

## Stories & Traits.

<b>Humility</b>	<p>Guests</p> <p>A father and a son were once guests of Imam Ali (A.S.). As they arrived, Imam (A.S.) received them warmly and arranged for their comfortable accommodation. In a room where they were seated, Imam (A.S.) sat opposite to them, engaging them in a friendly conversation. And then it was time for the meal. After food had been served and eaten, Qambar, Imam's servant, brought a basin and a pitcher full of water for washing the guest's hands. Imam (A.S.) took the pitcher himself and asked the father to extend his hands so that he would pour the water.</p> <p>"How is it possible that my Imam serves me? It should be other way," the guest said.</p> <p>Imam Ali (A.S.) said: "Here is your brother in faith, eager to serve his brother and to earn the pleasure of Allah. Why do you prevent him?"</p> <p>But the guest hesitated. Finally Imam (A.S.) said: "As your Imam, I request that you allow me the honor of this service."</p> <p>And when the guest complied, Imam (A.S.) said: "Let your hands be washed thoroughly. Do not hasten, thinking that I should be relieved of this duty early."</p> <p>When it was the son's turn, Imam (A.S.) instructed his own son Muhammad Ibn Hanafiyah, to hold the pitcher and wash the guest's hands. Looking at his son, Imam (A.S.) said:</p> <p>I washed your father's hands. My son washed your hands. If your father had not been my guest today, I would have washed your hands myself. But Allah loves to see that when a father and a son are present in a place, the father enjoys a privilege and a priority.</p>
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<b>Kindness and Justice + Orphan Mystery Box</b>	<h3>Helping the Orphan Woman</h3> <p>Tired and exhausted with the water skin on her back, she was gasping and going towards her house where innocent children, their eyes fixed at the door, were eagerly waiting for the arrival of their mother. On her way, stranger man approached her. He took the water skin from her and placed it on his back. The door opened and the children saw their mother entering the house with a stranger. He placed the water skin on the ground and said:</p> <p>"Well, it seems you don't have anyone to fetch water for you; how come you are so forlorn?"</p> <p>She replied: "My husband was a soldier; Ali sent him to the frontier where he was killed. Now I am alone with these small children."</p> <p>Stranger said no more. Bowing down his head he went away. But the thought of the helpless widow and orphans remained in his mind. He could hardly sleep in the night. Early in the morning he picked up a basket; put some meat, flour and dates in it; went straight to her house and knocked at the door.</p>
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	<p>"Who are you?"</p> <p>Stranger replied: "I am the man who brought your water yesterday. Now I have brought some food for the children."</p> <p>"May Allah bless you and judge between us and Ali."</p> <p>She opened the door. Entering the house stranger said: "I wish to do some good acts. Either let me knead the flour and bake the bread or allow me to look after the children."</p> <p>"Very well, but I can do the job of kneading and cooking better than you. You take care of the children till I finish cooking."</p> <p>She went to knead the flour. Immediately he grilled some meat, which he had brought and fed the children saying to each child while putting morsel in his mouth: "My son, forgive Ali if he has failed in his duty towards you."</p> <p>The flour got ready; she called: "Gentleman! Put fire in the oven." Stranger went and put fire in the oven. When flames rose up, he brought his face near the fire and said, "Taste the heat of fire. It is the punishment for those who fail in their duty towards orphans and widows."</p> <p>By chance, a woman from the neighboring house came in. Recognizing the stranger, she cried: "Woe, don't you recognize the man who is helping you? He is Amir al-Muminin (commander of the faithful), Imam Ali ibn Abu Talib (as)."</p> <p>The widow came forward and shamefacedly cried: "Curse and shame to me. I beg your pardon."</p> <p>Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (as) replied, "No, I beg your pardon for I failed in my duty towards you."</p>
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<p><b>Justice and Fear of Allah to do Right + Mystery Box</b></p>	<p>Candle Story</p> <p>A candle burnt by his side, as he sat down meticulously recording all the revenue and the expenses of the treasury.</p> <p>Just then Talha and Zubair appeared.</p> <p>They aspired to some positions of authority in Imam Ali's (A.S.) rule and had come to strike a deal. If Imam Ali's (A.S.) gave them a place of distinction, they would in turn pledge their full support. Imam Ali's (A.S.) knew of this.</p> <p>Just as they sat down, Imam Ali's (A.S.) puts out the candle and lit another one.</p> <p>Talha and Zubair exchanged a glance of surprise and then one of them said:</p> <p>"O Ali, we have come on some important business. But why did you extinguish the first candle?" Imam Ali's (A.S.) replied: "That was a candle bought of Treasury funds. As long as I</p>
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	<p>worked for the Treasury, I used it. Now you have come for some personal work, so I use the candle bought of my personal fund."</p> <p>Imam Ali (as)'s death - wanted water for the killer.</p>
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<p><b>Bravery + Mystery Box</b></p> <p><b>-Hijrah Bed</b></p>	<p>In the time of the Prophet (S) the idol worshippers of Makkah were very angry with him. They wanted to kill him.</p> <p>Allah had told the Prophet (S) about the plan of the idol worshippers to murder him and so he decided to move to Madinah.</p> <p>The idol worshippers chose 40 of their bravest men and told them to go to the Prophet's (S) house and kill him.</p> <p>That night the Prophet (S) left for Madina, but before he left he asked Imam Ali (A) if he would sleep in his bed so that the idol worshippers outside would think that he, the Prophet (S) was there.</p> <p>Imam Ali (A) was very happy to do this for the Prophet (S). In fact Imam Ali (A) said that the best sleep that he had ever had was on that night.</p> <p>When the killers came into the Prophet's (S) house and pulled off the blanket they saw Imam Ali (A) there, and so they left angrily.</p> <p><b>Moral:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When you do something purely for Islam, then Allah helps you.</li> <li>2. Everyone can plan but only what Allah wants will happen.</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Sincerity, Sake of Allah, Restraining your Anger &amp; Death</b></p>	<p>In the battle of Khandaq, the Muslims dug a ditch around themselves for their defence, so that the enemy could not get across.</p> <p>A man from the enemy side called Amr bin Abdawud who was known for his strength, courage and art of fighting managed to get across the ditch.</p>
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<p><b>time (anger)</b></p>	<p>All the Muslims were terrified to fight him and only Imam Ali (A) came forward to fight this man.</p> <p>There was a fierce fight until at last Imam Ali (A) threw Amr down onto the ground and mounted his chest ready to kill him.</p> <p>Just as Imam Ali (A) was about to kill this enemy of Islam, he spat on the face of our Imam (A).</p> <p>Everybody was certain that because of this insult, Amr would meet his death even faster still, but to their amazement, Imam Ali (A) moved from Amr's chest and walked away.</p> <p>Amr attacked Imam (A) again and after a short while, Imam (A) again overpowered Amr and killed him.</p> <p>After the battle was over people asked Imam Ali (A) the reason why he had spared Amr's life when he had first overpowered him.</p> <p>To which Imam (A) replied that if he had killed him then it would have not been only for the sake of Allah but also for the satisfaction of his anger and so he let him free.</p> <p>Then Imam (A) controlled his anger and killed Amr purely for the sake of Allah.</p> <p><b>Moral:</b></p> <p>Although your intention may be pure to begin with it can very easily change so always make sure you do things for the sake of Allah only.</p>
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<p><b>Born in the Kaaba + Mystery Box</b></p>	<p>Fatima binte Asad (the mother of Imam Ali) went to the Ka'ba and prayed to Allah that the baby she was going to have would be born safely.</p> <p>She was standing near the wall opposite the door of the Ka'ba, praying to Allah when suddenly there was a crack in the wall near her. The crack became bigger and bigger until it was big enough for Fatima binte Asad to go through it and enter the Ka'ba.</p> <p>When Fatima binte Asad had entered the Ka'ba, the crack began to get smaller and smaller. This crack is still there to this day on the wall of the Ka'ba.</p>
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	<p>Some people who had been near the Ka'ba saw what had happened and started telling other people. Now these people wanted to see what was happening inside the Ka'ba, so they went and got the keys of the door of the Ka'ba. But the door would not open.</p> <p>Prophet Muhammad (S) had been away when all this happened. When he came back from his trip and went to the Ka'ba, the lock on the door of the Ka'ba fell open all on its own and Fatima binte Asad came out holding her new little baby - Imam Ali (A).</p> <p>When Prophet Muhammad (S) held Imam Ali (A), he opened his eyes for the first time. So the first thing Imam Ali (A) ever saw was the face of Prophet Muhammad (S).</p> <p>Imam Ali (A) is the only person ever to be born in the Ka'ba.</p>
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<p>Imam Ali (as) Humility and Simpleness (with above) + Mystery Box</p>	<p>He's also known for his <b>humility</b>, where he was simple and always thought of the oppressed and poor before himself.</p> <p>One day our 1st Imam, Imam Ali (A) went to the market with his servant, Qambar. There he bought 2 shirts, one which was really nice and expensive and the other which was not as nice.</p> <p>When Imam Ali (A) returned home he gave the better shirt to Qambar and kept the other one for himself.</p> <p>Qambar told Imam Ali (A) that it would look better if he wore the nicer shirt as he was the leader of the Muslims while Qambar himself was only a servant.</p> <p>Imam Ali (A) answered that Qambar should wear the nicer shirt because he was younger and so it would suit him better; but more importantly Imam (A) told him that he was a guide for the Muslims and so had to set a good example for them by leading a simple life.</p> <p><b>Moral:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You should always give away the nicer thing.</li> <li>2. You should be happy with a few simple things and not want so many things.</li> </ol>
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