

IMAM JAFFER AL SADIQ (A.S) **HIS LIFE AND WORK FOR ISLAM**

Imam Jaffer Al-Sadiq (a.s) lived in one of the most sensitive times of the Islamic era. The Imam lived his 63 years life from 83 to 148 of the Hijra calendar and was contemporary with the last part of the Bani Umayyad rule and the early years of the Bani Abbas dynasty which replaced the former.

At that time, Islam had advanced almost to the four corners of the world. Many new foreign philosophies and concepts had been imported from Syrian, Greek, Indian and Chinese sources into the Islamic world. But was lacking the presence of one person capable of evaluating the alien literary sources in order to determine which were compatible with Islamic views and which were not. The dire need of the time was to explain to people that the government, in spite of its Islamic disguise was not Islamic in nature.

God Almighty, however, had reserved Imam Al Sadiq (A.S.) to come to the arena in such a sensitive era and time when the dictatorship of the corrupt ruler was at its peak.

Thus we observe that, despite the enmity of the rulers ultimately leading to his martyrdom, the Imam engrossed himself in conducting scientific struggle against imported ideologies and atheism. He spread the truth to such an extent as to raise some 4,000 well-learned students. Many great Islamic personalities have bowed in humbleness before Imam's scientific personality. One of them is Abu Hanifa, the leader of the Hanafi school of the Sunni brothers, who spent two years as a student of the Imam. He would repeatedly say:

"I have not seen any man to surpass Imam Sadiq in knowledge. Was it not for the two years I spent as his student, I would have been deviated and destroyed."

Malik bin Anas, another great leader of the Sunni people and the founder of the Malike school, had said:

"No eye has been laid upon a man more knowledgeable and pious than Imam Sadiq."

The Imam raised students in all scientific fields including chemistry and astronomy. One of his renown students was Jabir b. Hayyan who is today accepted as the Father of Chemistry in modern science.