

THE LOYAL ONES



Book 8

Mesum-e-Tammar

اسے ہوتے ہے علی کے نوکر



اسے ہوتے ہے علی کے نوکر

*“Indeed this is what the followers
of Ali (as) are like”*

*Please recite a Surah Fatiha for Dr. Syed Nadeem-ul-
Hasan and Mrs and Mr. Naseem-ul-Hasan*

Introduction

- Mesum was one of the distinct and favourite companions of the Commander of the faithful Imam Ali (a.s.).
- Once Mesum told Abdullah bin Abbas, who was one of the students of Imam Ali (a.s.) and had learnt the Qur'anic Exegeses from him, and whom Muhammad bin Hanafiyah had referred to as "the Divine of the nation" that, "O son of Abbas! Ask from me whatever you desire regarding the interpretation of the Qur'an, as I have recited the revelations of the Qur'an before Imam Ali (a.s.) and have received its interpretation from him."
- It is narrated that when the order was issued to hang Mesum he called out in a loud voice saying, "O people! Whoever desires to listen to the mysterious sayings of the Commander of the faithful, Ali (a.s.), come closer to me."
- Hearing this people gathered around him and he started narrating the astonishing traditions.
- He was a very pious individual and a strong supporter of the Ahlebait (as).

About

- Name: Mesum-e-Tammar al-Asadi al-Kufi.
- Kuniyat: Abu Salem.
- Profession: He was a date seller.
- Appellation: Tammar (means dates in Arabic)
- Title: Abu Salih.
- Family: He had three sons:
 - Salih
 - Shu'ayb
 - Hamza
- Works: He wrote a book on exegesis of Quran and he wrote a book of hadith.



- Burial place: Kufa, Iraq
- Companionship: He was an extremely loyal and pious companion of Imam Ali(as).



Life history

- Mesum was born at Nahrwan near Kufa.
- He was from Iran.
- Shaikh Mufeed writes in Irshad that Meytham was a slave of one of the women of Bani Asad.
- Imam Ali (as) bought him from her and freed him.
- He asked his name, to which he replied that his name was Salim.
- Imam said, *"The Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) informed me that the name your father had kept in Persia was Mesum."*
- Mesum replied, *"Verily the Prophet of Allah (saw) and the Commander of the faithful (as) speaks the truth. By Allah! That is my name."*
- Imam (as) said, *"Then return to the name by which the Prophet has addressed you and leave the name Salim, while your agnomen (Kuniyah) should be Abu Salim."*
- Mesum sold dates in Kufa.
- He led a simple life and had immense love for Imam Ali (as).
- Imam Ali (as) used to go to Mesum's shop where he would teach him about Islam.

- Mesum was very knowledgeable because he learnt from Imam Ali (as) .
- Abdullah bin Abbas used to learn lessons about Tafseer (exegesis) of Quran from him.
- He would often visit a date tree where he would recite two units of prayer.
- He would then address it and say:
 “Allah has created you for me and he has created me for you.”

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ



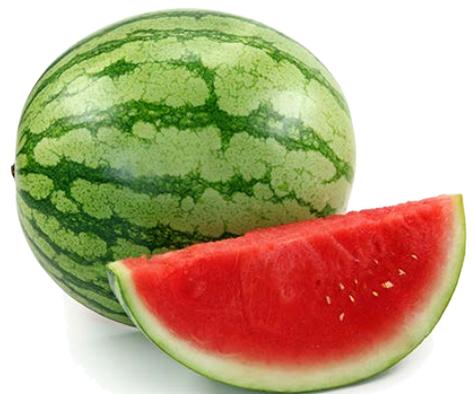
Personality traits

1) Foresight: -

- Fazl-bin-Zubayr relates that one day Mesum was mounted on his horse when he passed by Habib bin Mazahir Asadi, who was near a group of people from Bani Asad.
- They started speaking to one another in a manner that the necks of the horses had joined each other.

- Habib said:

“Verily I see that an old bald man with a large belly who sells watermelon near Dar-al-Rizq. He shall be hanged because of his love for the Prophet’s household (Ahlebait) (as) and his stomach will be punctured on the gallows itself.”



- Mesum said:

“I too recognise a red-faced man with two long tresses. He shall go to defend and aid the grandson of the Prophet (pbuh) and shall be killed, while his severed head will be paraded in Kufa.”

- Saying this they both departed from one another.
- The people who were present there and heard their conversation said:

“We have never seen greater liars than these two.”
- They had not yet dispersed when Rushayd Hajari came to search for them (Mesum and Habib) and asked the people about their whereabouts.
- The people said that they had left and related to him their conversation.
- Rushayd said:

“May Allah's blessings be upon Mesum, he forgot to say one sentence, that the one who gets the severed head to Kufa will get a reward of a hundred dirhams”
- Saying this he left.
- When people heard him they said:

“Verily he is a more greater liar than them.”
- These people then say that after a lapse of some days we saw Mesum on the gallows near the house of Amr bin Hurays, and the severed head of Habib bin Mazahir being paraded in Kufa after he was martyred in Karbala. Thus we witnessed with our own eyes what those men had predicted.



2) Loyalty:-

- Mesum says that one day Imam Ali (as) called me and said:

“What will be your state at that time O Mesum, when the man, whose father is not known, but the Bani Ummayah have included him among them (viz. Ubaydallah bin Ziyad) will call you and order you to disassociate yourself from me?”
- I (Mesum) said:

“O commander of the faithful ! By Allah! I shall never disassociate myself from you.”
- He (as) said:

“In that case you shall be killed and hanged on the gallows”
- I (Mesum) retorted:

“By Allah! I shall forbear, while this quite insignificant in the way of Allah.”
- Imam (as) said:

“O Mesum! You shall then be along with me in my status (in paradise)”



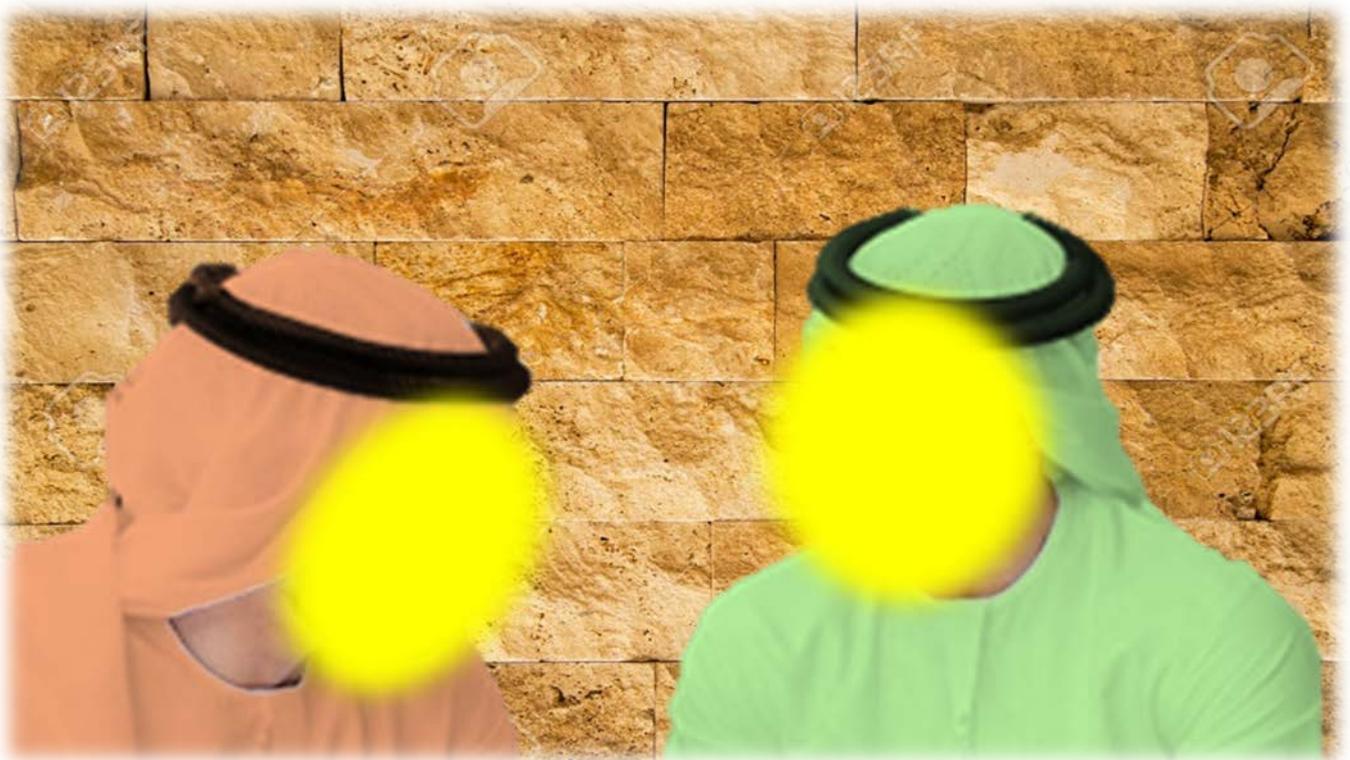
3) Knowledgeable:-

- Mesum was so knowledgeable that he used to teach Abdullah bin Abbas (the nation's scholar) about Quran exegesis.



4) Relationship with the Imam (as): -

- Mesum was one of the distinct and favourite companions of the Imam (as).
- He was so close to the Imam (as) that Imam (as) shared secrets with him.



- In Kitab-ul-Gharat it is written that Imam Ali (as) trained Mesum in abundant knowledge and concealed mysteries.

5) Love of faith:-

- In Kitab-ul-Fazael it is written that Imam Ali(as) often came out of the mosque of Kufa and sat near Mesum talking to him.
- One day as usual he came to Mesum and said: "Should I not give you glad tidings?"
- Mesum asked him as to what it was.
- Imam (as) said: "One day you shall be hanged."
- He asked: "O my Master! Will I die the death of a Muslim?"
- Imam (as) answered in the affirmative.

6) Foretelling: -

- Mesum foretold the death of Mu'awiya, the martyrdom of Imam al-Hussain (as), his own execution and the release of Mukhtar b. Abi 'Ubayda al-Thaqafi from prison.
- Mesum wrote a commentary of the Qur'an from what he had learned from Imam Ali (as).
- Mesum is also said to have compiled a hadith collection from which his descendants narrated.

- After the demise of Imam Ali (as), Mesum became a devout companion of Imam al-Hasan (as) and Imam al-Hussain (as).
- Imam al-Hussain was affectionate towards Mesum and treated him kindly.
- In 60 AH Mesum went to Mecca to perform Umrah, but could not meet Imam al-Hussain(as).
- Umm Salama informed him of Imam al-Hussain's situation.
- Mesum then asked Umm Salama to pass his greetings to Imam al-Hussain (as) and to tell him that he would meet the Imam in paradise.



Shurtat al-Khamis

What does it mean:

- **Shurtat al-Khamīs** (Arabic: شرطة الخميس) was a group of devoted fighters at the time of Imam Ali (as) who had dedicated their lives to support their Imam(as).

Literal Meaning:

- Shurtat literally means group, army, condition, and treaty.
- In usage, it is the first unit of army that take part in the battle and are ready to sacrifice themselves.
- Army is meant by Khamis (in Arabic literally means five), because the army used to be divided into five groups of forerunners, front, right wing, left wing, and the heart.

In Usage:

- Shurtat al-Khamis were a group consisting of 6000 friends of Imam 'Ali (a) who had undertaken to fight (to the death if they had to)

and Imam Ali (as) had guaranteed them the heaven.

Attributes:

- Shurtat al-Khamis members possessed some attributes including being prepared at all times and having constant companionship with Imam Ali (as).
- In the battles, they used to fight in the front line.
- They were always ready to serve Imam Ali (as) and never delayed obeying his orders.
- They had promised to be loyal to Imam (as) to the death.
- They had detached themselves from this world and were knowledgeable and pious men.
- They belonged to various tribes.
- Even when there were no battles, they were ready and accompanied Imam (as) and executed important missions such as administering legal punishments.

Members:

- Some members of Shurtat al-Khamis are as follows:

Salman al-Farsi, Abu Dhar al-Ghifari, Miqdad, Ammar b. Yasir, Abu Sasan al-Ansari, Abu 'Amr al-Ansari, Sahl b. Hanif, 'Uthman b. Hanif, 'Amr b. Hamiq al-Khuza'i, **Mesum al-Tammar**, Rushayd al-Hajari, Habib b. Muzahir al-Asadi, Muhammad b. Abi Bakr, Malik al-Ashtar, Suwayd b. Ghafila al-Ju'fi, Harith b. 'Abd Allah al-Hamdani, Qanbar, Uways al-Qarani, Kumayl b. Ziyad al-Nakha'i, Asbagh b. Nubata, and Wahab b. 'Abd Allah Maslama.



Family

- His sons, Salih, Shu'ayb and Hamzah, followed their father in being loyal partisans of the Ahl al-Bayt (as) .
- His grandchildren were among the companions of the Imams and narrators of hadith.
- One of his descendants, Ali b. Isma'il b. Shu'ayb b. Mesum, became a great Shi'a theologian and wrote some early theological books.
- Among the progeny of Meytham is Abul Hasan Meytham bin Ali bin Isma'il bin Shu'ayb bin Meytham at Tammar, who was a Shi'ah Mutakallim (Scholastic) during the times of Mamoon and Mu'tasim. He held debates with the atheists and opponents.

Martyrdom

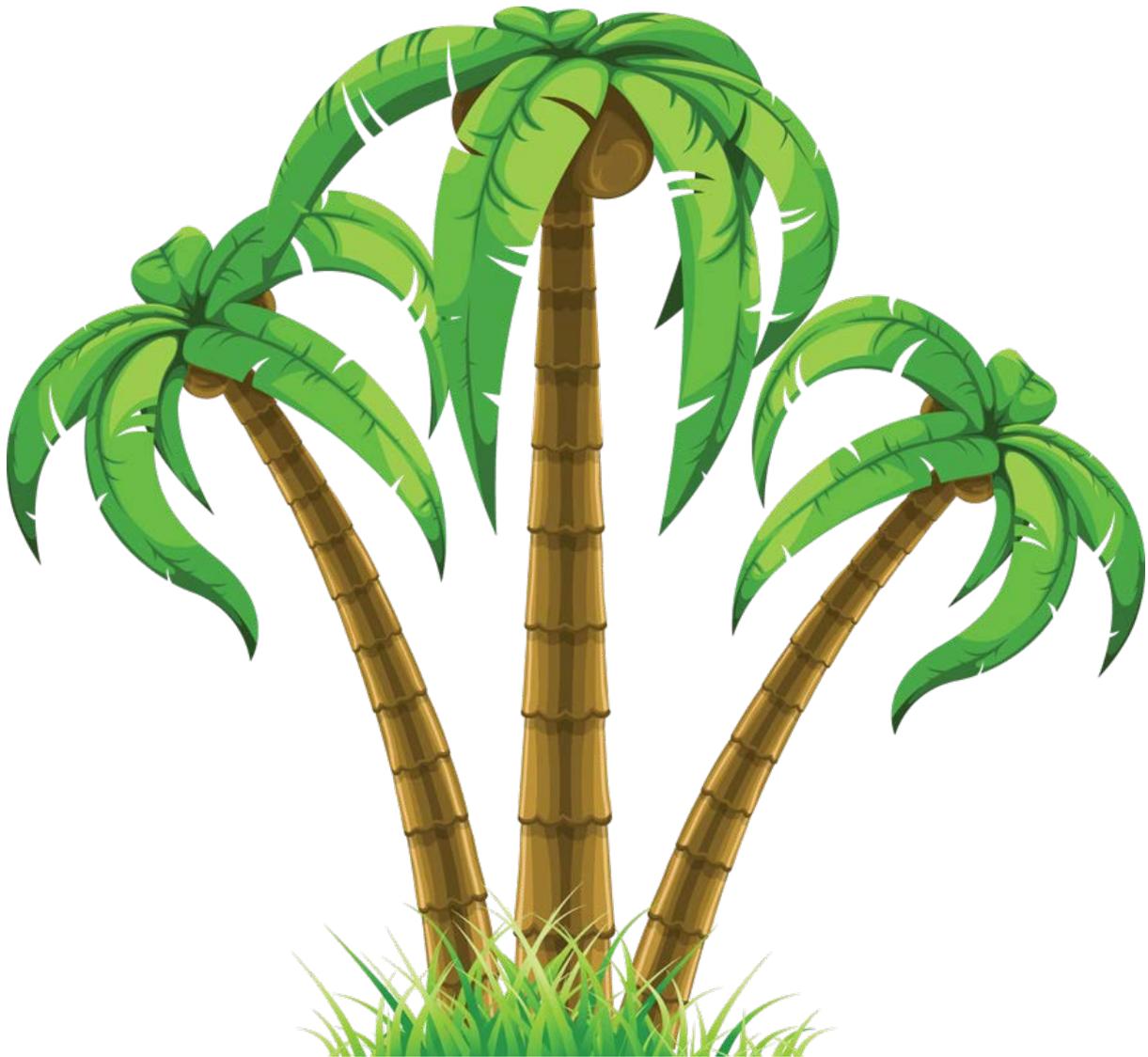
- In the last year of Mesum's life he went on Hajj.
- When Mesum returned to Kufa he was seized and taken to Ibn Ziyad.
- Ibn Ziyad was told that: "He is the most beloved of Ali"
- Ibn Ziyad said: "Woe be to you! This Persian man?"
- He was replied in the affirmative.
- Then Ibn Ziyad asked Mesum: "Where is your Lord?"
- Mesum replied: "In ambush of the oppressors, while you are one of the oppressors."
- Ibn Ziyad said:

"Even after being a Persian (non-Arab) you say what you mean (your Arabic is eloquent). Tell me then, what your master (Imam Ali(as)) predicted to you as to what I shall do to you?"
- Mesum replied:

"Yes, he did tell us that I will be the tenth one whom you shall put to the gallows, and that the timber of my gallow would be the shortest, and also that I shall be closer to the ground than them."

- Ibn Ziyad said:

"By Allah! I shall do the opposite of what he said."



- Mesum replied:

How can you do the opposite, when by Allah, Imam Ali (as) (a.s.) heard it from the Prophet (pbuh) while he had heard it from Jibrael who in

turn heard it from the Almighty. How can you oppose them? And I even know the place in Kufa where I shall be hanged, and I shall be the first in Islam to be bridled."

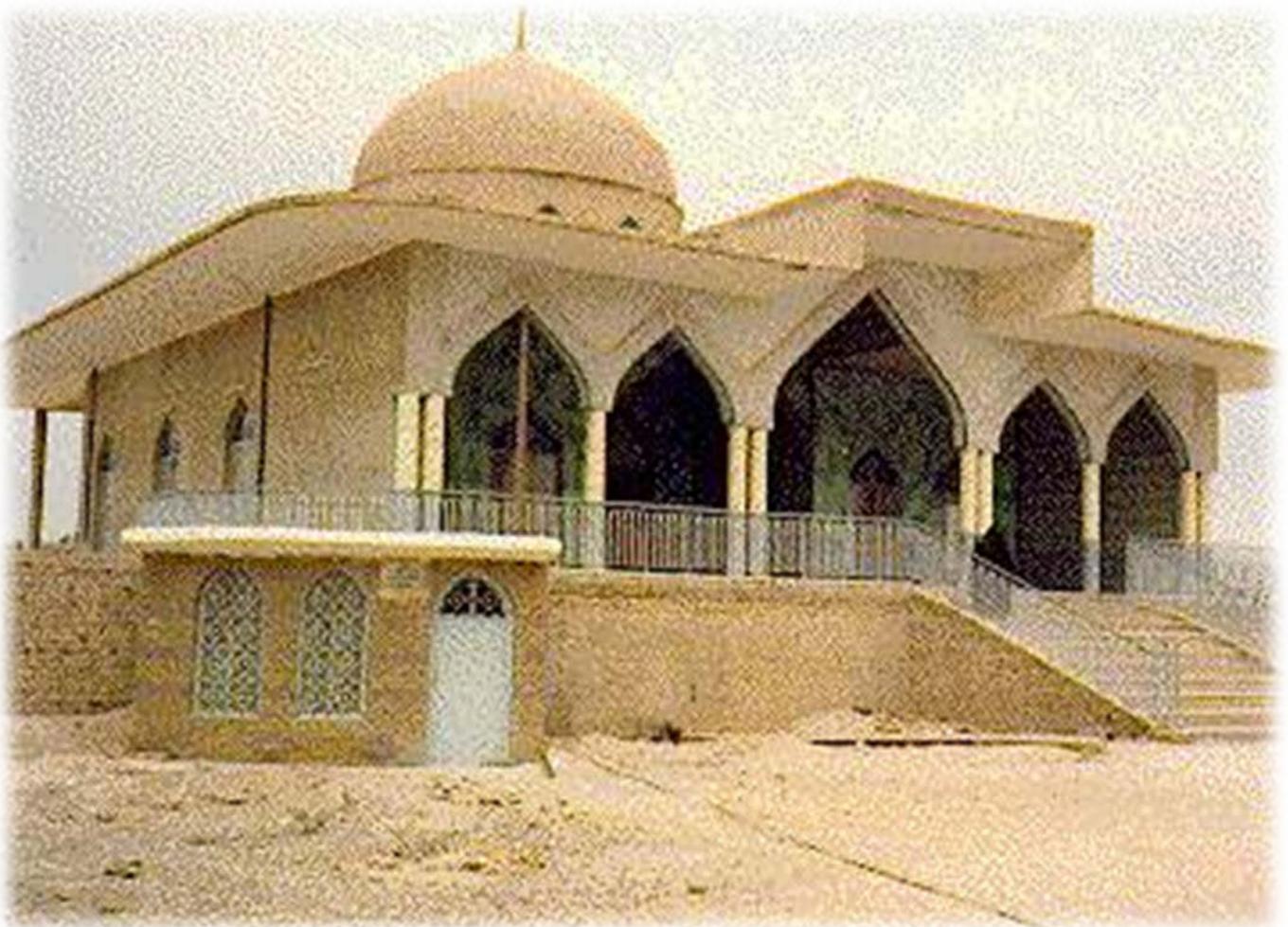
- Thus Mesum was imprisoned along with Mukhtar.
- Mesum informed Mukhtar that he would be freed and rise to avenge the blood of Imam Hussain (as) and that he would succeed.
- When Ibn Ziyad ordered that Mukhtar be killed, a message arrived from Yazid ordering Ibn Ziyad to release Mukhtar.
- Ibn Ziyad obeyed and released Mukhtar.
- He then ordered Mesum to be crucified.
- Mesum was hanged on the gallows, people gathered around him at the door of the house of Amr bin Hurays.
- Amr bin Hurays said: "By Allah! He often said he would be my neighbour".
- When Mesum was crucified Amr ordered his maid to sweep the ground beneath and sprinkle water and fumigate it.



- Mesum started relating virtues of the Bani Hashim on the gallows.
- News reached Ibn Ziyad that the slave had insulted him to which he ordered that a bridle should be put in his mouth; hence Mesum was the first man in Islam to be bridled.
- On the third day a weapon (probably a spear) was pierced into his stomach.
- Mesum exclaimed: "Allahu Akbar", and at the end of the day blood oozed from his nose and his mouth
- Mesum was martyred ten days before Imam Hussain (as) came to Iraq.
- The soldiers refused to bury his body.
- It is related that seven date-sellers pledged that they would take the corpse of Mesum from there and bury him.
- During night they came there when the guards had lighted a fire and could not see them.
- They took him down from the gallows and buried him near the stream in the street of Bani Murad, and threw away the gallow into the garbage.
- When morning dawned the horsemen went in pursuit of them but failed to find them.

Conclusion

- Mesum was a very pious and loyal companion of the Imam (as).
- His love for Imam Ali (as) was so immense that he refused to disown Imam Ali (as) at the court of Ibn Ziyad.
- He was a staunch believer in God and Islam.
- Today when a visitor leaves the city of Najaf and goes to see the Kufa ruins, on the way he sees a beautiful dome.
- This dome decorates Mesum's shrine.



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Upcoming book :

Book 9

Ammar bin Yasir

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