

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ALI 537: Ziyārat to Iraq & Iran

The webinar will cover merits of doing ziyārat of Abu ‘Abdillah Imam al-Husayn (a) and Abul Hasan Imam al-Ridha (a) in Rajab. We also plan to discuss ādāb (etiquette) of pilgrimage to Najaf, Karbala, Kazimayn, Mashhad, Qum and Samarra. How to connect spiritually to the holy souls during the Ziyārat? Ahkām (Islamic rules on) Salāt in the airplane, performing wudhū made easy, and complete or shortened (qasr) prayers in Iraq will also be covered. There will also be a question and answer session.

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Rajab 5, 1441 / Feb 29, 2020

Mawaddath of the Ahlul Bayt عليهم السلام

2

Alhamdu lillāh we are the followers of the Ahlul Bayt ‘*alayhimus salaam*. Allah سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ asks us through the Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

قُلْ لَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا إِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِي الْقُرْبَىٰ ۗ وَمَنْ يَقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهُ فِيهَا حُسْنًا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ شَكُورٌ ﴿٢٣﴾

Say, 'I do not ask you any reward for it except the love of [my] relatives.'
Whoever performs a good deed, We shall enhance its goodness for him. Indeed Allah is all-forgiving, all-appreciative.

Going to the places of ziyārat and taking our children during March break is an act of displaying our *mawaddath*.

Importance of the Verse of Love

3 Mawaddah' derives from the root verb *wadda* meaning 'to love something. Raghīb al-Isfahani in *Mufradat Alfaza al-Quran* also considers *wadda* to mean 'to wish'. He maintains that *wadda* is used for both meanings and, in fact, the act of 'wishing for something' involves love and liking for that thing.

Based on numerous proofs, the Shī'ah believe that the **al-qurba** refers to the members of the Household of the Prophet, the Ahlul Bayt, the most distinct of them being 'Ali, Fatima, Hasan, Husayn and the rest of the nine Divinely guided leaders from the progeny of Husayn.

In his book *Nahj al-Haqq*, 'Allamah al-Hilli ranks the verse of mawaddah as the fourth verse from the Qur'an which establishes the divine authority (imamate) of Imam 'Ali bin Abi Talib. Expounding on this verse, he relates a report from Ibn 'Abbas who said, "When the verse of mawwadah was revealed, the Prophet was asked, 'Who are these people whose love has become incumbent upon us?' He replied, 'Ali, Fatima, Hasan, and Husayn.'"

Thereafter, 'Allāmah al-Hilli states that the obligation to love someone necessitates the obligation of obeying him (A Probe into the purport and application of the verse of love, *Message of Thaqalayn*, v. 14, No. 1)

Hadiths on ziyārat in Rajab

عَنْ ابْنِ أَبِي نَصْرِ بْنِ زَيْدٍ قَالَ: سَأَلْتُ أَبَا الْحَسَنِ الرَّضَا ع فِي أَيِّ شَهْرِ نَزُورُ الْحُسَيْنِ ع؟
فَقَالَ: فِي النِّصْفِ مِنْ رَجَبٍ وَالنِّصْفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ.

Ibn Abī Nasr narrates that he asked Abul Hasan al-Ridā (a): in which month should we visit [and perform the *ziyārat* of] Imam al-Husayn (a)? He said in the middle of Rajab and in the middle of Sha‘bān. (*Tahdhīb* 6:48; *Misbāh* 2:807)

It should be known that the ziyārat of Imam Ali al-Ridā (a) during the month of Rajab has been specially recommended, and according to a tradition has a merit next to that of Hajj (*Mafātīh*, v.1. p. 388 taken from *al-Kafi*, 4:584, H.2)

Maintain taqwā during your trip

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وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى
وَاتَّقُونِي يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ

- Q 2:197 *And whatever good you do, Allah knows it. And take provision, for indeed the best provision is taqwā. So be wary of Me, O you who people of understanding!*
- 'Allāmah Tabātabāī: 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 or worship with one's mind absent and one's heart forgetful (*Al-Mizan*, v.3, p.115).

Select pictures in Iraq



Reflections before departing for the trip:

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- Knowledge (ma‘rifat) about the holy soul
- Understand & ponder over Arabic recitations
- Order a copy *Mafātīh*, Vol.2 from Amazon
- What if we were to visit them during their lifetime?
How different it would be?
- Total humility & reverence when nearing
- Renewal of the pledge to seven Imams we visit
- How can I change on account of this trip?

Memorize and recite this short Du'ā that keeps on focus during the trip

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ مَسِيرِي عِبْرًا وَصَمْتِي تَفْكَرًا وَكَلَامِي ذِكْرًا

O Allah, make my travel an admonition, my silence a reflection and my speech [Your] remembrance.

Ensure that we do not delay or miss our salāt

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On account of being a traveler and lacking good facilities, many pilgrims delay their daily prayers or sometimes even miss them. Avoid this totally.

أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ع: حَجَّةٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا وَصَلَاةٌ فَرِيضَةٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَلْفِ حَجَّةٍ

Imam al-Sadiq (a): *Performing one Hajj is better than the world and whatever is in it, and saying obligatory prayers is better than one thousand (mustahab) Hajj.* (Tahdhib al-Ahkam, 2:240, H.953; Wasā'il H. 4460)

Read this message from Āyatullāh Sayyid Ali Sistani (dz):

<https://marefatmagazine.wordpress.com/2016/10/31/must-read-message-of-grand-ayatollah-sistani-for-people-going-to-karbala-for-arabeen/>

Abstracts from Ayt. Sistani's message

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It is one of the essentials of this ziyārat that the pilgrim, in addition to remembering Imam Husayn's sacrifices and devotion in the way of Allah, the Exalted, observes the teachings of Islam including those relating to prayer, hijab, self-reform, selflessness and moral etiquette etc. so that his pilgrimage may be a step towards developing and training the soul for accepting these and consolidating their effects until the next pilgrimage.

Fear Allah in relation to your prayers. As stated in the hadith, it is the pillar of your religion and the ascension of the believer, if it is accepted, all other acts will be accepted and if it is rejected, all other acts of worship will also be rejected. It is befitting for believers to offer their prayers on time because Allah loves those who rush to prayer as soon as they hear the call for it.

Nothing precedes salāt at its time

It is not appropriate for a believer to engage in any other acts of worship in the prime for prayer because prayer is the best form of obedience to Allah. It has been narrated from the Ahlul-Bayt, peace be upon them, that they said: Our intercession (with Allah) will not be won by that person who depreciates or undervalues the prayer. We must know that if we act as per their advice, it is hoped that we shall be resurrected along with their friends.

Because it has been reported that Imam Ali (a) said in the Battle of Jamal: *Today we are accompanied by those who are still in the loins of their fathers and uteruses of their mothers.*

(Āyatullāh Sayyid Ali al-Sistani d.z.)

One of the main purpose of ziyārat

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عَنْ الْحَسَنِ بْنِ عَلِيِّ الْوَشَّاءِ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ الرَّضَا ع يَقُولُ إِنَّ لِكُلِّ إِمَامٍ عَهْدًا فِي عُنُقِ
أَوْلِيَائِهِ وَ شِيعَتِهِ وَ إِنَّ مِنْ تَمَامِ الْوَفَاءِ بِالْعَهْدِ وَ حُسْنِ الْأَدَاءِ زِيَارَةَ قُبُورِهِمْ فَمَنْ زَارَهُمْ
رَغْبَةً فِي زِيَارَتِهِمْ وَ تَصَدِيقًا بِمَا رَغِبُوا فِيهِ كَانَ أَيْمَتُهُمْ شُفَعَاءَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ.

Hasan b. Ali al-Washha reports that he heard Imam al-Rida (a) saying: For every Imam there is a covenant on the neck of his friends and followers (shi'ahs); the best and complete way to fulfilling this covenant is to visit their graves. One who goes there with a sincere desire of visiting them and with conviction, then their Imams will intercede on their behalf on the Day of Resurrection (*Al-Kafi*, v. 4, p. 567)

Etiquette of ziyārat

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In Shaykh Abbas Qummī's *Mafatīhul Jinan* in the section on Ziyārat the 1st part covers *ādāb al-Safar*

- If possible, travel on select days. Better to travel on Sat, Tue & Thu; avoid Mon, Wed & Fri before zuhr.
- Fast for 3 days: Wed, Thu & Friday
- إِنَّ أَبِي . . . اشترى السلامة مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ بِمَا تَيْسَّرَ
- Say some of recommended Du'ās
- مِنْ فِقْهِ الْمُسَافِرِ حِفْظُ نَفَقَتِهِ

Rights of fellow pilgrims (zawwār)

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Al-Bāqir (a): *It does not matter if one visits this House if he does not possess three traits: Cautiousness which prevents him from sinning; forbearance which helps him rule over his anger; and good interaction with those who are with him.*

➤ Imam al-Sadiq (a): *You should be a good companion to those who accompany you, speak less and say only that which is good, mention Allah increasingly, wear purified clothes, perfume, Ghusl before going to holy places, be humble, establish a lot of prayers, say salawāt, help needy ones, not look at (what is forbidden)*

➤ Imam al-Kazim (a): *whoever prays for his brothers (in belief) in his absence, is called from the Throne, '(O Servant of Allah) you will have one hundred thousand times as much reward as one may receive for his prayer*

Wudhu made simple

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Use of spray bottles for wudhu

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

Saying salāt on board - 1

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If you are scheduled to arrive at your destination early enough to go through security, perform wudhu, determine Qibla and find a suitable place to say your prayers then you are allowed to say your prayers at the destination, provided they do not get qadhā. Otherwise, you need to say your prayers on board.

- ➔ 1. Say Qasr salāt on board, except if you are a frequent traveler (*kathīrus safar*). Go to <https://al-m.ca/travel/> for easy rules
- ➔ 2. When traveling, it is advisable to maintain the *tahārah* (ritual purity) of your body and clothes till at least prayer time. For those who can retain their wudhu for longer time, it is advisable to perform the wudhu with the niyyat of *qurbatan ilallāh* (seeking nearness to God) before departing.

Saying salāt on board – 2

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3. Ensure that the prayer time has begun before you say prayers. Use of app from www.halaltrip.com is helpful in finding prayer times when flying. Alternatively, if you have info on local sunrise and sunset timings while you are traveling then it is helpful in determining prayer timings.
- ➔ 4. Face completely towards qibla direction when saying takbīratul ihrām (i.e. the saying of first *Allāhu akbar* after the *niyyat*). Use of app from www.halaltrip.com is helpful in determining qibla direction on board. Alternatively, you can use TV screens in the airplane or ask member of the crew about the direction to Makkah. Do not be concerned about the change in direction of the airplane when you are saying your prayers. Of course, you will again determine qibla direction when you begin the next prayer, such as ‘asr after zuhr and ‘ishā after maghrib prayer.

Saying salāt on board - 3

18. Where possible observe all qiyām (standing), rukū (bowing), sajda (prostrating) and qu‘ūd (sitting) positions required in salāt. This can be done in the exit rows or in designated prayer places on some Muslim flights (e.g. Iran Air, Saudi Airline). Otherwise, after rising and facing towards Qibla during takbīratul ihrām, say your prayers on the assigned seats. Use gestures (*‘ishāra*) to determine the four position in salāt, such as sitting straight in lieu of qiyām, slight tilting for qu‘ūd, bending for ruku, further bending for sajad. (Note there is a difference of opinion between scholars on whether one should say the prayers in the aisles, washrooms, and serving corners/sections of the plane or confine to saying prayers in the designated seats. You may check with a local scholar and decide accordingly. It is essential that a Muslim does not face unnecessary harassments or profiling by airline crew or security officials. Saying prayer is personal devotion between the Almighty Lord and a humble servant.)

Praying full in Iraq

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- 1) Haram of Imam al-Husayn in the Haa'ir
 - 2) Masjid Kūfa, rather the entire city of Kūfa
 - One prayer is equal to 1000 prayers
 - 1 wājib prayer = 1hajj with the Prophet; 1 mustahab prayer = umrah with the Holy Prophet (s).
 - If people were to know its merits, they would come to it crawling (6I)
 - 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 Kūfa

Info on Ziyārat in Iran

Please read the document titled
MERITS OF ZIYARAT IN IRAN
posted at www.academyofislam.com/ali-497

Images of holy places in Iran



References and additional material

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- History of holy places: <http://www.al-islam.org>
- Significance of ziyārat: www.al-islam.org/revolution/2.htm
- Travel rules: <https://al-m.ca/travel/>
- Ziyārat manuals with translation: <http://www.asserattours.com>
- <https://www.academyofislam.com/ali-374/>
- <http://www.duas.org/walkoffree.htm>
& <http://www.duas.org/ziaratiraq.htm>