



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ALI 253: Arba'een 1435 Ziyarah

Webinar on:

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Spiritual and ethical aspects

• وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ ۖ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ
التَّقْوَىٰ ۖ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِيَ الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿١٩٧﴾

- 2:197 *And whatever good you do, God knows it. And take provision, for indeed the best provision is Godwariness. So be wary of Me, O you who possess intellects!*
- (‘Allāmah Tabātabā’i: It is a reminder that one’s actions are not hidden from 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)

Spiritual aspects of Ziyarah

- 1) What should be our intention (niyyat)?
- 2) What should we aim to achieve?
- 3) What is the significance of visiting Haram?
- 5) How can ziyārah 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 tawwabur raHeem. If possible say: rabbigh firlee, waliwaalidayya wal-mu'mineena warHamnaa, wa-tub 'alaynaa innka tawwabur raheem*

Iyyaka na'budu wa iyyaka nast'een

Numerous pilgrims feel like asking for their needs from holy souls they are visiting. In fact some go for ziyārah for the sole purpose of asking for the fulfillment of their needs.

Undoubtedly, the holy souls will grant your legal desires for they were renowned for their generosity during their lifetimes.

However, instead of asking directly from these souls, it is better to ask from Allah for the sake of the holy person you are visiting.

In a recitation when visiting the Messenger of Allah, Imam al-Sādiq (a) has taught us to say: *O Muhammad! I have turned to Allah, Your Lord and mine, through you, so that He forgives my sins.* In the passage before this, we mention that

Muhammad was the Prophet of Mercy, even then we ask from Allah and not from the Prophet. We read: *O Allah . . . I have come to Your Prophet, repenting and asking for forgiveness for my sins, and I have turned to You through Your Prophet, the Prophet of Mercy, Muhammad* (Kāmil, Ch 3, H.1)

Niyyat & objective of ziyārah

Purify your intention. Having *ikhlas* is very important.

The ziyārah 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 walking to Karbala
 - I have holidays, so why not spend in Iraq, etc.
- Imam al-Sajjad (a) in Du'a Makarimul Akhlaq prays: *and take my intention to the best of intentions* (*وَإِنْتَهُ بِنِيَّتِي إِلَى أَحْسَنِ النِّيَّاتِ*)

- Imam al-Ridha on the objective of ziyārah:

سَمِعْتُ أَبَا الْحَسَنِ الرَّضَا ع يَقُولُ إِنَّ لِكُلِّ إِمَامٍ عَهْدًا فِي عُنُقِ أَوْلِيَائِهِ وَشِيعَتِهِ وَإِنَّ
مِنْ تَمَامِ الْوَفَاءِ بِالْعَهْدِ وَحُسْنِ الْأَدَاءِ زِيَارَةَ قُبُورِهِمْ فَمَنْ زَارَهُمْ رَغْبَةً فِي زِيَارَتِهِمْ
وَتَصَدِيقًا بِمَا رَغِبُوا فِيهِ كَانُوا [كَانَ] أَيْمَتُهُمْ شُفَعَاءَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

(*Ilal al-Shara'i*, Sh. al-Sadūq)

Know the status of holy souls

- Imam Ja‘far al-Sadiq (a) said to Ibn Marid, “O son of Marid, whoever performs the ziyārah of my grandfather, Amīrul Mu‘minīn (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 Amīrul Mu‘minīn (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
- There are numerous such Hadiths for various Imams
- Helps in developing love & reverence of holy souls, we are not visiting them blindly or because others are doing it.

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*)

Etiquette of interacting with others

- Be considerate to other pilgrims. They have rights over you. Serve them, prepare necessities for them. Imam al-Sajjad (a) used to travel with Hujjaj who did not know him so that he serve them during the trip.
- Overlook their faults and mistakes, esp. seniors, children, etc
- Proper use of bathrooms; you must leave it clean
- 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; remember them ahead of your needs.
- People serving you in the Haram, security people, guides, etc. are all fellow mu'minān like you.

More points on spirituality

-As much as possible, during the trip busy yourself with *dhikr*. Avoid trivial comments. Remember that this is the place where holy Imams, their disciples & other *awliyaa* used to walk around, used to stand and sit for worship. Such reflections will yield rewards and admiration for them.

-Include in your *ziyārah* those who have a right over you - your father, mother, teacher, etc. This will not decrease your reward, for Allah is All-generous & Beneficent. Rather, your reward will always be more by many fold.

-Avoid overeating during the trip, for it may prevent us from obtaining a *haal* (special spiritual state) in the Haram. We should not remain hungry and have strength to worship

-Some friends love chatting for long. In that case try to cut the conversation short by talking about the history of the holy souls and the places where they have been buried.

Five common adhkār - 1

- سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ، وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Glory be to Allah, and Praise is for Allah, and There is no god, save Allah, and Allah is the Greatest. Holy Prophet (s):

Recite 'Subhanallah ' in the morning and evening. When you say it, for every glorification you get 10 trees in Heaven, with a variety of fruits, and these are from the good deeds that last.

- اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. Holy Prophet (s): *For the one who sends salawāt on me there will be a Light on the sirat on the Day of Judgment, and the one who will be from the people of light on the sirāt will not be from the people of fire.*

Imam al-Ridha (a): *Whoever is not able to atone for his sins, then let him recite the salawāt often, for it destroys sins completely.*

Five common adhkār - 2

- اَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ رَبِّيَّ وَاتُّوبُ اِلَيْهِ

I plea Allah, my Lord, for forgiveness and turn to Him repentantly. Holy Prophet (s): *For every disease there is a cure, and the cure for sins is Istighfar; Fortunate is the person who finds in his book under every sin [written]: astaghfirullāh*

- لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ اِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ

There is no power and strength except with Allah, the Sublime, the Enormous. The HP (s): *whoever says La hawla wa la quwwata . . . is free from his sins the way he was on the day his mother gave birth to him, and he is protected from seventy doors of evil.*

- لَا اِلهَ اِلَّا اَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ اِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِيْنَ

There is no god except You; You are immaculate. I have indeed been among the wrong-doers (Q 21:87) – this is an effective Du‘a of Nabi Yunus included in various supplications – fajr, Safar, etc.

Section Two

Jurisprudential Aspects of Ziyārah

Essential points for discussion

- *How to perform wudū?*
- *Performing wudū made easy*
- *Saying salāt on board*
- *Qibla and timing for salāt*
- *Option of Saying complete salāt in Iraq*
- *Never make your salāt qadhā; do not commit sin to do mustahab act.*

Wudū 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.

Wudū made simple

- Use of spray bottles for wudū
- You can carry it on board, 3 oz/100 ml 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 wudū or spray bottles when travelling by plane, trains or coaches
- Renew your wudū using spray bottle whilst in the Haram if you would like to keep your spot
- Ladies to ensure that not to expose hands & feet

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

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

Miscellaneous: 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.*

Misc 2: Ziyārah of Mashhad

Some of us visit Iraq often but are unaware about the importance of ziyārah in Iran

- Al-Khui: Only ziyārah of Holy Prophet (s) excels it
 - قِيلَ لِأَبِي جَعْفَرٍ مُحَمَّدَ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ الْجَوَادِ (ع) زِيَارَةَ الرَّضَا (ع) أَفْضَلَ مِنْ زِيَارَةِ الْحُسَيْنِ (ع)؟ فَقَالَ زِيَارَةُ أَبِي أَفْضَلُ لِأَنَّهُ لَا يَزُورُهُ إِلَّا الْخَوَاصُّ مِنَ الشُّيْعَةِ
- Imam al-Jawad (a) was asked: doing ziyārah of al-Ridha (a) is better or ziyārah of al-Husayn (a)? He said: *doing ziyārah of my father is better because non visits him except select amongst the Shi'ah*
- Benefits of being in an Islamic country
- Indirect support to fellow believers
- It is a unique experience to be in Qum
- Good security, so we can visit other cities in Iran

For further reading

A‘māl of Masjid-e-Sahla

<http://www.ziaraat.org/books/amaal-e-sahla.pdf>

Arba‘een of Imam Husayn by Sh Saleem Bhimji

<http://tinyurl.com/ox6kvv4>

www.al-islam.org/arbaeen-imam-husayn-shaykh-saleem-bhimji/arbaeen-imam-husayn#does-number-40-have-any-significance

Iraq Ziyarat Handbook

<http://www.asserattours.com/docs/66.pdf>

Layout of Imam Ali A.S Masjid in Najaf

<http://tinyurl.com/osfxbjj>

Tahajjud Salat – app for iPhone and Android

www.academyofislam.org/index.php/resourcess/publications/apps