

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

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 11: Captives in Kufa

Kamal Zaidi



A distressed dawn breaks out in the burning sky looking down upon the desolate sands of Karbala. The bodies of the shuhadaa lay resting in the battlefield. The widows and orphans took refuge in what was left of their burned tents. Imam Zain-ul-Aabideen (AS) bowed in sajdah glorifying Allah (SWT). Soon another journey of Karbala would commence; the journey from Karbala to Kufa. Umar Sa'ad ordered the women and children to be tied with ropes as captives. Imam Zain-ul-Aabideen (AS) was clasped with heavy chains and shackles. Yazeed's soldiers had buried their own dead while the bodies of the shuhadaa were left unattended.

The enemy soldiers brought unsaddled camels for the women and children's journey. A huge procession was prepared, lead by Umar Sa'ad, followed by his officers. A few foot soldiers carried lances upon which they had mounted the heads of the shuhadaa. Amidst all this was our fourth Imam (AS) with his heavy burden, leading the camels that carried the women and children as prisoners.

Yet Umar Sa'ad's cruelty was not exhausted. He decided to lead the procession past the bodies of the shuhadaa. Imam Ali ibn Husain (AS), intensely grieved at the sight of the bodies of his father, brothers, relations and friends lying unattended in the sands, Zainab consoled her nephew and said, "Dear nephew, do not sorrow nor grieve! The memory of those who die for freedom and liberty takes firm root in the heart of humanity and there it lives on for ever. Dear nephew, without doubt, soon a time will come when one will pass through this place and will not see any desert or sand. A beautiful city will grow around the tombs of these shuhadaa and this battlefield will assume the form of a glorious shrine." Leaving the bodies of there dear ones behind, they started on the way to Kufa.

Ibne Ziyaad, the Governor of Kufa, had declared a holiday in Kufa. The city had been decorated in celebration. The people of Kufa had been told that the rebels who wanted to attack their city and murder them had been defeated at Karbala and that their women were being brought into the city as prisoners. Those who believed this lined the city streets to might mock and jeer at the prisoners as they passed. These people of Kufa were the people who had sold their souls for money and promises of rewards, who yearned for liberty and freedom from

oppression while the desire for wealth and worldly position and possessions had enslaved them. They had invited the son of the Prophet (SAW) to this city and had then taken up arms against him!

When the caravan of prisoners neared Dar-ul-Imarah, Bibi Zainab (SA) stood up on the camel, looked at the crowd and, in a loud and clear voice, said, "Praise be to Allah and blessings upon my grandfather Muhammad, His beloved Prophet! Woe unto you, O people of Kufa! Do you know whom you have killed? Do you know what pledge you have broken? Do you know whose blood you have shed? Do you know whose honor you have defiled?"

There was a stunned silence, then a gentle sound of people crying. There was a blind old man in the crowd who had been a companion of Imam Ali (AS). When he heard the voice of Bibi Zainab he cried out, "By Allah, if I had not known that he had died, I could have sworn that what I just heard was the voice of my master, Ali ibne Abi Taalib."

Imam Zain-ul-Aabideen (AS) said to the man, "Oh Sheikh! This is not Ali, but his daughter Zainab binte Ali! She is the daughter of Fatima, the beloved daughter of the Holy Prophet." The sound of weeping from the crowd grew louder.

Bibi Zainab (SA) continued, "And well may you weep, O people of Kufa! May your hearts ever smoulder with grief and sorrow. You are like the woman who painstakingly twines a strong rope, and then herself unwinds it. Your false pledges have no bearing on truth and sincerity. Beware, for you have sponsored a very wrongful act for which Allah is totally displeased with you. Without doubt, His wrath shall soon descend upon you.

"Now you weep for my brother and raise wailing cries for him. Weep in plenty and laugh less, because you are wholly immersed in the ignominy of the murder of the Imam of your time. The stain of his blood is upon your hands and you cannot wipe it off. The crime which you committed against your Prophet was so great that the skies shook, the earth trembled, and mountains crumbled down!

"You have killed your Imam, and by doing so, lost your shelter against hardship, evil, and kufr! You have martyred a man, who was your relief, your support in adversity, the tower of your strength, your guide in precept and practice. His blood stains your souls. Nothing can protect you from the anger of Allah for having killed the son of the last of His prophets!"

This speech of Zainab, delivered with undaunted courage and the eloquence of her father, had a very deep effect on the minds of the people. The people could no longer control their wailing. At this point Umar Sa'ad got completely frightened and quickly led the prisoners into the palace of Ibne Ziyaad. The palace court was crowded with nobles and spectators.

The captives and the heads of the shuhadaa were presented to Ibne Ziyaad. He saw a lady among the prisoners who was surrounded by the captive women and children.

“Who is this lady?” asked Ibn Ziyaad.

“She is Zainab, the daughter of Ali,” he was told.

He turned towards Bibi Zainab (SA) and said, “Thank Allah who brought you low and exposed your lies.”

Bibi Zainab (SA) replied, “The evildoers abase themselves, and the corrupt tell falsehoods; and we are not such.” Ibne Ziyaad pretended as if these words were not aimed at him.

“Daughter of Ali,” he said, “have you seen how God has acted with your brother and his family?”

Bibi Zainab (SA) replied, “I have not known aught but benevolence and goodness from Allah. And as for our people, for whom Allah has ordained blessings of shahaadat, they defended themselves with valor. They were shaheed and have reached their Divinely-ordained abode. But, O Ibne Ziyaad, Allah will bring them and all of you face to face, when you will offer excuses which will be of no avail. Son of Ziyaad! May your mother weep over you. Remember, one day you have to answer for this before Allah. Be prepared for that day and realize in whose favor the Almighty's verdict shall be.

“I swear, you have no doubt slain our men, violated our sanctity, and have not only hacked our family tree but have pulled it out from its very roots. If you think that all these acts are the cause of glorification for you, then yes, you have acquired glory. For certain, I am surprised at the person who murders his Imam and says he has gained glory, whereas in truth he knows what retribution awaits him for this atrocious deed.”

Ibne Ziyaad retorted, “Anyhow, I am at peace after having killed Husain.”

“O Ibne Ziyaad!” replied Bibi Zainab, “You say your heart is at peace by the slaughter of Husain yet you know too well that the sight of Husain used to soothe and solace the Prophet. Indeed prepare your excuses for the Day of Reckoning. Worldly power and wealth have enticed you and have made you proud. But be warned that temporal monarchy and power will fade into insignificance and perish You are not immortal and shall not live forever. Peace and rest you shall never find.

“Do you know and realize what you have done to those divine souls and their relatives? You are reveling and celebrating over your evil deeds and their massacre. Remember your act is so grievously vile and ghastly that its ignominy shall always accompany you till the Doomsday. You shall, indeed for sure, never be gratified with the acquisition of your heart's desire.”

Ibne Ziyaad was angered but was made to desist from taking any harsh action by those who were present. Ibne Ziyaad was well aware that the khutba of Bibi Zainab (SA) had created an atmosphere which was not at all to his benefit.

He turned to Imam Sajjaad (AS), who stood among the prisoners, and inquired, “Who is this man?”

“He is Ali, son of Husain,” he was told.

Ibne Ziyaad said, “We had received the report that Ali ibn al-Husain was killed by God in Karbala!”

“Yes, I had a brother named Ali,” replied Imam Sajjaad (AS), “who was killed by your army in Karbala.”

“No, it was Allah who killed him,” came the angry reply from Ibne Ziyaad.

In reply, Imam Sajjaad (SA) recited this verse of the Qur-aan, “Allah takes the souls at the time of their death, and that which has not died, in its sleep; He withholds that against which He has decreed death, but looses the other till a stated term (43:39)”

The calm reply enraged Ibne Ziyaad who cried, “What impudence! How dare you argue with me!” He then ordered his men to behead the fourth Imam.

Seeing this, Bibi Zainab (SA) rushed forward and stood as a shield in front of Imam Zain-ul-Aabideen (AS) and cried out, “You will have to kill me first before you can put your hands on my

nephew!" She looked at Ibne Ziyaad with such defiance, determination, and anger that he was speechless. By this time, Ibne Ziyaad understood that this kind of exchange was not to his benefit.

The head of Imam Husain (AS) was placed in a tray in front of him. Ibne Ziyaad struck the lips of Imam Husain (AS) again and again with his stick.

Zaid ibn Arqam, an aged companion of the Prophet was present in the court. When he saw that Ibne Ziyaad's impertinence had come to this extent, he cried out in protest, "Ibne Ziyaad! Remove your cane from these lips! Allah is witness that I have seen many times the Prophet of Allah kissing these lips."

Ibne Ziyaad became outraged and shouted, "O old man! How dare you interrupt our celebrations of the victory of our Imam, Yazeed ibne Muawiya? Because of your age I spare your life. Leave my court immediately!" He left the court weeping; outside, people heard him saying: "O people of the Arabs, after this day you have made yourselves native slaves and cattle. You have killed the son of Fatima and made your ruler Ibne Marjaana, who will now keep on killing your best men and force you to do the most hateful things. You must now be ready for the utmost disgrace."

آیا ہے ہائے شہت میں رکھا سرِ حسینؑ
سب ہنس رہے ہیں اور سیکینہ کے لب پہ ہیں
کیا خوب ہے یہ اجرِ رسالت دہائی ہے