

Isteqbal e Mah e Muharram

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As the month of Muharram draws near, it is as if the hearts of believers everywhere begin to beat in unison with one silent plea: "O Allah, grant us a Muharram in which our remembrance of Imam Hussain (A.S) is accepted, in which we connect to him not just with our tears but with our transformation. Let this be the Muharram where, when we say 'Labbayk Ya Hussain,' Imam reply us with, 'I have accepted your labbayk.'"

Muharram is more than a time in the Islamic calendar. For a young Muslim, it is a spiritual season, one that comes with an open invitation. It calls on us not just to mourn but to awaken. Not just to weep but to walk. Not just to remember Hussain ibn Ali (A.S) but to ponder on who we are and where we stand.

Why is Muharram Important for the Youth?

As young people, we are constantly seeking meaning, identity, and purpose. The Month of Ramazan brings with it a chance for purification, a structured spiritual discipline through fasting and worship. Muharram, however, brings us something equally vital: an opportunity for internal revolution to always support the truth, no matter how many are standing by the falsehood.

We are entering a time zone, much like the Month of Ramazan, where our every breath become worship. Scholars say that in the month of Muharram, a special table of blessings and mercy is

spread from the heavens. Those who understand its value sit at this table, not physically, but with their hearts, feeding on the nourishment of love, clarity, and courage.

This is a time to differentiate truth from falsehood, to see clearly in a world often fogged by distraction and compromise.

إِنَّ الْحُسَيْنَ مِصْبَاحُ الْهُدَى وَسَفِينَةُ النَّجَاةِ

"Indeed, Hussain is the lamp of guidance and the ark of salvation."

(Bihar al-Anwar, v.36, p.205)

The world today, just like in 61 AH, is a battlefield between truth and falsehood. Imam Hussain's stand was not a protest for power. It was a revolution to reveal truth in its purest form.

The Core Mission of Imam Hussain (A.S)

Before leaving Madinah, Imam Hussain (A.S) clarified his purpose:

مَا خَرَجْتُ أَشْرًا وَلَا بَطْرًا وَلَا مُفْسِدًا وَلَا ظَالِمًا وَإِنَّمَا خَرَجْتُ لِطَلْبِ الْإِصْلَاحِ فِي أُمَّةِ جَدِّي

"I did not rise out of arrogance or pride, nor to spread corruption or injustice. Rather, I rose to seek reform in the nation of my grandfather." *(Bihar al-Anwar, v.44, p.329)*

His revolution was not a moment, it was a movement. It was not aimed only at rulers, it was aimed at every heart that had let apathy replace conviction.

Even the Prophet S.A.W.W prophesied this connection:

إِنَّ لِقَتْلِ الْحُسَيْنِ حَرَارَةً فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لَا تَبْرُدُ أَبَدًا

"Indeed, the martyrdom of Hussain creates a heat in the hearts of the believers that will never cool." *(Mustanbat al-Masa'il, v.10, p.318)*

Hussainiyyat vs. Yazeediyyat: A Battle Still Ongoing

Karbala was not just about individuals, it was about two powers. Hussainiyyat is an ideology about submission to divine truth, justice, sacrifice, and love. Yazeediyyat is the system of pursuit of power, manipulation, and ego under the mask of religion.

Yazeed didn't deny Islam. He distorted it. His famous poetry:

"No revelation came, no prophet was sent. It was all a game by Bani Hashim for power."

Today too, religion can become a mask. Social media normalizes sin. Systems reward silence. In such a world, living like Hussain means waking up. It means asking tough questions: Are we upholding the message of our Prophet? Are we living the values of our faith, or just the rituals?

The Qur'an itself calls us out:

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ ۙ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ ۙ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِينُ
تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ

"Say: If your parents, your children, your siblings, your spouses, your relatives, the wealth you have acquired, the trade you fear will decline, and the homes you love are more beloved to you than Allah, His Messenger, and striving in His path, then wait until Allah brings His command."

(Holy Quran, Surah At-Tawbah, 9:24)

This is what Karbala teaches us. That nothing, no person, no possession, is above standing for the truth.

The Call of Karbala: Choosing Our Side

As we enter Muharram, the real question every young person should ask is: which side am I on? Because Karbala is not just history. It is a living mirror that reflects who we are today. There are always two camps: Haq (Truth) and Batil (Falsehood). Karbala was not a random battle between two groups; it was a clash between two powers. One that stood for justice, freedom, and the will of Allah, and the other that represented corruption, tyranny, and ego.

Imam Hussain (A.S) did not rise for power or fame. He made his purpose crystal clear:

"...مَا خَرَجْتُ أَشِيرًا وَلَا بَطْرًا وَلَا مُفْسِدًا وَلَا ظَالِمًا، وَإِنَّمَا خَرَجْتُ لِطَلْبِ الْإِصْلَاحِ فِي أُمَّةِ جَدِّي"

"I did not rise up out of arrogance or pride, nor to spread corruption or injustice. I rose to seek reform in the nation of my grandfather..." *(Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 44, p. 329)*

This is our starting point. Muharram calls us to reflect: do we seek reform within ourselves, within our communities? Or are we just going through rituals with no inner transformation?

When Imam Hussain (A.S) set out from Madinah, he was not looking for war. He was responding to a world that had lost its way, where right and wrong were confused, where rulers claimed Islam yet violated its very core. Sounds familiar? Look around. Today's world is also full of injustice, moral confusion, and spiritual emptiness. This is why Karbala is so relevant because its questions are still being asked today.

The Fire That Never Dies

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

"إِنَّ لِقَتْلِ الْحُسَيْنِ حَرَارَةً فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لَا تَبْرُدُ أَبَدًا"

"Indeed, the martyrdom of Hussain creates a heat in the hearts of the believers that shall never cool." *(Musnad Ahmad / Mustanbat al-Masāil, vol. 10, p. 318)*

This fire is not just about grief, it is about drive, purpose, passion for truth. That heat inside your heart when you hear about Karbala? This is your soul recognizing Haq. This is your inner self telling you: "This is your cause. Rise for it."

And Imam Sadiq (A.S) beautifully described the universal reach of Hussain's mission:

"كُنَّا سَفُنَ النِّجَاةِ، وَلَكِنَّ سَفِينَةَ جَدِّي الْحُسَيْنِ أَوْسَعُ وَأَسْرَعُ"

"We are all ships of salvation, but the ship of my grandfather Hussain is spacious and faster."

(Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 93, p. 294)

A Time Zone of Transformation

Think of Muharram as a spiritual time zone, like the Month of Ramazan. In the Month of Ramazan, your every breath becomes worship. You fast, pray, change your habits. Muharram too is like a divine invitation, but this one is calling you to awaken your conscience.

Ulama say that in Muharram, a divine table is of mercy, light and clarity is spread from heavens. Those who come with a hungry soul are fed insight and purpose. So let's ask:

- Are we ready to be transparent with ourselves?
- Are we ready to walk into this month with truth on our sleeves and change in our hearts?

To do this, we need to understand Karbala not just as a historical tragedy, but a **divine stand**. This was not about one man versus another. This was about:

حَقٌّ وَبَاطِلٌ — Truth and Falsehood.

And it still is.

Is Presence Enough?

Many of us will sit in majalis, shed tears, wear black, and remember the names. And yes, all of this has reward. One tear for Hussain (A.S) wipes away a mountain of sins. But is that enough?

Will just attending a majlis make you part of Imam's camp? Not necessarily.

Being with Hussain means walking the path he walked. Imam said:

"مَنْ كَانَ بَادِلًا فِيْنَا مُهْجَتَهُ، وَمَوْطِنًا عَلَى لِقَاءِ اللَّهِ نَفْسَهُ، فَلْيَرْحَلْ مَعَنَا"

"Whoever is ready to give his blood for our cause, and has committed his soul to meet Allah, let him travel with us." *(Malhoof, p. 216)*

That was the filter. Imam was not recruiting numbers. He was calling hearts that were serious. Ready. So, in today's time, where the battlefield is moral, social, and ideological. Are we willing to rise?

Because when an Imam like Imam Hussain rises again, through the Imam e Zamana (A.J.F.S), this is what will be expected from a believer: loyalty, sincerity, and readiness.

فَمَنْ سَرَّهُ أَنْ يَكُونَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ الْقَائِمِ فَلْيَنْتَظِرْ، وَلْيَعْمَلْ بِالْوَرَعِ وَمَحَاسِنِ الْأَخْلَاقِ

“So whoever is pleased to be among the companions of the *Qa'im* should await his reappearance and must adopt piety and good morals.” (Ghaybat al-Nu'mani, p. 200)

Lessons From Sa'eed

One of the most powerful examples from Karbala is **Sa'eed ibn Abdullah**. During the final prayers of Ashura, Sa'eed stood like a shield in front of Imam Hussain (A.S) — taking arrow after arrow to protect him while he prayed. And when he collapsed, he didn't ask, “Will I get heaven?” He asked something else:

“Maula, are you pleased with me?”

This is what it means to be Hussaini.

The question is not about “What do I get?” It is “Am I accepted?” This is the energy we should bring into Muharram.

Hussainiyyat vs. Yazeediyyat: The Eternal Clash

Yazeed was not just a person. He was a system that tried to erase divine laws, distort religion, and normalize immorality. He even said in a poem:

لَعِبَتْ هَاشِمٌ بِالْمُلْكِ فَلَا
خَبْرٌ جَاءَ وَلَا وَحْيٌ نَزَلَ

“The Hashimites played with kingship. No news came, and no revelation descended.”

This was a denial of prophethood, of divine revelation, of Islam itself. And Yazeed tried to prove it by massacring the Prophet's family, thinking that by silencing them, he would silence the truth.

But Allah had a different plan. When Imam Hussain's head recited Qur'an on the spear, the world saw that Haq does not die. Truth lives on, even if its body is torn.

So let's be real: Yazeediyyat still exists. Not by name, but in systems that:

- Normalize injustice
- Promote falsehood
- Erase spiritual meaning
- Oppress the weak
- Glorify power over principle

And Hussainiyyat too lives on, in hearts that resist. In every youth who stands for the oppressed. In every soul that refuses to stay silent. So ask yourself again: **Which side am I on?**

The Real Reform: From Ritual to Reality

Imam Hussain (A.S) said:

إِنَّمَا خَرَجْتُ لِطَلْبِ الْإِصْلَاحِ فِي أُمَّةِ جَدِّي

“Indeed, I rose to seek reform in the nation of my grandfather.”
(*Bihār al-Anwār*, vol. 44, p. 329)

But what is *Islah* (reform)? It is not just about pointing out what is wrong in society. It is about starting that change with ourselves. You want to fight injustice? First uproot injustice inside your heart. You want to stand against oppression? First stop oppressing your own soul with sins.

Muharram is your chance to reform yourself. It is not about becoming perfect overnight. It’s about becoming *aware*. Breaking the sleep of *ghaflat* (heedlessness). The Qur'an says:

"يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ"

“O you who believe! Respond to Allah and His Messenger when they call you to that which gives you life.” (*Holy Quran, Surah Al-Anfal, 8:24*)

And what gives life more than the remembrance of Hussain (A.S)? His mission was a revival of the *sunnah*— the way of his grandfather, the Prophet (S.A.W.W), and his father Ali ibn Abi Talib (A.S). He rose so that the message would not be reduced to rituals, but would remain a living, breathing call to justice, love, and sincerity.

Muharram: A Season of Soulfulness

The days of Muharram are not just about mourning. They are a **season of awakening**. Ulema say that *Arsh* (the Divine Throne) opens a unique *spiritual table* in this month and those who are sincere, those who come empty and thirsty, are served by the unseen hand of mercy.

So prepare like you are entering sacred space.

- Just like you prepare for the Month of Ramazan: your habits, your routine, prepare your heart for Muharram.
- Clear the distractions.
- Reconnect with the Qur'an.
- Reduce your sins, even if it’s just one.
- And when you walk into a majlis, don’t just sit. *Offer yourself*. Say:
“Maula, I’m not perfect, but I’m here. Please accept me.”

And remember, sincerity is the secret.

Karbala: The Continuation of Prophethood

You know how in *Ziyarat-e-Warisa* we say:

"...السلام عليك يا وارث آدم صفوة الله"

"Peace be upon you, O inheritor of Aadam, the chosen of Allah..."

This shows us that Imam Hussain (A.S) carried the *entire legacy* of prophethood. From Aadam (A.S) to Nooh (A.S) to Ibrahim (A.S) to Musa (A.S) to Isa (A.S). All of them stood for the same divine message: to guide mankind to perfection.

So Karbala was not just a resistance against Yazeed. It was a **continuation of divine struggle** and the climax of that legacy. Imam Hussain (A.S) stood to protect what thousands of years of prophets built.

The question is: *Will we help preserve that message, or let it fade into slogans and hashtags?*

Imam of the Time: Training Ground for Loyalty

Here is the real test. Every tear you shed, every majlis you attend, every noha you recite is preparing you for the **final Karbala**.

When Imam e Zamana (A.J.F.S) reappears, there will be another line drawn: Haq vs. Batil, once again. And on that day, **you** and I will be asked: *Where do you stand?*

Karbala is not just a memory. It is a **training camp**. The Farsh-e-Aza is the bootcamp of the lovers. But being part of this movement takes effort. Sitting in a majlis is beautiful, but it is not the end goal. The end goal is *ma'rifat* (deep recognition), *ita'at* (obedience), and ultimately, *nusrat* (support).



True Presence in the Court of Hussain

Let's ask ourselves honestly:

- When I hear the story of Ali Asghar, am I ready to give what I love most for truth?
- When I hear about Ali Akbar, am I willing to give my youth in the way of Allah?
- When I hear about Zainab bint Ali, am I willing to carry the message with strength even after loss?

These are not just emotional stories, they are **templates for action**. They tell you that Hussain's mission is not passive. It requires your body, your time, your energy, your heart.

And above all, it requires sincerity.

The Prophet (S.A.W.W) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَى صُورِكُمْ وَلَا إِلَى أَجْسَادِكُمْ، وَلَكِنْ يَنْظُرُ إِلَى قُلُوبِكُمْ

“Indeed, Allah does not look at your appearance or your bodies, but He looks at your hearts.”
(*Sahih Muslim*)

Hussain Is for All of Humanity

Imam Hussain (A.S) didn't rise for one group, sect, or region. He rose for the whole *insaniyat* — for all of us. His stand was not limited to a battlefield. It was against every injustice in past, present, and future.

He did not just fight Yazeed the man, but **Yazeediyyat**, the system.

And Hussainiyyat? It is much more than mourning. It is a mindset. A commitment to justice, truth, humility, and courage, even when you stand alone.

“Kullu yawmin Ashura, wa kullu arzin Karbala.”

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

Insha Allah, Sayyed-As-Shuhada (A.S) will bestow his grace, and indeed, his grace continues and will never cease.