

The Condition for Accompanying the Infallible Imam: Who Remains to the End?

Are Patience and Loyalty Until the Final Moment the Condition for Accompanying the Infallible Imam?

“If we were in Karbala, would we truly remain with the infallible Imam? Or would we, like many who once claimed devotion, leave the field of trial with countless excuses?”

Hidden behind this sense of regret lies an important question – one that can illuminate the direction of our lives:

-What is the condition for accompanying the infallible Imam, and who genuinely stays with him until the very end?

-Why do some people, at critical turning points in history, remain with the infallible Imam of their time, while others – even those with a bright past – choose a different path?

-Is accompanying the infallible Imam merely an emotional claim, or does it require a real and inward condition?

In this article, we aim to discuss in detail the two aspects of the condition for accompanying the infallible Imam: patience and loyalty.

We will also explore how these two qualities become the decisive measure that determines whether a person stays with the infallible Imam or leaves him in the defining moments of life.

Patience: The Essential Condition for Accompanying the Infallible Imam

The central element that keeps the heart sound is patience. Patience is the path to all spiritual growth. In truth, there is only one requirement on the path toward eternity: possessing a sound heart [1]. Patience is a fundamental part of faith. It is rooted in knowledge and certainty, and it plays a role as vital to faith as the head does to the body [2].

Patience is the first and most essential aspect of the condition for accompanying the infallible Imam. Without patience, remaining with the Imam becomes nothing more than a claim. Patience is not merely silence or passive endurance. It is a conscious, informed, and steady stance in the face of difficulties and contradictions. Those who view patience not only as a moral virtue but also as a tool for remaining firm on the path of *wilayah* (divinely appointed guardianship) are the true companions. This is the real criterion for adherence to *wilayah*.

The role of patience is not limited to external trials or battlefields. It is also essential to the developmental journey of the human. Human beings are created with a collection of divine attributes and potentials, but these potentials cannot be actualized without patience. Every divine attribute — from mercy and forgiveness to trust in God, contentment, forbearance, loyalty, courage, serenity, and generosity — blossoms only within hardships. Patience is the bridge that transforms knowledge into assets.

There is a great difference between knowledge and assets. Knowledge grows through study and practice, but we do not live by our knowledge alone. What truly matters are the assets of the heart, by which we live in this world and will be resurrected in the system of the hereafter. At times, we possess much knowledge, yet we are not happy and strong because that knowledge has not turned into

assets. It is through patience in trials and ups and downs in life that our assets are tested.

No one becomes patient unless they are placed in situations that challenge their patience. Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (Peace be upon him) says, "Heaven is surrounded by trials and patience" [3]. Patience is the key for passing through difficulties and the bridge to the rank of nearness to God, since only a patient person can gain true assets amid adversity and reach the rank of accompanying the infallible Imam.

Loyalty: The Criterion for Steadfastness on the Infallible Imam's Path

Loyalty means to remain committed and unwavering toward one's obligations, and this is only possible through patience. Loyalty is an essential and inseparable part of fulfilling the condition for accompanying the infallible Imam. It is a person's level of loyalty that guarantees their perseverance on the path. If patience is the strength that keeps a person standing, then loyalty is the act of remaining true to the covenant. In reality, loyalty is patience and perseverance in the relationship we have formed with the infallible Imam, with God, or with our inner vows. Loyalty is not merely a verbal claim. It means remaining committed to the promises even in hardships, loneliness, and when no personal benefit is gained.

Obstacles to Patience and Loyalty

The greatest enemy of patience are low desires. The soul is naturally impatient and hasty. At the slightest difficulty, we become impatient and unsettled. Now imagine a person with such a temperament attempting to remain with the infallible Imam!

Life itself is filled with trials and tribulations: pain, misunderstandings, social pressure, and family conflicts. If a person views these tensions as threats, they will withdraw from the path of accompanying the infallible Imam. However, if they see them as opportunities for growth, they will stand among the true companions.

Ashura: The Clear Criterion for Truly Accompanying the Imam

Ashura was not merely a scene of oppression and tragedy. It was a unique field that revealed the difference between true companions and those who only make claims. Thousands who had invited the infallible Imam with passionate letters and affectionate words turned away when danger approached, and some even joined his enemies.

In contrast, a small group of companions remained loyal until the final moment. They were people of patience — a patience that arose from faith and from a clear understanding of the path. As Imam Ali (Peace be upon him) wisely taught, the true nature of human beings becomes visible only when circumstances change and life brings its trials and difficulties [4]. This is because our heart responds differently depending on the type and amount of nourishment it receives through the five human faculties. As a result, in each situation, the heart shows different inclinations and efforts. In the midst of the battlefield, Imam Hussain (Peace be upon him) declared openly, “O people, whoever among you can endure the sharpness of swords and the wounds of spears, let them stay with us. Otherwise, they may leave us.”

The event of Ashura is not merely a historical incident. Beyond testing the hearts and assets of those who were present, it remains a living criterion for us today, through which we can measure the sincerity and purity of our own hearts. It is

enough to imagine ourselves as each companion of the Imam — or even his opponents — and, with an honest view of what truly happened to them, evaluate our own decisions today regarding the loneliness of the infallible Imam of our time.

The Condition for Accompanying the Infallible Imam During the Period of Occultation

Someone may say, “I was not in Karbala, and I do not see my Imam today. Why should patience and loyalty matter to me?”

Yet each of us stands in the fields of trial where our patience and loyalty are measured. Social pressures, injustice, discouragement, the weariness of awaiting, the heaviness of family tests, and moral or economic crises — all of these are arenas in which patience and loyalty are formed and strengthened.

During the period of occultation, we may not have a visible meeting with the infallible Imam, but every day, our actions reveal whether we are with him or not. In fulfilling the condition for accompanying the infallible Imam, to see him with physical eyes is not much important. What truly matters is the degree to which our inner character is similar to his. This similarity is tested at every moment. In other words, the examination that measures us against the infallible Imam is not dependent on his occultation or advent. It is a universal test that applies to all human beings.

In this article, we discussed the importance of patience and loyalty as the central elements of the condition for accompanying the infallible Imam, and we emphasized that accompanying the infallible Imam is not defined by meeting him face to face. Instead, we must bring the spirit of Karbala into our daily lives. Every day is an opportunity to prove or contradict our loyalty. If we hope to stand beside

the Imam when he calls upon us, then we must begin today to cultivate patience and loyalty — not through words alone, but through action, conduct, choices, and perseverance on the path of truth.

References

[1]. Quran, 26:88-89

[2]. Kulayni, *Al-Kāfi*, trans. Muhammad Sarwar, vol. 2, part 3, p. 35.

[3]. Ibid., part 3, p. 34.

[4]. Ibid., vol. 8, part 1, p. 30.