

What is Unique About the Ismaili Imamat?
(PDF version of Candle Posting No. 127)



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Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

Ya Ali Madad. The 57th anniversary of our beloved NOOR Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini's (a.s.) accession to the masnat of Imamat will be celebrated on July 11, 2014. On the occasion Imamat Day 2014, please accept our heartfelt felicitations!

May Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam grant peace, prosperity, happiness, barakat, higher spiritual enlightenment, spiritual & luminous tayid (help) and empowerment to you, your family & Jamat, and the worldwide Jamat. Ameen.

Let us first reflect upon the card which was prepared by the Alwaez Rai Amiraly Amlani which was first published in 2002:

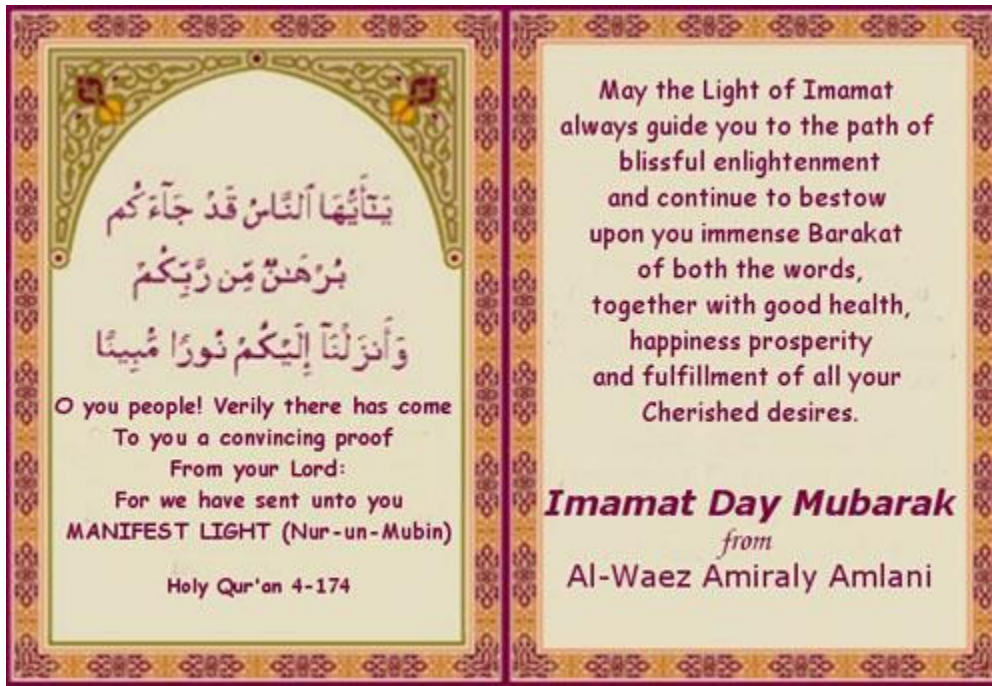


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Part 1: What is the Relationship of the Holy Prophet (s.a.s), Mowlana Murtaza Ali (a.s) and the Light of God?

Let us first look at the translation of the first part of ayat 39:22 of the Holy Qur'an:

"What! Is he whose breast (heart) God hath opened for Islam then he followed the Light from God?"

Here is an explanation of this ayat which I have obtained from footnote 2115 (p. 1388) of 'The Holy Qur'an' translated by S. V. Mir Ahmed Ali, Second edition published in 1995:

"It is said that this verse was revealed referring to the First Holy Imam Ali-ibne-Abi-Taleb who was endowed with the light of Islam and whose personal purity and spiritual excellence and that of the Holy Prophet was one and the same. Besides the Holy Prophet, Ali was the only one who never in his life bowed to anyone save God. About Ali the Holy Prophet has said: '**I and Ali are of one and the same Light**'."

Part 2: What are the Key Concepts in Ayat 4:174 of Holy Qur'an?

The transliteration of the verse 4:174 is:

"Yaa-'ayyu-hannaasu qad jaaa-'akum **Bur-haanum**-mir-Rabbikum wa'anzalmaa 'ilay-kum **Nuuram-mubiinaa**"

The key words are '**Burhan**' (Proof) and '**Nur-un-Mubin**' (Manifest Light). Here is a further explanation of the these terms which I have obtained from footnote 644 (p. 439) of 'The Holy Qur'an' translated by S. V. Mir Ahmed Ali, Second edition published in 1995:

"According to the interpretation of the Holy Ahlul-Bait—'**Burhan**'. i.e. the Manifest Proof means the Holy Prophet who appeared with the Holy Qur'an and the '**Noorun-Mubeen**', i.e., the Clear Light, stands for the guidance through Imamat granted by Divine Grace, after the conclusion of the apostleship with the Holy Prophet."

Now let us look at article B from the Preamble of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslim constitution which describes the declaration and role of Ismaili Imam in this world:

"In accordance to the Shia doctrine, tradition, and interpretation of history, the Holy Prophet (S.A.S.) designated and appointed his cousin and son-in-law Hazrat Mawlana Ali Amiru-l-Mu'minin ('Alayhi-s-salam), to be the first Imam to continue the Ta'wil and Ta'lim of Allah's final message and to guide the murids, and proclaimed that the Imam should continue by heredity through Hazrat Mawlana Ali (A.S.) and his daughter Hazrat Bibi Fatimat-az-Zahra, Khatun-i-Jannat ('Alayha-s-salam)."

Part 3: What is Unique About the Ismaili Imamat?

In his address to both Houses of the Parliament of Canada in the House of Commons Chamber in Ottawa on 27 February 2014, Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam articulated the Ismaili Imam and his position as follows:

"The Ismaili Imam is a supra-national entity, representing the succession of Imams since the time of the Prophet. But let me clarify something more about the history of that role, in both the Sunni and Shia interpretations of the Muslim faith. The Sunni position is that the Prophet nominated no successor, and that spiritual-moral authority belongs to those who are learned in matters of religious law. As a result, there are many Sunni imams in a given time and place. But others believed that the Prophet had designated his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, as his successor. From that early division, a host of further distinctions grew up — but the question of rightful leadership remains central. In time, the Shia were also subdivided over this question, so that today the Ismailis are the **only** Shia community who, throughout history, have been led by a **living**, hereditary Imam in direct descent from the Prophet."

Source: [Speech of His Highness The Aga Khan](#)

Part 4: What is the Mechanism for Enlightenment?

Let us first look at the translation of the second part of ayat 39:22 of the Holy Qur'an:

"Nay! Woe unto those whose hearts are hard against remembrance of God; those are in a clear error."

Here is an explanation of this ayat which I have obtained from footnote 2115 (p. 1388-9) of 'The Holy Qur'an' translated by S. V. Mir Ahmed Ali, Second edition published in 1995:

"The Holy Prophet was once asked as to what was the sign or symptom of any heart having being lighted with faith? He said "The discordance of the desires for this world which is only a temporary stopping place and the love of the hereafter which is the permanent abode.

Just as every step towards the right direction and towards the truth, naturally and automatically enlightens one more and more, and takes the individual nearer and nearer to the Divine Light, every step in the opposite side, i.e., towards falsehood, affects the natural retrogression of the spirit and takes the individual farther and farther away from the truth and ultimately, at a certain stage of reversion from the right path, the individual spirit automatically gets lost in the utter darkness in which none of his faculties could ever take any right step and the individual strays bewildered. On the other hand, those who proceed towards the truth, their march towards the Divine Light gets naturally faster and faster and ultimately the individual gets totally enlightened.

The Holy Prophet said: "Seek ye the fulfilment of your needs from the kind-hearted one of my adherents, for God has endowed them with mercy and seek not any help from the hardhearted ones for in those hearts has centered the wrath of God. God loves the kind-hearted ones who love others and guide them by preaching goodness to them and God loves not who are negligent of their duties to Him and spend the nights in vain engagements and playful activities and while away their time in idleness and luxuries."

Part 5: Teaching of Imam NOOR Mowlana Shah Mustansir bi'l-laah II (a.s.) on Enlightenment

In Pir Pandiyat-i Jawanmardi, Imam NOOR Mowlana Shah Mustansir bi'l-laah II (a.s.) teaches us about enlightenment as follows:

"Therefore, O believers, if you want to be alive in both worlds, perfect your faith, because (only) by the light of faith may you attain eternal life. And faith comes from and is perfected by the recognition and knowledge (ma'rifat wa shinakht) of the Imam of the time, and obedience and love for his followers. Therefore, follow your Imam, and be happy and united with each other amongst yourselves in order that you may be alive in both worlds, and in the hereafter you may become resurrected with the pious, with prophets and saints in the presence of the Imam, with the greatest joy at meeting each other again." (Pages 4-5).

Part 6: Teaching of Imam NOOR Mowlana Shah Sultan Muhammad Shah (a.s.) on Ibadat

NOOR Mowlana Shah Sultan Muhammad Shah's (a.s.) teaching pertaining to performing intense ibadat (including bandagi) in the month of Holy Ramadan was published in a booklet titled 'Laila-Tul-Qadr' by Alwaez Abualy A. Aziz (Page 11, Read Know No. 50; Shia Imami Ismailia Association for Tanzania, Dar es Salaam):

"Now I am going to tell you about Ibadat (worship). Always worship God. This is the month of Ramadan. In this month do more ibadat. Every hour, every minute remember God. Do not forget Him. If you have forgotten Him and have become lazy then take heed that I am reminding you to remember and worship Him." Kalame Imame Mubin Volume 1, page 23.

The most powerful prayer is bandagi, which is a luminous prayer at the luminous time with a luminous word or the name of Ya Ali or Pir Shah. It is most important to perform bandagi because it creates the fuel that we need for our return journey to our Creator.

Part 7: Luminous Dhikr of Noore Muhammad, Noore Qur'an, Noore Ali, Noore Karim Hazar Imam

The aspect of Noor (Light) makes the Ismaili Imamat unique, therefore, let us perform the luminous dhikr of Noore_Karim Hazar_Imam with utmost humility and tenderness of the heart (length 4 min 41 sec; 6.5 MB) on the auspicious occasion of Imamat Day because it captures the fundamental concepts of Imamat succinctly:

Download [Noore_Karim Hazar Imam sound track](#) in mp3 format; or

Download [Noore_Karim Hazar Imam sound track](#) in wma format.

The lyrics are given below:

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Noore Muhammad, Noore Quran; (1)
[The Light of Muhammad and the Light of Qur'an (are one)]

Noore Muhammad, Noore Ali; (2)
[The Light of Muhammad and Light of Ali (are one)]

Noore Ali, Noore Karim; (3)
[The Light of Ali is the Light of Karim Shah (through the Chain of Imamat)]

Noore Karim, Hazar Imam (4)
[All the above Lights are One Light which is in Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam]

Noore Muhammad, Hazar Imam (5)
[Therefore, the Light of Muhammad is in Hazar Imam]

Noore Qur'an, Hazar Imam (6)
[Also, the Light of the Holy Qur'an is in Hazar Imam]

Noore Ali, Hazar Imam (7)
[Also, the Light of Ali is in Hazar Imam]

Noore Karim, Hazar Imam (8)
[All the above Lights are One Light which is in Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam]

Al-hamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds!

Part 8: Links:

1. [Download](#) to the PDF version of Candle Posting 127 ::
What is unique about the Ismaili Imam? ::
2. [Welcoming Noor Mowlana Hazar Imam to our Spiritual Houses](#)
3. [Higher Spiritual Enlightenment Indicators](#)
4. [Resources for Holy Ramadan, Lail-tul Qadr & Idd-ul Fitr](#)
5. [Haqqiqati Fasting and the True Spirit of Fasting](#) ::
Teachings of Imam NOOR Mowlana Shah Mustansir bi'l-laah II (a.s.) &
NOOR Mowlana Shah Sultan Muhammad Shah (a.s.)
6. [True and Sincere Repentance :: Teaching of NOOR Mowlana Murtaza Ali \(a.s.\)](#)
7. [MP3 and Real Streaming Audio Files on Audio.SalmanSpiritual.com](#)

Ardent Supplications:

Ya Ali, Ya NOOR Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini Hazar Imam, create Sunshine in our hearts, light in our foreheads, and bless us all with the inner vision of the Truth!

Ya Ali, Ya NOOR Mowlana Shah Karim Al-Hussaini Hazar Imam, grant the global Jamat luminous (noorani) and spiritual (ruhani) tayid (help) to advance materially, spiritually and intellectually. Ameen.

Haizinda — Qayampaya (Our Present Imam is Living and His NOOR is Eternal)

Archives: [Candle Posting Index Vol. 1](#), [Candle Posting Index Vol. 2](#),
[Candle Posting Index Vol. 3](#), [Candle Posting Index Vol. 4](#)

Postings: [1-10](#), [11-20](#), [21-30](#), [31-40](#), [41-50](#), [51-60](#), [61-70](#), [71-80](#),
[81-90](#), [91-100](#), [101-110](#), [111-120](#), [121-130](#)

Rakh Mowla je Noor te Yaqeen (Certainly, we trust in Mowla's Light only),
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Tuesday, July 8, 2014