

# KARBALA

## THEN & NOW



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# EDITORIAL

Behold! The first publication of the Writer's Club: Karbala Then and Now Journal. A collection of poems and essays submitted by the participants of the writing competition "Karbala; Then & Now" which was conducted in Muharram 1431 AH.

The competition attracted around 150 registrants, out of which 79 entries were actually submitted, and 45 of them qualified to be judged. Disqualification was based on entries not meeting the criterion that was specifically mentioned in the registration slip, like plagiarism and not meeting word count criteria. Overall the response was quite pleasing, and the content submitted was simply amazing!

We would sincerely like to thank the judges Mrs Nasrin Tejani, Mrs Shaida Abdulrasul and Mrs Rema Khimji, for doing this tremendous job of judging the competition, and doing it so well. JazakAllahu khayran katheera!

Our utmost gratitude goes to Babul Ilm Library, under whose banner we conducted this competition as the Writers Club. Your support throughout the competition and throughout the year is truly appreciated.

A big thank-you to our Jamaat, for allowing us to use the resources and accommodating us in every way possible, to further the competition. Your support was invaluable!

We would also like to thank our kind Sponsor for enabling us to attract such a good response for the competition, thanks to their generous donation. From us, these are only mere words of gratitude, for surely your greatest rewards lie with Him Alone.

And lastly but definitely not any lesser, Ahsante sana to the committee members of the Writer's Club - Gents Chapter & Ladies Chapter, for your tireless efforts during the competition and after. You definitely made the ride smoother!

Special thanks to eliasdesigner for the calligraphy used on the front cover & Kamran Naqvi for the painting of Hz. Abbas (as) street used on the back cover

We all learnt a lot from organizing this competition, and hope to carry the experience of the do's and the don'ts in future.

May our efforts be accepted by our Aimmah's (a.s)

# JUDGES COMMENTS

*“The idea of the organizers to make people reflect, draw lessons and connect to the present is indeed commendable and much needed today. And that too for the participants to present it as a poem was a challenge too. What an inspiring way to bring out latent talents. Kudos to the team! The poems were well thought out and expressed. The connections made were definitely 'kabile tarif'. Mashallah we have some budding thinkers, poem writers. Such creativity should be encouraged more. Bless you for your efforts and thank you for the privileged opportunity.”*

Mrs. Nasrin Tejani

*“In being asked to judge the entries for the competition, I was impressed, to say the least, at the caliber of entrants and their literary works. Having been exposed to anonymous work submitted from a variety of age groups, I was pleasantly surprised when a division winner was over the age of 45! The importance of literacy should be emphasized in every community, and it exercises like these that allow our community to give recognition, as well as encourage participation to improve our overall literary ability. People from different educational back grounds and ages were given the opportunity to participate exemplifying a wide range of abilities that we have present in our community. These abilities were given the opportunity to flourish! Over all, the entrants performed incredibly well, writing both touching, passionate and technically apt pieces on their thoughts of Karbala: then and now.”*

Mrs Rema Khimji

# POEMS

Karbala; Then & Now

When Islam was in danger in the enemies hands,  
To protect it rose Husain in the Karbala plains,  
He fought the oppressors aided by his kinsmen and devoted friends,  
Who were brought up and groomed by their brave and virtuous women.

The men died fighting with lances and swords,  
By the dead bodies of their beloveds the women swore,  
To carry out their mission and Islam to restore.

To re-establish the declining Islam again when Khomeini rose,  
For his army from the laps of brave mother's true soldiers he chose.

Today all over the globe as Islam is being attacked again,  
Our Imam is in pain,  
From his confined occultation he wails.

Rise, O women! Shedding the shackles of worldly vains,  
Gather up your fallen veil  
And wake up your slumbering men  
Defend Islam again as had done Husain.

That was Karbala then,  
We have Karbala now, on our hands.

**Rubab A. Dhalla**

Winner [20+ Poem Category]



The moment in history that has left its influence on different nations  
The day that witnessed the prophet's grandson's brutal assassination  
This awakened the ignorant, to the truth and perfection known as Islam  
That the former constitution attempted to destabilize and cause harm  
The tragedy of Karbala is recognized as a message to the entire creation  
It illustrates the triumph of good over evil  
The virtuous over the wicked  
It emits pure Islam to the world  
Bringing this peaceful religion to humanity  
Call to mind the historic event and submit to the path of certainty  
The black flags and our mourning is an indication  
Of our sympathy that will continue to persist in all the coming generations

**Aliabbas Rajan**

Karbala – It was then Karbala an unknown destination  
now the most visited  
As my Imam Husayn lies there  
with his brother Abbas and his friends.

Karbala unknown destination where Nehre Furat runs but no drop of water for  
my Imam  
Aah... Ali Asgher, Ali Akber – all of his friends lie there – oh- Karbala the  
unknown destination.

Year after year, now and then you are with us – so is Karbala – unknown  
destination  
Remains in our mind and heart in every hour, every year after year.

Oh! Karbala my heart lies with you Karbala

### **Sherbanu Bhalloo**



Karbala then, a revolution of its time  
Karbala now, a continuous revolution  
Karbala then, the platform for Al-Husayn  
To unveil not Yazid but the system of Yazidiyat

O Khomeini! You took the lessons from Karbala  
Your insight gave the true Islam success  
With your strong belief in Husayn's footsteps

Karbala then was not a miracle, no compromise  
But a truthful sincere sacrifice  
Victory was not based on number of warriors  
But rigid companions with real insight

Karbala then needed a Husayn  
The world today needs a Mahdi  
We salute you O! Ansaars of Husayn  
So is the Mahdi waiting for his 313

Each of us have a Karbala within us  
Striving a battle of right over wrong  
Karbala gave freedom to mankind  
But poor man a slave of his own desires

O Allah! Keep us steadfast and guide us always  
O Husayn of today we need you desperately  
To bring peace on this earth so truth shall prevail

### **Kaneez Dharamsi**



A Karbala in my heart, a Karbala in my mind,  
A Karbala in your heart, a Karbala in your mind,  
That is how O Muslims, you can overcome  
The oppression you find.

Discard O Muslims your foolish whims,  
Open your eyes, face the reality grim.  
A massacred baby in Palestine;  
A destroyed village in Afghanistan;  
An orphaned child in Iraq;  
Muslims killing Muslims in Pakistan.

The perfect religion of our beloved Prophet (PBUH)  
In shambles today, fragmented and distorted.  
The faith for which Husayn (AS) gave his head,  
The media calls it a source of dread.  
The truth and justice for which Zaynab (AS)  
Braved the courts of Kufa and Shaam,  
In our conscience no longer rings bells of alarm.

O muslims, the Imam of the time  
Is echoing his grandfather's plea;  
“Hal min nasirin yansurna.”  
Awaken the Husayns' and Zaynabs' lying dormant inside you  
And you can also be part of the 313.

**Atiya Sumar**



A year once more has passed, and the month returns  
Full of sadness and heavy heart; "Muharram!"  
We know it is that of tragedy,  
No one can forget what happened.  
The young as well as the old,  
The sacrifices made by our Imam, his household & companions  
Who stood rooted when the candle blew!  
What do we gain by just remembering?  
If we don't make parallels with today's world  
And learn what our Imam wanted us to learn  
Is it not apt to say that the war still continues?  
The rampant killings all over the world now  
The oppression our Bibis faced, their veils snatched!  
Sisters all over the world tortured for their hijab  
Deprived of their rights to religion and its sacredness  
O my fellow Muslims what happened in Karbala  
Continues to happen in the present  
For we see with our own eyes and hear with our ears  
The oppression continues  
Will we be silent?

### Sukaina Najaf



The event of Karbala has always inspired humanity,  
It is indeed one of the miracles by itself.

Centuries have passed by since that tragedy occurred,  
But one feels as it happened recently.

Angels, genies, animals and birds pay homage,  
To the great sacrifice of the King of Martyrs.

Karbala was the struggle between truth and falsehood,  
Husayn was the epitome of sincerity and decency.

He hated hypocrisy, tyranny and display of arrogance,  
Which we must not uphold till our last breath.

Husyan was the defender of the teachings of Islam,  
Islam's existence is due to his great sacrifice.

In this age and time; we must fight for human rights,  
Which are easily trampled upon worldwide.

When today Satan is having his sway upon mankind,  
Human beings must be careful and be on guard.

We must cling to all the teachings of our beloved Master,  
In order to succeed in this world and the next.

### Fatemah Rashid



Karbala – the greatest battle of all times  
... then and now ...

A few pages of History it may be  
A classroom set in a battlefield  
Sad and shameful, not just a mere elegy  
... of Muharram observance or  
Competition in mourning rituals...

But... a paradigm of lifelong humanitarian mission  
A Living voice, inspiration, testimony of a discerning spirit...

A one-in-all lesson satisfying spiritual seekers  
Explained as never before... or... ever after

Worthy to emulate for self reform to the best of abilities  
In confrontation with the Yazid of time...

To salvage the Globe and its perils  
Through a sacrifice symbolizing Responsibility and Spiritualism...  
Creating a tremor in the soul, a tempest to conquer daily struggles  
Forever... like immortal blood in the vein of the Society...

Relentlessly treading the path of truth  
Bequeathing life and luminosity  
Enlightening Humanity be a Manifesto, a perfect Modus Operandi  
Umached in the Annals of History

61 or 1431 AH

“Every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala!”

**Sofia Bharwani**



With the name of Yazid  
When shameless falsehood stood up  
Stood then Husayn emboldened by truth!  
“If the religion of Mohamed,” said he  
“Cannot survive unless I am killed”  
Falsehood then roared and growled, and swords flashed  
But who's scared of swords? Of course not Husayn,  
Not he, not his father, not his brother.  
For who said, “O swords then come take me away”?  
Not Yazid, not his damned father, not his damned grandfather  
Ah alas! I feel too small indeed  
To write on a sacrifice so great  
And what weight my tears carry  
When compared to the blood he shed?  
In front of such towering faith  
Mine feels so puny and meager  
But mind you, Husayn wants us dearly to know  
There's a Yazid today as there was then  
If Husayn saved dear Islam with his holy blood  
Our flood of tears ain't enough to keep up God's words  
If he prayed among shooting arrows  
And we don't even in comfort of AC's!  
They snatched Bibi's veils, but she covered with her hair!  
Who's snipping at and snatching our Hijaabs?  
Mere fashion and temptations?  
God forbid!

**Zainab Virani**



O Karbala, you became holy only after the third Holy Imam Husayn's blood was shed.

Karbala portrays a clash between truth and falsehood, good and evil.  
This is the land of Karbala also known as Nainawa

Karbala, you witnessed godly souls brutally martyred,  
Their bodies beheaded and trampled upon, children and youth martyred and  
deprived of water  
This is the land of Karbala also known as Nainawa

This tragedy of Karbala shook the entire humanity after witnessing highest  
cruelty, oppression and inhumane tortures.

All creatures of the world wept over this bit the merciless and heartless Yazidites  
had neither mercy nor pity on progeny of Muhammad (SAW)  
This is the land of Karbala also known as Nainawa

Today, Karbala waits for the Husayn of our time i.e. our 12<sup>th</sup> Holy Imam Mahdi  
(AJTF)  
The call of Imam on day of Ashura “Hal min Nasirin yansurna” still lingers on  
air and its waiting for our reply.  
This is the land of Karbala also known as Nainawa

We Husayni's have to be united, be strong and firm, loyal to Islam so as to in the  
army of Imam Mahdi in order to take revenge on the killers of Husayn.  
This is the land of Karbala also known as Nainawa

### **Fakharia Versi**



A piece of land, with so much more besides the sand...  
A piece of land, on which lie our dear Abbas' hand...  
A piece of land, on which Islam took its stand...  
A piece of land, with so much more besides the sand.

Oh Karbala, you were then, and you are now,  
The land of sadness, the land of grief,  
For on your plains lies the greatest chief...

Hur wondered of his fate, on one side lies heaven the other hell,  
Then he made up his mind, and with all his courage went to tell,  
Oh Hussain, will you forgive this humble hand,  
Because of me you are, on this land/

How lucky you are, O dear Hur,  
You died with your head having the cloth of nur.

Akber, Awsaja, Aun came for permission,  
We want to give our submission,  
One by one the rose to great elevation,  
And Islam's greatest creation.

Sakina, being so thirsty asked for water,  
Don't worry, my dear daughter,  
Mounting on Zuljana off he went,  
Oh Abbas, leaving his tent.

Beaten with arrows, stabbed with spears,  
Losing his arms and falling down,  
Calling his brother help me, with eyes full of tears...

Then Hussain all alone asked, is there anyone to help me?  
I am the grandson of the Prophet, don't you see?  
Asghar dropped himself as if to say, here I am, take me...  
He was killed, sacrificed only for thee...

Kullu yaumin Ashura, Kullu ardhin Karbala,  
Every day is Ashura, Every land is Karbala...  
These words will always remain...  
For today and tomorrow's domain...  
Karbala, you were then, and you are now...  
The land of sorrow, the land of grief,  
For on your plains lies the greatest chief...



My eyes turn red,  
My face directed upward,  
The moon's sighting said,  
The Islamic year moves another step forward.

A tear trickles down my cheeks,  
The Imambargah is full of wails,  
The zakir says “of sorrow are these weeks”  
We must enjoin good and ensure batil fails.

The message of Karbala,  
Is that our tears are to clean out our hearts,  
To express grief in these days, especially Ashura,  
Is to truly show where lay our hearts.

Imam Husain, the intercessor of our prophet's Ummah,  
Gave up everything to enable us, the truth from batil, to discern,  
Making the right path clear and at 'ma fi dhimmah'  
So those who persist in the way of Yazid will burn!

Als! It took just a very short while,  
As we came out of the majalis and dispersed,  
For us, one our faces, to develop a smile,  
And even join hands with the very people we cursed!

We may curse a dhalim and do dhulm ourselves,  
We may cry for Hussein but forget our duties, the rest,  
Be sure, if so, we're fooling none but ourselves,  
For Allah did not give man two hearts in his chest.

**Dr. Mazaher H Jaffer**



Let's step into time, past a mist of centuries ago,  
When colors of good and evil were being muddled,  
Ablaze was set adornment of virtue – and lo,  
All Islamic values were disheveled.

Amidst such turmoil a pure one dared to take stand in might,  
When all had succumbed to the tyrant Yazeed,  
Thus the events of Karbala came into light,  
As Husayn restored all Islamic elements with his heroic deeds.

Now behold the present; what has befallen us once more?  
Threatened once again is Islam's call,  
Another Husayn needs to restore the balance as before,  
and to banish evil once for all.

But the Karbala now, is more intense than back then,  
As now comes the zenith of immorality's lore,  
As we of those who shall fall prey to its conmen?  
Or are we those who shall prevail, like the 72 have before?

**Zainab Sheriff**

Winner

9 - 20 Poem Category



Kerbala has got so many lessons  
Compatriots like Hur and Wahad  
Contemplating on heaven and world  
The quest of successful life

The faith was very strong  
Deaths taste was very sweet  
Fighting corruption, falsehood and idolatry  
To save the religion of Islam

The throne is still theirs  
Islams's practices are fast spread

With the legacy left behind  
Kerbala's tragedy never forgotten

Our eyes keep on crying  
Our hands keep on biting  
Whenever kerbala is being remembered  
Sadness and grief abides us


Twelve days is all remembered  
The great tragedy of kerbala  
Forgotten are the important lessons  
To implement in our daily lives

The worldly life is taking over  
Busy schedules, money and leisure  
The time has surely come  
To rise and act as Husseinies

The difference is quite clear  
As like the day and night  
For the people to reflect  
Between kerbala THEN and NOW!

**Aliabbas M Nasser**

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The coolness of the prophet's eyes,  
Once the fruit of the prophet's heart,  
His sajda the prophet prolonged,  
Because Husayn, the leader of the youth of heaven, was on his back.  
Butchered by the very pagans his grandfather humanized.

Tortured watching his baby shot dead in his arms,  
Slaughtered thirsty on the plains of Karbala,  
His family dragged from Shaam from Naynawa,  
His family snatched of their dignity and charm.  
The day arrived and the soldiers of Husayn,  
Gave their lives for the son of Ameerul Mo'mineen,



Their hearts pure and clean,  
Their minds focused on saving Muhammad's deen.

From the plains of Karbala,  
A cry comes through centuries,  
Is there anyone to assist us?  
Millions today, are here to respond,  
Labbaik ya Hussain.

All he fought for, all he stood for, means something to all of us and can be applied in our lives today.

**Ali Asad M Esmail**



On 61 AH, a tragedy took place,  
A tragedy that left upon history a trace.  
The story lives on upto date,  
About this battle that determined Islam's fate.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram, Aba Abdillah faced blood shed,  
His family were neither given water nor were they fed.  
Umr Saad gave his orders, being upto no good,  
“Seize all the water, and seize all the food.”

Comapnions, family and friends rode on,  
Their bravery and faith clearly shown.  
Abbas, Asgher and Akber all gave up their life,  
They saved Islam through struggle and strife.

If it wasn't enough, they marched their ladies in the scorching heat,  
Some on bare-back camels, some on bare feet.  
No one seemd to care about our 4<sup>th</sup> Imam's pain,  
As he struggled on with the binding and the sharp neck pain.

Despite Zainab and Sakina being locked in jail,  
Their mission was required and they did not fail.  
We learnt to fight injustice from Husain,

From Zainab we learn patience and pain.

When the Yazid of today attacks our religion,  
We sit back and blame it on the country's constitution.  
Husainiat was meant for every time and place,  
Sword, pen or tongue, pick it up and show your face.

When America and Israel kill Muslims in great number,  
We are unaware, deep in our slumber.  
Take Karbala as an example and oppose,  
Through boycott and unity, we will be rid of these foes.

We must adopt Karbala in our heart and mind,  
Discrepancies within ourselves we must find.  
Remove these and be ready to fight,  
For the Mahdi, be a soldier of the path that's right.

May the Almighty grant us the chance to support the Guide,  
We must be pious and brave, and not run away and hide.  
Peace be upon the king of Martyrs,  
Lessons we should adopt and together shed tears!

Assalamu alyka ya Aba Abdillah!

**Hussein Karim Manji**



Peace be upon you, Oh Aba Abdillah, and the ones who achieved martyrdom on  
the plains of karbala,  
Peace be upon those who made paradise your destination from earth.

Oh the ones who weep for Aba Abdillah, his family and his supporters,  
“Evil *was* given more priority than Truth” was the requirement of Karbala  
Through the blood and words of a vicious army, Islam gained its victory.

Today, once again, ““Evil *is* given more priority than Truth”!  
The battle is fought in every second of our lives,  
Isn't everyday Ashura, A battle fought between truth and evil?

Isn't every land Karbala, A land which has pain and hardship?

Oh you who lament!  
Wake up!!  
before it's too late.

Follow the footsteps of those who gave everything for the lord,  
Indeed every land is Ashura and everyday is Karbala.

### **Fatema Kassam**



Lying there amongst the dirt  
Not one cares, not one sees,  
Short lives some had, others long,  
All slain by the heartless beats,  
The holy heads murdered mercilessly

Husayn calls out, “is there any one to help me?”  
But not one cares, not one sees,  
Why they ask?  
You see..., they are heartless  
They laugh as they slaughter  
Can they be forgiven?  
Friends and family tortured mercilessly,  
No, they are damned

The call from the holy lips still ring in our wars  
Are we responding?  
Yes or no, is for you to decide,  
The holy blood and Islam still lives amongst us  
Are we keeping alive what Husayn gave his life for?  
They say, “Every day is Ashura and every land in Karbala

### **Zamina Ladha**

Karbala the land of the martyrs, the land of the oppressed, the land where in the name of God, for the sake of Islam, Husayn gave the greatest sacrifice not by his hands but with the members of his kin and many of his friends.

Thirsty and hungry they were mercilessly killed, their tents were burnt and veils were snatched, their families were made captives from Karbala to Kufa to Sham.

The land from where Islam got a new name, a new identity, the land where till today the sand turns red on the day of Ashura, for mourning the great sacrifice by the prophet's grand son

The land which millions visit to pay their tribute and which till today awaits the Mahdi to take revenge for the injustice that took place on its plains.

### **Sabiha Jivraj**



O land of Karbala, send your salutations to the heir of the successor of Allah,

Meaning address your greetings to Husayn Ibn Aly from whose blood your ground absorbed, and now has earned the identity of khaake shifa-the healing earth.

Karbala then was not but now is the curse from the hearts of Zainab and Kulthoom,

Karbala relates the voices of that era of innocently killed,  
Karbala is teaching and university of humanity,  
With pride, the place where all needs and desires are fulfilled.

Not then but now is the completion of islam and shariyah and is a must for every mu'min to long for visiting Karbala.

### **Aiman Alibhai**



It is now 1369 years since the tragedy of Karbala happened,  
It was a fight for truth and to save the precious right of Islam

Yazeed told imam to give his heads or hand  
Now America tells Iran to give up nuclear energy

Yazeed of today is Israel  
Husayn of today is Iran and hizbullah  
Yazeed dint give water to any,  
Israel is doing the same

Abbas went to get water Yazeed said no and cut his arms  
Now Israel kills those who help Palestine

Muawiyah told Yazeed not to shed blood of Husayn  
Yazeed was drunk and ordered it without fear and pain

Israel shed the blood of innocent Palestinians  
Who were peaceful in their country without a crime

If all this continues we need our savior who will come and bring peace  
Ya Imam Mahdi Al-Ajal! Al-Ajal! Al-Ajal!

### **Mubarekah Dharamsi**



A land unknown dignified by the blood of the martyrs,  
The constant companion of the virtuous,  
The ideology that motivates the soldiers of The Savior,  
The land that the loves crave for a sight of,  
The land that turns into free men.

The land that relentlessly cries out for the rights of the oppressed, the son of  
Fatimah gave everything to attain the pleasure of The Creator,  
His sword was justice, his sight mercy, his actions benevolent,  
His hands kindness and his every step freedom for humanity

The land that challenges the tyrants of all time.

The pure companions who considered nothing too great sacrifice for Islam,  
Where is the great spirit of Habib, Hurr, Wahab and Qays?

Are they lost to us until the time that the earth shall be filled with peace and  
justice?  
Or do they live on unrecognized, losing their lives to the Yazeed of the time  
giving life to humanity?

### Aatiqua Nanji



Karbala  
The land on which every prophet wept  
The land on which holy blood was shed  
The land which stores many secrets  
The land on which thirst was killing  
But yet the believers were killing  
The land on which sounded like Ali testifying  
The land in which religion of Muhammad glorifying  
The land of which the tyrant was defying  
The land which teaches us no to fear  
The land which rewards each tear  
The land on which al-Mahdi is grieving  
The land on which salaams are sending  
The land on which our pledge needs renewing  
Oh Muslims are you listening  
Oh Shias are you hearing  
It is not enough only crying  
It requires changing

### Sakina Rattansi



Karbala then and now  
Karbala yesterday and Karbala today,  
  
It's not a matter of time, days, or years  
The tragedy will always be remembered,

The sacrifices made by Imam Husayn, his family, friends and companions,

Was a fight against the truth?

Karbala when people were still ignorant on the basic knowledge of the world,  
Karbala today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century the era of technology,

Karbala when America was yet not be discovered,  
Karbala today when America is fully known,

Karbala the cruelest tragedy ever known,  
Karbala the powerful event that will be mourned for forever,

Karbala was an event, involving truths against falsehood, beliefs versus disbelief,  
oppressed versus oppressor, no matter the cost

Qad qutilal Husayn 'bi Karbala  
Qad zubihal Husayn 'bi Karbala

**Sajida Dhalla**



Karbala, a tale of eternal struggle,  
An epic of heroism not just a mere battle

Inclined to sacrifice his life, friends and family,  
Was the noble Husayn so willingly,

He preferred a death of dignity,  
Over a life of humility,

Karbala was then a lesson,  
That taught us to be firm in our decision,

Evoked forever will be this event in history,  
When the heroes of Islam showed their bravery,

With courage in their eyes  
Stood against lies

They feared not death  
Even during their last breath

Karbala now remains not just a memory  
But a model of path of loyalty

Succeeded the Holy Imam in his mission  
To Allah accomplishing total submission

Rescued Islam from extinction  
For the Muslim ummah to attain salvation

Karbala revealed the true purpose of existence,  
Pleasing Allah and accounting for the life hereafter

### **Amira Baliram**



Muawiya died, so Yazid came to power.  
It was said he was worse than his father.  
Yazid forced Husayn to give him allegiance.  
Imam said he would rather die so as to save Islam.

This is the story of Karbala...

Muslim bin Aqeel was the first to go down.  
He got thrown off a rooftop, And dragged through the town.

Hur was bad, but then became good.  
He swore he would fight, Until he no longer could.

Then came Ali Akber, an 18 year old man.  
A wound in the heart, and he died in the sand

Aun and Muhamed came after him,  
Then came Qasim the son of Hassan.  
He was just 14 but he fought like a lion  
But then he was surrounded, and attacked with much force,



So much that he fell off his horse.

“Oh my uncle Abbas please get me some water”  
How could he say no when she was just like his daughter?  
First his left hand, then his right.  
Only the witnesses could see him fight.

The 6 month old baby died in the arms of Husayn.  
Doesn't Yazid have any shame?  
Doe he not know how much he inflicted the pain?  
And all for his selfish gain.  
This is the story of Karbala...

**Aliya Jacksi**



On Ashura, even the angels and fish wept for Imam Husayn.  
From the first to the last, Prophets had been told he'd be slain.  
He was mourned for long before Ashura,  
The day of huge pain.

So how can certain people dare to complain?  
About still crying for the sake of Imam Husayn  
Yes, Islam's victory Imam did attain,  
But our grief for his sorrows can never wane.

In recent decades, Iraqi families saw much horror and pain  
But that pales in comparison to what the family of Husayn  
Went through, witnessing deaths and then, with Imam Zain  
Being forced to walk through many a lane

But when truthful ones are killed, tortured or put in a chain,  
It's not shame; Islam's honor can never have a stain.  
Yazeeds always lose, even when their whips and arrows rain,  
Karbala then and now, still carries the message of Husayn.

**Hadia Sayyeda Rizvi**



1431 years ago, on the plains of Karbala stood a man with a message true and  
clear,

To whom was this message directed to is a question to heed  
Was it only the Ummah of the Holy Prophet (SAW) who must answer this call?  
Or is it in general, for the world as a whole?

What is this message that touches even those with the hearts of stone?  
That, until today people remember his words like a map of gold.  
The words were so powerful that a whole society was created  
Surely the truth will always prevail, when it has been conveyed by a heart so  
pure.

Indeed Islam will survive till the day of resurrection,  
And that is exactly what he wanted to declare,  
Isn't he right till the very day, don't we mourn for him till today?  
His great sacrifice confirmed to us all that Islam is the true religion.

### **Fatema Rustom**



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Karbala, Karbala, Karbala

Karbala the land which was a plain land like desert,  
But now a place filled up with holy shrines.

Karbala a place where Imam Husayn (AS) and his family  
were looted and killed brutally for the sake of Islam,  
but now a place where nobody is ready to give up for Islam.

Karbala a place where our Imam cried out for help  
Hal min Nasirin Yansurna hal min yugithunil yugithuna,  
Is there any helper to help us, is there any saver to save us,  
But now a place where the voice only echoes.

Karbala a place where our Imam gave up himself and his family to teach us a  
lesson,  
But now a place where nobody is ready to share any lesson

Karbala a place where water was stopped on the Ahlul Bayt and their followers,  
But now a place where water is daily wasted on useless things.

Karbala a place where Imam and his followers lived in tents and bore every  
weather conditions,  
But now a place where his followers visit and live in luxurious hotels with full  
comfort.

Karbala, Karbala, Karbala

### Sukaina Dewji



The month is here to commemorate  
The event of Ashura  
The day the earth trembled  
The children crying 'al atash'... 'Thirst'...

One by one, imam companions fought  
Like that every companion died  
So was a six month old Ali Asgher  
Ready to give his life...

On the tenth of Muharram  
When imam Husayn died  
Everything cried  
Including the earth and the sky...

The night of Sham-e-Ghariba came  
Imam Sajjad was tied with a big chain  
The prisoners did not complain  
Islam was their only aim...

Aba Abdullah's daughter  
Sakina banal Husayn  
Was slapped hardly on her cheek  
And her earrings were pulled out...

Peace be upon  
All those who sacrificed their life and got tortured for Islam  
Curse be upon  
All those who killed and tortured the believers...

### Ibtisam Jeraj



Oh People of today!  
What is your destination?  
Is it World,  
Or the Eternal life?

Reviving the message of Islam,  
Rose Husayn (AS) against the heartless tyrant

A glimpse at history,  
Legacy of Karbala,  
Land that freed people,  
Also called Nainawa

Respect of the aged,  
Love for family,  
Trust in friendship,  
Sacrifice for humanity,  
Missing today  
Its hatred, disrespect, mistrust  
Oh why? Why?

He stood for the Truth,  
Remained steadfast,  
Attaining elevation  
Oh people!  
Confront the falsehood,  
Submit to Your Lords will  
Say 'NO' to compromise

Hijab prevailed then,

It had its value,  
Today its ruined  
Lost its dignity  
Only fashion, models, trendy  
Why? Why? Why?

Yazidiyat existed then,  
Its no different now

Negligence of the truth,  
Selfishness for the sauve,

Bombing, massacring, killing,  
Oh! So common today  
Pakistan, Palestine, Afghanistan,  
All under blood today

Boycott the unjust,  
End the ignorance  
Abstain from the Divergence

Strive for the truth,  
Maintain Brotherhood,  
Declare unity

Wake up Oh people!  
Before it's too late  
For time never waits,  
Your goal is not here,  
It's the Eternal Life  
The Reality!!

### **Sakina Sikiladha**



Over 1400 years ago, in the plains of Karbala,  
The most brutal and cruelest battle was witnessed,  
Imam Husayn (AS) stood up for justice against Yazd's rule,

And sacrificed his entire family and friends for Justice!

Today, Karbala is still alive! – And victorious!

Today, it is present in every land where struggle for justice is being fought.

Today, oppression and injustice is seen in all parts of the world.

Today, we find many Husayni's in the present world standing victorious.

Today, Hassan Nasrallah is shouting Labayka Ya Husayn – and standing victorious.

Indeed, every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala!

Today it is all about answering **The Call** 'Hal min Nasirin yansurna, Hal min mugithuni yugithuna'

A call made as Imam Husayn (AS) stood all alone on the battlefield,

A call for Muslims of all generations in every land,

A call for Jihad of the nafs against Yazeedism.

We must act upon the lessons of Karbala,

We must practice amr bil maaruf and nahi anil munkar.

We must keep the message of Zaynab alive.

Are we ready for the coming of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam?

Are we living the life of a Husayni or Yazeedi?

Are we answering **The Call** for justice?

### Mahtab Manekia



Karbala was a war between the right and the wrong,  
The story of this battle has lived for so long.  
It happened on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, a day to mourn,  
For Yazid brutelessly killed Imam just for a throne.

The whole even has lessons we must learn,  
And apply them in life so heaven we can earn.  
Patience, bravery, love, kindness and so much more,  
Karbala is a vast ocean and we are only at the shore.

It hurt Zainab so much to lose her hijab that day,  
But we roam in tight clothes and short scarves, "it's too hot," we say.  
Then what about Karbala and the scorching heat,  
Meant to walk to Kufa then Shaam in bare feet.

We look at America as developed and super great,  
Not realizing they view Islam with so much hate.  
Imam didn't give allegiance and was killed seeking change and reform,  
Yet not even a successful boycott we can perform.

We fight amongst families over petty things and we don't even think,  
Sakina didn't drink water because Aliasgher didn't get a drink.

Abbas rode on to seek water for his niece,  
We break family ties and cant allow peace.

For Islam, in whatever way we can, we don't show our support,  
Think of Ali Asgher who jumped out of the baby cot.  
And if you feel your troubles and problems are too great,  
Think of Sakina, seeing a father's death was her fate.

Let us realize and take lessons from the martyrs,  
Not just practice our azadari in the shedding of fake tears.  
Let's keep Karbala alive, even though it's been years,  
And let's support Islam with absolutely no fears.

The Mahdi will need help at every stage,  
Standup and be ready, no matter what your age!

Assalamu Alayka Ya Aba Abdillah

**UmmuAbiha Karim**



# ESSAYS



Imam Hussein (A.S) has said, “To me death is nothing but happiness, and living under the tyrants is nothing but living in hell.”

This clearly shows Imam was totally against the evil intentions of Yazid and the Umayyad regime. He was ready to get killed but would never give allegiance to yazid. Through Karbala we discover that death is not the end of everything; it is the beginning of a real life.

The tragedy of Karbala was not only a battle, but a message to humanity. Through Imam we learn to stand up for the truth and to be against oppression.

Today Karbala takes place in every corner of the world. When an innocent is oppressed and victimized, when an orphan is deprived of their rights, when prayer is taken lightly, when haraam acts are not avoided, when hijab is disregarded, every single moment our faith is put to test, we are challenged on how sincere we are in our belief.

When we fight against these challenges and emerge successful, it is only then when we can proudly say that we have truly understood Karbala. We can call ourselves true followers if Imam Hussein (A.S) when we honestly practice his way of life. To attain pleasure of Allah (S.W.T) is the most glorious goal which surpasses all other wishes and desires.

Karbala then was a paradigm, a feat; Karbala now is a philosophy, an ideology.

**Salma Baliram**

Winner

Essay Category



Karbala then and now, there is a lot to be understood by such a small statement... Karbala then was a desert and now is a place where people can actually live and make the martyrs a part of their lives... as they should... they are meant to be remembered...

The savior of Islam Imam Husayn (AS) always believed that if he and his followers would give up their lives, we the Muslims of today would follow what they died for... that belief is slowly being demolished and upon it being built development

and modernization. We are developing very fast... so fast that unknowingly we are leaving Islam's message behind... our Imam never disagreed with these things and in fact wanted them for the Ummah... but he also wanted Islam's message to remain in the hearts of the believers...

In Karbala Imam Husayn (AS) had women present with him, and they all used to dress properly like Muslim women... now that our world has developed we see Muslims both men and women not observing the hijab they are supposed to... is this what they died for???

Karbala, the pain of a father, sorrow of a mother and sadness of a child... Karbala is most easily defined that way... Karbala has changed for the better and the worse... why? The answer to this riddle is what we Muslims of today make it to be as for every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala...

### Kulsum Nasser



The main purpose of the battle of Karbala was to stand up for what is right. Imam Husayn (a.s) refused to give allegiance to a person like Yazid because Yazid was not the right person to be a leader. He used to drink, gamble, cheat, lie for his gain. And the outcome? Imam Husayn (a.s) and his family and friends were mercilessly butchered, the women and children dragged from one place to the other without sufficient food and water and their hijab snatched. They were not even allowed to weep for their martyrs. But after 1400 years, the world looks at Imam Husayn's sacrifice as a winning battle.

Isn't the same happening today? The super power leaders' lying and cheating for their own gain and making big promises and not fulfilling them. Muslim Shia's are being murdered for their land. Isn't the Gaza war an example of Karbala? We see in Palestine innocent children are dying, there is shortage of food and water supply is cut off.

The Yemen Shia's are being butchered mercilessly just because they stand up for the truth. Hijab is banned in France; there is dispute of miner rates in Sweden. Mourning for Imam Husayn (a.s) is also an issue as we have recently witnessed the bomb blast in Pakistan.

Karbala is still alive. The arrival of The Awaited will bring about the truth and wipe out the evil. And in the meantime, we the Husayni's will keep standing up for the right.

### **Sayyeda Z. Master**



The tragedy of Karbala has a lot to offer as a lesson to human beings especially when it comes to the struggle between good and evil. Imam Husayn (a.s) has taught us that as Muslims we should never submit to injustice in whatever form it manifests.

In today's world which is full of injustice and various forms of oppression we have to safeguard justice as it is a great sin in the eyes of Allah (s.w.t) to practice injustice. Lest we be condemned for taking it lightly we should always be alert to guide others to promote this noble Islamic teaching.

Human values are paramount when it comes to other people's rights. One of the main conditions for being a true Muslim is promote justice in the world whenever one is confronted with injustice in whatever form. If justice would have prevailed than the world would not have witnessed crimes, wars and other vices.

It might seem that injustice and oppression which is so common today cannot be challenged but if one plays ones part one can with the help of Allah (s.w.t) gradually promote this value among other values which Imam Hussein (a.s) so dearly upheld and promoted for the sake of mankind.

Islam teaches us to uphold the principals of justice and equality when dealing with other human beings but as far as the world is concerned, one finds that it is absent with the vast majority of people who are unwilling to practice one of the noble teachings of Islam.

### **Sabreena Peera**



The event of Karbala is perhaps the most wise spread commemorated tragedy of our time. It reminds us of the iconic heroes who fought fearlessly against the tyrants of their time. Not only the Muslims, but also many various personalities have studied

this standoff between good versus evil. For example Thomas Carlyle, a Scottish historian and essayist said, “The best lesson which we get from the tragedy of Karbala is that Husain and his companions were rigid believers in God. They illustrated that the numerical superiority does not count when it comes to the truth and the falsehood. The victory of Husain, despite his minority, marvels me!”

It should be understood that the sacrifice presented by Imam Husain (a.s) on the plains of Karbala is not only for the time one thousand four hundred years ago, rather it's for the time up to the end of days. It has been well said by Dr. Radha Krishna that, “Though Imam Husain gave his life years ago, but his indestructible soul rules the hearts of people even today.” This is because Imam Husain (a.s)'s army consisted of a baby, youths, elderly & old persons. They showed us that humanly desires can be overcome by the equilibrium between the fear of God and hope in God. Every individual portrayed the message that no matter how much stronger the oppressors are, when God is with one, who can be against one? There is a Karbala in each of us; we have the choice to select what side we are!

### **Kaniz Fatema Remtullah**



“Good and evil are present in this world, and between the two there can be no compromise.”

The tragic event of Karbala serves as a symbol of the struggle between good and evil. Now it has more relevance to us due to the fact that we are living in perilous times, where the enemies of Islam have united and are working hard to confront in various disguised forms, the values of Islam and promote corruption and other vices which eventually lead humanity away from Godly values, so that people should not live the way the Almighty actually designed it to live.

Imam Husain (as) was against despotism, tyranny, hypocrisy, injustice and corruption, and he was the embodiment of spirituality, nobility, integrity, virtue and human rights. He was the guardian of the divine teachings of Islam.

Worldwide, we are now witnessing the rise of moral and social decay, characterized by increased individualism, materialism, dishonesty, greed, corruption, selfishness, and various forms of violence, various crimes and addictions, with the result that people are now living in stress and anxiety, and are searching for solutions to the

problems and challenges facing humanity.

In this end times in which we live, the world is full of oppression and bloodshed, and we must uphold and follow steadfastly under all circumstances, the teachings of the noble Prophet of Islam (saw) and the ideals for which the greatest martyr Imam Husain (as) sacrificed so much in order to save humanity from the evils which were prevalent 'then' as they are 'now'.

Only then can we truly claim that we are prepared for Al Mahdi (atfs).

### Shairoze Rashid



Mankind has always made an effort to move towards perfection and history has helped him a great deal. It has taught the human race what mistakes were made in the past and how to improve them. It has made ready the ways to reprimand oneself and the society at large.

The event of Karbala in history can be compared to the present era in which we still find that the values taught from the tragedy do exist. One way to compare Karbala then and Karbala now is to observe the Islamic values which are instilled in the hearts of the minority, but pure hearts.

During the time of Imam Husain (as), we have always heard of how he attracted the few but true companions by qualities such as justice, brotherhood, truth, and the supreme sacrifice, and these supporters stood by him to the end. At present times, we can see that Azadari still exists in the hearts of a few. We beat our chest, mourn the tragedy, and this softens our hearts in order to gain Hidayat (guidance) to keep alive the Islamic values.

Another example is that in the past, the Bani Umayyah would brainwash people to distract them from the right path by music, fashion, bribery etc. In this time, the west is

openly trying to kill the values of Islam by distracting them through the media, fashion, music, down to food (e.g. pork) and drinks (e.g. alcohol) which affects the faith of a person and takes them away from the right path.

How can we stop ourselves from swaying with the distractions? The only way is to live for the eternal and not for the material life. In order to keep the values of Karbala alive, there has to be another world to fulfill the desire to live for the eternal world, and that is where the event of Karbala explains everything by portraying the truth and falsehood and how to fight against the falsehood even if one has to give up their lives for the eternal world, and that will not be satisfied without the system that works in the way of Allah (swt), and ruled upon with peace and justice by his chosen leader, Imam Mahdi (atfs).

The scene of Karbala certainly repeats itself in today's time. Why do they say, "Every day is Ashura, Every land is Karbala"? It's seen currently through the amount of oppression and atrocities happening globally and that somehow reminds the world of the tragedy that took place 1400 years ago. An example can be stated as to the way the Zionists harass those who are innocent and have no fault but instead are deprived of their rights. Does that not remind us of history? A question to ponder upon.

### Siddika Dossa



Karbala is a place where Imam Husayn fought against the forces of evil. Karbala is also a place in the conscience of every human being where every day battles between good and evil are fought.

Battles do not mean just using your physical strength, weapons or words. In Islam battles mean struggle. It also means fights between thoughts, desires and souls. These struggles take place not only in you and me but in each and every person be he black or white, man or woman, deaf or dumb, muslim or non muslim. And this struggle of the soul against worldly desires is called Jihad-e-Akbar.

It is easy to say that, "O Imam if I was with you in Karbala I would have given my life for you." Imam Husayn gave his life to Islam but Karbala did not end on the day of Ashura. The survivors of Ashura played their part in propagating Imam Husayn (AS)'s message. It is the responsibility of every muslim to make sure that the purpose and mission of Karbala and Imam Husayn (AS) are achieved.

We also have a role to play, for Islam is in danger even now and we are the soldiers of the saviour preparing the ground for him. When the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam (atfs) reappears we

shall be involved in Jihad-e-Akber and jihad-e-Asghar.

Let us make each Ashura an inspiration for us so that we can be by the side of our Imam and help him in avenging the blood of Husayn.

### Adnan Sumar



Karbala, then, was a battle between right and wrong. It was a physical fight where Imam Hussein sacrificed his whole family to save Islam.

Is Karbala still on? Yes. Karbala is still going on as Islam is being attacked from all over the world and very few people are standing up to fight against this oppression. Example, Palestine against Israel, Iran against America.

Firstly, the difference between Karbala then and now is that it was a physical war but now it is a spiritual war, because the youth of Islam are being brain washed through the media. The actual values of Islam are fading away and corruption is the norm of the day. That is why there is a need it in our daily life to continue the mission of Imam Hussein (a.s).

Imam Hussein was victorious during Karbala of that time. Yazid was a cruel person and when he brutally got Imam Hussein killed, his true self was revealed to the public by Bibi Zaynab when she gave a sermon in his court. This sermon awakened the people but now most of us have forgotten Imam Hussein's mission. That is why our 12<sup>th</sup> Imam has not appeared. He is only waiting for 313 people out of the world of millions to get ready for his arrival.

Lastly, the way we can save Islam is by following the teachings that the aimmah have taught us. The reason that Imam Hussein sacrificed everything.

### Mehreen Mushtaq



Yesterday has gone, today is going and tomorrow shall go. What karbala was then and what it is now. Karbala a place of karb (distress) and bala (ordeal) is now a

dessert with dead and headless bodies of 72 people. Unburied bodies, buried with blood, sand and arrows

Dead bodies? Unburied?, Yes, this is the state of Kerbala now. If this is what kerbala is now, what was it then? Kerbala then was...

Before kerbala could become a graveyard like this, it was place of where Imam Hussein (as) set a camp with all his household members, companions and friends. Why dead bodies? Was there a war?

Yes there was a war against the truth and falsehood. The reason for this war was that Yazid summoned alligance to Imam to shut down Islam and also gave a condition that if Imam refuses to give a hand then his head should be taken. Imam Hussein (as) disagreed with Yazid and therefore Imam Hussein left for Kufa as he found out that his cousin Muslim ibn Aqeel has been killed by people of Kufa and the same people allowed Imam to rule them that's why he sent Muslim ibn Aqeel on his behalf. So imam wanted to go there to know the matter. As imam headed towards Kufa with his family, he was obstructed by people led by Yazid Hurr ar Riyah. They reminded Imam about Yazids condition.

Imam Hussein was forced then to stay in Kerbala. Here we are, it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Muharram when Imam set a camp in Kerbala.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, connection of water to Imam's camp is blocked.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, no more water is remaining even in the vessels. No more water in any of the tents. Bibi Sakina and the rest children going to every tent crying Al-atash but they do not find even a drop of water.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, still no water found, in the evening Yazid's people come to Imam and remind him, the hand or the head. But however Imam manages to delay till tomorrow by saying that he wanted to spend his remaining time for doing ibadah.

It is the 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram. Imam Hussein leads the prayers. After the prayers, the infants Aun, Mohammed (sons of Bibi Zainab & Abdallah ibn Jafar) & Hz Qasim (son of Bibi Umme Farwah & Imam Hassan) prepare to go to fight. They were so small that they couldn't even sit on the horse. But still they gave up their life for Islam. Yazid's men kill them mercilessly but they still fought like Imam Ali (as)



Hz. Abbas goes to fetch water as per request of Bibi sakina. He does not fight anyone nor did he drink water, but the people made him supportless by cutting off his hands and making him fail in fetching water to Bibi Sakina and he also gave up his life near furat.

Hz. Aliakber too gets ready to fight and he fights bravely and atlast gets an arrow in his chest.

Baby Aliasgher also goes with Imam Hussein for water but Instead of water he gets an arrow.

Lastly, goes Imam Hussein in the battlefield and never returns back. It's the evening of the homeless, as the dust settles, Yazid's people burn the tents and snatch the veils of every lady. The ladies wandering from tents to tents with their children and a sick person Imam Zainul Abedeen son of Imam Hussein.

Atlast all the ladies, children and Imam Zainul Abedeen are chained connectively with poking thorns so if one person moves everyone gets poked. Like this they are taken to Shaam. Yazid's people then make fun out of them without their veils in the markets of Shaam and in front of everybody.

This is what is happening now, the ladies and children now. They are in a dungeoun of Shaam which is so small that they can't even move because of the chains. Bibi Sakina's earrings are snatched and she's being slapped. Including the other children. “INNA LILLAH WAINNAILAYHI RAAJIUN.”

“Everyday is Ashura and every land in Karbala.”

**Zainab Sumar**



Karbala is a land in a country known as IRAQ. But we are going to focus on the purpose of Karbala THEN and how we can implement it NOW. Karbala then at the time of Imam of Husain (as) took place because Yazid asked Imam Husain to pay allegiance (bai'at) to him. Yazid was an evil man who committed all types of atrocities e.g. listening to music, drinking wine, dancing, killing Muslims. He had no moral values and did not follow the teachings of the Holy Prophet (saw). How

could a great and pious person like Imam Husain (as), the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet (saw) and the third Imam of the Shi'a, give bai'at to a man of such low character like Yazid? How could he let the religion of Islam drown completely at the hands of the evil man?

Karbala then was a battle between right and wrong, it was a fight between good and evil. Islam had come to a point where it needed a savior to save it from losing its real identity. The evil deeds or crimes that Yazid committed were done openly and publicly and it brought confusion in the minds of the Muslims. The Muslims started doubting the teachings of the Holy Prophet (saw) especially the younger generation who couldn't differentiate between right and wrong. Imam Husain (as) sacrificed his life, the lives of his close friends, beloved companions and sons, but he kept to the truth. We should apply the lessons that we learn from Karbala in our daily lives. We should say the truth and be on the side of the right and we should stop ourselves from committing sins. There was no justice in Karbala then and there is no justice now. Muslims and Shi'as are being killed in Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq and so on. We have to help our fellow Muslims, if not physically, then by praying for them and with our actions. The mothers in Karbala saw their children being martyred, but they were brave and kept to the truth so as to save the religion of the Prophet. The only way the mothers of today can repay them for their great sacrifice is to give proper Islamic bringing up to their children and stop them from committing sins. The Hijab of the ladies were snatched away in Karbala and it was a very hard time for them. We should take care of our Hijab and make sure we do it properly. Imam Husain (as) has said, "It is better to die with dignity than to live with disgrace and humiliation."

### Muhaddisa Alarakhia



When we look back in history, we find that one of the cruelest and most appalling that mankind ever witnessed was the tragedy of Karbala. Although the battle was lost, the war was won! Karbala served to revive Islam then, and even now, its blames continue to burn! This essay endeavors to present the impact Karbala has to the present day using three concepts: Jihad, standing up to injustice and oppression, and responding to the call of "hal min naasirin yansuruna."

Firstly, Imam Husein's jihad involved sacrificing his life together with his loved ones (Dhibe Azeem) to defend and restore Islam for the future generations to come.

This Jihad today is transformed to Jihad-un Nafs; as shias, our responsibility is to preserve the essence of Imam's sacrifice by maintaining and practicing our faith, resisting worldly temptations and upbringing true followers of Islam.

Secondly, the basis of Karbala was Imam Husein's stand for truth and justice, even if it meant death. Today he has and still remains an inspiration for all struggles that seek justice. The Indian political leader, Mahatma Gandhi was quoted "I learnt from Husein how to achieve victory while being oppressed." Additional examples include Imam Khomeini who brought about the Islamic revolution in Iran and Hassan Nasrullah who is defending the rights of Palestinians and fighting the Yazeedis of today – the Zionists. Karbala is still alive today and we witness it every single day in every single it by paying khums and partaking in meaningful fundraising, boycotts, charity and organizing protests.

Thirdly, Imam Husein's call of 'hal min naasirin yansuruna' was a call to Muslims of every generation to curb Yazeedism. At that time, his mission was continued on after his death by his sister Zainab. Our responsibility today is to propagate Islam via our actions and Azaadari and practice amr bil ma'aruf and nahi anil munkar which was the main message that Imam was trying to convey. This will enable us to say "yes" when the same call is made by our 12<sup>th</sup> Imam AS.

In conclusion, we are the survivors of Imam Husein's revolution and may be living in the age of the reappearance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam. It is of utmost importance to uphold our faith and carry on the torch of Kerbala in his army (Sura Asr, 103).

### Zainab Thawer



After a long and tiring journey, I reached this strange place. It was a plain desert. My heart began to ache and I wondered why? I heard a whisper "THIS is Kerbala." I decided to camp there and after my evening prayers fell asleep-I don't know for how long. I woke up with a racing heart, it was not a plain desert anymore. "What is this?" I saw thousands of soldiers, tents, torn bodies, streams of blood and heart wrenching cries of "thirst, thirst." The same whisper rang in my ears "This is the eve of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, 61 Hijri and this is the battle of Kerbala. This is the "QATLAGHAH" of Imam Husayn (AS)." I could not bear that anymore and simply fell down unconscious. That was Kerbala THEN. That battle changed the fate of that desert. NOW, it is a holy city with big mosques, golden shrines, great scholars and loud

adhaan. The sand is no more ordinary like then, now it is khake-shifa. The population has also increased from a group of few people into millions of people and everyday millions visit Karbala to remember the sacrifice given by Imam Husain (as) and his followers. But why remember Karbala so much? Why not Hollywood? Why not Disney land? Because, it was Kerbala where Imam Husayn (as) killed Yazid's Islam forever and gave new life to Muhammad (SAWW)'s Islam forever.

## Maleeka Dhalla



Karbala is located 100 km to the southwest of the capital Baghdad. In Imam Husain's time, the place was also known as al-Ghadiriyah, Naynawa and Shathi'ul-Furaat.

The first mourning related to Al-Husain's martyrdom was organized in Karbala, 40 days after his death, (20<sup>th</sup> of Safar of the year 61 of Hegira). At that time, his family was returning from Sham (Syria) to Mecca. Attawaboun (the repented), led by the companion Salman Ben Sard Al-Khozai, organized a large mourning ceremony as they traveled past Karbala in the year 65 A.H. Since then, ceremonies followed one another and extended to all the cities of central and southern Iraq.

Karbala was rich in water and its soil was fertile. When Imam Husain arrived at Karbala, he inquired about the name of the place. Someone replied it is *Aqr*-meaning 'harsh'. Imam then said: we seek refuge with Allah from *Al Aqr*. He once again asked the name of the village. Then one of the attendants replied, its name is Karbala. Imam Husain spontaneously declared *Karb* and *Bal'a* meaning (land of) "torture and trial". Imam Husain bought a piece of land, after his arrival at Karbala from Bani Asad. He and his *AhlulBait* are buried in that portion, known as *Hair*, where the shrines are presently located.

Karbala is now one of Iraq's wealthiest cities, profiting both from religious visitors and agricultural produce, especially dates. It is split into two districts, "Old Karbala", the religious centre, and "New Karbala", the residential district containing Islamic schools and government buildings. At the centre of the old city is the Mashad al-Husain, the tomb of Husain bin Ali. It is a place of pilgrimage, especially on Ashura.

Sakina Premji

Close your eyes and picture yourself in a usual and standard situation that you would come across day to day. You are waiting in a hot bustling car, stuck in never ending, deafening and piercing traffic. Sitting and ready to claw your eyes out simply because the air condition isn't working. Soon you begin to get aggravated and annoyed. In your case, nothing could be worse! You've reached the limit, you're at the borderline of persistence, and you can't take it anymore. What a tragedy?

Now move away from the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and portray yourself in the time when the event of Karbala occurred. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century. Now close your eyes again, and picture yourself walking through a hot, burning desert, where the sand is blazing with heat. The searing heat is flowing and rushing through your pale face. Struggling as the scorching heat hits your stiff and parched body. Not being able to have water for a rigid 3 days. Watching spears soaring through the air, striking on your loved ones, listening to the little girls screeching in pain, famished because of hunger and thirst. Watching the people you love fall on the ground and watch them breathe their last breath. What a tragedy?

Islam was built and enforced for us, today since the tragedy of Karbala. However, we as Muslims sometimes don't appreciate what was sacrificed and given to us. We now have gained the right to wear and attire in full Hijab but we ignore it. In the tragedy of Karbala, women had their Hijab snatched and ransacked. We should appreciate what we have, and value the rights we have achieved as Muslims.

### Nadira Dewji



Kulu yaumin Ashura, kulu ardhin Karbala.

As we all know Karbala was 1400 years ago and it was not some old fight. Some people ask: why do we mourn every year? The answer is: we need to remember the death of Imam Husayn (a.s) and to do this we need to hear the story over and over again.

In this way, we might pick out something that did not catch our attention before. For example, something like knowledge, like hijab. In that time they were not allowed to wear hijab but they wanted to and now we have the chance of wearing it but we don't. Another example is Namaz. Imam Husayn (a.s), though he was in the middle of war, still prayed on time. Today, no one is attacking us but we still don't pray on

time. Another lesson is Palestine. When Bibi Sakina (a.s) was in need of water she didn't complain. She had patience. But when we don't get something we complain and cry.

We see the difference between then and now, good and bad. Before we were good and now we are bad. The difference is we all cry for things we don't get and Bibi Sakina didn't cry or whine for water. So in my point of view I think we are really spoiled and they were not.

EVERY DAY IS ASHURA EVERY LAND IS KARBALA.

### Fatema Dewji



Muharam the first month of Islamic calendar, brings along with feeling of great sadness and sorrow in the heart of every muslim. It is a month in which we commemorate Imam Hussein (a.s) victory martyrdom, a victory which has permanently presented the true Islam till the day of judgement .Allah (s.w.t) has called this a momentous sacrifice ie Zibhin Aazeem in the holy Quran chapter As-Saffat (37:107) we are all forever to Imam Hussein (a.s) for his great sacrifice let us join together and commemorate this loss and learn from eample of Imam Hussein (a.s) to learn more.

Karbala today can be seen that history is still repeating itself. Till now such oppressors known as Sadam Hussein allowed no Azadari in the shrine of Imam Hussein. After Sadam azadari is permitted yet we still face terrorist attacks

The enmity of Imam Hussein is still apparent today not only in Karbala but also through out the world.

Due to the greed of leadership, money oil, power etc... We can see that "Every land is Karbala and everyday is Ashura"

The call of Imam Hussein can still be heard today "Is there anyone to help me?"

### Zainab Kermalli



The event of Karbala reflects the collision of the good versus the evil, the virtuous versus the wicked, the collision of Imam Hussein (the head of virtues) versus Yazid (the head of impiety). Al-Hussein was a revolutionary person, a righteous man, the religious authority, the Imam of Muslim ummah. As a representative of his grandfather, Prophet Muhammad, Imam Hussein's main concern was to safeguard and protect Islam and guide fellow Muslims. On the other hand, the staying power of the rulers (Mu'awiya and his son – Yazid) depended solely on the might of the sword. They used brute force to rule over the Muslim empire by all possible illicit means. Thus the Holy Imam offered the greatest sacrifice to re-establish the truth firmly, never again to be shaken by anyone until the Day of Judgement.

Karbala is symbolic of heroic cry against all oppressors. Weeping and wailings have protected the schools of Sayyidush Shuhada and these recounting of the tragedy has kept the message alive. The majalises are a meeting to raise the cry, which our opponents do not appreciate. How effective it has been for our uprising! If there was no Sayyidush Shuhada, this movement would never have gone forward.

### Ameena Husayn



Karbala is a region found in Iraq, Asia. However, when any Shiite comes across that word, what strikes first is: tragedy, war, treaty, bloodshed, torture and SACRIFICE! A major sacrifice for “US” humbly made by Imam Husayn Ibn Ali (a.s). He gave up everything for our well-being.

To begin with, we don't see everything taking place all over again!? Aren't the enemies of Islam still working on bombarding the Muslim community! 1400 years ago, a battle was run between the Hashimites ( Muslims) & Umayyads ( Kuffar). War is taking place even NOW!

It was then, when a large army of 1,000 men marched towards an army of 72 men. Let's OBSERVE the difference! And now, a replica scene seems to be playing all over again, the large American military troops have totally HIJACKED Iraq and the poor citizens suffer each day. The evil army was then lead by Yazid bin Muawiyah, and now by George Bush, all having a similar personality.

The tender- aged children died of thirst & hunger at that time; many are departing

the world because of it now! Where's the world without the youth?! But yet, the youth are mercilessly killed! Ponder over their WRONG impression: It was JUSTICE for them THEN, and it still is NOW! And to top all that up, their innocent corpses are just left lying on the streets. It happened then, it's HAPPENING now.

Finally, I'd conclude by saying a millennium has passed, centuries later, after all the decades gone. HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF!

### Samih Alloo



“Hal Min Nasirin Yansurna (Is there any helper to help us)?” We often hear the final call and appeal of our beloved Imam Husain (as) in lectures and books, yet we rarely ponder over its purpose. Imam was aware of the fact that no one from Yazid's army that would come to his assistance, he knew that all of his companions had parted with this world and do not come back. Still, Imam called out. Yes Imam was offering the devils a chance to save themselves from the wrath of Allah (swt), but more importantly, he was calling to us, his Shi'a, his followers. In the plains of Karbala, nobody answered Imam's call; we always wish we were present in Karbala, to give our lives for the Imam. This is our opportunity to sacrifice for him, to offer allegiance to his descendant Imam Mahdi (as), to fight the Yazids of our time and to submit our will to the Almighty.

The tragedy of Karbala was the epitome of sacrifice. From sacrificing the life of his 6 month old son, to the veils of his sisters, Imam gave it all for the sake of Allah (swt). The saying “Every day is Ashura, Every land is Karbala” precisely tells us of our responsibilities today. Every day is a day of sacrifice, every day is a battle. We have to choose between serving our desires for this world, or sacrificing them for the pleasure of Allah (swt) and his Imams. It is easier said than done though, Almighty Allah mentions time and again about trials and tests for the believers, every time we take a step towards Him, Shaitan will try and mislead us, and that is one of the Yazids that we are supposed to fight. The self (nafs), with Shaitan's instigation will try to deviate us from the right path and prompt us to approach the evil. One way we can fight this Yazid is through the act of sacrifice. We have to sacrifice our time, wealth, status, and all other things that attach us to this world. Allah won't just bestow His mercy on us, we have to strive and struggle for it. A firm determination and a strong will power is what we need to build, Imam Husain gave his companions the choice to leave the battle and save their lives, yet their determination to serve their master was



so strong, that they were not only willing but delighted to sacrifice their lives for their Imam. Do we have that power? If not, how do we build it? It is through sacrifice.

In Ziarat Ashura, we send curses on the people who paved the way for Imam's death. Ironically, the very people who slaughtered the grandson of the Prophet called themselves Muslims. If they could be misguided despite the presence of their Imam, then it would be no surprise if we fall into evil as well. In that sense, we have to be careful because the Ziarat is relevant to all periods of time, if we find in ourselves the qualities that these cursed ones possessed, then we are in fact, sending the curse of Allah on our own heads! The manifestation of the Ziarat of Ashura should be in our actions, rather than only on our words. When we send the curse of Allah on the people who murdered the Holy Imam, we should indeed seek protection from Him against the evils that these people succumbed themselves to. We should fight our desires and prevent ourselves from falling into Shaitan's trap. One of the main ways through which we can do this, is sacrifice.

### **Maisam Rajani**



Karbala was the martyrdom place of our Imam, Imam Husain. He sacrificed his life for us and for all of humanity. Although it seems that the enemy – Yazeed – won the battle, we still won the war. How? Well, we still exist and follow the teachings of our Holy Prophets and the guidance of our 12<sup>th</sup> Imam and his forefathers who were also our leaders. Whereas where is Yazeed's empire? Crumpled to dust.

If all of us were there with Imam Husain as his followers and companions – which is what most Muslims wish for – do you really think we would sacrifice our lives for mankind? Would we really leave behind our families, wives and children? I don't think so. Most of the people back then stabbed him in the back through betrayal and left him. He was left with only 72 companions. But these 72 were so strong in their faith that even though he gave them 2 chances to escape, they still remained firm in their belief. But today are we as loyal to our Imam of the time as they were to theirs? If we really are as most people seem to think so, then why hasn't he appeared yet?

The women during that time were very strong indeed. They held back their sorrow for their sons and husbands and at the same time tried to keep their Hijab and dignity on. Women of today barely cover their bodies. Some girls just wear their Hijab to

mosque, madrasah and occasionally to school. Most teenagers are more obsessed with materialistic things and the way their body looks rather than covering it up. In the olden times, women used to show only their eyes, they were very strict about Hijab.

## Sarah Jeraj



“History repeats itself...” by Karl Marx. Karbala, a battle of tragedy, a battle still alive as a raging fire in the heart of every Muslim, a battle that saved Islam. Gaza, a war that awakened the muslim ummah, united Muslims all over the world and made each person's faith stronger. Gaza, today's Karbala?

The tragedy of Karbala was fought almost 1370 years ago, when Imam Husain gave up his life and his family just to save our identity. A battle of torture and carnage. A race for the truth, the truth of Islam! Karbala our identity, our faith, our reminder, our dignity, our saviour, our grief, our guide. Long live the banner of Islam which was saved by the holy blood of Martyrs in Karbala.

Gaza a city in one of the muslim countries known as Palestine where torture pain death and cruelties is all they have Easter, Christmas and Eid! Innocents killed for their land, but why only Palestine? Palestinians are fighting for their land just like battle was fought for their identity.

Gaza a reflection of Karbala, arrows to bombs, knives to guns. All in innocents killed, more violence, and more children left as orphans and homeless. But what is the muslim Ummah doing? Forgetting it 'cause' it's the past? Or remembering it and mourning over it? Is just mourning over it enough for all the bloodshed and sacrifice? It is entirely upto Muslim Ummah to decide whether to stay behind and let everything pass away like just one of the other issue and ignore the reality or to fight back for it and defeat the enemies of Islam.

## Fatema Khakoo



Imam Husayn (a.s) stood up to save Islam for the guidance of human race as a whole. He defied the strength of the enemies' forces surrendering all of his family.

After his martyrdom, his mission was carried out by the women under the leadership of Bibi Zaynab (a.s) accompanied by Imam Zaynul Abideen (a.s) who was imprisoned in chains. The virtue and chastity of the women captured the attention of the people of Kufa and Shaam. In the court of Yazid, Bibi Zaynab stood up against the taunts of Yazid and fearlessly showed up the tyranny of Yazid. Although a prisoner herself, she was backed up by the courage of truth and her true love for Islam. Because of her “khutba”, the people were awakened again to the Islamic principle. Islam got a new life. That was Karbala THEN.

The 9<sup>th</sup> descendent of Imam Husayn (a.s) is repeating his ancestor's call, “Hal min Nasirin yansurna”. It is our duty as Muslims to answer his call.

Karbala has been going on since then. We were not there THEN but we are NOW. We shouldn't be practicing Muslims but living Muslims. Instead of running after the materialistic world and getting distracted from the religious duties by the enemies of Islam, we should fight against our desires and stand against oppression as did Imam Husayn (a.s).

The present Husayn needs 313 true mu'mins. Let us not wait for others but include ourselves within that number by our pure intentions in our religious duties whether we are men, women or children!

### **Fatimah K. Dhalla**



In the year 61 (a.h), in a desert land known as Karbala one of the greatest event in the history of Islam took place, a big revolution, a revolution against tyranny and oppression. The tragedy of Karbala was necessary to save Islam from the wrong hands of the evil ruler of the time, Yazid bin Muawiyah.

Yazid had numerous negative motives and attempts to manipulate the Islamic concepts, code of conduct and behaviour to suite his best interests and completely distort the true Islamic way of life.

It was Imam Hussein (A.S) who stood up against yazid's mission to deviate Muslims form the true Islam.

Imam Jaffer Sadiq (A.S) has said, “ Every day is ashura and every land is Karbala.”; this literally does not mean that everyday there must be a physical battle against oppression, but he meant that every single day we must contemplate what we learnt from the tragedy of Karbala and practice it in our daily life.

Karbala was a struggle between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, piety and impiety, worldliness and spirituality. In every land today there is a struggle between haq and batil. Karbala now remains an example and a lesson to us. Karbala now is a battle against our nafs, and against our haraam desires. When we stand up for truth, keep up prayer, practice honesty and piety, we are actually living the victory that Imam Hussein achieved after the big sacrifice in Karbala.

### **Mazaher Baliram**



“I learnt from Hussein how to achieve victory while being oppressed.” – Mahatma Gandhi. Karbala is an inspiration for all great revolutions. The quote above by Gandhi was one that he said led to his revolution. The example of Gaza and Israel is an example of Karbala.

Gaza is I. Hussain's army and Israel is Yazid's army. Just their land was taken similar as in Karbala they were told to move from their tents on the third of Muharram. Then on the seventh Muharram water was cut off like all food and aid were cut for 21 days and during the war they had instead of a dual Imam's army was surrounded then brutally murdered. The same as the use of phosphorus bomb that had killed thousands of innocent lives now  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the world is supporting Palestine and Gaza. Just like Imam Hussain's word still lives and every year us shia his followers commemorate his martyrdom while nobody even knows how Yazid died. Just as we boycott the Israeli products.

In the end we all should know that this is one of the examples of Karbala then and now there is one more Karbala waiting this one is when the Imam of our time Imam Muhammad Mahdi will reappear and bring justice to this world.

### **Taha Dharamsi**



The hearts of the Muslims were filled with the true love and believe for the Imam and their aim in life was striving to spread justice and save the religion of Allah.

In this quest in Kerbala it was made sure that the principles of Islam were known, acted upon by the companions and the final message to reach the few people who reflect to achieve the aim of life.

Prayers were given priority, feasts were kept and willpower was strong to keep us on the right path. These were the compatriots of Kerbala leaving behind a legacy to be remembered and reflected upon so as to achieve success in life.

We have forgotten the lessons and our faith have weakened. We are just crying, biting our chest, remembering the great tragedy for two months and then forgetting everything that took place, move back to our worldly desires thereafter.

We are acting like the enemies of our Imam and forgetting the purpose of this event. The wrongdoings are increasing and our mouths are as always just as shut as at NOW.

The enemies always exist whether it is in Kerbala or now the only difference is our view and how much importance we give to the worldly life in comparison to the hereafter. The temptations are always sweet but do not stay for long.

Therefore it is important to implement the lessons from Kerbala and change today's world as like Kerbala then.

**Aliabbas M Nasser**



“Fas-alu ahl-a-zikr” means ASK THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND, applies to Karbala and the Ahlul-bayt alone can really explain Karbala. When one hears from their sources, the pain is enough to make the hardest rock hard heart cry tears of blood, and we wish, we could have helped them in any way possible, had we been there.

The seeds of Karbala were sown on the day of “Victory of Mecca” (fath-e-Mecca). Abu-Sufyan lost power and since then tried every trick imaginable to harass and

hurt the Holy Prophet and his progeny. His son Muawiyya fought Imam Ali when Imam was a Khalifa of Muslimeen. Then his son Yazid, may Allah curse him, brought it to its height in Karbala.

Karbala holds memories of heroes and tyrants, of children who cried for water and of cruel men who denied it to them, of teenage children who died in battle and of ruthless murderers who laughed in joy as they heard the cries of the mothers every time their sons were brought into the tents covered in blood and arrows. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of Muharram, Imam Husayn denied allegiance to a cruel, evil and satanic ruler, and stood up for the truth, fought for the right, sacrificed everything he owned and loved, and died for the religion of Muhammad. He set precedence for all times to come until the Day of Judgment.

When Imam Husayn was left alone on the plains of Karbala as all his companions were slayed, he called out, “Is there anyone to help us?” What help was he referring to? Surely not to fight against the army he was facing.

There is a visual Karbala and there is a hidden Karbala and the lesson of Karbala is more important in this unseen philosophy of Karbala. We must understand this real Karbala, and the real message behind Imam's call.

Have we understood his call? Are we ready to stand up and help him?

The second side of Karbala remains in every human heart as a consoler to their grieves, every time a mother desperately fetches water for their thirsty child, she may remember Karbala and the six month old Ali Asghar, who was deprived of water. Every time a child is orphaned, his mother or father shot or bombed, he remembers the story of the orphans of Karbala.

Equal in importance are both, its philosophical values and its human tragedy.

Karbala is one word that lights up the hearts of people, with values like not submitting to tyrannical and oppressive rulers, for the truth, and being brave and courageous. It strengthens the resolve of humans, to sacrifice anything and everything if need be, but never to succumb to oppression and anti-Allah rulers. The story of Karbala changes people.

Indeed, “Every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala.”

**Ali – Asad M Esmail**

### ***what?***

**Ask4help is a counseling service primarily for young people within the Khoja community.**

**Counseling is currently available via telephone:  
0655 ASK 786**

### ***why?***

**The service aims to empower young people by assisting them to:**

- ✓ **develop options**
- ✓ **identify and understand the consequences of a particular course of action**
- ✓ **facilitate more productive relationships with family and friends**
- ✓ **provide information on local support services**

### ***when & how?***

**(275)**

**Ask4help will open its phone line 0655 ASK 786 on Sunday's from 3-5pm.**

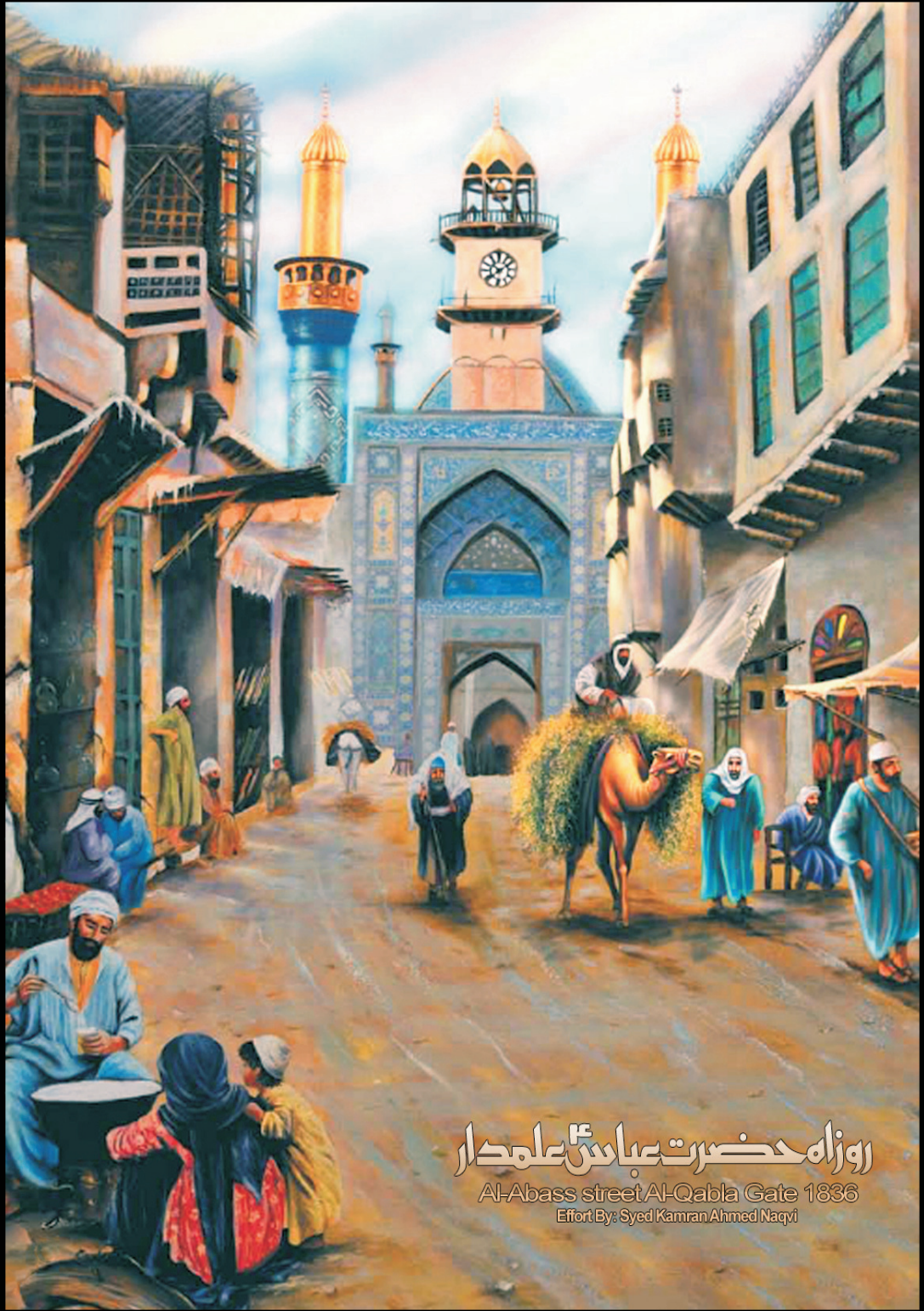
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