



Significance of the Events of Karbala

Session 1:

Safar 1, 1427/ February 19, 2007

Qur'ân âyât on Imamat

- وَإِذِ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ قَالَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا قَالَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي قَالَ لَا يَنَالُ عَهْدِي الظَّالِمِينَ
- يَوْمَ نَدْعُو كُلَّ أُنَاسٍ بِإِمَامِهِمْ 17:71
- وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ أُمَّةً يَهْدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْهِمْ فِعْلَ الْخَيْرَاتِ وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ وَكَانُوا لَنَا عَابِدِينَ 21:73

Comments on the 3 verses

- Imam is an important doctrine
- Zalim (wrong doer & unjust) person cannot become an Imam
- Holy Prophet on who are the imams
- Following the right imams is essential
- Being guided oneself & guiding others most important role of an Imam

Ashura: the greatest calamity

The day of al-Husayn's murder is a greater calamity than all the rest of those days, for the reason that the Companions of the Cloak, who were the most cherished creatures in Allah's eye, were five. When the Prophet departed from them, there remained Amîrul Mu'minîn and Fâtima and al-Hasan and al-Husayn, for the consolation and comfort for the people. When Fâtima passed away, . . . al-Hasan passed away there was in al-Husayn a comfort and consolation for people. So when al-Husayn, may Allah embrace him in glory, was killed, not one of the Companions of the Cloak remained to be a consolation and comfort for people after him. Thus, his passing was like the disappearance of all of them, just as his abiding had been like the continuation of them all.

Imam al-Husayn in Sunni books

- Anas ibn Malik: When Allah's Messenger f was asked which member of his family was dearest to him, he replied, *Al-Hasan and al-Husayn*. He used to say to Fâtima, *Call my two sons to me*, and then would sniff and cuddle them.
- Anas Ibn Malik: “Al-Husayn resembled the Prophet more than any other people.”
- Al-Bukhârî: A person asked Abdullah Ibn `Umar whether a Muslim could kill flies. I heard him saying (in reply): “The people of Iraq are asking about the killing of flies while they themselves murdered the son of the daughter of Allah's Apostle. The Prophet said: *They (i.e. Hasan and Husayn) are my two sweet basils in this world.*”

Imam reminds of his right

- The oppressed Imām and the Master of Martyrs (a) spared no means to provide Mu`awiyah with advice, to guide him to the right path, and to acquaint him with Yazid's abominable conduct, and that he was better than him in every respect. Once he said to him, “*My mother is better than his mother, and my father is better than his father.*”

Imam refuses Yazid's appointment

- You want to mislead people into thinking that you are describing someone with whom they are not familiar, or identify an absentee, or acquaint them with some specific knowledge. Yet Yazīd has personally revealed what his mentality is; so, draw your own conclusion about Yazīd from noticing his interest in exploring decorated hunting dogs, race pigeons, female singers with their musical instruments, his entertainment parties, and you will then find all of that helpful [to form an idea about him]. Stop what you are trying to do; it will not help you when you meet Allah to carry, besides your own burden of sins, the sins of all this multitude.

Imam reminds Mu`wiya about the Hearfter

- Be admonished that Allah, the most Sublime, the most Great, has a Book which leaves nothing, small or big, without recording it. Allah, the most Exalted One, does not forget how you annihilate people for mere suspicion, how you kill His friends only on account of your charges, and how you exile them from their homes to foreign lands. Did you not kill ajar al-Kindi and the worshippers who always upheld their prayers and who resented oppression and regarded *bid`as* as most abhorred and did not accept the blame of anyone when it came to upholding Allah's Commandments? Did you not kill `Amr ibn al-amq, the companion of the Messenger of Allah, the righteous servant of Allah whose body was worn out by adoration and whose complexion turned yellow on account of fearing Allah even after having granted him security and given him of the sacred promises . . .

Why did the Imam rise up?

- *Don't you see that the truth is not followed and the falsehood is not discouraged? (The situation is such) that a believer wishes to meet Allah (i.e. to die). And today I don't see death but prosperity, and living with tyrants is nothing but disgusting and disgrace.*
- *People are the slaves of this world, and religion is just on their tongue. They keep it as long as it meets their comfort of life. But when the test comes, religion holders become very few.*

Function of an Imam

- . . . and that you have invited me to come to you because you have no Imam to guide you, and that you hope my arrival there will unite you in the right path and in the truth. I am sending my cousin and the trusted one from my family [Muslim b. `Aqîl] to report to me about your affairs. If his report conforms to what you have written, I will soon come. But you must be clear about the fact that the Imam is only one who follows the Book of God, makes justice and honesty his conduct and behavior, judges with truth, and devotes himself to the service of God. Peace.

Why did other imams not rise?

- Allah has chosen Muhammad from among his people, graced him with His Prophethood and selected him for His message. . . We, being his family (ahl), his close associates endowed with the quality of guardianship (awliyâ'), his trustees and vice regent (awsiyâ'), and his heir and legatee (wârith), are the most deserving among all the people to take his place. But the people preferred themselves over us for this [privilege]. We became contented, disliking dissension and anxious to preserve the peace and well being [of the community], though we were fully aware that we were more entitled to this [leadership] than those who had taken it for themselves...

State of Ummah after Mu`wiyah

- I have sent my messenger to you [O people of Basra] and I call you to the Book of God, and the Sunnah of his Prophet, the Sunnah that has become obliterated and innovations have become active and energetic. If you listen to me and obey my orders I will guide you to the right path. May the Peace and the Mercy of Allah be upon you.