

Syria Travel Journal



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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

Telephone

Home:

Mobile:

Email:

In case of emergency notify:

Blood Group:

National Health Number:

National Insurance Number:

Passport Number:

QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

Make sure you have copies of all your documents at hand and at home.



PRE-ZIYARA PREPARATION

- Start learning about the personalities you are to visit.
- Make sure will is in order
- Familiarise yourself with Ziyara and Duas
- Get into the habit of reciting Salat ul Layl
- Ensure khums is up to date
- Find out the weather and take appropriate measures.
- Call relatives and friends. Ask for forgiveness and any particular requests.



LIST OF THINGS TO TAKE

- Prayer mat
- Travel Mug, alarm clock & travel kettle
- Dua books
- A shoe bag for for haram.
- A small bag you can wear under your jilbaab for your money/passport.
- Toiletries
- iPod
- Some comfy shoes/trainers for when you go for Ziyara. Also some flipflops for when you go to haram.
- Jumper or fleece like jacket (preferably in hand luggage) and abaya
- Lots of medicine: Paracetamol, Lemsip, Tunes, Rennie's, Imodium, Chapstick/Vaseline, glucose/dextrose tablets or orovite, first aid kit.
- Food: snacks, biscuits, toast, soup packets etc. (one meal in hand luggage for consumption on arrival)
- There is a lot of poverty in Syria – besides funds, clothes and medicines are appreciated. You may want to take sweets for the children.

QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

DO NOT take a lot of clothes... Bring enough socks and underclothes.



ITINERARY

DATE	



DAY TO GO

- Packing done
- Take out sadaqa
- Write instructions for those left behind.
- Phone organiser to ensure there are no last minute hitches
- Update list of Marhumeen
- Ensure all affairs are in order

QFATIMA'S TOP TIP

The months of December, January, February and March in Syria are very cold and you will require thermal wear and a warm coat, scarf and gloves. It is pleasant in March, April, September and October whilst May, June, July and August are very hot.



DAY OF DEPARTURE

- Perform ghusl
- Recite dua before leaving home.

Dua before leaving home

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتِمِ
النَّبِيِّينَ أَبِي الْقَاسِمِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِهِ الطَّاهِرِينَ وَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ
عَلَى أَعْدَائِهِمْ أَجْمَعِينَ إِلَى قِيَامِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Universe. May the blessings and peace be upon the seal of the Prophets, Abul Qasim Muhammad and his family, the purified ones May the curse of Allah be upon all their enemies, to the day of resurrection

Recite a 4 rakaat salaa in units of 2 with Suratul Ikhlas after Suratul Fatiha in each rakaat. Then raise your hands in dua and say:



اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَتَقَرَّبُ إِلَيْكَ بِهِنَّ فَاجْعَلُهُنَّ خَلِيفَتِي فِي

أَهْلِي وَمَالِي

O Allah! I seek nearness to You through them (the prayers) so make them my guardian for my family and my property.

Then stand at the door of the house and recite Suratul Fatiha and Ayatul Kursi three times; facing the front, the right and the left sides followed by:

اللَّهُمَّ احْفَظْنِي وَاحْفَظْ مَا مَعِيَ وَسَلِّمْنِي وَسَلِّمْ مَا مَعِيَ

بَلِّغْنِي وَبَلِّغْ مَا مَعِيَ بِبِلَاغِكَ الْحَسَنِ الْجَمِيلِ

O Allah! Protect me and protect what is with me; grant safety to me and what is with me and, with Your bounteous and great help, make me and what is with me attain (my destination)



ZIYARA (VISITATION)

Ziyara (Arabic: زيارة) (Commonly referred to as, **Ziyārat**) is a pilgrimage to sites associated with the Prophet (pbuh) and his progeny, their companions and Islāmic scholars. Ziyārat can also refer to sending salutations to them from afar. .



DAMASCUS

Damascus دِمَشقُ, Dimashq is commonly known as Shaam. It is also known as the City of Jasmin مدينة الياسمين.



It is the capital and largest city of Syria and widely known as the oldest as well as one of the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world. The Barada River flows through Damascus.

The old city of Damascus still preserve its graphical and historical aspects, the high wall which protects the old city of Damascus are still there. The gates entering the city are preserved as well.

The gate through which the prisoners of the Ahlul Bayt entered after being made to wait for 36 hours is Baab Al-Faraj Gate (Al-Manakhliah) which is situated on the northern side of the city



PLACES OF ZIYARA (VISITATION) IN DAMASCUS

ZAINABIYYA

MASJID SAYYIDA ZAYNAB (pbuh)

GRAVEYARD OF BEHISHTE ZAYNABIYYA

Many dignitaries and scholars are buried here, including Dr Ali Shariati. His grave is on the far right of the graveyard.

DAMASCUS TOWN

MASJID SAYYIDA RUQAYYA (SAKINA) (pbuh)

UMAYYAD MASJID

(JAAMIA BANI UMAYYA KABEER)

- **COURTYARD**
 - i) Place where Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) gave her famous sermon
 - ii) Place where Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) gave his sermon
 - iii) Baab Sa'a (the gate with the minaret and clock) where the prisoners of the Ahlul Bayt waited whilst Yazid decorated the town for victory



- iv) The place where the invited guests of Yazid were seated (1st floor overlooking courtyard)

- MAIN HALL (South Wing)
 - i) Mimbar from where Imam Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) gave his famous khutba
 - ii) The platform where the Ahlul Bayt were made to wait.
 - iii) Balcony marking where Yazid sat.
 - iv) Tomb of Prophet Yahya (pbuh) (John the Baptist)
 - v) Well of Prophet Hud (pbuh)

- East Wing
 - i) Place where the head of Imam Husayn (pbuh) was kept..
 - ii) Place where Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) prayed
 - iii) An enclosure where Yazid kept the heads of the martyrs of Karbala



BAAB SAGHEER (Graveyard in Damascus)

Among those buried here are:

- UMM SALAMA (pbuh) wife of Rasulullah (pbuh)
- UMM HABIBA (pbuh) wife of Rasulullah (pbuh)
- UMM KULTHUM (pbuh) daughter of Imam Ali (pbuh)
- SAYYIDA FIZZHA (pbuh)
- BILAL (pbuh) Muezhin
- ASMA BINT UMAYS (pbuh)
- ABDULLAH IBN JA'FER TAYYAR (pbuh) husband of Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh)

Opposite the cemetery there is a Zharee where the heads of the Shuhada of Karbala were kept.



JABAL QAASIYUN – A mountain on the North side of Damascus with the suburb of Salihya on its slopes.

- **THE CAVE OF BLOOD** – According to the locals, where Qabil killed Habil, the mountain began to crumble. A gaping cavern is on the mountain with a rock shaped and positioned like a tongue (like a mouth screaming), as well as the place where the angel Jibrail put his hand in the roof of the cave to stop the mountain falling. Nearby is the stone with which Qabil killed Habil and a stone basin where the mountain's 'tears' are still gathered.

TOMB OF HABIL SON OF ADAM (pbuh)

It is located in the mountains west of Damascus, near the Baqa'a Valley and near the Syrian town of Suq Wadi Barada, very near the Lebanon border. The tomb is housed in a complex of buildings that includes a mosque and a large gathering area. The tomb itself is roughly 9-10 meters in length



MASJID SAYYIDA ZAYNAB (pbuh)

The masjid is in the southern side just outside Damascus in the Zaynabiyya district (named after her).

There is another masjid in Cairo by the same name which may be that of Zaynab bin Yahya bin Zayd bin Imam Ali Zaynul Abedeen (pbuh)



The grave of **Sayyida Zaynab (AS)** is enclosed in a Zaree in the main masjid.

In the courtyard there are the graves of some scholars. One of them **being Ayatullah Sayyid Muhsin Ameen (AR)** 1285-1371 AH He is the author of the A'yan al-Shi'ah, and was among the 'ulama from whom Imam Khumayni (AR) received the authorization to relate hadith.

Sayyid Muhsin al-Amin who lived most of his life in Damascus, rests in peace in the courtyard of the holy mausoleum. He lived most of his life in Damascus. His 3 daughters dreamt that Sayyida Ruqayya's (Sakina) grave was water logged. He asked for permission to open the grave and raise it. He was given permission with the condition that if the grave is found to be dry then he would be killed.



He agreed to this condition and the grave was opened and found water logged whilst her body was intact. She was reburied on a raised level.

ENTERING THE MASJID

Idhn al-dukhul: Seeking permission to enter the mosque.

Try to memorise the following extracts for idhn al-dukhul:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي وَقَفْتُ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ مِنْ بُيُوتِ نَبِيِّكَ
وَأَلِ نَبِيِّكَ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ

O Allah! I am standing at the door of one of the houses of Your Prophet and the family of Your Prophet, peace be upon him and his family.

ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا حُجَّةَ اللَّهِ
ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا مَلَائِكَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

May I enter, O Prophet of Allah? May I enter, O the proof of Allah? May I enter O angels of Allah?



As you cross the threshold (with your right foot),
enter with humility reciting:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَىٰ مِلَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَتُبْ عَلَيَّ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ

الرَّحِيمُ

In the name of Allah and by Allah in the path of Allah and on the religion of the Prophet of Allah peace be upon him and his family. O Allah! Forgive me and have mercy on me and turn repentant towards me for You are most forgiving and merciful.



ZIYARA OF SAYYIDA ZAYNAB (pbuh)

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ مُحَمَّدٍ بْنِ الْمُصْطَفَى

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ وَليِّ اللَّهِ

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ عَلِيِّ الْمُرْتَضَى سَيِّدِ أَوْصِيَاءِ وَ

الصِّدِّيقِينَ

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بِنْتَ فَاطِمَةَ الزَّهْرَاءِ سَيِّدَةِ نِسَاءِ

العَالَمِينَ

أَسْلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أُخْتَ الْحَسَنِ وَالْحُسَيْنِ سَيِّدَيْ شَبَابِ

أَهْلِ الْجَنَّةِ



أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا السَّيِّدَةُ الزَّكِيَّةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الدَّاعِيَةُ الْحَقِيَّةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا التَّعْقِيَّةُ النَّقِيَّةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الرَّاضِيَّةُ الْمُرْضِيَّةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْعَالِمَةُ الْغَيْرُ الْمَعْلَمَةِ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْفَاهِيْمَةُ الْغَيْرُ الْمَفْهَمَةِ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمُضْلُومَةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَهْمُومَةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الصِّدِّيقَةُ

أَسْلَامٌ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا الْمَكْرُوبَةُ



السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيَّتُهَا الْمَأْسُورَةُ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيَّتُهَا الصَّاحِبَةُ الْمُصِيبَةِ الْعُظْمَى

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا زَيْنَبَ الْكُبْرَى

وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Peace be on you, O daughter of the messenger of Allah

Peace be on you, O daughter of the Prophet of Allah
Peace be on you, O daughter of Muhammad Al-Mustafa

Peace be with you, O daughter of the wali of Allah
Peace be with you, O daughter of Ali al-Murtadha,
te master of the vicegerents and the truthful ones
Peace be on you, O daughter of Fatimatuz Zahra,
leader of the women of the world

Peace be on you, O sister of Hasan and Husayn, the
leaders of the youth of the dwellers of paradise

Peace be on you, O pure lady

Peace be on you, O one called welcomingly (unto Allah)

Peace be on you, O one who is pure and pious



Peace on you, O one who is pleased (with Allah) and
is pleased (in the sight of Allah)
Peace be on you, O one who is a scholar who has
not been taught
Peace be on you, O one who understands without
being made to understand
Peace be on you, O one who is oppressed
Peace be on you, O one who is grieved
Peace be on you, O one who is truthful
Peace be on you, O one who is afflicted (with
calamities)
Peace be with you, O one who was made a captive
Peace be on you, O one who is the bearer of the
greatest tragedy
Peace be on you, O Zainab al-Kubra
May the mercy and blessing of Allah be with you.



TRANSLATION OF THE ANOTHER ZIYARA OF SAYYIDA ZAYNAB (pbuh)

“Peace be on you, O daughter of the leader of the Prophets.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the owner of the pond and the standard bearer.

Peace be on, O daughter of one who was taken to the skies and who reached the position of the length of two arrows or closer.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the Prophet of guidance, leader of the upright ones and one who saves people from being destroyed.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the one who was created with the best morals and honour, and the signs and the wise remembrance of Allah.

Peace be on you, O daughter of one who had a lofty position and the pond from which people drink and evident flag.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the path to the religion of Islam, the one who had the qibla and the Qur’an, bearing the flag of honesty, truth and uprightness.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the chosen one amongst the Prophets, the standard of the upright ones and the famous one remembered in the earth and the heavens. May the mercy and the blessings of Allah be on him.



Peace be on you, O daughter of the best of the creations of Allah and the leader of His creations, the first one before the creation of His earth and the heavens, the last one after the destruction of the world and its inhabitants. He is the one whose soul reflects the divine and whose face reflects the sovereignty and kingdom (of God). His heart is the treasury of the ever-living God who will not die, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be on him. Peace be on you, O daughter of one who was shaded by clouds, the leader of the two worlds, master of the two weighty things and the intercessor of the umma on the day of gathering, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be on him. Peace be on you, O daughter of the leader of the successors to the Prophet.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the Imam of the pure ones.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the pillar of the friends of Allah.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the support of the chosen ones.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the leader of religion.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the Commander of the Faithful.



Peace be on you, O daughter of the leader of the successors to the Prophet.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the upright leader.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the preventer of disbelief and corruption.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the inheritor of the Prophet.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the Caliph of the leaders of the Prophets.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the light of religion.

Peace be on you, daughter of the great message of certainty.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the one who has an account of the people and the Kauthar is in his hands, who was appointed on the day of Ghadir, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be on him.

Peace be on you, O daughter of one whose camel's rope was led by Jibra'il whose difficulties were shared by Israfil and, due to whom, even the Almighty Lord of the Universe was angry. Due to her difficulties even Ibrahim, the friend of Allah wept, Nuh and Musa, the one who spoke with Allah, wept in Karbala.

Peace be on you, O daughter of the radiant moons. Peace be on you, O daughter of the bright suns, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be on you.

Peace be on you, O daughter of Zamzam and Safa. Peace be on you, O daughter of



one who was carried by Buraq to the heavens. Peace be on you, O daughter of one who carried the zakat in a robe and would give it to the poor. Peace be on you, O daughter of one who was taken on the night journey from the holy mosque to the remote mosque. Peace be on you, O daughter of one who fought with two swords. Peace be on you, O daughter of one who prayed towards the two qiblas. Peace be on you, O daughter of Muhammad, the chosen one. Peace be on you, O daughter of 'Ali al-Murtaza. Peace be on you, O daughter of Fatima al-Zahra. Peace be on you, O daughter of Khadija al-Kubra. Peace be on you and on your grandfather Muhammad, the chosen one. Peace be on you and on your father Haider al-Karrar.

Peace be on you and on the pure masters, the chosen ones. They are the proofs of Allah on land and the leaders on earth and in the heavens. These are ones whose love is obligatory on all creatures. Peace be on you, O daughter of the friend of Almighty Allah. Peace be on you, O aunt of the honoured friend of Allah. Peace be on you, O mother of trails. O Zaynab, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be on you.

Peace be on you, O rightly guided, virtuous one. Peace be on you, O perfect scholar and one who did



good acts. Peace be on you, O honourable and eminent one.

Peace be on you, O pure and virtuous one. Peace be on you, O one who showed her love for al-Husayn, the oppressed, at many places and bore, with great forbearance, the difficulties that burn the hearts.

Peace be on you, O one who guarded the Imam on the day of 'Ashura when he was killed and who strove to save Zayn al-'Abideen at the gathering of criminals and spoke like Ali (pbuh) in the streets of Kufa in the presence of many enemies.

Peace be on you, O one who thrust her forehead in the front part of the wooden saddle when she saw the head of the leader of the martyrs. Blood flowed under her veil and from the saddle so that even the enemies around her witnessed it.

Peace be on you, O one who was tested in enduring trials like that of al-Husayn, the oppressed one, may the peace and blessings be on you.

Peace be on you, O one who was far away from her home.

Peace be on you, O one who was enslaved in the lands.

Peace be on you, O one who was bewildered in the ruins of Syria.



Peace be on you, O one who was bewildered when standing at the body of the leader of martyrs. You spoke to your grandfather, the Prophet of Allah (pbuh) with the following plea: “The angels of heavens send their greetings to you. This is Husayn, naked, his turban and cloak have been removed. His bodily parts have been cut and your daughters have been enslaved, we complain to Allah.”

She also said: “O Muhammad, this is Husayn, the eastern winds are passing over him, his head has been cut from the back and the children was wandering. O my weeping for you, O Abu ‘Abd Allah!” Peace be on the one whose heart cried out for al-Husayn, the oppressed one, the naked, the one who was abandoned on the ground.

She said with great sadness: “May my soul be sacrificed for you. O one who was oppressed until he died, O one who was thirsty until he passed away. O one whose blood flowed over his grey beard.”

Peace be on the one who cried at the body of her brother when he was killed until all the enemies and friends cried with her, people saw the tears of horses dropping on their hoofs.

Peace be on the one who took responsibility had gathered the daughters of the Prophet of Allah and the children of Husayn on the afternoon of ‘Ashura.



The day of judgement came to her when two young oppressed children were martyred.

Peace be on the one who did not sleep so as to guard the children of the Prophet of Allah on the day of Taff at Naynawa and one who became a prisoner, demeaned by enemies.

Peace be on the one who rode a camel without a saddle and cried out to her brother Abu 'l Fazl: "O my brother Abu 'l Fazl, you are the one who helped me get on the camel when I wanted to leave Medina."

Peace be on the one who preached a very beneficial sermon in the streets of Kufa until voices from all directions were silenced.

Peace be on the one who argued in the gathering of Ibn Ziyad, presenting clear arguments. She answered him with truthful statements when Ibn Ziyad said to Zaynab (pbuh): "Do you see how Allah dealt with your brother al-Husayn?" She replied: "I see nothing but good."

Peace be on you, O one who was imprisoned by the enemies under an open sky while you saw the people of Damascus living in comfort and pleasure. Peace be on the one whose arms were tied with ropes and linked to the neck of Imam Zayn al-Abideen. She was brought forth with sixteen people from the family of the Prophet of Allah.



They were like prisoners chained with iron and oppressed. ‘Ali b al-Husayn (pbuh) said to Yazid: “What do you think the Prophet of Allah (pbuh) would say if he saw us in this state?”

Then the mother of all calamities, Zaynab said to him: “Rejoice, raise your voice in joy.” Then they (the enemies) said: “O Yazid, may you not be paralyzed” as he ridiculed the lips of Abu ‘Abd Allah, the leader of the youths of Paradise, with a cane.

Then she (Zaynab) said: “Trials have driven me to address you. I think little of your status and am proud to rebuke and reprimand you. The eyes are shedding tears and the chests are heavy. It is surprising that you go forward to destroy the party of Allah, the notable ones, by your party of Shaytan, those who were freed (by the Prophet). If you see us as an asset, soon you will find us a liability when you will see the consequences of what you have done. Your Lord will not do injustice to His creatures and to Him do we complain, on Him do we depend in difficulties and in ease. So plan all your strategies and do what you can, exert every effort. I swear by Allah that you will not be able to erase our memories, you cannot kill the revelation [sent] to us, nor can you reach our stature. You cannot wipe your shame off. Your views are totally



wrong, your days are numbered and your people are divided.

O Yazid, haven't you heard of Allah, the Almighty's saying: "Do not reckon those who are killed in the way of Allah to be dead, rather, they are alive with their Lord being nourished. Allah will be your judge, Muhammad (pbuh) will argue against you, Jibra'il will be your enemy." Then she said: "Praise be to Allah, the one who took away the first of us with martyrdom and mercy. For He is the most merciful and kind. He is sufficient for us and in Him we place our trust, may the mercy and blessings of Allah be on Muhammad and his pure family."



SAYYIDA ZAYNAB BINT ALI (pbuh)

Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) was born on Thursday, 5th of Jamadi-ul-Awwal in the year 6 AH in Madina. When she was born, the Prophet (pbuh) was not in Madina. When he returned he names her Zaynab as instructed by Allah through the angel Jibrail. He kissed her and said, "I enjoin you to honour this child for she resembles Khadeeja (pbuh)" The name may also be a compound of two words - Zayn (beauty) and Ab (father)- thus the beauty (adornment) of her father which reflects the life of Zaynab perfectly. Some linguists say that it once meant a good looking and sweet smelling tree.

Salman Al Farsi who had just heard of the birth came to congratulate the Prophet (pbuh) Seeing tears in the Prophet's eyes he asked why and was told of the hardships Zaynab would face alone in the deserts with which her hair would turn grey prematurely and her back would be bent.

CHILDHOOD

One day when Zaynab (pbuh) was a young child, she was asked by her father Imam Ali (pbuh) "Zaynab ! do you love me ?"

She replied "Yes ! Of course I love you"

Then Imam asked her "Do you love Allah?"

She replied "Yes! Of course I love Allah ".



Imam then asked his young daughter "Zaynab , how can one heart have two loves?"

Zaynab replied "O father! It is because of Allah that I love you ".

It shows the understanding from a young age of the concept of tawheed. The pinnacle of tawheed is

Love for the sake of Allah and hate for the sake of Allah.

Once at the age of five, Zaynab (pbuh) had a strange and terrifying dream. She saw that a violent wind had come and had also darkened the earth. She was being tossed about and suddenly she found herself on the branches of a large tree. The wind was so strong that it uprooted the tree. She saw herself holding on to a branch and then another but they too snapped. In panic she grabbed hold of two twigs but they too gave way leaving her to fall without any support.

She woke up and ran to her grandfather relating her dream to him.

He wept bitterly saying:

"O my daughter ! the tree is myself who will shortly leave this world. The branches are your father Ali and your mother Fatima (pbuh) The twigs are your brothers Hasan & Husayn (pbuh) We will all depart



the world before you and you will suffer our separation and loss."

She lost her grandfather and mother at the young age of 7 years. From then she took on full responsibility in running her father's home.

HER MARRIAGE & CHILDREN

She was married to 'Abdullah ibn Ja'fer (son of Ja'fer ibn Abi Talib known as Ja'fer Tayyar – the brother of Imam Ali (pbuh)

They were blessed with with four sons and a daughter. The sons were: 'Aun, Muhammad, 'Ali , 'Abbas and the daughter was Umm Kulthum*.

**Umm Kulthum was married to Qasim ibn Muhammad ibn Ja'fer ibn Abi Talib*



HER TITLES

FASIHA (Fluent)

BALIGHA (Eloquent)

A'LIMA GHAYR MUA'LLAMA (She who has knowledge without being taught)

A'KILA (Intellectual)

ZAHIDA (Modest)

ABIDA (Devoted)

Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) used to hold regular women's classes in Madina where she taught religion as laid out in the Holy Qur'an. Her gatherings were well and regularly attended. In 37 A.H. when Imam Ali (pbuh) moved to Kufa; Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) moved too with her husband.

In Kufa also women used to come to her classes where they benefited from her teachings .

Imam Husayn (pbuh) relates that once when he was entering her home he heard her teaching the women. He could hear her explaining the meaning of 'Sami Allahu liman hamida'

It is Imam ZAYnul Abideen (pbuh) who titled her A'lima ghayr Mu'allama (she who has knowledge without being taught)



"THE BEST HOUSEWIFE"

She was married to Abdullah bin Ja'fer Tayyar and he is reported to have said :

"Zaynab is the best housewife."

They had 5 children of whom 4 were sons and one daughter (Ali, Aun, Muhammad, Abbas & Umm Kulthum).

SHARIKATUL HUSAYN

Every revolution has two faces:

Blood & Message

Imam Husayn (pbuh) accomplished the first part of the mission to reform the Umma and revive the values of the Prophet (pbuh) but the mission would not have been accomplished had there not been Zaynab to spread the Message.

Madina to Kufa A.H.

When Imam Ali (pbuh) moved to Kufa to take up his rightful place as Khalifa; Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) and her husband moved with him.

Kufa to Madina 40 A.H.

After Imam Ali (pbuh) was martyred on the 21st of Ramadhan in the year 40 A.H. She and her family then returned to Madina.



Madina to Kerbala

In Rajab of the year 60 A.H. Yazid acquired the khilafat and immediately wrote to the governor of Madina to compel Imam Husayn (pbuh) to swear allegiance to him (to accept and obey Yazid as leader). Imam refused and decided to leave Madina.

When Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) learnt of her brother's journey she asked permission from her husband to allow her to accompany Imam. She remembered her mother's words to her:

"Zaynab! after me you are both mother and sister for Husayn (pbuh)"

Abdullah gave her permission, having wanted to go himself but could not as he had been weakened by illness. He also sent two of their sons - Aun & Muhammad with her.

They first went to Makka from where they left to go to Kufa .

On the way at Ruhayma they were stopped by Hurr bin Yazid Riyahi and diverted to Kerbala. They reached Kerbala on the 2nd of Muharram 61 A.H.

On the day of Ashura not only did Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) sacrifice her two sons but watched Imam Husayn (pbuh) being beheaded.

The tents were burnt down and the women were beaten and their hijabs (veils) snatched away. The



bodies of the martyrs were trampled upon by the horses and the heads were cut off and raised on spears. It was Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) who was the tower of strength as Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) was sick.

Tied with chains round their necks, hands, and feet the women and children were put on camels without any saddles to go from Kerbala to Kufa. They were tied tightly to each other. So much so that if one fell off the camel others would be pulled down too. The guards would beat them all before putting them back on again. Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) despite his illness was made to walk on foot behind heavily chained. The heads of the martyrs were carried on spears in front.

EVENTS AFTER THE DAY OF 'ASHURA

KUFA

Tied with chains round their necks, hands, and feet the women and children were put on camels without any saddles to go from Kerbala to Kufa. If any child fell from the camels back the rope binding him/her to the hand of the other would be so tight that it would topple over the others as well. The guards would beat them all before putting them back on again. Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) despite his illness was heavily chained made to walk



on foot behind . The heads of the martyrs were carried on spears in front.

It was the night following the 11th of Muharram 60 A.H. that they arrived at the gates of Kufa. It was the city where Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) and Umme Kulthum (pbuh) had once lived respected and loved. It was regarded as the principal city of Islam in Iraq.

The palace of Ibn Ziyad was closed so they were made to camp outside the city . When he was informed of their arrival he ordered that preparations be made for a celebration and all important guests to be invited.

Dressed up and to the sound of music the people poured into the streets of Kufa not really knowing the truth. When the caravan of prisoners entered and some people recognised that these were the household of the Prophet (pbuh) they started crying and looking down with shame. When the prisoners reached the main 'bazaar' there were so many people that it was difficult for the caravan to move to the palace of Ibn Ziyad .Here Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) lifted her hand bidding them to be quiet . It is said that even the horses stopped neighing . In a piercing and confident clear voice she said :

"Praise be to Allah and His blessings be sent on my (grand) father Muhammad and his pure Ahlul bayt.



O people of Kufa ! O you who are deceptive and disloyal ! Do you shed tears ?

May your tears never dry up and your loud crying never end !!!!

YOU ARE LIKE THE WOMAN THAT UNRAVELS TO BITS THE ROPE THAT SHE HAS FIRMLY SPUN .

You make false promises which bear no truthfulness at all.....

YOU ARE LIKE THE PLANTS THAT GROW ON FILTH AND YET ARE GREEN.....

Certainly evil is that which your souls have sent before you. Allah is displeased with you and in punishment shall you live.

Are you crying and wailing ?

Indeed By Allah ! Cry endlessly and laugh but a little for your deed was so disgraceful that you will never be able to compensate for it.

How can you wash away the crime of murdering the grandson of the Seal of the Prophets ; The essence of The Message; The Lord of the Youth of Paradise;The refuge to whom you turned to during troubles; Your master who defended the Prophet's traditions.....

What an awful sin you committed !!!!

Away with you ! there will be no forgiveness

Don't make light of the delay in punishment

MOST SURELY ALLAH IS WATCHING."



People wept ; those who were in celebrating mood were now looking down shamed by the truth in her speech. Although she was a prisoner tied she spoke with confidence so much so that a person who couldn't see who was speaking thought it was the voice of Imam Ali (pbuh)

The caravan was then led to the government palace of Ibn Ziyad . Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) remembered the time when her father Imam Ali (pbuh) used to sit there. Although she was tied up and her face covered with her hair she walked in with dignity and confidence.

Ibn Ziyad was excited and pleased as he sat with Imam Husayn's (pbuh) head in front of him. As the prisoners entered he said addressing Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) :

"Praise be to Allah who disgraced you , killed your men and exposed the lies of your claim "

Immediately Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) said :

"It was Allah's wish that they should be martyred and they died bravely .

If this was your heart's desire than you must indeed be content today.....

But you have killed those whom the Holy Prophet (pbuh). sat on his knee when they were children and whose play filled him with joy.....



Soon YOU will stand with them before ALLAH and they will DEMAND JUSTICE.

BEWARE THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT."

Ibn Ziyad tried to change the conversation.

Seeing that he was not succeeding in humiliating Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) he diverted his attention to Imam Ali Zainul Aabideen (pbuh) threatening to kill him . Imam replied

"You threaten me with death ? Do you not know that martyrdom is our inheritance and merit?"

Ibn Ziyad then started to poke at Imam Husayn's head that he had in front of him with a stick. Zaid bin Arqam who was an elderly man and a companion of the Prophet (pbuh) was present . He cried out *"Ibn Ziyad ! take away your stick . Allah is my witness that I have seen the Prophet (pbuh) kissing these lips "*

With these words he got up weeping and left the assembly.

Ibn Ziyad knew he was a respected member of the community and he said

"Do not cry! You have become old and weak and have lost your wits. Do you weep at this great time of victory ?...."

Zaid bin Arqam walked out saying

"O people ! you have become slaves of Ibn Ziyad. You have killed the son of Fatima (pbuh) and made



the son of Marjana (Ibn Ziyad's mother) your ruler so that he may kill the pure and pious amongst you May God deprive you of honour.....since you have given in to such evil "

The prisoners were locked up in a house awaiting the orders from Yazid were received. The people however were realising the enormity of their crime. The sermons of Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) , Umme Kulthum (pbuh), and Imam Ali Zainul Aabideen (pbuh) had opened their eyes. It was they who had invited Imam Husayn (pbuh) and then betrayed both his ambassador Hazrat Muslim bin Aqeel (pbuh) and let down the Imam.

The next day Ibn Ziyad gave a talk thanking God in separating the truth from falsehood and giving victory to Yazid.. He had not finished when a blind man called Abdullah bin Afeef got up and told him *".....O son of Marjana ! be ashamed ... You kill the son of the Prophet and then you talk such nonsense from the mimbar in a mosque of Muslims ?"*

Ibn Ziyad had come to the mosque to calm the people down but everyone was now listening to Abdullah bin Afeef. He was marched to the palace and threatened with death. Abdullah bin Afeef said he was praying for martyrdom and his dua had been heard. He was beheaded.



Ibn Ziyad now wanted to get the prisoners away from Kufa as soon as possible. He sent them with a large escort of soldiers to Damascus (Shaam) to Yazid

SHAAM (DAMASCUS)

THE COURT OF YAZID & PRISON

The journey from Kufa to Shaam was no less than 600 miles. They were made to travel unveiled on unsaddled camels. The heads of the martyrs were carried on spears before them. So many children fell and died and women lost the babies they were carrying. Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) would bury them on the roadside writing on the graves *"This is the Muhsin of Kerbala"*.

The news of her sermon in Kufa had spread. In some of the towns along the way people used to close the gates and not allow the soldiers to enter cursing them. The soldiers had to change route making long diversions and sometimes making the camels run faster.

The towns they travelled through were Aleppo, Mosul, Hums, Balbeck.....

The prisoners were often beaten, given very little food and water.



They reached Damascus (Shaam) after about 28days.

When they reached the outskirts of Damascus(Shaam) they were made to wait outside the city until Yazid had made the preparations for a celebration.

When the appointed day came they were tied like animals and herded into the city. Although the walk from the gate of the city of Shaam to the court of Yazid takes about half an hour at the most it took the prisoners 30 hours . At every step stones were hurled at them and they had to be cleared before they could move further. People through food as 'sadaqa' at them but they did not eat it walking with dignity.

One man mockingly asked Imam Ali Zainul Aabideen (pbuh) who had won ? Imam replied

"If you wish to find out who has won, do so when it is time for prayer and the Adhan and Iqamah are recited ".

The prisoners were led into the court of Yazid . Imam Husayn's head was brought to him on a golden tray. He hit Imam's teeth with his stick saying :

"My ancestors who were killed at Badr have been avenged today. Now it is clear that Bani Hashim had



staged a play to gain power and there was never any divine revelation ."

Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) with confidence replied :
"All praise be to Allah, the Lord of the world and blessings on my grandfather, the Chief of divine Prophets.

*O Yazid ! Indeed Allah has said :
'Evil was the end of those who did evil, because they mocked and rejected the signs of Allah ' - Qur'an 30:10*

O Yazid !

Do you believe that you have made our life miserable and our existence impossible?

That we are powerless persons just because we are standing in front of you tied and that you have gained power over us ?

Do you believe that we have been disgraced and that you instead have been honoured by Allah ?

That your position is safe and secure now that your crooked affairs are smoothed out , and that you are the master of this country and the ruler of our government ?

*Wait ! Wait! Have you forgotten what Allah says :
'Do you think that We give respite to the evildoers and unbelievers for any good that they have done?
Surely we give them time so that they may increase*



their evil deeds and it will lead them to degrading punishment '- Qur'an 3:178

.....Is this your justice that the women of your house be in hijab whilst we, the daughters of the Prophet (pbuh) be imprisoned and paraded from place to place unveiled ?

Your men have taken us from town to town where all sorts of peoplehave been looking at us- rich or poor, young or old, honourable ones and those of disrepute; all gaze at us from far and near , and we have no one to come to our aid...

O Yazid ! whatever you have done proves your arrogance against Allah and your denial of His Prophet (pbuh) and of the Holy Book and the Sunnah (teachings) of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) sent down to him (the Prophet (pbuh)) by Allah.

Your deeds should not cause amazement because one whose ancestors chewed the livers of the martyrs (i.e. Hazrat Hamza's liver was chewed by Yazid's grandmother), and whose flesh grew up on virtuous people.....

It is but natural that the descendants of such persons should be most prominent amongst the Arabs in unbelief, sinfulness, crueltyand cause conflicts and act against God and His Prophet.....

Remember that the EVIL DEEDS and SINFUL ACTIONS that you have committed are the result of



UNBELIEF & OLD GRUDGE(VENGEANCE) you bear because of your ancestors who were killed in Badr.

...You deny the Prophet (pbuh) and with pride and joy announce from the roofs 'I, Yazid, have slaughtered and butchered the sons of the Prophet and imprisoned his family members .'

O Yazid ! you are striking the lips of Abu Abdullah , Al-Husayn (pbuh) with a cane.Do you not know that these are the lips and the teeth that were constantly kissed by the Prophet (pbuh) and yet your face reflects pleasure ?

O Yazid ! if you thought over what you have done you yourself would surely wish your arms to be paralysed and severed from your elbow and you would WISH THAT YOUR PARENTS HAD NOT GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU because you would know that Allah is angry with you and the Prophet is now your enemy.....

O Yazid ! remember that you have cut your own skin and flesh to pieces.....

O Yazid ! do not feel joyous on killing the Prophet's family for Allah has said :

'Think not that those who are killed in Allah's way are dead; Nay ! they are alive rejoicing in what Allah has given them out of His grace..' - Qur'an 3:169,170.



THOSE WHO HAVE MADE YOU THE HEAD OF STATE AND BURDENED THE MUSLIMS WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL SOON FIND OUT WHAT AWAITS THEM. THE END OF ALL TYRANTS IS AGONY .

O Yazid ! I speak about the severe punishment that lies in store for you NOT for the sake that you might regret and repent at what you did because that though would be a fantasy..... Your heart has hardened...YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE WHOSE HEARTS IS THE NEST OF THE DEVIL IN WHICH HE LAYS HIS EVIL EGGS; INDEED YOUR CHARACTER IS ONE SUCH UGLY CREATION OF THE DEVIL ...

One wonders how virtuous people , sons of Prophets, their successors should be butchered by ...evildoers and sinners ...We feel grieved to think of their sacred and pure bodies lying on the sands of the burning desert, abandoned without burial.

O Yazid ! if you consider our defeat as your achievement then you will have to pay it's price. ALLAH commits NO INJUSTICE to His servants. ONLY IN HIM DO WE PUT OUR TRUST AND FAITH. HE ALONE WILL DELIVER US AND IN HIM ALONE DO WE SEEK SAFETY AND WITH HIM DO OUR HOPES REST.

I swear by God who sent upon our household His book & Prophet hood that you will NEVER get our status. YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO DESTROY OUR



STATUS OR EXTINGUISH OUR LIGHT , NOR WILL YOU BE ABLE TO WIPE OUT YOUR SHAME AND DISHONOUR.....

YOUR WORD NOW IS WEAK AND YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED....

All Praise is for Allah who appoints a peaceful place for His friends and grants them success in their aims, and thereafter calls them back to His mercy , and pleasure ...

We pray to Allah to avenge usSurely He is Kind & Merciful to His creatures.

The sermon of Sayyida Zainab (pbuh) changed the atmosphere in Yazid's court. He was taken aback by her courage and her eloquence. All he could say was :

"These persons have gone through so many hardships and they seem to be afraid of nothing ..not even death ."

They were sent to a prison which had no roof . For a year they lived under such conditions suffering the heat and cold with little to eat & drink.

When Yazid celebrated the annual event of his 'victory' over Imam Husayn (pbuh) he called Imam Ali Zainul Aabideen (pbuh) to his court. A speaker mounted the 'mimbar' and started praising Yazid and his forefathers and condemning Imam Ali



(pbuh) and his sons. When the speaker started speaking against ISLAM Imam cried out :

"O Speaker ! Be ashamed for with your words you have exchanged the anger of God to please the tyrant ruler. Hold your tongue !"

Imam then turned to Yazid asking to be allowed to say a few words. Yazid did not want it but his companions convinced him to allow the Imam saying

" What can this weak young man do in an assembly like this ?"

The Imam mounted the mimbar and after praising God and His Prophets introduced himself giving the merits of the Prophet & his AhlulBayt. He went through his connections with the Prophet and the events leading to the massacre of his family in Kerbala....

His words were changing the audience and to silence him Yazid ordered the Muezzin to give 'Adhan'. Although it was not the time for Salaa , Imam immediately stopped talking as a sign of respect to the Adhan. When the name of the Prophet came Imam turned to Yazid saying

"Tell us ! Was Muhammad (pbuh) your grandfather or mine ? If you say he was yours then you are lying; and if he was my grandfather then why have you killed his son and imprisoned his family ?....."



Yazid could not reply and rushed back to his palace knowing that public opinion would now turn against him. He gave the orders to release the prisoners asking if there was anything that they wanted.

Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) requested the return of their hijabs and a house where they could mourn the martyrs of Kerbala. **THIS WAS THE FIRST MAJLIS OF HUSAYN.** The women of Shaam came in black and Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) told the women of Syria what had happened in Kerbala.

Yazid gave the prisoners a choice to stay in Shaam or return to Madina. They chose to return but via Kerbala.

The heads of the martyrs were returned and all their looted belongings. Sayyida Sakina (pbuh) had died in the prison and was buried there. For the prisoners the hardest thing they had to do was to leave Sayyida Sakina (pbuh) and go home.

RETURN TO MADINA

On the journey at every stop they would hold a majlis of Imam Husayn (pbuh) where people came, listened and learned the truth.

When they arrived in Kerbala they found that the Prophet's (pbuh) companion Jabir ibn Abdullah Ansari was already there to pay his respects (Ziyarah) to Imam Husayn (pbuh) and the martyrs of



Kerbala. Imam Ali Zainul Aabideen (pbuh) buried the heads of the martyrs in their own graves.

With heavy hearts they left Kerbala to go home to Madina.

It was evening of 30th Muharram 61 A.H. when they entered Madina. Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) had aged so much that even her husband could not recognise her at first .

WAFAT

Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) died soon after in the year 62 A.H. The exact date and place of her death is not clear. The places given are either Shaam (Damascus), Madina or Cairo although more popularly she is thought to be buried in Damascus .



BEHISHTE ZAYNABIYYA

This is the graveyard situated opposite the mosque of Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) where dignitaries and scholars are buried.

Dr. Ali Shari'ati the renowned author from Iran is buried here. His tomb is kept in a room located on the far right hand side of the cemetery.

DR ALI SHARIATI 1933-1977

Some of his books are:

Hajj (The Pilgrimage)

Marxism and Other Western

Fallacies : An Islamic Critique

Where Shall We Begin?

Mission of a Free Thinker

The Free Man and Freedom of the Man

Reflections of Humanity

Hurr (Battle of Karbala)

Abu-Dahr

Art Awaiting the Saviour

Fatemeh is Fatemeh

The Philosophy of Supplication

Religion versus Religion

Man and Islam



DAMASCUS TOWN

MASJID SAYYIDA RUQAYYA (SAKINA) (pbuh)

This mosque is a short distance from the Umayyad Mosque and the Al Hamidiyah Souk in the centre of town.



SAYYIDA RUQAYYA (SAKINA) BINTAL HUSAYN (pbuh)

Sakina bint al-Husayn was the youngest daughter of Imam Husayn (pbuh). Sakina is a derivative of "Sukun" meaning "Peace". It is said that Imam prayed for a daughter who would give him peace, and Allah granted him his wish and blessed him with Sakina.

Her mother was Sayyida Rabab binte Imra'u al-Qays, the daughter of the Chief of the tribe of Kinda who had been a Christian until prior to Sayyida Rabab's marriage to Imam. Imam is reported to have said "By Allah, I cherish the house in which are Sakina and Rabab. I endear them both and spend most of my wealth on both of them. I will not neglect them until I am buried under the earth."

Abu Mikhnaf in his Maqatal mentions Sakina, who was told that her father had come back from the



battlefield. She was thirsty and went out expecting to see her father. Instead she saw the horse alone and she wept bitterly. Her wailing alerted the other ladies who joined in the grief. Abu Mikhnaf does not cite the age of Sakina.

According to Abu Mikhnaf, in Damascus, Yazid had taunted Sakina in the open court about the death of her father. Sakina retorted: "Do not be happy for what you have done ! My father was an upright person, Allah called him towards Him and my father responded. As for you, O Yazid, be prepared with your reply in front of Allah". Sakina goes on to relate to Yazid a vision she had of her father in heaven. She was, in this account, even embraced by the Prophet in the vision. In one part of the vision Sakina meets Bibi Fatimah (AS) and complains to her that she had become an orphan at a young age. Fatimah (pbuh) also embraces her and weeps. Yazid was unmoved by Sakina's account.

Abu Mikhnaf adds that one of Yazid's soldiers wanted Sakina for himself, but Sayyida Zainab (pbuh) defended her saying that the daughters of the Prophet could not serve as slaves in people's houses. Umm Kulthum also leapt to her defence.

She died in Damascus as a prisoner of Yazid and was buried by Imam Ali Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) in the



prison where the Ahlul Bayt were incarcerated. History does not confirm her age but she could not have been much older than seven or eight.



ZIYARA OF SAYYIDA RUQAYYA (pbuh)

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ سَيِّدِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ صَاحِبِ الْحَوْضِ وَاللِّوَاءِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا صَاحِبِ الْمَقَامِ الْمَحْمُودِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ خَيْرِ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ يَعْسُوبِ الدِّينِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ



السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ خَلِيفَةِ سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ فَاطِمَةَ الزُّهْرَاءِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا أُخْتَ الشَّهِيدِينَ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ الشَّهِيدِ يَا سَكِينَةَ بِنْتَ الْحُسَيْنِ

وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Peace be on you, O grand-daughter of the leader of the Prophets

Peace be on you O grand-daughter of the owner of the heavenly fountain and the standard bearer

Peace be on you O grand-daughter of the one who is endowed with the praiseworthy rank

Peace be on you O grand-daughter of the best of the creation of Allah

Peace be on you O grand-daughter of the chief of the religion

Peace be on you O grand-daughter of the commander of the faithful

Peace be on you O grand-daughter of the successor of the leader of the Messengers



Peace be on you O grand-daughter of Fatimatuz
Zahra

Peace be on you O sister of the two martyrs

Peace be with you O daughter of the martyr, O
Sakina daughter of Husayn

May the mercy and blessing of Allah be on you



UMAYYAD MOSQUE JAAMIA BANI UMAYYA KABEER

It is one of the largest and oldest masajid in the world. The masjid was



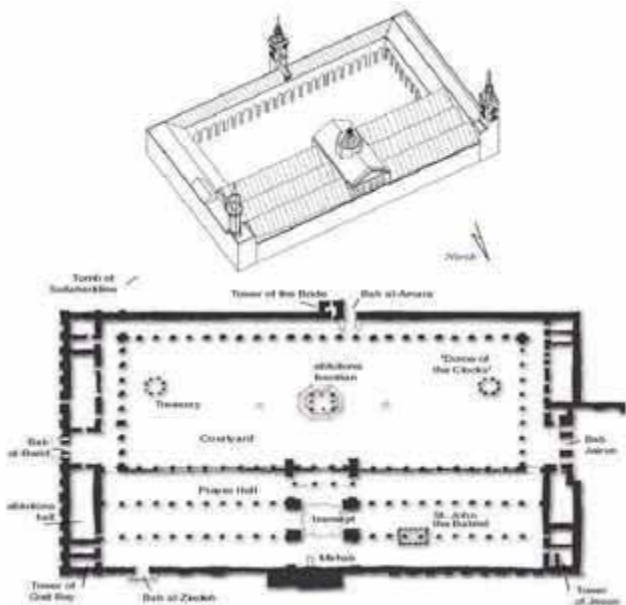
built after the Muslim conquest of Damascus at the place where a church dedicated to Prophet Yahya (pbuh) (John the Baptist) stood since the time of the Roman emperor Constantine I.

Initially, the Muslim conquest of Damascus in 636 did not affect the church, as the building was shared by Muslim and Christian worshippers. It remained a church although the Muslims built a mud brick structure against the southern wall so that they could pray. The church was then purchased from the Christians and the current masjid built.

The construction of the masjid was based on the house of the Prophet (pbuh) in Madina which had many functions: it was a place for personal and collective prayers, religious education, political meetings, administration of justice, and refuge for the homeless.



The minaret in the southeast corner is called the Minaret of Isa as many believe that it is here that Prophet Isa (pbuh) will appear when Imam Mahdi (pbuh) comes.



COURTYARD

West Side

BAAB SA'A (The door of the hour)

The door with the minaret and clock marks the location where the prisoners of Karbala were made to wait before being brought inside whilst Yazid had his palace decorated for his victory.

PLACE WHERE SAYYIDA ZAYNAB (pbuh) GAVE HER SERMON

PLACE WHERE IMAM ALI ZAYNUL ABIDEEN (pbuh) GAVE HIS SERMON

MAIN HALL (South Wing)

WHITE MIMBAR

This marks the place where Imam Zaynul Abideen (pbuh) gave his famous sermon which was interrupted by Adhan although the time for salaa had not set in.

Extracts from Imam's sermon:

"O people, we were granted six things and favored with seven: We were granted knowledge, clemency, leniency, fluency, courage, and love for us in the hearts of the believers. We were favoured by the fact that from among us came the chosen Prophet,



Mohammed, may Allah bless him and his family, al-Siddiq, al-Tayyār, the Lion of Allah and of the Prophet, may Allah bless him and his family, the mistress of the women of the world Fātima the chaste, and both lords of the youths of Heaven from among this nation”

Having introduced his family, Imām continued saying:

“Whoever recognizes me knows me, and whoever does not recognize, let me tell him who I am and to what family I belong: I am the son of Mecca and Mina; I am the son of Zamzam and al-Safā; I am the son of the one who carried Zakāt in the ends of the mantle; I am the son of the best man who ever put on a loincloth and clothes; I am the son of the best man who ever put on sandals and walked barefooted; I am the son of the best man who ever made tawāf and Sa’ee; I am the son of the best man who ever offered the hajj and pronounced talbiya; I am the son of the one who was transported on the burāq in the air; I am the son of the one who was made to travel from the Sacred Mosque to the Remote Mosque, so glory belongs to Him Who made (His Servant) travel; I am the son of the one who was taken by Jibrail to sidrat al-muntahā ; I am the son of the one who drew near (his Lord) and suspended, so he was the measure of two bows or



closer still; I am the son of the one who led the angels of the heavens in prayer; I am the son of the one to whom the Almighty revealed what He revealed;

I am the son of Mohammed al-Mustafā ; I am the son of 'Ali al-Murtadā ; I am the son of the one who fought against the creatures till they said: There is no god but Allah.....

I am the son of the best of the believers, the heir of the prophets, the Commander of the Muslims..... the one who prayed in the two qiblas, and fought at Badr and Hunayn and never disbelieved in Allah not even as much as the twinkling of an eye..... the first to respond to Allah from among the believers..... the tongue of the wisdom of worshippers, the supporter of the religion of Allah, the protector of the affair of Allah, the garden of the wisdom of Allah, the container of the knowledge of Allah.....the boldest of them in tongue, the firmest of them in determination, the most powerful of them, brave..... the father of the two grandsons (of the Prophet) al-Hasan and al-Husayn....., the victorious Lion of Allah, the request of every seeker, the victorious over every victorious, such is my grandfather, 'Ali b. Abi Tālib.

I am the son of Fatima, the chaste. I am the son of the mistress of women. I am the son of the purified



(lady). I am the son of the part of the Messenger, may Allah bless him and his family. I am the son of the one who was covered with blood. I am the son of the one who was slaughtered at Karbala. I am the son of the one for whom the Jinns wept in the dark and for whom the birds in the air cried.”

The Imām continued saying ‘I am....’ until people wept

Yazid could see discord in the audience when they recognised who Imam was and ordered the Muadhin to call out the Adhan. When the Muadhin said: “Allāhu Akbar!”

Imam turned to him and said:

“You have made great the Great One who cannot be measured and cannot be perceived by senses, there is nothing greater than Allah.”

The muadhin said: “Ashhadu an la ilaha illallah!”

Imam said: *“My hair, my skin, my flesh, my blood, my brain, and my bones bear witness that there is no god but Allah.”*

The muadhin said: “Ashhadu anna Muhammedan rasulullah!”

Imam turned to Yazid and asked him: *“Yazid, is Muhammed your grandfather or mine? If you say that he is yours, then you are a liar, and if you say that he is mine, then why did you kill his family?”*



Yazid became silent and was unable to answer. The atmosphere in the audience changed

A Jewish scholar was in the assembly of Yazid. He asked Yazid: “Who is that lad?”

“Ali Ibn Al Husayn,” replied Yazid.

“Who is al-Husayn?” asked the Jewish scholar.

“Son of ‘Ali ibn. Abi Tālib,” answered Yazid.

“Who is his mother?” asked the Jewish scholar.

“Mohammed’s daughter,” replied Yazid.

“Glory belongs to God” explained the Jewish scholar, “this is the son of the daughter of your Prophet, (why did) you kill him? You opposed him by doing evil to his blood relations. By Allah, if our Prophet, Mūsā b. ‘Imrān, had left a grandson among us, we would have worshipped him instead of Allah. Your Prophet left you yesterday; nevertheless you revolted against his grandson and killed him. How bad a community you are!”

Yazid, became angry and ordered the Jewish scholar to be hit on the mouth, still the Jewish scholar said: “Kill me if you want to. I have found in the Torah that whoever kills the progeny of a prophet will be cursed as long as he remains (living). When he dies, Allah will cause him to enter the fire of Hell.

Yazid summoned Imam and blamed the killing of Imam Husayn(pbuh) on Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad (ibn Marjana) saying: : “May Allah curse b. Marjāna! By



Allah, if I had been with him (al-Husayn), he would never have asked me for a favor without me granting him it; I would have protected him from death with all my power even through destroying some of my sons. But Allah has decreed what you have seen. My little son, write to me and everything that you need is yours.”

Imam turned away from him and said nothing to him, for he knew that the reason for his apology was an escape from the crime he committed. Imam asked Yazid to show him his father’s head to bid farewell. He also asked him to bring back what was taken from the women on Muharram 10th. Yazid said: “As for the face of your father, you will never see it. As for what was taken from you, it will be brought back to you. As for the women, no one will repatriate them except you. As for you, I will not kill you”

Yazid ordered Nu‘manibn Bashir to escort the prisoners back to Madina.He ordered him to take them out at night because he feared dissension.

PLATFORM (In front of the mimbar)

This marks the location where the ladies and children of the Ahlul Bayt were made to stand in the presence of Yazid



WOODEN BALCONY (directly opposite the raised floor)

This marks the location where Yazid sat.

QFATIMA TIP

At all these places recite Ziyara and 2 rakaat salaa. Think of the events that happened at each place and take yourself back through time. Ponder over the lessons learnt and the way it changed the course of history.



PROPHET YAHYA (pbuh)

Prophet Yahya (John the Baptist) (pbuh) was the son of Prophet Zakariyya (pbuh).. Prophet Zakariyya (pbuh) had reached the age



of 90 years and had no children. When he saw the blessings on Sayyida Maryam (pbuh) whom he looked after, he went to pray at Baytul Muqaddas. The Qur'an mentions his dua in Suratu Maryam 19:2-7 and Suratu Ali Imran 3:38-39:

ذِكْرُ رَحْمَةِ رَبِّكَ عَبْدًا زَكِيًّا

A mention of the mercy of your Lord to His servant Zakariyya.

إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ نِدَاءً خَفِيًّا

When he called upon his Lord in a low voice,

قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي وَهَنَ الْعَظْمُ مِنِّي وَاشْتَعَلَ الرَّأْسُ شَيْبًا

وَلَمْ أَكُنْ بِدُعَائِكَ رَبِّ شَقِيًّا

He said: My Lord! surely my bones are weakened and my head flares with hoariness, and, my Lord! I have never been unsuccessful in my prayer to You:



وَإِنِّي خِفْتُ الْمَوَالِيَ مِنْ وَرَائِي وَكَانَتِ امْرَأَتِي عَاقِرًا

فَهَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ وَلِيًّا

And surely I fear my cousins after me, and my wife is barren, therefore grant me from Yourself an heir

يَرِثُنِي وَيَرِثُ مِنْ آلِ يَعْقُوبَ وَاجْعَلْهُ رَبِّ رَضِيًّا

Who should inherit me and inherit from the children of Yaqoub, and make him, my Lord, one in whom You art well pleased.

يَا زَكَرِيَّا إِنَّا نُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ اسْمُهُ يَحْيَى لَمْ نَجْعَلْ لَهُ مِنْ

قَبْلُ سَمِيًّا

O Zakariya! surely We give you good news of a boy whose name shall be Yahya: We have not made before anyone his equal.

فَتَقَبَّلَهَا رَبُّهَا بِقَبُولٍ حَسَنٍ وَأَنْبَتَهَا نَبَاتًا حَسَنًا وَكَفَّلَهَا

زَكَرِيَّا كُلَّمَا دَخَلَ عَلَيْهَا زَكَرِيَّا الْمِحْرَابَ وَجَدَ عِنْدَهَا



رَزَقًا قَالَ يَا مَرْيَمُ أَنَّى لَكِ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

هُنَالِكَ دَعَا زَكَرِيَّا رَبَّهُ قَالَ رَبِّ هَبْ لِي مِنْ لَدُنْكَ

ذُرِّيَّةً طَيِّبَةً إِنَّكَ سَمِيعُ الدُّعَاءِ

There did Zakariya pray to his Lord; he said: My Lord! grant me from Thee good offspring; surely Thou art the Hearer of prayer.

فَنَادَتْهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَهُوَ قَائِمٌ يُصَلِّي فِي الْمِحْرَابِ أَنَّ اللَّهَ

يُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ تُبَشِّرُكَ بِغُلَامٍ مُصَدِّقًا بِكَلِمَةٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَسَيِّدًا

وَخَصُورًا أَوْ نَبِيًّا مِنَ الصَّالِحِينَ

Then the angels called to him as he stood praying in the sanctuary: That Allah gives you the good news of Yahya verifying a Word from Allah, and honourable and chaste and a prophet from among the good ones.



He sermons attracted people from everywhere and as mentioned in the Qur'an in 19:12-15 he was not arrogant , was dutiful to his parents and very wise.

One day, Prophet Yahya (pbuh) was informed that the found out that Herodotus (the King of Palestine) wanted to marry his niece Herodya which was unacceptable religiously as mentioned in the Tawrat. His disapproval soon reached Herodya who wanted to marry the King so she could become queen. She persuaded the King to kill Prophet Yahya (pbuh). He was captured by the King's soldiers. Every Spring, the well of Prophet Hud (pbuh) would be filled with blood which seeped out of the earth as well. Only when the Herodya (the queen) was killed by Bakhtun Nasr who invaded Palestine and avenged the murder of Prophet Yahya (pbuh) did the blood stop.

It is said that the earth wept for only two people – Prophet Yahya (pbuh) and Imam Husayn (pbuh)



WELL OF PROPHET HUD (pbuh)



Prophet Hud (pbuh) was sent to the people of Aad. Aad was situated in Ahqaaf (which is plural of Hoqf means a raised spot in the desert). Prophet Hud (pbuh) was born amongst these people who were very strong and very rich. They however worshipped idols. Prophet Hud (pbuh) spent a long time preaching to them to worship the one and only god - their creator Allah. The people were stubborn and refused to listen to him except very few.

Allah punished the people of Aad by sending a drought (no rain). The people still would not believe and mocked Hud (pbuh) even beating him up. He warned them of a greater punishment but they just ignored him. When the hardships became great they all came to Prophet Hud's house and asked him to pray for rain. He prayed for rain and the people had food again but they still refused to correct themselves. In fact they defied Prophet Hud (pbuh) to bring the punishment that he had said Allah would send on them if he was true.

Prophet Hud (pbuh) told them that the knowledge of when was only with Allah. Soon they saw a cloud



coming towards them. Thinking it was rain they gathered underneath it. However it was a blast of strong violent wind (like a cyclone) and it killed all the people of Aad. Some had turned to stone and were buried beneath the sand. Prophet Hud (pbuh) and a few believers were saved. Thousands of years later by the order of Mansur Dawanaqi, during the time of Imam Musa Kadhim (pbuh) a well was dug in this place. Instead of water, they found stones in the shape of human beings. Mansur Dawanaqi asked Imam about the finding. Imam identified them as the people of Aad and their turning to stone

EAST WING

(Adjacent rooms to the main hall)

A METALLIC CUBIC INDENTATION IN THE WALL RA'S HUSAYN

This marks the place where the severed head of Imam Husayn (pbuh) was kept on display by Yazid. The keeper of the place used to hear weeping from this area every night. It is here that Rasulullah (pbuh) used to come and weep over Sayyedush Shuhada.



**PLACE WHERE IMAM ALI ZAYNUL ABIDEEN (pbuh)
PRAYED
A MUSALLA & MIHRAB ENCASED IN A GLASS
CUBICLE**

It is here that Imam prayed when he was imprisoned.

**PLACE WHERE THE HEADS OF THE SHUHADA OF
KARBALA WERE KEPT**

A metal enclosure marks this place. According to a narration the heads may still be buried here.



BAAB SAGHEER

Baab Sagheer باب صغير, also called Guristan-e-Gharibaan, is a street in Damascus with cemeteries on either



side of the road. Buried here are some awesome personalities:

UMM SALAMA (Hind bint Umayya) (pbuh)

Umm Salma and her husband were one of the first migrants to Abyssinnia. Her husband was killed in the Battle of Uhud. Muhammad (pbuh) married her when she was 29. She died at the age of 84 serving the family of the Prophet all her life.

UMM HABIBA (Ramla bint Umm Sufyan)

Umm Habiba was Abu Sufyan's daughter. 4 months after the death of her husband Ubaydullah, the Prophet sent a message to Najashi, asking him to stand proxy for himself and to ratify a marriage between him and Umm Habiba, if she were willing. She had a dream in which someone came to her and addressed her as "Mother of the Faithful", and she interpreted this as meaning that she would become the wife of the prophet. The Prophet's letter to Negus inviting him to proclaim Islam was



sent at this time. The Prophet also sent word to Ja'far ibn Abu Talib that it would please him if he would now come to live in Medina.

UMM KULTHUM
(daughter of Imam Ali
(pbuh) and Sayyida
Fatima (pbuh)



She was born in 7AH in Madina. She was married to Muhammad ibn Ja'fer Tayyar who was Sayyida Zaynab's husbands brother. He died before the event of Karbala. Imam Ali (pbuh) did iftar at her house on the the 19th night of Ramadhan 40 AH and it is from her that we get the narrations of this night. She was with Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) all the time throughout the journey that the prisoners endured. It appears that she too moved to Damascus with her.



SAYYIDA FIZZHA (pbuh)

Sayyida Fizzha had come from Abyssinia to `Arabia as a slave. She was freed by the Holy Prophet (S) and afterwards served Sayyida Fátimah (pbuh) as her maid-servant. Sayyida Fátimah (pbuh) divided her house work equally between herself and Sayyida Fizzha and they would take turns to do the chores. She remained faithful to the household of Ahlul Bayt (pbuh) and even accompanied them to Karbala and the prison of Damascus. . It is said that when Yazid was misbehaving in the Court against the Ahlul Bayt; Sayyida Fizzha stood in front of Sayyida Zainab to protect her. Yazid gave orders that Sayyida Fizzha should be whipped. Sayyida Fizzha came forward and gave addressed the African slaves who were the bodyguards. She told them it was a shame on them that in their presence Yazid was ordering her to be whipped. The slaves immediately turned towards Yazid and told him that if Sayyida Fizzha were whipped they would attack with their swords already drawn. Yazid ordered the slaves to stop. She served Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) until her wafat.



BILAL (pbuh)

Bilal's father was Rab'a; a slave from Abyssinia (Ethiopia) who had been brought to Makka. He belonged to a man called Khalaf. Bilal's mother was Hamama and she had been



captured after Abraha's army was destroyed by the birds that Allah sent when they came to destroy the Ka'ba. Rab'a and Hamama were married and they had three children - a daughter and 2 sons one of whom was Bilal. After Khalaf died his son Umayya became Bilal's owner. Umayya was a staunch enemy of the Prophet (pbuh) When Bilal heard of the Prophet (pbuh) and his message he immediately became a Muslim but kept it a secret from his master.

When Umayya found out that Bilal was a Muslim he was furious. He beat Bilal up and tortured him. Bilal was whipped, made to lie on the hot sand and heavy stones were placed on his chest.

Bilal kept on saying "*Ahadun Ahad*" (Only One God, Only One).

Umayya took red hot iron rods and branded Bilal's legs with them. It did not change Bilal's conviction.



History says he was one of the companions of the Prophet (pbuh) who suffered the most. Days passed and the torture on Bilal worsened. His condition became bad. The Prophet (pbuh) instructed Abu Bakr to buy him from Umayya and to set him free. This was done and Bilal was free.

When Jibrail brought the wordings of the Adhan to the Prophet (pbuh) he (the Prophet) asked Imam Ali (pbuh) to teach Bilal how to pronounce it. Until then Bilal used to call out "*As-salaatul Jaamia*" to announce to the people to come and pray.

Bilal had a beautiful loud voice and he is the first Muadhin of Islam.

A few people through jealousy and pride objected to the Prophet (pbuh) about Bilal being the Muadhin. They came with excuses that he could not pronounce 'sh' and said 's' instead. The Prophet (pbuh) said that Allah had accepted Bilal's 'seen' for 'sheen'.

Bilal was present in the hijra from Makka to Medina but always craved to return to his home town Makka. He also took part in every battle to defend Islam. His former master Umayya was killed in the battle of Badr.

When the Muslims returned to Makka Bilal climbed onto the Ka'ba and gave Adhan.



After the Prophet's death, Bilal stopped giving Adhan. He objected to the injustice done to Imam Ali (pbuh) Once Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh) asked him to give Adhan. He did but on hearing "*Ash hadu anna Muhammad ar Rasulullah*" she fainted. Bilal stopped the Adhan.

He decided to leave Madina and go to Damascus for he could not bear to see the injustices happening. He returned 9 years later in 20 a.h. for the Ziyara of the Prophet's grave. The people of Madina wanted to hear his Adhan but he refused and only agreed when Imam Hasan & Husayn (pbut) asked him . It was early in the morning and the streets filled with people who came out weeping as they remembered the time of the Prophet (pbuh). Later he returned to Damascus and died there.



SAYYIDA ASMA BINT UMAYS (pbuh)

Her sister Maymuna was married to Rasulullah (pbuh) whilst another – Salma was married to Hamza ibn Abdul Muttalib Her first husband was Ja'far ibn Abu Talib (Ja'fer Tayyar) and she migrated with his to Abyssinnia. Their son Abdullah was married to Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) and Muhammad to Sayyida Umm Kulthum (pbuh).

They returned to Madina in 5AH and Ja'fer Tayyar was killed in the battle of Mu'tah where he is buried. She then married Abu Bakr and they had a son called Muhammad. After the death of Abu Bakr, she married Imam Ali (pbuh) who adopted Muhammad ibn Abu Bakr. She served the Ahlul Bayt and was present at the wedding of Sayyida Fatima (pbuh).



ADRA

A town 40 KM North of Damascus.

HUJR IBN 'ADIY (pbuh)



Hujr ibn 'Adiy **عدي حجر بن** was a supporter of Imam Ali(pbuh) and he and his

companions were killed by Muawiya for refusing to curse Imam Ali (pbuh) . During the rule of Muawiya it was a custom to curse Imam Ali (pbuh) from the mimbar. Hujr ibn Adiy would refute the cursing and start praising Imam Ali (pbuh). On the orders of Muawiya he was arrested and transported to Damascus to Muawiya who sentenced them to death. They were told that they would be pardoned if they cursed Imam Ali (pbuh). They refused and were murdered in a ditch in Adra. Hujr asked that his son be killed before he did so that he would be sure that his son stayed on the love of Ali until his death. At the time of his execution he requested: 'Do not remove these chains after I am killed, nor clean the blood. We will meet again with Muawiya and I shall petition my case against him'. It is narrated that Muawiya went to see Ayesha and she asked him:: "What made you slay the people of `Adhra, Hujr and his companions?" He answered: "O



mother of the faithful, I considered their death to be for the good of the community, while their remaining alive would have been evil for the community." She said: "I heard the Messenger of Allah say:" Some people shall be killed in `Adra' for whom Allah and the inhabitants of heaven will be filled with anger.' "

Imam Ali (pbuh) also said: "O people of Iraq, seven men of Adra' shall be slain. They shall be like the people of the Trench. (Ashabul Ukhdud)" When the time of death approached Muawiya, was heard to say three times: 'Hujr ibn Adiy! The day of answering for your murder is very lengthy'

ZIYARA OF HUJR BIN ADIY (pbuh)

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَيُّهَا الشُّهَدَاءُ الصَّابِرُونَ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ أَيُّهَا الْأَتْقِيَاءُ الصَّالِحُونَ صَبِرْتُمْ عَلَى

عَظِيمِ الْبَلَاءِ حَتَّى قُتِلْتُمْ فِي حُبِّ سَيِّدِ الْأَوْصِيَاءِ وَ

فَرَزْتُمْ بِالذَّرَجَاتِ الْعُلَى مَعَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ وَ



الشُّهَدَاءُ وَالصِّدِّيقِينَ فَمَا أَعْظَمَ مَقَامَكُمْ وَأَجَلَ
 رُتَبَتِكُمْ صَبَرْتُمْ عَلَى حَدِّ السُّيُوفِ وَشُرْبِ الْحُثُوفِ
 وَلَمْ تَبْرُؤُوا مِنْ ابْنِ عَمِّ الرَّسُولِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَ
 سَلَّمَ وَلَا ضَعُفْتُمْ وَلَا وَهَنْتُمْ وَأَثَرْتُمْ الدَّارَ الْبَاقِيَةَ
 عَلَى الدَّارِ الْفَائِزَةِ حَتَّى قُتِلْتُمْ صَبْرًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَ
 نُصْرَةَ ابْنِ عَمِّ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
 صَابِرِينَ مُحْتَسِبِينَ غَيْرِنَا كِلَيْنِ وَلَا خَائِفِينَ فَلَعَنَ اللَّهُ
 مَنْ قَتَلَكُمْ وَظَلَمَكُمْ وَأَسْتَحَلَّ مِنْكُمْ الْمَحَارِمَ وَ
 ضَاعَفَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْعَذَابَ الْأَكْبَرَ
 السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ يَا أَنْصَارَ اللَّهِ



السلام عليكم يا أنصار رسول الله صلى الله عليه و
إليه وسلم

السلام عليكم يا أنصار أمير المؤمنين علي بن أبي
طالب وأنصار الإسلام

السلام عليكم بما صبرتم فنعمة عقبي الدار رزقنا
الله مرفقتكم مع الأبرار في جوار النبي المختار مع
الائمة الأطهار صلوات الله عليهم والسلام
عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

“Peace be on you, O patient, martyred ones.
Peace be on you, O virtuous, upright ones.
You exercised patience over great trials until you
were killed due to the love of the leader of the
successors. You triumphed at the highest rank with
the Prophets, Messengers, martyrs and truthful



ones. How great is your status and lofty is your position. You exercised patience even though you were threatened with swords and were made to taste death, but you did not dissociate yourselves from the cousin of the Prophet of Allah (pbuh). You did not become weak, nor were you feeble, you preferred the abode that will last forever over the abode that is perishing. You were killed while you had patience in the path of Allah. You were helping the cousin of the Prophet of Allah (pbuh). You had patience and you did not withdraw, nor did you fear. May Allah curse those who killed and wronged you, and saw it right to do what is wrong. May Allah increase His painful punishment on them. Peace be on you, O helpers of the Prophet of Allah (pbuh).

Peace be on you, O helpers of the Commander of the Faithful, 'Ali b. Abu Talib and the helpers of Islam. Peace be on you, due to the patience that you had, and the best place is the ultimate abode. May Allah grant us your friendship with the upright ones in the proximity of the chosen Prophet and with the pure Imams (pbuh).

Peace be on you and may the blessings and mercy of Allah be on you”.



ALEPPO

Aleppo is known as Halab in 'Arabic. It is a city in northern Syria and is the second largest Syrian city.



The ahlul bayt on their journey from Kufa to Damascus were camped here for a night when at a nearby monastery heard a great deal of glorification of God. Looking out he saw a dazzling light from the severed head of Imam Husayn (pbuh) which was on a spear. He also heard a voice saying, "Peace be upon you, O father of 'Abdullah!" He was amazed and did not know what to make of it. In the morning, he asked people about that head and was told that it was the head of Imam Husayn (pnuh) grandson of the Prophet (pbuh). He said to them, "Woe unto you, people! True are the accounts that said that the heavens would rain blood!" He asked their permission to kiss the head, but they refused till he paid them some money. He declared his shahada and embraced Islam through the blessing of the one who was beheaded just for supporting the divine call. When they left that place, they looked at the money the monk had given them and saw this verse inscribed on it:



“And those who oppressed shall come to find how evil their end shall be” Suratush Shuara 26:227

The stone on which the head was kept still bears the mark of Imam’s blood. A masjid called **MASJID NUQTA** is built around the stone.

MAQAAM SAQT

This is a place where the infant Muhsin, son of Imam Husayn (pbuh) and Sayyida Rabab is buried. Some narrations state that Sayyida Rabab was pregnant and miscarried her baby at 6 months here on the way from Kufa to Shaam. There is a pomegranate tree here and many come here in the hope to use her wasila to bear children.

PROPHET ZAKARIYYA (pbuh)

Prophet Zakariyya (pbuh) was a Prophet of the Bani Israel. He earned his living as a carpenter.. His wife, Yashbi' was from the family of Prophet Harun (pbuh).



He was entrusted to care for Sayyida Maryam (pbuh), who was his niece. Maryam (pbuh)'s mother – Hannah, had taken a vow during her pregnancy to dedicate her unborn child in the service of Bayt-



ul Muqqadas. When Maryam (pbuh) was born she was given to her uncle, Zakariyya (pbuh) who was also in charge of the rituals of worship as well as the upkeep of Bayt-ul Muqqadas. When Maryam (pbuh) grew older, he allotted her a room inside the Mosque so that she could carry out her duties at all times.

As Prophet Zakariya (pbuh) grew older, he longed for an heir who would maintain the religious activities. One night in the sanctuary he asked Allah to bless him with an heir aware that both he and his wife were advanced in age

Allah revealed to him the good news of a son who would be called Yahya. His son would be a great Prophet and a leader, an example to all of humankind. Never before him was there a person with this name.

Shortly after the revelation Allah gave Zakariyya (pbuh) his son, under the condition that he would be incapable of verbal communication with any one for a period of three days.

Zakariya (pbuh) continued preaching the religion of Allah even in old age. They not only ignored the his teachings but also harassed him eventually killing him. He is buried in Aleppo in Syria.



RAQQA

Raqqa الرقة, is a city in north central Syria located on the north bank of the Euphrates River, about 160 km east of Aleppo



AMMAR YASIR (pbuh)

"Ammar is one in whom Allah has placed faith in every drop of his blood and in each of his bones"



Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

His father was Yasir bin Amir bin Malik of Yemen. Yasir with two of his brothers had left Yemen to look for their 4th brother who had left on a trip but had not returned. When he reached Makka and still had not found his brother they sat down near the Ka'ba in dismay. A man called Huzayfa who was the leader of the tribe of Banu Makhzum saw them and asked them what the matter was. He kept them as his guests. Yasir's two brothers returned to Yemen but Yasir stayed on. He liked Huzayfa's slave girl called Sumayya and got married to her. Yasir was always against worshipping idols. As a result Ammar was born in Makka.



When Ammar heard of the Prophet's message in Makka it was a time when Huzayfa had died and people regarded Ammar as a slave. He went to the Prophet (pbuh) and accepted Islam. The day Ammar accepted Islam his father Yasir saw a dream which saddened him.

He told his wife Sumayya that he had seen himself in a valley. One of the sides of the mountain was split and there was fire flowing down. on the other side of the fire there was a garden in which he saw Ammar and Sumayya. Ammar and Sumayya both called him to step into the fire and go to them. Yasir said that he saw himself step into the fire whilst Sumayya and Ammar watched. In the evening when Yasir came back Sumayya told him that the meaning of his dream was solved for Ammar had bought good news from the Prophet of Islam. Ammar related the words of the Prophet to his father and quoted the Qur'an. He also said that the Prophet had said that there would be difficulties. Yasir accepted Islam saying this is my dream.

Ammar had two other brothers - Abdullah and Hurayb (who had been killed). Abdullah too accepted Islam and the family of Yasir is the **first family** in Makka to accept Islam.



When the Makkans found out that they had all accepted Islam they were furious. Especially the tribe of Banu Makhzun (Huzayfa's tribe who had looked after Yasir). Abu Jahl who was a cousin of Huzayfa got together the youth of Banu Makhzun and although refused by the elders of the tribe they looted Yasir's house burnt all their belongings and tied them all in chains. They were taken outside Makka to a place where slaves were punished and beaten up, heavy stones put on them and laid on fire in the desert. The screams of pain could be heard in Makka to discourage those who were going to accept Islam.

Yasir and Sumayya were about 70 years old and Ammar about 50 - he was 5 years older than the Prophet (pbuh) This was the first family persecuted for Islam. Sumayya was killed (pulled apart) and she is the first '*shahida*' (martyr) of Islam. She was killed whilst Yasir and Ammar watched. Yasir told the Prophet (pbuh) that he could not bear it anymore. The Prophet (pbuh) and his companions buried Sumayya. Abu Jahl returned and killed Yasir and Abdullah. Then he returned for Ammar. Ammar told him what he wanted to hear. Abu Jahl left him but Ammar was very upset. He went straight to the Prophet (pbuh) The Prophet (pbuh) asked him what was in his heart? Ammar said that



it was the same as before i.e. he was a Muslim. At that moment the following aya of the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) *"He who disbelieves in Allah after having believed, not he who is forced while his heart is at rest on account of faith, but he who opens his breast to belief, on these is the anger of Allah and they shall have a great punishment"*

Suratush Shu'ara 16:106

The aya clearly says that he who has eiman in his heart but is forced to say Kufr in words has committed no sin. Abu Jahl captured Ammar again when he found he was preaching Islam and put him in the fire. Ammar did not burn for the Prophet (pbuh) prayed to Allah asking the fire: *"O fire! Do not burn Ammar just as you did not burn Ibrahim"*.

He is one of those who prayed behind the Prophet (pbuh) when the qibla was changed. Imam Ali (pbuh) and he, were the only ones who changed qibla without any confusion. He helped in the construction of the Masjid of Quba and the Prophet's masjid in Madina. He was the first person to have made a masjid in his house.

He took part in all the battles. In the battle of Badr when Abu Jahl was killed the Prophet (pbuh) told Ammar that his mother's murderer has been killed. After the Prophet (pbuh) died Ammar could not bear to see the injustice done to the AhlulBayt.



Ammar could not stand to see the changes that were being made in the name of Islam. When Baytul Maal (the peoples treasury) was being miappropriated, Ammar objected forcefully. He was arrested and beaten in the Prophet's Masjid and then thrown out of the Masjid. At the time Ammar was 90 years old. Umme Salma bought him to her house and looked after him. He gained consciousness at midnight. (The first time his salaa was qadha).

Imam Ali (pbuh) made him the commander of a group in the battle of Sifteen. (lasted 17 months). One day during the battle he was offered a cup of milk. He said today is my last day (The Prophet (pbuh) had told him that he would be killed in a battle and his last meal would be a cup of milk).

He had said that his clothes were not to be cleaned nor his blood wiped for he wanted to be buried as he was. Imam Ali (pbuh) buried him and prayed Salatul Mayyit. He said *"He who has no sadness of Ammar's death has no faith"*.



UWAYS QARANI

(pbuh)

Uways Qarani was born in Qaran, a town in Yemen. Uways Qarani never met Rasullullah



(pbuh), primarily because he used to take care of his sick mother. She did not like him to go anywhere. After the battle of Uhud, when he came to know that the Prophet had lost some teeth during the encounter, he too broke his teeth. Such was his love for the Prophet (pbuh). One day, his only wish was granted. His mother sensed his wanting, and asked him herself to go for a half a day. Thus as a freed bird, with joy he went to Madina. Eagerly wanting to meet the Prophet (pbuh) he reached Madina, and asked for the way to his house. Soon he found himself at the door of the friend of his heart. Just as he was taught, he knocked sending salaams on those in the house. Umme Salma asked him who he was “Uways from Qaran” he replied Umme Salma had heard the Prophet talk of him. But the Prophet wasn't home, nor was he to be back soon.

The shadow of sadness showed on his face. He could not stay longer for he had promised his mum



and with a heavy heart he left for Yemen. When the prophet returned from his journey, with joy of one who has found a lost one, he said

"I sense the smell of my beloved from Qaran", only to find out that his faithful friend has proved to be a perfect Muslim, kind and considerate to his mother, a keeper of his promises.

They never met in person, yet Uways Qarani is one of the companions, their meeting place was the wonderful world of dreams.

The Prophet (pbuh) said:

"You are in Yemen, yet you are near me; you are near me, yet you are in Yemen."

Only after the passing away of his mother, did he go to Madina to do the Ziyara of the Prophet's grave.

He left Qaran for Kufa to be with Imam Ali (pbuh) and. He fought against Muawiya. He was killed in the battle of Siffeen in 657CE



