

‘Ashara Mubaraka AH 1440  
Majlis 7  
English Reflections

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of Muharram al-Haraam we were blessed with the barakat of three Du’at Mutlaqeen in the day of ‘Ashara Mubaraka dedicated to Amirul Mumineen AS. Al-Dai al-Ajal Syedna Taher Saifuddin <sup>RA</sup> invoked Imam Husain AS to intercede for those who have yet to be blessed with children. Zakariyyah Nabi <sup>AS</sup> was instructed to fast on the second of Muharram and by the intercession of *barakat* of Imam Husain, Allah Ta’ala answered his prayer for a child. Syedna Saifuddin <sup>RA</sup> recalled that his father Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin <sup>RA</sup> also fasted on this day and was bless with children at a late age. In the brief bayan mubarak we had the honour of listening to, Maulana al-Muqaddas <sup>RA</sup> directed us to always remember one thing: remain true to your dai.

We were then blessed with the *wa’az mubarak* delivered by Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin <sup>RA</sup> 33 years ago in Indore affront a gathering of nearly 1,20,000 at the same location where al-Dai al-Ajal Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin <sup>TUS</sup> addresses us today. In his wa’az mubarak, Syedna al-Muqaddas explained that Imam Husain AS chose to sacrifice his life in order to preserve truth, to preserve the faith. In this context Maulana Burhanuddin <sup>RA</sup> counselled Mumineen to always be truthful, to continuously remember Husain <sup>AS</sup> as do people of other communities who even take vows in his name. We should stay true to the Shariah, prayer and fasting and be brotherly both with Mumineen and with people of other beliefs. To follow the directives and also be loyal citizens of one’s nation.

Maulana al-Muqaddas <sup>RA</sup> related the origin and virtues of rice which was created from the radiance of Nabi Mohammed <sup>AS</sup> and his Ahle Bayt <sup>AS</sup> some part of which fell to the face of the earth as Jibra’eel <sup>AS</sup> was carrying it. Rice is both potent and light: it sates the famished

and is easily accommodated by those that who have had their fill. It is a treatment for illness and the cure for 72 serious conditions including vitiligo and leprosy. Rice dispels worry and anxiety and gives staunchness to the heart. If rice was human it would have been a Mumin. Had it been a Mumin it would have been of the knowledgeable and had it been of the knowledgeable it would have been of the pious.

A traditional serving of rice in our community is *sodannu* or *choba* which traces back to a recipe given by Imam Ja'far us Sadiq to a disciple of his named Mufaddal. The sweet dish made as an starter on joyous occasions. The proper way to prepare it, which is not always followed correctly, is to have a layer of sugar, then a layer of rice followed finally by a second layer of sugar.

In the *wa'az mubarak* dedicated to Maulana Ali <sup>AS</sup>, Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin <sup>RA</sup> narrated an incident that occurred during Mu'awiya's reign in Syria. One day, he asked Dhirar al-Nashali to describe Amirul Mumineen Ali b. Abi Talib <sup>AS</sup>. Dhirar tried to excuse himself since he well knew of Mu'awiya's enmity of Ali <sup>AS</sup> — but he insisted. Dirar relented and began his description of Maulana Ali <sup>AS</sup>.

By Allah, His strength was formidable, his persistence boundless. Knowledge sprang forth from all his sides and wisdom flowed from his tongue. He held the material world in disdain; and in the darkness of night was where he found his greatest respite. I swear by Allah, I have seen him and heard that he shed many tears. Deep was his contemplation. By Allah, if we entreated him, he responded to us as if he was one of us. However, despite our closeness, we were so awestruck by his eminence that we could never broach conversation unless he spoke to us first. His smile was like a string of pearls. He brought forward men of faith, and promoted the humble. The powerful could not access

him through falsehood, and the weak were never disparaged by his justice.

Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin <sup>RA</sup> reminded us that this is Amirul Mumineen <sup>AS</sup>; he always delivered justice. Continuing, Dhirar said

I have witnessed him on certain nights, when the curtains of darkness drape the skies and stars vanish from sight, standing in his mihrab, his hands clasped upon his beard and endless tears flowing from his eyes, trembling as if bitten by a serpent. In this state, he would say: O world! Is it me you have come to entice? *Hayhāt!* How preposterous! I have divorced you three times over and there is no chance of reconciliation. The life you offer is miserable, its duration meagre and its value insignificant. Alas! The journey is long, provisions insufficient and the route treacherous.

Upon hearing this description of Ali <sup>AS</sup>, Mu'awiya was in tears and said, 'He was indeed as you say.' He then asked Dhirar how he felt after Amirul Mumineen's <sup>AS</sup> passing. Dhirar responded with a distressing analogy stating that he and Amirul Mumineen's <sup>AS</sup> Shi'a are like a mother whose child has been killed in her arms; "would her broken heart ever heal or her tears ever cease?" Mu'awiya complained that when he died no one would remember him in this way.

In the *wa'az mubarak*, Maulana al-Hayy al-Muqaddas spoke of Maulatuna Khadija <sup>AS</sup> *khidmat* of the Prophet <sup>SAW</sup>. Maulatuna Khadija <sup>AS</sup> would receive Nabi Mohammed <sup>SAW</sup> at the door of the house and wash his *haath mubarak*. This simple act eased the worries of the Nabi <sup>SAW</sup> when he returned home. It made the home a place of refuge and solace when his detractors were imposing all manner of torment after he declared his prophecy. Imam Ali Zain al-Abideen <sup>AS</sup> was shielded from Ubaydullah bin Ziyaad by Maulatuna Zainab <sup>AS</sup>. In being taken as captives through the towns

from Karbala to Shaam the populace came to know of the oppression of Yazid's armies and the cruelty that had taken place in Karbala. The people of Syria were able to see the manner in which Rasul Allah's <sup>SAW</sup> Ahle Bayt <sup>AS</sup> were mistreated. Although there were those at the time who consented to Yazid's actions there were far more who were on the side of Imam Husain <sup>AS</sup>. During his visit to Shaam Syedna Taher Saifuddin <sup>RA</sup> met many a person whose love for Husain has reached them down the centuries as a result and they continue to remember him.

Today, we witnessed first-hand the manner by which two dais have nurtured the souls of Mumineen with the *zikh* of Imam Husain <sup>AS</sup>. We saw and heard, as did Dhirar in Ali, their devotion to this *zikh* and their ability to put the material world into proper perspective to all those who have the honour of hearing their words and embracing their counsel. Most of all, we see and hear their words and counsel today in our Maula, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin <sup>TUS</sup>, and our faith is renewed and our dedication to Imam Husain <sup>AS</sup> rejuvenated. May Allah Ta'ala grant our Maula a life of health and happiness that knows no end.