

It's a procession to mark the martyrdom of Hussain

Who was Hussain?

He was the grandson of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam. Hussain was also a successor to the Prophet and a guide to mankind.

When was Hussain martyred?

October 10, 680 CE, aged 56 years.

Where was he martyred?

Hussain was martyred on the plains of Kerbala, near the banks of river Euphrates, Iraq.

How was he martyred?

He was mercilessly martyred along with 72 others comprising of his family members including his 6-month-old son as well as his companions after being denied access to water for 3 days.

Why was he martyred?

Hussain refused to pay allegiance to Yazid, the then despotic Muslim ruler of Arabia.

Why this procession?

This procession is symbolic of the humane stand taken by Hussain against Yazid's tyranny and an emulation of the parading that the martyrs' family had to undergo per force from Kerbala (Iraq) to Damascus (Syria) via an irregular torturous 1600 kms route for 3 weeks under the most inhuman conditions. It endeavours to manifest the divinely ordained duty on the followers of Islam to raise their voices against all forms of oppression and terrorism. It expresses solidarity with all the oppressed and for freedom of speech and expression. The participants are reciting eulogies on Hussain to lament and beating their chests as a mark of sorrow.

What others have said about Hussain and his martyrdom . . .

Charles Dickens :

"If Husayn fought to quench his worldly desires, then I do not understand why his sisters, wives and children accompanied him. It stands to reason therefore that he sacrificed purely for Islam".

Thomas Carlyle :

"The best lesson which we get from the tragedy of Karbala is that Husayn and his companions were the rigid believers of God. They illustrated that numerical superiority does not count when it comes to truth and falsehood. The victory of Husayn despite his minority marvels me!"

Dr. K. Sheldrake :

"Husayn marched with his little company not to glory, not to power or wealth, but to a supreme sacrifice and every member of that gallant band, male and female, knew that the foes were implacable, were not only ready to fight but to kill. Denied even water for the children, they remained parched under a burning sun, amid scorching sands yet no one faltered for a moment and bravely faced the greatest odds without flinching."

Brown (in his 'A Literary History of Persia') :

"As a reminder, the blood-stained field of Karbala where the grandson of the Apostle of God fell at length, tortured by thirst and surrounded by the bodies of his murdered kinsmen, has been at any time since then sufficient to evoke, even in the most lukewarm and heedless, the deepest emotion, the most frantic grief and the exaltation of spirit before which pain, danger, and death shrink to unconsidered trifles. Yearly, on the tenth day of Muharram, the tragedy is rehearsed in Persia, in India, in Turkey, in Egypt, wherever a Shiite community or colony exists; ... As I write it all comes back; the wailing chant, the sobbing multitudes, the white raiment red with blood from self-inflicted wounds, the intoxication of grief and sympathy."

Antoine Bara (in his 'Husayn in Christian Ideology') :

"No battle in the modern and past history of mankind has earned more sympathy and admiration as well as provided more lessons than the martyrdom of Husayn in the battle of Karbala."

Mahatma Gandhi (Freedom Fighter, India) :

"I learned from Husayn how to be wronged and be a winner."

Sarojini Naidu (Writer, poet and Fellow of Royal Society of Literature) :

"...after thirteen centuries, the inspiration of Imam Hussain's example still shines, in undimmed splendor, to guide countless seekers after truth and freedom. He stands high above all conflicts and the challenge of time, the immortal symbol of Victory over wrong and unrighteousness."

Some quotations of Hussain . . .

Death with dignity is better than life with humiliation.

I swear by God, I shall not surrender as a humiliated person, and shall not escape like slaves.

Never will be salvaged the people who win the consent of the creature at the cost of the dissatisfaction of the Creator.

If you don't believe in any religion and don't fear the Resurrection Day, at least be free in this world.

One who reveals your faults to you like a mirror is your true friend, and one who flatters you and covers up your faults is your enemy.

Wisdom will not be complete except by following the truth.

Associating with corrupt people makes you subject to suspicion.

Among the signs of ignorance is arguing with irrational people.

Among the signs of a learned man is criticising his own words and being informed of various viewpoints.

The most generous person is the one who offers help to those who do not expect him to help.

If you heard a person discredits the dignity and the honour of people, then try not to get introduced to him.

Never raise your need except to three kinds of people: to a religious man, to a brave man or to a noble man.

Should poverty, illness, and death not exist, man would not bow to anything.

Hastiness is foolishness.

**What's
it
all
about ?**