
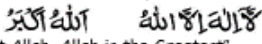


A SPECIAL BIRTH




Imam Husayn was born in Madinah on the 3rd of Sha'ban, 4 AH. Prophet Muhammad (s) was given the news that Bibi Fatima (a) had given birth to a baby boy. He rushed to her home. Asmā bint 'Umayy, who was with Bibi Fātima at that time, wrapped the baby in a clean white cloth. She carried him to his grandfather, the Holy Prophet. The Prophet's face lit up when he saw the baby.

He kissed the baby and said in his ears:




"There is no god but Allah, Allah is the Greatest"


The Prophet named the baby, Husayn. He paced the baby in his lap and wept. "Why are you crying?" asked Asmā. "O Asmā, after me a wicked party will kill him. May Allah never grant them my intercession." said the Prophet. The Prophet knew that this baby was a very special person who would grow up and suffer to save his religion after him.




Food For Thought: What was the Prophet referring to when he thought of how special Imam Husayn was and would suffer to save Islam?



What was the first message the Prophet gave his grandson?



Extension: Create a poster to announce the birth of Imam Husayn.
Include facts about his birth in the poster.



THE PROPHET'S LOVE FOR HUSAYN

One day when Imam Husayn was a young child he walked over to his grandfather's home. He loved playing with the Holy Prophet. Sometimes his grandfather would put him on his back and ride around the streets with him. Other times he would chase him around the yard, trying to catch him while Imam Husayn ran as fast as he could. They spent many happy moments together, laughing and enjoying each other's company.

That afternoon the Prophet was resting. Umm Salama opened the door. She smiled. 'Come in Husayn' she said. 'Your grandfather is sleeping but you can sit with me. We'll wait for him to wake up as I don't want to disturb him.' Imam Husayn was disappointed. He didn't say anything but he didn't want to wait to see his grandfather. Could he not go into his room and wake him up? he thought.


Umm Salama sensed Imam Husayn's **disappointment**. 'Wait here' she said, 'Let me bring some fruit. You and I can enjoy it together and by then your grandfather will be awake.' She walked out of the door towards the kitchen.


Imam Husayn looked around. He knew his grandfather was in his room. Slowly he tiptoed out of the room they were in and went into his grandfather's room. He opened the door and walked in.

He saw the Prophet sleeping. He called him softly but the Prophet did not reply. Imam Husayn could hear his soft breathing. Now he came closer to the bed and called out louder. The Prophet opened his eyes and saw him.

HIS TITLES

Help the fishes find the right food and you will discover some titles of Imam Husayn.

		Chief of the Martyrs
		Chief of the youths of Paradise
		The Younger Grandson
		Martyr of Karbala
		Father of Abdullah
		Father of the Free Ones



LEAVING MADINAH

After the death of Mu'awiya in Rajab 60 AH, Yazid took the leadership of the Muslim Ummah per his father's wish. This was done against the agreement in the treaty with Imam Hasan (a) that Mu'awiya would **not let anyone inherit him**. Yazid was a man with little faith and no values. He openly mocked Islam and violated the teachings of Islam. Upon becoming the ruler, he demanded bay'ah from Imam Husayn. **Bay'ah** is an oath of allegiance where people **pledge their loyalty to the leader**.

Imam Husayn had to make a decision ... how could he give his oath of allegiance to a wicked person?

Mu'awiya in his cunningness had told Yazid that "**whatever you do when you become ruler after my death, do not ask Husayn bin Ali for the oath of allegiance. Leave him alone and you will have no problems.**"

But Yazid realized that although he had full power and was the actual ruler of the Arab Empire, he had no religious strength unless the grandson of the Prophet accepted him as such. People in Makkah and Madinah would still regard Husayn as their leader.

Yazid in his arrogance of power did not bother to remember the advice of his father. The very first thing he did was to write a letter to his **Governor in Madinah** informing him of his succession to the throne of his father and ordering him to take the Oath of Allegiance from Imam Husayn. **Walid bin Utba** the Governor of Madinah received this letter on 26th of Rajab 60 A.H.