

Last Day 3 - who is the mehdi?

QUESTION: Who or what is the mehdi, whose coming is one of the Major Signs of the Day of Judgement? ¹

ANSWER: Muslims believe that towards the end of time there will come a man who will establish peace and justice on the Earth. His coming is foretold in many hadeeths (statements of Muhammad - may perfect peace and security be upon him).

So who is this man? His name will be Muhammad, the son of Abdullah and he will reign for seven years. During that time, he will fill the earth with justice when it had been previously overcome by oppression. He will be from the family of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) and he will appear on the Earth before Jesus returns. During the reign of this just and honourable man, the Dajjaal (the Anti Christ) will emerge.

However, although the statements of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him) inform us in detail about the Mehdi, still we find that some people have completely misunderstood who the Mehdi is and what he will do.

So a group of thinkers amongst the Muslims reject the idea of a Mehdi, purely on the basis of it not agreeing with their intellects. But as we have mentioned before, in issues of creed and belief, Islam teaches that a person has to agree and submit to what is reported in the Qur'an and in the authentic hadeeths – and no attention is paid to what a person's (limited) intellect might think.

¹ Refer to *al irshaad ilaa saheeh il i'tiqaad* of Shaykh Saalih al Fawzaan p225 for more information

Another group, such as the Raafidee Shi'ah (as are found in modern day Iran and Iraq), believe that the Mehdi is the leader they have been waiting for. He entered an underground vault when he was a young child, and has been for more than a thousand years! Sadly for these people, this fairy story has no basis whatsoever in any authentic Islamic text.

The Muslims have also seen individuals over the years who have claimed to be the Mehdi in order to gain some form of power or following from the people. We have discussed this concept before – that people will claim to be prophets or saints, etc in order to gain money or power from the people. But these people are always exposed for the liars that they are.

The details of the Mehdi, when he will appear, his name, his lineage and his attributes have all been mentioned in the authentic statements of Muhammad (may perfect peace and security be upon him). And what a Muslim believes about the Mehdi can only be taken from that.

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NEXT TIME: Who or what is the Dajjaal (the Anti Christ)?