



Children's Muharram Workshop

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Session 2

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Session 2
(Night of Muharram 2, 1429 / January 10, 2008)

In His Name, the Lord of Husayn(A)

I seek refuge with Allah, from Shaytaan, the Rejected One.

I begin with the name of Allah,
the Most Kind,
the Most Loving.

All praise belongs to Allah, the Lord and Sustainer of the Universes,
and may His blessings and peace be upon our beloved messenger,
Muhammad(S), and upon the pure and pure family of Muhammad(S).

May Allah's mercy be far away from those Evil ones, who harmed,
oppressed and went against Muhammad(S) and the family of
Muhammad(S), from the very first one, until the Day of Judgement.

Ameen, O Lord and Sustainer of the Universes.

In the Holy Quran, Allah says:

"And those who respect their trusts and covenants; And those who stand firm in their testimonies; And those who guard (the sacredness) of their worship;— Such will be the honoured ones in the Gardens (of Bliss).

Quran, Surah al-Me'raj (The Night Journey) (Surah 70), Ayaat 32-35

Yesterday, we discussed who Imam Husayn(A) was and who Yazid(L) was, and we learned that Yazid(L) was a bully from a family of bully's, who used to pick on others, and be nasty to them.

We all agreed that we wanted to avoid being like Yazid(L), and as those who love Imam Husayn(A) and the Ahl al-Bayt(A), we would try to become more like them, insha Allah.

Today, we will try to discuss an important point, and then to remember Imam Husayn(A) and the Martyrs of Karbala, we will make matam in English, and try to think about the words very carefully, and try to picture the entire scene.

According to some hadeeth (traditions or stories told by Prophet Muhammad(S) and the Ahl al-Bayt(A) to teach us about the Right Way), we are taught, that Bibi Fatema az-Zahra(A), comes to every place where the Muslims are remembering Imam Husayn(A) and the tragedy of Ashura, she sees the people, and gathers the tears from their eyes. When she takes these tears, they become diamonds and she saves them for those she has taken them from, in Heaven.

Today, we will be discussing:

1. Respecting and Honouring Each Other

Firstly, let us talk about a very important lesson that Imam Husayn(A) taught us in Karbala, and indeed a lesson that we've had from all of the Prophet(A)s and Imam(A)s, and that is being good to each other, and caring for each other.

Before the battle started on the day of Ashura, Imam Husayn(A) went and gave a lecture to the army of Yazeed(L). In this lecture he said many important things, but the point that we will be looking at today, is what he told them about the rights of each other, and how we should treat others. He also told them who he was, and in doing that he was teaching them to show respect, sadly, they didn't listen to him, and now they are known and cursed worldwide until the end of time as the evil doers.

We also should remember, that Prophet Jesus(A) (or Nabi Isa ibn Maryam(A) as he is known in Islam), used to give lots of words of wisdom to his followers, one of his most famous sayings is:

"Treat others as you would have them treat you"

Also, Imam Ali(A), the father of Imam Husayn(A) and brother of Prophet Muhammad(S) has said in his famous book - Nahjul Balagha - the following:

Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company.

These are two very important lessons, and in Quran, the verses from Surah Me'raj that I recited at the start of the session, are very important in understanding this:

In the verses of the Quran, Allah is clearly saying that those people who honour or respect their covenants and trusts, and who do not lie, are those people who will go to heaven.

We can understand this important lesson, with two very nice stories:

Example of Ahl al-Bayt

In Surah al-Insaan, we have the famous verses where the sacrifice of the Ahl al-Bayt(A) in helping others is mentioned. The verses are:

And they feed, for the love of Allah, the indigent, the orphan, and the captive, (Saying), "We feed you for the sake of Allah alone: no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks. "We only fear a Day of distressful Wrath from the side of our Lord." But Allah will deliver them from the evil of that Day, and will shed over them a Light of

Beauty and (blissful) Joy.

(Quran, Surah al-Insaan (Humanity) (Surah 76), Ayaat 8-10)

One morning Bibi Fatema az-Zahra(A) found out that both her sons were ill. Then the Holy Prophet(S) came to see them and advised Imam Ali(A) and Bibi Fatema(A) to make a promise to Allah that they would fast for three days, one after the other, if their sons got well.

After a little while they returned to normal health, so Imam Ali(A), Bibi Fatema(A), Imam Hasan(A), Imam Husayn(A) and Bibi Fizza(A) fasted for three days.

Each day a different person came at the time of breaking the fast and knocked at the door. The man who came on the first day said:

"O Ahl ul-Bayt(A) of the messenger of Allah(S), I am a poor man. I am hungry Give me something to eat."

All that was there to eat was given away to him. All of them used water to break their fasts and went to sleep without food.

The man who came on the second day said:

"O Ahl ul-Bayt(A) of the messenger of Allah(S), my parents are dead. I am a orphan. Will you satisfy my hunger?"

All that was there to eat was given away to him. All of them used water to break their fasts and went to sleep without food.

The man who came the third day said:

"O Ahl ul-Bayt(A) of the messenger of Allah(S), I am a newly freed slave. I have nothing, Please can you help me by giving me something"

to eat ?”

All that was there to eat was given away to him. All of them used water to break their fasts and went to sleep without food.

After completion of these three fasts, Bibi Fatema(A) offered prayers of thankfulness to Allah. The Holy Prophet(S), then informed her that Jibrail(A) had brought these verses in their praise.

Isn't that amazing, and wonderful? The Ahl al-Bayt(A) have taught us that it is such a huge blessing to help others who need our help, and in fact, there is another hadeeth, which says, that it is better to help someone before they say they need help, as sometimes it can be embracing for people to ask for help.

There is another hadeeth from Bibi Fatema(A), which is known as the hadeeth of the Neighbours before the Household hadeeth and it is very famous.

Neighbours Before The Household

There once lived a little boy, who always got up well before the time for Morning Prayers (Namaaz-e-Fajr), and he would go to his mother and join her in praying the Night prayer (Namaaz-e-Shab).

Night after night, he would see that his mother would be making duas and asking Allah to solve the problems of all the Muslim men and women, she used to ask Allah to give the people health and wealth and to solve their problems, she would ask Allah to forgive all of their sins and so on.

The little boy noticed that his mother would not pray for herself or for any of the family members, and he found this quite strange.

One day he decided to ask her. He went to her and said:

"Mother dear, I see you praying for everyone everyday in your Night Prayer, but I have never seen or heard you praying for either yourself or any of us in the family, why is this Mother dear?"

The boy's mother, our beloved Lady of Light, Fatema az-Zahra(A) replied by saying:

"O My beloved son, Hasan, remember one very important thing - Neighbours before the household".

In saying this Bibi Fatema(A) was telling us that we should always try to help others before we help ourselves. This is why, you can see - in a simple example - it is always considered polite, when eating or having a glass of water, or going through a door, to offer your friend to go before you, or to start eating or drinking before you.

Always remember, Neighbours Before Ourselves.

Why is this very important and how does it link into what we are trying to discuss today? Well it's quite easy if you have a little think - let me help you:

If you always help others, if you are considerate of others, always have a word of kindness for others, or at the very least a polite smile for everyone, if you never hurt other's feelings or make them sad, then the people will always want to be in your company and want to be your friend, and like Imam Ali(A) said in the famous saying I mentioned earlier:

Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company.

The best way to help someone out is to make dua for them, and the most important person for us to make dua for in our times especially, is our beloved Imam-e-Zamaan(AJ), Imam Mahdi(AJ), the grandson of Imam Husayn(A), may Allah hasten his return, Ameen.

I would like you all to once again, close your eyes, and take yourself back to Madinah, where we went to yesterday, we've seen Imam Husayn(A), his family and companions, leaving Madinah, we've seen the tears in their eyes, and we've seen the tears in the eyes of Imam Husayn(A)'s beloved daughter Fatema as-Sughra(A) and grandmother Umm Salmah(A).

Now I want you to think back, and look carefully, can you see the mother of Imam Husayn(A), our beloved Lady of Light, Fatema az-Zahra(A), who we have mentioned two stories from today, who is looking out at the road from her resting place, her eyes full of tears.

Now can you imagine, the pain and hurt that the cursed Yazid(L) is causing to our beloved Fatema az-Zahra(A) by wanting to harm her beloved son Imam Husayn(A)?

Can you imagine how hard it must be for Imam Husayn(A) to leave Madinah? But definitely it must have been harder for Bibi Fatema(A) to see her son leaving, knowing that he would be murdered by the terrible people on the plain of Karbala, after having been hungry and thirsty for three days.

Now I want you to get up and gently hit yourselves on your chest, and repeat after me and all together:

*Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),
The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)*

The blazing fiery sun, the valiant would shun,
The plain of Karbala, deserted then you were,
The sand is dry as hell, where infants blood had fell,
Where holy limbs were torn, where revolution born ...

Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),
The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)

The pipes and horns they blew, the flags of hate they flew,
To stand against Islam, was cursed Yazid's plan,
Death would beckon all, the sacred symbols fall,
The blood of beasts of mixed, the innocents transfixed ...

Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),
The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)

An innocent appeared, the angels were a feared,
Yet in his father's arms, the babe was full of charm,
His nourishment was ceased, the sorrow soon increased,
The cry of help ignored, kufr was then restored ...

Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),
The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)

Against Husayn's son, the evil deed was done,
With human kindness left, his mother was bereft,
The stifled cries and groans, the laments, tears and mourns,
The face of our Husayn, showed blood and tears and pain ...

Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),

The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)

Companions all were gone, and hope was all forlorn,
Silence it had fell, upon this worldly hell,
A single cry was heard, 'twas Husayn's final word,
No helper now have we, no Muslim can be free ...

Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),
The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)

The ninety-five were killed, the blood of martyrs spilled,
No friend of the Ahl ul-Bayt, could alter Husayn's fate,
The wives and sisters saw, the hate for Allah's law,
The massacre of babes, the Muslims became slaves,
Soon to be unveiled, no woman was dismayed,
Belief in Allah's grace, protected every face ...

Shaheed of Karbala, The Love of Fatema(A),
The Light of Mustafa(A), The Saviour of Islam,
Husayn(A) is our Imam! (Repeat Chorus)

The spirit of Husayn, created once again,
Relieved the Muslims plight, and taught us how to right,
Now Islam is everywhere, the enemies despair,
No weapon now have they, to bar us from our way,
The call of our Husayn, could never be in vain,
The answer came to be, through Imam Mahdi(AJ):

Ya Husayn! Ya Husayn! Ya Husayn!