

# AL-HAADI

MADRESSAH TAALEEMUDDEEN ISIPINGO BEACH

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Yet another year has passed. One year further away from the glorious era of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa-sallam) and the beloved Sahaaba (R.A.). One year closer to the grave. One year closer to the day of Judgement.

Unlike the Kuffaar who commence the new year partying, the start of a new year makes a Mu'min reflect on many things. It reminds him that he is one giant step closer to his grave. Thus it propels him towards preparation for that day when he will be lowered into his abode beneath the surface of the earth — that abode which could be a garden of Paradise or a pit of Hell. It makes him reflect upon what has he earned in the past year for the Hereafter. A new year reminds him of his sinful actions of the past year and exhorts him to repent.

The first of Muharram also brings into focus the incident of the Hijrah (migration from Makkatul Mukarramah to Madinatul Munawwarah). This incident of unparalleled sacrifice for the protection and preservation of Deen occurred exactly 1415 years ago. The Islamic calendar was commenced from this incident to remind Muslims till the last day of the untold hardships and difficulties suffered in order to make Deen reach us. Loving families, flourishing businesses, adequately comfortable homes and the beloved land of their birth had to be sacrificed in order to protect Deen.

Hence the Mu'min is reminded that he must also be prepared to sacrifice to safeguard his Deen and pass it on to the generations to come. ♦

# MARTYRDOM

**The tenth of Muharram is observed by many people as the day of *Shahadat-e--Husain (R. A.)*. Special gatherings are held wherein the heart-rending incident of the martyrdom of Sayyidina Husain (R.A.) is mentioned. This aspect is discussed in this article.**

To lay down one's life for the cause of *Deen* is the ultimate sacrifice. Hence being the ultimate sacrifice, martyrdom naturally has the highest honour as well. Allah Ta'ala describes the martyrs as "living" in the verse: "And say not to those who have been slain in the Path of Allah that they are dead. Nay, they are alive and receive sustenance by their Master." (S.3 V.169 )

Martyrdom is nothing strange or uncommon to Muslims. The flourishing garden of Islam has been watered by the blood of the martyrs from the very early days of Islam. Among those great sons of Islam, who crowned their life-long efforts for the sake of Deen by finally laying down their lives, was Sayyidina Husain (R.A.), the noble grandson of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa-sallam). His martyrdom was indeed heart-rending in the extreme.

### SAYYIDINA HUSAIN (R.A.)

It was on the tenth of Muharram that Sayyidina Husain (R.A.) was mercilessly martyred. Before his very eyes scores of his immediate family also tasted from the cup of martyrdom. Finally he joined them. His noble head was then severed from his body. The various details of this tragic incident are too gruesome to comprehend. One could cry tears of blood.

However, the pages of our history are filled with the blood of the martyrs. How is it that we have remembered the tenth of Muharram but are totally unaware of the heart-rending martyrdom of many other great personalities of Islam. Did we know that on the first of Muharram the second Caliph of Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was also mercilessly martyred.

### SAYYIDINA UMAR (R.A.)

While leading the Fajr Salaah, Hazrath Umar (R.A.) was stabbed six times by a fire-worshipper. He fell to the ground unable to continue with the Salaah. Hazrath Abdur Rahman bin Auf (R.A.) then lead the Salaah and completed it. Hazrath Umar (R.A.) was then carried to his house. The wounds however proved fatal and on the first of Muharram he bade farewell to this temporary world. The Muslims were shattered upon the martyrdom of Umar (R.A.). We also feel the grief of that fateful day. However we have never heard of anybody observing the day of *Shahadat-e-Umar*.

### SAYYIDINA USMAN (R.A.)

Likewise the third Caliph of Islam, the son-in-law of Rasulullah (Sallallahu alaihi Wasallam), Hazrath Usman (R.A.) was also brutally martyred. When the enemy besieged his house, for days he was unable to even get any water from the well which he had purchased and gifted to everybody to use at liberty. On Friday the eighteenth of Zil Hijjah, the enemy finally broke into his home. Hazrath Usman (R.A.) was at that time reciting the Holy Quran. However no mercy was

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shown to him and his blood was spilt onto the pages of the Book Of Allah. He also joined his predecessors in Jannah. This incident can also make one shed tears of blood.

#### **HAZRATH HAMZA (R.A.)**

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wa-sallam) also witnessed some heart-rending martyrdoms. His beloved uncle, Hazrath Hamza (R.A.) was martyred in the battle of *Uhud*. After he was martyred, his body was defiled and severely mutilated. His ears and nose were cut off. The body of the beloved uncle of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was then ripped open and his liver removed. This was then taken away to be chewed. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was greatly disturbed and grieved over this. So great was his grief that when the killer of Hamza (R.A.) accepted Islam, Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) requested him not to come in front of him as this would remind him of his uncle and bring back the grief. However, Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) did not observe any day as the day of *Shahadat-e-Hamza (R.A.)*

#### **BIR-MA'OONA**

The battle of *Bir-Ma'oona* is yet another incident of the great Sahaaba (R.A.) laying down their lives for the cause of Deen. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was requested to send some of his companions to teach the people of Najd . Upon this request Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) sent seventy people who were all *Huffaaz* and *Qurra* (plural of *Qari*). On the way they were attacked and almost all were martyred. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was once again greatly grieved and for one month in the Fajr Salaah cursed these people who had deceived and martyred his beloved companions so mercilessly. Here also no day was observed as the day of their martyrdom.

#### **WHAT ABOUT THE REST?**

Indeed our hearts bleed when we recount the incident of the Martyrdom of Sayyidina Husain (R.A.). We also experience the grief when we recount the martyrdoms of Sayyidina Umar, Usman and Hamza (R.A.). Likewise we are greatly pained when we read or hear of the martyrs of Bir Ma'oona; Uhud; Badr and all the other battles. Nevertheless, despite our grief, we will refrain from all things alien to the Shariah. Let us consider that if we observe the day of the martyrdom of Sayyidina Husain (R.A.), then what about the rest? In that case almost every day of the year would be spent mourning.

#### **TENTH OF MUHARRAM**

It is therefore absolutely clear that the tenth of Muharram is not a day to observe as the martyrdom of Sayyidina Husain (R.A.). It's significance lies solely in what has been explained in the Ahadith. Ibn Abbas (R.A.) narrates that Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) came to Madina and found the Jews fasting on the day of Aashura. Hence he enquired of them: "What is the significance of this day on which you fast?" They replied: "This is a great day. On this day Allah Ta'ala saved Moosa (A.S.) and his people and drowned Firoun and his nation. Thus Moosa (A.S.) fasted on this day as a token of thanskgiving, therefore we also fast on this day." Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) remarked: "We are more worthy of Moosa (A.S.) and closer to him than you." Thereafter Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) fasted on this day and ordered his companions to do the same. (Sahih Muslim vol. 1 pg.359)

#### **LESSON FROM THE LIVES OF THE MARTYRS**

It is therefore clear that the day of Aashura is not a day of mourning. Indeed, our hearts bleed when we recall the martyrdom of Sayyidina Husain (R.A.). It also bleeds when we hear of the martyrdom of the other great personalities of Islam. However we have not been taught to perpetually mourn. Yes, we have been taught to take a lesson from the lives of the martyrs. Just as these great personalities selflessly sacrificed their lives for the upliftment of Deen, likewise we should also be prepared to make sacrifices for the protection and spreading of

## **"AASHURA"**

The tenth day of Muharram, known as the day of *Aashura*, is a very important and significant day in the Islamic calendar. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) exhorted the Ummah to fast on this auspicious day. Initially the fast of *Aashura* was compulsory upon the Muslims. However, after the fasts of Ramadaan were made compulsory, fasting on the tenth of Muharram remained as a *nafil* (optional) fast. Nevertheless, great virtues have been mentioned for this fast. In a narration of Sahih Muslim it is reported that Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was asked regarding the virtue of the fast of *Aashura*. He replied: "It is a compensation of the (minor) sins of the past year." (*Sahih Muslim* vol.1; pg. 368)

#### **OPPOSING THE JEWS**

Together with the fast of the day of Aashura, one should fast a day before or after it as well. When Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) was informed that the Jews also fast on the tenth of *Muharram*, he said: "Should I live until the following year I will definitely fast on the ninth (also). (*Sahih Muslim* vol. 1 pg. 359)

In another narration Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: "Observe the fast of Aashura and oppose the Jews. Fast a day before it (also) or a day after. (*Sunan-al-Kubra of Baihaqi* vol.4 pg.287; *Talkheesul Habeer* vol.2 pg.214)

An extremely important point is explained in the above mentioned Hadith. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has clearly instructed us to oppose the way of the Jews. By extension this applies to all creeds and religions other than Islam.

The Muslims have a distinct identity in not only their acts of *Ibadah* (worship), but in every facet of life. This includes eating and drinking, dressing and appearance, marrying and even the rites of death and burial. One should proudly uphold this identity. We should never stoop to the level of adopting the ways of the *Kuffaar* in any aspect of our lives.

May Allah Ta'ala enable us to shun the ways of His enemies totally. Aameen. ♦

# GONE UP IN SMOKE

According to expert estimates, Pakistanis burnt up **Rs.125 000.00 EVERY HOUR** in the form of smoking cigarettes. On a daily basis this adds up to the mind-boggling figure of **THREE MILLION RUPEES**. These estimates are for 1965. In that year Pakistan could have purchased 17 Supersonic fighter jets or 500 tanks with the money that it's citizens sent up in smoke. 10 warships could have also been bought for the amount spent on smoking during the course of the year. This was thirty years ago. Today these figures will be several times higher. (Courtesy *Al-Ashraf -Karachi*)

This is the situation in one Muslim country alone. If the money spent by all Muslims throughout the world on this extremely detrimental habit was to be collected, it would probably be enough to feed ALL the famine-stricken people of the world for several years. Unfortunately this great amount of Muslim wealth is going down the drain — or rather “up in smoke.” Allah Ta’ala has warned us against wasting His bounties. Allah Ta’ala says: “Do not waste. Verily the wasters are the brothers of Shaitaan!” (Surah 17 Verse 26/27). Indeed wastage occurs daily in many things. One has to refrain from all

types of wastage. Smoking, however, is perhaps among the things upon which the MOST amount of wealth is wasted DAILY.

It has been proven medically that smoking gradually destroys the body. This body does not belong to us. It is an *Amaanah* (trust) from Allah Ta’ala. To deliberately inflict destruction upon the body is forbidden in the Quran and Hadith. Smoking is therefore tantamount to deliberately destroying property left in trust!!!

The statistics on passive smoking clearly indicate that the smoker also harms those around him. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) has said that **a Believer is one who causes no harm to others.**

Another aspect of smoking is the offensive and repugnant odour which emanates from the mouth of the person who has smoked (*it certainly is repugnant to those who do not smoke even if the smoker himself has become accustomed to the offensive smell*). This should be especially considered with regards to the Hadith of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) wherein he is reported to have said: “Those who have eaten (raw) onions or garlic should not

come to the Musjid.(ie. they should first totally remove the smell and then come to the Musjid)”( *Mishkaat* pg.70) This is specifically due to the offensive smell. The following Hadith makes this absolutely evident. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) is reported to have said: “Whoever has eaten from these **foul-smelling** trees (onion and garlic) **should not come close to our Musjid** (before removing the odour) for verily the angels also are annoyed and irritated by those things which annoy and irritate humans.” (*Bukhari; Muslim—Mishkaat* pg. 69) Hence to enter the Musjid with the offensive smell of cigarettes in one’s mouth is indeed extremely reprehensible moreso because it also disturbs the pure angels of Allah Ta’ala.

However it is often noticed that a person is smoking while on his way to the Musjid or he will be seen taking the last few puffs right outside the musjid. This is directly contradicting the Hadith of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam).Therefore one should totally refrain from this practice.

May Allah Ta’ala grant those entrapped in this disease the ability to give it up immediately. Aameen.♦

## “THEY PREFER OTHERS ABOVE THEMSELVES...”

Once a Sahaabi (R.A.) came to Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) and complained of hunger and distress. At that moment Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) had nothing in hand or at his home to feed him. He therefore asked his companions: “Would anybody entertain him as a guest tonight on my behalf?” One of the Ansaar, Abu Talha (R.A.), said: “O Prophet of Allah, I will do that.” The Ansari took the person to his house. He then instructed his wife: “This man is the guest of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam). We will entertain him as best as we can and spare nothing in doing so.” The wife replied: “By Allah! I have no food in the house except something just enough for the children.” The Ansari (R.A.) said: “You lull the children to sleep without feeding them while I sit with the guest over the meagre meal. When we start eating, put out the lamp pretending to set it right so that the guest may not become aware of my not sharing the meal with him.”

The scheme worked out nicely, and the whole family remained hungry to enable the guest to eat to his fill. It was over this incident that Allah Ta’ala revealed the verse: “And they prefer others over themselves, even though

## “INTERESTED

???”

Allah Ta’ala says: “Allah **uproots** interest and causes charity to grow.” (Surah 2 Verse 275)

Ibn Masood (R.A.) reports that Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: “**Allah Ta’ala has cursed:**

- 1)The consumer of interest.
- 2)The one who gives interest.
- 3)The one who witnesses the transaction.

From the pen of



## FAQIHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of Faqihul Ummah Hazrath Mufti Mahmood Saheb (Daamat Barakaatuhum) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *Islahun Nafs* (self-reformation). Hereunder is a reply to a letter seeking guidance to a spiritual disease.

### PROTECTING THE EYES

LETTER:

Hazrath Mufti Saheb

ÇáÓáÇã Úáíβã æÑíãÉ Çááá æÈÑβÇÊå

I cannot protect my eyes (from sin). Please advise me on how to overcome this malady.

REPLY:

Beloved Brother

ÇáÓáÇã Úáíβã æÑíãÉ Çááá æÈÑβÇÊå

Allah Ta'ala has created natural means for the protection of the eyes from all sin. With every eye Allah Ta'ala has created two shutters — one at the top and another at the bottom. When one's sight falls in the wrong place, immediately close both these shutters.

There is also another means of uprooting this disease (of gazing at *ghair mahrams* — women with whom marriage is permissible). Sit in solitude, close your eyes and recite the following verse: "Does he not know that verily Allah is watching" (*the Arabic should be recited — Surah 96 Verse 14*). While reciting this verse ponder over the following: "If I am in the presence of my father, Ustaad or spiritual mentor and a strange woman (*ghair mahram*) had to pass, would I look at her? Most definitely not. How can I then look at any woman in the presence of Allah Who is watching at all times."

Practice this for ten minutes every day. Over and above that whenever you get the opportunity ponder over this until it becomes firmly embedded in the heart.

May Allah Ta'ala help you.

(Maktoobat Faqihul Ummah V.1 pg. 42)

## THE POISONOUS ARROW

Ibn Masood (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "A glance (at what is forbidden to look at) is a poisonous arrow from among the arrows of *Iblees*. Whoever will refrain from it out of fear for Allah, Allah Ta'ala will grant him in return such *Imaan*, the sweetness of which he will experience in his heart." (*Tabrani and Haakim- Badnazri ka Ilaaj pg. 29*)

The sinful glance is also among the arrows of *shaitaan*. When shaitaan wishes to mislead a person, among the various strategies he uses is to make the persons eyes flirt around. First a person looks. Then the evil thoughts creep into his mind. The next step is planning and scheming. This finally leads to the crime of *zina*. Therefore one has to refrain from even the glance which is the root of the evil.

### Sweetness of worship

Abu Umama (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "The one whose sight falls upon a woman and he immediately turns his gaze away, Allah Ta'ala will grant him such an *Ibadah* (worship) the sweetness of which he will experience in his heart." (*Ahmad — Badnazri ka ilaaj pg.30*)

The lack of enjoyment and *sweetness* in one's *ibadah*, as well as the lack of enthusiasm towards performing any *Ibadah* at all is often due to sinful glances. Refraining from this evil will create sweetness and enjoyment in one's *ibadah*.

## ONE FAST= THIRTY FASTS

It is reported by Ibn Abbaas (R.A.) that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "He who fasts on the day of Arafat, his fast will be a compensation for the (minor) sins of two years and the one who keeps a fast in the month of Muharram will receive the reward of thirty fasts for each fast (in this sacred month). (*At-Targheeb Wat*

## VISITING YOUR BROTHER

Abu Hurairah (R.A.) reports that Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alaihi Wasallam) said: "He who visits a sick person or visits his (Muslim) brother for the sake of Allah Ta'ala, a caller (from the skies) calls out to him that you have done a splendid action, you walking is also most wonderful and you have built yourself an abode in J a n n a h . "

## SUBSCRIPTION

All praise and gratitude is due to Allah Ta'ala. It is with His Grace and Mercy that the eighth issue of AL-HAADI is now in your hands. Alhamdu-lillah from the correspondence received it is gauged that many people are keenly reading this humble newsletter. We pray that Allah Ta'ala grant us and the readers the ability to practice and propagate what we learn. Aameen.

In this regard many people, especially from outlying areas, have been enquiring about subscribing to AL-HAADI. For their benefit a subscribers list has now been drawn. Any person wishing to have a copy of AL-HAADI posted to him should send his name and address to: AL-HAADI P.O.Box 26393 Isipingo Beach 4115.

The subscription to cover the cost of postage etc. is ten rands (R10.00) for twelve issues.

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