



# ARBAEEN

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# What is Arbaeen?

Arbaeen (Arabic: الأربعين), revered by the followers of the Ahlulbayt (a) - Prophet Muhammad's family - literally means 'the fortieth' and refers to the fortieth day after the martyrdom of Imam Husayn (a), coinciding with the twentieth day of Safar, the second month in the Islamic calendar. According to *abadith*,<sup>1</sup> performing a pilgrimage to Imam Husayn (a) in Karbala is one of the most pivotal rituals recommended to perform on this day.



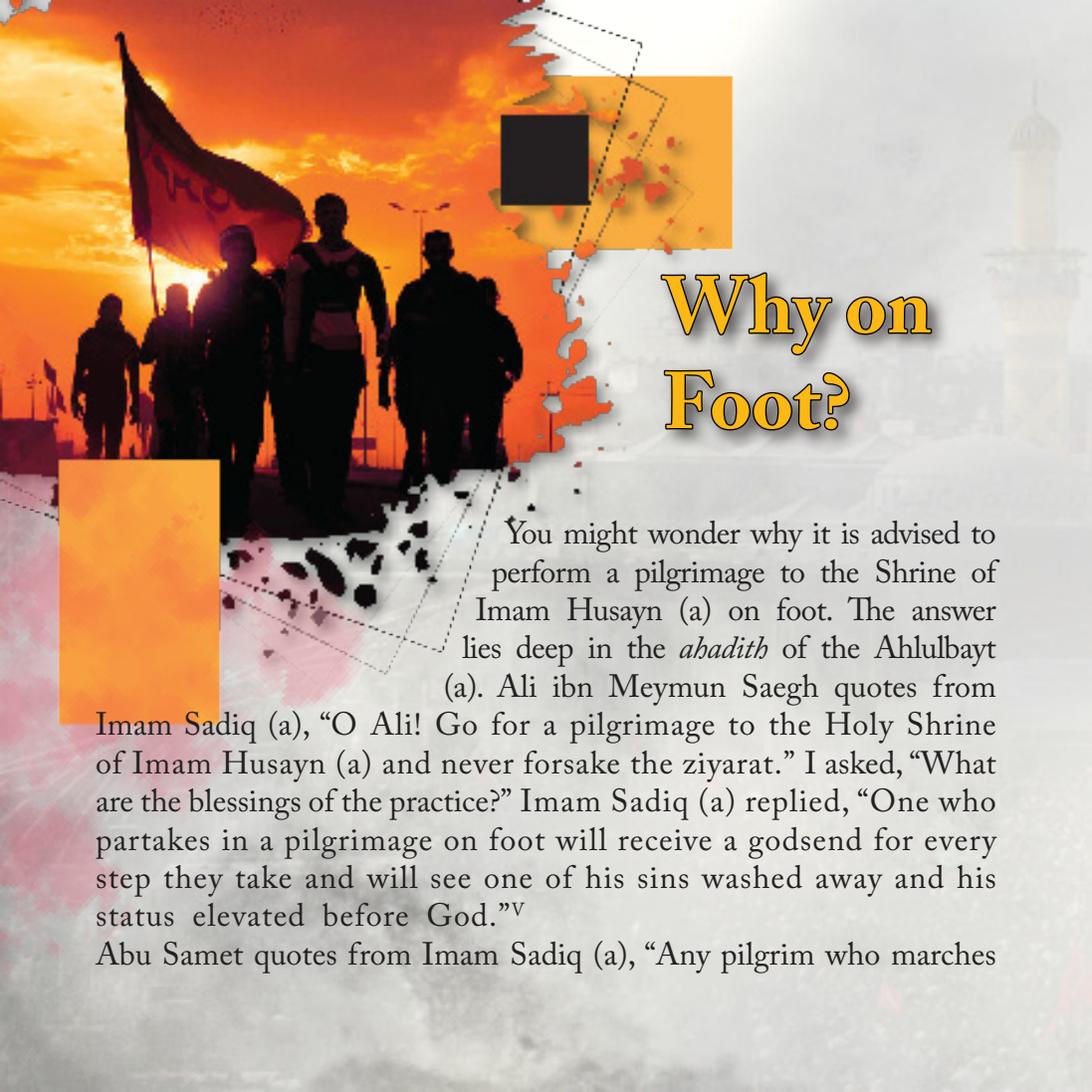
# The History of Ziyarat Arbaeen

The first people who visited the holy grave of Imam Husayn (a) on the day of Arbaeen, were Jabir ibn Abd Allah al-Ansari and his servant Atiyah Kufi, who set foot on the desert of Karbala on the 20th of Safar, AH 61, and performed the practice of ziyarat upon Imam's holy grave, after performing *ghusl*<sup>11</sup> in the Euphrates River. Jabir, one of the companions of Prophet Muhammad (s), had lost his vision at that time.

Therefore, he asked Atiyah to direct him to the holy grave of Imam Husayn (a). When Jabir touched the holy grave with his hands, he became unconscious and collapsed. He regained his consciousness after Atiyah sprinkled water on his face. Jabir exclaimed “Ya Husayn” thrice and said, “Does a friend not heed the call of a fellow companion?” Then he replied to himself and said, “How can you heed my call after they spilt your blood and decapitated your head?”<sup>III</sup>

Based on historical documents, Jabir and Atiyah chanced upon the caravan of captives from the tragedy of Karbala, Imam Sajjad (a), and Lady Zaynab (a). However, there is dispute between historians over the year in which this meeting took place.

Since then, Arbäeen has been considered among Muslims as one of the most important days to perform pilgrimage of Imam Husayn (a). In addition, the infallible Imams took every opportunity to advise believers to benefit from the blessings of performing it. In a quote from Imam Hasan al-Askari (a), the eleventh Shia Imam, he mentioned Ziyarat Arbäeen as one of the indications of a true, devout person.<sup>IV</sup>



# Why on Foot?

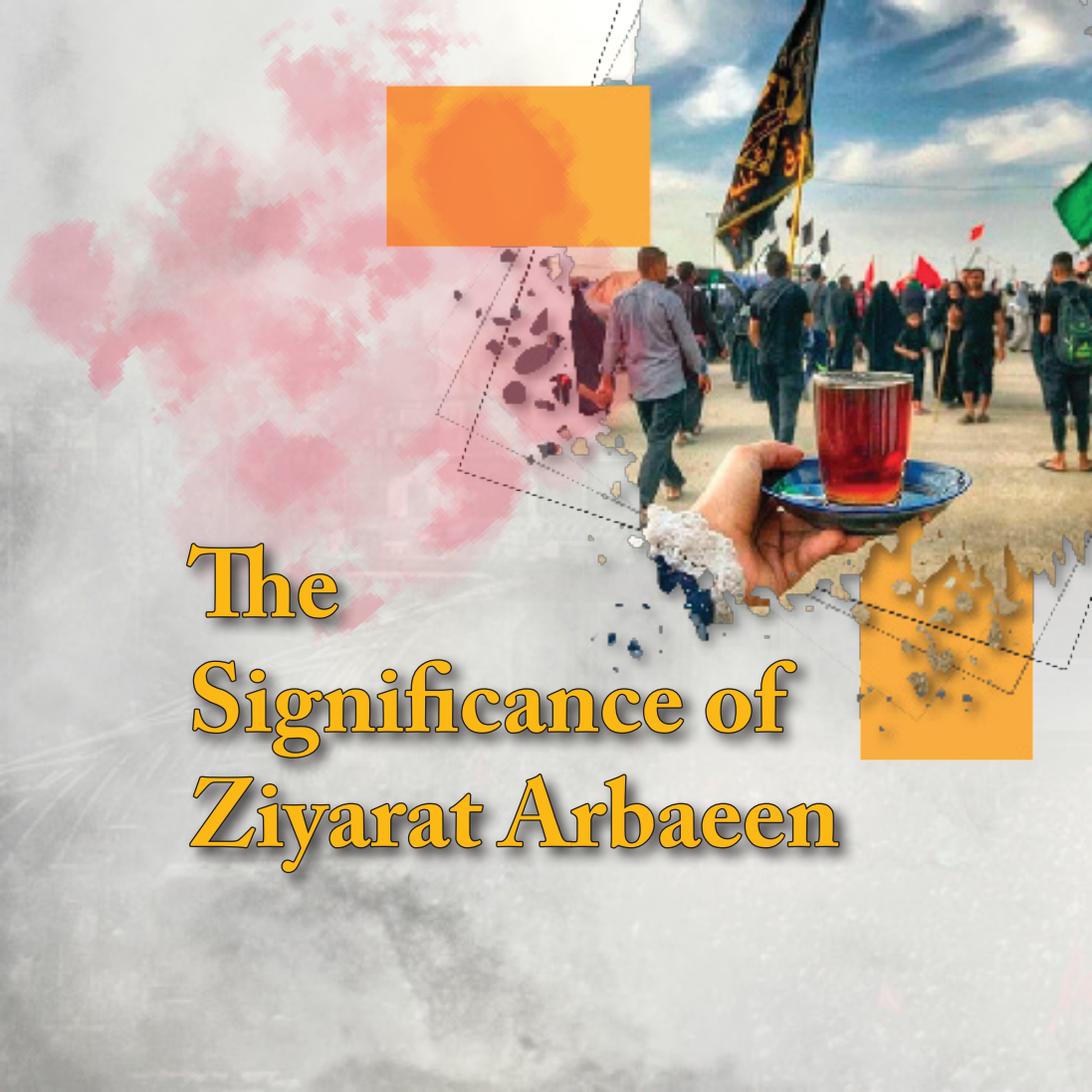
You might wonder why it is advised to perform a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Imam Husayn (a) on foot. The answer lies deep in the *ahadith* of the Ahlulbait (a). Ali ibn Meymun Saegh quotes from Imam Sadiq (a), “O Ali! Go for a pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of Imam Husayn (a) and never forsake the ziyarat.” I asked, “What are the blessings of the practice?” Imam Sadiq (a) replied, “One who partakes in a pilgrimage on foot will receive a godsend for every step they take and will see one of his sins washed away and his status elevated before God.”<sup>v</sup>

Abu Samet quotes from Imam Sadiq (a), “Any pilgrim who marches

to visit the holy Shrine of Imam Husayn (a) will receive a thousand rewards, their rank will be elevated before God a thousand times and a thousand of their sins will be washed away.”<sup>VI</sup>

According to Bashir al-Dahhan, Imam Sadiq (a) told him, “O Bashir! Indeed, when a believer goes to the Shrine of Husayn Ibn Ali (a), and performs ghusl in the Euphrates, while they acknowledge Imam’s right, they will be blessed with the honor of an approved Hajj and a Jihad in the presence of Prophet Muhammad (s) for every step taken.”<sup>VII</sup>

With these quotes in mind, it is noteworthy that not all pilgrims of Arbaeen are equal. Rather, their rewards vary according to each pilgrim’s understanding regarding the high position of the Imam, the significance of ziyarat, their mindfulness and precision while performing it and their conduct during the pilgrimage. Hence, pilgrims are not equal in this sense. One pilgrim may receive one godsend for every step they take, while another pilgrim may receive the honor of a complete Hajj.



# The Significance of Ziyarat Arbaeen

## **1. Arbaeen, the Symbol of Obliging Imam Husayn (a) in the Modern World**

Following this path is indeed parallel to following the path of love and compassion and mourning for the Ahlulbayt (a). Nonetheless, a pilgrim should avoid reducing the march on Arbaeen to a simple good feeling, but rather try to define it as a distinguished global movement. Anyone partaking in the march discovers such a feeling in themselves, that “I am here to oblige Imam Husayn (a).” They are not here to merely remind themselves of a tragic history and mourn, then return home.

Remember the discernment with which you set foot on this path! Converse with your companions and fellow travelers on such greatness and philosophy.

## **2. Arbaeen, a Symbol of Battling Against Injustice, Ignorance and Apathy**

Arbaeen is undoubtedly reminiscent of Imam Husayn’s (a) revolution \_\_a revolution aimed at rising against social injustice, tyranny and people’s ignorance. The tyrants of Imam Husayn’s (a) time made every effort to blur the line between right and wrong, and redefine religious and social

values of that era, according to their own preferences. However, Imam Husayn (a) opposed them and by sacrificing his own life and that of his family for the sake of reviving Islam, he hindered the realization of their vicious ambitions. He strongly held that living under autocracy resembles living in hell. Therefore, he said, “(Under Yazid’s rule) death is nothing but sheer bliss to me, and living in this condition is nothing but misery and shame.”<sup>VIII</sup>



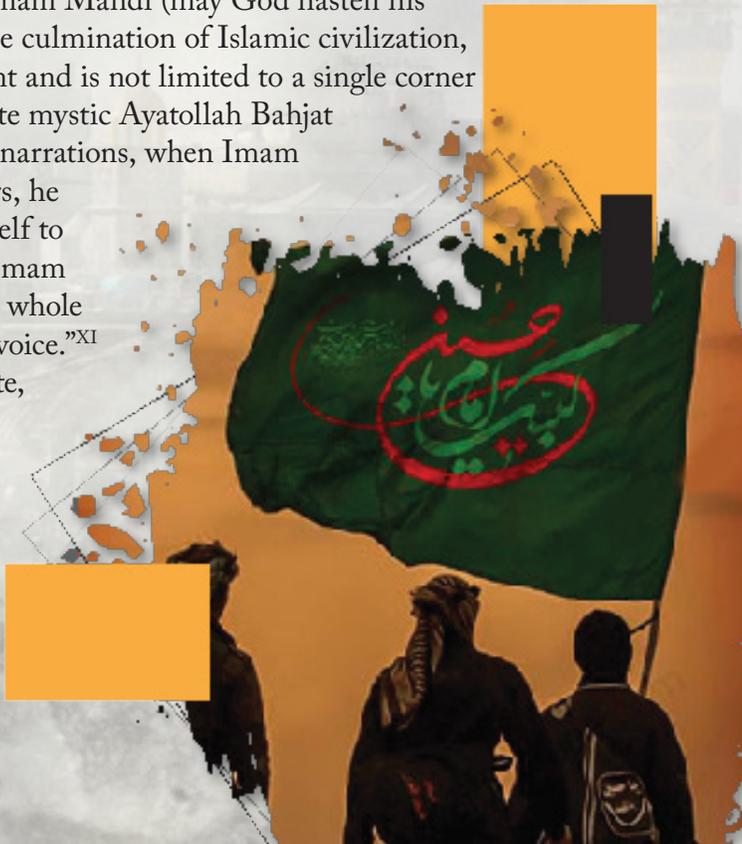
### 3. Arbaeen, a Symbol of Unity While Accepting Ethnic-Regional Differences

Ziyarat Arbaeen welcomes all pilgrims towards the same path and destination, while acknowledging their cultural differences, which is in line with high divine values fostering Tawhid.<sup>IX</sup> For this reason, there are *mawkibs*<sup>X</sup> set up by dear Iraqi hosts on the path for Ziyarat Arbaeen, as well as the new ones run by guest pilgrims from around the world, in accordance with their own cultures. It is noteworthy that on the march for Ziyarat Arbaeen, all individuals and ethnic groups with various cultures and languages, who cannot even communicate verbally with each other, fall under one unified, vigorous, boundless culture as if they are drops of water flowing into an ocean called Arbaeen which embraces all.

## 4. Arbæen, a Scene-Setter for the Reappearance of Imam Mahdi (aj)

The movement of Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance), as the culmination of Islamic civilization, is a global movement and is not limited to a single corner of the world. The late mystic Ayatollah Bahjat said, "According to narrations, when Imam Mahdi (aj) reappears, he will introduce himself to the world through Imam Husayn (a), and the whole world will hear his voice."<sup>XI</sup>

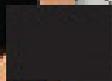
It is important to note, that before that time comes, the whole world will have to know about Imam Husayn (a); so they can perceive Imam Mahdi's (aj) words.



The Arbaeen march is the best opportunity to introduce Imam Husayn (a) to the people of the world.

For now, Ziyarat Arbaeen is a regional movement in which people, mainly Muslims from about twenty countries partake; but it is expected to develop according to its global vision. Given the fact that people around the world are revolted by disparity and disunity, and that they are innately driven to benevolence, if the pilgrims of Arbaeen make effort to pursue the establishment of this paradigm and put across the message of “حُبِّ الحسين عليه السلام يجمعنا”, (“the love of Husayn (a) unites us”), in the not-too-distant future, Ziyarat Arbaeen will be known to everyone as an impressive global movement.

# A Few Suggestions for Those Left Behind



## **1. Reciting Ziyarat Arbaeen**

If you are not able to partake in the march for Arbaeen, try to honor it at home or the workplace. It is suggested that you recite Ziyarat Arbaeen at noon and in the afternoon on Safar 20th together with your family or friends.

## **2. Making Part of Your Job Services Free for the Sake of Imam Husayn (a)**

For some days or on the day of Arbaeen only, you can provide people with free service and tell them it is for the sake of Imam Husayn (a).

### **3. Providing Financial Support for Those Unable to Afford Participating in the Arbaeen Procession**



If, for business or family-related reasons, you cannot participate in Ziyarat Arbaeen, try to finance the trip for the people who cannot afford the journey, and help them take part in the march to the holy Shrine of Imam Husayn (a). If you cannot bear the expenses alone, you can do it in collaboration with others.

## **4. Organizing a Symbolic March in Your Own Neighborhood**

One of the best things to do in order to preserve the culture of Ziyarat Arbaeen, is staging a symbolic march on a predetermined path on the day of Arbaeen in your own neighborhood. This march can be held using symbols related to Ziyarat Arbaeen. Do not forget to set up *mawkibs* on the path to serve the participants and the general public. This tremendously helps people feel like they are in the actual Arbaeen march.

# The Text of Ziyarat Arbaeen with Translation

Ziyarat Arbaeen is cited in authentic sources, including al-Shaykh al-Tusi's 'Misbah al-Mutahajjid' and 'Tahzib al-Ahkam' as quoted by Safwan Ibn Mihran al-Jammal.<sup>xii</sup> He quotes Imam Sadiq (a), "To perform Ziyarat Arbaeen, which should be read when the sun rises during the day, you must say:



السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ وَلِيِّ اللَّهِ وَحَبِيبِهِ، السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ  
خَلِيلِ اللَّهِ وَنَجِيِّهِ، السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ صَفِيِّ اللَّهِ وَابْنِ  
صَفِيِّهِ، السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ الْحُسَيْنِ الْمَظْلُومِ الشَّهِيدِ  
السَّلَامُ عَلَىٰ أُسَيْرِ الْكُرْبَاتِ وَقَتِيلِ الْعَبْرَاتِ

Peace be on the favorite of Allah, Peace be on the beloved friend of Allah, His distinguished hero! Peace be on the choicest confidant of Allah, sincerely attached precisely like his father! Peace be on Hussain, who gave his life in the way of Allah, a martyr, underwent untold hardships Peace be on the hostage surrounded by the-tightening circle of sorrow and grief, killed by a horde of savages.



اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ وَرِيثُكَ وَإِنِّي وَرِيثُكَ، وَصَفِيُّكَ وَإِنِّي صَفِيُّكَ،  
 الْفَائِزُ بِكَرَامَتِكَ، أَكْرَمْتَهُ بِالشَّهَادَةِ، وَحَبَوْتَهُ بِالسَّعَادَةِ، وَاجْتَبَيْتَهُ بِطَيْبِ  
 الْوِلَادَةِ، وَجَعَلْتَهُ سَيِّدًا مِنَ السَّادَةِ، وَقَائِدًا مِنَ الْقَادَةِ، وَذَائِدًا مِنَ الذَّادَةِ  
 وَأَعْطَيْتَهُ مَوَارِيثَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ، وَجَعَلْتَهُ حُجَّةً عَلَى خَلْقِكَ مِنَ الْأَوْصِيَاءِ،

O my Allah I give witness that beyond a shadow of doubt he is Thy favorite and choicest confidant, who enjoys Thy confidence and favor, precisely like his father!

Thou looked upto him and elected him in Thy cause, picked and chose him for the good fortune, selected for him the best purified parents, appointed him guardian, leader, and defender of rights, a true representative (inheritor and progenitor) of guardians, leaders and defenders of rights, gave him much and more from the inheritance of the Prophets, put him forward as a decisive argument, along with the other successors (of the Holy Prophet-the twelve Imams) to the mankind. He met





فَأَعْدَرَ فِي الدُّعَاءِ، وَمَنَحَ النُّصْحَ وَبَدَّلَ مُهْجَتَهُ فَيْكَ لَيْسْتَ تَقْدَّ عِبَادَكَ  
مِنَ الْجَهَالَةِ، وَخَيْرَةَ الضَّلَالَةِ، وَقَدْ تَوَازَرَ عَلَيْهِ مَنَ غَرْتَهُ الدُّنْيَا، وَبَاعَ  
حَظَّهُ بِالْأَرْدَلِ الْأَدْنَى، وَشَرَى آخِرَتَهُ بِالثَّمَنِ الْأَوْكَسِ، وَتَغَطَّرَسَ وَتَرَدَّى فِي  
هُوَاهُ، وَأَسْخَطَكَ وَأَسْخَطَ نَبِيَّكَ وَأَطَاعَ مِنْ عِبَادِكَ أَهْلَ الشُّقَاقِ وَالنَّفَاقِ

with deadly dangers, acted justly and fairly, made use of everything belonging to him to pay full attention to give sincere advice, took pains, made every effort and put his heart, mind, soul and life at the disposal of Thy mission to liberate the people from the yoke of ignorance and evil of bewilderment, but an evildoer, deceived with empty hopes of mean and worthless worldly gains, had pressed heavily on him, and sold out his share (eternal bliss) for the meanest and lowest bargain, betrayed his «day of judgment» for a vulgar return, took pride in insolence, fell into the fathom \_\_well of silly stupid follies, provoked Thee and Thy Prophet to anger, did as the harsh discordant, the hypocrite, the heavily burdened

وَحَمَلَةَ الْأَوْزَارِ، الْمُسْتَوْجِبِينَ النَّارِ، فَجَاهَدَهُمْ فِيكَ صَابِرًا مُخْتَسِبًا حَتَّى

سُفِكَ فِي طَاعَتِكَ دَمُهُ وَاسْتَبِيحَ حَرِيمُهُ؛ اللَّهُمَّ فَالْعَنُهُمْ لَعْنًا

وَبِيْلًا، وَعَذِّبْهُمْ عَذَابًا أَلِيمًا. السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، السَّلَامُ

عَلَيْكَ يَا ابْنَ سَيِّدِ الْأَوْصِيَاءِ، أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ أَمِينُ اللَّهِ وَابْنُ أَمِينِهِ،

عِشْتَ سَعِيدًا، وَمَضَيْتَ حَمِيدًا، وَمُتَّ فَقِيدًا، مَظْلُومًا شَهِيدًا

bearers of sin, condemned to Hellfire, advised to

him, however, he (the Holy Imam), steadily, rightly

and justly coped With them, till, in Thy obedience,

gave his life after which his family was set adrift.

O my Allah, therefore, condemn them to hell as a

denunciation and conviction; and crack-down on

them with a painful Punishment.

Peace be on you O the son of the Messenger of

Allah! Peace be on you O the son of the first of the

successors (of the Holy Prophet)! I bear witness that

Allah put faith in you like He had full confidence

in your father, and that you always looked for and

collected good and virtue, lived a highly praiseworthy

life and departed from this world a martyr, forsaken

and abused;

I bear witness that Allah will promptly fulfill the





وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ مُنْجِرٌ مَا وَعَدَكَ، وَمُؤَلِّكٌ مَنْ خَذَلَكَ، وَمُعَذِّبٌ  
مَنْ قَتَلَكَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ وَقَّيْتَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ، وَجَاهَدْتَ فِي سَبِيلِهِ  
حَتَّى أَتَاكَ الْيَقِينُ، فَلَعَنَ اللَّهُ مَنْ قَتَلَكَ، وَلَعَنَ اللَّهُ  
مَنْ ظَلَمَكَ، وَلَعَنَ اللَّهُ أُمَّةً سَمِعَتْ بِذَلِكَ فَرَضِيَتْ بِهِ؛  
اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُكَ أَنِّي وَلِيٌّ لِمَنْ وَالَاهُ، وَعَدُوٌّ  
لِمَنْ عَادَاهُ، يَا أَبَى أَنْتَ وَأُمِّى يَا ابْنَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

promise, He made to you, and destroy those who left you helpless and punish those who killed you; I bear witness that you kept your promise made with Allah, and strived in His way till what was certain came upon you, so curse of Allah be on those who killed you, curse of Allah be on those who oppressed you, curse of Allah be on the people who came to know and approved.

O my Allah be my witness that I make friends with those who love him and oppose those who deny him. I, my father and mother, are at your disposal O the son of the Messenger of Allah. I know and I bear witness that you were «light» in the sublime

أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ كُنْتَ نُورًا فِي الْأَضْلَابِ الشَّامِخَةِ، وَالْأَرْحَامِ الْمُطَهَّرَةِ،  
لَمْ تَتَّجَسَّكَ الْجَاهِلِيَّةُ بِأَنْجَاسِهَا، وَلَمْ تَلْبِسْكَ الْمُدْتَلِهَمَاتُ مِنْ ثِيَابِهَا  
وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ مِنْ دَعَائِمِ الدِّينِ، وَأَرْكَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَمَعْقِلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ،  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ الْإِمَامُ الْبُرْهَانِيُّ الرَّضِيُّ الرَّزْكَانِيُّ الْهَادِي الْمَهْدِيُّ  
وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ الْأُيُومَةَ مِنْ وَدَيْكَ كَلِمَةُ التَّقْوَى، وَأَعْلَامُ  
الْهُدَى، وَالْعُرْوَةُ الْوُثْقَى، وَالْحُجَّةُ عَلَى أَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا

loins and in the pure wombs, never touched you the  
dirt of ignorance, nor ever obscurity concealed you  
in its folds;

I bear witness that you are the pillar of «Deen»,  
support of the Muslims, refuge of the faithful; I bear  
witness that you are a truthful, well-aware, content,  
intelligent, rightly guided guide (Imam); I bear  
witness that the Imams among your descendants are  
the symbols of «conscious piety» and signs of «true  
guidance», the «safe handle»-Islam, and the decisive  
arguments over mankind;

I declare positively that I have full faith in you





وَأَشْهَدُ أَنِّي بِكُمْ مُؤْمِنٌ، وَيُؤَيِّبُكُمْ مُوقِنٌ، بِشَرَايِعِ دِينِي، وَخَوَاتِيمِ عَمَلِي،  
وَقَلْبِي لِقَلْبِكُمْ سَلْمٌ، وَأَمْرِي لِأَمْرِكُمْ مُتَّبِعٌ، وَنُصْرَتِي لَكُمْ مُعَدَّةٌ حَتَّى  
يَأْذَنَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ، فَمَعَكُمْ مَعَكُمْ لَامَعَ عَدُوُّكُمْ، صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ،  
وَعَلَى أَرْوَاحِكُمْ وَأَجْسَادِكُمْ، وَشَاهِدِكُمْ وَغَائِبِكُمْ، وَظَاهِرِكُمْ وَبَاطِنِكُمْ  
آمِينَ رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

and I know for certain that you shall return. I am, fully committed to the laws of my religion, certain of my deeds, my mind and heart ready for your return, and my affairs carried out in the light of your instructions, till Allah gives you permission, together with you, along with you, not at the same time with your enemies. Blessings of Allah be on you, on your souls, on your bodies when you are visible, when you are invisible, on your perceivable aspects, on your innermost genius be it so, O Lord of the worlds.”

# References:

- I. Narrations attributed to the Prophet (s) and his household.
- II. The ritual of full body washing for purification in the Islamic practice
- III. Bisharat-ul-Mustafa, Imad al-din Tabari, p. 74
- IV. Al-Mazar, al-Shaykh al-Mufid, p. 53
- V. Kamil al-Ziyarat, Ibn Qulawayh, p.134
- VI. Ibid, p. 133
- VII. Al-Amali, al-Shaykh al-Tusi, p. 201
- VIII. Tuhaf al-Uqul, Ibn Shu'bah, p. 245
- IX. Unity of God.





X. *Mawqib* is a rest stop constructed to give service to pilgrims

XI. <https://bahjat.ir/fa/content/1104>

XII. Misbah al-Mutahajjid, al-Shaykh al-Tusi, p. 788;  
Tahzib al-Ahkam, ---, Vol. 6, p. 113



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