

Summary of the tragedy of Lady Roqai'ya, buried here in this place

The young virtuous girl, Lady Roqai'ya, who is lying in this shrine, was a mere four years old when she met untimely death in the year AH 61 / AD 680, affected by the inhuman treatment from those who were holding authority by force at that time.

Lady Roqai'ya is a direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad. She was the youngest of four daughters of Imam Al-Hussain, a grandson of the Prophet and the third Imam (leader) of Muslims according to Shiites.

She lived during the reign of the ruler Yazid, son of Mu'awiya, who was infamous and very well known of his moral decay, low-lived dishonesty and sinful lifeway, besides cruelty against those who were of such nobility as not to conceal their deny and disapproval of his misdeeds, offense and oppression which he was ever committing. And he worked at to torture them ruthlessly and extinguish them. Since the first days of his reign, and knowing implicitly that Imam Al-Hussain was the rightful Caliph (successor of the Prophet) as notified by the Prophet himself, his major concern was to get rid of Imam Al-Hussain to whom it was very clear that Yazid was nothing but a disbeliever who is void of all morality measurements and denying all divine messages; which is why he, Imam Al-Hussain, and a few other faithful people, honorably refused to submit to the authority of Yazid, who illegally held reign of Muslims.

After giving Imam Al-Hussain and his followers a lot of trouble in Mecca, they were forced to make for a faraway place in Iraq, called Karbala, where on the day of the tenth of Muharram, AH 61 / AD 680, and after siege for three days in severe conditions, deprived of water completely in the hot desert, Imam Al-Hussain with seventy-two of his most faithful followers who never wanted to abandon him, were driven to confront death and forced to battle against Yazid's army of about thirty thousand well-equipped men. Although Imam Al-Hussain and his followers were so much outnumbered, the fight lasted most the day and ended at last with the attaining of Imam Al-Hussain and his followers the honorable rank of martyrdom, sacrificing themselves to the remaining alive the eternal principles of virtue and to lay bare the true intention of Yazid that, in reality, he wanted but to extinguish the light of the divine message of Islam. Every one of the martyrs killed scores of Yazid's men.

These martyrs were of such uttermost nobility and spiritual exaltation that Mahatma Gandhi, the great liberation leader of India, said admiring them:

" If I had these men with me, I could have liberated India and even the whole world (against oppression), I learned from the school of Imam Al-Hussain how to struggle against oppression ".

Yazid's men then savagely cut off the heads of the martyrs, mounted them atop spears and took captive the women and ladies that were in accompany with Imam

Al-Hussain and his followers and who shared their suffering. These were but the wives and girl children of them. Among these females were the virtuous Lady Zainab, sister of Imam Al-Hussain (whose holy shrine is in a countryside near Damascus), and Lady Roqai'ya, the youngest daughter of Imam Al-Hussain who was only four years old. The oppressed and heart-broken widowed women and orphaned girls were then forced with cruelty all the way from Iraq to the seat of Yazid in Damascus. One is to imagine how terrible was the sight of the slaughtered bodies on earth, shrouded in blood, and the cut-off heads mounted on spears.

Arriving at Damascus after a long wearing trip, the female captives were ruthlessly chained with iron and forced to continue on foot, whipped if they cry, until the seat of Yazid. There, the pitiable young girl Lady Roqai'ya, who, in order to quiet her during the enforced trip, was told that her father is far away on a trip, burst into tears insisting to see her father after dreaming up of him. Seeing the so much crying of her, Yazid let to show to her the cut-off head of her father. The poor little girl, startled at the dreadful sight of the cut-off head, fell down unconscious, the weakened little heart of her turned motionless and she passed on with her body leaning over the head of her beloved father. She was then buried here in this place.

In the year AH 1280 / AD 1863, the ancient tomb of Lady Roqai'ya cracked and the blessed clothed body of her was exposed. The body was seen to be fresh soft and intact, as if still alive, although buried more that 1200 years before.

This miracle event was witnessed by the Turkish Deputy Governor, the Supreme Judge and other personalities of rank in Damascus at that time, and is well mentioned in the related history books.

Muslims from all over the world, especially Shiites, make travels to this place in groups for blessing and to share the grief of her and to renew their vow to fight oppression throughout their life. And knowing of the high standing of her grandfather, The Prophet Muhammad, and her father Imam Al-Hussain with God, they ask the intercession of them and seek access through her to God and place her ahead of their needs.

God Bless Her And All Loving Affectionate Visitors Of Her.

The small old shrine of Lady Roqai'ya measured about 10 x 10 m² and was renewed and expanded to its present situation in 1985.

Damascus, Syria. 2004.

