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Muharram 1443 / 2021

Al Kausar
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Shah ast Hussain
Badsha ast Hussain
Deen ast Hussain
Deen panah ast Hussain
Sar daad, na daad dast,
dar daste yazeed
Haqqah ke binaey La ila ast

Ruler is Hussain
King is Hussain
Religion is Hussain
Protector of religion is Hussain
Gave his head but,
not his hand to yazeed
Maintainer of the truth is none but

...HUSSAIN...

- Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Ajmeri

INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - Hajj pilgrims completed their rituals with ease this year amid an integrated system of services and precautionary measures, with no reported infections of coronavirus or other epidemics amid the strict measures put in place by Saudi authorities. Only 60,000 citizens and residents in Saudi Arabia, who were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, were allowed to perform Hajj this year, compared to over two million in recent years. Limiting the number of pilgrims during the Hajj season 1442 AH to 60,000 contributed to curbing the Covid-19 pandemic, reducing its spread to less than 3%, according to a scientific study undertaken by Umm Al-Qura University. The research team, consisting of researchers from Al-Qura, the UAE University, Ohio University in the US and the Indian Institute of Science, used Artificial Intelligence models to follow up crowd management and early warning of dangers by simulating reality, taking into account the spatial restrictions and smooth crowd movement.

Kabul, AFGHANISTAN - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani attended an urgent consultative meeting with prominent Afghan political leaders, religious scholars, women, and civil society and youth representatives. Ghani said that the participants "unanimously declared their unwavering support for Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity." The meeting came amid increasing violence across the country as the Taliban captured large swathes of territory in the country and prepared to move in on major cities in the wake of the withdrawal of US troops.

Algiers, ALGERIA - Media in the country have reported that Algeria has initiated the formation of an African bloc to reject Israel's membership of the African Union (AU). According to the reports, South Africa, Tunisia, Eritrea, Senegal, Tanzania, Niger, the Union of Comoros, Gabon, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Liberia, and Seychelles have all agreed with the proposal by Algeria. Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra said that this diplomatic move is to oppose Israel's membership in the AU as an observer member. Israel had secured this status in the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the forerunner to the AU, but in 2002, when the AU was established, Israel's status was revoked.

Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA - The government has made it mandatory for people to have COVID-19 vaccinations which are approved by the Ministry of Health before they can enter any public places or events, including public transport and shopping centres. They would also still have to comply with the protocols relating to masks and social distancing. Air travellers also have to prove vaccination before being allowed to board. Foreigners arriving in the country have to undergo a seven-day quarantine period. Travel from a number of countries is still prohibited due to the pandemic.

Dhaka, BANGLADESH - Three days of strong winds and heavy monsoon rain on sprawling Rohingya refugee sites in Cox's Bazar have killed 11 people and wreaked havoc and destruction, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It said that in just one 24-hour period, an estimated 2,500 shelters were damaged or destroyed, affecting more than 12,000 refugees after nearly 30cm of rain fell on camps hosting more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees. UNHCR warned that more heavy downpours were expected during the three-month monsoon season, further aggravating the crisis that has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, because Bangladesh is under full nationwide lockdown in response to rising cases across the nation. The minority Muslim Rohingyas fled violence in neighbouring Myanmar, which has refused to recognise them.

Dubai, UAE - The government has invited doctors who have been working in the country to apply for "golden visas" in recognition of their efforts and sacrifices, and being the frontline heroes during the Covid-19 pandemic. This golden visa will grant doctors and their families a 10-year residency, enhancing their job and living stability, and driving the development and innovation of various sectors, especially healthcare, the invitation said. The aim is to strengthen the national healthcare sector and make Dubai a global model in terms of efficiency and quality of medical services. Previously the UAE has only allowed resident foreign nationals a conditionally-renewable long-term residence visa for 5 or 10 years for certain categories, including investors, entrepreneurs and those with specialised skills considered essential for the UAE.

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IN RESPECT OF MUHARRAM OUR NEW YEAR



BY IRSHAD SIDDIQI

The love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is a natural condition of a muslim's being. It is a level of respect and status accorded to him by both the Creator and His Creation, a level unequaled by any other Messenger of God. This degree of exaltation has baffled the enemies of Islam, ever since his footprints first blessed the sands of Arabia, over fourteen centuries ago.

This rational as well as emotional exhibition in reverence of the model of perfection and humanity, came to extend to everything and everybody associated with the Prophet (ﷺ), and hence, his parents, children, friends, his entire household, and his followers who lived among them also enjoyed reverence by the generations that followed.

Debates about the limits or legitimacy of the liberties surrounding the expression of this love, has surfaced unabated over the course of history until present times, within the circles of believers in Islam, themselves. Some reflecting coldness and an insensitivity towards those in his adoration, and others extreme to the extent of ignorance or disregard towards the basic tenets of the religion, which Muhammad (ﷺ) himself was chosen and entrusted to fulfill as the last messenger of the original one and only continuous Divine religion crowned as Islam.

The Islamic calendar is known as the Hijri Calendar. The new year commences with the month of Muharram. The significance of this is derived from the Hijrah, a term used to describe the exodus of the early muslims of Makkah fleeing the persecution of the Quraysh, and relocating to Madina. This safe passage of the community, including the Prophet's (ﷺ), was considered a Divine favour upon the new nation. When the Khaliph Umar al-Farooq was pressured to create a calendar for practical reasons, he had no hesitation in choosing the Hijrah as the defining moment in Islamic history. Muharram also bore the sacred day of 'Aashoora when similar blessings befell earlier Prophets (ﷺ) and their own communities.

The beloved grandson of the holy Prophet (ﷺ), Imam Husayn (عليه السلام) together with many members of his family, were martyred fighting a Jihad against the army of an oppressive and impious ruler, at Karbala in Iraq. It also took place on the 10th of Muharram, coinciding with the Day of 'Aashoora.

The Muslim's approach to New Year thus differs from other nations, reflective, and sober, to say the least. It is customary to ponder over the events of Islamic history, highlighting the seerah, the Prophet's (r) life story with his community, and his success in establishing Islam, with having delivered the unblemished Qur'an, and leaving a legacy through his successors, family, companions, saints, and scholars.

The history and the standards remain fixed and unchangeable. It is only the interpretation and evaluation of these that may cause differences in approach or opinion.

"How many of the Prophets fought (Jihad) and, with them, fought large bands of God-devoted men? But they never lost heart if they met with disaster in God's way, nor did they weaken (in will) nor surrender in humiliation. And God loves the Patient, (the steadfast)" 3:146

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Date	Topic	Speaker & Venue
Saturday 14 August	General Seerah discussion covering the issue of Successorship and Leadership	Qari Zahid Ahmed Zahidi Saaberie Chishty Masjid
Sunday 15 August	The 4 Righteous Khulafa (RA)	Moulana Sayed Yusuf Jamia Razvia Masjid
Monday 16 August	Why Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Muawiyah (RA) fought	Qari Zahid Ahmed Zahidi Saaberie Chishty Masjid
Tuesday 17 August	The Kufa Call	Moulana Sayed Yusuf Jamia Razvia Masjid
Wednesday 18 August	After Maghrib - KITCHRA NIAZ	Saaberie Chishty Hall
	After Esha - Shahaadat Imam Husayn (RA)	Saaberie Chishty Masjid & Jamia Razvia Masjid

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Pride

The Disease of Humanity

BY MOULANA NASIK AHMED BROOD

Pride is an inwardly directed emotion that carries a negative connotation because pride refers to an inflated sense of one's personal status or accomplishments. Pride could also be referred to as a disagreement with the truth. Pride could also be defined as indirectly or directly humiliating someone etc. merely for our own gratification. The only pleasure that people with pride acquire is that they think that by ill-treating others they make their own superiority greater. Pride itself is associated with more intra-individual negative outcomes and is commonly related to expressions of aggression and hostility. Excessive feelings of pride have a tendency to create conflict and sometimes terminating close relationships, which has led it to be understood as one of the few emotions without any positive or adaptive functions. Pride and vanity is believed to be justified by one's own achievements and actions, but sought by pretence and appeals to superficial characteristics. There is no tongue that can express, or heart that can conceive the horrid sins and miseries that pride has ushered in among human beings.

Life is about keeping our heart pure and one of the greatest impurities is pride. The disease of pride and arrogance deletes all traces of goodness and piety. This is the worst vice in causing havoc to Deen and a regrettable disease to have for the believers of this perfect and exalted religion. It launches a direct attack on beliefs and principles. If ignored and overlooked for some time it becomes fatal and incurable, and gives rise to other spiritual vices. It is imperative to refrain from such a dangerous and deadly calamity which leads to loss of knowledge, inability to understand the commands of Allah Almighty and Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ), disgrace in this world and the Hereafter and painful torment therein. No wise person can be neglectful in the matter of such a harmful and destructive calamity. Pride as a sin is considered to be insignificant in comparison to other major sins by a vast majority of the people. This is an entirely false thought and huge misconception. The way in which the disease of pride is reflected is that the person refuses and does not want anyone to correct them.

Arrogant people imagine that every characteristic they possess belongs to them. For example, they imagine that their intelligence stems from themselves. Instead of realizing that it is a blessing bestowed on them by Allah Almighty and giving thanks for it, they regard it as something to be proud of. By overestimating this attribute in their own eyes they belittle and disparage those around them. As a result of this behavior, their associates find them unattractive and repellent. That means that arrogant people never have true, honest friends who feel a genuine affection for them. They also find it difficult to demonstrate affection towards others. They always want to be the object of love and affection, because in their

own eyes they are superior to everybody else. This state of mind leads to another behavioral defect: envy. They envy the intelligence, reason, moral values or good character of others. They regard everything those people possess with a jealous eye. If someone with superior features to their own is present, they immediately want to leave. Their envy means they are invariably unable to get along with others. Allah Almighty has given a troublesome mood to these people who are grabbed by the sickness of pride. In the same way that arrogant people gain nothing but trouble, sorrow and unhappiness in the life of this world, they also forego the Hereafter and, most important of all, the love of Allah Almighty.

Allah Almighty mentions in the Holy Quraan: "He does not like the prideful." (S 16: V 23) In another verse of the holy Quraan Allah Almighty says: "Surely Allah Almighty does not love those who are arrogant and boastful." (S 4: V 36) There are many verses in the Holy Quraan whereby Allah Almighty indicates His dislike and punishment for those who are proud. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) has mentioned: "He who has in his heart the weight of an atom of pride shall not enter Paradise." (Muslim) A great scholar once said that sitting with wise people makes a person wiser; sitting with ignorant people makes a person ignorant; sitting with poor and less fortunate people removes the ego and pride from one's heart. My teacher had informed us that as long as a person is proud then that person cannot understand and differentiate right from wrong or good from bad. The reason is because a proud man is always looking down on other people; and, of course, as long as a person is looking down that person cannot see something that is above them. I believe that pride and arrogance is a cover up for insecurity.

May Allah Almighty, through the Wasilah of Nabi (ﷺ), grant us the strength and ability to refrain and forsake such a contemptible outlook from our lives, Aameen!


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America's "Crusade"

in Afghanistan Ends in Tatters as US Troops Flee in Dead of Night

BY IQBAL JASSAT

In a strange coincidence of fate, a key architect of America's ill-fated "War on Terror" Donald Rumsfeld, died on the eve of the departure by stealth of US troops from Afghanistan.

Two decades of lies and fabricated propaganda accompanied by gung-ho media coverage to justify the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, are finally being unravelled.

Though Rumsfeld and his cohorts of war criminals who comprised of neocons and diehard Likudniks within the Bush administration may have strutted about like peacocks, their project was doomed from the beginning.

Having unleashed an unrelenting war via arsenals of mass destruction which resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent people and compounded by the displacement of thousands more in addition to imposing regime change, the American mission - far from being accomplished, ended in disaster.

The discredited war on Afghanistan, in addition to being illegal was deceptively authorised by the United Nations. An ill-gotten "green light" to bomb Afghanistan to smithereens in pursuit of Osama Bin Laden, falsely accused of 9/11 was obtained through calculated deceit.

And the propaganda which emanated from the White House and Pentagon generated levels of anger, hysteria and vengeance which drove allies led by Britain and France to turn America's "War on Terror" into a global frenzy.

Not only did it turn into a colossal disaster for the impoverished nation of Afghanistan, it also resulted in bodybags draped in the American flag for families of US troops to bury back home. Truly an orgy of blood letting in pursuit of a redefined American dream to impose its imperial hegemony at any cost.

So as Rumsfeld is interred, his misdirected ambitious project in collaboration with fellow war criminals from Bush to Blair, to subdue Muslims and Islam, lies in tatters. It is no exaggeration to suggest that the "War on Terror" and language associated to rationalise America's hostile military aggression has been experienced by Muslim victims as a War on Islam.

Between 9/11 and to date, America has wreaked havoc across Muslim lands, from Afghanistan to Iraq and Syria, while steadfastly protecting, funding and arming Israel's genocidal policies against Palestinians.

Now that America has been unmasked - yet again - as a serial

perpetrator of war crimes, it has evacuated its troops from Afghanistan, deceptively under cover of darkness.

To conceal their inglorious fleeing, the manner in which American troops fled Bagram air base outside Kabul in the middle of the night saw them shutting off electricity at the base before slipping away.

Associated Press (AP) captured US cowardice as follows: "The US left Afghanistan's Bagram Airfield after nearly 20 years by shutting off the electricity and slipping away in the night without notifying the base's new Afghan commander, who discovered the Americans' departure more than two hours after they left, Afghan military officials said."

Rumsfeld's dead body may not be witness to the futility of 20 years of savagery inflicted upon an entire nation, but his accomplices will certainly rue the day they hatched evil plots to expand America's military industrial complex which today lies in ruins in Bagram.

Bush, Blair and NATO's belligerent leaders would be looking aghast at US-trained Afghan soldiers surrendering en masse to the Taliban. Many more who expressed resentment against America for being betrayed fled to neighbouring countries seeking refuge.

The unreliability of Uncle Sam has been a bitter lesson for those who collaborated with the US army against their own. Costly experience for having reposed misplaced faith in the army of an imperial power.

What's left to be seen is whether the government led by Ashraf Ghani, which was imposed by the US as its lackey, will accept that the departure of American troops marks the end of its reign?

It is noteworthy to be reminded by author Nathan Lean that the so-called "War on Terror", launched by President George W Bush in the immediate wake of September 11, 2001, incited Islamophobia to a large degree and posited in the minds of the American political right and the general population alike the idea that Muslim-majority countries, not the least of which was Iraq, were suspicious and dangerous.

Afghanistan thus featured as the theatre to launch a "crusade" in America's war on "Islamic fascists". Crude language repeatedly used to frame the war as just and necessary to eradicate "Islamist Terrorism".

Now that the invaders have fled with their tails between their legs, it finally allows the Afghan people to rebuild their country and their broken lives without the presence of a foreign army causing mayhem and havoc.



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LOOKING AFTER YOUR KIDNEYS

By: Hasina Begum Sayed



What can you do for your kidneys?

Kidney diseases are silent killers, which will largely affect your quality of life. There are however several easy ways to reduce the risk of developing kidney disease.

Keep fit and active

Keeping fit helps to reduce your blood pressure and therefore reduces the risk of Chronic Kidney Disease.

Keep regular control of your blood sugar level

About half of people who have diabetes develop kidney damage, so it is important for people with diabetes to have regular tests to check their kidney functions. Kidney damage from diabetes can be reduced or prevented if detected early. It is important to keep control of blood sugar levels with the help of doctors or pharmacists, who are always happy to help. Eliminating sugar from your diet or reducing your sugar intake can reduce your risk for diabetes, obesity and kidney disease. If you cut back on the processed sugars, you're also likely to lose calories, chemicals and sodium. Your waistline and your kidneys will thank you.

Monitor your blood pressure

Although many people may be aware that high blood pressure can lead to a stroke or heart attack, few know that it is also the most common cause of kidney damage.

Eat healthy and keep your weight in check

This can help prevent diabetes, heart disease and other conditions associated with Chronic Kidney Disease. Reduce your salt intake. In order to reduce your salt intake, try and limit the amount of processed and restaurant food and do not add salt to food. It will be easier to control your intake if you prepare the food yourself with fresh ingredients. Another way to lower your dietary salt intake is by following the DASH Diet. DASH is an acronym for the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension. A high salt intake coupled with obesity is a recipe for disaster. This combination is particularly potent at speeding the complications of high blood pressure, heart disease and kidney disease.

Maintain a healthy fluid intake

Although clinical studies have not reached an agreement on the ideal quantity of water and other fluids we should consume daily to maintain good health, traditional wisdom has long suggested drinking 1.5 to 2 litres (3 to 4 pints) of water per day.

Consuming plenty of fluid helps the kidneys clear sodium, urea and toxins from the body which, in turn, results in a "significantly lower risk" of developing chronic kidney disease. It's important to keep in mind that the right level of fluid intake for any individual depends on many factors including gender, exercise, climate, health conditions, pregnancy and breast feeding. In addition, people who have already had a kidney stone are advised to drink 2 to 3 litres of water daily to lessen the risk of forming a new stone.

Do not smoke

Smoking slows the flow of blood to the kidneys. When less blood reaches the kidneys, it impairs their ability to function properly. Smoking also increases the risk of kidney cancer by about 50 percent.

Do not take over-the-counter pills on a regular basis

Common drugs such non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen are known to cause kidney damage and disease if taken regularly. Long-term use of certain pain medications, especially at high doses, has a harmful effect on kidney tissue and structures. Both over-the-counter and prescription pain medications can damage and reduce blood flow to the kidneys. Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) are a main culprit. As many as 1 to 3 percent of new cases of chronic kidney failure each year may be caused by pain medication overuse.

Get your kidney function checked if you have one or more of the 'high risk' factors

- you have diabetes
- you have hypertension

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WHAT'S LEFT?

By Faizul Khamker



Democracy, defined by some as an ethical ideal and by others as a way of life, is promoted as the panacea for societal ills. It has been propagated and promoted vigorously to the extent of many wars and conflicts had been entered into on the basis of protecting democratic principles. Many would argue in the favour of democracy by drawing parallels with oppressive kingdoms or dictatorship. In essence the basics of democracy rests on three pillars i.e. participation of the masses, control over the government and ensuring the rights of the citizenry. However, not much is said in the media in relationship with the factors that would erode democracy. Central to this erosion is the human factor and more specifically the factors of greed and power. The same factors which had tarnished other forms of governance which had been maligned. It is this factor which over the years seen the erosion of democracy which in this era requires the question "what is left?" to be interrogated.

One of the greatest tools utilised by those seeking to undermine democracy is the inherent fear factor of humankind. When sufficient fear is instilled in people then the people will forfeit their rights in order to obtain a sense of security without realising that they are giving up of the safety mechanism which would provide greater security over the long term. Once they have forfeited their rights, even for a short period of time, those rights are forever gone.

The current pandemic is a classic example of utilising fear to erode democracy. Whether the drastic measures are justified or not is a discussion for another day. These drastic actions which were taken and are still evolving actually gives a certain level of credibility to the so called "conspiracy theorist".

A basic principle of democracy is freedom of expression. This freedom has been severely tested during this pandemic. On the basis of what is in the public interest many laws or regulations has been passed globally which effectively outlaws the questioning of various aspects of the pandemic. It would have been more prudent to have an open discussion on this matter allowing for different

viewpoints to be heard. The exercise of this freedom could have allowed alternatives to be explored which would have brought the current threat under greater control than what is apparently now an uncontrollable position. A typical example is the muffling of pre-infection interventions such as strengthening of the immune system in a natural way of the individuals rather than waiting for infections to take place uncontrollably and then promote vaccination.

We are witnessing mass protest in various parts of the globe either by those opposing mandatory vaccinations or the implementation of the vaccine passports. An extreme form of intervention is implemented to stop what can normally be termed the airing of legitimate concerns. The measures taken against these protests is the undermining of freedom of expression. In effect it is an attack on all three fundamental principles of democracy outlined above.

The above leads to the attack of two other "enshrined" rights. The first is the right of the individual to make choices which affects him or her in the individual capacity and the second the right to have control over their bodies or selves. An undeniable fact is that the vaccination drive is a trial and therefore the choice of taking the vaccine or not cannot be made compulsory either overtly or covertly. The vaccine passport is a direct threat to the freedom of movement, the right to earn a living and the right of association. The media houses who over zealously promote this vaccination drive should bear in mind that the principles of democracy is not a yo-yo. One minute up and the next minute down.

We had witnessed the use of fear over the years as a means of eroding our democratic system and look at history to establish that most revolutions, many of them violently, is the result of abuse of systems of governance to entrench power and obtain wealth. The question: What is left of the democratic system and where will this lead to? Must be top of our priority to ensure the safety of lives globally. This should also stimulate us to re-visit the sacrifices of Imam Hussain radiuluanhum.

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Mothers of the Believers

The Blessed Wives of Nabi Muhammad (ﷺ)

Part 2

The Wives of Nabi Muhammad ? are the Mothers of the Believers or Ummaahatul Mu'mineen. Allah Almighty says in Surah Al-Azhab Verse 6 and Verse 32, " The Messenger ? is closer to the believers than their own selves, and his Wives are their Mothers" and " O Wives of the Messenger of Allah, you are not like any other women" . The status of the Wives of Nabi ? is one of respect and veneration. The Mothers of the Believers are the perfect role models for all of humanity.

Sayyidah Hafsa Bint Umar (Radi Allahu Anha)

The Memoriser of the Quran

Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) the daughter of the second Caliph of Islam, Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) and Zainab binte Ma'zoon was raised in a noble home. At the tender age of eighteen Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) was widowed and endured the pain of bereavement during the youthful years. Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) wanted to relieve the agony of the loss and according to Islamic Tradition, offered Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) in marriage to Hazrat Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) as well as to Hazrat Uthman (رضي الله عنه). These proposals were both refused, and Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) went with concern to Nabi Muhammad (ﷺ). Beloved Nabi (ﷺ) pleasantly smiled and said, " Allah will marry Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) to someone who is better than Uthman (رضي الله عنه) and will marry Uthman (رضي الله عنه) to someone who is better than Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha)."

Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) then realised that Nabi Muhammad ? would marry Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) which was an honour beyond expectations. Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) hurried home to inform Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) and all of Madinah about the wonderful news. On the way Hazrat Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) met and said to Hazrat Umar Farooq (Radi Allahu Anhu), " I did not accept the proposal because Nabi (ﷺ) mentioned Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha), and I could not betray the secret. However, had Nabi ? left Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) I would gladly have taken the Beloved Daughter in marriage" . The people of Madinah blessed Beloved Nabi ? for consoling and honouring Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) and for healing the grieving wounds of Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha).

Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) was a very devout worshipper and learned person who strictly abided by the religious injunctions. Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha)'s nights were spent prostrating before Allah (ﷻ) and days were spent fasting. Scholars indicate that Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) memorised the Noble Quran Kareem. Nabi Muhammad ? had personally taught Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) with the result that the Blessed Mother of the Believers was an authority on Islamic Knowledge. The manuscript of the Noble Quran Kareem which was prepared during the reign of Hazrat Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) was handed to Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) who became the custodian of the Quran Kareem.

Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) owned property and at the time of death it was requested that the property be given in charity. Sayyidah Hafsa (Radi Allahu Anha) passed away in Madinah Al-Munawarah and was buried in Jannatul Baqi.

Sayyidah Zaynab Bint Khuzaimah (Radi Allahu Anha)

The Mother of the Poor

Hazrat Khuzaimah (رضي الله عنه) and Hind bint Awf ibn Al-Harith were the



parents of Sayyidah Zaynab Bint Khuzaimah (رضي الله عنه).

Nabi Muhammad ? married Sayyidah Zaynab Bint Khuzaimah (رضي الله عنه) in the same year in which the Mother of the Believer's husband Hazrat Abdullah (رضي الله عنه) bin Jahsh was martyred. Sayyidah Zaynab (Radi Allahu Anha) was known for helping the poor and listening to their hardships. A most benevolent lady, whose heart overflowed with kindness and compassion for the poor. After eight months of marriage Sayyidah Zaynab (Radi Allahu Anha) passed on. Nabi Muhammad ? performed the funeral prayer and buried Sayyidah Zaynab (Radi Allahu Anha) in Jannatul Baqi. Sayyidah Zaynab (Radi Allahu Anha) is revered for immense goodness and remembered as the Mother of the Faithful and Mother of the Poor.

Sayyidah Umme Salamah Bint Abu Umayyah (Radi Allahu Anha)

The Astute

Sayyidah Umme Salamah Bint Abu Umayyah (Radi Allahu Anha) was of noble lineage, the daughter of Hazrat Hudhaifa (رضي الله عنه) known as 'Zad ar-Rakib', 'the generous provider for travellers' and Atiqah bint Amir ibn Rabe'ah.

Hazrat Umar Farooq (رضي الله عنه) conveyed Nabi Muhammad ? marriage proposal to Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) who was happy and honoured with some reservations. In one narration it is stated that when the proposal was received Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) said to Nabi ? , I have children and I am extremely sensitive." Nabi Muhammad ? reply was, We will pray that Allah (ﷻ) relieves you from the concern for your children and that you will be freed from your sensitivity" and the proposal was accepted. Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) was beautiful, noble, and wise and lived a very pious life. Scholars have noted that among the blessed wives of Nabi ? none-equalled Sayyidah Ayesha (Radi Allahu Anha) and Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) in memorising Hadith. Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) memorised over three hundred and eighteen sayings of the Messenger ? of Allah (ﷺ). Many of Nabi ? companions were Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha)'s students. Historians narrate that Nabi ? received the following revelation in the presence of Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha), " ..Allah only wishes to remove all abomination from you, - O members of the family of the Messenger ? , and to make you pure and spotless," (Quran 33:33) which elevated the Noble Lady's position. Allah (ﷻ) also revealed the following verse, " And others, who have acknowledged their wrong doings; they have mixed an act that was good with another that was evil. Perhaps Allah (ﷻ) will turn unto them (in mercy) for Allah (ﷻ) is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful" - forgiving Abu Lubabah, a companion of the Messenger ? and accepting his repentance in the home of the Blessed Mother of the Believers.

Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) was also known for having great determination and a strong personality who at one time reprimanded inappropriate interference by the " Son of Khattab" in the Nabi ? matters because the Noble Lady was confident in Nabi ? kindness, fairness, and justice towards the Blessed Wives of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). Sayyidah Umme Salamah (Radi Allahu Anha) displayed immeasurable wisdom, opinions, and decision-making skills in many situations. The Mother of the Faithful lived a long life and passed on at 63 years of age and was buried in Jannatul Baqi.



Lessons of Karbala

By: Moulana Mahomed Aslam

Every year throughout the world, the Muslim Communities commemorate the Battle of Karbala together with Shahdath of Imaam E Hussain (radiyallahu anhu) at an assembly or Majlis e Muharram. These sessions normally commence from the First of Muharram and end on the tenth of Muharram.

The Universal theme is based on a beautiful poetic saying:

"Qatley Hussain Asl may Margey Yazid hey,
Islam Zinda hota hey har Karbala key baad."

Translation:- The killing of Hussain is in essence the death of Yazid. Islam is revived yearly after every Karbala.

There are some questions that the Masses frequently ask and we would like to provide some understanding thereof.

Q:- The Sunnis commemorate the First Ten nights and some other group who are non sunni also do the same. What then is the difference?

A:- Alhumdullillah, in the Sunni gatherings, narrations and incidences are mentioned from Authentic Kitaabs written by approved Muslim Historians. There are no fable like or story telling narrations that make people weep uncontrollably. Yes, they are saddened at the merciless killing and Shahdath of Hazrath Imaam Hussain (ؑ) and his brave Family viz the Ahley Bayt. There are NO extreme acts of Body Abuse eg striking or hitting of chests in the Sunni Mehfilis. The Sunni Ulama focus on the Kulafa e Rashideen initially and speak highly of Hazrath e Abu Bakr As Siddiq (ؑ) and Hazrath e Umar Farooq (ؑ) etc. They also do not even utter a slightest insult against any Sahabi and at times spread the message of Hazrath Ameer e Muawiya (ؑ) and his contributions to Islam. The slogan maintained by all Sunni Masses is:- "Har Sahabi e Nabi, Jannati Jannati" – Every Companion of Rasul (ﷺ) is a Jannati, Jannati".

Q. Why should we specifically commemorate the martyrdom of Imaam Hussain (ؑ) whereas it took place fifty years after the demise of Rasul (ﷺ) and there are many Sahaba e Rasool (ؓ) who became Shaheed in the Islamic Battles?

A:- It is indeed a fact that many Sahaba Ikraam become martyred in

many Islamic battles and their status is very high in light of Quraan and Hadith e Mubarak. We respect and love all Sahaba Ikraam and their contributions made. However, the Shahdath of Imaam Hussain (ؑ) and his family is very different, powerful and certainly matchless. The Battles that Sahaba Ikraam faced where against Non-Muslims. The Battle of Karbala was faced at the hands of Muslims on both sides. The extreme torture, pain and suffering that the Ahley Bayt had to endure is something unimaginable. To be deprived of Food and Water for many Days and Nights and then fight against the enemy of Islam is something very spiritual and great. Rasul (ﷺ) mentioned in a Hadith e Mubarak:- "Hussain is from me and I am from Hussain. Allah will love that person who loves Hussain." In essence mentioning Imaam Hussain (ؑ) and his family is remembrance of Rasul (ﷺ). So even if this battle took place fifty years after the demise of Rasul (ﷺ) the intention is to increase our Love and Qurb (nearness) to Allah's Beloved Rasul (ﷺ).

Q:- What are the Lessons that are learnt from the Battle of Karbala?

A:- The most vital lesson that all of us needs to understand is that Safeguarding and Protecting of our Deen e Islam is of paramount importance. The second lesson is that one should never support injustice and oppression no matter how powerful an oppressor might be. The third lesson is that Imaam Hussain (ؑ) knew very well that he was outnumbered, that Yazid was of Bad Character as an Ummayyad Leader but Imaam Hussain (ؑ) stood steadfast and firm with his Family for the principles of Justice, Freedom and Human Dignity against the forces of evil, wrong and injustice.



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Hazrat Ma'roof Karkhi

(Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho)



NAME: Asad al-Din and is famously known as Ma'roof Karkhi and Abu Mahfooz.

HIS FATHER: Feroz. [Safinat al-Awliyah]

EDUCATION: He attained all his knowledge under the watchful eye of Hadrat Imam Ali Rida Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho. [Tadhkirat al-Awliya]

HIS EARLY LIFE: Initially, he was a non-Muslim, but even as a child, he had great love for Islam. He used to always spend his time in the company of Muslim children, and often talked to his parents about accepting Islam. His father was not pleased with this, and enrolled him to study under a Christian Priest. The first question the priest asked him was, "Tell me my son, how many people are there in your family?" He said, "Myself, my father and my mother." The priest then said, "Very well, now say Esa Alaihis Salam is the third god of three (trinity)." Hadrat Ma'roof Karkhi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho says, "Even during my time as a non-Muslim my heart did not accept to say what he commanded me to. When I refused to say this, he began to beat me severely. The more he beat me, the more I rejected his teaching. He finally became weary of me and asked my father to imprison me. I was thus locked in a room for three days and every day, I was given one bread, which I did not even touch. When I was taken out, I ran away. As I was the only child to my parents, they were very sad and they sent a message to me saying that I should return to them and I would have the right to accept whichever faith I wished, and that they too will accept the same faith. I then went to Hadrat Ali Rida Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho and accepted Islam at his hands. I then went home with this most valuable gift of Islam, and alHumdulillah, my parents also accepted Islam." [Tadhkirat al-Awliya, Page 221]

SHAYKH-E-TARIQAT: He became mureed of Hadrat Habeeb Raa'ee Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho and was blessed with Khilafat from Hadrat Habeeb Raa'ee Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho, Hadrat Ali Rida Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho and Hadrat Dawood Taa'ee Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho.

HIS TEACHERS: He studied under the care of Hadrat Ali Rida Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho and also attained education from Hadrat Imam al-Aa'zam Abu Hanifa Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho. He attained spiritual training in the care of Hadrat Habeeb Raa'ee Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho

HIS EXCELLENCE: He was a very pious personality and one of the most distinguished Aarifs of his time. He also served many great personalities such as Hadrat Dawood Taa'ee Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho, who also blessed him with Khilafat. He used to call out the Adhan with true love, and when he would reach the words Ash hadu An Laa Ilaaha illa-Allah, the hair on his body would stand up and his entire beard would become stiff and he would begin to tremble to such an extent in the fear of Allah, that it seemed as if he would fall to the ground.

He would spend lengthy nights in the Masjid making ibaadat, Istighfaar and weeping in the Court of Allah. Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho says, "Whatever I have attained, is through the Sadqa of Hadrat Ma'roof Karkhi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho."

Sayyidi Abdul Wahab Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho says, "I have not seen anyone who divorced himself from the world, like Hadrat Ma'roof Karkhi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho. His excellence is such, that even his blessed grave is a means of attaining blessings." [Kashf al-Mahjoob]

HIS HABITS AND CHARACTER: He possessed deep love for the poor and the orphans. Hadrat Sirri al-Saqti Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho says, "I once saw Hadrat Ma'roof Karkhi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho gathering dates on the day of Eid, so I stopped and asked the reason for this. He said, 'That young boy is crying because all the other children have new clothes and he has nothing new on Eid day. I thus, decided to collect some dates, sell them and then buy something for him, so that he is kept busy playing and does not feel uncomfortable on the day of Eid.'" Hadrat Sirri Saqti Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho says, "I said, Huzoor there is no need for you to do this, I will make sure he gets something on Eid. I then took the boy with me and bought him a new set of clothes. After I did this, a Noor (light) entered my heart, which caused me great pleasure and my condition became very different." [Masaalik as-Saalikeen, Vol. 1, Page 287]

ALWAYS IN WUDHU: Once his wudhu broke, so he immediately made tayammum. Those who saw him do this said, "Huzoor! The river Tigris is right in front of you. Why did you make tayammum?" He said, "It is possible that I may pass away by the time I reach the river Tigris"

HIS ABSTENTION FROM THE WORLD: Once one of Hadrat Ma'roof Karkhi's Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho friends asked him the following, "What is it that has caused you to abstain from the world and from the creation of Allah, and remain in seclusion, remembering Almighty Allah? Is it the fear of Death and the grave, or the fear of Hell, or the enthusiasm of attaining Jannat?" Hadrat Ma'roof Karkhi Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anho said, "O My Friend! You discuss such minor things. What are all these worth in front of the creator Almighty Allah? All these are but humble subjects of Almighty Allah. Once you taste the pleasure of his closeness, then you will not think of any of the other things (you have mentioned)."





Utterances from the blessed lips of Hazrat Baba Fareed (RA)

Extracted from Rahat Al Quloob / Tranquility for the hearts
(Conversations of Hazrat Baba Farid Ganje Shakar RA as recorded by Khwaja Nizamudeen Awliya RA)
Translated By NAEEM KHAN SABRI

Hazrat Baba Fareed Ganje Shakar RA was seated in an assembly when the topic of

discussion began on PERFORMING PRAYER [namāz] WITH CONGREGATION. The Master said that even if there are only two persons present, they should perform prayer together [bā jamā'at]. If there are only two persons in the congregation [jamā'at], they should stand next to one another and perform the prayer.

He then said:

"I was once traveling towards Lāhore when I met a blessed dervish. When we met, he looked affectionately towards me and said that due to the remembrance of Allāh [zikr], people attain these six things:—

1. A person who is continually in remembrance of Allāh attains such a state, that he gets the feeling that Allāh is looking towards his heart
2. Allāh prevents that person from sinning [but, that person who thinks of sinning whilst in the remembrance of Allāh, understand that Allāh has thrown him far away!]
3. Due to remembrance of Allāh, a person attains Friendship with Him
4. That person who remembers Allāh, Allāh also remembers him
5. For those who remember Allāh, Allāh prevents evil from affecting them
6. When that person who continually remembers Allāh, when he dies, Allāh Himself becomes his Intimate Friend in his grave."

He then said that the remembrance of Allāh should take preference over any other work, and one should increase this practice because its reward is greater than that of any other form of worship.

The Master then said that he had heard from the lips of Shaykh al-Islām Qutub ad-Dīn Bakhtiyār Aweshī—may Allāh sanctify his lofty secret—that it is recorded in a Prophetic Tradition [hadīth], that in the Torah, Sūrah al-Mulk is called Light [Nūr], and in Persian it is called māsūrah. This Sūrah saves a person from the punishment of the grave. The Master said that it is also recorded in a Prophetic Tradition [hadīth], that if a person recites Sūrah Yāsīn at night, it is as if he had attained the Night of Power [Shabe Qadr].

Shaykh al-Islām then said:

"There was once a pious person in Baghdād, who continually recited the name 'Allāh'. One day, whilst he was walking along a road, a branch fell onto his head, and it began to bleed. As each drop of blood fell onto the ground, it formed the word 'Allah'."

"Indeed," remarked the Master, "if a person dies whilst engrossed in any work of this sort, he will arise once again [on the Day of Reckoning] engrossed in that very work!"

A discussion then started on SUPPLICATION [du'ā]. The Master said that he had seen written in Fatāwa'e Kubrā that Abū Hurayrah—may Allāh be well pleased with him—narrates that the Messenger of Allāh—salla' llāhu 'alayhi wasallam—said:

"There is nothing dearer to Allāh than supplication [du'ā]"

The Master then said:

"Shaykh al-Islām, Mu'īn ad-Dīn Hasan Sanjarī—may Allāh sanctify his innermost being—narrates from Khwāja 'Uthmān Hārūnī—may Allāh sanctify his lofty secret—that the following is recorded in 'Quwwat al-Qulūb':

"Allāh Almighty loves those people who make excessive supplication [du'ā]"

Shaykh al-Islām then said that he and Shaykh Bahā ad-Dīn Zakariya—may Allāh have abundant mercy upon him—were together in Multān, when they met another blessed dervish. A conversation started amongst them regarding supplication. That dervish said:

"That person who fails in fulfilling four things, Allāh deprives him of four blessings. These four things are as follows:—

1. If a person leaves out the paying of obligatory charity [zak'āt], Allāh takes away that person's wealth
2. If a person neglects the giving of non-obligatory charity [sadaqa], Allāh takes away that person's peace and tranquility
3. If a person neglects performing prayer [namāz], at the time of his death, Allāh takes away that person's Faith [īmān]
4. If a person does not supplicate to Allāh [i.e. make du'ā], Allāh does not accept that person's supplication [when he does so]."

The Master then said that once, in Baghdād, a person was sentenced to death. Lions were placed in front of him [so that they may destroy him]. This person remained [in that place] with the lions for 7 days, but through the command of Allāh, the lions never laid a paw on him and he emerged safe and sound. The reason for his safety was this, that he knew a [certain supplication in which was the] great Name of Allāh [Isme 'Ā'zam]. That great supplication is as follows:

يَا دَائِمُ بِلَا فَنَاءٍ يَا قَائِمُ بِلَا زَوَالٍ وَيَا أَمِيرُ بِلَا وَزِيرٍ

Bismillāhir Rahmānir Rahīm
Yā Dā'imu'n bilā fanā'ī Yā Qā'imu'n bilā zawālī
Wa-Yā Amīru bilā wazīr

The Master finally said with tears in his eyes, "Your enemy is your carnal self [nafs al-ammāra], as well as Satan." As he was saying this, the call to prayer [azān] was heard, and Shaykh al-Islām became engrossed in prayer. The congregation and this well-wisher then left.

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**"Look the way you are (in appearance)
otherwise your true face will be
unveiled automatically."**

Baba Farid Ganj-e-Shakar R.A

URS MUBARAK

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