



MARTYRDOM & MUHARRAM

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Martyrdom is nothing strange or uncommon to Muslims. The flourishing garden of Islam has been watered by the blood of the martyrs from the very early days of Islam. Among those great sons of Islam, who crowned their life-long efforts for the sake of Deen by finally laying down their lives, was Sayyiduna Husain عليه السلام, the noble grandson of Rasulullah ﷺ. His martyrdom was indeed heart-rending.

On the 10th of Muharram 61 A.H, Sayyiduna Husain عليه السلام was mercilessly martyred. Before his very eyes, scores of his immediate family also tasted from the cup of martyrdom. His noble head was severed from his body. The various details of this tragic incident are too gruesome to comprehend. One could cry tears of blood.

Similarly, the pages of our history are filled with the blood of martyrs.

How is it that we have remembered the 10th of Muharram but are totally unaware of the heart-rending martyrdom of many other great personalities of Islam?



Ameer ul Mumineen Sayyiduna Umar رضي الله عنه

Rasulullah ﷺ said, “If there were to be a Nabi after me, it would have been Umar ibn al-Khattaab.”

[Sunan Tirmidhi]

While leading the Fajr Salaah, Sayyiduna Umar رضي الله عنه was stabbed six times by the fire-worshipper, Abu Lu'lu. He fell to the ground unable to continue with the Salaah. Sayyiduna Abdur Rahman bin Auf رضي الله عنه then completed the Salaah. Sayyiduna Umar رضي الله عنه was then carried to his house. The wounds proved fatal and on the 1st of Muharram 24 A.H, he bade farewell to this temporary world. The Muslims were shattered upon the martyrdom of Sayyiduna Umar رضي الله عنه. We also feel the grief of that fateful day.

However we have never heard of anybody observing
the day of Shahaadat-e-Umar رضي الله عنه



Sayyiduna Uthmaan ؓ

Nafi' (Rahimahullah) reported: Uthman ؓ saw Rasulullah ﷺ in his dream the night before he was killed. Rasulullah ﷺ said, "O Uthman, break your fast with us tonight." Then, he was killed (the next day) while he was fasting. [Dala'il al-Nubuwwah lil-Bayhaqi]

The third Khalifah of Islam, the son-in-law of Rasulullah ﷺ, Sayyiduna Uthmaan ؓ was also brutally martyred. When the enemy besieged his house, for days he was unable to even get any water from the well which he had purchased and gifted to everybody to use at liberty. On Friday the 18th of Zul Hijjah 35 A.H, the enemy finally broke into his home. Sayyiduna Uthmaan ؓ was at that time reciting the Holy Quraan. However, no mercy was shown to him and his blood was spilt onto the pages of the Book of Allah. He also joined his predecessors in Jannah. This incident can make one shed tears of blood.

However, we have never heard of anybody observing
the day of Shahaadat-e-Uthmaan ؓ



Sayyiduna Hamza ؓ

Rasulullah ﷺ also witnessed some heart-rending martyrdoms. His beloved uncle, Sayyiduna Hamza ؓ was martyred in the battle of Uhud. After he was martyred, his body was defiled and severely mutilated. His ears and nose were cut off. The body of the beloved uncle of Rasulullah ﷺ was then ripped open and his liver removed. This was then taken away to be chewed. Rasulullah ﷺ was greatly pained and grieved over this. So great was his grief that when the killer of Sayyiduna Hamza ؓ accepted Islam, Rasulullah ﷺ requested him not to come in front of him as this would remind him of his uncle and bring back the grief.

However, Rasulullah ﷺ did not observe any day as
the day of Shahaadat-e-Hamza ؓ .



The battle of Bi'r Ma'oona

The battle of Bi'r Ma'oona (4 A.H) is yet another incident of the great Sahaabah ﷺ laying down their lives for the cause of Deen. Rasulullah ﷺ was requested to send some of his companions to teach the people of Najd. Upon this request Rasulullah ﷺ sent seventy Sahaba who were all Huffaaz and Qurraa (plural of Qaari).

On the way they were attacked and almost all were martyred. Rasulullah ﷺ was once again greatly aggrieved and for one month in the Fajr salaah cursed these people who had deceived and martyred his beloved companions so mercilessly.

Here also, no day was observed as the
day of their martyrdom.



The 10th of Muharram

Indeed our hearts bleed when we recount the incident of the martyrdom of Sayyiduna Husain عليه السلام. We also experience the grief when we recount the martyrdoms of Sayyiduna Umar, Uthmaan and Hamza عليه السلام. Likewise we are greatly pained when we read or hear of the martyrs of Bi'r Ma'oona, Uhud, Badr and all the other battles. Nevertheless, despite our grief, we will refrain from all things alien to the sharee'ah. If we observe the day of the martyrdom of Sayyiduna Husain عليه السلام, then what about the others? In that case almost every day of the year would be spent mourning.

From this we understand that the 10th of Muharram is not a day to observe as the martyrdom of Sayyiduna Husain عليه السلام, rather, it is significant as it was the day Allah Ta'ala saved Musa عليه السلام and the Banu Israil from Fir'aun and the day that the ark of Nuh عليه السلام docked on Mount Judi. [Musnad Ahmad]

Conclusion

From the above, it becomes clear that that the day of 'Aashura is not a day of mourning the tragic incident of Karbala since it transpired many years after the day of 'Aashura became auspicious.

Indeed, our hearts bleed when we recall the martyrdom of Sayyiduna Husain عليه السلام. It also bleeds when we hear of the martyrdom of the other great personalities of Islam. However, we have not been taught to perpetually mourn. What we have been taught is to take lesson from the lives of the martyrs and strive as they did for upliftment of Islam.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us the correct understanding of His pristine Deen & the perfect teachings of His beloved Messenger ﷺ and to abstain from practices which go against the dictates of Shariah. Ameen.

