

IMAM HUSAYN

امام الحسين (ع)

Objectives >>>

Students should understand:

- The objective of Imam Ḥusayn's sacrifice in Karbala
- The effects of his martyrdom on the Islamic nation
- That there are many untrue accounts of the events of Karbala and we need to distinguish the true narrations from the false ones
- That Imam Ḥusayn's love for Allah (SWT) was the motivation behind his sacrifice

Imam Ḥusayn (as)

In this lesson we will be introducing the Master of the Martyrs, Imam Ḥusayn (as). Imam Ḥusayn (as) is not an ordinary man, as he was one of the members of the purified household of the Holy Prophet (saw). However, beyond this, he was subject to a calamity which has made his name one of the most emphasised in our faith. Due to his highly-esteemed position and the greatness of the revolution he set off, we need to learn and understand as much about his life as we can. This way we might grow and learn from the life of our Imam even more



FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 3



IMAM ḤUSAYN: HIS LINEAGE AND POSITION

Imam Ḥusayn (as) was the third ma'ṣūm Imam. He is also father of all the remaining Imams (as they all came from his lineage), the last of which is our present Imam. Imam Ḥusayn (as) had a very special position in the eyes of the Prophet (saw) and the Prophet loved him very much. The Prophet (saw) used to say:

“O God, I love both of them (Ḥasan and Ḥusayn (as)). Therefore love them and love whoever loves them.”

Then he said:

“Whoever loves Ḥasan and Ḥusayn, is the one whom I love. Whomever I love, God loves, and whomever God loves, He will cause to enter Heaven. Whoever hates them, I hate and God hates. Whomever God hates, He will cause to enter the Fire.”

Then he said:

“These two sons of mine are my two plants of sweet basil (to sweeten) the world.”

IMAM HUSAIN: HIS CHARACTERISTICS

HIS BRAVERY:

Imam Husayn’s (as) bravery needs no introduction. One who vaguely knows the events of Karbala would immediately witness to his bravery and valour in all situations. With his small but sincere army, he faced an army of thousands. However, he did not back down and did not step back from his sacrifice. He was afraid of no one but Allah and he never stepped away from a battle for the sake of Allah and for the sake of justice.

HIS SACRIFICING SELF

As noted above, Imam Husayn (as) was willing to step forward and sacrifice everything for the sake of Islam. All of his actions on the day and before the day of Karbala present the way in which his only aim was the pleasure of Allah (SWT).

We see the peak of this on the day of Karbala, when Imam Husayn (as) is holding his infant son, the six month old Abdullah.. Abdullah was martyred in his father’s own arms. An arrow was shot into the neck of this young child and the blood spurted onto the hands of Imam Husayn (as). At this very point we hear the immortal call of Imam Husayn (as):

“It makes what is befalling me easier, that it is happening in the sight of Allah.”

CAN WE FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF IMAM HUSAYN (AS)?

Now, we have seen how Imam Husayn (as) was prepared to sacrifice everything for the sake of Allah (SWT). But are we on the same path of the Imam?

We may not be in the same position as the Imam, however, we are still being tested in our lives to see which is more important to us, Allah (SWT) or this world. If we want to be like Imam Husayn (as) we must sacrifice like he did.

Let us consider some scenarios before us and see whether we would choose Allah (SWT) or this world:

- You are walking on a very hot day, you are sweating and tired. There is nothing around you, until you come across a corner shop and want to buy some water. The only thing is you are fasting. What would you do in this situation?
- You just organised a day out with your friends and you will be meeting up to spend some time together. You have been waiting for it all week. On the same day, your mother is tired and she needs help around the house. She asks you, “Can you please help me out around the house today, I really can’t do it by myself?” Will you choose your friends or the pleasure of your mother? The pleasure of your mother is the pleasure of Allah (SWT).
- You have just finished your homework, after a long day at school and sport. You were looking forward to watching some television and relaxing. You get a phone call saying that the local Islamic centre needs your help, or there is a very special program at the centre tonight. Will you choose to relax or go to the centre?
- You have been saving up for six months to get one of your favourite game consoles. You then hear that there is an opportunity for a limited time, to send the money to go to orphans. What would you do?

All of the scenarios above did not require you to sacrifice your life or even your family; only a bit of time or money. Were some of us struggling in deciding what we should do?

Write a few scenarios yourself and share them with your classmates. You don’t need to tell anybody what you will do, but answer yourself honestly, and see whether you would sacrifice for the sake of Allah (SWT) in these scenarios?

Some of the different types of sacrifice for Allah (SWT):

- Money
- Time

- Life
- Family
- Ego

BRIEF SAYINGS OF THE IMAM

“Do you not see that the right is not being put into practice and distance is not being taken from the falsehood? (In this situation) the faithful is inclined to meet Allah.”

(TUHAFUL UQOOL, P 245)

“The intellect does not achieve completion except by observance and following of the right.”

(BIHAR UL ANWAR VOL 78, P 127)

Review Questions

Q1. Imam Husayn (as)

- a. Was the nephew of the Prophet (saw)
- b. Was the grandson of the Prophet (saw)
- c. Was the great-grandson of the Prophet

Q2. Imam Husayn (as) taught us

- a. We should sacrifice our pleasures in this world for the sake of God
- b. We should take care of ourselves in this world
- c. We should sacrifice time and money, but never our lives, for the sake of God