

*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*

**How imam Hussein (as) revived Islam  
& Lessons from the Tragedy**

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**The importance of Imam Hussein's (as) stance:**

Imam Hassan (as) was left amidst followers who were corrupted by doubt and disbelief, so he made peace to save the Muslims that were left. Matters worsened, Yazid's rule brought torture and pillage to all who supported the Ahlul Bayt; drinking wine and gambling were common in Mecca and Medina, and the society was gradually turning away from Islam, only 50 or so years after the death of the Prophet (saw). Nobody could speak out against Yazeed without bringing themselves and their loved ones to harm, so the Muslims hid and kept silent. If nobody had stood against Yazeed, Islam would have been gradually changed and manipulated to suit those in power, and its real message lost to the world. People like us, who live 1000's of years later, would never have known the message the Last Prophet (saw) brought to the world.

**Learning from the Tragedy:**

***Al-Hurr:*** Al-Hurr shows us sincerity and repentance. He was an officer in the army of Yazeed, and blocked imam Hussein's (as) retreat. His soldiers would be the ones to attack the son of the messenger of Allah (pbuh). You would think that there was nothing this man could do to redeem himself... but just before the battle al-Hurr acknowledged the truth he knew in his heart, swallowed his arrogance and raced to the imam, begging forgiveness. Hurr was forgiven by the imam (as), and insisted on fighting to protect him, saying:

O son of the Messenger! I was the first person to intercept you on your journey. Now I want to be the first person to go into battle against your enemies so that I may receive the intercession of the Prophet on the Day of Judgement.

Hurr had the courage to stand against everything he had been, and to take responsibility for everything he had done. He had the sincerity to admit his sins and beg for forgiveness. He knew what his choices were, and he took the one he knew he had to, even though it meant his own death. Al Hurr fought bravely and fiercely until his horse was lamed...he then dismounted and continued to fight on foot. He fought long and hard, but fell as a great number of men overwhelmed him. His example shows us that no matter how we have acted in the past, if we admit our sins, seek forgiveness and fight wholeheartedly in the way of Allah we can still be victorious.

66:8 O ye who believe! Turn to God with sincere repentance: In the hope that your Lord will remove from you your ills and admit you to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow- the Day that God will not permit to be humiliated the Prophet and those who believe with him. Their Light will run forward before them and by their right hands, while they say, "Our Lord! Perfect our Light for us, and grant us Forgiveness: for Thou hast power over all things."

***Ali Al Akbar (as):*** Ali al Akbar (as) teaches us perseverance and patience. He was amongst the first to join the battle from the imam's family (as). He was young... some say he was in his mid twenties, some say he was as young as 18. He had witnessed the fate of the brave companions of imam Hussein (as) who had gone to fight before him. He knew what was coming for his beloved family, and wanted to be of the first to stand and fight to protect them. He asked his father's permission to join the battle, and triumphed over dozens of enemies, in the burning heat with nothing to drink. After many hours he returned to the tents, dying of thirst and exhausted from the weight of his coat of mail... he asked for water, but there was none to drink. Imam Hussein (as) was unable to grant his son's request and said:

Have patience, oh love of my heart. Soon the messenger will give you a drink from the heavenly fountain.

So Ali (as) cast off his coat of mail, and returned to the battlefield with no desire other than to meet Allah. He was surrounded, and attacked from all sides. He tried to defend himself, but swords and spears tore into him, an arrow pierced his throat. As he fell, unable to keep his balance, weak from loss of blood and in the final few moments of his life, he (as) called:

O father! Here is my grandfather the messenger of Allah. He has given me a drink from the heavenly spring.

Ali al Akbar (as) shows us perseverance and patience. His example inspires us to persevere when we face difficulty, to give all we can to protect those we love and to fight for what's right. It reminds us that facing the greatest difficulties bravely and without complaining will lead us to success and the sweetest reward of all.

108:1 Surely We have given you Kausar,  
108:2 Therefore pray to your Lord and make a sacrifice.  
108:3 Surely your enemy is the one who shall be without posterity.

***Al-Qasim and Abdullah (as):*** these were two of the young sons of imam Hassan (as). Qasim (as) was 14 and Abdullah (as) only 11 at the time of the tragedy of Kerbala, but they still did their part to fight. Qasim (as) asked permission to join the battle from his uncle, and went and fought a group of soldiers, when an evil man named Amr bin Sa'd Azdi snuck behind him and struck him on the head with his sword. Abdullah (as) came out from the tents later on, and ran to help his uncle imam Hussein (as) who was under attack. Lady Zainab (as) tried to take him back to the tents, but he clung to imam Hussein and refused to go. When an enemy came to strike the imam (as), Abdullah raised his own arm and took the blow instead, which severed it. Both boys died being clutched by their heartbroken uncle imam Hussein (as) who they had given their young lives to protect.

Qasim and Abdullah (as) show us that no matter how young we are we can still be a part of the fight against injustice. They teach us we don't have to be afraid of being too young or weak to participate, because if we try Allah will help us, and we may still be able to fight for what we care about.

35:10 If any do seek for glory and power- to God belong all glory and power. To Him mount up (all) Words of Purity: It is He Who exalts each Deed of Righteousness. Those that lay Plots of Evil - for them is a Penalty terrible; and the plotting of such will be void (of result).

***Al-Abbas (as):*** Abbas (as) was the son of Ali bin Abi Talib (as) and Ummul Banin. He was the standard bearer of the army, and the strongest person in it. He was much younger than his brother imam Hussein (as), only 34 at the time of his martyrdom. He had always been unwaveringly loyal and brave, being described by historians as a 'gallant knight and a fearless lion, daring in the face of attacks and the striking of swords of the non-believers in the field.' He was the right arm of his brother Hussein (as), and respected him so much that he never called him brother, and only master, until just before he died.

Al-Abbas (as) rode to find water for the children who were dying of thirst, as the whole camp had nothing to drink for a long time. He fought against hundreds of men to get to the banks of the river Euphrates, and was about to drink some of the water but remembered imam Hussein's (as) thirst, and threw it away. He filled his container and started to return, but was attacked on all sides. When an arrow pierced the container, Abbas (as) stopped trying to get back to the camp and fought with all his might where he was. When one arm was severed, he carried on fighting with the second. Even when both arms were severed, he clutched the banner of imam Hussein (as) tightly to his chest with what was left of his arm. When Imam Hussein (as) came to carry him back to the camp, Abbas (as) pleaded with the imam (as) to leave him by the river because he was too ashamed to face his niece Sakina (as) without the water.

Al-Abbas (as) shows us what loyalty is, thinking of imam Hussein (as) before himself so much that he cast away water when he himself was dying of thirst. Abbas (as) teaches us how to be selfless, courageous, and firm in the path of Allah, and never to let go of our ideals just as he didn't let go of the imam's (as) banner, even when we are hurt or weakened. Abbas (as) teaches us how to be noble and honour our promises at all costs, by refusing to return to camp while he could not fulfil his promise of water for the children.

2:207 And among men is he who sells himself to seek the pleasure of Allah; and Allah is Affectionate to the servants.

### ***Lord of the Martyrs (as):***

Life is a very important thing to all humans. If a criminal was to threaten you with a knife, you would readily give up all your possessions to save yourself. And if the same criminal was to threaten your family, you may even give up your life trying to protect them instead. What Imam Hussein (as) did is above any other martyrdom; his sacrifice was to give up both himself and his family, his loved ones, more precious to him than his own life or anything else on earth, all for the sake of fighting in Allah's way.

Imam Hussein (as) did it because he knew that if he did not stand for the truth, no one else would. The government was corrupted to its core, and the innocent were suffering, all opposing cries silenced with the sword. He acted not only for the sake of the oppressed of that day, but to preserve Islam for their children, and their children's children. So, he went for the sake of Allah and his followers, to revive the religion of his blessed grandfather (saw) with his own sacred blood. He knew that some truths are worth dying for.

By losing the battle, imam Hussein (as) won the war. His great sacrifice reminded the Muslims not to fear death if you're doing what's right, and sparked a chain of revolutions from that time to this, that challenged the tyrants and had the oppressors shaking in their boots. As long as we remember what imam Hussein (as) did and his success, we will never be too afraid to do what's right and speak out against what is wrong. Imam Hussein (as) teaches us to fight with all we have to bring justice about, and shows us that Allah never lets the sacrifices of His servants who fight in His path go in vain.

On the way to Kerbala, a poet named Farazdaq told imam Hussein (as) 'The hearts of the people are with you, but their swords are against you. The decision comes from heaven and Allah does what He wishes'. Imam Hussein (as) replied:

You have spoken truly of the affair belonging to Allah. Every moment He is in a state of Glory. If fate sends down what we like, we praise Allah for His blessings. He is the one from Whom help should be sought. However although fate may frustrate our hopes, yet, it does not destroy the souls of those whose intention is truth, and whose hearts are pious.

Imam Hussein (as) said:

If the religion of Muhammad will not live except by my death, then, O swords, take me.

<p>3:169 Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their Lord;</p> <p>3:170 They rejoice in the bounty provided by God: And with regard to those left behind, who have not yet joined them (in their bliss), the (Martyrs) glory in the fact that on them is no fear, nor have they (cause to) grieve.</p> <p>3:171 They glory in the Grace and the bounty from God, and in the fact that God suffereth not the reward of the Faithful to be lost (in the least).</p>
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*As-Salat was-Salam ala Muhammad wa Ale Muhammad*

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