

The day of Aashura dawned bringing with it grief, agony and anguish on the calamity that befell Imam Husain (SA) and his Ahle Bait and Ashaab in Karbala. It also brought along the promise of redemption from sins, changes of fortunes and the fulfillment of desires for those who weep and perform matam on Imam Husain (SA).

Once a man approached Rasulallah (SAW) and pleaded, "O Rasulallah! Allah has blessed me with bounties and wealth, but I do not have any children. I have also aged, and reached a point of no hope, but I beseech you to pray for me so that Allah blesses me with a child. Rasulallah (SAW), overcome with mercy, started praying for him. Jibraeel descended and informed him that the man, for its own reasons, was not destined to have any children and appealed to Rasulallah (SAW) not to pray for him. Rasulallah (SAW) was dejected; he did not know what to say to the desperate man. Imam Husain (SA), who was only four years old at that time, came along and sat in Rasulallah's (SAW) lap and observed that he was unusually quiet and was not talking to him as he always did. Imam Husain (SA) understood that something was worrying his grandfather. He inquired and when Rasulallah (SAW) informed him about what Jibraeel had said, Imam Husain(SA) said, "Has Jibraeel said so? I grant this man one child." Rasulallah said, "Son, we should not say so, it is not in this man's destiny to have children. It will anger Allah." Imam Husain (SAW) replied, "Allah can never be angry with me. Then he added, "I grant him two children." Rasulallah exclaimed, "Quiet! Quiet!" Husain (SA) said, "I grant him three." The more Rasulallah (SAW) tried to dissuade Imam Husain (SA) the more he granted. Just then, Jibraeel descended and said, "Allah has accepted Husain's decision and this man will have seven children. Don't say anything more, whatever Husain says will happen. Rasulallah (SAW), kissing Husain's forehead, declared, "Son, you have upheld the dignity of *nubuwwat*!" Such was the *shaan* of Imam Husain (SA).

Ashura is the day of asking forgiveness of all sins with the intercession of Imam Husain (SA) and his Dai, Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin (TUS). Aqa Maula, (TUS) promising mumineen the forgiveness of sins and warning them against committing them, explained that there are three kinds of sins; all of which are forgiven for mumineen by the intervention of *Awliyaullah*. First are those kinds of sins that occur between Allah and mumineen. *Awliyaullah* will secure forgiveness for these as they have a revered status in the eyes of Allah. Second are those which take place between *Awliyaullah* and mumineen; these will be readily forgiven by them.

The third type are those that occur as a result of one human causing pain to another through words or deeds. These cannot be forgiven unless the person against whom the sin is committed forgives. Some people are cautious about committing sins against Allah, but are unmindful about those that happen between people, thinking that they are not answerable for the latter. Indeed they will have to account for them one day. The forgiveness of these sins is more difficult as one doesn't remember how and when one has hurt another. Ultimately, the Imam, who has taken the responsibility of the salvation of the mumineen, will have to pay for the sins in order to secure forgiveness. But, Maula (TUS) warned that it ill behoves a mumín to make his Imam pay for his crimes, just as it does not befit a son to put his father in debt because of his misdoings.

Aqa Maula (TUS) narrated the *riwayat* of the woman, who in spite of old age and poverty, laboured for years and barely managed to secure the amount required to pay for the hefty fine imposed by the Abbasi Khalifa for the *ziyarat* of Imam Husain (SA). She went all the way from Iran to Karbala, bare footed and in tattered clothes. Aqa Maula (TUS) added, "Today one can perform *ziyarat* with much ease, hence one must go. The *ziyarat* of Imam Husain (SA) equals a hundred Hajj. Performing the Hajj is obligatory, and so is performing this *ziyarat*."

Throughout the day, Aqa Maula (TUS) sketched in detail the events that unfolded in Karabala, and narrated the *shahadat* of *Ashaab* and *Ahle Bait*, culminating in the *shahadat* of Imam Husain (SA). When Maula (SA) performed *sajda* thousands of mumineen weeped; they had gathered from all across the globe to behold this very sight. The sight of Maula (TUS) indicating how Imam Husain (SA) was slain is one of the greatest treasures. It is a sight which will always remind him of the sacrifice that Imam Husain (SA) offered for his sake, and it will assure him of the salvation his Dai has secured for him.