



WHO IS AL-MAHDI, WHAT ARE THE MAIN DIFFERING VIEWS AND IS HE ALIVE NOW?

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

The view of Ahl al-Sunna wa'l Jama' based on hadith which is mutawatir b'il m'ana (mass transmission in meaning) hence cannot be considered to be invented is that al-Mahdi will be born and become known near the End of Time. He is not as the Shi'i, particularly the Twelvers, say that he is in occultation in a cave in Samarra.

The Shi'i view of al-Mahdi is that he is the twelfth Imam of a chain of Imams from Sayyidana 'Ali as follows:

'Ali, then his son al-Hasan, then his brother al-Husayn, then his son 'Ali Zayn al-'Abidin, then his son Muhammad al-Baqir, then his son Ja'far al-Sadiq, then his son Musa al-Kazim, then his son 'Ali al-Rida, then his son Muhammad al-Taqi, then his son 'Ali al-Naqi, then his son al-Hasan al-'Askari, then his son Muhammad al-Qa'im, the expected one, the Mahdi.

Therefore according to the Shi'i he is a descendent of Sayyidina al-Husayn.

He is not as the Ahmadis claim that the Mahdi and 'Isa are one of the same, i.e. one individual based upon a hadith from Ibn Maja; which they say have already been realised and has occurred in their founder and leader Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian. In other words their view is he is both al-Mahdi and the Masih (Messiah) Sayyidina 'Isa.

There are many ahadith on the subject, of which I have quoted some below.

'Ali said, the Prophet said, "The Mahdi is one of us, from among the people of my household. In one night Allah will inspire him and prepare him to carry out his task successfully." (Ahmad and Ibn Maja)

'Ali said, whilst looking at his son al-Hasan, "This son of mine is a Sayyid (master), as the Prophet named him. Among his descendants there will be man named after your Prophet. He will resemble him in behaviour but not in looks. Then he told them the report which mentions that the earth will be filled with justice". (Abu Dawud.)

Therefore, according to Ahl al-Sunna wa'l jama' he is a descendent of Sayyidina al-Hasan

Abu Da'ud records a Hadith from Abd Allah ibn Masud; The Prophet said, "If there were only one day left for the world, that day would be lengthened until a man from among my descendants or from among the people of my household, was sent; his name will be the same as my name, and his father's name will be the same as my father's name. He will fill the earth with justice and fairness,



just as it will have been filled with injustice and oppression. The world will not end until a man of my household, whose name is the same as mine, holds away.”

Umm Salama reported that the Prophet said, “People will begin to differ after the death of a Khalifa. A man from the people of Madina will flee to Makka. Some of the people of Makka will come to him and drag him out against his will, they will swear allegiance to him between al-Rukn and al-Maqam. An army will be sent against him from Syria, it will be swallowed up in the desert between Makka and Madina. When the people see this, groups of people from Syria and Iraq will come and swear allegiance to him. Then a man from Quraysh whose mother is from Kalb will appear and send an army against them, and will defeat them; this will be known as the Battle of Kalb. Whoever does not witness the spoils of this battle will miss much! The Mahdi will distribute the wealth, and will rule the people according to the Sunnah of the Prophet. Then he will die, and the Muslims will pray for him. (Abu Da’ud.)

‘Ali said, The Prophet said, “A man named al-Harith ibn Hirath will come from Transoxania. His army will be led by a man named Mansur. He will pave the way for and establish the government of the family of Muhammad, just as Quraysh established the government of the Messenger of Allah. Every believer will be obliged to support him.” (Abu Da’ud.)

‘Abd Allah ibn al-Harith ibn Juz al-Zubaydi said, “The Prophet said, A people will come out of the East who will pave the way for the Mahdi”. (Ibn Maja)

These ahadith and others clearly mention that the Mahdi will arrive from the East, not as the Shi’i state.

Only Allah the Almighty knows if he is born and if he is not born when he will be born as no being bar Him the Great has knowledge of the Unseen. As indication however the Signs of the Hour which will lead up to the appearance of Sayyidana al-Mahdi have not yet materialised

والله اعلم و علمه احكم واتم