

## MUSLIM BIN AQIL AND HIS SONS

Imam Hussain (a) sent his cousin Muslim bin Aqeel (a) to Kufa as his emissary. Muslim (a) had taken with him his two sons Muhammad and Ibraheem. After Muslim (a) was killed; Muhammad and Ibraheem were also arrested and put into a dungeon. It is said that Muhammad was just eight years old and Ibraheem was ten years old.

On the 20th of Dul-Hajj in 60 Hajrah, when the jailer came to give the children their evening meal, he saw them saying their prayers. The jailer waited. When the boys had finished their prayers, he asked them who they were. When the jailer learnt that they were the sons of Muslim bin Aqeel (a) and the grandsons of Imam Ali (a), he let them escape. The children came out of the prison. It was a dark night. Their first thought was to go to Imam Hussain (a) and warn him not to go to Kufa. Everywhere they went, they found the roads blocked by Ibne Ziyad soldiers. It was impossible to get out of Kufa. Now it was almost day-break. Where could these two young boys go?

They found themselves by the side of the river Euphrates. They drank some water from the river and then went up a tree to hide for the day. Just then a woman came to the river to get water. She saw the two young boys and asked them who they were. Ibraheem said, ““We are two orphans, could you please leave us alone and not tell anyone that you have seen us?”” The woman asked them to accompany her to her mistress who would help them.

The woman’s mistress was a kind lady. After talking to the boys for a while she realized who they were. She gave them food and said to them, ““You can spend the day here and I will try to help you. Unfortunately my husband Harith is working for Ibne Ziyad. He is out at the moment . You can rest in the spare room but make no noise otherwise when he comes back, he will find out you are here””.

The children said their prayers and went to sleep. In the evening Muhammad woke up and started crying. Ibraheem asked him why he was crying. Muhammad said ““I saw our father in my dream. He was calling out for us””. Ibraheem said, ““Brother, be patient, I also saw our father in my dream beckoning us to him””. They both started weeping. Harith, who had come back, heard the children crying. He opened the door and asked the children who they were. On learning they were sons of Muslim bin Aqeel (a), he tied both the boys to a pillar. Harith’s wife tried to stop him, but he beat her up. Harith wanted to collect the reward which Ibne Ziyad had offered to anyone capturing the children.

The children spent the whole night tied to the pillar. In the morning Harith dragged them to the river bank. He took out his sword. Ibraheem asked him, ““Harith, are you going to kill us?”” Harith said, ““Yes!”” Ibraheem said, ““In that case give us time to finish our morning prayers””. The two boys said their prayers. They raised their hands and cried out ““Inna Lillaah Wa Inna Ilay-hi Rajeeoon! O Allah we are coming to you. Give our mother courage when she hears of our death and judge between us and our killers!!”” The sword came down! There were splashes in the water. Two young bodies were seen floating away in the waters of the river Euphrates.

Choose the correct answer:

1. Muslim bin Aqeel (a) was the cousin of \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Prophet Muhammad (s)
- b. Imam Hussain (a)
- c. Imam Ali (a)

2. Muslim bin Aqeel (a) was killed in \_\_\_\_\_ a. Kerbala b. Medina c. Kufa

3. The two sons of Muslim bin Aqeel (a) were \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Hasan and Hussain (a)
- b. Musa and Haroon (a)
- c. Muhammad and Ibraheem (a)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to collect the reward which Ibne Ziyad had offered to anyone capturing the children. a. Shimr b. Harith c. Yazid

5. Sons of Muslim bin Aqeel(a) were martyred near river\_\_\_\_\_. a. Nile b. Euphrates c. Tigris

## HURR IBN YAZID AR RIYAHI

Hurr could see the caravan of Imam Husayn (pbuh) from a distance. He was the captain of the army sent by Yazid to make sure that Imam Husayn (pbuh) did not go to Kufa. The men and horses in Hurr's army were very thirsty. They had used up all their water.

When the caravan came near, Hurr went up to meet Imam. Imam saw that they were thirsty and arranged for water to be given to the men and the horses. Hurr then told Imam that he could not let Imam go to Kufa. Imam was made to go to Karbala. When Hurr cut off Imam Husayn's route forcing him to go to Karbala, he thought that there would not be a battle and they would come to a peaceful solution.

On the night before Ashura, he could hear the children crying of thirst. He walked up and down the floor of his tent. Hurr was a brave man respected by all. When one of his soldiers saw him walking up and down he said :

"Hurr! I know most of the other soldiers are frightened to fight the brave grandsons of the Prophet (pbuh) but I did not think you too would be like them!"

Hurr replied :

"I do not fear the battlefield but I fear the day of judgement! What answer shall I give to Allah when He will ask me about the grandson of His Prophet (pbuh) being thirsty and at the mercy of my men?"

Early in the morning on the day of Ashura he saw his soldiers wetting the hooves of the horses because it was so hot that the horses were having trouble putting their hooves on the ground. He thought of the children in the camp of Imam Husayn (pbuh) crying out 'Al-atash (The thirst)'

Hurr knew he had a choice between Janna and Jahannam. With his son and his slave they rode towards the camp of Imam Husayn (pbuh) Just before they reached the camp they got off the horses. Hurr was very shy to face Imam because it was he who had forced Imam to come here. He got his son to tie his hands behind his back and then walked slowly towards Imam's tent.

Imam told Abbas (pbuh) to go and meet them saying:

"Our guest has come".

Hurr on seeing Imam fell down on his knees begging for forgiveness.

He asked Imam to let him be the first one to go to fight.

Imam forgave him saying :

"Hurr! I have already forgiven you. Your mother named you Hurr, which means free! You are free in this world and the hereafter. I consider you to be my honoured guest. My regret is that I do not have any food or water to offer you as my guest"

When the battle began Hurr went to the battlefield with his son and slave. He talked first to the army trying to make them realise their errors but they did not want to listen. Shimr realised that they might have trouble so he told Umar Sa'ad to send the soldiers to attack them all together rather than one to one fighting which was the Arab custom of initial fighting.

His son was killed first and then his slave.

Hurr fought bravely killing the enemy soldiers by the dozen. He had a deep cut on his forehead and soon he fell off his horse. He called out to Imam who went

rushing to him with Abbas (pbuh). Imam cleaned the blood off his forehead and tied a handkerchief round his head to stop the blood. It was a handkerchief made by Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh)

Hurr opened his eyes for the last time and saw Imam Husayn (pbuh). Many many years later a ruler who wished to witness the greatness of a Shaheed, dug open the grave of Hurr. A beautiful smell was coming out of the grave and he saw Hurr lying in the grave as though he was just resting. He saw the handkerchief tied around Hurr's head and opened it. Fresh blood started flowing so Shah Abbas Saffaa tied it up with his own handkerchief. A voice told him:

" Please give my handkerchief back, it is the handkerchief made by Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh) and tied by Imam Husayn (pbuh)"  
He returned the handkerchief and closed the grave.

### QUESTIONS

WHO WAS HUR? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID HE DO ON THE NIGHT OF ASHURA? \_\_\_\_\_

HUR KNEW HE HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN \_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_

HURR WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING WHICH SON OF IMAM HUSSEIN? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID THE RULER SEE WHEN HE OPENED UP THE GRAVE OF HURR MANY YEARS LATER? \_\_\_\_\_

## HABIB IBN MAZAHIR

The Prophet (pbuh) was walking with a companion called Mazahir when he stopped and sat on the ground. He called Mazahir's young son Habib to him and hugged and kissed him. Mazahir said:

"O Prophet! what good deed has my son done to deserve such affection"

With tears in his eyes the Prophet (pbuh) replied :

"O Mazahir! whilst we were walking I happened to look at Habib. He was walking behind my grandson Husayn and wherever Husayn stepped he lifted the dust from under Husayn's feet and put it to his eyes in respect" O Mazahir! this Habib will come to my Husayn's aid one day"

In Karbala Imam called no-one for help except Habib. He wrote a letter to his childhood friend Habib who was in Kufa. He wrote that by the time Habib receives the letter Imam would be surrounded by the army of Yazid. Habib received the letter just as he was sitting down to have a meal with his wife. When he saw the letter his eyes were filled with tears. His wife asked him what the matter was. He said he had received a letter from Imam asking him to go to Karbala.

To test his wife he said he was wondering what to do because he was worried about her. Habib's wife got up and got her hijab. She told him to wear the hijab and stay at home and she would go to help the son of Fatima (pbuh)

She told him: "Fatima's son is calling you and you are wondering about me!!!!"

Habib said he was testing her and prepared to leave for Karbala.

Kufa was surrounded by the troops of Ibn Ziyad. Habib sent his servant out of the city first and then managed to sneak out himself. When he reached the spot where his servant was waiting he heard the servant say to the horse: "If my master does not come I will go to the aid of the son of Fatima"

His slave asked him if he too could accompany him to Karbala. Habib freed him and they both rode towards Karbala as fast as they could.

In Karbala, Imam Husayn (pbuh) was distributing the weapons to all the Mujahids. There was one spear left when someone asked:

'O son of the Prophet! Who is the last spear for?"

Imam replied:

"This one is for my childhood friend Habib."

Just then Habib could be seen walking towards the camp. Imam ran forward to greet him.

Bibi Zaynab (pbuh) would ask Fizza to find out who had arrived when there was the sound of horses. Everytime, Fizza would announce the arrival of more enemy troops. Suddenly, she said to Bibi Zaynab (pbuh)

Our guest has arrived".

Bibi Zaynab (pbuh) sent Fizza to Habib to convey her salaams.

Habib fought bravely on the day of Ashura. When he fell from his horse he cried out :

"O my master Husayn! Help me!!!"

When the caravan of the prisoners reached Kufa the soldier from Yazid's army who had the head of Habib round his horse saw that a young boy was following him wherever he went. He asked the young boy what he wanted.

The young boy replied:"You have the head of my father round your neck! Please give it to me!!!!!"

**QUESTIONS:**

**WHO WAS MAZAHER?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO WAS MAZAHER'S SON?** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW DID HABIB ACT TO IMAM HUSAIN'S LETTER?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT SURROUNDED KUFA WHEN HABIB ARRIVED?** \_\_\_\_\_

**BIBI ZAINAB SENT WHO TO HABIB TO SEND HER SALAAMS?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT HAPPENED TO HABIB AFTER HE DIED ON THE DAY OF  
ASHURA?** \_\_\_\_\_

## JOHN BIN HUWAI

The friends and followers of Imam Husayn (pbuh) who had gathered round him in Karbala were from different walks of life. But all of them had something in common amongst them - their unflinching devotion for Imam Husayn (pbuh), their supreme faith in the justice of his cause. Some of them were freemen, soldiers bold and true. Others were slaves who had come there with their masters but without any compulsion. Even when their masters granted them freedom and asked them to go away where they liked, not one of them budged an inch; not one of them even for a moment thought of leaving Karbala to save his life. They wanted only one thing and that was freedom to lay down their lives in defending Imam Husayn (pbuh).

Amongst them was one called John bin Huwai. Imam Ali (pbuh) had given John to Abu Dharr Ghiffari, Abu Dharr freed him, but John stayed on with Abu Dharr as a companion. When Abu Dharr was exiled from Madina John went back to Imam Ali (pbuh) who invited him to stay on as his companion. In the company of Imam he learnt the tafseer of Qura'n (he was also hafidhe Qur'an) and ahadith.

In Karbala John could always be seen at the side of Imam. On the day of 'Ashura, John came to the Imam, and stood silently with his arms folded. It was his habit never to speak in the presence of Imam until spoken to.

Imam looked at John and said, "John, I know you have come for my permission to go to the battle-field. You have been a good and trusted friend. I will not deny you martyrdom for Islam. Go, Allah be with you!" John smiled happily.

He faced the enemy and recited a poem which said "I am a soul willing to die for Allah and have a sword thirsty of the blood of the enemies of Allah. Before I die I shall fight the enemies of Allah with my sword and my tongue, and thus shall I serve the grand-son of the Holy Prophet."

John fought courageously, all the time reciting the poem. When he fell from his horse, he still continued to fight with his tongue by reciting the poem until he breathed his last.

### QUESTIONS

WHO WAS JOHN? \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WAS EXILED FROM  
MEDINA? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID JOHN LEARN FROM IMAM ALI? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WAS JOHN'S HABIT IN PRESENCE OF THE IMAM? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID JOHN RECITE WHILE FIGHTING ON ASHURA? \_\_\_\_\_

## AUN & MUHAMMAD

It was the night of Ashura. Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) was telling her sons Aun and Muhammad:

"O my sons! tomorrow is the day of sacrifice ! If you get near the river Furat during the battles do not drink the water for Sakina will still be thirsty".

The children replied:

"O mother!....Have faith in us. We are the students of uncle Abbas!....."

On the day of Ashura the battle began. Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) lifted the curtain of the tent and saw that Aun and Muhammad were following Imam Husayn (pbuh) She called out to her sons and said :

"O my sons! you have still not gone to fight??"

Aun and Muhammad said:

"O mother! Uncle Husayn will not let us go".

Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) called Imam Husayn (pbuh) to her tent and said:

"My brother! why will you not accept my sacrifice?"

Imam Husayn (pbuh) allowed the children to go and personally made them ready for battle. He helped them mount on two horses and sent them to the battlefield watching them from a hill.

Aun and Muhammad fought bravely managing to reach the tent of Umar Sa'ad. He enquired who they were and was told they were the grandsons of Ali and Ja'fer. He ordered for them to be surrounded from all sides by the soldiers and to be pelted with stones and arrows.

When Imam saw this he called out to Abbas (pbuh) to come with him. As they ran towards Aun and Muhammad they heard the children cry:

"O uncle Husayn!

When Imam reached them they had been martyred.

Imam Husayn (pbuh) carried Aun and Abbas (pbuh) carried Muhammad. When Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) saw her martyred sons, she laid out her Musalla and thanked Allah for having accepted her sacrifice.

### QUESTIONS

**WHO WAS AUN & MUHAMMAD?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHY WERE THEY ASKED NOT TO DRINK FROM THE RIVER FURAT?** \_\_\_\_\_

**THEY REPLIED THEY ARE THE STUDENTS OF WHO?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO DID IMAM HUSAIN ASKED TO HELP HIM BRING BACK THE BODIES OF AUN & MUHAMMAD?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DID BIBI ZAINAB DO WHEN SHE SAW THAT HER SONS HAD DIED IN BATTLE?** \_\_\_\_\_

## QASIM BIN HASAN (pbuh)

On the night before Ashura Imam was reading out the list of martyrs, he read the names out - Habib, Zuhayr.....

One by one all the names were read, when Qasim - the thirteen year old son of Imam Hasan (pbuh) asked his uncle :

"O uncle Husayn! Is my name not on the list?"

Imam said: "Qasim! how do you view death ?"

Qasim replied: "O Uncle! Death to me is sweeter than honey!!"

Qasim's mother was called Ramlah (more famously known as Umm Farwa).

Qasim was 4 yrs old when his father was poisoned. He was brought up by Imam Husayn (pbuh) who considered him as his own.

Qasim was not yet baligh on the day of 'Ashura. He pleaded for permission to fight. Imam told him he was the remembrance of his brother and he did not wish to see his nephew killed before him. Qasim was disappointed and ran to his mother's tent. When Umme Farwa found out why her son was so sad she told him to take the letter that Imam Hasan (pbuh) had given to her to give to Qasim when he was in trouble. In the letter Imam Hasan (pbuh) asked Qasim to represent his father on the day when Imam Husayn (pbuh) would be surrounded by an army of thousands. Qasim ran to Imam with the letter. On seeing his brother's handwriting, Imam wept and said he had to obey the wishes of his brother.

Qasim rode to the battle field and with a loud voice introduced himself.

He killed several soldiers. Then he saw Umar Sa'ad giving water to his horses.

He told Umar Sa'ad :

"You should be ashamed of yourself ; the children of Husayn are crying of thirst"

He was attacked by one Amru b Sa'd b Nufail al-Azadi (may Allah curse him).

When Qasim fell, Imam ran to his aid and attacked the enemy. When Imam came to Amru he raised his sword and Amru tried to protect himself with his arms. Both his arms were severed and he screamed loudly. His colleagues came to his cry but trampled over him.

When the dust settled, Imam found himself near Qasim; seeing him painfully scraping the earth with his feet.

Imam said: "It is hard for your uncle that you call him but he cannot answer, and if he answers he cannot help you, and if he arrives to help you, he cannot save you. Away with the people who killed you. This is a day which has many adversaries and few friends."

Hameed ibn Muslim writes that Imam lifted his nephew holding him to his chest - he says - it is as if I still see that his feet dangled drawing lines on the earth. Imam took him and laid his body near that of his son Ali Akber.

## QUESTIONS

WHO WAS QASIM AND HOW OLD WAS HE? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID IMAM HUSAIN ASKED QASIM? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID HE REPLY? \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WAS QASIM'S MOTHER? \_\_\_\_\_

HOW OLD WAS QASIM WHEN HIS FATHER WAS POISONED? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID UMME FARWA DO WHEN SHE FOUND OUT IMAM HUSAIN DID NOT ALLOW QASIM TO FIGHT IN THE BATTLE? \_\_\_\_\_

## ABBAS (pbuh)

Fatima Kalbiya had four sons- Abdullah, Ja'fer, Uthman, & Abbas. She was thus known as Ummulbaneen (mother of sons).

All her sons and her two grandsons (Sons of Abbas (pbuh)) became shaheeds on the day of Ashura.

Imam Ali (pbuh) had prayed for a son who would help Imam Husayn (pbuh).

Abbas was therefore the name of the desire of Imam Ali (pbuh)

On the day of Ashura, Shimr came to the camp and called Abbas (pbuh). Shimr told him:

"You are my relation through Ummulbanin and therefore I have brought for you a safety order."

Abbas (pbuh) was furious:

"You have brought a safety order for me and not for my master Husayn! If I were allowed by my master I would have cut your head off now. The curse of Allah be on you and your safety order. Go away from here."

On the day of 'Ashura the children were crying out "Al-Atash" (The Thirst).

Sayyida Sakina (pbuh) came up to Abbas (pbuh) and pleaded:

"Uncle Abbas! Please bring some water. The thirst is killing us".

Imam Husayn (pbuh) brought a water bag to Abbas (pbuh) instructing him to bring back some water. With the alam in one hand and the water bag tied to it, and a sword in the other, Abbas (pbuh) set out to get water for the children.

The army of Yazid knew of the valour and bravery of Abbas (pbuh) they all cowered behind each other and those who dared to come forward were instantly killed. The soldiers fled in disarray.

Abbas (pbuh) got to the river Furat and filled the water bag and got on his horse intending to get the water to the children as soon as possible. From a hill, the children watched the alam coming and their hopes rose.

The enemy too saw that Abbas (pbuh) had water and was going towards the camp.

One of the soldiers sneaked behind and cut-off his right arm. Abbas (pbuh) held on to the water bag and the alam with his left hand when another soldier struck his left arm with a sword. Abbas (pbuh) held the alam and the water bag with his teeth. His only aim was to get water to the children and started galloping towards the camp.

Just then an arrow pierced the water bag and all the water gushed out spilling on the sand.

The enemy now surrounded him and he was hit on the head with a club and in the eye with an arrow.

Abbas (pbuh) fell off his horse onto the ground and called out:

O my master! my salaams to you!"

The alam with an empty water bag tied to it fell to the ground.

Imam Husayn (pbuh) ran to where the voice was coming from. He was blinded by the tears in his eyes. His back felt as though it was broken.

When he got to where Abbas (pbuh) had fallen he knelt down and lifted

Abbas's head onto his lap. Abbas (pbuh) said with a feeble voice:

"My master! when I was born you were the first person I saw, my last wish is that I see your face before I die but my eye is pierced with an arrow. Please

clean my other eye of the blood so I may see you for the last time, and Master, please do not carry my body to the camp because I am so ashamed to face Sakina and the other children for having returned empty handed without water"

Imam Husayn (pbuh) wept as he said:

"Abbas! I shall fulfil your wishes but I too have a wish. Since childhood you have always called me your master. For once at least call me brother!!

**QUESTIONS:**

**WHO WAS FATEMA QALBIYA AND WHO WAS SHE KNOWN AS?** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW WAS HAZRAT ABBAS RELATED TO SHIMR?** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW WAS HAZRAT ABBAS RELATED TO IMAM HUSAIN?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO ASKED HAZRAT ABBAS TO BRING HER WATER?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DID THE SOULDER DO WHEN THEY SNEAKED BEHIND HAZRAT ABBAS?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT WAS HAZRAT ABBAS LAST REQUEST TO IMAM HUSAIN?** \_\_\_\_\_

## ALI AKBER (pbuh)

The first shaheed in the family of Abu Talib on the day of 'Ashura was Ali Akber, whose mother was Layla binte Abu Murrah bin Urwah bin Masood Al-Thaqafi. It is reported he was then 18 or 25 years old.

When Ali Akber (pbuh) came to ask permission to go to the battlefield, Imam Husayn (pbuh) allowed him to go immediately but asked him to get permission from his aunt Zaynab who had brought him up.

With a heavy heart, Sayyida Zaynab (pbuh) gave permission to her eighteen years of hard work to go and die.

As Ali Akber started to go towards the battlefield, Imam Husayn (pbuh) raised his hands towards the heavens and said:

"O Allah! Be witness over these people, for this young man who advances towards them resembles your Prophet most in his looks, manners and speech, and whenever we longed to see your Prophet, we looked at his face.....They (the enemy) invited us to help them and have turned into our enemies."

Ali Akber saw that his father was following him. He got down from his horse and said:

Dad! you gave me permission to go."

With tears in his eyes, Imam Husayn (pbuh) replied :

"My son! if you too had an eighteen year old son, you would know how I feel...."

Imam then after addressing Umar ibn Sa'd, raised his voice and recited.

"Indeed, Allah chose Adam and Nuh, the family of Ibraheem and the family of Imraan above the people, as descendants one from the other, and Allah is AllHearing, All-Knowing." Qur'an 3:33 &34.

Ali Akber fought with valour and bravery proving to be the grandson of the hero of the battles of Islam. Umar Sa'ad watched too as Ali Akber killed the bravest of his soldiers one by one. It is reported that he killed 120 of the enemy before returning to his father asking for some water to be able to gain more strength to fight. Imam wept, for he could not give his son water. Ali Akber returned to the battlefield saying: "It is the battle where truth has already been established, and it's legitimacy will be confirmed ever after..." He continued fighting until he had killed 200.

He was surrounded by the soldiers. Arrows, stones and spears rained down on him. Then one Munziq bin Murrah Al-Abdi struck him hard over his head and threw him down. He cried out:

"My father! Accept my salaams from here. Do not come!"

Imam Husayn (pbuh) ran towards the voice blinded with grief saying :

"Ayna Ali? Ayna Ali ? (Where is Ali?)"

Was he calling for his son or his father???

When Imam reached his young son he said:"

"Bunayya, Bunayya, a'lad dunya ba'daka ala'thaa! (My son! My son! after you the world is as worthless as dust)"

Imam carried Ali Akber to the tents.

**QUESTIONS**

**WHO WAS ALI AKBER AND HOW OLD WAS HE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHY DID HE HAVE TO GET PERMISSION FROM BIBI ZAINAB IN ORDER TO FIGHT?** \_\_\_\_\_

**HE KILLED HOW MANY OF THE ENEMY SOULDERS?** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO FINALLY KILLED ALI AKBER IN BATTLE?** \_\_\_\_\_

## **ABDULLAH (ALI ASGHER)**

The mother kept on checking on the weak body of her baby in the cradle. The baby had no water or milk for three days!!

"O Allah! please let my baby live long enough to be able to serve You"

One by one all the men in the camp went to the battlefield and were martyred.

It was nearing the time of 'Asr when Imam called out:

"Is there any helper to help us; Is there any rescuer to rescue us!"

The baby who did not even have the strength to cry threw himself out of the cradle. His mother and aunts wept uncontrollably.

Imam Husayn (pbuh) came to see what had happened when Umme Rubab (Ali Asgher's mother) told him what had happened.

Imam asked Umme Rubab to bid farewell to the baby and took Ali Asgher to the battlefield shading him with his cloak.

The army wondered what Imam was bringing! Some thought it was the Qur'an... When Imam lifted his cloak they saw the baby.

Imam told the soldiers of Yazid that Ali Asgher had done them no harm and asked them to give him some water. When no one in Yazid's army responded, Imam laid the baby on the hot sand and rode away. He told the army to go and give water to the baby on their own if they did not trust him with the water.

There was still no response so he rode back to Ali Asgher, picked him up and asked him to show his tongue to the soldiers to show them his thirst.

Ali Asgher gently ran his dry tongue over his parched lips. The soldiers cried spontaneously and some ran towards Furat to get water. Umar Sa'ad on seeing the discord in the army asked :

"Ayna Hurmala? (Where is Hurmala?)

When Hurmala (an expert archer) came, Umar Sa'ad did not have the courage to tell him to kill the child. Instead he said:

"Iqtal qalamu Husayn!" (Kill the words of Husayn!)

Hurmala drew a three pronged arrow which probably weighed more than Ali Asgher but his hands were shaking so much, the arrow fell. Umar Sa'ad seeing this said :

"Hurmala! do you want a revolution?"

Hurmala said that whenever he lifted the bow to shoot the arrow, he could see the curtain on the tent rising. I feel it is the mother of the child watching!

When the arrow came, it pierced the neck of the babe lodging itself in Imam's shoulder.

Imam walked towards the camp, and then turned back. He repeated this seven times saying:

"Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un; Ridham bikazhaihi wa tasleemal liamrih (Indeed we are from Allah and to Him we return; I accept what He(Allah) has intended and am content with His order."

Imam must have walked back and forth wondering how he would give the child back to his mother.

When Umme Rubab saw her baby she said:

"Do they also kill children like you? If I knew I would have sent you as a mujahid!"

The father and mother dug a small grave behind the tents for their son. Umme

Rubab said:

"My son! I have no water to pour over your grave but I will cry so much that my tears will wet your grave!"

## QUESTIONS

HOW OLD WAS ALI ASGHER? \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MANY DAYS WAS HE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER? \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WAS ALI ASGHER'S MOM \_\_\_\_\_

WHY DID IMAM HUSAIN TAKE HIM TO THE BATTLEFIELD? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID IMAM HUSAIN DO WHEN HE GOT NO RESPONSE FROM THE ARMY OF YAZID? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT DID YAZID DO? \_\_\_\_\_

WHY DID IMAM WALK SEVEN TIMES BACK AND FORTH WHEN HE WAS GOING BACK TOWARDS THE CAMP? \_\_\_\_\_

## ASHURA DAY

Dawn

Early morning

**FRIDAY 10 MUHARRAM 61 AH (FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 680 AD)**

+ Fajr prayers led by Imam

+ Imam's speech to Yazeed's army + Kufian's speech to Yazeed's army + Hurr, others change sides + Umar-e- Saad shoots first arrow

+ Battle begins + Shaheed's 1 to 12

+ First general attack + Shaheed's 13 to 62

+ Imam's camp attacked + Shaheed's 63 and 64

+ Prayer's time, battle not suspended Imam shielded during prayers + Shaheed's 65 to 82 + Imam's family Shaheed's: 93 to 111

+ heads cut off from bodies + Imam's camp looted, set on fire