



# Lecture Summary – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

## Our Path to Obedience – Sheikh Ali Abbas Malik

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### 1. Introduction and Context

- Begins by acknowledging the recent loss of respected elders in the community and offers prayers for them.
  - The occasion being celebrated is the birth anniversary of the **11th Holy Imam (Imam Hassan al-Askari, a.s.)**, a significant event in Islamic history.
  - According to most historians, this birth occurred in **Medina in 232 A.H. (Hijri)** — noted as the last Imam of that rank born in Medina.
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### 2. Significance of Samarra

- After Imam Hassan al-Askari (a.s.), the focus shifts to **Samarra**, a city often overlooked by pilgrims.
  - Samarra is the burial site of two Imams and many notable women from the Ahl al-Bayt, including the mothers and wives of Imams.
  - The speaker encourages the community to give more time to Samarra during pilgrimages due to its spiritual importance.
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### 3. The Mother of Imam Hassan al-Askari (a.s.)

- Her name appears differently in various historical texts, but she is consistently described by the Imams as **pure and chosen**, reflecting the divine planning behind the lineage of Imams.
  - She was entrusted with significant responsibilities after the Imam's martyrdom, including **executing his will and overseeing religious endowments (waqf)** — highlighting her status and leadership.
  - She is compared to other revered women such as **Janab Zainab (a.s.)**, who carried responsibilities after Imam Husayn (a.s.).
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### 4. The Issue of Succession and Confusion

- After the martyrdom of Imam Hassan al-Askari (a.s.), confusion arose because his brother **Ja'far (known as Ja'far al-Kadhdhab – “the liar”)** falsely claimed Imamate.
- The true Imam, the son of Imam Hassan al-Askari (a.s.) — **Imam al-Mahdi (a.j.)** — was indicated through clear signposts left by his father and the guidance of trusted individuals like the Imam's mother.
- This episode demonstrates how divine leadership and succession were preserved.

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## 5. The Principle of Obedience in Islam

- The Qur'an repeatedly commands believers to **obey Allah, His Messenger, and those vested with authority (Ulu'l-Amr)**.
- This chain of obedience is continuous — from Allah to His Prophet, to the Imams, and in their absence, to their appointed representatives.
- The speaker emphasizes that obedience to Allah cannot be direct without guidance, messages, or intermediaries.

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## 6. Delegation and Representation

- Since Imams could not be physically present in every location, they appointed **trusted scholars, ambassadors, and jurists** to guide the community.
- Examples:
  - **Malik al-Ashtar** was appointed as governor by Imam Ali (a.s.).
  - Imam al-Hadi and Imam Hassan al-Askari (a.s.) established networks of representatives across the Islamic world.
  - Figures like **Abu Basir and Abdullah Hassani** served as local points of reference for believers.

This system laid the foundation for the institution of **Marja'iyah (religious authority)** that continues today.

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## 7. The Role of Scholars and Maraji' Today

- The Imams taught principles; jurists derived rulings from them.
- In our times, we lack the ability to access the Imam directly, so we refer to qualified scholars (Maraji') who:
  - Have been trained in Islamic law and tradition.
  - Act as the Imam's representatives in guiding believers on issues of **halal and haram**.

This is **not optional** but the *only practical path* for most believers to ensure obedience and salvation.

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## 8. A Call to Accountability

- The speaker warns against arrogance or negligence in religious matters.
- Just as one would consult a doctor for health issues or a mechanic for car repairs, one must consult scholars for religious rulings rather than trying to self-derive rulings from the Qur'an and Hadith.
- In the **21st century**, with information at our fingertips, we have less excuse for ignorance than earlier generations.

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## 9. Conclusion and Supplication

- True obedience to Allah today is achieved through following the chain of knowledge and authority established by the Imams.
- This ensures our actions align with divine law and keeps us spiritually safe.
- The lecture ends with a **dua for steadfastness** upon the path of the Imams and for the **hastening of Imam al-Mahdi's (a.j.) reappearance**.

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## Key Themes

- The birth and lineage of Imam Hassan al-Askari (a.s.).
- The overlooked significance of Samarra and the Ahl al-Bayt buried there.
- The role of Imam's mother as a custodian of his will.
- The principle of *obedience to authority* from Allah to Prophet to Imams to scholars.
- The historical continuity leading to today's system of Maraji' (religious leadership).
- A call to use available knowledge and resources responsibly to follow the right path.