

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

STRENGTH THROUGH THE TRIALS



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SESSION 1

Background on Al-Hasan and Al-Hussain

- After the battle of Badr, Ali RA married Fatima RA.
- A year later Fatima RA gave birth to a baby boy.
 - Ali RA named his son Harb which means war.
 - When the Prophet SAW heard this, he said that his name would be Al-Hasan which means good and excellent.
- Less than a year later they had another son who Ali RA named Harb again.
 - The Prophet SAW said that his name would be Al-Hussain which means the little good one.
- When the Prophet SAW passed away they were 6 and 7 years old.
 - They remembered that the Prophet SAW told them not to eat anything from the charity because they are from the family of the Prophet SAW, but they could accept gifts.
- The Prophet SAW called them the leaders of the young men of Jennah.

- Al-Hasan RA resembled the Prophet SAW in the way that he looked.
 - The Prophet SAW said about him: This son of mine is a leader and perhaps through him Allah SWT will make peace between two groups of Muslims.
 - This narration is reported numerous times and is considered mutawatir.
 - In another report, the Prophet SAW said that Al-Hussain would be martyred.
- During the time of Uthman's RA khilafah, he would appoint Ali RA to speak on his behalf to the rebels because he was very eloquent and he was of the family of the Prophet SAW.
 - Ali RA would appoint Hasan and Hussain RA to stand guard at the door of Uthman RA to ensure that no one could harm him.
- What does it mean to be from Ahlul-Bait (from the household of the Prophet SAW)?
 - In Surah Hud, Allah SWT refers to the wife of Ibrahim AS ahlul-bait.
 - In Surah Al-Ahzaab ayah 33, Allah SWT addresses the wives of the Prophet SAW and He states that He wishes to purify those in the house of the Prophet SAW.
 - This means that Allah SWT has purified their character and conduct.

- In a hadith, the Prophet SAW included the household of Ali RA in Ahlul-Bait.

The Events Leading Up to Karbala

- Uthman RA was martyred which led to a great shock throughout Madinah.
- Some of his policies lead to a rebellion because there were people who had a lack of understanding and believed that Uthman RA was responsible for the troubles that they were facing.
 - They blamed him because there was less wealth during that time.
- This rebellion is referred to as the first fitnah or the first civil war in Islam.
 - It went on through the leadership of Ali RA which lasted for 6 years.
- It was ended by Hasan RA.
 - This was prophesied by the Prophet SAW when he said that Hasan RA would make peace between two groups of Muslims.
- Hasan RA was then expected to lead his army against the people of Sham.
 - He received a peace treaty from Mu'awiyah who was the governor of Sham and he accepted it.
- After this, there were 20 years of peace in the Muslim ummah.

- When Mu'awiyah RA nominated his son, Yazeed, to be his successor, people said that he had made an error in this decision.
 - We know that we are not allowed to attribute ill intentions to the sahabah.
 - No matter the intention of this, Hussain and Abdullah ibn Zubair RA refused to pledge allegiance to Yazeed because they believed that the leadership should not be passed down but that the Muslims must be able to choose a leader and they should choose the best one.
 - Some say that Ali RA appointed Hasan RA as the next leader before he died, however this is not true.
 - In both shia and sunni sources, it is evident that Ali RA was asked to appoint Hasan RA before he passed away but he said that he would leave the community in the same way that the Prophet SAW left which was without appointing anyone.
 - Al-Hasan was chosen by the Muslims of Iraq.
 - This would be the first time in Islamic history that a leader would be appointed and not chosen.
- There have been several fabricated narrations about both Mu'awiyah and Ali RA because of this conflict.
 - Many narrations which speak very highly or terribly of Mu'awiyah have been fabricated.
 - During the time of Mu'awiyah there was very little violence and very few people killed.

- During the time of Ali RA there was the group of people known as Al-Khawarij who rebelled against Islam, who had to be killed.
 - Some people criticize Ali RA because a lot of people were killed during his time however, we know that this was necessary because they rebelled.
- Despite their disagreements, Mu'awiyah honored Ali RA and sought his advice.

The Event of Karbala

- When reports of the death of Yazeed reached Madinah, the lives of Hussain and Abdullah ibn Al-Zubair RA were in danger.
 - This was because Madinah was governed by the Umayyads who were worried that Hussain and ibn Al-Zubair RA would start a rebellion.
 - They were both young sahabah whereas Abdullah ibn Omar RA was in his 70s so he did not participate in anything.
 - They knew that people would join them because both sahabah had strong personalities and they expressed disapproval of what was going on.
- Hussain and Abdullah ibn Al-Zubair RA immediately escaped and traveled overnight to Mecca.
 - Hussain RA stayed there for a few months.
- During this time, the people of Kufa sent letters to Hussain asking him to come to them and lead them.

- If Hussain agreed to lead them this would mean that they were rebelling against the current leader.
- Hussain RA sought advice from various sahabah.
 - Abdullah ibn Al-Zubair RA advised him that he should go because he has support there.
 - Abdullah ibn Abbas RA advised him not to go because the people of Kufa had betrayed Ali and Hussain RA previously and they killed Ali RA.
- Hussain RA sent his cousin, Muslim ibn Aqeel, to go to Kufa and assess if the people were really ready to support him.
 - Muslim ibn Aqeel found that they were ready to show their support so he wrote a letter back to Hussain RA.
 - Immediately after he sent this letter, the people of Kufa killed him and the situation changed drastically.
- When Hussain RA arrived, he found that the path was closed.
 - At this point, he was surrounded so he began to go west towards Karbala.
- Ubaydullah ibn Ziyaad sent an army which was led by Omar ibn Saad bin Abi Waqqas.
 - Omar ibn Saad surrounded Hussain RA but he did not want to kill him.
 - Ubaydullah sent a message with a messenger which said that if Omar does not want to kill Hussain then he must take control of the army and kill him.

- The deal which was presented to Hussain was that he goes to Ubaydullah and gives bay'a (approval) to him and he will be left alone.
- Hussain gave the people 3 alternatives:
 - If he was taken to Yazeed he would speak to him.
 - He could go to a place where jihad is taking place and participate with the Muslims there.
 - He would go back to Madinah in peace.
- Ubaydullah ibn Ziyaad said no to all of these options and the army killed all of the males members of Hussain's party along with Hussain RA and they sent the women and children to Yazeed.

Lessons from this Trial

- When those who are in power are not held accountable, they become blinded from the truth.
- This event should not be referred to as a tragedy.
 - Allah SWT says in the Quran:

وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ ۗ بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ

And do not say of those who are killed in the way of Allah that they are dead; they are alive even though you have no knowledge of their life. (2:154)

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا ۗ بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ يُرْزَقُونَ

Think not of those slain in the way of Allah as dead. Indeed they are living, and with their Lord they have their sustenance (3:169)

- Those who have died on the path of Allah SWT are elevated by Allah SWT as guests.
- All of the companions of the Prophet SAW would have loved to die as martyrs.
- The Prophet SAW stated that any believer who does not wish to die as a shaheed, his Iman is not complete.
- This event should not be mourned but it should be understood and Hussain RA should be used as a role model.
- Fighting for justice and truth is among the most noble traits that the Prophet SAW taught and Ahlul-Bait embodied.
 - The Prophet SAW said: The highest form of jihad is to say a word of truth before an oppressive ruler.

Events After Karbala

- After this event, Yazeed cried and cursed Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad.
 - He believed that Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad was an evil man but he also believed that he was successful at doing his job, and therefore, he did not fire him.
 - When the people of Madinah rebelled later on, in the incident referred to as Al-Harra, Yazeed told Ubaydullah to take care of them.
- Eventually, Abdullah ibn Al-Zubair RA was the khalifa for 10 years.

- Different sahabah took different stances during these trials, however, the difference was not a difference of principal, but it was a difference in what they believed was feasible at the time.
 - Some of them believed that they had a chance against Yazeed so they fought against him.
 - Others believed that fighting would do more damage so they stayed out of it.
 - No one told Hussain RA that by rebelling he was committing a sin and Hussain RA did not tell anyone that they were committing a sin by not joining him.
 - This shows that both groups were correct.
- The people of Kufa were guilty because they had invited Hussain RA to come and lead them and then went against him.
 - Some of them were regretful so they took a pledge that they would avenge the blood of Hussain RA or be killed.
 - They were all quickly killed by Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad.