

Let's learn about  
Imam Husayn (AS)

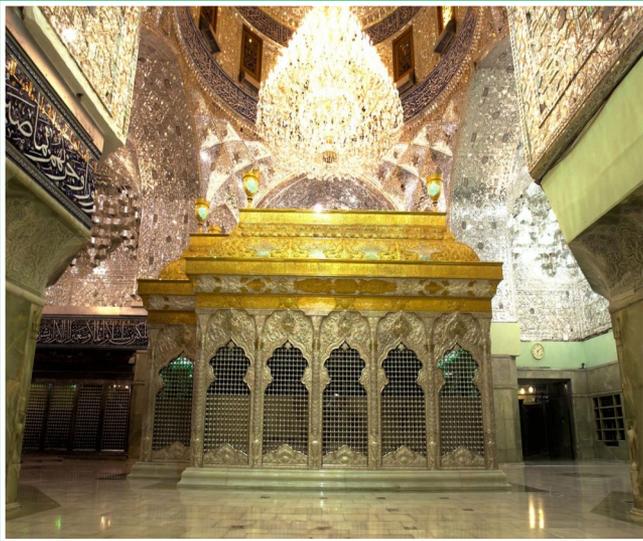


Written for children  
By Sakina Hasan Askari



**Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)**

# Let's learn about Imam Husayn (AS)



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## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### For my grandchildren

Muhammad Ali

Nur-Fatima

Sakina Zahra

Mohsin

Zahra

Aadil

Fatimah

Mehdi

And many more to come

InshaAllah

## This book is to help you learn about Imam Husayn (AS)

### About the Author

Sakina Hasan Askari (nee Sakina Nurul Hasan Jafri) completed her M.A. (English) with honours from Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. She then obtained M.A. in English Literature from the University of Leeds, U.K. She taught for many years within the U.K. school system and is a prolific author. Raising her children and grandchildren in the West, she had felt a need for books for children to learn about Islam.

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## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



## Introduction



Imam Husayn (AS), the shining lamp of guidance and the ark of salvation guides us through his example till the day of Judgment. His outstanding virtues shine through his character. He saved Islam and protected the message of the Quran.

This grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was the second son of Imam Ali (AS) and Hadhrat Fatima (AS). He is our third Imam after his brother, Imam Hasan (AS). He was sinless and endowed with the best of qualities from Allah. He is the fifth one of the Panjatan Pak (The Holy Five) and the third of our Twelve Imams.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Imam Husayn (AS) stood up to defend the divine message of his grandfather, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), when attempts were made to extinguish the light and plunge the Muslims into darkness. He showed us that we must uphold the Right and forbid the Wrong.

Sacrificing himself to the last drop of his blood, Imam Husayn (AS) is honoured by Allah, who has placed a cure in the soil of his place of martyrdom. Allah has promised to accept prayers made under the dome of his grave. Imamate would be in his descendants: the line of Imams would continue through Imam Husayn (AS).



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Titles



Imam Husayn (AS) has many titles that show his great merits

**Ibn Rasoolallah**

(Son of Allah's Messenger)

**Rehanat ul Mustafa**

(Fragrant flower of Mustafa)

**Ibn Ameerulmomineen**

(Son of Commander of the Faithful)

**Syed al Shabab Ahlul Jannah**

(Master of the Youth of Paradise)

**Syed ush Shohada**

(Master of the Martyrs)

**Aba Shohada**

(Father of the Martyrs)

**Qateel al Abaraat**

(the One killed by Grief)

**Saarallah**

(One who Allah will avenge)

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

**Shaheedul Atashaan**

(One martyred Thirsty)

**Abul Ahraar**

(Father of Freedom)

**Safinatun Najaat**

(Ark of Salvation)

**Misbah ul Huda**

(Lamp of Guidance)

**Aba Abdullah**

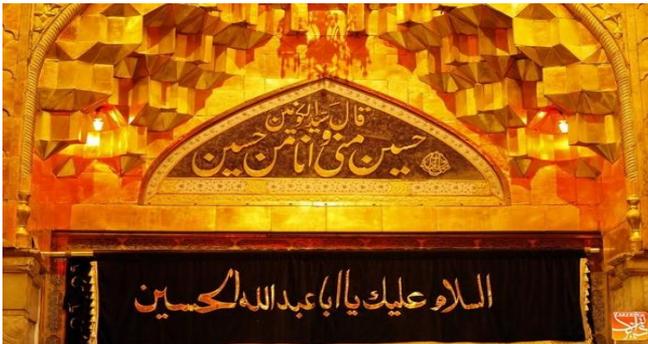
(Father of Allah's Servant)

**Waris e Ambiya**

(Inheritor of the Prophets)

**Shafi e Ummat**

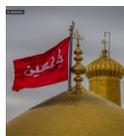
(Interceder of Prophet's Followers)



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Birth



Imam Husayn (AS) was born in Madinah on 3rd Shaban 4 A.H. His mother Hadhrat Fatima (AS) brought him to her father, the Apostle of Allah, who named him Husayn. The Holy Prophet recited the Azaan in the baby's right ear and Iqaama in his left ear.

### Happy and Sad

There was joy in the Holy Household but also sadness. But Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had tears in his eyes as he held his grandson in his arms. When asked "Why are you sad?" He replied; "this son of mine will be killed by the worst people. May Allah not grant them my intercession."

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Allah sent the angel Jibraeel with greetings that the Saviour of Islam had been born but also with the news that this baby will suffer on the day of Ashoor. Martyrdom was promised to him and the Earth and the heavens wept for him. With Jibraeel came thousands of angels including the angel Futrus, who had lost his wings and had been confined to a remote island. When he came to the baby's cradle and touched it; his wings were restored to him. He soared back to the skies saying: "Who can be like me? I am freed by Husayn (AS)."



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Childhood



Loved and cherished by his grandfather, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), Imam Husayn (AS) spent his childhood in Madinah. He saw his father Imam Ali's valour in the battles of Ahzaab and Khyber in the defence of Islam. He saw his grandfather negotiate the treaty of Hudaibiya and celebrate the Victory of Makkah.

### Praised in the Quran

The verses of the holy Quran were revealed to the Prophet in his praise. Imam Husayn (AS) and his brother Hasan (AS) were the pearls and coral described in Sura Rahman (55:22). The Quran praised their purity in the Ayat e Tatheer (33:33)

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and called them the sons of the Prophet in the verse of Mubahila (3:61). When the Christians came to Madinah disputing the Oneness of God, Imam Husayn (AS) was one of the Five Holy Ones (Panjatan Pak), who the Prophet carried in his arms,



to face the challenge. They were the strong rope of Allah, Hablullah (2:256) that would connect one to Allah and never break. It was love for them, that was the recompense (42:23) asked for, from the Muslims in the ayat of Mawadat. The verses

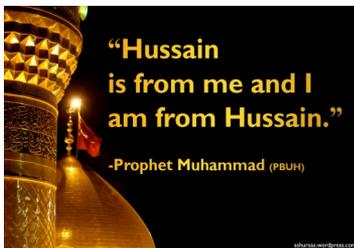
## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

of Sura Dahr (76,1-31) were revealed in their praise, when once they were ill and had kept fast. At the time of iftar, for three days they gave up their food in the love of Allah to the poor, the orphan and the captive; while remaining hungry themselves.

### Praised by the Prophet

Many a time through his actions and his words, Prophet Muhammad related the merits of his grandsons Hasan (AS) and Husayn (AS) to his companions. He would carry them on his shoulders and say "Surely Hasan and Husayn are the masters of the Youths of Paradise."

He hugged Husayn (AS) and said "Husayn is from me and I am from Husayn."



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Salman Farsi, a famous companion reports that the Prophet put Husayn (AS) on his lap; kissed him and said, "You are noble, son of a noble person and will be the father of noble ones; You are an Imam, son of an Imam, brother of an Imam and the father of Imams."

Ibn Abbas relates that he saw the Prophet carry Husayn (AS) on his shoulders. Someone commented that Husayn had the best ride. The Prophet replied: "Why don't you say that the rider is the best!" On the day of Eid, Allah sent an angel with clothes for Imam Hasan and Imam Husayn (AS), the sons of Fatimah.

While the Prophet was praying in the masjid, Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husayn (AS) came and stood behind him. When he raised his head, he

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

took them in his arms. Then when he finished, he sat one on his right knee and the other on his left knee and said "Whoever loves me should love these two. They are the two proofs of Allah (Hujjatullah)."

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) also said, "Whoever loves Hasan (AS) and Husayn (AS) is one whom I love. Whoever I love, Allah loves and will enter Heaven. Whoever hates them, I hate and Allah hates. Whoever Allah hates He will cause to enter the Fire"

### Tears for Husayn's destiny

One day when Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was giving a sermon in the masjid, Imam Husayn (AS) came in. When he was about to fall, the Prophet stopped his sermon and came down

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

from the pulpit and took him in his arms. He hugged Husayn (AS) and said to his companions, "One day Husayn (AS) would be killed at the hands of the worst of people. He will be martyred at a place called Karbala. Those of you present at that time must rise to his help."

### Soil from Karbala

The Holy Prophet gave his wife Umm Salma some earth (soil) that Jibrael had brought to him and told her that on the day Husayn is martyred, the soil will change to blood.



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### Changed conditions

When Imam Husayn (AS) was seven years old, Prophet Muhammad died in 11 A.H. The atmosphere in Madinah changed. People plotted in Saqifa and denied Ali and Fatima their rights. They forgot the message of Ghadeer, when Imam Ali (AS) had been declared the Successor to the Prophet. They snatched the right of the garden of Fadak from Hadhrat Fatimah (AS). The people refused to help the AhlulBayt claim their rights.

On the other hand, when his mother Hadhrat Fatimah stood up to demand her rights, fire was brought to the door. She was crushed between the wall and the door. She lost Mohsin the baby she was carrying. Her broken

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

ribs and wounded hand led to her early death. Imam Husayn (AS) wept, hugging his dear mother.



He saw his father Imam Ali (AS) being deprived of his rights, and confined to his house. Those who held power had no scruples and changed the fabric of society. The pure message of Islam was damaged.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Manhood



For the next 25 years, Imam Husayn (AS) lived in Madinah. Like his father Imam Ali (AS) and his brother Imam Hasan (AS), he also kept aloof from the illegal control of the Muslim State. He took no part in the wars of expansion or in the way affairs were handled.

### Best example in hard times

On a personal level he showed through example, the high moral values of generosity, courtesy, dignity and worship of Allah. He fed the poor by taking food for them in the night. He answered questions and educated those who came looking for answers. When he went to visit the sick, he

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

brought relief to them by promising to pay back debts.

He continued to help the poor and showed in action the respect due to upright people like Abu Dhar Ghaffari. It was a very difficult period for the AhlulBayt. Imam Ali (AS) described it as a time when it seemed like something was stuck in his throat that could not be swallowed or thrown out. They saw that Islamic rules were changed and wealth was misused for personal gains.

### Imam Ali's rule

Finally, after 25 years of being misruled, the people woke up from their slumber and approached Imam Ali (AS) in 35 A.H. to be their leader. Imam Ali (AS) accepted it. But

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the changes he needed to make, as Khalifa, did not please those people who had got used to unIslamic ways.

There were rebellions and protests, intrigues and war. The battles of Jamal, Siffeen and Nahrwan took place. Imam Husayn (AS) took part in all these battles with his father to improve the conditions of the Muslims.

In 40 A.H. his father Imam Ali (AS) was martyred, as he stood up for prayer in the Masjid e Kufa. Imam Husayn (AS) was 36 years old. He learned from his father that as Imam, even when denied power, he must carry on the duties of spiritual leadership and guide people according to the Quran and Hadees.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### With Imam Hasan (AS)

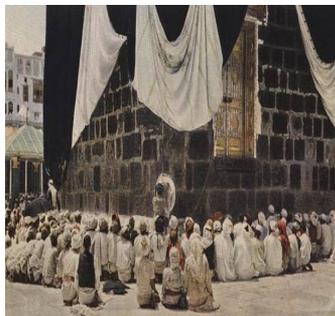
After Imam Ali's martyrdom, his brother Imam Hasan (AS) became the next ruler. But Muawiya, still powerful in Syria, created mischief. A treaty was signed to prevent further bloodshed of Muslims. Imam Hasan (AS) then retired to Madinah. Imam Husayn (AS) and the family of the AhlulBayt went with him.

Muawiya did not adhere to any of the terms of the treaty. Imam Hasan (AS) himself was poisoned and died in 50 A.H. Imam Husayn (AS) like his brother, continued to honour the agreement with Muawiya, even though the opposite side broke all its promises.

Imam Hussain (AS) performed the

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Hajj regularly each year, going on foot to the city of Makkah. The journey was through a dry desert where hot winds blew and temperatures soared.



### As the Imam

Imam Husayn (AS) was the next Imam after his brother. During the next ten years, Shias continued to be harassed and killed. Imam Ali's name was dishonoured at Friday prayers. Islamic laws were mocked and ignored. Wealth of the state was mismanaged. Noble companions like Hujr ibn Adi were martyred. Imam Husayn (AS) wrote to Muawiya to protest.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

In 58 A.H. Imam Husayn (AS) addressed the people during Hajj in a sermon to wake up their conscience.

His sermon in Mina reminded people about their duty to rise against oppression. He



raised the call to enjoin the good and forbid the evil. At the end of the speech he said: **O Allah you know that we did this not for power or wealth but to show men the values of Islam, to reform the affairs of your land and to act according to your orders.** But Muawiya continued to malign Imam Ali (AS), to invent false hadees to praise the other Khalifas and to degrade the Shia and deny their rights. To further damage the fabric of Islam, Muawiya named Yazeed as his successor.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Model of Virtues



As the representative of the Prophet, Imam Husayn (AS)'s main concern was to safeguard Islam and guide the Muslims. He had all the qualities of his noble grandfather and was a model of virtue and good manners. Knowledge and action combined in him to make him the best role model.

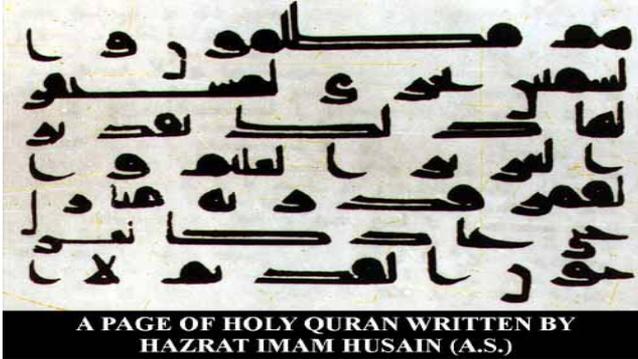


### His Worship

The Imam fulfilled his duties to his Creator with utmost sincerity. Imam Husayn (AS), like his father Imam Ali (AS), was very pious. He

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would recite a thousand rakats of prayers every night. He had a deep understanding of the glory of Almighty



Allah, (for example his dua on the Day of Arafat).

### Helping the Needy

He lived a simple life and gave away all he had to the poor and needy. He would distribute any gifts that were sent to him among the orphans and widows. His generosity was well known. When strangers came to

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Madinah and asked "Who is the most generous person in the city?" people sent them to Imam Husayn (AS), who fulfilled their needs abundantly.

Imam Husayn (AS) practised Islamic courtesy through example. A man came to the Imam and started talking before greeting him. In reply the Imam saluted him and said: "How are you? May Allah protect you" Then he advised, "Salute first before any talk, may Allah protect you." He showed that greeting through salam conveys a message of peace.

### Kindness and Courtesy

Like his grandfather Muhammad (SAW), Imam Husayn (AS) was humble and courteous towards everyone,

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specially the poor. Jabir ibn Abdullah narrates how kindly the Imam treated a poor man and bestowed gifts on him. The Imam sat by him and talked to him kindly, making him feel at ease. He was keen to lighten the hearts of the poor, who were neglected by society. He was caring to his servants and treated them with love and affection.

### Patience

Imam Husayn (AS) like his brother Imam Hasan (AS), had to face disrespect from ignorant people. He replied with patience to a man's rude behaviour gently saying: "O dear man, if the winds of the desert has created dryness in your head, stay with us so that we may have you cured." The man regretted his behaviour and begged pardon.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### Gentleness

Imam Husayn (AS)'s gentleness to his own relatives was such that they all accompanied him, when he departed from the city of Madinah. Brothers, nephews, cousins and children were ready to lay down their lives at his smallest gesture. They sacrificed their lives for Islam one after the other.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Leaving Madinah



### Why Yazeed had to be stopped

Yazeed had no faith in Islam and openly disobeyed the rules of the holy Quran. He was often seen drunk in public. He was cruel and used force, threats or bribes to get his way. He killed anyone who did not obey him. He was bent on completely destroying the message of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Actions forbidden by Islam had become the norm under his rule and Islam was being considered a game.

Yet Yazeed wanted everyone to accept him as their Islamic spiritual leader. He was already in control of most of the spineless

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people among the Muslims and now he demanded that Imam Husayn (AS) do bayat (pledge allegiance).

When Muawiyah died, Yazeed sent orders to Waleed the governor in Madinah to



immediately demand the oath of allegiance for him from everyone, especially from Imam Husayn (AS). Paying allegiance was to show wholehearted support for Yazeed. It would mean agreeing to all of his sinful actions and accepting them as lawful.

### Imam Husayn's protest

Imam Husayn's refusal and strong protest came in his answer: Yazeed was corrupt, habitually drunk, killer

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of innocents and notorious for his vices. A person like me can never agree to take the oath of allegiance to such a immoral and debased person like Yazeed. Bayat to Yazeed was death to Islam. It was to sell one's religion to a tyrant. The Imam considered Death with honour better than a life of disgrace. The mission of the Imam was to save the treasure of Islam from Yazeed's clutches.

### Leaving Madinah

The Imam decided to leave Madinah, his hometown. He bade farewell to



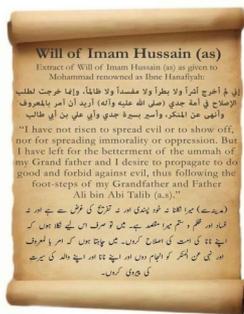
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the grave of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). My salam on you, O Prophet of Allah. I am Husayn son of Fatima, your grandson and the son of your daughter. I love the good and hate the forbidden.

News spread in Madinah that the Imam had refused to do bayat of Yazeed. He was leaving Madinah taking his family,

even the ladies and children, with him. To his brother Muhammad Hanafiya, he left his last will and testament saying: I

have risen up to reform the followers of my grandfather. I intend to call for the good and prohibit the wrong and to act like my grandfather and my father Ali ibn Abu Talib.



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### In Makkah



Imam Husayn (AS) left Madinah, took the main road, travelled 210 miles and reached Makkah in five days. People who came there for Umra met him and he stayed there for about four months.

### Inviting people to the Right Path

He sent letters to the Bani Hashim asking them to join him and be ready to sacrifice their lives to uphold the message of Islam.

He also sent a letter, through his servant Suleyman, to the people of Basra. He invited them to cooperate with him to oppose the anti-Islamic

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rule. He explained that in the past, the Ahlul Bayt when deprived of their right had kept quiet in the interest of public welfare. But the situation was different now. **The Sunnah of the Prophet had diminished and ignorance had returned.**

### Letters from Kufa

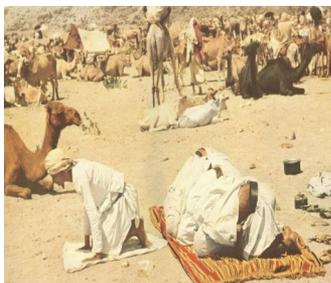
During his stay in Makkah, Imam Husayn (AS) received thousands of letters from the people of Kufa. They wrote that they were in need of a leader who would rescue them: "Make haste. The people are waiting for you." They said they were eager for his arrival and promised support.

Imam Husayn (AS) in response sent his cousin Muslim ibn Aqeel to Kufa. In his reply, he wrote: **I have ordered him to write to me about you. If they**

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are the same as you have written I will rush to you. The Imam cannot be but one who puts the Book of Allah into practice. At the beginning the people of Kufa welcomed Muslim (AS) and 18000 people pledged support. Muslim (AS) sent a letter to Imam Husayn (AS) to come to Kufa.

As the time for Hajj came near, many pilgrims entered Makkah. Among them were some evil men dressed as Hajjis, who were sent by Yazeed to kill the Imam. To avoid bloodshed and to preserve the sanctity of Kaaba, Imam Husayn (AS) left Makkah, unable to complete his Hajj.



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Towards Kufa



### Journey from Makkah to Karbala

The Imam's long journey of about 800 miles was through the dry desert towards Kufa. It took 22 days. They travelled on horses and camels in the heat of the sun.



They stopped at places along the route to rest, to store food and water; and gather other supplies. They met people along the way: some were pilgrims on

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

their way to Makkah; others were



traders and travellers from different parts of Arabia.

Hazrat Abdullah, the husband of his sister Zainab, met the Imam outside

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Makkah and tried to get him to change his mind. He feared that Imam Husayn (AS) would be slain. Hazrat Abdullah (AS) brought his sons Aun and Muhammad to accompany and protect the Imam.

On his way, Imam Husayn (AS) met Farazdaq a famous Arab poet, who was heading towards Makkah. He warned the Imam that the hearts of the people of Iraq were with him but their swords were against him.

As the Imam continued his journey, he received a letter from Muslim ibn Aqeel. Imam Husayn (AS) in his reply wrote to the people of Kufa who pledged to help him; telling them that he had departed from Makkah and would arrive in Kufa in a few days.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### Sadness in the air

As they travelled, they came to Khuzaymiya where his sister Zainab (AS) heard a caller saying "O



eyes get ready for shedding tears." The Imam comforted her saying O dear sister! Whatever Allah has destined, will take place.

### Ibn Ziyad in Kufa

At the next station Thalabiya, Imam Husayn (AS) learnt how the situation had changed in Kufa. Yazeed had appointed Ibn Ziyad as the new governor of Kufa. Entering the city, Ibn Ziyad had taken control with harshness and cruelty. Imam Husayn's supporters had been put in prison and the Kufans bribed to abandon their support for Muslim.

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Others were paralysed by fear.

### Muslim is martyred

Muslim and Hani were then brutally killed. When Imam Husayn (AS) heard about their martyrdom, he said, **Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajعون**. He was



told the ruthless details that men had seen in Kufa. He started shedding tears and all his family mourned the martyrdom of Muslim. Some of his companions asked him to return but the Imam replied: **There is no grace in life after them**. Kufa once the capital of the Islamic empire was now a place of

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crime. Life in such a corrupt place was meaningless.

Getting closer to the border of Iraq, Imam Husayn (AS) met more people from Iraq. At Zubala, the Imam informed his companions and set them free; Muslim, Hani and Abdullah have been killed and our followers have forsaken us. Hence any of you, who may wish to return, can go back. Many left him and only his sincere and loyal companions remained.

### Storing Water to share

At Sharaf he asked the young



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people in his caravan to go to the river Euphrates before sunrise and take more water than usual. A few hours later, in the heat of the noonday sun, Hurr Riyahi a Commander of Yazeed with 1000 men arrived thirsty and tired. The soldiers of Hurr were almost dying of thirst. Imam Husayn (AS) was so kind that he immediately asked his companions to offer all the water they had to quench their thirst; even though they were his enemies. The Imam himself went forward and helped those who were unable to even hold the water bag.

### Advising Hurr and his soldiers

At the time of noon prayers, the Imam asked his muezzin Hajjaj ibn Masruq to give the azaan. Hurr and his companions joined behind the Imam to

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pray Zohr. Then he showed them the letters he had received from Kufa and said, **I did not set out to you till your letters reached me. If you do not like my arrival, then I shall return.** But Hurr refused to allow the Imam to return to Makkah or go to Kufa. Imam Husayn (AS) had to choose a third route.

### **Kufa turns against the Imam**

As the Imam continued his journey, he met men who told him how Ibn Ziyad was bribing the tribal leaders. He learnt that his envoy to Basra, Qays Saydawi, had been martyred. Crowds were now gathering in Kufa to fight him. They implored the Imam to return or move to the mountains for safety. The Imam said, **May Allah reward you and your tribe. We cannot turn away.**

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### We don't need your horse

At Bani Muqatil he met a man, who was given the chance to join the Imam but was reluctant to sacrifice his life.

Instead of joining the Imam he merely offered his horse, but the Imam did not accept this.



If you wish to turn away from us we no longer need your horse or you. The man failed to benefit from guidance. Two more men met the Imam and they too gave lame excuses. The Imam asked them to move far away. Anyone who heard his call and did not respond, would be punished by Allah.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### The Right Path

The journey continued towards its final destination. While they travelled, the Imam repeated verses, which spoke of death. His son Ali Akbar (AS) asked: Are we not on the Right Path?

The Imam replied **By Allah we do not take any step save in the Right Path.** Hadhrat Ali Akbar (AS) said, "In that case we do not care about death if we are destined to be slain on the Right Path." Imam Husayn (AS) prayed, **Jazakallah my son, the best of rewards from Allah.**

جَزَاكَ اللهُ خَيْرًا

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Karbala



The two caravans reached Nainava. A messenger from Ibn Ziyad met Hurr with orders that Husayn (AS) be taken to a place without water. On the 2nd day of Muharram 61 A.H. they reached the barren plain of Karbala.

#### Arriving in Karbala

A dust rose in the air. Imam Husayn picked up a handful of soil from the ground and said: This is the land of (Karb) sorrow and (Bala) calamity. This is the place where our blood will be shed. This is where our family will be taken captive. This is what my grandfather the Prophet of Allah promised me.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



Imam Husayn (AS) called the people from the tribe of Bani Asad who lived nearby and purchased the land for 60,000 dirhams. He then gifted the land back to them with the promise that

- they would bury him and his companions after Ashoor.
- they would not till the land of their graves.
- they would guide the pilgrims who came for his ziyarat.

On learning from Hurr that the Imam had arrived in Karbala, Ibn Ziyad sent

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

a letter to Imam Husayn (AS) saying that Yazeed had ordered him to kill the Imam or make him pledge allegiance. To this rude message, the Imam's only response was to give no answer.

### Yazeedi army gathers in Karbala

For the next few days more and more troops came to fight against Imam Husayn (AS). On the 4<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, Umar ibn Saad reached Karbala with 4000 soldiers. Shimr arrived with 10,000. Soon there were more than 30,000 armed men. There were foot soldiers, cavalry, archers and lancers.

By the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Muharram, the Yazeedi army blocked access to the river Euphrates to deny water to Imam Husayn's camp.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### Trying to guide the enemy

The Imam met Umar ibn Saad on the eve of the 8<sup>th</sup> of Muharram and tried to guide him reminding him who he was, the son of the Holy Prophet. But Umar ibn Saad gave excuses. The Imam said to him **Woe unto you. Do you not fear Allah to whom is your return?**

### The advancing Yazeedi army

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of Muharram in the afternoon, Umar ibn Saad ordered his army to attack. They began to move towards the camp of the Imam. Hadhrat Zainab (AS) rushed to Imam Husayn (AS) saying "O brother, the enemy is near." Imam Husayn (AS) called his brother Abbas (AS) and asked him to find out what was happening. **"O my dear brother, may my soul be sacrificed for you.**

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Ride on your horse to meet them and ask them what they want. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) with 20 men approached the Yazeedi forces to enquire what they wanted. The soldiers informed Hadhrat Abbas (AS) that they had received Ibn Ziyad's order to attack if the Imam refused to pledge allegiance to Yazeed.

When Hadhrat Abbas (AS) took this message, the Imam said Return to them and delay them till the morning. Get tonight as respite so we can spend it in prayer for our Lord. He knows that I adore salat and reciting his Book (the Quran), duas and seeking forgiveness.

### The Night of Prayer

The respite was given reluctantly.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Imam Husayn (AS) and his companions and family spent the night in prayers.

He gathered them together and said:  
All praise to Allah and thanks to Him  
in comfort and distress. I do not know  
of any companions more loyal and  
better than mine and no family  
members more truthful and confident



than mine.

May Allah grant you the best of

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

rewards. The enemy will start the war tomorrow and you are free to leave. I permit you to leave me. You can take one of my family members and go. The enemy wants only me.

No one wanted to leave the Imam. Starting with Hadhrat Abbas, each of his companions stood up saying "May it not happen that we outlive you." Each one was ready to sacrifice himself for Islam to the last drop of his blood. The Imam prayed for them to be rewarded by Allah.

He consoled his weeping sisters Hadhrat Zainab (AS) and Umm Kulsoom (AS): O Sister be patient and know that all living creatures on earth shall die.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Day of Ashoor



It was Ashoor the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Muharram, 61A.H.

#### The Fajr prayer

When the day dawned, Imam Husayn (AS) asked his young son Ali Akbar (AS) to give the Azaan. The voice, which resembled the Holy Prophet's, echoed in the air. The Imam led the prayers.

#### Trying to reason with the enemy

He then mounted a camel and faced the army of Umar ibn Saad. He told them who he was, the grandson of the Prophet. He still tried to prevent the battle and said: **Do you think it is**

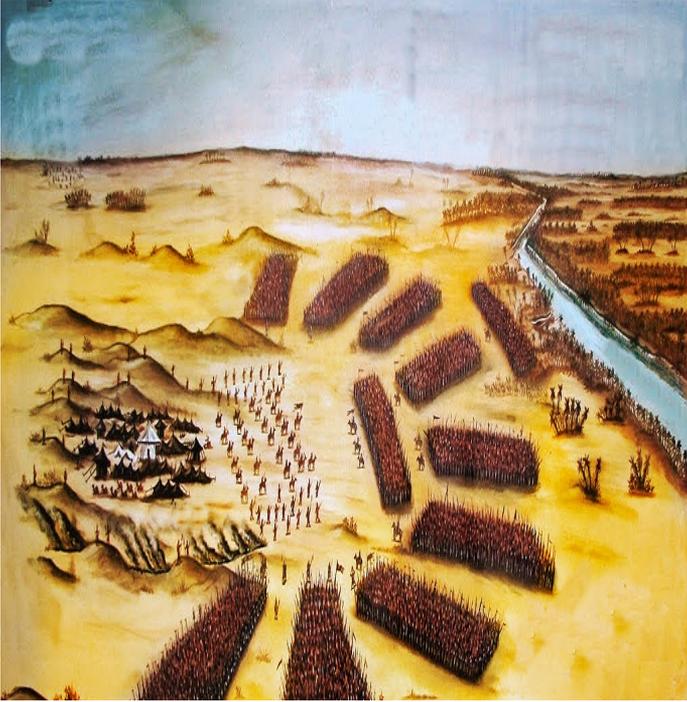
## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

lawful for you to kill me? If you do not believe me, ask people who are with you who have heard the Prophet. But nobody was willing to listen.

After Fajr, he organised the lines of his army. The right flank was under Zohayr al Qayn, the left one under Habib bin Mazahir and the standard was given to his brother Abbas. Imam Husayn (AS) and his relatives were in the centre.

The Imam addressed his companions, advising them to be patient. Death is nothing but a bridge that leads you from calamity to Paradise. The Imam prayed to Allah for help as he saw the large army of the enemy. **O Allah, You are my trustee in every calamity and my hope in every distress.**

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



The Imam continued to remind the army of Umar ibn Saad that he was the grandson of the Prophet. His second speech rebuked the people of Kufa who had betrayed him. **Why do you not listen to me? You do not pay attention to what I say. Your stomachs are**

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

filled with unlawful food hence Allah has sealed your hearts.

### Umar Saad shot the first arrow

Soon the battle began. Umar ibn Saad shot an arrow towards Imam Husayn (AS) and called his army to bear witness: "Bear witness that I have been the first to start the attack on Husayn (AS)'s tents." Then the Kufan army rained down arrows in the direction of the Imam's tents.

Imam Husayn (AS) in response to the attack, addressed his companions: **O honourable ones! Rise! by Allah there is nothing between you and Paradise, and between them and Hellfire.** Many of his companions were martyred during the attack.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### Hurr repents

Hurr Riyahi had been among the people who had come to fight and kill the grandson of the Prophet. But he showed what it means to be a free thinker. Hurr left the Yazeedi army, and came to the Imam, asking to be forgiven.



Imam Husayn (AS) assured him that Allah shall certainly accept your repentance and forgive you. Hurr repented and attained martyrdom.

In the last moments of their lives, the Imam attended each of his companions in person. He was soft hearted towards them and his kind words gave

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

them great joy. When Muslim ibn Ausaja fell bleeding to the ground, Imam Husayn (AS) and Habib sat by his wounded body. Muslim's last request was that Habib help the Imam to the last drop of his blood. The followers of Imam Husayn (AS) continued to fight fiercely against the enemy until it was midday.

### The Zohr prayer

At the time of Zohr prayers, Saeed a companion approached Imam Husayn (AS) saying, I want to pray salat



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

behind you, my Imam before I meet Allah. The Imam replied, **May Allah make you one of those who establish prayer and remember Allah. Ask them (enemies) to pause so we can perform the salat.** This request was refused. Two companions (Saeed and Zuhayr al Qayn) stood guard as human shields and gave their lives to protect the Imam as he prayed.

### More Husayni Martyrs

As the day went on, more of the companions attained martyrdom. Habib was among the noble companions of the Prophet, a respected resident of Kufa and a sincere follower of Imam Ali. The parting from Habib ibn Mazahir, his childhood friend, affected the Imam deeply. He sat down beside Habib's body and wept.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Jawn, the African slave of Abu Dhar, threw himself at the Imam's feet appealing to be allowed to fight.



When the Imam saw how loyal and sincere he was, he allowed Jawn to go to the battlefield. The Imam prayed for him saying **O Allah whiten his face, perfume him and resurrect him with the Prophet and his holy Progeny.**

### Hashmi Martyrs

From his own family his son Hadhrat Ali Akbar (AS) was the first of Imam Husayn's relatives to go to the battlefield. The Imam said: **O Allah, bear witness that towards these people is going a youth who most resembles your Prophet Muhammad in looks, manners and speech. Ali**

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



Akbar fought bravely despite his intense thirst. The sight of his dying son affected Imam Husayn (AS) deeply.

After Ali Akbar (AS), the sons of Muslim ibn Aqeel went out to the battlefield and were martyred. Then

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

the sons of Abdullah ibn Jafar Tayyar and Bibi Zainab, Aun and Muhammad gave up their lives.

### Hadhrat Qasim

After them it was the turn of Hadhrat Qasim, the young orphan of Imam Hasan (AS). He was extremely handsome and still so young that no armour yet fitted him. He went out wearing a long Arab robe and slippers. As he fell from his horse Qasim called for help but was crushed under the hooves of horses, before the Imam could reach him. Imam Husayn (AS) carried his nephew's broken body back to the camp and laid him next to Ali Akbar.

The sons of Ummul Baneen, the young brothers of Hadhrat Abbas (AS) gave up their lives in defending the Imam.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

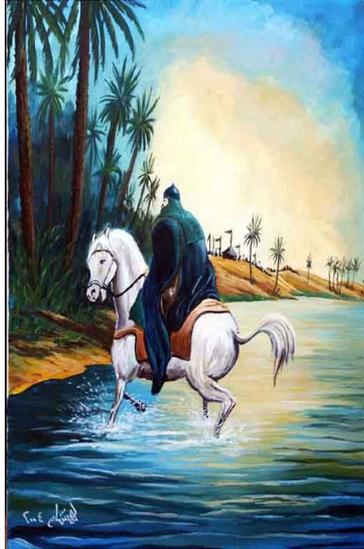
Abdullah was 25 years old. Uthman ibn Ali was 23, and Jafar was 21 years old.

Children were thirsty and crying AlAtash. Women were desperate for water, Imam Zainulabideen (AS) was sick with fever. But not a single person made any complaint or questioned the mission of Imam Husayn (AS).

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) repeatedly went to the Imam seeking permission to go to the battlefield. He was extremely brave but Imam Husayn (AS) did not let him go. Losing him would signify the fall of the standard. **You are my standard bearer**, the Imam would say. Hadhrat Abbas approached the Imam and asked for permission to get water for the thirsty children. He set out towards the river, filled the water

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

flask but did not quench his own thirst. When he was on his way back towards the tent, he was attacked from all sides. His arms were cut off but he rushed towards the tents. A



torrent of arrows then rained on him and pierced the leather water flask and his chest. He fell from the horse calling out, "Farewell to you O Abu Abdullah." Imam Husayn (AS) rushed to Hadhrat Abbas (AS). Reaching his severely injured body, the Imam was plunged in grief for his brave brother.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

### The Baby Martyred

When no one was left among the companions and family the Imam went to the battlefield and raised a cry for help. **Is there anyone to come and help us?** A loud wailing was heard from his camp. The Imam returned. The ladies brought his thirsty six-month-old baby Ali Asghar to him. The Imam took his baby in his arms. He faced the enemy ranks and asked them for water for the baby. But alas; while Ali Asghar was in his arms, Hurmula the cursed archer, shot an arrow and killed the baby.

The Imam remembered his sincere followers and said, "O my Shia, whenever you drink cool water remember me. I wish you were present on the day of Ashoor to see how I

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

asked them for water for my infant son but they refused.” He raised his head towards the sky and repeated “From Allah we come and to Allah is our return” seven times, as he paced back and forth, towards the camp. He then buried the baby’s body behind the tents.



## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Final Departure



### The last Farewell

There was no one left among the males except for Ali Zainulabeen (AS), who was too ill to participate in the battle. Imam Husayn (AS) bade farewell to his family, the women in his camp and his son. They gathered round him in fear and grief. The children sobbed.

The Imam advised them to be patient and gave them in the divine protection of Allah. **Get ready for the calamity and know that Allah is your support and preserver. He will rescue you from the evil of the enemy and make the end of your affair towards the good.** He then approached his son and hugged him.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

During this testing time, he gave his son a prayer that directed him to the Almighty Allah, his Mercy and knowledge. He said **O my dear son! Learn from me a prayer that my mother Fatimah taught me to recite when faced by a calamity:**

By the honour of Yaseen and the wise Quran

By Taha and the sublime Quran O reliever of the Distressed

Bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad

And provide me with .....

### His fond farewell to his daughter

At the door as he mounted his horse, his four year old daughter

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Sakina wanted to hug him one more time. The kind Imam dismounted from his horse and took her in his arms. He hugged her for the last time then gave her in the care of his sister Hadhrat Zainab and left.



### Identifying who he is

Imam Husayn (AS) came to the battlefield and faced the enemy alone. He addressed the Yazeedi army and identified himself:

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

I am the son of Ali: as an honour this is  
enough for me

My grandfather was the Prophet, the  
best of the past

We are the lights of Allah that  
always shine

My mother Fatimah was the chaste  
daughter of Ahmed

Among us is the Book of Allah

Among us is Guidance and Revelation

The soldiers of Umar Saad paid no  
heed and continued to attack him.

### Fighting bravely

The Imam showed immense courage  
and in response attacked the enemy  
ranks and killed many in each attack.  
Imam Hussain (AS), who had suffered  
so much, was now so fierce in battle  
that the Yazeedi army started to flee  
for their lives. They tried to stop him

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



using other tactics to make him stop fighting. They rushed to attack the camp, where the ladies of the Holy household were.

Imam Husayn (AS) said to them,  
O followers of the house of Abu Sufyan, I am the one fighting you and you have decided to kill me. The women have done nothing wrong so prevent your offenders from attacking my family as long as I am alive.

### Time for Asr Prayer

Imam Husayn (AS) sheathed his sword. Umar Saad's soldiers, who had been

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

fleeing, now returned and surrounded the Imam. He was thrown off his horse.

When he fell, his nephew, Abdullah ibn Hasan (AS), who was a little boy, rushed out of the tents and came to him. He raised his hands to protect the Imam, shouting: "Are you going to kill my uncle?" The boy's hand was cut. Imam Husayn (AS) embraced him:

O my nephew, be patient over what has happened to you for Allah will make you meet your pious ancestors soon.

### The Final Assault on the Imam

Then Imam Husayn (AS) was attacked from the right and the left. The archers showered him with arrows, the cavalry and infantry attacked him from every side. His sister Zainab came to the door of the tent and called out "O

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Umar Saad is there not a Muslim among you? Abu Abdillah is being killed but you stand there, just looking." No one cared.

### His Last Dua

His attention remained constantly towards the Almighty. Imam Husayn (AS)'s last dua was on his lips as he looked up to the heavens:

O Allah your status is sublime your power is great. You are capable of whatever you wish, You are close to the one who calls you. You remember those who remember you

I seek your help and I rely on you  
O Helper for whom there is no help  
O Reviver of the dead Judge between me and them For you are the best of all judges

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

He put his face to the ground and whispered

In the name of Allah,  
with the help of Allah  
in the cause of Allah  
and by the creed of the Messenger of Allah.

Imam Hussain (AS), the soul at peace,  
is the "nafs mutmainna" (89:28)  
returning to His Lord pleased and pleasing.

Imam Husayn (AS) was not allowed to complete his sajda. The cursed cruel Shimr from the Yazeedi army bent down and severed the Imam's holy head and mounted it on a spear. His saddle and his body were plundered and trampled under the hooves of horses.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

The evil army of Umar Saad set fire to the tents. Darkness spread, the Earth trembled and there was a wailing in the air. Angels wept and the heavens mourned. The sky wept blood.

Our living Imam Mehdi (AS) weeps for Imam Husayn (AS) describing him as the one,

Whose lips were parched with thirst

Who was smeared with blood and dust

Whose jugular vein was severed

Whose holy beard was dyed with his own blood

Whose corpse was not shrouded and was looted

Whose head was hoisted on a lance, Whose limbs were scattered in the desert

With the shedding of whose blood Islam was dishonoured.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



Grief for Husayn



### Tyranny continued

Imam Husayn (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala were left unburied on the plain of Karbala. His family, the children, women and his son Ali Zainulabideen



were made captive and sent to the court of Ibn Ziyad and Yazeed, with the severed heads of the martyrs.

The Prophet's Holy Household was paraded through the streets of Kufa

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

and Shaam and kept in prison for a year. Yazeed by killing Imam Husayn (AS) thought he had succeeded in destroying Islam. But he failed.

### The name of Husayn lives on.

The weeping and wailing of the ladies of the Holy AhlulBayt kept the name of Husayn (AS) and Islam alive. They were taken as captives but every street they were paraded through, every place they stopped at, learnt about who he was, the Prophet's grandson, the Saviour of Islam.

The Ummayyad celebrations in the court of Yazeed turned to mourning for Imam Husayn (AS). The bold speeches by Hadhrat Zainab and Umm Kulsoom, the wailing of the orphan Bibi Sakina and the sermons of Imam

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Zainulabideen (AS), in Kufa and



Shaam and all along the long journey, shook the very foundations of the brutal tyrant Yazeed. When the ladies of the Holy Household were allowed to leave Damascus, their first demand was to hold a majlis to mourn Imam Husayn (AS) in the very city of the tyrant.

### Aza e Husayn

When they returned to Madinah, mourning for Husayn (AS) continued, in

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

the houses, in the streets and in the public squares. Men and women, young and old, found out the details of what had happened in Karbala. Under the leadership of Hadhrat Zainab, the people wept as they remembered her brother Husayn (AS). Everywhere, the profound grief and distress made people think again. It was the core of a beginning of a revolution.

### Majlis, matam, noha

The meetings to remember Husayn (AS) are called majlis. Poems recited to lament are called noha and marsiya and people beating their chest in grief is termed matam. Through the centuries, our Imams used these rites and developed them into an institution to guide people to the Right Path.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

The fourth Imam Zainulabideen (AS) spoke of how tears shed for Imam Husayn (AS) would be rewarded by Allah with Paradise in the Hereafter. Imam Muhammad Baqir (AS), who was present in Karbala when he was four years old, directed his followers to observe the day of Ashoor each year.

### Ziyarat

Our Imams advised their followers to go to the grave of Imam Husayn (AS) to renew their pledge. This visit is called Ziyarat. The sixth Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) showed his companions the etiquette of Ziyarat to Karbala. He also taught them the texts of the Ziyarat. Our Imams spoke of the special days and nights recommended for visiting the shrine of Imam Husayn (AS). They gave details of how those

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

who go for ziyarat would be rewarded by Allah in this world and the Hereafter. Karbala is a place loved by Allah, where requests are granted. Even today people come to seek a cure and are granted healing. Each step gets reward for a 1000 good actions, forgiven a 1000 sins and his status is raised by a 1000 levels.

Our Imams used to meet poets and reciters personally and hold gatherings to listen to them. Dibil Khuzai was a famous poet in Khurasan.



Imam Ridha (AS) encouraged the meetings and said, "Whoever remembers our suffering and weeps and makes others weep, his eyes will not weep on the Day when many eyes will weep."

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

The tenth and eleventh Imams had to endure great hardship and were kept under close guard, confined to their houses. Tyrants fearing that the name of Husayn (AS) instils courage in the heart of believers tried to stop people from remembering his sacrifice. Mutawakil, the Abbasid ruler, banned people from going for Ziarat to Karbala and razed the tomb to the ground. Even in our time, tyrants like Saddam tried to prohibit Shias from going to Karbala.

But the name of Husayn (AS) lives on. The continued weeping and lamentation for the Imam arouses love for Husayn and his message and builds a spirit of sacrifice for Truth and Justice. It gives courage to rise against oppression and tyranny.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)

Imam Husayn (AS) and our living Imam Mehdi (AS) share a special bond. Imam Husayn (AS) gave up all he had to safeguard Islam. Imam Mehdi (AS) will avenge his martyrdom and establish justice.

Everyone who wishes that he too was present in Karbala with Imam Husayn (AS), can attain this great blessing by helping Imam Zamana.

O Allah include us all among the sincere servants of our twelfth Imam Mehdi (AS). Insha Allah.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



Salam ya Imam



Salam on you O Abu Abdillah

Salam on you o son of Allah's  
Messenger

Salam on you o son of Ali al  
Murtudha

Salam on you o son of Fatimah  
Zahra

I testify that

You maintained the prayer, paid  
the zakat,

Enjoined what is right and forbade  
what is wrong

Waged jihad in the way of Allah until  
your demise

So may Allah bless you in life and death

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Wordsearch

### Martyrs Of Karbala

M	Y	W	R	M	X	O	N	D	N	Z	F
E	U	R	A	A	T	I	A	X	Y	U	M
B	L	H	F	D	I	F	H	A	A	H	B
R	E	N	A	M	I	A	L	U	S	A	A
B	R	E	J	M	N	N	R	N	U	Y	A
I	U	U	B	D	M	A	V	J	H	R	B
A	R	R	H	A	H	A	B	E	E	B	I
M	L	A	A	G	H	K	D	N	X	C	S
A	L	I	S	Y	N	S	A	B	B	A	A
A	N	A	I	A	R	O	R	Z	U	J	B
C	E	N	M	A	E	H	A	M	N	N	D
T	A	B	K	I	S	E	A	J	G	C	U
H	C	B	M	E	S	J	D	L	Z	A	L
G	A	V	B	C	M	A	M	I	C	Z	L
R	D	T	S	A	K	G	Q	U	V	X	A
J	A	W	N	N	S	W	A	H	A	B	H

Here are some of the names of the martyrs:

HUSAYN  
 ABBAS  
 ABDULLAH  
 ALI  
 AKBAR  
 ASGHAR  
 AUN

HABEEB  
 HANDHALA  
 HANI  
 HURR  
 SAEED  
 MUHAMMAD  
 NAFI

ZUHAYR  
 SHABEEB  
 SULAIMAN  
 WAHAB  
 AABIS  
 BURAYR  
 BESHAR

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Points to Ponder



What did Imam Husayn mean when he said:

- I have risen up to reform the followers of my grandfather.
- I intend to call for the good and prohibit the wrong.
- Your stomachs are filled with unlawful food hence Allah has sealed your hearts.
- By Allah we do not take any step save in the Right Path.
- Is there anyone to come and help us?
- We are the lights of Allah that always shine.

## Let's Learn About Imam Husayn (AS)



### Husayn's Message



**Trust Allah.**

**Obey the Imam.**

**Follow the Imam's example.**

**Enjoin the good.**

**Forbid the wrong.**

**Stand firm for Truth.**

**Fulfil your promises.**

**Be ready to help others.**

**Remember your prayers.**

**Learn to show patience.**

**Eat only Halal food.**

**Be kind and generous.**

**Be ready to forgive.**

**Live with honour.**

**Drink water: Think Husayn.**

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Train your children in three things:  
The love of your Prophet,  
the love of his progeny (Ahlebait),  
and the recitation of the Quran.

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