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**Consoling Bibi Fātima عليها السلام:** Human etiquette demands that the bereaved be treated with sympathy and condolences. The greater their grief, the more the sympathy. The Holy family lost so many beloved members on that fateful day and received no compassion from the cruel forces of Yazid. Instead, their misery continued for long afterwards. Those who love the Holy family now take the opportunity every Muharram and Safar to express the sympathy that should have been given to them. It has been reported that Bib Fātima عليها السلام was saddened by the knowledge that her son would be killed in Karbala, and that there would be nobody to weep for the sufferings of her family. The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وآله however, promised her that there would arise a community which would mourn for her family every year. It is our pride to be the fulfillment of that promise.

**Upholding Islamic Values:** Mourning for Imam al-Husayn عليه السلام is not confined to rituals of mourning only. It also includes remembering the principles he died for and gaining inspiration from the sacrifices of those who died at Karbala. Every Muharram and Safar, the Shī‘ah gain new faith and vigour as they mourn. It is a revival of our determination to keep Islam alive against all odds, a boost to uplift our religious zeal and keep us headed towards the right direction. We owe a great deal to the practice of mourning in Muharram & Safar. It has kept our religion alive and enabled many of us to become familiar with the lofty ideals and goals of Shī‘ism.

### The 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Muharram

This is the first day of the Islamic New Year. A hadith of the Holy Prophet ﷺ says: Whoever prays the special prayer of the first night of Muharram, and fasts on the first day, is like one who does good throughout the year, and he will remain protected until the next year, and if he dies before (the next year), he will go to Heaven.

#### A'māl for the First Day

1. Fast on this day
2. Say two rakā'at prayer followed by this Dū'a:

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الْإِلَهُ الْقَدِيمُ وَهَذِهِ سَنَةٌ جَدِيدَةٌ،

فَأَسْأَلُكَ فِيهَا الْعِصْمَةَ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ،

وَالْقُوَّةَ عَلَى هَذِهِ النَّفْسِ الْأَمَّارَةِ بِالسُّوءِ،

وَالْإِسْتِغَالَ بِمَا يُقَرِّبُنِي إِلَيْكَ.

يَا كَرِيمُ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ.

يَا عِمَادَ مَنْ لَا عِمَادَ لَهُ، يَا ذَخِيرَةَ مَنْ لَا ذَخِيرَةَ لَهُ

يَا حِرْزَ مَنْ لَا حِرْزَ لَهُ، يَا غِيَاثَ مَنْ لَا غِيَاثَ لَهُ

يَا سِنْدَ مَنْ لَا سِنْدَ لَهُ، يَا كَنْزَ مَنْ لَا كَنْزَ لَهُ

### The 28<sup>th</sup> Day of Safar

Most Shīrī historians believe that the demise of Rasūlullāh (Apostle of Allah) Muhammad b. 'Abdullāh occurred on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Safar 11 A.H. Amīrul-Mu'minīn Imam Ali عليه السلام performed the funeral rites and led the prayers. Then the Companions came in groups and said the funeral prayer over his body without being led by an imam. Then, Imam Ali buried the Holy Prophet ﷺ in the chamber from which he had departed from this world.

#### Fatima عليها السلام mourns her father

Anas b. Mālik reports that when they were finished with the Prophet's funeral rites, Sayyida Fātima (a) approached and said to him: *O Anas, how could you bring yourself to cast dust over the face of the Apostle of Allah?* As she wept, she read the verses which begin with couplet:  
*Father! Having answered the Lord's summons,  
How close you are to Him today!*

### The Last Day of Safar

On this day in 203 A.H. the shahādat (martyrdom) of Imam Ali al-Ridā عليه السلام occurred by administered with poisoned grapes. The Imam was buried in the village of Sanābād in the district of Tūs, which is situated Mashhad, Islamic Republic of Iran.