



Hazrat Zaynab (SA), message bearer of Karbala

At the death of Muawiyah, Imam Hussein (AS) set out from Medina to Kufa to claim the leadership of the Muslim community. Hazrat Zaynab (SA) accompanied him, as did most of his household. After Imam Hussein's death at the Battle of Karbala, Hazrat Zaynab (SA) was taken prisoner by the army of Yazid, Muawiyah's son and successor. Hazrat Zaynab (SA) and the other survivors of Imam Hussein's expedition, most of them women and children, were marched to Damascus, Yazid's capital, where they were held prisoner. Hazrat Zaynab (SA) was in anguish due to the death of her brother Imam Hussein (AS) and her sons Aun and Muhammad.

Eventually Yazid released his captives and allowed them to return to Medina. It is said that Hazrat Zaynab (SA) did not long survive the return, and died circa 682 CE. Hazrat Zaynab (SA) is the message bearer of the martyrs in Karbala and the companion of Imam Hussein (AS) in the important rising of Ashura.

The eloquent sermon of Hazrat Zaynab (SA) in Kufa

The sermon that she delivered in Kufa is a brilliant example of how her bereaved heart impacted the people through her sermon.

The caravan of the captives, who consisted of women, children, soldiers holding spears that carried the heads of the martyrs and the army men of Ibn Ziad entered the city of Kufa. As they entered, the people were cheering and expressing their joy of victory!

But the sermon of Hazrat Zaynab (SA) was so powerful that it converted the glorious show of victory into a mournful ceremony, where the evils of the governor were revealed. The sermon caused for the delighted happy faces to sadden, and many even began to cry. As a matter of fact, her eloquent speech even boosted people's anger toward the governor.

There are several significant points concerning her sermon. The first point is that the speaker is a captive woman who is among many victorious soldiers and higher rank army men. She has to consider that the enemy's anger may cause another attack upon the captives. Furthermore, since the people of Kufa knew Imam Ali (AS) and his children, the sermon of Hazrat Zaynab (SA) should have been in such a manner that people could fully understand the importance of such a tragedy.

She pointed people to be quiet. The breathing of people remained in their chest. After Praising Allah and Prophet Muhammad (S) she said:

"O people of Kufa! O you deceivers! O you who break your pledges and retreat back! You traitors! May the cries never end and the tears never diminish. You are like the woman who painstakingly and with great labor twines a strong rope, and then she herself unwinds it, thereby wasting her effort and energy. Your false pledges contain no element of truth and sincerity. Your tactic has become flattering the maids and nodding your heads in agreement to the enemies.

Beware, for you have sponsored a very wrongful act for which Allah is totally displeased with you. Without doubt, His wrath shall soon descend upon you.

Are you now crying? Yes, by Allah you must weep because you deserve the tears. Cry

immensely and laugh less, for you are contaminated with such shame and disgrace, that you will never be able to wash it off.

How could you exonerate yourself from crime of slaying the son of the Last Prophet Muhammad (S) and the mine of prophethood? Was he not the master of the youth in heaven? Was he not the one who you would go to him whenever you had tribal fights and disagreements? Was he not your best choice to solve your own problems and worries?

What bad have you brought upon yourselves, and what heavy burden are you carrying: annihilation, downfall! Efforts were lost, and hands ceased from work causing for business and capital to be lost. You placed yourself in the anger of Allah, and you manifested yourselves in greed and begging.

O the people of Kufa! Woe be upon you! Do you know which part of the Messenger of Allah you have cut? And which vow you have broken? And whose blood you have shed? And which respected family you have brought to the public (as captives)? And whose sanctity you have violated? You have done that, which could tear down the skies, open the earth, and make the mountains vanish. As far as the earth goes and as deep as the skies go, your obvious deed has no like, no similarity and no decency. Indeed you have done the ugliest, the most grievous and gruesome deed.

Will you be surprised if the sky rains blood? Remember! The punishment of the Day of Judgment which will be much more severe and much harsher! That is because no one has the power of Allah."

Then Hazrat Zaynab (SA) and the other captives were brought to the palace of Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad, governor of Kufa. There, Hazrat Zaynab (SA) disguised herself among the other women. Once Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad noticed her, he asked:

"Who is that disguised woman?"

No one answered him; so he repeated his question. Then, one of his servants replied:

"She is Zaynab, the daughter of Fatemeh Zahra (SA), daughter of the Messenger of Allah."

Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad recognized this honored lady, and decided to express his joy of victory in front of the honorable daughter of Imam Ali (AS). Through addressing Hazrat Zaynab (SA) he planned to take advantage of the opportunity and advertise the cruel and disgraced tyranny of Yazid son of Muawiyah. Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad however, failed to realize that the honored lady he was addressing happened to be the heroine who would disgrace Yazid son of Muawiyah and all other oppressors through her firm logic. Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad rudely said:

"Praise be to Allah who disgraced you, and revealed your sayings as false."

Perhaps Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad thought that one who is martyred in the way of fighting falsity is in fact disgraced, and his or her sayings are proven as false.

Or maybe he knew the truth,



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but spoke as such to deviate the mind of people and invert the realities, knowing that he attributed his sayings to Allah. In spite of that, Hazrat Zaynab (SA) immediately frustrated his conspiracy by replying:

"Praise be to Allah who has honored us with His Messenger, and purified us from impurity. The one who is disgraced is certainly the libertine, and the one who lies is the lewd; and we are not such people. Praise be to Allah."

Ibn Ziyad, who never expected to be talking to such a knowledgeable and courageous woman, changed the subject and said:

"How did you find the way Allah treated your brother and your family?"

Hazrat Zaynab (SA), with a tone full of pride and power, indicating her faith and submission towards Allah, answered:

"I saw nothing but beauty... They rushed towards their graves (with honor). But know that Allah will judge between you and them, and He will call you to account; so be worried about the winner at that day (either it will be you or them). O son of Marjanah! May your mother be mournful for you."

These few statements were so powerful that as the historians mention, they made Ubaydullah ibn Ziyad so angry that he decided to kill Hazrat Zaynab (SA). He however ceased to do such as one of his army generals, who was present there, calmed him down and prevented him from doing so.

A part of the sermon Hazrat Zaynab (SA) gave with utmost bravery in the gathering of Yazid son of Muawiyah in Syria is as follows:

"What you consider today as spoils of war will become ruins for

you tomorrow and on that day you will find what you have sent from before. Allah does not oppress his servants. I express my complaint only to Allah and have trust in Him. You may therefore do any treachery that you have, make all your attempts, and try all you can. By Allah, you cannot remove us from the minds (of people), and you cannot fade our message. You will never reach our glory and can never wash the stain of this crime from your hands. Your decisions will not be stable, your period of ruling will be short, and your population will scatter. In that day, a voice will shout: "Indeed may the curse of Allah be upon the oppressors..."

Hazrat Zaynab (SA) warned Yazid son of Muawiyah

The key to success for every distinguished human being is worshipping and obeying Allah, since the purpose of creation of mankind is nothing but worship. However, worship has a broad meaning and is not restricted to praying or fasting. In his book of "Mufraadat", Raghibisfahani states that "Worshiping and obedience means to express humbleness and humility". It means that worship has a more inclusive meaning which is ultimate humility and humbleness.

Sakina, daughter of Imam Hussein (AS), has narrated the situation of Hazrat Zaynab (SA) on the night before Ashura as follows:

"On the night before Ashura, my aunt Zaynab was standing in her place for worship and was supplicating to Allah. On that night, no one amongst us got to sleep and the voice of our cries was never interrupted".

Worshiping, with its inclusive meaning, is observed in all the behaviors and characteristics

of Hazrat Zaynab (SA). She remained patient in all the difficulties and tragedies that happened to her to the extent that patience became impatient over her patience, and all these were considered as acts of worship for her. Is there any act of worship greater than offering two beloved children for the sake of the Holy Quran and the Ahl-ul-Bait (AS), and becoming mournful over losing six brothers such as Imam Hussein (AS) and Hazrat Abbas (AS)? Is there a greater act of worship than wearing the veil of captivity in which she was examined tens of times and she passed all successfully?

And finally, is there any act of worship greater than continuing the rising of her brother, delivering fiery sermons in the path of Kufa and Syria, and awakening ignorant people who were deceived by poisonous propaganda of Yazid son of Muawiyah and martyred Imam Hussein (AS) as a man who was out of Islam! Her sermons created a movement in Kufa and Damascus which shook the bases of Yazid's kingdom and even Yazid's son refused to replace his father as the king, and after a while, quitted the government while disgracing the oppressing dynasty of Umayyad.

In her sermon, Hazrat Zaynab (SA) warned Yazid son of Muawiyah about the hereafter and said, "Fear the day on which the judge is Allah, and Prophet Muhammad (S) himself will plead for justice. O Yazid! On that day the organs and members of people will testify against them, and it is on that day that the punishment of the oppressors will be realized".

Of course, the greatest act of worship of Hazrat Zaynab (SA) was preaching and giving advice with which she continued the tradition of the Prophet (S) and the infallible Imams (AS).

Hazrat Zaynab (SA), the founder of mourning for Imam Hussein (AS)

After being released from prison, Hazrat Zaynab (SA) asked her nephew, Imam Zain al-Abideen (AS), son of Imam Hussein (AS), to tell Yazid son of Muawiyah to empty a house and return their belongings, with the heads of the martyred.

She stayed in the house for seven days, mourning for the martyred along with the rest of the imprisoned women, and the women of Damascus. She was the first one to offer condolence to the fourth Imam Zain al-Abideen (AS) on the martyrdom of his father.

She then traveled to Karbala and mourned at the grave of Imam Hussein (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala.

Hazrat Zaynab (SA) lived about one year after the torturous trials she had to bear. She withstood the impossible ordeal and carried out spreading the news everywhere, most successfully. It is claimed that she died in Syria, at the age of 57 in the year 62 AH. Her holy shrine, Zaynabieh is located in the present country of Syria or to some others belief, in Egypt and nowadays many of the Shias visit it.

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Samadi plans to shoot part of "Desire to Fly" in United States

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — "Desire to Fly" TV series filmmaker Yadollah Samadi plans to shoot part of the series in the United States.

"Desire to Fly" tells the life story of pilot Babaii, who was martyred at the age of 37 in an operation in the Iran-Iraq war.

"Babaii was completing his course in the United States where he was living with a roommate for several months. His final license was not approved by his senior since his roommate had reported Babaii was having mental problem. According to his roommate Babaii talked loudly to himself or used to do some unusual actions of getting up and standing in specific times of the day. (He was actually praying).

"Once his senior noticed Babaii was praying and asked him about that and he replied this is a kind of worshipping like what you do at church. This was interesting for his senior and then approved his license," Samadi told MNA.

"We are planning to shoot these scenes in the United States. Of course we are facing shortage of budget. The budget allocated by the Martyrs Foundation was spent on the decoration of the stage in Iran and we are intending to attract more financial supports to continue the project.

"We also negotiated with a foreign Company in the United States but did not come to an agreement because of high amount of money it required. We are forced to shoot parts of these scenes in Spain, but that would not be exactly what we have in mind.

"Half of the shooting process in over, we are in Qazvin now and will head to Tehran next week. We will continue in Busher, Dezful, Isfhan, Ahvaz and Hamedan," he explained.

Abbas Babaii was born in 1950 in Qazvin. He finished his studies in Qazvin and graduated from Iran's Pilot Training College. He was then transferred to the United States to accomplish further studies. He was an active participant in the war and was martyred on August 6, 1987.

Iran's best actor in previous edition of Fajr Film Festival Shahab Hosseini is playing the role of Babaii. Elham Hamidi, Setareh Eskandari, Afsaneh Baygan, Mina Jafarzadeh, Mehran Rajabi, Kurosh Tahami, and the three children of the martyr, Salma, Hossein, and Mohammad, are among the cast members.