

Qamar Bani Hashim, Syedi Abal Fazal al Abbas

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This Article is dedicated to my grandmother, Fatimah bint Munawwar Ali, wife of Abdullah b. Abdu Tayyeb al Valid (son of Ismaili Mustaalavi Dawoodi Vali al Yemen).

Revised Version

1. Training in Karbala University:

Religion cannot be understood through sermons only; it requires studying authentic literature too. The purpose of Zikr Ahl al Bait is not restricted to weeping on the tyranny which they faced, but its core purpose is to awaken the sleeping Ummah, who have ignored the real spirit of Islam to practice rituals and customs. Unfortunately the Ummah has adopted different traditions as a part of religion, which has no concern with Islam. Our people are well aware with the names of the heroes of Karbala. They are also basically aware about the characters and the way they were accepted Shahadat, with the references of Ali Akbar and Axe [Barchi], Abbas and the water bucket of Sakinah, Aliasghar and the three headed arrow of Hurmalah, Husain and the unsharpened dagger of Shimar Maloon, Zainab and her Hijaab, Ali Zain ul Abideen's sickness and the lashes on his back by the tyrants. What was the purpose of the movement of Husain ibn Ali? What were the principal changes introduced by the Umayyads?

How Husain ibn Ali established Dawat of the Maruf in Karbala and how Syedah Zainab displayed the ugly faces of the so-called evil Muslims, to snatch the veils from their faces, who were the guardian of the Munkar? This important point is often absent during the discussion of the tragic episode of Karbala from the Minbar. This event of Aashurah and aftermath is not only a historical record, but it is one of the great lessons of Tawheed, through which Marefat can be attained. It is the real treasure of Rasulullah(S) which he granted to His Ummah for their Najaat. In-fact, Karbala is the name of that University, which trains Muslims to practice Maroof and restrain from Munkar in all circumstances. Each character of Karbala had fixed an indelible impression, on the surface of the earth, which guides the seekers of faith in all phases of life, till the Day of Judgment.

A part of my education has been in Najaf, and there I studied Karbala in detail and I wish to communicate to you the Knowledge which I gained there. When you have tears in your eyes, remember me and my family and parents in your Dua. If today we are Muslims, it is only Sadaqah of Ahl al Bait.

2. Birth of Qamar Zul Asheerah:

There is one personality in the history of Islam whose birth was highly awaited by Amir al Mumineen, Ali ibn Abi Talib. The glad tidings of the birth of that valiant son had been given by Rasulullah(S). Syedah Fatimah Az-Zahra had declared him

as her own son. Ali had wished for a brave son to help his beloved son Husain at Karbala. Fourteen years had passed by after the Shahadat of Fatimah. It was the most difficult period in the life of Ali, when for Hikmah he had put his sword Zulfiqar in Sheath. Ali asked his brother, Aqeel ibn Abu Talib, to search for him a noble lady from the lineage of a family of brave warriors, who could give him a brave son as a protector of his Husain in Karbala. Aqeel was a well known genealogist. He pointed out Fatimah Kelabiya bint Hizam ibn Khalid ibn Rabie ibn Amer Kalbi. Ali ibn Abu Talib did not marry any other woman during the lifetime of Syedah Fatimah Az-Zahra. Ali sent Aqeel with the amount of Mahar of Fatimah bint Hizam to her father, who with the consent of her daughter accepted the proposal [1]. After a few days a Nikah Majlis was arranged. It is a practice that when bride arrives at her new home, she acts like a queen, but when the bride Umm ul Baneen Fatimah Kelabiya arrived at the house of Ali, she was aware that this was not a common house like others. This was the house of Ayah Tatheer [2]. This was the house, which Rasulallah(S) visited daily and recited Salaam loudly at the Chokhat of the door of the house:

Assalaamu Alayka Ya Ahl al Bait! O Ahl al Bait! Upon you Salaam!

She knew that in this house Malaek visited, she knew that it was the house of Syedah Fatimah, where she spent her life. Hasan, Husain, Zainab and Kulsum were living here. It was the Enayat ilahiyyah that she was entering in the house of Ali, who's Didaar was Ibadah, as per the Hadith. Before stepping forward into the door, the bride kissed the Chokhat of the door of Ali. Tears rolled down from her eyes, in Shukar. Now Hasan and Husain were 23-22 years old. Syedah Zainab and Syedah Umme Kulsum welcomed her, as both the grandsons of Rasulallah(S) were on bed, due to seasonal fever. Umm ul Baneen embraced both the daughters and kissed her hands. Then she turned towards both the Imams, who stood in her respect. First she performed Tawaf around Al Imam al Hasan and Al Imam al Husain. Then kissed their heads in reverence and submitted with tears:

O Prince! Accept your servant; I come here as your servant.

One day she requested Ali:

Kindly do not call me Fatimah, because when the children hear this name they miss their mother very much.

Ali accepted her request.

She was the 4th wife of Ali, 1st was Syedah Fatimah Az-Zahra, 2nd was Umamah bint Abil Aas whose mother was Zainab bint Rasulallah(S). Syedah Fatimah recommended Ali to marry Umamah after her demise, because of her close attachment with the children of Fatimah. This marriage took place around the year 11 (AH). The 3rd wife was Khawlah mother of Mohammad Hanafiyah. 4th wife of Amir al Mumineen was Umm ul Baneen. Her marriage took place around 24 (AH). She gave birth to Abbas on the 4th of Shaban, 26(AH). This star of guidance appeared to remove the darkness of the evil. Qanbar, the slave of Ali entered in Masjid al Nabavi to inform Ali. In excitement Qanbar shouted:

A glad tiding for you. Allah has granted you another son.

Amir al Mumineen loudly recited:

Allahu Akbar!La ilaha ill'lah

Ali smiled and said this son of mine has a high status near Allah. After birth Abbas was given in the hands of Amir al Mumineen Ali in a manner that he was wrapped in a white cloth [3]. Ali removed the cloth and took out the hands of Abbas from the cloth. Seeing his hands and shoulders, tears appeared in Ali's eyes. The Mother of Abbas seemed surprised on the action of Ali? She asked the reason for the tears instead of being happy. Amir al Mumineen Ali then informed his wife of the forthcoming tragic event of 10th of Muharram at Karbala, where both the hands of his son would be cut off. Ali offered Sajdah Shukar that his Dua was answered and an heir equal to his valour and a devoted strong defender of Husain had been born. Ali touched his tongue on the eyes of Abbas for Barakat.

Those casting a glance at the pages of history know well that Ali al Murtaza was born in the Kabah but he did not open his eyes. Ali opened his eyes only when Rasulullah(S) took him in his arms. Abbas was the son of Ali, therefore he adapted the same manner. He kept his eyes closed till Syed ash Shuhada, Abi Abdillah al Husain ibn Ali took Abbas with immense love in his lap. As per the instruction of Ali, Azan and Iqamat was recited in the ears of Abbas by Husain. Abbas opened his eyes and first saw the face of his Moula Husain, for whom he had come in this world. The infant smiled and raised his arms. There were tears in Moula Husain's eyes. Was it because he knew that the infant was trying to convey:

O Moula! I have come and will happily give my arms and my life to you for Islam

History is a witness that when Ali was born, Rasulullah(S) gave his tongue in to the mouth of Ali and transferred Amanat ilahiyyah. He took Misaq of Ali that on each and every step of his life that he will help Mohammad(S). It was the reason that Amir al Mumineen Ali was always ready to sacrifice his life upon Rasulullah(S). This history was now being repeated in between Husain and Abbas. If Husain is an Imam then Abbas holds the exalted status of Hamzah and Jafar. Abbas did not take his first feed of his mother like his father Ali but waited for his Mufid and patron Husain. When Husain put his tongue into the mouth of Abbas, the saliva transferred Faiz Ibdaiyyah. Beyond each action of Nabi, Wasi or Imam there always remains a Hikmah, which is beyond the understanding of any human imagination. It was an event of divine elevation and it seemed that it was being personified. Lion of Allah is the title of Ali, he granted his son the name Abbas, whose literal meaning in Arabi is the Lion from whom other lions fear and escape [4].

Due to her four sons Fatima bint Hizam was known as Umm ul Baneen (Mother of Sons). Umm ul Baneen belonged to a tribe which was renowned for their valour and courage. Likewise her four sons Abbas, Jafar, Usman and Abdullah were born with the same spirit. They were towers of strength and courage. Umm ul Baneen, from the very first day, she entered Ali's house as his wife, treated the children of Syedah Fatimah with utmost respect. She brought up her own sons to look upon Imam Hasan, Imam Husain, Syedah Zainab and Syedah Kulsoom, not as brothers and sisters but as masters and mistresses.

Ali, Door of the City of Knowledge was brought up in the lap of Rasulallah(S). He was fully aware with the future events. He therefore trained Abbas as a master of the battlefield and specifically for the day of Aashurah, to become the armour of Abi Abdillah al Husain. Al Imam al Hasan al Mujtaba regarded Abbas as his beloved younger brother and friend. Al Imam al Husain declared him as his powerful right hand and loyal brother. He is that exalted personality who is known as 'The Moon of Bani Hashim,' Abbas grew up to be a tall and handsome person. He was one of the 10 gallant warriors of Bani Hashim, who were exemplary handsome. Abbas was among them like the shimmering moon among the stars. Due to this reason, he is known Qamar Zul Asheerah [moon among the 10 valiant of Bani Hashim]. One day, during his childhood period, someone presented him a bunch of grapes, which was his favorite fruit. Abbas left his house. Someone asked, as to where he was going? He replied:

I want to present this bunch of grapes to Moula Husain.

3. High Pedestal of Knowledge:

How is it possible for a person of limited knowledge like me to discuss the merit of Syedi Abal Fazal al Abbas in the kingdom of Knowledge? Can the son of Bab Madinat ul ilm [Gateway of the Knowledge] remain deprived of blessings of ilm al Ladunni? [5] Scholars of high repute admitted that Abbas was the greatest Faqhee. [6] He held a high rank among the Scholars of Ahl al Bait. He was trained by Amir al Mumineen Ali, groomed by Al Imam al Hasan and shined by Al Imam al Husain. [7] Imam Sadiq explained that ilm was filled in Abbas as bird fills its offspring fully. Can anyone imagine what kind of precious and radiant Ruby he was? These short pages do not allow us to discuss the merits of Knowledge of Abbas but it is enough to understand that on 8th Zilhajah, when the Caravan of Husain was ready to march towards Kufa and Karbala, it was Syedi Abbas who delivered the historical sermon to the gathering of many thousand from the roof of Kabah

4. A Few details of His Family:

Abbas was married to Lubabah bint Obaidullah ibn Abbas ibn Abd ul Muttalib. He had three sons, and their names are Fazal ibn Abbas, Qasim ibn Abbas, and Obaidullah ibn Abbas. Two of them attained Shahadat in Karbala. The family lineage of Abbas ibn Ali was succeeded by Obaidullah ibn Abbas, who had five sons. The names of Abbas ibn Ali's grandsons were Abdullah ibn Obaidullah, Abbas ibn Obaidullah, Hamza ibn Obaidullah, Ibrahim ibn Ubaidullah, and Fazal ibn Obaidullah.

5. Crucial Political Scenario:

Syedi Abbas considered it an eternal blessing to shed his blood for the sake of his Moula Husain, whom he never addressed as my brother except on his last breath [8]. History is witness that the period from the demise of Rasulallah(S) to the battle of Siffeen was a period of severe trials and tribulations for Ali, Ahl al Bait and their devotees. The sword of Ali assigned many hundreds to the Hell

from the beginning of Islam till his last. All the family members of those who were killed by the swords of Hamzah, Jafar and Ali were now in the battle field, against Ali. They drew their swords against Ahl al Bait and their supporters and started an operation. The born enmity of the children of Abu Sufiyan with the children of Abd ul Mutallib became evident that it was the heritage of an old family enmity.

Abbas first appeared as a soldier in the battle of Siffeen. The defender of Islam Ali, as a Khlaifah was locked with a rebellion with the terminated governor of Syria, Muaviyyah b. Abu Sufiyan in 657 CE=34 (AH) near the Furaat river. At the battle of Siffeen Abbas was a young boy. During the battle of Siffeen when the Umayyads blocked water to the Muslim forces, Syedi Abbas entered the battlefield with a veil on his face to hide his identity. Muaviyyah ordered one of his giant warriors Abu Shasa to confront him. The Syrian arrogantly said:

People compare my bravery equal to ten thousand riders, now you want me to fight this young boy?

Abu Shasa sent his youngest son to confront him. But his son was soon defeated and killed. Abu Shasa then sent his other son, but to his surprise, he was also killed. In this manner his seven sons were killed. Abu Shasa fuming with rage swallowed his proud words and personally entered the battlefield seeking to avenge the death of his sons. Abbas was a lord of war; he defeated Abu Shasa and cut him swiftly. The Muslim forces were delighted and wanted to know about the identity of the masked fighter. Amir al Mumineen called Abbas and removed the mask from his face and then introduced: [9]

He is Abbas, Qamar Bani Hashim

Muaviyyah admitted the Alavi skills of war and said:

Wallah! No one can fight like that at this age except the son of Ali!

Syedi Abbas was a brave supporter of Al Imam al Hasan during the most critical political period of Muslim history.

On the 21st night of Ramazan prior to his Shahadat, Ali announced his will and granted Amr of Dawah and Ahl al Bait in the hands of Al Imam al Hasan. He gave the hands of Abbas in to the hands of Abi Abdillah al Husain, who was very attached to Abbas . Ali embraced Abul Fazal al Abbas with his chest and said: [10]

My Son! Due to you my eyes will remain cooled on the Day of Judgment. My Son! On the day of Aashurah, when you reach the Furaat, don't drink water while Husain remains thirsty.

Now Ali was slain due to the conspiracy of the Khawarij. Afterwards, Imam al Hasan was poisoned to death by his treacherous wife Jaddah. Tyrants didn't allow Husain ibn Ali to bury Al Imam al Hasan, adjacent to the grave of his grandfather Nabi(S), as per his last will. Ah! Instead shooters fired arrows on the coffin of Al Imam al Hasan. Someone cried loudly, this is my sole property. Serious tension developed. Abbas! The son of the Lion of Allah took out his sharp sword, in anger. At this crucial time, the Arch-guardian of Muslim-unity, Husain ibn Ali demonstrated the meaning of tolerance. He understood well that

the anger of Abbas could only be controlled through his order. He instructed him to put his sword in his scabbard. Now only Husain was alive, who was for Abbas, the centre of love, the Imam of the time and an ideal for his life. From early childhood Abbas followed Husain like a shadow. If Imam Husain needed water to drink, Abbas would rush to bring him water and in the oppressive desert climate of Arabia, he would fan Husain with the hem of his shroud.

It was said that Muaviyyah did not dare invade Madinah(beside his inner wish), because of five warriors, who were with Al Imam Husain and could, together with their Imam, conquer a whole army.

- 1). Syedna Muhammad Hanafiyah bin Ali, a step brother of Imam Husain*
- 2). Syedna Muslim bin Aqeel, cousin*
- 3). Syedna Abdullah bin Jafar, cousin*
- 4). Moulaya Abbas ibn Ali, step brother*
- 5). Moulaya Ali al Akbar ibn al Husain, son*

After the death of the ruler of Syria, his son Yazid Maloon infused an evil spirit into the dead mission of his grandfather, who was consigned to the Hell by the sword of Ali in the Ghazwah Badar. Due to the efforts of Yazid and his gang the Arab society had turned towards Imperialism, which is repugnant to the system of Islam. To enjoy their nefarious aims through Imperialism, Umayyads named it so-called Khilafat. A long list of the reasons is available in all authentic records, as why Abi Abdillah al Husain started his journey of Divine Revolution, to Karbala, which was to become the focal point in the revival of Islam of Nabi(S).[11]

6. Final Journey towards Karbala:

This Hadith is authentic and non controversial:

***Husainu Minni Wa Ana Min Husain** (Husain is from me and I am from Husain)*

These are not ordinary wordings explaining an ordinary relation of a grandfather and a grandson, but these are the wordings of that Rasul (S) for whom Allah has announced in Qur'an:[12]

He (Rasulullah) doesn't speak out of desire, it is not but Wahi that is appeared".

Hence Rasulullah(S) has announced that He and Husain are related to each other through the supreme sacrifice which protected Islam forever.

Lanat upon those Advocates of Yazid Maloon, who tried to hide the exalted status of Husain ibn Ali as spoken and stated by Rasulullah(S). The devotees of Yazid utter that it was a sentimental sentence of a grandfather for his beloved grandson. Supporters of Yazid should know that the event of Karbala was not the result of any unexpected or unforeseen reason, but it was a destined and pre-recorded event which was confirmed by all Anbiya. Rasulullah(S) discussed this event a number of times among his Ashaab, who also transmitted this Nabavi discussion. It was for this reason that when Al Imam al Husain decided to leave Madinah in the month of Rajab 60 (AH), he did not encourage Syedna Muhammad Hanafiah and Syedna Abdullah Ibn Jafar to accompany him. He wanted to make

sure that no one at that time or in the future would argue that Husain ibn Ali wanted to fight for the Khilafat.

Just before Imam Husain left Madinah of his grandfather, Umm ul Baneen summoned all her four sons and ordered them:

My sons! You must remember that while I love you, Imam Husain is your Moula. If the Imam or his sisters or his children get injured or hurt while you are still alive, I will never forgive you. Tears rolled down from the eyes of Abbas. He promised his mother that he and his brothers would lay down their lives for Al Imam al Husain and his children.

Son of Fatimah, Abi Abdillah al Husain reached Karbala on 2nd Muharram after passing through different stopovers, to fulfill the Ahd which he committed with his grandfather, Rasulallah(S). From the day when the news of the Shahadat of Syedna Muslim bin Aqeel had reached the caravan of Imam Husain, Syedi Abbas and his brothers increased their vigilance to protect the Imam and the Ahl al Bait with others. On 7th Muharram, the forces of Yazid declared water to be forbidden for Husain, his Ahl al Bait and Ashaab, from the river Furaat. On 9th Muharram, Shimar Maloon reached Karbala with an additional force. Maloon Ubaidullah bin Ziyad sent Shimar Maloon with a death warrant for Husain ibn Ali. Maloon Shimar belonged from the tribe of Umm ul Baneen, therefore as a matter of consideration he brought a Protection Order for the sons of Umm ul Baneen. Prior to war he announced this Amnesty, in the presence of the sons of Umm ul Banen. In response, Syedi Abal Fazal al Abbas announced in a thundering voice:

Tabbat Yadaka Wa Laanah (Break your hands, Lanat of Allah upon you and your protection).

You offer us protection while you offer none for the grandson of Rasulallah(S). The son of Ali, using words of Surah Lahab in his reply, fixed the seal of Jahnnam on Shimar. Hearing this unexpected reply, Shimar turned his horse back towards Umar Saad Maloon and said:

Delay in fight is unbearable. Start the war preparation.

7. Night of Promotion, Lailat al Aashurah:

On the order of Imam Husain, Syedi Abbas advanced towards the enemy along with Zuhair ibn al Qain and Habib ibn Mazahir. To fulfill the responsibility of Hujjat upon the so-called Muslims they introduced the son of Ali and Fatimah very clearly through their remarkable sermons. They left no space for doubt for any argument till the Day of Judgment for the so-called Muslims to claim that they were not aware of who Husain was? They explained the purpose of the divine mission of Husain and its reasons. Syedi Abul Fazal al Abbas fulfilled the responsibility of Hidayat and in the end asked to postpone the fight for a night, as per the instruction of his Moula Husain. Yazidians rejected the request. Then Umar bin Hajjaj said to Umar bin Saad:

If non Muslims native of Dailam and Turks asked for a short break from us we granted them accordingly. These are descendents of Mohammad. Therefore we should grant them an interval. -

Unpleasantly Umar allowed a one night interval.

While turning towards the tents of Husain, Zuhair said to Habib: [13]

At this moment I recall the wordings of Amir al Mumineen that he had married Umm ul Baneen only for a son who should be a successor of his gallantry. As soon as Abbas heard this conversation, his mood changed. He turned his horse in such anger that its belt broke. He questioned:

O my companions! Do you remind me what bravery is?

Then in a thundering voice he said:

If you want to see my courage then arrange Izn of Jihad from my Moula[Husain]. Wallah! Before the sun rise tomorrow, if I am unable to fix the Lava al Husain [flag of Husain] on the Governor House of Kufa, don't call me son of Ali.

When Husain heard the thundering voice of Abbas, he rushed from his tent barefooted. He embraced and kissed on the forehead of Abbas and questioned:

Why my lion is angry?

Abbas bent down his head and tears appeared in his eyes.

Now the question naturally arises, as why Syedash Shuhada Husain asked for the postponement of final Jihad only for a night? People often discussed that they required it for Istaghfar and Ibadah. Our Aqidah is that each breath and moment of the life of Husain was itself Ibadah. The real reason is known to those whom Qur'an addressed as 'Rasekhon Fil ilm'. It may perhaps be one of the reasons:

- The day and time of the Shahadat was fixed as the 10th Muharram, therefore it could not take place earlier.**
- Abi Abdillah al Husain addressed to his followers in the darkness of the night that if anyone wishes to leave him he is free to go away. Therefore, till the Day of Judgment nobody should be able to argue that those killed with Husain were unaware and trapped.**

Moula Husain was fully aware with the intention of each member of his unique caravan. They were the selected and chosen ones. The example of them could not be found even before him or among the later periods. It pained them, tears appeared in their eyes. They could not control their sentiments for their Moula Husain. Each and every member of the Husaini Caravan submitted his devotion which history has recorded with gold in the chapter of loyalty. History has recorded the sentiments of Qamar Bani Hasim, Syedi Abbas, which he submitted to his Moula with folded hands: [14]

Moula it is not our wish to survive after you.

Muslim bin Awsajah submitted:

O Imam! If we leave you, we shall be answerable to Allah and His Rasool(S). Wallah! If I know that I shall regain this life after being killed and then be burned and this process is repeated seventy times even then I would not leave you

Zuhair bin Al Qain submitted:

Wallah! Nothing else would give me greater pleasure except that I am slain a thousand times for you, be given life again and be killed again

It is compulsory for good leadership to distribute reward on the achievements of its team. The world has not seen a more generous leader like Husain, who not

only granted tidings of Jannah to his team but also showed their exalted status which pleased everyone. Moula Husain wanted to elevate his Ahl al Bait and Ashaab in ranks, thus he established Hujjat. That night he presented Attar and Musk to each one, which carried the fragrance of Jannah. Those who received this unique Imami gift were happier than a bridegroom on his wedding night. Now the cup of Shahadat had become sweeter than honey for them. Husain said:

Wallah! Companion like you were never granted from Adam to Muhammad, nor Ali and Hasan.

8. Aashurah 10th Muharram:

Before the Zuhr Salaat the Ashaab of Husain were on the Earth; but prior to the Asr Salaat these stars of the galaxy of the Nubuwwat had set down in Karbala. Abbas was very popular with the children of Aqa Husain especially Sakinah, who was only four years old. Whenever the children wanted anything they would cry out Ya Abbas! or Ya Ammahu! And Abbas used to rush towards them. Ah! From the 7th of Muharram Abbas was unable to respond to their cries for water. He was aware with the Asrar 'ilahiyyah. On the day of Aashurah, after Zuhr Salaat one by one the peerless Ashaab of Imam Husain attained Shahadat in the land of Karbala. At last only Al Imam al Husain, his 18 years young son Ali al Akber, 6 months old Ali al Asghar and Abbas were left. Imam Ali Zain ul Abideen lay sick in his tent. Several times Abbas asked Al Imam al Husain for Izan[permission] of Jih'ad. Each time Imam Husain replied:

Abbas! You are the Commander of my force; you are Hamel al Lava- the Flag holder

Abbas did not argue with his Moula and controlled his patience. His three brothers were killed in the battle field. Abi Abdillah al Imam al Husain observed the anger in the eyes of Abbas, especially when he saw the pierced body of Qasim bin Al Imam al Hasan. Al Imam al Husain knew that if he granted Izan to Abbas to go and fight, not a single enemy would be left in the battle field. Husain knew that the time of Shahadat was approaching, which was essential for the survival of Islam. He therefore controlled the 'Jalal' of Abbas.

Suddenly Abbas heard the voice of Sakinah, the most beloved daughter of Husain, asking for water. He begged again for Izan-permission of Aqa Husain to fetch water for Sakinah. Words are unable to describe the love, which this niece bore to her uncle and Abbas bore to her. Thirst was unbearable. What to say of throats, even blood had dried in the bodies of the children. Those keeping Siyaam during the month of Ramazan can realize what hardships one has to bear under the scorching heat of the sun, and that too in the desert and without water for three days. Sakinah had brought a water bucket and addressed to her uncle Abbas:

Al Atash, Ya Ammahu! I am thirsty O my uncle Abbas!

Husain, as an Imam was well aware of the past and the future, and knew that the time of Abbas Shahadat had approached. He said:

Brother! You are Hamel ul Lava al Husain (The one who carries the flag of Husain). Due to you the sign of my force remains in the battlefield.

Syedi Abbas submitted also:

Moula! My chest is suffocated and I cannot bear it more. I want to sacrifice my life for your sake, grant me Izan.

Tears rolled down from the eyes of Moula Husain. Husain granted Izan for water only but not for Jihad. Just imagine, perhaps Moula told his brother Abbas! Our mission in Karbala is to secure Islam till eternity through our blood. Islam requires our sacrifices.

Abbas visited Syedah Zainab for final Salaam, Syedah Zainab knew that the Qamar Bani Hashim will not return alive. She said to Syedi Abbas:

Brother! Once the Hijab had slipped from my shoulder. My father Ali had kissed on my hands. I had asked him as why he had done so. He informed that he was reminded of the day when my hands would be tied with a rope. At that time I was a child. When I grew up and found many brothers in the house, then I thought that nobody could dare to tie the hands of Zainab with a rope, who had brothers, like you. The rest of the brothers had been slaughtered in the way of Allah. Now you too, are going, I am now convinced that whatever father had foretold will now happen.

Abbas put Sakinah's bucket on the Lava, mounted his horse and rode up to Syed ash Shuhada Husain. He said:

Moula! I have come to say Salaam

Husain responded:

My brother! Come and embrace me

Abbas dismounted from his horse. Ah! There were tears in Imam's eyes. Husain embraced Abbas. How can I describe this farewell? Abbas ibn Ali rode on his horse, named Auqab (Eagle). According to the sources, [15] this horse was used by Rasulallah(S) and Amir al Mumineen Ali. The horse was considered to be of high breed over other horses because of its maintained pedigree. It was initially named as Murtajis, whose root word in Arabi is Rijis, meaning thunder. Rasulallah(S) renamed it as Auqab. He gifted that horse to his sole successor Ali, who presented it to Abbas.

Abbas, Hamel ul Lava al Husain advanced towards the Army of Bani Ummayyah. Even the sky had not seen such an awe-inspiring scene. Greatness, valour, courage, zenith of nobility, and spirituality was personified in Abbas. He took the Lava in one hand, a sword in the other hand and a bucket on his shoulder. He fought his way towards the bank of Furaat. Like his father Asadullah al Ghalib, he was a Lion of the battle field, who killed hundreds of enemies, and pierced their rank and file with lightning speed and threw himself with his horse in the cool water of Furaat. He broke through a strong hold of 4000 armed soldiers, posted at the Furaat. Syedi Abbas called in a thundering voice, and it felt to the enemies as if Amir al Mumineen was calling, he said:

Is this allowed in your religion that you deprive the grandson of Rasulallah (S) and his children from water, although from this river, which you are guarding, even dogs and swine drinks water? Imam Husain and his children are very near to dying due to thirst. Have you forgotten the thirst of the Day of Judgment? I am

Abbas! An angry lion, I am here to carry water to the tent of Husain. I am not afraid of death, I shall challenge death. [16]

In the attack Syedi Abbas showed the valour of Ali. During all this time the restlessness of Husain knew no bounds. Repeatedly he went inside his tent and then came out to see what was happening. Those who were observing, inquired the reason of his restlessness? Husain explained:

My mind is not in my control at the moment

When Abbas left to fetch water, Husain stood at the gate of the tent watching the Lava. Sakinah was standing next to Husain, her eyes also fixed on the 'Lava' [Flag]. When Abbas reached the bank of the river Furaat and bent down to fill the water bucket, the Lava disappeared from the sight. Sakinah was alarmed and she looked at her father. The Imam said:

Sakinah! Your uncle Abbas is at the river bank.

Sakinah smiled and said:

Al Hamdulil'lah !

She called out all the children to welcome her beloved uncle. Abbas, Hamel ul Lava al Husain meanwhile filled the bucket with water, neither Abbas nor his horse tasted a drop of water. He took the water in his palms, looked at it and threw it away saying:

O water of Furaat! My lips can welcome you only after Sakinah has quenched her thirst!

He placed the water bucket on his Lava and started to ride back. Maloon Umar ibn Saad cried out:

Do not let that water reach Husain's tent; otherwise we shall all be doomed!

Historians and Maqatal writers have no excess to reach the exalted Niyah of Syedi Abbas. They had written what they had watched. To write the intention of Abbas is beyond their limits. How was it possible for Syedi Abbas to even think of having water, even for a second? It is totally an insult to explain such views. The real reason for taking water in his hands and immediately throwing it away was only to show the evil forces his command and control over the river Furaat. While he turned from the Furaat, he recited this Rajz in which he addressed to his own self: [17]

**My life! I do not wish to live after Husain,
After him I don't like to survive;
Soon Husain shall drink a cup of Shahadat,
And would you like to drink cold water;
Ah _____ this is not the spirit of my religion,
Nor the action of one who is sure in the conviction**

Now when Abbas was intending to return to the tent of Husain, Zaid bin Waraqa with the help of Hakim bin Tufail attacked and severed the right hand. Abbas quickly took the water bucket on his left shoulder. Just imagine the pain he suffered when his hand was cut off? It was the will and courage of Abbas that he did not stop even for a while. He showed his skill of swordsmanship with his left hand, while reciting loudly this Rijz:

Wallah although you have cut my right hand;

**But definitely I always support and protect my religion.
And I will defend the Imam with pure faith;
Who is the son of trustworthy & pious Rasul.
That true Nabi who brought us religion and confirmed Tawhid;**

From behind the date tree, Maloon Hakim bin Tafil cut off the left hand of Syedi Abbas, which was already pierced with arrows. It was the strong conviction of Abbas that with courage he continued his mission, to deliver water at the tent, where the children of Ahl al Bait were waiting. Syedi Abbas ibn Ali now held the water bucket with his teeth. The army of Maloon Yazid ibn Muaviyyah rained arrows under instruction of Maloon ibn Saad. 500 arrow shooters fired Abbas, which pierced each inch of the body of Abbas. One arrow entered in his chest, another in the eye but the will of Abbas was strong. Ah! One arrow pierced the water bucket of Sakinah, and water flew from it. Seeing this the will of Abbas disappeared, and his heart broken. He bent his head on the back of his horse. It was Maloon Hurmalah who had targeted the bucket of Syedi Abbas. Alas, Abbas was not destined to bring water.

Sakinah could see it any longer! She looked at her father, but Husain turned his face away. Sakinah began to shiver with fear and her eyes filled with tears. I do not have words to express this painful episode. The enemies burst upon him like a crowd of jackals. When Abbas bent his head on his horse, one Maloon hit his head with a mace [Gurz, war weapon]. His head split. Ah! Abbas fell off from his horse without the support of his arms. Due to the pressure of the fall, the arrows which had hit him on the chest, pierced his body and entered the other side. According to Tradition, Abbas fell first onto his face before he let the Lava fall. Ah! Syedi Abbas, Bab ul Abwab of Husain ibn Ali sent his final Salaam upon his Moula, Abi Abdillah al Husain:

Alayka Minni Assalaam Ya Aba Abdillah! Upon you my Salaam O Aba Abdillah! O Moula! Help me.

Even after he fell down from his horse Abbas did not allow the separation of his Lava from his wounded body. He preserved the sanctity of the Lava of Islam which is the only instance in the history of wars. Imam Husain approached near him quickly. Historian have recorded that Moula Husain ibn Ali took hold of his back and said: [18]

O Abbas! Now my back is broken, and I have become helpless

The author of [19] Masnavi has computed the date of Abbas's Shahadat by this half verse:

Sar Deen Raa Bured Bey Deenay

Aqa Husain reached for Shafaat of his beloved brother where Moula Abbas was lying. It is a fact that the body of Abbas was filled with wounds, as compared to others whom the Imam had observed. Imagine the feeling of Moula when he saw his beloved brother in such a condition. I have read a sentence of Moula Husain in a Maqal. Husain said:

Be Nafsi Anta [My life is sacrificed on you]

Amazing sentence. Those who observed this event have mentioned that the face of Husain was in severe anguish. Ah! Abbas was lying on the ground. Both his arms had been severed! Husain lifted his broken head and took it into his lap. Seeing the condition of Abbas, Moula asked:

What have they done to you? My dear brother, your whole life you have served me and my children. Is there any wish that I can fulfill for you at this last moment of your life?

Abbas replied:

My Moula! I wish to express that when I was born, I first saw your beloved face and it is my final desire that when I leave this world, I would like to die watching your face. My one eye is pierced by an arrow and the other is filled with blood. If you will clear the eye, I will be able to see you and fulfill my last dying desire. My second wish is that after me, you should not carry my body to the tent. I had promised to bring water to Sakinah and since I have failed in my attempt to bring her water, I cannot face her even in death. Besides, I know that the grief and torture that you have received on the Shahadat of Ahl al Bait and Ashaab since morning have all but crushed you and carrying my body to the tent will be back-breaking work for you.

My third wish is that Sakinah may not be brought here to see my condition. I know the love and affection she has for me. The sight of my body lying here will kill her.

Husain fulfilled his wishes. Husain asked him for one last thing. Moula Husain asked:

Abbas, I too have a wish to be fulfilled. Since childhood you have always called me Moula. For once at least call me brother with your dying breath.

Ah! Abbas closed his eyes while repeating,

Husain my brother, my Imam.

Abi Abdillah al Husain took Abbas in his arms and kissed his forehead. Ah___Just then Mushkil Kusha Ibn Mushkil Kusha, Abbas Ibn Ali breathed his last. How can I describe the feelings of Husain? Saheb al Maqatal mentioned: Husain was leaving the body of his brother. He could hardly move his feet. Moula Husain placed Sukaina's bucket on the Lava carried it towards the tent. He went to Syedah Zainab's tent. The Imam did not say a single word. He gave the Lava to Syedah Zainab and sat down on the floor! Zainab is the name of the soul of Husain. She understood the meaning of the action of Husain. The brother and sister both performed Buka on the Kafeel Ahl al Bait, Abbas.

10. Marsiyah of Abbas recited by Moula Husain:

My brother! O Noor of my eyes! O part of my body! You were for me the most secured

O son of my father! You helped your brother, finally Allah has quenched your thirst with cup of Raheeq[drink of Jannah]

O illuminated moon! You were my helper and supporter; in all distresses and tribulations

After you there is no charm in life; tomorrow we will both gather together

My complaint is only to Allah, and patience is also for Him, in thirst and trial He is my refuge.

11. Loyalty of Syedi Abbas:

According to the writer of Maqatal, it was Ibrahim bin Malik al Ashtar, who got the honour of first erecting the Shrines of Moula Husain and Syedi Abbas. When he came first to Karbala, he performed the Ziyarat of Moula Husain and then came towards al Mashad al Abbas. He was a very close and informal friend of Syedi Abbas. After reciting Salaam he asked Syedi Abbas, O Abbas! As Husain was the Imam, he did not kill the enemies, why did you not kill those timid enemies? For a time, a silence prevailed. Then the thundering voice of Moula Abbas was heard:

What could I do, Ibrahim? Moula did not grant me permission to fight. He granted Izn only to bring water, but Ah---- I did not deliver it to the tent

The son of Malik al Ashtar, Ibrahim was an exemplary brave warrior; he could not control his tears, and wept loudly.

O Mumineen! Do you know that Maloon Yazid was also amazed on the loyalty of Moula Abbas? According to the sources [20], when the looted items at Karbala were presented to Maloon Yazid, the Lava al Husain was also one of them, which was completely pierced; the only place intact was the holding point. Yazid asked who held it. On knowing he admitted astonishingly:

Abbas has set an example of loyalty for generations to come.

12. Concluding Sentiments:

I am concluding this discussion on the following [21] Marsiyah of 19th Al Dai al Fatemi, Syedna Idris Imaduddin (Shibam, Yemen), which he had composed on the peak of Yemen, Shibam:

Huznun Aazaba Jawanehi wa Fuwadi

42). I am attached with them [Al Khamsat ul Athaar] and their love and devotion is my religion;

I have secured it for my salvation and emancipation on the Day of Qiyamat.

43). I declare an open Baraat from those enemies; who disrespected and hated you.

44). I hope and am sure that they will do my Shafaat;

Due to their Walayat and Muwaddat, Sadat is my fortune.

45). As a result, I will attain success, remain protected from all enemies' wicked planers and finally achieve Najaat.

46). Due to their love, in Aakhirah I will get ultimate liberation; and in Aakhirah I will achieve the highest position in the Jannah.

47). After all, their Walayat is my saving, indeed it is my treasure; and this Walayat is my provision on the Day of Resurrection; it is my strength and preparation.

48). Along with Taqwa, this Walayat is the best provision, in Maad.

49). Our Lord send Salawaat upon all of them; in morning and evening He may send shimmering lofty Salaam

Not only Shia and Sunni but non Muslims also bow at the doorstep of Abbas in Karbala, whose one of the Kuniyat is Bab ul Hawajj [The Door to fulfilling people's need], and they beseech Allah through him. O Qazil Hajaat Abbas! Help us to come on the door of Husain and visit your grave. Allow us this opportunity soon, solve our Masail and grant us abundant Barakaat from your door. I close my pen on this famous Salaam of Syedi Abbas Ibn Ali, which each Zair recites at the door of his Rawzah:

**Salaam of Allah and Salaam of His favorite Malaek, His Anbiya, His righteous Servants, all the Shuhada and all the truthful honest, and also pure, true blessings that come and go, be upon you ; O son of Amir al Mumineen
O Allah! Grant us opportunities of Ziyarat so long as You keep us alive, and join us to him and his father in the Jannah, and introduce us to him, to Your Rasul(S) , and to Your Awliya, Aameen**

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