

Lesson Title: The Lifelong Resistance of Imām Ḥusayn

I. A Divine Name and a Prophet's Promise

Imām Ḥusayn was born in Medina on the **3rd of Sha‘bān**. His birth was so significant that **Angel Jibrā‘il** descended to tell Prophet Muḥammad that Allah had chosen the name “**Ḥusayn**,” which means “goodness”.

The Prophet didn't just love Ḥusayn as a grandson; he wanted the world to recognize his status as a future leader. He once placed Ḥusayn on his shoulders and announced to the people that Ḥusayn had the best lineage—his grandfather being the Prophet and his grandmother being **Khadījah**—and that he possessed qualities given to no one else. He famously stated, “**Ḥusayn is from me, and I am from Ḥusayn**,” showing their inseparable spiritual bond.

II. Early Lessons in Courage and Loss

When the Prophet passed away in 11 AH, it was a deeply painful time for the family. The rulers of the time actually **prevented the family from mourning publicly**, fearing that if people heard them, their hearts would soften and they would realize who the true leaders should be.

To give his family a place to grieve, Imām ‘Alī built a shelter called **Bayt al-Aḥzān** (the House of Sorrows) in the Baqī‘ cemetery. Even as a young boy, Ḥusayn witnessed this oppression. He participated in his mother’s mission, going house to house to remind people of the pledge they made to his father at **Ghadīr**. His courage was clear even then; he once walked into the palace of a ruler and told him directly, “**Come down from my father’s pulpit!**”.

III. "My Brother is my Imām"

As Ḥusayn grew older, he remained a shield for the truth. During his father's leadership, he fought in the battles of **Jamal, Ṣiffīn, and Nahrawān**, where he gave powerful sermons to remind the enemy of the path of justice.

A beautiful lesson in discipline occurred when his brother, **Imām Ḥasan**, became the leader. Even when people tried to provoke Ḥusayn to disagree with the peace treaty his brother signed, Ḥusayn remained loyal, stating, “**My brother is my Imām**”. This teaches us the concept of **Nūrun Wāḥid (One Light)**: all Imāms act in perfect harmony with Allah’s will, even if their methods (like peace or war) look different depending on the situation.

IV. The Goal of Reform (Iṣlāḥ)

When the corrupt ruler **Yazīd** came to power, he broke the peace treaty that had been established. Imām Ḥusayn knew that giving allegiance (**bay‘ah**) to such a person would destroy the religion of his grandfather.

He made it clear that his goal was not power, but **reformation (iṣlāḥ)**. He said:

*"I have risen to seek reformation in the community of my grandfather. I would like to **bid good and forbid evil**..."*

By refusing to give bay‘ah, he protected the true teachings of Islam from being tainted by power-hungry oppressors.

V. Why We Visit Him (Ziyārah)

Today, millions visit his shrine in **Karbālā’**. This isn't just a tradition; it has immense spiritual value. **Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq** taught that frequent **ziyārah** of Imām Ḥusayn can:

- Increase your **life** and your **sustenance (rizq)**.
- Allow you to live and die in a state of **happiness**.
- Grant you **true prosperity (sa‘ādah)** in the eyes of Allah.

Class Discussion & Activities

- **Activity - Map Study:** Using a map of Medina, can you locate where **Bayt al-Aḥzān** was built? Why was it outside the city limits?
- **Reflection:** Imām Ḥusayn helped his mother remind people of their promises. How can we help our parents or elders stand up for what is right?
- **Analysis:** If the Imāms are "One Light," why did Imām Ḥasan choose a treaty while Imām Ḥusayn chose a stand? (Focus on the concept of *Nūrun Wāḥid*)