



## Reflections on the First Waaz – Ashara Mubaraka 1428H

The esteemed month of Moharram-ul-Haram heralds the new Islamic year and whilst other creeds and races celebrate their new years in different ways, the new year celebrations of Mumineen are unique. The devotees of Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (TUS) welcome the beginning of the year with the 'Eid of Huzn,' the zikr, buka and matam of Imam Husain (AS) and the barakaat of Ilm of Ale-Mohammed. Moharram is the month which, Rasulallah says, is second only to Allah's month of Ramadan-al-Moazzam.

On the second day of this month, Zakariyah Nabi (AS) fasted and prayed, and by the intercession of Imam Husain (AS), Allah granted him a child. Huzurala (TUS) stated that, similarly, any person who fasts and prays on this day and weeps for Imam Husain (AS) will be given a child because. It was in fact Imam Husain (AS) who gave seven children to a man destined to have none.

*Zikr*, remembrance, was the underlying theme of this waaz – a waaz which itself initiates this concentrated period of remembrance of our Awliyaullah. In the Quran Allah has stated,

فاذكروني اذكركم

*“Remember me and I shall remember you.”*

Whilst the necessity for man to remember his Maker is understandable, it is remarkable that the Maker should in return make a promise to remember man. We need only remember times when Aqa Maula (TUS) himself recognises us, remembers us, prays for us or in some other way acknowledges us and we are blessed with feelings of spiritual happiness because Allah's Dai has remembered us.

Huzurala (TUS) acknowledged Mumineen seated throughout the world in every majlis taking place by Maula's raza and stated, “Wherever you may be I hear the sound of your grief on Imam Husain (AS).”

Huzurala (TUS) illustrated the virtue of the true Shiah of Allah's Wali by narrating Maulana Ali's (AS) words in which he states that for everything there is a summit and the summit of Islam are the Shiah; for everything there is a central pillar and the central pillar of Islam are the Shiah; for everything there is a glory and the glory of Islam are the Shiah, for everything there is a king and the king of all majalis is the majlis of Shiah; for everything there is a sanctuary and the sanctuary of this world are the Shiah. Were it not for your presence in this world, others would not receive Tayyibat-ur-Rizq (sustenance).

Repeated and constant remembrance of Awliyaullah is the remembrance that is meant in the ayat, “Then remember me, and I shall remember you.”

This continued remembrance occurs throughout the ages of the apostles, prophets, Aimmat and Doat Mutlaqeen.



From a very early age, Mumineen learn ways of carrying out this *zikr*, especially by the recitation of the verses of Syedna Taher Saifuddin's (RA) which Mumineen recite in every Majlis and today Moula recited this at the very outset:

وظائفنا تسبيح اسمائكم ايا ❀ بني المصطفى دابا ونعم الوظائف

*“It is our observance to continuously repeat your names O’ progeny of Mustafa and it is the most worthy of observances.”*

These names of Awliy aullah are the names of Allah himself, and it is by remembering them that we are able to remember and do *zikr*.

بتأيدكم نستطيع دروس علومكم ❀ وتقوى على التقوى قوانا الضعائف

*“It is only through the assistance of Banul Mustafa (SA) that we are able to acquire their knowledge.”*

Remembrance of Allah, zikrullah, is prefaced by ‘istiaazat,’ seeking of sanctuary from Shaitaan. We do this when we say “Auzobillahissamee il aleem” before we say Bismillah. In this context, we learned much about the importance of two surahs, Al-Naas and Al-Falaq, two surahs which every mumín child learns at a young age and which together are called Al-Moawwazatayn. One of these surahs has six ayahs and the other has five. When a string of eleven knots was thrown into a well in an act of magic against Rasulallah, it was through the recitation of these two surahs that the ill effects were warded off and the knots untied.

Syedna Al Moayyad Al Shirazi, in his treatise, explains that it is not credible that two magicians could bring about such dire effects upon Allah’s Rasul. In truth, the two ‘magicians’ were the two who plotted against Rasulallah throughout his call to Islam and following his death.

The significance of the Moawwizatayn is further highlighted by the fact that they are recited at the birth of a new born child and also in the Tahiyyat-ul-Masjid namaz. This particular namaz is unique: when one enters the masjid and fajr farz has started then if time permits, one should pray Tahiyyat-ul-Masjid before joining the farz. The Tahiyyat-ul-Masjid takes precedence over Fajr sunnat, because if time only allows for one, then Tahiyyat-ul-Masjid must be prayed. However, if Imam-uz-Zaman or Dai-al-Mutlaq are leading namaz, then one must immediately join imamát namaz.

The majlis of the Shiah is the most noble of all gatherings. The new year could not begin in a manner more supreme than the majalis of waaz for Ashara Mubarakah and the matam and buka of Imam Husain and the seventy-two Shohoda e Kerbala.

May we be part of many more of these noblest of majalis at the feet of our beloved Aqa Maula (TUS). May Allah grant him long life and good health until Qiyamat.