

A'udhubillah...rajeem

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا  
الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

اللَّهُمَّ كُنْ لَوْلِيِّكَ الْحُجَّةِ بْنِ الْحَسَنِ  
صَلَوَاتِكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آبَائِهِ - فِي هَذِهِ السَّاعَةِ وَ فِي كُلِّ سَاعَةٍ  
وَلِيًّا وَ حَافِظًا وَقَائِدًا - وَ نَاصِرًا وَ دَلِيلًا وَعَيْنًا  
حَتَّى تُسْكِنَهُ أَرْضَكَ طَوْعًا - وَ تُمَتِّعَهُ فِيهَا طَوِيلًا.

O Allah, send blessings on Mohammad and his Ahlul Bayt

O Allah, become, now and always, the Guardian, Shield, and Leader; Helper, Guide, and Protector; of Your wali (representative), Al-Hujjat-ibn-Al-Hasan (Your blessings be on him and his forefathers) so that he may become firmly established on Your earth, and govern for a long time.

### Salawaat!

Our Holy Prophet (SAW) said:

حُسَيْنٌ مِنِّي وَ أَنَا مِنَ الْحُسَيْنِ

“Husain is from me, and I am from Husain”

In other words, Imam Husain (AS) is Rasool-Allah's flesh and blood, and the message of Rasool-Allah (SAW), the existence of Islam is ONLY due to Imam Husain (AS).

The goal of this year's series of speeches by the students of ALI School is Husain Shanaasi, that is to enhance our understanding of Imam Husain (AS) under the guidance of this Hadees of Rasool-Allah (SAW).

These speeches are available on the ALI School website.

## **Moharram 6: The Stages of Imam Husain's (as) Journey**

Yousha Zaidi



Imam Hussain, after leaving Madinah in the month of Rajab, stayed in Makka for about 5 months. It was in the month of Zilhijj 60 Hijri when he noticed that there were Yazid's soldiers in Makka in the garb of Ahram to kill the Imam during Tawaf inside the Masjidul Haram. Imam changed the rituals of Hajj into Umra and decided to leave Makka. The date was 8th of Zilhijj 60 Hijri. When people saw the Imam leaving before completing the Hajj they began to ask questions as to why he was leaving in such a hurry. Some doubted his motives, saying that he might be leaving Makka for Iraq to confront Yazid and take power into his hands. To quell these doubts he left a letter with his brother Muhammad-e-Hanafiya which clearly states his purpose. He wrote in the letter, "I have not come out to stir emotions, to play with discontentment, to provoke dissension or to spread oppression. I wish to bring the Umma back to the path of Amr-bil-Ma'arouf and Nahyi Unil Munker. I wish to bring them back to the path of my grandfather the Messenger of Allah and of my father Ali Ibne Abi Talib".

The journey which began from Makka on the 8th of Zilhijj 60 Hijri ended in Kerbala on 2nd of Muharram 61 Hijri and took about 22 days in all. Imam stopped at 16 places on his way to Kerbala. He met various people and delivered various sermons.

The first place was called Sifah. Here the Imam stayed for the night. The next morning when he was preparing to leave for his next Manzil, he met the famous poet Farazdaq who was coming from Iraq and was going to Makka for pilgrimage. Imam asked Farazdaq about the conditions in Kufa and the poet replied, "Peoples hearts are with you but their swords are against you." Imam told him, "Allah does what he wishes, I leave it to Him who proposes the just cause". Farazdaq left the place for Makka and Imam's caravan proceeded towards its next Manzil.

Imam and his caravan reached the area of Dhatul - Irq. Here he stopped at Batnul Ateeq and Ghomrah. The next manzil in the Imam's journey was the small town called Batn-ur-Rumma. From here the Imam sent a letter with Qais Ibn Mushahir to one of his friends in Kufa asking about the situation there. Imam was also advised against going to Kufa by Abdullah Ibn Mutee

who was coming from the troubled land of Iraq when they met. But Imam continued with his fateful journey with the same words that his destiny is in the hands of Allah.

After stopping at a few more places, Imam reached manzil-e-Saaliba and Zurud. At this place Imam met Zuhair Ibne Qain. Zuhair, until that time, was not the follower of Ahlul-bayt and considered himself as a person in middle not able to decide which side was the right one. Imam saw Zuhair's tent pitched in the distant and sent his emissary with a note. Zuhair read the note and realized for the first time in his life that the time for decision to choose the right path has arrived and this decision changed his entire life.

Here it is important to mention that when the Imam was leaving Makka he was trying to persuade the hoards of people who wanted to come out with him, to go back to their homes. Many people tried to follow Imam because they thought they would get some material benefit, but Imam told them that there is no reward of worldly goods. Imam Hussain also told them that if you hear my message and reply negatively, then you will be questioned on the day of judgment. Imam was telling these people to go back, but at the same time he wrote letters to some people such as Zuhair Ibne Qain and his childhood friend Habib Ibn Mazahir al -Asadi in Kufa inviting them to accompany him.

Another important point worth mentioning here is that these additional people invited by the Imam were each from different tribes of Arabia. Out of total number of 72 male warriors with the Imam, 18 were from his own family, all descendents of Abu Talib, but the rest of the martyrs were from almost all Islamic lands of that time. It appears that Imam was taking special care that whoever is martyred with him on the Day of Ashura comes from different tribes and different lands, different culture and creed so that the message reaches all corners of the Islamic lands through their relatives and friends.

The next stage of Imam's journey was Zabala. Here the Imam learnt about the death of Hazrat Muslim Ibn Aqeel. There was a commotion inside the ladies camp as they all realised that Kufa cannot be their destiny any longer. Hoards of tribesmen who were still with the Imam's party left him as they all realized for sure that there was not going to be a war for victory over Yazid but the purpose was something else. By this time only about 50 people were left with the Imam and many of them were women and children.

Imam left Zabala and arrived at Batn-e-Aqba. After that, Imam's caravan arrived at Sharaaf. Imam stayed the night here and in the morning after Fajr prayer he asked his companions to store as much water as possible. As the caravan of the Holy Imam reached Zuhsam, Holy Imam was informed that an army is coming towards them. Imam asked to move towards a hill and asked everyone to dismount while keeping the hill at their back. It was the group of the Yazidian forces under Hur. When they reached the caravan of the Holy Imam, both the men and the animals were dying of thirst. Hur and his men shouted aloud in appealing voices 'Thirst! thirst!' water, and begged the Holy Imam to quench their thirst first. The Holy Imam at once ordered the whole of the stored water to be placed at the disposal of the enemy army under Hur. His soldiers and all the animals of the army were fully served and were rescued from the jaws of death. One soldier named Ibn Tahan e Maharibi was so thirsty that he was unable to drink the water himself and the Imam went to him and helped him to drink.

When the time for the Zohr Prayer arrived, all of them, friends and enemy alike stood behind the Imam and prayed. After the prayers Imam told Hurr and his soldiers that he had received many letters from Kufa inviting him to go there as an Imam and guide in all matters religious or secular. Hur told Imam about his orders. Imam did not wish to go to Kufa now, and Hur's army did not want them to return to Madina. So a compromise was reached by both parties to bypass Kufa and turn towards north. Imam and his party was leading and the Hur's army was behind them. In two days journey they arrived at a place called Baiza.

At Baiza Imam delivered his most memorable sermon. He said: "O'People, The Prophet of Islam has said that if a believer sees a tyrannical ruler transgressing against Allah and his Messenger and oppressing people, but does nothing by word or action to change the situation, then it will be just for God to place him where he deservingly belongs. Do you not see to what low level the affairs have come to.., do you not observe that truth has not adhered and falsehood has no limits. And as for me, I look upon death but a means of attaining martyrdom. I consider life among the transgressors an agony and an affliction".

This Khutba of the Imam at Baiza is a landmark in history. This was 60 Hijri, about 681 AD. In this Khutba, Imam Hussain is saying that oppressors and transgressors from the true path of justice will emerge all the time. If there remains no one on earth to object over their transgressions they will go unchecked. One should always point out the right path of justice to these tyrants. This is the lesson we should all learn from Imam Hussain (AS).

The next Manzil was Uzaibul Hajanat. Here Imam met Trimmah bin Adi who pleaded the Imam to accept his offer of 20,000 armed soldiers from his Tribe to help him if he wishes to go to Kufa to fight with the army of Yazid. Adi even offered the Imam and his people a hideout in the Tribal hills away from Kufa. But Imam rejected all such offers of safety and indulgence in war. Imam replied to Ibn Adi, "Allah will bless you and your people for your good intentions. I cannot go from my word. Things are destined". It is clear from this reply that the Imam was fully aware of the impending dangers he and his family and friends would face if he continues with his journey without any help from outside forces.

After passing through Qasre-Bani Maqatil, Nainawah, and Ghaziriyah the caravan arrived at a place by the river banks of the Euphrates. Imam asked the name of this place and he was told the name "KERBALA". Imam replied, this is the place of Kerbin-wa-bala, i.e. the place of torture and pain. Let us stop here, Imam ordered to dismount. We have reached our destination. Tents were pitched near the River Bank. The date was 2nd of Muharram 61 Hijri.

Tonight, is the night of the teenage son of Hussain, the life of Hussain, the darling of Zainab and Umme Laila, the image of the Holy Prophet - Tonight is the night of Ali Akber!

The day of Ashura unfolded on the land of Kerbala. It was Fajr time. Hussain called his son, Ali Akber.

"My son, Ali Akber, go and give the Adhan. Ali Akber I want to hear the voice of my grandfather. Ali Akber, you sound so much like your great grandfather, the Holy Prophet."

Ali Akber's Adhan echoed through the land of Kerbala. Ali Akber's last Adhan.....It was no ordinary Adhan.....

It was filled with emotion... Hussain began to cry. He remembered his grandfather.

All the ladies in the tents began to cry. Zainab burst into tears.

Everyone prayed Fajr Namaaz. Soon after, the battle of Kerbala began.

One-by-one, Hussain's family members and companions went to the battlefield and were martyred.

Ali Akber - the life of Hussain - the teenage son of Hussain - the darling of Hussain - came to his father and said:

"Father, may I now have permission to go for Jihad?"

Hussain is helpless. His promise to Allah had to be honoured.

"My son, Ali Akber, go, you have my permission, but Akber, my darling, go and ask permission from your mother. Go and ask permission from Zainab, your auntie who has brought you up. Go, son, go."

Ali Akber took permission from his mother, Umme Laila.

Ali Akber then went to his auntie, Zainab.

"Auntie Zainab, tell me one thing. Whose life is more important? Your Ali Akber's, or Bibi Fatemah's son, Hussain's?"

"My son, Ali Akber, I would sacrifice a thousand lives to save Bibi Fatemah's son - Hussain's life.

Then auntie, do not stop me. Grant me permission. No one is left to save Hussain. Let me go, auntie, let me go."

"Bismillah, my son. Go my Ali Akber, go."

Ali Akber mounted his horse.

Ali Akber rode to the battlefield.

He heard footsteps following him. He stopped and looked back. What did he see?

His father Hussain, was following him.

With his hands on his back, Hussain was running behind Ali Akber.

"Father, where are you going? Please father, go back to the tent."

"My son Ali Akber, I want to see you as long as I can. I will stop here, my son, but promise me, you will keep on looking back after every few steps. Akber, my darling, your old father wants to see you as long as he can."

Ali Akber continued.....He looked back every few seconds. Hussain was there watching him.

He reached the battlefield.

Ali Akber fought bravely. He killed many well-known warriors.

Ali Akber came back to his father.

"Father, did you see me fight? I wish uncle Abbas was here to see me. Father, a few drops of water....., father, I am very thirsty. If I could just have a little water, I would send the entire army of Yazid to Hell."

"My son. come near me. Touch my tongue. See if you can get some comfort from me."

Ali Akber touched Hussain's tongue.

"Father, your mouth is much drier than mine. Father, you must be more thirsty than myself."

Ali Akber returned to the battlefield.

Umar Saad ordered his soldiers to kill Ali Akber.

While a few soldiers together attacked Ali Akber, one crept up to him and thrust a spear into Ali Akber's chest.

The spear penetrated Akber's chest. The handle broke. A sharp blade stuck into Akber's heart.

Ali Akber fell off his horse. He cried out:

"O Father, accept my last salaam to you."

Ali Akber did not call his father to come to see him.

Hussain was alone and Ali Akber did not want to bother his old father.

Hussain rushed to the battlefield.

Hussain saw his son, Ali Akber. His son was lying on the sands of Kerbala with both his hands on his chest.

Ali Akber was taking his last breaths.

He placed Ali Akber's head on his lap.

"My son, Ali Akber, my darling, Ali Akber, why are you covering your chest? My son, is your chest hurting? Let me look at it, my son."

"No, father, no! Don't remove my hands from my chest. You will not be able to bear it, father."

Hussain gently moved Ali Akber's hands.

The blade of the spear stuck deep into Ali Akber's chest. Ali Akber was in a lot of pain.

Hussain put both his hands on the blade and looked towards Najaf. He cried out loudly:

"BABA, YA MUSHKIL KHUSHA! HELP ME. It was easy for you to pull out the gates of Khyber. It is difficult for me to pull out the blade from my son's chest.

With a cry of "YA ALI", Hussain pulled the blade out.

Blood gushed out of Ali Akber's chest. Hussain was covered with his son, Ali Akber's blood.

Ali Akber took his last breath.

INNA LILLAHE WA INNA ELAIHI RAJEOON!