

Date-palms are characteristic of Medina Munawwara, growing in abundance across the city; it was a cluster of these palms that indicated to Jabir bin Abdullah il Ansari that he had in fact reached the holy city of Rasulullah (SAW). The date-palm is the noblest among plants, the king of all trees, as Syedna Qadin Noman (RA) explains. Rain that falls from the heavens symbolizes the knowledge of Rasulullah (SAW), which seeps into the earth, symbolic of the Wasi. Plants, trees and crops that come into fruition are hudood, according to their ranks. The noblest among them, the date-palm is the Dai who acquaints mumineen with the maqam of Mohammed and Ali (SA), ultimately leading them to Medina Munawwara.

Maulana Ali (SA) used to plant date-palms. When asked about date seeds that were being loaded onto camels, he replied, "Dates inshallah." He made sure that every seed was planted; each seed was precious. Each Dai has been selected and groomed by Maulana Ali (SA) himself who has recorded their names in the Kitab ul Ilm.

Rasulullah (SAW) was immensely fond of dates. Imam Ali Zain ul Abedeen (SA) liked he who liked dates because Rasulullah (SAW) liked them. Aqa Maula (TUS) urged mumineen, "Dates refer to the Doat of Rasulullah (SAW), ingrain their mohabbat in your hearts."

Aqa Maula (TUS) then narrated the riwayat of the dried-up date palm in Umme Mabad's field. Rasulullah (SAW) gargled some water and sprinkled on it, the palm instantly sprang back to life. This miracle not only became the cause of them embracing Islam, it also became the source of their prosperity. People who touched the tree or ate its sweet fruit were cured of illness. However, when Rasulullah (SAW) died, the tree lost its freshness and the dates their sweetness. When Amir ul Mumineen (SA) was slain, the tree could no longer bear fruit, when Imam Hasan (SA) was killed it leaves fell off and when Imam Husain (SA) was killed in Kerbala, the date-palm fell down and blood gushed out of it. Umme Mabad exclaimed, "No doubt a great calamity has befallen Islam." People were shocked as they gathered around the tree lying on the ground, they heard a voice wailing and lamenting the death of Imam Husain (SA). A few days later they received the news of Imam Husain's (SA) shahadat in Kerbala. Maula (TUS) added, "The Duat who have been appointed by Maulana Ali (SA) with his own hands bestow shifa on mumineen, provided them with sweet fruit, and like the date-palm, shed tears of blood on the shahadat of Imam Husain (SA). O mumineen, gather around this Dai and perform matam on Imam Husain (SA). This Dai will provide you with eternal shifa."

Mohabbat is the essence of sweetness. Water which is originally sweet can be made even sweeter by adding sugar, but no matter how much sugar is added to bitter water it will remain bitter. Once Bilal was instructed to buy a watermelon but the fruit he bought was bitter. Maulana Ali (SA) instructed Bilal to return the fruit to its seller, "Rasulullah (SAW) says that our mohabbat was presented to each and every fruit, the ones that accepted it became sweet and the others that did not became bitter, I presume this fruit is bitter because it did not accept our mohabbat." Maula (TUS) urged mumineen to adhere to the

tenets of Islam, which may seem difficult but are sweet in akherat, and to steer away from worldly desires which are sweet here but bitter in akherat.

Maulana Ali Zain ul Abedeen (SA) once found a date lying in the toilet. He picked it up and handed it to his slave. The slave ate the fruit. The Imam (SA) freed the slave, saying that he did not want to keep as his slave a man who was worthy of jannat. Maula (TUS) urged mumineen, "Help other mumineen and lift up the downtrodden, for if you do you shall be certainly worthy of jannat."

In the shahadat of Imam Husain (SA) Maula (TUS) narrated, "Imam Husain sat against a date palm while the enemy attacked from all sides. Imagine the state of the palm at that moment! Imam Husain (SA) rested against it to provide it with freshness and barakat. O mumineen, behold the face of your Dai and you shall see the traces of Husain's (SA) blood in his forehead."