



ALI 223: Ziyarat of Arba'een – Spiritual and Jurisprudential aspects

Webinar on:

Friday Dec 21, 2012 and

Saturday Dec 22, 2012

ALI 223: Ziyarat: Spiritual & Jurisprudential Aspects

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Hadith on Arba'een Ziyarat

- Imam Hasan al-'Askari *alayhis salaam* on the signs of a believer:

• وَوَرَدَ فِي الْكُتُبِ الْمُعْتَبَرَةِ عَنِ الْإِمَامِ الْحَسَنِ الْعَسْكَرِيِّ: عَلَامَاتُ الْمُؤْمِنِ خَمْسٌ: صَلَاةٌ إِحْدَى وَخَمْسِينَ، وَزِيَارَةُ الْأَرْبَعِينَ، وَالتَّحَنُّنُ بِالْيَمِينِ، وَتَغْفِيرُ الْجَبِينِ، وَالْجَهْرُ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.

- Arba'een is one of the four occasions on which visiting Imam al-Husayn (a) is highly recommended. Other occasions are on: The Day of 'Ashura, Middle of Sha'ban and the Day of 'Arafah.

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Section One

• **Spiritual Aspects of Ziyaarat**

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Spiritual aspects of Ziyarah

- 1) What should be our niyyat?
- 2) What should we aim to achieve?
- 3) What is the significance of visiting Haram?
- 5) How can ziyarat trip help our spirits?
- 6) Reflect on the passage when going to Haram
- *Bismillahi wabillahi wa-fee sabillahi wa-'alaa millati rasoolillahi (s), rabbigh-firlee, warHamnee, watub 'alayya innaka antat tanwabur raHeem. If possible say: rabbigh firlee, waliwaalidayya wal-mu'mineena warHamnaa, wa-tub 'alaynaa innka tanwabur raheem*

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Niyyat & objective of Ziyarat

- 1) Purify your intention. Having *ikhlaas* is very important. The ziyarah should be 100% for the pleasure of Allah and the Ahlul Bayt (a). For example, people make visits for so that:

- They are called as Hajjis or Za'irs/Zawwar
- They are joining so and so from other caravan or country
- Others are walking and we would like to join
- Spend holidays in Iraq, etc.

- Imam al-Sajjad (a) in Du'a Makarimul Akhlaq prays: *and take my intention to the best of intentions* (وَأَتَّهِ بِبَيْتِي إِلَى أَحْسَنِ النِّيَّاتِ)

- Imam al-Ridha on the objective of ziyaarah:

سَمِعْتُ أَبَا الْحَسَنِ الرِّضَا ع يَقُولُ إِنَّ لِكُلِّ إِمَامٍ عَهْدًا فِي عُنُقِ أَوْلِيَائِهِ وَ شِيعَتِهِ وَ إِنَّ مِنْ تَمَامِ الْوَفَاءِ بِالْعَهْدِ وَ حُسْنِ الْأَدَاءِ زِيَارَةُ قُبُورِهِمْ فَمَنْ زَارَهُمْ رَغْبَةً فِي زِيَارَتِهِمْ وَ تَصَدِيقاً بِمَا رَغِبُوا فِيهِ كَانُوا [كَأَن] أُمِّتُهُمْ شُفَعَاءَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

(Ilal al-Shara', Sh al-Saduq)

Status of the Holy personalities

- Imam Ja'far al-Sadiq (a) said to Ibn Marid, "O son of Marid, whoever performs the ziyaarah of my grandfather, the Commander of the Faithful (a), with awareness of his merits, Almighty Allah writes for him the reward of a well-received Hajj and an approved 'umrah for every one of his steps. O son of Marid, by Allah, the fire of hell will not touch the feet that are covered with dust during pilgrimage to the tomb of the Commander of the Faithful (a), regardless of whether he makes the journey on foot or mounted. O son of Marid, write this Hadith with gold-water." (Mafatih, Ch. 4, Merits of visiting Amirul Mu'minin)
- 70,000 angels visit the tombs in Najaf and Karbala daily
- Know that there numerous such Hadiths for various Imams

More points on spirituality 1

- 1) Write any rights of Allah and rights of people that may have been violated. Address these before you go. If not possible, at least write and address them when you return.
- 2) Clear any outstanding *huquq* that may be due
- 3) Before departure perform *tawbah* for all of the past sins.
- 4) Give one sadaqah for past mistakes and another seeking assistance of Allah in the upcoming trip. This second *sadaqah* is to help prevent any obstacles along the way. Pay sadaqah daily, more so on your trip. Ref Al-Amali of Mufid.
- 5) Always think about **special spiritual station** of the personalities you are visiting. Think of them and how they have a reality which goes beyond just their physical body. Their reality is one of divine light (Noor) and they have a special station in this regard.

Ziyarah of Imam Husayn: Adab

- Fast for 3 days before leaving for the ziyaarah & a bath on the third day
- Walk bare foot a short distance. Arrive the shrine with dusty and disheveled hair
- On reaching the grave, stroke it with your hand, say *Assalamu alayka ya Hujjatal labi fi ardibi wa-asmâ'ih*
- One should know that the main part of observances performed in the holy shrine of al-Husayn is supplication, for answering of supplications under its dome is one of the things granted by Allah Almighty to the Imam for his martyrdom. The pilgrim must take advantage of this matter and take care not to neglect the opportunity to repent from sins, entreat God for forgiveness and to make petitions for fulfillment of his needs. Recite as much from *al-Sahifa al-Kamilah*, which are the finest of supplications. (Abbas Qummi, *Mafatih*)

Interaction with others is part of spirituality

- Be considerate to them. They have rights over you. Serve them, prepare necessities for them. The 4th Imam used to travel with Hujjaj unknown, so he would have a chance to serve them
- Overlook their faults and mistakes
- Proper use of bathrooms
- Avoid: loud talking, inappropriate joking, making fuss about issues, talking privately, entering places reserved for women
- Have pleasant manners & interactions with others
- Pray for others also. Better ahead of your needs.

More points on spirituality 2

- 6) As much as possible, during the trip busy yourself with *dhikr*. Avoid saying things that are trivial, and just to pass the time, Remember that this is the place where Imams, disciples & other *amliyaa* used to walk around, where he used to stand and sit. Such reflections will yield rewards.
- 7) Share your *thawab* with those who have a right over you. - your father, mother, teacher, etc. This doesn't mean that there won't be any reward left for you. Rather, for however many people you include in the niyyah, all will partake, and you will even be given more than you would have before.
- 8) We should be careful not to overeat during the trip. Such overeating will prevent us from obtaining a *haal* (special spiritual state) in the haram. We should eat enough to take care of our hunger but less than the point where we are full so we can spend more time in the haram and experience better spiritual states.

Section Two

• ***Jurisprudential Aspects of Ziyaarat***

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Essential points for discussion

- *How to perform wudhu?*
- *Performing Wudhu made easy*
- *Saying salat on board*
- *Option of Saying complete salat in Iraq*
- *Significance of the Haram of Hadrat Abbas*

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Wudhu in the Holy Qur'an

- Verse 5:6

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قُمْتُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ فَاغْسِلُوا
وُجُوهَكُمْ وَأَيْدِيَكُمْ إِلَى الْمَرَافِقِ وَامْسَحُوا بِرُءُوسِكُمْ
وَأَرْجُلَكُمْ إِلَى الْكَعْبَيْنِ

- O you who have faith! When you stand up for prayer, wash your faces and your hands up to the elbows, and wipe a part of your heads and your feet, up to the ankles.

How to do wudhu? – Part 1

- Do your *niyyat* – intention to seek closeness to Allah *subhanahu wa-ta 'aala*
- 1. Wash your face from the forehead, i.e. from the hairline to the chin vertically and that which falls within the expanse of your hand between the thumb and the small finger horizontally. Wash from the top to the bottom of the face
- 2. Wash your arms from the elbow to the finger tips, starting with the right arm. The manner of washing should be from the elbow down to the finger tips.

How to do Wudhu? Part 2

- 3. Wipe with your right hand (while it is still wet) the front of your hair, preferably with the palm of the hand, starting from the top to the hairline excluding the forehead.
- 4. Wipe your feet with your hands from the toes to the ankle. Use right hand to stroke the right foot and the left hand to stroke the left foot, while both hands are still wet with the original water of wudhu.

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Wudhu doing made simple

- Use of spray bottles for wudhu
- You can carry it on board, 3 oz or less, in your purse or pocket when going to Haram
- Ensure that you spray enough water
- Washing should be different from wiping
- Use bathrooms for wudhu or spray bottles when travelling by plane, trains or coaches
- Renew your wudhu using spray bottle whilst in the Haram if you would like to keep your spot
- Ladies to ensure that not to expose hands & feet

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Prayers on board

- 1) How to determine timings?
 - a) Prepare in advance cities you will be passing by
 - b) Use of maps on the screens
- 2) How to determine the Qibla?
 - a) Use compass, if you have one.
 - b) Use of interactive maps on the screens
- 3) Better to avoid saying prayers in the rows, near washrooms or serving places. Instead say prayers using your assigned seat
- 4) Rules of saying prayers whilst seating

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Option of praying full in Iraq

- 1) Haram of Imam al-Husayn in the Haa'ir
- 2) Masjid Kufa, rather the entire city of Kufa
 - One prayer is equal to 1000 prayers
 - 1 wajib prayer = 1hajj; 1 mustahab prayer = umrah with the Holy Prophet (s).
 - 6th Imam: if people were to know its merits, they would come to it crawling
 - Special prayer of Hajaat in the middle of it
 - 1000 prophets & 1000 awsiyaa have prayed in it
 - It will be the venue of payer for Imam Mahdi
- 3) Masjid Sahla – considered as part of new Kufa

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Significance of Haram of Abbas

- No less than Imam al-Husayn (a)
- Spend some if not equal time at his haram
- Imam al-Sajjad (a) on his uncle: *May Allah's mercy be on Abbas. He sacrificed himself for his brother and gave his life for his sake. They severed his arms while he was serving his brother, and God Almighty rewarded him for that by giving him two wings with which he flies in paradise, like Ja'far b. Abi Talib. Abbas has a station with Allah which will be envied by all martyrs on the Day of Resurrection & they would aspire to it.*