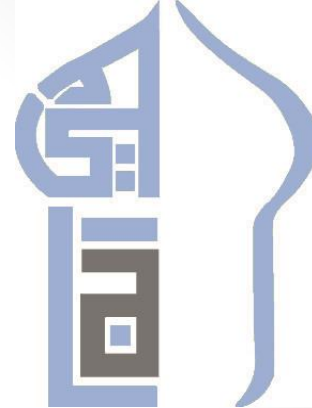


بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## ALI 250: How do we prepare for Muharram

Al-Wilayah Islamic Center  
Hamilton, ON

Saturday November 2, 2013

Dhul Hijjah 27, 1434

# Make provision, O believers

- Advice to people preparing for Hajj

• بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ. وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ ۖ وَتَزَوَّدُوا  
فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى ۖ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ

- And whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it. And take a provision (With you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is *taqwaa*. So fear Me, o you who are wise
- In this verse *taqwaa* has been translated as: Guarding of oneself (Shakir); To ward off evil (Pickthall); Right conduct (Yusuf Ali);

# Commentary on the ayat

Tabatab'i: *And whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it.* It is a reminder that one's actions are not hidden from Allah; it calls one to piety and fear of Allah, so that one's acts of worship might not be devoid of the spirit of devotion; so that one might not go through the external rites of worship with one's mind absent and one's heart forgetful . . .

Knowledge without practice has no value in Islam. That is why this exhortation to piety and fear of Allah is immediately followed by the words *So fear Me, o you who are wise*

# How would you prepare for:

- 1) A trip to Toronto from Hamilton?
- 2) 3 days trip to Niagara falls?
- 3) Summer holidays in Iraq or Lebanon?
- 4) Ziyarat trip to Mashhad?
- 5) Obligatory Hajj journey?
- In each of the above we need different: types of preparation, duration taken and efforts put. Factors: How important the trip is and how long it will take? Similar ask: Is Muharram important? When will it come again?

# Five types of preparations

We need to make preparations in our:

- 1) Physical appearance
- 2) Souls (*nufus*) – internally
- 
- 3) Homes and places of residences
- 4) Gatherings at Husayniyyahs
- 5) Social lives and interactions

# Change of physical appearance

- Imam Ali b. Musa al-Ridha (a) on the condition of his father during the first 10 days of Muharram
- Will of Ayt S Shahabuddin Mar'ashi Najafi on including black clothes along with his kafan
- Wear grief and sadness or at least have an appearance of the one who has lost a dear one. Or at least avoid laughs and merry making
- Avoid or minimize make ups on your faces (esp. girls)
- Question: Should the grief be only limited to the first 10 days? What about other days in Muharram and for the month of Muharram?

# Internal preparations

- Salat requires wudu, ghusl or tayammum to purify the soul. How can we purify our souls before or for Muharram ceremonies?
- Think about **special spiritual status and great historical contribution** by persons you are remembering. 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.
- They are living and enjoying *rizq* from Allah.
- Can we reach their status? If not, why? If yes, how?
- Consume less meat, fast where possible and stay away from eating & drinking on the day of 'Ashura till 'asr time.

# Preparing our homes

- Atmosphere in our homes should display grief and look like someone who has lost a close dear relative
- Avoid watching those programs that entertain us, give joy and make us happy.
- Remind your young siblings about the great sacrifice of children and women in Karbala
- Watch Ahlul Bayt TV or other arabic/farsi programs
- Have a poster that remind you of the tragedy



# Our gatherings at the Husayniyyah

- Ensure to attend on time and regularly
- Go to the Husayniyyah with following intentions:
  - Derive the pleasure of Allah (swt)
  - To console (*ta'azzī*) Imam al-Mahdi al-Qa'im (af)
  - To learn something. (Hadith on seeking *'ilm*)
  - To encourage relatives, friends & neighbors
  - To participate fully in various activities/services

Observe etiquette (*aadaab*) of attending majalis

Recite poems in praise of Ahlul Bayt and their grief on account of Karbala tragedy (see Hadith)

# Social life styles in Muharram

- Avoid attending all merry making and entertaining parties
- Besides education/work, home responsibilities, obligatory *'ibaadaat*, resting attend and/or organize majalis al-Husayn (a). This way we invite the Ahlul Bayt (a) in our places
- Take care on how you dress and present yourself in the presence of others
- See if you can do a presentations at your schools and colleges or send emails to local papers

# Select Hadiths on 'Azaa

In *Nafasul Mahmoom*, Sh 'Abbas Qummi quotes following:

Imam al-Sadiq (a): *O Abu Haroon! If a person recites couplets about Imam Husayn (a) and makes ten people weep by it then Paradise is reserved for him at that very moment.*” Then Imam started reducing the number till he reached one and said: *If a person recites couplets about Imam Husayn (a.s.) and makes a single person weep by it, then Paradise is reserved for him at that very moment.* (Hadith 2)

*The Angels who weep over us are numerous, and their tears have never dried up from the time of our martyrdom, and there is none who does not lament over us. And no one weeps over us and our afflictions, accept that Allah sends His blessings upon him before his tears fall on his cheeks from his eyes. And if one tear, which have fallen from their eyes, is thrown in the pit of hell, it's heat would cool down as if no fire ever existed there. The one whose heart feels pain for us will rejoice on the day he sees us during his death and (his delight) will remain intact till he meets us at the fountain of Kawthar.* (Hadith 4)