

HAZRAT IMAM HUSAYN IBN HAZRAT 'ALI AL-MURTAZA (may Allah Almighty be pleased with them both)

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PREFACE

In the spirit of remembering the lives and contributions of the great luminaries of the Islamic tradition, for the purpose of being inspired by them, and for sending *Isaal-e-Sawaab* to their blessed souls as a token of gratitude, IECRC has been producing brief documents such as the one below. The inspiration gained from such information is the impetus for rectifying our actions, insha Allah (God willing), and a catalyst for each one of us to attempt to follow in the footsteps of these shining stars. It is when we strengthen our connection with our past, that our hope for the future can be brightened, insha Allah.

In addition to the Holy Quran and Blessed Hadeeth literature, the material for this document has been taken from the following sources:

1. *Al-Ghunya li-Taalibi Tareeq al-Haqq* by Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani رحمته (1077/8-1166 CE) translated from Arabic into English as Sufficient Provision for Seekers of the Path of Truth by Haaji Muhtar Holland, published by Al-Baz Publishing, Inc. (Florida 1997)
2. *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* by Hazrat Abul Hasan Syed Ali bin Uthman Hujwari رحمته famous as Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh رحمته (11th century CE) translated from Persian into English as Unveiling the Veiled by Maulana Wahid Baksh Rabbani, published by A.S. Noordeen in collaboration with the Association of Spiritual Training (Pakistan 1997)
3. *Kitab-ur-Rooh* by Allama Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi رحمته (1292 - 1356 CE) translated from Arabic into English as The Soul, published by Adam Publishers & Distributors (India 2001)

As people of *Ahl-e-Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah*, we are honored to bring you such works. We appreciate your feedback and comments.

Thank You.

IECRC Staff



In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful
Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ
and upon His Pure Family & Noble Companions

Hazrat Imam Husayn ؑ (4 - 61 Hijri), the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the precious son of Hazrat Fatima-tuz-Zahra¹ ؑ & Hazrat 'Ali ibn Abi Talib al-Murtaza² ؑ, is one of the greatest exemplars of sacrifice in the history of Islam. It is stated in the famous *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* that:

*"[Hazrat Imam Husayn ؑ] is one of the great Awliya Allah devoted exclusively to Allah and famous for renunciation, patience and forbearance in the hours of extreme affliction, such as that experienced in the massacre at Karbala."*³

THE AHL-UL-BAYT

Hazrat Imam Husayn ؑ belongs to the *Ahl-ul-Bayt* (People of the Household), whose excellence is testified to in the Holy Quran:

"... Allah only wills to remove all impurity from you, O the People of the Household, and by cleansing you make you utterly pure."

[The Holy Quran 33:33]

The *Ahl-ul-Bayt* includes the Holy Prophet's ﷺ Pure Wives, Lady of Paradise Hazrat Fatima-tuz-Zahra, Hazrat 'Ali Murtaza, Hazrat Imam Hasan & Imam Husayn (may Allah be pleased with them all). This is the conclusion of the Hazrat Imam Abu Mansoor Maaturidi ؑ⁴ (d. 333 Hijri).

¹ the adored daughter of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and leader of the women in Paradise (may Allah be pleased with her)

² the blessed cousin & son-in-law of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, the gateway to knowledge, and leader of majority of the Sufi spiritual orders (may Allah ennoble his countenance)

³ Hazrat Abul Hasan Syed Ali bin Uthman Hujwari ؑ, famous as Hazrat Daata Ganj Baksh ؑ (11th century CE). *Kashf-ul-Mahjoob* trans. as *Unveiling the Veiled* by Maulana Wahid Baksh Rabbani. Pakistan: A.S. Noordeen & AST, 1997. p. 87.

⁴ according to *Khazain-ul-Irfan*, the *Tafseer* (Quranic exegesis) of Maulana Nayeemuddin Muradabadi ؑ of the famous *Kanz-ul-Iman*, the Urdu rendering of the Holy Quran by Hazrat Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Barelvi ؑ (1856 – 1921 CE)

LOVE FOR THE AHL-UL-BAYT

The Holy Quran says:

“... Say (O dear Prophet Mohammed - peace and blessings be upon him) ‘I do not ask any fee from you upon this, except the love between close ones’; ...”

[The Holy Quran 42:23]

In the Quranic Tafseer *Khazain-ul-Irfan* of the above verse, one interpretation of “close ones” is the *Ahl-ul-Bayt*.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ has also said:

“When I am loved, then my family members, whom I love should also be loved.”

[Tirmidhi Shareef]

Hazrat Abu Dharr رضي الله عنه while holding the door of the Ka’ba, said that he had heard the Holy Prophet ﷺ say:

“My family among you are like Noah’s ark. He who sails on it will be safe, but he who holds back from it will perish.”

[Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal رحمته الله]

Hazrat Zaid bin Arqam رضي الله عنه said that Allah’s Messenger ﷺ said of Sayyidina ‘Ali, Sayyidah Fatima , Sayyidina Hasan and Sayyidina al-Husayn (may Allah be pleased with them all):

“I am war with him who makes war on them and peace with him who makes peace with them.”

[Tirmidhi Shareef]

THE HOLY PROPHET’S ﷺ LOVE FOR IMAM HUSAYN رضي الله عنه

Hazrat Al-Bara` ibn ‘Aazib رضي الله عنه, a Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

“I saw that the Holy Prophet ﷺ used to carry Imam Husayn رضي الله عنه on His shoulders and say, ‘O Allah! I love him. You too love him.’”

[Mishkaat Shareef]

And since Allah ﷻ answers all of the Holy Prophet's ﷺ prayers, we know that Imam Husayn ﷺ is the beloved of Allah ﷻ.

Hazrat Ya'la ibn Murra رضى الله عنه, another Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ reports that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

“Husayn is from me and I am from Husayn...”

[Mishkaat Shareef]

It is reported by Hazrat Umar رضى الله عنه:

“Once, when I presented myself in the court of Rasoolullah ﷺ I saw that the Beloved Rasool ﷺ was walking on His knees carrying Imam Husayn ﷺ on His blessed back. When I saw this, I said, ‘Your means of transport is very splendid! On hearing this, the Prophet ﷺ said, ‘O Umar! The passenger is also very splendid!’”

[Kashf-ul Mahjoob]

THE HOLY PROPHET'S ﷺ FOREKNOWLEDGE OF IMAM HUSAYN'S ﷺ MARTYRDOM

Hazrat Umm Salama رضى الله عنها, one of the Holy Prophet's Wives (Ummahaat al-Mumineen / Mothers of the Believers) is reported has having said:

“Allah's ﷻ Messenger ﷺ was once in my apartment, when His ﷺ young grandson al-Husayn ﷺ went in to see Him ﷺ. I watched the pair of them from the doorway and there was al-Husayn ﷺ perched on the chest of the Holy Prophet ﷺ as he played a game. The Prophet ﷺ was holding a piece of clay in his hand and tears were streaming from his eyes. As soon as al-Husayn ﷺ had left, I went inside and said: Let my father and my mother be your ransom, O Messenger of Allah ﷻ! As I was watching you, I noticed that you were holding a piece of clay in your hand, and that you were shedding tears. He ﷺ responded by telling me:

‘While I was taking delight in having him perched on my chest, playing his game, Jibreel came to me and handed me the piece of clay upon which he will be slain. That is why I was shedding tears.’”

[Al-Ghunya li-Talibi]

THE SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS OF IMAM HUSAYN ؑ

Imam Husayn ؑ was a man who stood for Truth all his life and sacrificed his life for Truth. The Prophet ﷺ Himself has indicated some of Imam Husayn's spiritual merits in His sayings. Imam Husayn ؑ also has some subtle sayings on the mysteries of the Sufi path. He said:

*"Ashraful Ikhwani alaik dinakum"
"Your best friend is your Din (religion)"*

[Kashf-ul-Mahjoob]

It is said that once a man came to Imam Husayn ؑ, and said, "O son of the Prophet ﷺ, I am a poor man with a large family. Kindly give something to me to suffice for the night." He said, *"Sit down. The money is on the way."* After a short while a man arrived and placed before him five bags each containing a thousand dinars saying that Amir Muawiyah ؑ had sent the money and wanted Imam Husayn ؑ to use it sparingly since there was a shortfall in his budget (Amir Muawiyah ؑ was the governor of Syria). Imam Husayn ؑ ordered the man to give the entire amount to the beggar and addressed him thus, *"I am sorry to have kept you waiting for long. Had I known that the amount was so little, I would not have troubled you to wait. Please forgive me the inconvenience caused to you."*

Hazrat Imam Husayn ؑ continued on to say that:

"We are the people called Ahl-e-bala (sufferers). We love bala (calamities) and feel pleased with it. We live for others and not for ourselves."

[Kashf-ul-Mahjoob]

THE MARTYRDOM OF IMAM HUSAYN ؑ

Unfortunately, martyrdom (i.e. giving up one's life for the sake of the Truth) is an enormously misunderstood concept in the modern age. In Islamic *Shariah* (Law), the breath of life is considered one of the greatest gifts as it is through being alive that one has the opportunity to do righteous deeds. However, those who oppose goodness, either knowingly or unknowingly, present the possibility of endangering the property, honor and life itself of those struggling to do good works. Therefore, the willingness to have one's life taken away in the pursuit of doing good and upholding the Truth is considered very noble in Islam. **However, let it be known that taking a civilian's life or one's own life, no matter how bleak things seem, is completely beyond the pale of Islam.** As a matter of fact Allah ﷻ exhorts the Muslims in the Holy Quran:

“... do not lose hope in Allah's mercy; ...”

[The Holy Quran 39:53]

Muslims are exhorted to bear trials with patience, and not retaliation, as outlined in the Holy Quran:

“O People who Believe! Seek help from patience and prayer; indeed Allah is with those who patiently endure.”

[The Holy Quran 2:153]

Imam Husayn's ﷺ martyrdom on the 10th of Muharram is the ultimate tribute to sacrificing oneself for the sake of the greater good. When Imam Husayn ﷺ was confronted with the call for pledging allegiance to Yazid, the ruler at that time, he ﷺ refused on account of the fact that Yazid was a tyrant and transgressor. Imam Husayn's ﷺ confrontation with Yazid was a call for justice and restoration of the *Shari'ah*. Yazid had done many anti-*Shari'ah* acts. He had committed the sacrilegious act of tying horses to the Mosque of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and they had soiled the blessed mosque. Imam Husayn ﷺ exhorted and warned Yazid three times to give up his tyrannical and blasphemous ways and to pledge allegiance to the family of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. However, this call for rectification fell on deaf ears.

Some 72 lovers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ were forced to take on the huge army of Yazid that had laid siege upon them. The martyrdom of Imam Husayn ﷺ and the rest of the martyrs of Karbala was the price paid for the fortification and safeguarding of Islam and the guarantor for this religion having reached us today.

Seventy thousand angels alighted in the grave of Imam al-Husayn ibn 'Ali (may Allah Almighty be pleased with them both) on the day when he was mortally wounded, and they will continue to weep over him until the day of Resurrection. [*Al-Ghunya li-Talibi*]

Allah ﷻ chose martyrdom for the grandson of our Beloved Prophet ﷺ on the most noble of all days, the most glorious of them, the most majestic of them, and the most exalted of them in His ﷻ sight. In doing so, His ﷻ purpose was to grant him increased elevation in His degrees and His tokens of special favor over and above the special favor he already enjoyed. By way of martyrdom, He ﷻ caused him to reach the stations of the rightly guided Khalifas, who died as martyrs. [*Al-Ghunya li-Talibi*]

Like the angels, those who have love in their hearts for Imam Husayn ﷺ weep tears and feel pain on this sad day. However, it must not be observed as a day of tragic misfortune. Instead it must be regarded as an remarkable day full of blessings and opportunities to reap plentiful rewards from the Merciful One ﷻ and attempt to perform as many righteous deeds as possible.

If it had ever been permissible to observe this day as the day of tragic misfortune, the Noble Companions and Successors (may Allah be pleased with them all) would have observed it as such, because they were more closely in touch with it than we are, and better qualified to understand its true significance. In actual fact, as we know from traditional reports about them that they used to urge people to treat their dependants with special generosity on that day and to observe it as a day of fasting.

[Al-Ghunya li-Talibi]

It is highly recommended to fast on both the 9th and 10th of Muharram.



THE EXCELLENCE OF THE NOBLE COMPANIONS OF THE HOLY PROPHET ﷺ

It is narrated from Hazrat Jabir رضي الله عنه that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

“Allah chose my Companions over everything else in existence except for the Prophets and the Messengers. He ﷺ chose four of them for me: Abu Bakr, ‘Umar, ‘Uthman, ‘Ali. He made them my best Companions, and all of my Companions are good.”

[Al-Bazzar and Ad-Daylami]



CONCLUSION

It behooves Muslims to remember such a great personality like Hazrat Imam Husayn رضي الله عنه and take lessons from his life; and as a small way of saying “thank you” for all his sacrifices and contributions to the Deen of Islam, and humanity at large, send *Isaal-e-Sawab* to his blessed soul.

Isaal-e-Sawab is the act of sending the reward of one’s good deeds to the souls of those who have passed away from this world and are experiencing a life in the *Aalam-e-Barzakh* (the realm in which the soul resides between death and the Day of Judgment). Allama Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi رحمته الله (1292 – 1356 CE) says in his famous *Kitab-ur-Rooh* that:

“Worship is of two kinds, one monetary and the other physical. The Holy Prophet ﷺ has indicated by affirming the transfer of the rewards of charity, that all monetary worships are transferable to dead persons. And by allowing the transfer of the rewards of fast, He ﷺ has indicated that the rewards of all physical worship can also be transferred. And by affirming the transfer of rewards for Hajj, which

is a unique combination of physical and monetary worships, the Holy Prophet ﷺ has informed His Ummah that the rewards of all kinds of worship may be dedicated to a dead person.”⁵

The righteous Scholars and Saints have taught that at a minimum, one should recite Surah Al-Fatiha once and Surah Al-Ikhlaas 3 times and pray to Allah Almighty to send the reward of this reading to the departed soul. There is no maximum limit as to how many good deeds one can or should dedicate.

For someone of the stature of Hazrat Imam Husayn عليه السلام, who is the beloved of Allah تعالى and the beloved of the Beloved of Allah Almighty تعالى, no amount of gratitude can suffice. It is only the Noble Friends of Allah تعالى who can do justice to other Friends of Allah تعالى (may Allah be pleased with them all). Hazrat Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti رحمته, the great 12th century CE Sufi Saint of India writes the following Persian lines in praise of Imam Husayn عليه السلام:

*Shah ast Husayn عليه السلام baad Shah ast Husayn عليه السلام
Deen ast Husayn عليه السلام Deen panaa ast Husayn عليه السلام
Sar daad na daad dast dar dast-e-Yazid
Haqqa ke bina-e laa ilahaa ast Husayn عليه السلام*

**Husayn عليه السلام is the king, Husayn عليه السلام is the king of kings
The Deen (Islam) is Husayn عليه السلام, the protector of the Deen is Husayn عليه السلام
He gave his head, but did not give his hand in the hand of Yazid
In reality, Husayn عليه السلام is the foundation of “La ilaaha illallah” (There is no God but Allah)**

And in the words of Hazrat Allama Iqbal رحمته, the great 19th century Urdu poet-philosopher of Pakistan:

*Shahaadat-e-Husayn عليه السلام asal mein marg-e Yazid hai
Islam zinda hota hai har Karbala ke baad*

**The martyrdom of Husayn عليه السلام [Truth] is in reality the death of Yazid [Falsehood]
Islam is revived after every Karbala**

Imam Husayn’s عليه السلام life and sacrifices epitomize the ultimate struggle between truth and falsehood, and even though falsehood sometimes has a seeming victory, it is ephemeral, and the Truth always eventually prevails, by the power of Allah Almighty. The life of the great Imam عليه السلام is a model of patience and sacrifice in times of extreme trial and tribulation.

⁵ Allama Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi رحمته (1292 – 1356 CE). *Kitab-ur-Rooah*, translated by Matloob Ahmed. Adam Publishers, Delhi, 2001. pp. 130-131.

May Allah Almighty on the occasion of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husayn عليه السلام, by the *waseela* (connection) of His Habeeb عليه السلام give us the *tawfeeq* (Divine help) to remember his great life and services to Islam and humanity at large. May He عليه السلام fill our hearts with the love of the Holy Prophet عليه السلام and His *Ahl-ul-Bayt* (may Allah be pleased with them all). And may Allah Almighty give us the ability to follow in their footsteps as our Beloved Prophet Muhammad عليه السلام advised us by saying that all of His Companions are like stars and that we would be guided if we followed any one of them. (Aamin).



**Please handle this document with care and respect
as it contains Allah's عليه السلام and His Beloved Prophet's عليه السلام Names.**

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