him to fix the barn wall. He is a smart and strong worker. “

He had fixed the back wall of the barn, and was busy fixing the front wall.

Imam said: “you did the right thing. But have you talked about his payment before the work?

Servant said: “no, but we are going to convince him. Don’t worry. We will pay him after the work.

Imam got upset and said with annoyance: “it’s not good. Haven’t I told you several times to set the workers payment before his work?

Servant looked down and said nothing. He was remembering about what imam said. It was a few months ago that they brought a worker to repair the roof. He had forgotten to set his payment before starting the work. Imam had also told him on that day. Sulayman was listening to Imam.

On that day he got a new lesson from Imam’s words as always. Imam carried on his words: “if you don’t set the workers payment at beginning, he will think that you have paid him less. But when you set and pay him before the work, he will be glad and satisfied, and if you pay him more, he will be thankful and appreciate that.”

Servant was blaming himself and saying: “yes, that’s right, I don’t know why I forgot again what Imam had said.”

The

Familiar

Stranger

The familiar stranger

There was a question and answer session of Imam Reza (a.s). There were many people gathered around. If anyone had a problem, he would ask Imam and Imam would reply them.

After sometime, a tall and brunette man entered. He said: "Hi! "And looked around himself.

He saw a person on top who was talking. He understood that his Imam Reza (a.s). He moved gently and sat beside him.

The man wanted to talk to Imam Reza (a.s), but he didn't want others to know about this. He tried to talk for a few times, but he couldn't. He sat silently for some time, and finally told himself: "I don't have other choice, I have to say my words. I'm alone and strange in this city.

Who better than Imam Reza (a.s)? If I'm not telling him, than whom I'm going to tell? "He waited until Imam answered other person. Then, he moved his head and said with a low voice: "I wanted to tell you something, if you have time. "

Imam kindly looked at him and said: "I think you are a stranger in this city, tell me brother! "Man slowly said: "My name is Obayd. Im a lover of you and your great father. I'm coming back from Hajj, had a good journey until now. But around Khorasan, a few thieves attacked me and took all what I had.

Obayd continued with tears: "I didn't know whom shall I tell my problem. Finally I decided to come to you so you can help me to get back to my city. I'm not a poor and needy person. I have my wealth

in my city. I promise, when reach my city, I will help the poor as you helped me. "

Imam was listening to Obayd. Obayd was sitting with eyes looking down and could not look into Imam's eyes.

He was feeling shame for what he had said. Imam said with kindness: "Don't worry brother. You did the right thing that you came here. Wait here until the meeting ends. "

Obayd said nothing. He was sitting quietly and listening to people. Finally the meeting ended. Everyone stoop up said goodbye and left one by one. Only two friends were staying with Imam and Obayd.

Imam looked at them and asked: "Can I go to another room? "

One of his companions said: "You have the right here!"

Imam got up and went to another room. And Obayd was sitting quietly in a corner. A few minutes later, Imam called Obayd from behind the door with surprise. Imam gave Obayd a small pouch over the door and said: "take these 200 dirhams and get back to your city. When you reached there, you don't need to give charity to poor as much as I gave you, this money is all yours, now you can go.

Obayd thanked Imam. He left happily to leave early tomorrow for his city. One of the companions of Imam saw what happened, he looked Imam and said: "You've been grateful to that stranger. But why you didn't show up when you were giving him the money? "

Imam said: "I didn't want him to feel ashamed, haven't you heard what God said to prophet? " A person who does a good thing out of

The familiar stranger

sight of others, God gives him or her a reward which is equal to seventy Hajj. “

Obayd followed his way to the Caravan Sarai, he was thinking that he has not seen anyone else more compassionate than Imam Reza (a.s).

What did
Sparrow said?

What did Sparrow said?

It was summer and fruits were ripe. Sparrows were jumping here and there on the trees, they were chirping and pecking the fruits. Imam Reza (a.s) and Sulayman were walking in the middle of the trees and were talking together.

Sulayman was a close friend of Imam. He moved a branch in the way and said: "It's so hot today! There isn't any breeze." He looked around and said: "The trees are filled with sparrow nests. Surely most of them are sitting on their eggs! They are going to die of this hot weather."

One of the sparrows was following Imam, it was flying above the head of Imam and was chirping, and suddenly Imam stopped. The sparrow also sat on a branch of tree and started chirping again. She was chirping fast and faster.

Sulayman looked at Imam and said: "It's so strange! What this sparrow wants? Why is she chirping so much and not leaving you alone!" The moment he wanted to take away the sparrow from tree, Imam said: "No Sulayman, wait! Don't bother her. We should help her. Surely she is in a big trouble. Like she wants to tell us something."

Sulayman didn't do anything and followed Imam. The sparrow was flying and leading them. Looked like if she is showing them a way. They crossed the fruit trees. Sulayman was running so fast that he could have fallen. Finally they arrive at a corner of the garden. There was a small hut located. There was a tree near the hut and sparrow had a nest on it. The baby sparrows were inside the nest and were

chirping with fear. Other sparrows were gathered on the tree and were making noise.

It was for a long time that a black snake was coiling around the tree and trying to climb up. When Sulayman saw the snake, he didn't waste the time. He picked a stick from ground and speedily reached himself to the yard and from there he hit the snake with his stick. At this moment, the snake crept down the tree and crawled down and ran away from them quickly.

The sparrow went to her babies safely. She was chirping happily and the rest of them too. Imam sat on yard stairs and he was watching the sparrows.

Sulayman sat with Imam too. He took a breath and said: "Thanks God!" and then he faced to Imam and asked: "By the way! How did you know that what the sparrow is saying?"

Imam smiled and said: "I'm a representative of God on this earth."

Sulayman shake his head and said: "yes...yes. It's right."

Imam started moving, Sulayman was also taking steps behind the Imam and couldn't get the sparrow and her babies out of his mind.

Abdullah's Loan

Abdullah's Loan

Abdullah prayed his evening prayers in Medina mosque. He went and sat at a corner of mosque. Pitting his head on his knees and was thinking. He said to himself: "I don't know what to do with Tys? I cannot give back his loan now. And he doesn't give me time!"

A few days ago, Abdullah had taken a loan from a person called "Tys". But his work was not going fine and now he couldn't pay back the money.

He remembered the day when Tys came at his door and asked for his money. When Abdullah asked for more time, he Tys shouted at him and disrespected him in front of neighbors. Every one of them was saying something to him and were making him feel upset.

Abdullah was thinking about Tys and his loan which he had to pay him in 2-3 days.

Because he would definitely come and disrespect him again. He said to himself: "I don't know what to do? Whom should I ask? I wish someone had lend me some money without feeling me disgraced."

People would come, pray and leave but he was sitting in mosque and thinking. Finally he shake his head and said: "yes...I got it. I will do this, nobody is better than Imam, I should go to him right now."

With this thought, he stood up and went out of mosque. He knew that Imam is living in a village near medina.

Abdullah started moving. It was around evening that he arrived at Imam's place. He had approached at Imam's house. He looked at Imam from afar, Imam was riding a horse, and coming closer.

He didn't know what to do. Imam came closer to him and reached about a few steps to him. Abdullah greeted him with a loud voice, Imam answered him cheerfully.

Greeted him and said: "I think you were coming to me. What the matter?" Abdullah looked down and said: "I don't know what to say and I'm ashamed. As far as I thought, I came with no choice unless to tell you." Imam said with kindness: "go on Abdullah, what's your problem?" Abdullah raised his head and said: "The truth is that, I borrowed money from someone two months ago. God knows better, I don't have any money right now to give him. If I had I would have given and free myself.

I asked him for more time, but he started shouting and yelling and disrespecting me in front of others, made my life a nightmare..."

Imam stepped down and started walking with Abdullah. Abdullah said to himself: "May god wills, if Imam could ask Tys for more time for me."

Imam smiled and said: "I have a work to do at my home. Wait here. I will be back soon." Imam left by saying this. Abdullah sat on a rock there. Azan had been called. He performed ablution by a ditch and prayed. Shortly after, Imam returned. It was Ramadan and Abdullah was fasting. Imam looked at him and said: "let's go to my home. It's time for breaking fast.

Abdullah and Imam went to home. The servant brought food for them. They ate the food and started talking. But Imam said nothing about Abdullah's loan. And Abdullah was ashamed to ask him.

Abdullah's Loan

Abdullah was about to leave that Imam said: "Raise the carpet which you are sitting on. Anything under that is yours. Take it."

Abdullah raised a corner of carpet. He saw a small pouch of money. He took it and became glad. He thanked Imam and was leaving for his home, but Imam said: "I will tell the worker to drop with horse." Abdullah said: "I don't want to bother you, don't make me feel ashamed in front of you." The servant went with Abdullah and dropped him at his home.

Abdullah thanked him and went to his home happily. He entered his small room. He took a candle from shelf and light it up. He sat by the candle light and opened the pouch. Forty seven dinar were in there. Abdullah was putting back the back the money, suddenly he noticed a small letter inside the pouch.

He took the letter and started reading it under the candle light. Imam had written: "payback the twenty eight dinar to that man, and the rest is yours!"

Abdullah was about to cry. He went through the letter again and said with a loud voice: "My God.... I had not said to Imam that how much I had to pay Tys! From where does he know!? God! How close is this man to you?" And then he thanked God and prayed for Imam.

The
Hunter
and deer

The hunter and deer

Imam Reza (a.s) and his companions were going to Khorasan from Medina. They were close to Semnan. It was after noon and weather was hot. Imam and his companions stepped from their horses and camels, they prayed and had lunch. All of them were tired. They decided to rest for a moment and then continue their journey. Every one of them went to find shadow of tree to rest there. A ditch was passing by the trees.

A crow was sitting afar by the ditch and was drinking water. As like others, Imam sat under a shadow of tree and was observing the desert. Sometime voice of birds could be heard.

When Imam was looking afar away, all of a sudden he saw an animal running and coming closer to him. When he concentrated, he saw a deer. The deer was running to them as fast as she could. Finally, she reached to Imam and was going out of breath and lied around the legs of Imam. All companions heard the deer running and were looking to this scene. The deer was scared and was not leaving Imam.

She could hardly breathe. It seemed that she had been running a long way. At this point, they saw a hunter running fast and coming towards them. When the hunter saw the deer sitting by Imam, he reached there happily and said: "finally I got her." And then he took out a big rope out of bag to tie the deer. But Imam stopped him, he grabbed the deer and said: "Hunter, wait!"

The hunter was a young man, he said sharply: "why shall I wait? This deer is mine. I saw her first and I'm running a long way after her in this hot weather." Imam said gently: "Alright, but I will buy this deer

from you." The hunter said: "I'm not selling!" Imam said: "as much as it costs, I will pay more than that."

The man didn't accept either. Imam was urging too much, and said any price, but the hunter refused.

He was saying: "this deer is mine, and I'm not selling it at any cost."

The deer was staring in Imam's eyes. It seemed that Imam could see something in her eyes. Imam said: "than, let this deer go. I will promise she will be back."

The hunter laughed and said: "it's getting interesting! What are you saying!? The deer goes and then comes back? I was running after her for hours and hours and I couldn't get her. Now, she goes and comes back? Alright, deal! But no one is moving from here until she comes back." The deer had two babies, which were waiting for her.

She went and fed her babies, and then she came back again to Imam Reza (a.s). When the hunter saw the deer, he was shocked. He rubbed his eyes and stared at the deer. He couldn't believe that she is back on her own. Now the hunter understood that whom he was keeping as hostage, he is one else but Imam Reza (a.s). When the man came to know this, he started crying.

He fell on Imam's feet and said: "oh son of prophet! Forgive me! I did the worst! I was foolish and selfish."

Imam comforted him and said: "Now, the best thing is to sell this deer to me. Here, take this money and give the deer to me."

The hunter and deer

Man said with embarrassment: “the deer is yours. I don’t want any money.”

But Imam gave the money with insistence and the deer went back to her babies undisturbed.

Almond
Tree

Almond tree

That day the Neishapur city was not as usual. Rayhana and her parents were living in Neishapur. Early morning, mother of Rayhana woke her up joyfully and said: "rise and shine! Hurry up, wash your hands and face and have your breakfast. It's time to leave. People are waiting behind the city gates for the whole night." Rayhana and her mother got ready quickly to leave. Outside of home, they saw Bibi Pasandeh who was busy sweeping. Rayhana's mother said: "Hi Bibi, hope you are well! Why you are sweeping early morning?"

You don't want to come with us? "Bibi Pasandeh hold her back and stood up. She didn't have any teeth and always would wear a white scarf. She was looking neat and clean. She smiled and said: "no, my dear! How can I walk with these legs and my back? And wait for hours? You go. God speed you." Then, she looked afar. Her eyes glammed and she said: "I had a strange dream last night. I will wait here for Imam. "Rayhana's mother asked: "what dream?"

Bibi Pasandeh thought and said: "a dream of a dear guest...." then, she adjusted her scarf and said: "it was a dream....i don't know...now you go...I will tell you at a right time." Rayhana's mother was in hurry, she asked nothing further.

Rayhana and her mother said goodbye and went towards the city gates. Rayhana had heard and knew that Imam Reza (a.s) is coming to Neishapur. Her father was out of city to welcome Imam. A big crowd was on streets and roads. They went too, and hardly found a place and stopped there. They were waiting for hours.

Everyone were looking afar enthusiastically and they wanted Imam to be there soon. Finally, applause and cheers of people could be

heard. Some of them were crying of happiness and some were calling Imam loudly.

Sounds could be heard from each side:

-Salam son of prophet!

-welcome to Neishapur!

- You smell like prophet!

Rayhana could not ses. Her mother raised her and Rayhana saw some horseman. Her mother showed her a man and said with a trembling voice: "that's Imam Reza (a.s), Rayhana! Imam Reza (a.s)...cannot believe son of prophet has come to our city...God! His face is shiny. It looks like flowers are everywhere. What a pleasant smell the weather has!"

Mom was talking involuntarily and was saying from Imam Reza (a.s). Rayhana said to herself: "God! It seems like I saw Imam Reza (a.s) before." Her mother had said too much of Imam like now he was familiar to Rayhana. Rayhana was overwhelmed with joy.

She couldn't believe that this graceful man is the hero of her stories which her mother used to tell her. Imam entered the city, Rayhana and her mother followed him like others. Everyone was inviting him to his or her home. They all wanted Imam to be their guest.

Imam had been thankful to them and would continue to his way. He went and went, until Rayhana and her mother looked amazed that Imam was entering their street. He moved a little further, until he stopped at Bibi Pasandeh's home.

Almond tree

Rayhana shouted surprisingly: “Mom...mom...Imam came to house of Bibi Pasandeh...our dear Bibi.” Rayhana’s mother was smiling cheerfully. She was gazing at Imam and Bibi Pasandeh through the crowd. And she said surprisingly: “what a dream Bibi Pasandeh had! Lucky she is! A dear guest has come to her house. Bibi Pasandeh had the censer ready. She came in front of Imam with her hands shaking, burnt the censer and was guiding Imam to her house with amaze. The crowd was increasing.

Imam stayed at house of Bibi Pasandeh that night. The coming tomorrow, he implanted an Almond seed at her garden. Bibi Pasandeh couldn’t believe this. She thought this is a dream. She couldn’t believe that Imam is at her house. She was a lover of Imam Ali (a.s) family and Imam Reza (a.s).

Her biggest dream was to see Imam closer. And now she had it fulfilled. A long time passed, the Almond seed came out. It grow bigger and bigger, and finally was giving fruits. Rayhana was the first person to eat the Almond.

What a delicious Almond! It looked the best Almond in the world to her. Lots of people were visiting Bibi Pasandeh and were eating those Almonds. Bibi Pasandeh used to serve them kindly. Because this tree was the memory from her dear guest.

Pray for rain

Pray for rain

Imam Reza (a.s) was in Khorasan. Ma'mūn, Abbasid caliph, had brought Imam from Medina to Maro by force and insistence. And he forced him to accept that he is the crown. It was for a long time that there wasn't any rain in Khorasan cities. The flowers and trees were withered. Streams were out of water and most of the wells were withered too. Some enemies of Imam found this situation suitable and started backbiting. They used to sit here and there and were saying: "The sky has become angry since he accepted to be successor of Ma'mūn. And some others were saying: "May God will nothing bad happens further. It's the beginning!"

These words were spread all over and reached to Ma'mūn. Ma'mūn thought and said: "I can't do anything for him. He should sort it out on his own."

Then he called Imam Reza (a.s). When Ma'mūn saw Imam, he said: "we are facing a big trouble. You are seeing it, strange drought has happened, people are upset. It's better to pray for rain as soon as possible." Imam accepted and said: "yes, I was thinking too." And remembered about his dream last night. He saw Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Imam Ali (a.s). They were sitting together. Prophet (pbuh) looked at Imam Reza (a.d) and said: "son, wait until Monday! And then go to desert and ask God for rain. Pray and ask him to send his rain and fill this withered and useless land with water. The mighty God will accept your prayers. "Prophet (pbuh) said these and Imam woke up.

He was glad to see Imam Ali (a.s) and prophet (pbuh). He wished this dream could continue for hours and hours. It was around dawn when he woke up and performed ablution. It wasn't time for morning

prayers yet. He was sitting for a few moments and was talking to God. Ehen he heard the Azan, he took the way to the mosque. Imam was happy on that day. He knew that this drought is going to end soon. Nature is going to get its life back and people are going to face this drought. Imam was thinking deeply. Ma'mūn said again: "what about the time? You are not going to mention it? "Imam smiled and said: "why not...the time is specified. Monday! Monday I will be praying for rain." Ma'mūn said nothing and accept it.

Soldiers of caliph went to streets and roads. They told people that Imam is going out of city on Monday and will be prying fo rain. Anyone wants to go, get ready for the day. It was a tradition that they used to pray in deserts for rain. Enemies of Imam laughed and said: "it isn't raining for a long time. Now it's going to rain with his prayers! What words!" but they were worried from inside that what if rain comes?

Friends of Imam heard the enemies. They were saying against them: "stopping of rain doesn't make sense to anything.

It was drought too in past years. Imam has just brought blessings with himself. Now everything will be obvious when praying for the rain. He is the grandson of prophet (pbuh). God will accept his prayers. "The rumors were not ending. Finally it was Monday. Imam went out early morning.

Many people were gathering around his house. They were waiting for a long time. Imam started taking tight steps and went out of city. People were following him. They walked until they reached at a big and plan field. Imam stopped. People also stopped in a proper

Pray for rain

queue. The field was dry. Imam said with a loud voice: “oh God! These people have faith in you as you said. They have hope in your kindness and blessing. Then, send your rain and make them happy.”

Voice of Allah-hu- akbar could be heard from people. The waterless field was covered with Allah-hu-akbar voice. Imam stood for prayers. Enemies of Imam were not going to stop and saying: “does this cloud less sky showers rain? This is all useless. “

The field had pin drop silence. All of them were praying along with Imam. Imam finished his prayers and again asked God for rain. People were calling the prayers with Imam. They raised their hand up to the sky and were asking God for rain.

The mighty and kind God accepted Imam’s prayers. Soon the weather became cloudy. It was raining for hours. Streams were filled with water and the flowers and trees were looking fresh. Imam and his companions were happy but the enemies were upset. People were believing in Imam more than ever with the passage of time. What prophet (pbuh) had told Imam in his dream, it happened.

Shirt

For souvenir

Shirt for Souvenir

“Ryan” was a friend of Imam. It was for a long time that Imam was forced to go to Khorasan from Medina. Ryan decided to go to Maro to see Imam and tell him about Medina. Ryan didn’t have too much money. But finally, he hardly could reach himself to Maro and see Imam. He stayed with Imam for some time. But it was time to leave. He had to go back to Medina. He had his work and life there. His family was waiting for him. But he didn’t want to be far from Imam.

He wished these days could not end. One day, before returning to Medina, he went to have a look in market. Shops in Maro had beautiful things. It was full of colorful materials. Ryan said to himself: “I wish I could buy one of these beautiful cloths for my wife.” By seeing a felt coat, he remembered about his son and felt regret to buy those colorful things for them, but sadly he didn’t have any money.

Whenever he used to account, he barely could get back to Medina.

Ryan revolved around in market for some time. Then, he came out of market and sat under a tree. He was thinking and watching people. Suddenly he laughed and said joyfully: “why it didn’t come to my mind before! What souvenir better than this! Yes... I will take Imam’s shirt with myself. I’m sure it will make my family glad more than anything else.” Ryan relied by the tree with confidence and said: “I must remember to ask Imam for his shirt before leaving. What a precious souvenir! It smells of him.”

With this thought, he walked for some time in city and then got back to his home. He was awake for long time that night. He couldn’t sleep. It was hard for him to be far from Imam. When he

was thinking that he is going to be miles away from Imam, he was about to cry. He remembered those days when Imam was in Medina. He could meet him whenever he wanted. To sit and talk with him. He said to himself: “no one knows? May be it’s the last time I see Imam! It’s a long way from Medina to Maro, maybe I will not come back here again!”

And then he comforted himself: “God is great! I will meet him again if God wills. Life has thousand tangles.” Ryan went to mosque early morning and prayed his morning prayers. He was ready to leave. Imam came for escorting him. He hugged him and prayed for him. Ryan couldn’t handle it anymore and started crying loudly. He tried not to cry while leaving, but he couldn’t. He couldn’t speak while crying. He was so upset that he forgot to ask Imam for his shirt.

Ryan said goodbye to Imam and took his way. He hadn’t left for a few steps until Imam called him and said: “dear friend, do you want me to give one of my shirts to you?” Ryan was surprised. He had not said anything about this to Imam! And hadn’t said anything to anyone. Ryan was amazed and couldn’t say anything. Imam said again: “it’s better to give you some money too for buying gifts for your family.” Imam went into his house by saying this. And after a few minutes, he came back with a shirt and few coins and gave them to Ryan.

Ryan didn’t know how to thank Imam. He kissed Imam’s hand and took his way. He was thinking that how Imam came to know about his needs? After a few moments he turned back. He saw Imam standing and shaking his hand for him. He wished it not to be the last meeting with Imam.

Medina
passengers

Medina passengers

Men looked at each other surprisingly and said: “what happened? Why Imam is not accepting us? “One of them said: “I don’t know. But I want to meet him and talk to him. I miss him so much.” Another said: “we came this long way from Maro. Now we should return back without meeting him? Impossible! This so strange! Imam’s door was open to everyone.” The third one said: “there isn’t any other way. We can’t enter the house by force. We will come back here again. May be he will accept us next time. The next day, they went to Imam’s house again.

Servant of Imam opened the door and he told them again: “Imam cannot meet you.” They were shocked more than they had before. It was about a month that they had come to Medina from Maro.

They wanted to see Imam; they wanted to return to Medina and tell everyone that they saw Imam and talked to him. But Imam was not accepting them. They were upset and surprised. One of them said: “I will not leave, until I get the reason that why Imam doesn’t want to see us? Definitely he is upset because of something from us. Otherwise this insistence of us wouldn’t be without reply.” Other one said: “right, Imam doesn’t do anything without a reason. Than this reaction of him is surely having a reason.” The next day, they again went to Imam’s house. And again the servant said that Imam is not accepting them. They didn’t know what to do.

Finally the elder among them went to the servant and said: “as you know we came from a long way. Tell Imam that we are not leaving until we get to see him. If we return to Medina without meeting him, we will feel ashamed in front of people and will lose our respect. Ask Imam to give us permission for meeting him, otherwise

we will sit at his door.” The servant went and delivered their message to Imam.

This time Imam said: “Alright, tell them to come.” When the servant said this to them, they hugged each other out of happiness and were laughing involuntarily. Then they entered the house quickly.

The servant took them to Imam. They greeted Imam and sat next to him. But Imam was not showing kindness to them. He was having a cold deal with them. It was obvious that he is upset from them. One of them said: “what happened? Oh, son of prophet (pbuh). Tell us why you were not accepting us for this long time? You are kind to everyone. What we have done that you are dealing with us in this way?

Imam answered them by reading a verse from Holy Quran: “if you face any trouble, it’s because of your deeds. And God forgives most of your sins.” They were looking at each other surprisingly and said: “what have we done? Swear to God, tell us!”

Imam said: “I didn’t allow you to enter, because your actions are not same as your words. You are saying that you are Muslim and lover of Imam Ali (a.s). But you are lying. True lovers of Imam Ali (a.s) were persons like, Imam Hassan (a.s), Imam Hussain (a.s), Salman and Abudhar, who were following his instructions. You are saying that you love Imam Ali (a.s) but you are disagree with most of his sayings.

You are disregarding the right. Than how you consider yourself as a lover of Imam Ali (a.s)? “All of them were quite. Their heads were

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down and they were thinking about their deeds. Imam was right. Their actions were not same as their words. They knew this better. A few moments passed in silence. Finally one of them said: "oh son of Ali (a.s)! We are repenting from now. We are no longer calling ourselves a lover of Imam Ali (a.s) with our words. We will prove it by our actions and behavior. We promise to compensate the past."

And right there, they asked God for forgiveness and to give them another chance. When Imam saw them regretting and repenting, he become happy and smiled. He said with kindness: "Now you are my brothers and my friends." And then he asked his servant to serve them. They talked ti Imam joyfully and confided with him.