

How has the story of Karbala inspired you as a woman?

Please write your answers in the chat box

Women of Karbala

The multi-faceted contribution of women in the tragedy of Karbala

Session Two

Verse for Discussion – Sura Aale Imran, no.3, verse 195

From the Quran

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أُضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِّنْكُمْ مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ ۖ
بَعْضُكُمْ مِّنْ بَعْضٍ ۖ فَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا وَأُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ وَأُوذُوا فِي
سَبِيلِي وَقَاتَلُوا وَقُتِلُوا لَأُكَفِّرَنَّ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَأُدْخِلَنَّهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي
مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ثَوَابًا مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ۖ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حَسَنُ الثَّوَابِ

Then their Lord answered them, ‘I do not waste the work of any worker among you, whether male or female; the one of you being from the other. So those who migrated and were expelled from their homes, and were tormented in My way, and those who fought and were killed—I will surely absolve them of their misdeeds and I will admit them into gardens with streams running in them, as a reward from Allah, and Allah—with Him is the best of rewards

Sura Aale Imran, no.3, verse195

Role of women after Ashura

1

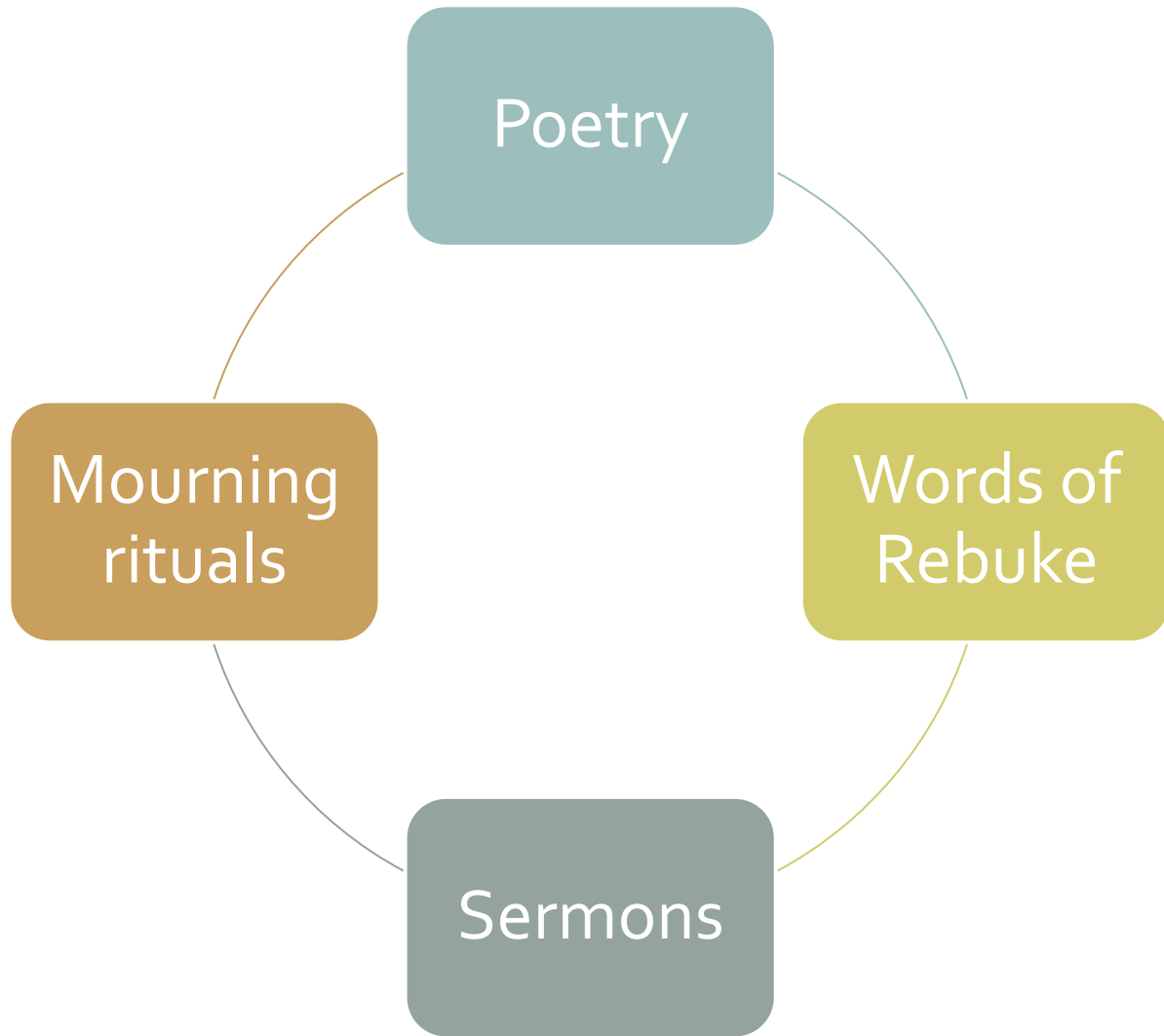
Convey the
mission

2

Expose the
tyrants

3

Create
awareness



Methods used

Elegy of Umm Kulthum

O city (Madinah) of our grandfather! Do not accept us, we have returned back along with regret and sorrow; Beware, go and relate to the Prophet that we were subjected to severity due to (the enmity of) our father;

When we departed from you, we had everyone accompanying us; but now we return back devoid of men and our sons

We were under the protection of Allah, and we now return with the separation of our near-ones and in fear; Our master Husayn was our protector and aide, and we return back having left him smeared in dust . . .

O grandfather! The enemies have killed Husayn, and they have not considered us near the Almighty Allah. O dear grandfather! Our enemies have fulfilled their desires and they have found relief by violating our sanctity, they un-veiled the womenfolk of the Ahlul Bayt (a.s.) and forcefully made them mount upon Camels devoid of litters

Elegy of Rabab wife of Imam Husayn (a)

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 judgement 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.

Elegy of Asma bint 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!

Evening of Ashura

During the evening of Ashura when the army of 'Umar ibn Sa'd attacked the tents of the women and children of Imam Husayn, a soldier reported "I saw a woman from Bani Bakr ibn Wa'il was with her husband in the army of 'Umar ibn Sa'd. When she saw the soldiers attacking the women in the camp of Imam Husayn and looting their tents, she took a sword, marched towards the tents, and said, "O Men of the Bani Bakr ibn Wa'il tribe! Do you stay indifferent while you see that daughters of the Prophet are being looted?" She then said, "No rules other than God's! O avengers of the Prophet's blood!

In Kufa

When Ibn Sa'd arrived in Kufa with the captives, the people came to watch them. It is reported "A faithful woman from the people of Kufa called from a high place where she could watch the entire scene. She asked, 'Captives, of what tribe are you?' They answered, 'The captives of the family of Muhammad.' She came down and brought them head coverings (chadors) and other pieces of garment to cover themselves with.

Daughter of Abdullah Ibn Afaf

Abdullah ibn 'Afif, who had lost his right eye in the battle of Siffiyn, and his left eye in the battle of Jamal in the army of Imam Ali, stood up and defended the family of Imam Husayn.

The agents of Ibn Ziyad wanted to arrest him, but his tribe did not let them do so although they attacked his house at night. His daughter then shouted and called her father, who took the sword from her and fought them using her guidance until they caught and killed him. His daughter shouted, "I wished I was a man to fight with these wicked killers of the family of the Prophet in front of you

Wife of Khuli

When Khuli ibn Yazid took Imam Husayn's head to Kufa, he took the head to his house and put it under a large basin. Then, he went to his wife. She asked him about any news he had. He answered, "I brought a valuable gift to make you happy forever! The head of Husayn is now in your house!" His wife angrily replied, "Woe be to you! Other men take gold and silver to their wives and you have brought the head of the son of the Prophet? I swear to God, I will not stay with you in this house!"

In Damascus

Wives of Abu
Sufyan

After the speech of Lady Zaynab, when they hung the head of Imam Husayn at the doorstep of the court of Yazid and brought the captives towards it, Abu Sufyan's wives went forth and kissed the hands and feet of the daughters of Imam Husayn and held mourning sessions for three days.

Hind wife of Yazid

Upon seeing the head of Imam Husayn, Yazid's wife, Hind, tore her clothes, rushed out from behind the curtains and ran towards Yazid with bare feet, crying out, "O Yazid! Did you order to hang the head of Husayn at the doorstep of my house?"

Yazid jumped up, covered her, and said, "O Hind! Are you crying for the son of the daughter of the Prophet?"

In Madina

- Women held widely attended mourning rituals for the Imam
- Umm Salama's role in spreading love for the Ahlul Bayt (a)
- Ummul Banin - played a pivotal role in making the practice of Azadari popular in Madina by writing some very touching *marsiyas*.

Sources

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