



Why a special form of 'Azaa for the martyrs of Karbala?

Session 1:

Safar 5, 1428/ February 23, 2007

Qur'ân âyât 12: 83-86

• قَالَ بَلْ سَوَّلَتْ لَكُمْ أَنْفُسُكُمْ أَمْرًا فَصَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ عَسَى اللَّهُ
أَنْ يَأْتِيَنِي بِهِمْ جَمِيعًا إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ 83 وَتَوَلَّى
عَنْهُمْ وَقَالَ يَا أَسْفَى عَلَى يُوسُفَ وَأَبْيَضْتُ عَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْحُزَنِ
فَهُوَ كَظِيمٌ 84 قَالُوا تَاللَّهِ تَفْتَأُ تَذَكُرُ يُوسُفَ حَتَّى تَكُونَ
حَرَضًا أَوْ تَكُونَ مِنَ الْهَالِكِينَ 85 قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَثِّي
وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ وَأَعْلَمُ مِنَ اللَّهِ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ 86

Translation of 12:83 - 86

- *12:83 He (Ya'qub) said: Nay, your souls have made a matter light for you, so patience is good; maybe Allah will bring them all together to me; surely He is the Knowing, the Wise. 12:84 And he turned away from them, and said: O my sorrow for Yusuf! and his eyes became white on account of the grief, and he was a repressor (of grief). 12:85 They said: By Allah! you will not cease to remember Yusuf until you are a prey to constant disease or (until) you are of those who perish. 12:86 He said: I only complain of my grief and sorrow to Allah, and I know from Allah what you do not know.*

Marthîyya on Karbalâ is the richest field of poetry

- Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shamsud deen: (Introduction to Chapter 3 on Lamentation in his book *The Rising of al-Husayn*) One of the richest fields of Arabic poetry is the poetry of lamentation for al-Husayn. It is much greater and more natural than that on any other single subject. In addition to classical Arabic, colloquial of Iraq and the Gulf possess has a vast lamentation poetry about al-Husayn and his revolution. So is the case with Farsi & Urdu.

Function of Marthîyya - 1

- To invite the audience to dwell on the virtues of the deceased and demerits of the enemy
- Steadfastness of al-Husayn's companions on the eve of Âshûrâ, Abbas Qummi quotes: *How excellent was the youthfulness of men who persevered in patience, the like of which I have not seen among men. Those were virtuous noble men like pure milk, Unlike contaminated water turning to urine after drinking (Nafas al-Mahmum)*
- Imam al-Husayn (a): *I do not know of any companions better and more faithful than my own companions, nor do I know of any kinsmen more virtuous and more dutiful than my own*

Function of Marthiyya - 2

- To move audience to weeping and wailing
- For e.g. the marthiya of Asma bint Aqil b. Abi Talib when people of Madina came to know about the martyrdom of Imam al-Husayn (a); people in the streets of Madina came out weeping and wailing.
- Clearly seen on the day of Ashura and night of 11th Muharram (shame ghariba)

Function of Marthîyya - 3

To picture the tragedy through poetry

- Abu Harun al-Makfuf reported: Abu 'Abd Allah (i.e. Imam Jafar al-Sadiq) said to me: *Abu Harun, recite to me about al-Husayn*. I recited and he wept. Then he said,
- *'Recite as you were reciting.'* He meant with emotion.
- Shamshuddin: Karbala lamentation reached a special style by the time of the 6th Imam (a)

Function of Marthiyya - 4

- To derive the sympathy and intercession of the Ahlul Bayt عليهم السلام

Maraji: Based on Hadith, these rituals are not only permitted, but performing them and establishing the ritual will carry reward.

Some quote Qur'an 22: 32- *That (shall be so); and whoever respects the signs of Allah, this surely is (the outcome) of the piety of hearts*

ذَلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعِظْ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ

Merits of composing & reciting Marthiyya

Imam al-Sâdiq (a): (1) God has built a house (bayt) in Heaven for whoever recites a line (bayt) of poetry about us. (2) Abu Harun, whoever recites poetry about al-Husayn and weeps making ten others weep, Heaven is decreed for him. (3) Whoever recites poetry about al-Husayn and he weeps and he makes one other weep, Heaven is decreed for them both....' Question: Why so much reward?

Umm Rabab d/o Amr al-Qays

- He who was a light, shining, is murdered; Murdered in Karbala, and unburied. Descendant of the Prophet, may God reward you well; May you be spared judgment on the day when deeds are weighed: For you were to me as a mountain, solid, in which I could take refuge; And you treated us always with kindness, and according to religion. O who shall speak now for the orphans, for the petitioners; By whom shall all these wretched be protected, in whom shall they take refuge? I swear by God, never will I wish to exchange marriage with you for another; No, not until I am covered; covered in the grave.

Asma s/o of Muslim b. Aqil

- *What will you say when the Prophet says to you on the Day of Judgment, and the truth will indeed be heard. You deserted my family members, or were you absent, and the truth will be brought together before the master. You had forsaken them at the hands of the oppressors, so you have no one to intercede on your behalf before Allah. There was no one (of you) at Karbalâ on the day When death crept to them, and none was there to defend them!*

When do Mu'minin cry?

- When the signs of the Merciful are recited –
- إِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُ الرَّحْمَنِ خَرُّوا سُجَّدًا وَبُكِيًّا (19:58)
- When absolute truth is mentioned to them
- Regretting the inability to worship well
- Being sorry for the sins committed
- Grief of the Prophet (s) & his Ahlul Bayt (a)
- Grief of a fellow believer
- Personal grief

Benefits of crying

- Humility of hearts
- 19:109 وَيَخِرُّونَ لِلْأَذْقَانِ يَبْكُونَ وَيَزِيدُهُمْ خُشُوعًا
- Sign of Divine mercy – Hadith of Imam Ali
- Participate in the grief – 6th Imam (a)
- Sign of a true believer – 3rd Imam (a)
- We are not indifferent to the pain of a believer & to injustice meted

Sunni sources on crying and weeping

- Why do we need to look at Sunni sources?
- Narrated Anas about the funeral procession of the daughter of the Prophet and he was sitting near the grave and his eyes full of tears. (*SB* v.2, B 23, H. 426)
- Ibrahim in his last breaths & the eyes of the Prophet started shedding tears. 'AR b. Awf said, "O Allah's Apostle, even you are weeping!" He said, "O Ibn 'Auf, this is mercy." Then he wept more and said, "The eyes are shedding tears and the heart is grieved, and we will not say except what pleases our Lord, O Ibrahim ! Indeed we are grieved by your separation." (*SB* v 2, B. 23, H 390)

Examples of Ahlul Bayt crying

- The Prophet cried for his aunt and companions, and his family cried for him
- Al-Husayn crying on al-Hasan (a); Al-Hasan said to his brother *يا أبا عبد الله لا يوم كيومك يا أبا عبد الله* *no day is like your day, o Abu 'Abdillah.*
- Imam al-Ridha to Ibn Shabeeb on 1st Muharram
- Prophet (s): The eyes of the believers will weep (over his martyrdom) and the Angels close to Allah will send blessings upon him."