

Summary 3rd June 2014 – 4th Sha'baan 1435

Wiladat of Hadhrat Abul Fadhl Abbas (as)

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Key Theme of the Month: Du'a - Connecting with the Almighty

دَعَانِ إِذَا الدَّاعِ دَعْوَةً أُجِيبُ ۖ يَبْقُرُ فَايِّي عَنِّي عَبْدِي سَأَلَكَ وَإِذَا

“And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the call of the suppliant when he calls upon Me.” Surah Baqarah 2:186

Lecture based around the words of Imam Sajjad (as) about Hazrat Abbas (as)

‘Let Allah’s special mercy be on my uncle Abbas. He **sacrificed**, went under a test and was successful. And he sacrificed and assisted until his two arms were cut off. He helped his brother (Imam Husayn as) **selflessly**. Therefore, Allah substituted Abbas (as) with two wings - and now Abbas (as) is flying high in Jannah with the angels.’

- *Why does the tradition mention wings literally?*

In this context we understand that the station of Hazrat Abbas (as) in Jannah is at the highest point and is therefore in proximity to Allah (swt).

Imam Sajjad continues the tradition mentioning that all the other shuhada (martyrs) will have ‘**Ghibta**’ of Hazrat Abbas’ station in Jannah.

- **Ghibta** (envy) is different to **Hassad** (jealousy) which is a problem in our belief as it happens when you see something good in someone, and not only do you want it, but you want them to lose it. Whereas **Ghibta** is you see that good in someone else and you also want it but you do not wish them to lose it.

The saying by our 4th Imam describes the qualities of Hazrat Abbas (as) very well. There are many traditions of Hazrat Abbas such as those mentioned in the Ziyarat of Abul Fadhl (written by Imam Ja’far as-Sadiq as). However, this verse goes into more depth and emphasises on his sacrificial nature..

- *What is Sacrifice?*

Sacrifice is when someone is in need of something and even if you are in need of that thing, you sacrifice your needs. The Arabic word used here is ‘**Eethar**’ – Selflessness, giving preference to someone over yourself.

The importance of being selfless is mentioned countless times in the Qur’an. The Prophet (saw) had praised Haatim al Taei (a Christian) for his generosity and sacrificial nature.

(٢) ۖ وَعَدَّدَهُ مَالًا جَمَعَ الَّذِي

(٣) ۖ خَلَّدَهُ ۖ مَالَهُ أَنْ يَحْسَبُ

‘Who collects wealth and [continuously] counts it. He thinks that his wealth will make him immortal.’ (Sura al Humazah 104:2)

The Qur’an mentions those people who collect wealth and keep it to themselves. These people are hoarders, something which is a disease and we see the effects of it on TV shows today.

Methods of Sacrificing

The Qur’an describes the factors of sacrificing through many events in the Qur’an.

‘And [recall] when Moses said to his people, "Indeed, Allah commands you to slaughter a cow." They said, "Do you take us in ridicule?" He said, "I seek refuge in Allah from being among the ignorant.”’ (2:67)

Here the Qur’an mentions an incident with Prophet Musa (as) where he told his people to sacrifice their best food for Allah and give in the way of charity.

Whenever you sacrifice and give in the way of Allah, you should give up something is you yourself find desirable, something that you would like to receive. Put yourself in the place of the recipient and give. You can never attain goodness until you give what you love. Hazrat Abbas (as) gave his life – even when the water of River Euphrates was in front of him, he did not drink but waited to give to his beloved niece Sayyida Sakina first.

‘And [also for] those who were settled in al-Madinah and [adopted] the faith before them. They love those who emigrated to them and find not any want in their breasts of what the emigrants were given but give [them] preference over themselves, even though they are in privation. And whoever is protected from the stinginess of his soul - it is those who will be the successful.’ (59:9)

The Qur’an here is talking about the Ansaar who had settled in Madinah and were wealthy due to being established and from collection of war booty. When the Muhaajirs entered the city, the Prophet (saw) told the Ansaar to give what they love. The Ansaars willingly and happily did this and this was loved by Allah. The people who do not stay away from greed and are stingy will not succeed in this world.

Being the month of Sha’baan, one of the best things to do in this month is to giving Alms/Charity in HIS name

“What are the best deeds that should be done in Sha`ban.” The Imam (as) answered,

“Almsgiving and seeking forgiveness are the best deeds in Sha`ban. Verily, if anyone of you gives alms in Sha`ban, Almighty Allah will breed that alms in the very same way as you breed your small camels. Hence, this alms will be as huge as Mount Uhud on the Resurrection Day.’