

MUHARRAM 2024/1445AH

COEJ HANDBOOK



KARBALA
INSPIRES





IN THIS HANDBOOK YOU WILL FIND

- Our theme: Karbala Inspires
- Muharram speakers in CoEJ Jamaats
- Creative Contest
- Letter for school absense on Ashura
- Media templates
- Key dates during Muharram
- An infographic timeline of Karbala
- Unsung Heroes of Karbala
- Recommended Acts on the day of Ashura





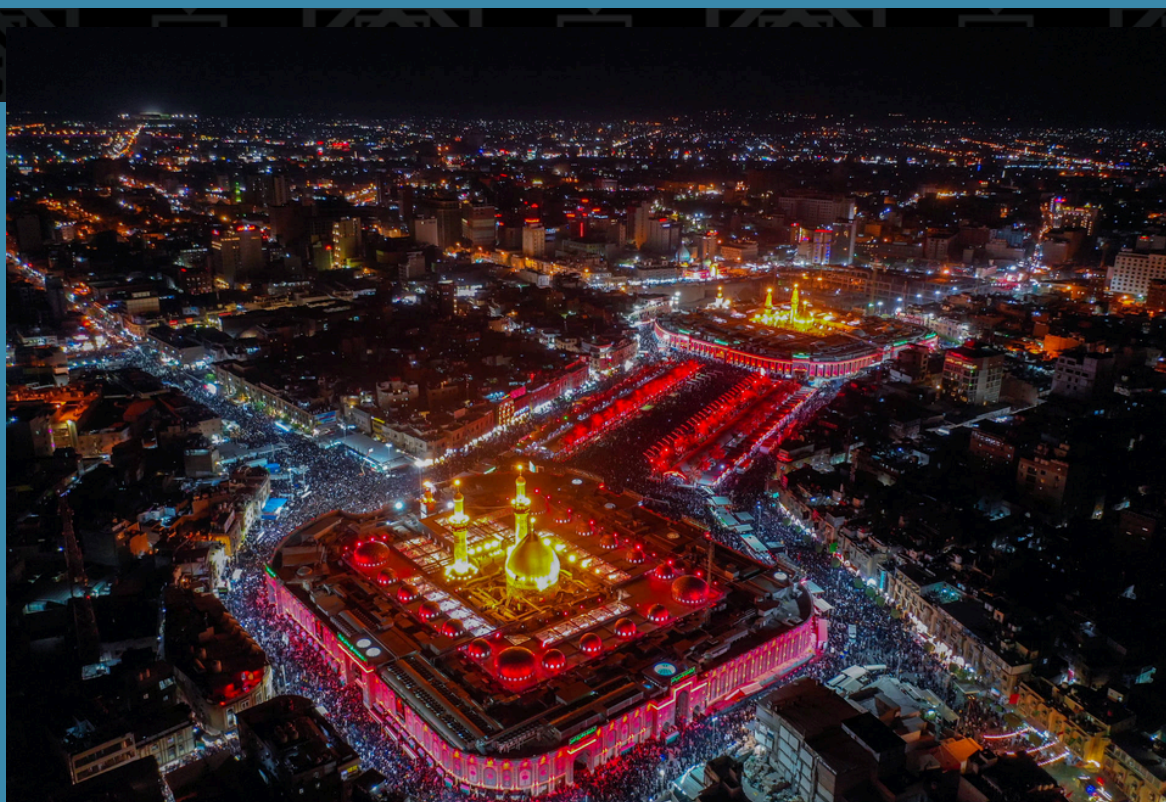
OUR THEME: KARBALA INSPIRES

- As we enter the sacred month of Muharram, we are reminded of the profound lessons and timeless inspirations drawn from the events of Karbala. This Muharram handbook, aims to provide our community with valuable resources and insights to honour this significant period.
- Our theme of this year's Muharram observance is "Karbala Inspires." The events of Karbala, where Imam Hussain (A) and his loyal companions stood against tyranny and injustice, continue to resonate deeply within the hearts of millions around the world.

**KARBALA
INSPIRES**



As we commemorate the sacrifices of Imam Hussain (A) and his companions, let us be inspired to live with courage, sacrifice, faith, and compassion. Through these actions, we honour their legacy and keep the spirit of Karbala alive in our hearts and communities.



MUHARRAM SPEAKERS

2024/1445

Birmingham

- Maulana Mukhtar Abbas (Urdu)
- Sheikh Mohammed al Hilli (English)
- Zakira Tahera bai Kassamali (Alima)

Essex

- Sheikh Muhammad Abbas Panju (English)
- Zakira Umulbaneen Merali (Alima)

Hujjat

- Maulana Sadiq Hasan (Urdu)
- Sheikh Mahdi Rastani (English)
- Zakira Farwa Vakil (Alima)

Hyderi

- Sayed Abdullah Al Nakeeb (English)

Leicester

- Br Sibtain Ghulamhussein (Urdu)
- Sheikh Azhar Nasser (English)
- Zakera Anjum Mukadam (Alima)

Leeds

- Br Mohammed Ali Muraj (Both)

Marsta

- Syed Asif Raza Rizvi (Urdu)
- Sheikh Ali Abbas Malik (English)
- Zakira Masoom Mir (Alima)

Paris North

- Cheikh Zahir Aly (Urdu)
- Saira Abdoulhoussen

Paris South

- Cheik Abass Jaffer (Gujrati)
- cheikh Yassir Alidina (French)
- Behne Nachila Rachida (Alima)

Peterborough

- Dr Sayed Ammar Nakshawani (English)
- Dhakira Sayeda Nadira Zaidi (Alima)

Trollhatten

- Maulana Mujtaba Muraj (Urdu)
- Br Sameer Ali Panjwani (Swedish)
- Sister Safiya Master (Alima)
- Sister Sughra Khatoon (Alima)

Watford

- Maulana Syed Zeeshan Haider Naqvi (Both)
- Syeda Shazia Naqvi (Alima)

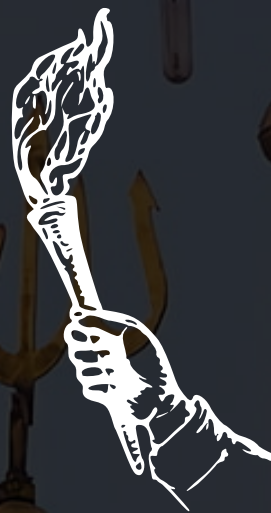
KARBALA
INSPIRES





HOW KARBALA INSPIRES

Muharram Writing Contest



**Deadline:
28th August**



**Prizes to
be won!**

How to participate

- Write a poem or presentation based on the theme (max 500 words) and record yourself reading it out.
- Send the written and recorded version to secretariat@coej.org

Categories

- Key Stage 1 (5-7 years)
- Key Stage 2 (7-11 years)
- Key Stage 3 (11-14 years)



Rules and guidelines

HOW KARBALA INSPIRES



How to participate

1. Write a short poem or presentation based on the theme. Be as creative as you like!
2. Record yourself presenting it. Either a video of yourself, or a voiceover to some slides.
3. Submit your video and script to **secretariat@coej.org**
4. In your email specify the following: Your name, category, Jamaat, Whether you consent with your submission being shared on CoEJ/Jamaat social media (Yes/No)

Rules

- Plagiarism or use of 3rd party software is not permitted
- Theme: How Karbala Inspires
- Format: You can present the video however you like, but it must be accompanied with the script.
- Word limit: 500, Maximum Video length: 3 minutes

Judging

- The entries will be judged by a panel. They will be looking at the creativity, relevance to the theme and style of presentation.





LETTER FOR SCHOOL ABSENCE

In **some schools** in the UK, the day of Ashura may overlap with school term time.

If your child requires leave on that day, we recommend you to fill out the letter template on the following page and send to your school in advance.





**The Council of
European Jamaats**

[School Name]: _____
[School Address]: _____
[City, Postcode): _____

Dear _____

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Class/Form: _____

We are writing to inform you that Wednesday, 17th July, 2024, is the Day of Ashura, a religious event of great significance to Shi'a Muslims in the month of Muharram, which is the first month of the Islamic calendar and one of the most sacred days in Islam.

The Day of Ashura is a day of mourning and commemoration for the sacrifice of Imam Hussain (peace be upon him), the grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who stood for justice, freedom, and equality. On this day, communities around the UK will hold special programs to honor this sacrifice.

The Council of European Jamaats (CoEJ), a leading organization representing Shia Muslim communities across Europe, requests that the student be excused from their daily activities to join the community in these religious observances.

We kindly ask for your support in marking this day off for religious activities rather than as a day missed from school. Your understanding and cooperation in allowing our students to participate in this important commemoration are greatly appreciated.

For further information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at secretariat@coej.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Azmina Hansraj
Secretary General of CoEJ

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____



MEDIA TEMPLATES

You can print out the poster to use on your stores and use social media graphics to share the Legacy of Karbala.



SORRY WE ARE CLOSED

THIS BUSINESS IS CLOSED TODAY TO OBSERVE THE DAY OF ASHURA. WE ARE COMMEMORATING THE MARTYRDOM OF HUSSAIN, WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR JUSTICE, TRUTH, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE FACE OF TYRANNY.

**HUSSAIN INSPIRES US AND MILLIONS AROUND
THE WORLD TO REFLECT ON THESE VALUES.**

To find out more about Hussain
and free information pack, visit:

whoishussain.org



**HUSSAIN
INSPIRES** 

SOCIAL MEDIA STORY'S

@coejamaats

KARBALA TEACHES US THE TRUE
MEANING OF **SACRIFICE, COURAGE,**
AND STANDING UP FOR **JUSTICE**

**KARBALA
INSPIRES** 

@coejamaats

"THE MOST MERCIFUL PERSON IS
THE ONE **WHO FORGIVES** WHEN HE
IS ABLE TO TAKE REVENGE"

~ IMAM HUSAYN (A)

**KARBALA
INSPIRES** 

@coejamaats

"IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ANY RELIGION
AND DON'T FEAR THE RESURRECTION,
THEN **AT LEAST BE FREE** IN THIS WORLD"

~ IMAM HUSAYN (A)

**KARBALA
INSPIRES** 

“
**DEATH WITH
DIGNITY**
IS BETTER THAN LIFE
WITH HUMILIATION
Imam Husayn (A) ”

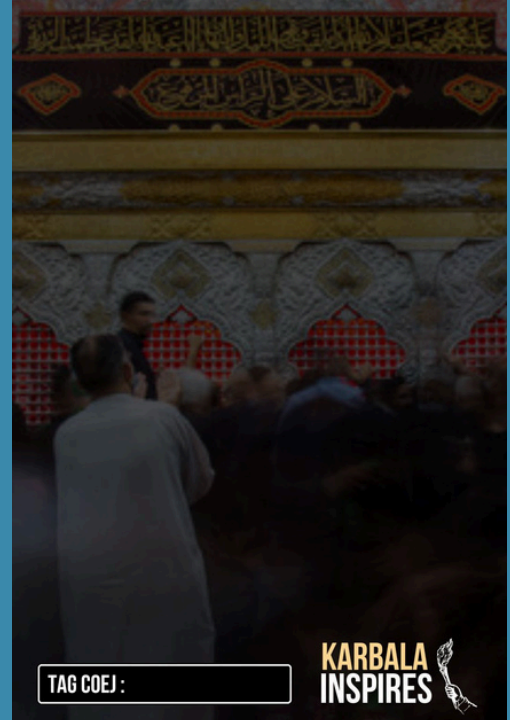


@coejamaats

THE STORY OF
KARBALA IS A
GUIDING LIGHT
FOR HUMANITY

**KARBALA
INSPIRES** 

**KARBALA INSPIRES
ME BECAUSE...**



TAG COEJ :

**KARBALA
INSPIRES** 

You can Screenshot and post on social media

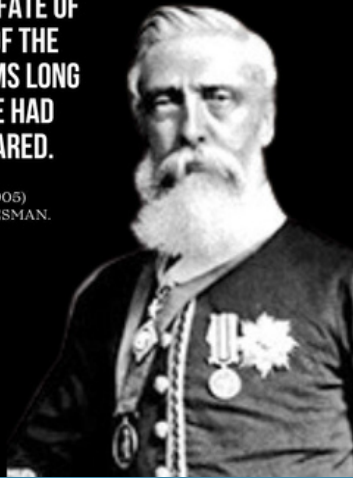
SOCIAL MEDIA QUOTES/POSTS

”

@coejamaats

THE **TRAGEDY OF** KARBALA
DECIDED NOT ONLY THE FATE OF
THE CALIPHATE, BUT OF THE
MOHAMMEDAN KINGDOMS LONG
AFTER THE CALIPHATE HAD
WANED AND DISAPPEARED.

SIR WILLIAM MUIR (1819-1905)
SCOTTISH SCHOLAR AND STATESMAN.



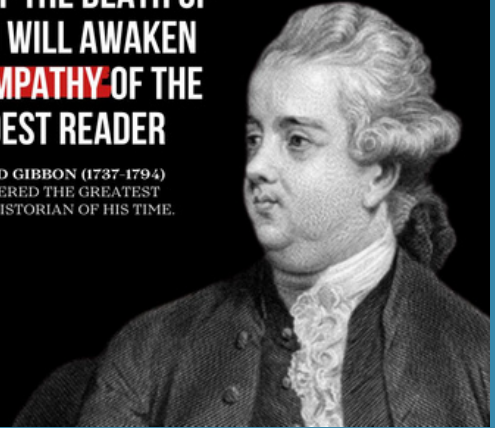
KARBALA
INSPIRES

”

@coejamaats

IN A DISTANT AGE AND
CLIMATE THE **TRAGIC**
SCENE OF THE DEATH OF
HOSEIN WILL AWAKEN
THE **SYMPATHY** OF THE
COLDEST READER

EDWARD GIBBON (1737-1794)
CONSIDERED THE GREATEST
BRITISH HISTORIAN OF HIS TIME.



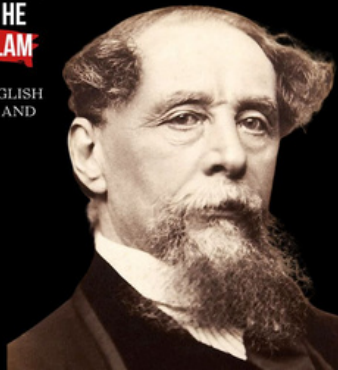
KARBALA
INSPIRES

”

@coejamaats

IF **HUSSAIN** HAD FOUGHT TO
QUENCH HIS WORLDLY DESIRES...
THEN I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY
HIS SISTER, WIFE, AND CHILDREN
ACCOMPANIED HIM. IT STANDS TO
REASON THEREFORE, THAT HE
SACRIFICED **PURELY FOR ISLAM**.

CHARLES DICKENS (1812-1870) ENGLISH
NOVELIST, JOURNALIST, WRITER AND
SOCIAL CRITIC



KARBALA
INSPIRES

”

@coejamaats

THOUGH IMAM HUSSAIN (A) GAVE
HIS LIFE ALMOST 1300 YEARS
AGO, BUT HIS **INDESTRUCTIBLE**
SOUL RULES THE HEARTS OF
PEOPLE **EVEN TODAY**.

SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN
(1888 - 1975) FORMER PRESIDENT
OF INDIA



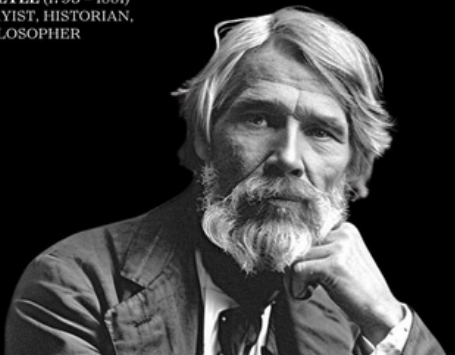
KARBALA
INSPIRES

”

@coejamaats

THE **VICTORY OF**
HUSSAIN, DESPITE HIS
MINORITY, MARVELS ME”

THOMAS CARLYLE (1795 - 1881)
SCOTTISH ESSAYIST, HISTORIAN,
AND PHILOSOPHER



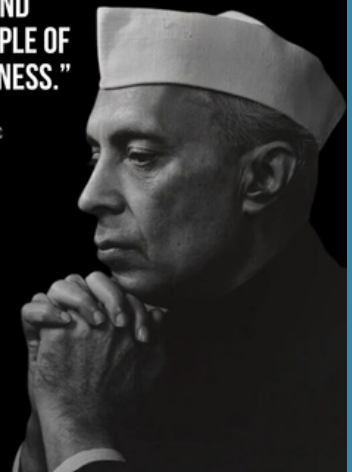
KARBALA
INSPIRES

”

@coejamaats

“IMAM HUSSAIN'S (A) SACRIFICE
IS **FOR ALL GROUPS** AND
COMMUNITIES, AN EXAMPLE OF
THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
(1889 - 1964) FORMER PRIME
MINISTER OF INDIA

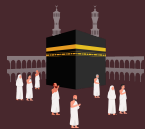


KARBALA
INSPIRES

THE BATTLE OF KARBALA: AN INFOGRAPHIC TIMELINE



Rajab: Death of Mu'awiya & Yazid's claim to the caliphate



Rajab: Departure of Imam Husayn (A) from Medina to Makkah



Ramadhan: Arrival of the many letters from Kufa



Shawwal: Arrival of Muslim ibn Aqil in Kufa

680AD



Dhu al Hijjah: Departure of Imam Hussayn (A) from Makkah



Dhu al Hijjah: Martyrdom of Muslim b. Aqil



Muharram 2: Arrival of Imam to Karbala



Muharram 3: Arrival of Umar b. Saad with 4000



Muharram 7: Blocking of water supplies



Muharram 9: Announcing of battle by Umar b. Saad and the Imam asking for a delay



Muharram 10: Tragedies of the day of Ashura & Shaam e Ghariba



Muharram 11: Moving the captives, including Lady Zainab & Imam Sajjad to Kufa

KARBALA INSPIRES



A dramatic painting depicting the Battle of Karbala. In the center, a figure is mounted on a horse, surrounded by a chaotic crowd of soldiers and civilians. The scene is filled with smoke and the sounds of battle. The central figure is wearing a white turban and a green sash. The crowd is diverse, with men in various attire, some holding weapons. The overall tone is somber and heroic.

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF KARBALA

THE STORY OF JA'FAR IBN AQIL



INTRODUCTION

In the battle of Karbala, countless brave souls sacrificed their lives alongside Imam Husayn (as). Let's **uncover the stories** of the lesser-known martyrs who fought valiantly for justice and righteousness.



JA'FAR IBN AQIL

Meet Ja'far ibn Aqil, **a remarkable warrior and companion of Imam Husayn (as)**. Son of Aqil ibn Abu Talib and Umm Thaqr bint Amir, Ja'far was a true symbol of valour and determination.



AN ILLUSTRIOUS LINEAGE

Descended from the noble **lineage of Abu Talib**, Ja'far ibn Aqil carried the bloodline of Hashim and Ghalib. His lineage added strength to his resolve on the battlefield.



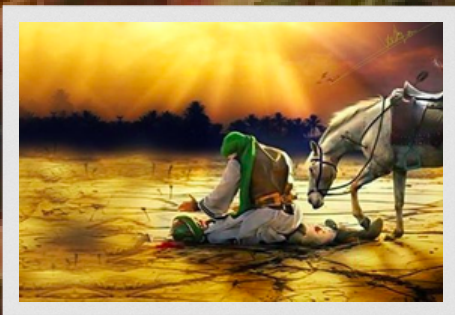
THE BATTLE BEGINS

When the battle commenced, Ja'far ibn Aqil fearlessly charged into the fray, following the footsteps of Abd Allah ibn Muslim. He engaged in combat with **unwavering bravery**.



VERSES OF VALOUR

Ja'far ibn Aqil's words echoed through the battlefield: 'I am an Abtahi (Makki) youth, an Abu Talib descendant. **From the lineage of Hashim and Ghalib, we are the masters of grandeur.** Here stands Husayn, the master of purity.'



THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Tragically, Ja'far ibn Aqil's life was cut short on the fateful day of Ashura. He fell in combat, **embracing martyrdom.**



IMMORTALIZED IN ZIYARAH

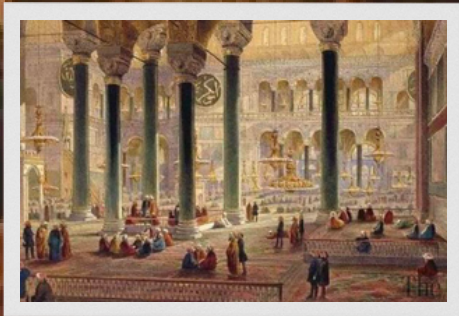
Ja'far ibn Aqil's name lives on in the sacred texts. He is mentioned in **Ziyarah al-Nahiya al-Muqaddasa** and **Ziyarah al-Rajabiyyah**, testament to his revered status among the martyrs

THE STORY OF BURAYR IBN KHUDAYR AL-HAMDANI



A NOBLE DESCENT

Hailing from the esteemed **Bani Mashriq lineage**, he was born into the Banu Hamdan, originally from Yemen. His noble heritage instilled in him a strong sense of devotion and righteousness.



SCHOLAR & COMPANION

He was not only a brave warrior but also a distinguished Qari' of the Quran. **He dedicated his life to teaching the sacred text in Masjid al-Kufa.** He was counted among the Tabi'un and had the honor of being a companion of Imam Ali (as).



A CALL FOR JUSTICE

Upon learning of Imam Husayn's migration from Medina to Karbala, Burayr felt compelled to join Husayn's army. **He left his home in Kufa to stand beside the Imam**, ready to fight for truth and righteousness.



THE DENIAL OF WATER

In the Battle of Karbala, Umar ibn Sa'd's denial of water to deeply troubled Burayr and other companions. **Burayr fearlessly confronted him**, reminding him of his duty to the family of prophethood and challenging his claim of knowing God and His Messenger.



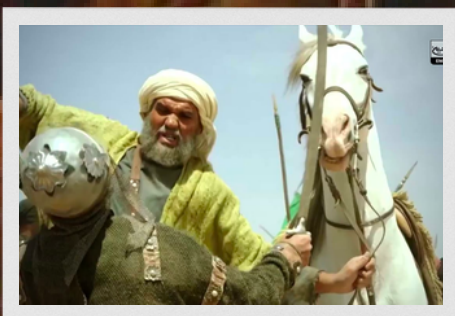
THE MUBAHALA CHALLENGE

Yazid bin Moqal, an ally of Abd al-Qays, taunted Burayr in a show of arrogance. Burayr responded by challenging him to a Mubahala (imprecation contest), calling upon God's curse on whoever was a liar. They stood before the two camps, and **Burayr emerged victorious.**



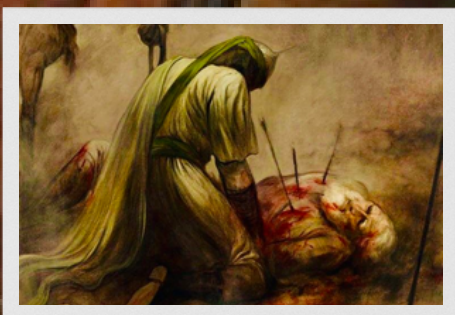
THE FALL OF AN ENEMY

During the contest, Burayr struck a mighty blow that split Yazid's (an enemy soldier) helmet and reached his brain. Yazid fell lifeless, his arrogance silenced by Burayr's unwavering faith and valour



UNYIELDING COURAGE

Undeterred by his victory, Burayr unleashed his wrath upon Ibn Sa'd's camp. **He condemned them** as 'murderers of the son of the daughter of the Messenger of God.' Burayr's bravery knew no bounds as he fought for justice



BETRAYAL & MARTYRDOM

In the midst of the battle, Burayr faced Razi ibn Munqidh Abadi in combat. Despite subduing him, Burayr was blindsided by Ka'b ibn Jabir Azadi, who struck him with a fatal blow from a spear. Burayr embraced martyrdom, **leaving a legacy of unwavering loyalty.**

THE STORY OF BASHIR IBN AMR AL-KINDI



A NOBLE HERITAGE

Bashir ibn Amr al-Hadhrami hailed from the illustrious **Kinda tribe of Hadhramaut**. His lineage instilled in him a strong sense of honour and loyalty.



ANSWERING THE CALL

When the call of Imam Husayn (as) reached Bashir's ears, he immediately joined the Imam's camp. Alongside his sons, he pledged his **unwavering allegiance** to the cause of justice.



SACRIFICE FOR FAMILY

Upon learning of Imam Husayn's migration from Medina to Karbala, Burayr felt compelled to join Husayn's army. **He left his home in Kufa to stand beside the Imam**, ready to fight for truth and righteousness.



HUSAYN'S COMPASSION

Upon learning of Bashir's sacrifice, Imam Husayn (a) expressed his admiration and granted him freedom from allegiance. However, Bashir's devotion to the Imam remained steadfast.



DETERMINATION TO STAY

Bashir **vowed never to abandon Imam Husayn (a)** and his cause, declaring that he would not leave the Imam alone with so few supporters, even if it meant searching for his captive son in caravans. His loyalty knew no bounds



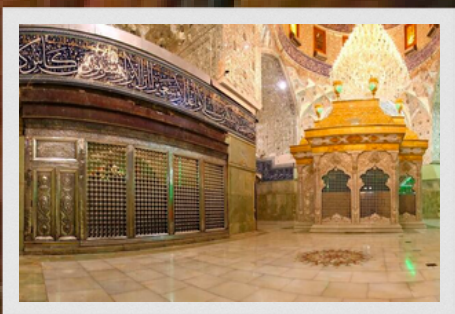
A COSTLY REQUEST

Witnessing Bashir's unwavering dedication, Husayn entrusted him with a task. **He requested Bashir to sell his precious clothes, worth 1000 dinars,** to help free his captive son, Muhammad.



MARTYRDOM

According to one source, when Imam Husayn (a) prepared to face the battlefield, only Bashir and Amr ibn Abi Muta remained alive among his companions. When Bashir found that the Imam was preparing to go to the battlefield, **he went to fight before he did.**



REMEMBRANCE IN ZIARAT

Bashir ibn Amr al-Hadhrami's name is revered in the **Ziarat al-Rajabiyya**, a testament to his valiant sacrifice. He is honored among those who laid down their lives for the cause of Imam Husayn.

Sources: Sa'id b. Hibat Allah al-Rawandi. *Al-Khara'ij wa-l-jara'ih*. Vol. 2. p. 550., Ibn Hajar al-'Asqalani. *Al-Isabah fi tamyiz al-Sahaba*. Vol. 5. p. 8., Al-Baladhuri. *The Ansab Al-Ashraf*. Vol. 3. p. 168., Taqrib al-ma'arif. Abu I-Salah al-Halabi. p. 399.

THE STORY OF ABD ALLAH IBN YAQTAR

BROTHERHOOD

Abd Allah ibn Yaqtar, hailing from Banu Layth, was born in Medina. He shared a special bond with Husayn ibn Ali, having been breastfed by the same woman. This relationship earned him the **title of the Rida'i brother of Husayn**



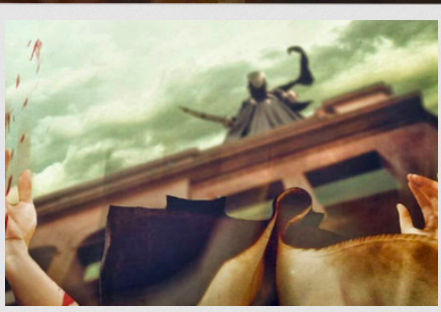
AMBASSADOR TO KUFA

According to **some references**, Imam Husayn entrusted Abd Allah ibn Yaqtar with a **crucial mission**. He was sent as an ambassador to Kufa, carrying a letter to Muslim ibn Aqil, informing him of Husayn's journey and the impending events



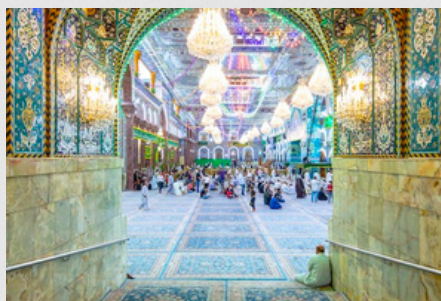
DEFIANCE & MARTYRDOM

Abd Allah's unwavering loyalty to Husayn led him to a tragic fate. **Refusing to curse Ali and Husayn**, he was thrown off the roof of the palace by the order of Ibn Ziyad. Though his fall did not kill him, he suffered broken bones and excruciating pain



FINAL ACT OF COMPASSION

In his agony, Abd Allah was beheaded by a man named Abd al-Malik ibn Umayr al-Lakhmi. When objections were raised, the man claimed to have relieved Abd Allah of his pain. **His martyrdom was marked by an act of twisted mercy**



LEGACY OF COURAGE

Abd Allah ibn Yaqtar's selflessness and **bravery** serve as a powerful inspiration for us today. Through his story, we are reminded of the timeless values of righteousness and standing up for what is just.



THE STORY OF ABU THUMAMA AL-SA'IDI



A LOYAL COMPANION

Abu Thumama al-Sa'idi, also known as Amr ibn Abdullah ibn Ka'b, was a nobleman from Kufa & a **prominent companion of both** Imam Ali (a) and Imam Hussayn (a).



SUPPORT FOR IMAM HUSAYN

After the passing of Mu'awiya, Abu Thumama was among those who gathered to **invite Imam Husayn to Kufa**, urging him to lead the uprising against oppression. He sent a letter to Imam Husayn while he was in Mecca



PILLAR OF THE UPRISING

Abu Thumama was not only a fervent supporter of Imam Husayn but also played a **crucial role in managing financial affairs, purchasing weapons, and organizing the charitable efforts** of the people of Kufa during the time of Muslim ibn Aqil



COMMANDER OF TRIBES

In the uprising against Ubayd Allah ibn Ziyad, Abu Thumama was appointed by Muslim ibn Aqil as the commander of the Tamim and Hamdan tribes. His leadership and strategic skills rallied the support of these tribes



PURSUED BY OPPRESSORS

As Ubayd Allah ibn Ziyad sought to crush the uprising, he targeted Abu Thumama. Forced to hide within his tribe, Abu Thumama eventually **left Kufa in secrecy** alongside Nafi' ibn Hilal. He joined Imam Husayn on his journey from Mecca to Karbala



BRAVE ACTIONS ON ASHURA

On the fateful day of Ashura, Abu Thumama's bravery shone through. **He prevented Umar ibn Sa'd's herald**, Kathir ibn Abdullah al-Sha'bi, from drawing his weapon in front of Imam Husayn. His devotion and courage were unwavering



PRAYERS AND VALOR

Abu Thumama called for the noon prayer, reminding everyone of its obligation. Imam Husayn, **acknowledging his piety**, sought Allah's blessings for him. Abu Thumama continued to fight with unwavering determination until his martyrdom

RECOMMENDED ACTS ON THE DAY OF ASHURA



Avoid attending to your business, employment matters, laughing and unnecessary discussions.



Refrain from eating & drinking **until afternoon** (This is not a fast).



The **A'maal** of Ashura, along with recommended supplications and Ziyarats.



Reflect on the sacrifice of Imam Husayn & try to think of ways you can learn and develop from it.



Recite **surah Ikhlas** as many times as possible



Salwat as many times as possible



When seeing other believers, it is recommended to **console each other** by saying the following:

Adhama Allahu ujurana wa ujurakum bi musabinah bil Husayn, alayhi as-salam.

Or the full version including Wa ja'alana min al-talibeen bi tha'rihi ma' waliyih al-Imam al-Mahdi, ajala Allahu farajahu al-shareef min aali Muhammad, sallallahu alayhi wa aalahi wa sallam.

Translation: May Allah make our reward and your reward great for our grief for Husayn peace be upon him. May He place us and you from those who help His cause with His representative, the guided Imam from the family of Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him and his family.

Imām Alī ibn Mūsā al-Rezā

"Whoever **avoids attending to his worldly affairs** on the tenth of Muharram, Allāh will fulfill all the wishes and desires of this world as well as the hereafter."

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