

IMAM HUSAIN

امام الحسين (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should understand:

- Understand that Imam Ḥusayn (as) was the youngest member of Ahlul Kisā'
- Realise the special affection he had from the Prophet (saw)
- Briefly discuss the tragedy of Karbala and its importance
- Discuss what it means to sacrifice one's time for Allah



FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2



The Holy Shrine of Imam Husayn [as] in Karbala, Iraq

Imam Ḥusain (as)

Who remembers the members of Ahlul Kisā'? Think well!

That's right. They are:

- The Prophet (saw)
- Imam 'Ali (as)
- Sayyidah Fāṭima (as)
- Imam Ḥasan (as) and
- Imam Ḥusain (as)

Who is the youngest of these Ahlul Kisā'? Of course, Imam Ḥusain (as) is the youngest of Ahlul Bayt. What do you know about Imam Ḥusayn (as)?

In this lesson, we will learn about Imam Ḥusain (as)

THE PROPHET'S GRANDCHILD

When Prophet Muḥammad (saw) heard of the news of Imam Ḥusain's (as) birth, he went to Sayyidah Fāṭima's house and recited the adhān and iqāma in his ears. The Prophet named the baby Ḥusain as commanded by Allah (SWT). For seven years, Imam Ḥusain (as) grew up in the company of his grandfather. The Prophet played with his grandson and let him ride on his back. Imam Ḥusain (as) accompanied the Prophet to the mosque. The Prophet loved him so much that he used to say:

“Ḥusain (as) is from me and I am from Ḥusain (as)”.

This means that Ḥusain is a part of the Prophet and the Prophet a part of Ḥusain

The Prophet (saw) also said:

“Ḥasan and Ḥusain are the leaders of the youths of Paradise.”

THE TRAGEDY OF KARBALA

During the time of Imam Ḥusayn (as) an evil man called Yazīd became the ruler. Yazīd called himself the leader of the Muslims, but this was a lie. He used to spend the money of the Muslims for his own personal pleasure. He would use it for things like drinking, gambling and wild parties. The poor were ignored and treated badly and the good people who stood up to Yazīd and his family were killed.

When Yazīd became ruler of the Muslims, he immediately demanded Imam Ḥusayn (as) to recognise him as the ruler and accept his leadership; but Imam Ḥusayn (as) was the true successor of the Holy Prophet Muḥammad (saw) and could not accept as a leader someone who was a drunkard and the killer of the innocents. Imam Ḥusayn could not allow an unjust person to be the leader.

Yazīd threatened to kill the Imam if he did not recognise him as the leader and so Imam Ḥusayn had to leave Medina. Many people from Kūfah, a city in Iraq had written letters to the Imam, asking him to come and save them from Yazīd and so Imam Husain left for Kūfah.

We will learn more about the Imam's journey in our next lessons.

The most important thing we will learn is that the Imam (as), as well as many of his family members and friends, sacrificed everything they had, including their lives, to save Islam. The most important lesson we learn from Imam Ḥusayn's life is that we should sacrifice for the sake of Allah (SWT).

WHO ELSE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR ALLAH (SWT)?

Beside Imam Ḥusayn (as), do you know of any other person who sacrificed greatly for the sake of Allah?

Bilāl Al Ḥabashi was from Abyssinia (Ethiopia). Umayyah, one of the enemies of the Holy Prophet, owned Bilāl. When Umayyah heard that Bilāl had become a Muslim, he was angry. So he began to torture Bilāl. He would whip him severely or put heavy rocks on the body of Bilāl while making him lie on hot sand. He was trying to force Bilāl to say that he worshipped other than God.

However, Bilāl still kept on saying: "I believe in One God, I believe in One God". Umayyah took red hot iron rods

and put them on Bilāl's legs. Days passed by and Bilāl's condition became bad. The Prophet eventually asked one of the companions to pay Umayyah to set Bilāl free, and eventually Bilāl was finally freed.

So you see, Bilāl suffered a lot for loving Allah and the Prophet (saw). The Prophet asked Imam 'Ali (as) to teach adhān to Bilāl. He had beautiful loud voice and thus he became the first reciter of adhān in Islam. He sacrificed a lot for Allah but today we remember him and respect and honour him because of his sacrifice.

OUR SACRIFICE FOR ALLAH (SWT)

Any action that is done with the intention of pleasing Allah (SWT) instead of doing what would please us is a sacrifice for Allah (SWT) and Allah not only loves such an action but He also rewards us for it.

To sacrifice means to give up something that you like for the sake of someone else. To sacrifice your life for Allah (SWT) means to die in the cause of Allah. We can spend our time to do something for the love of Allah. Or we can spend our money to help the needy for the love of Allah (SWT). Just like Imam Ḥusayn (as) did when he sacrificed his life and family or when Bilāl endured torture and pain for the sake of Allah (SWT)

Class Activity

Let us split up into small groups and each group can act out a scenario where a person makes a sacrifice for the sake of Allah.

Review Questions

Q1. The Prophet (saw)

- Loved Imam Ḥusayn (as) very much and spent a lot of time with him
- Hardly spent time with Imam Ḥusayn (as) and did not mention that he loved him
- Never saw Imam Ḥusayn (as)

Q2. The greatest lesson we learn from Imam Ḥusayn (as) is

- How important it is to sacrifice for the sake of Allah (SWT)
- The importance of being generous
- The importance of being kind