

YOUNG READERS 4

(AS)  
MAULA ABBAS  
SAKINA HASAN ASKARI



حکرو

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The name of Hadhrat Abbas (AS) shines in history as an example of loyalty, courage and faith. The most excellent among all martyrs, he stands out as the most outstanding figure with Imam Hussain (AS) on the day of Ashoora in Karbala.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had foretold about the birth of this brave son of Ali (AS). Bibi Fatima (AS) had prayed for Hadhrat Abbas (AS) when she had learnt about her son Hussain's destiny. She had said to her father " O my father, the hands of my son Abbas will be enough for shifaat for Shias on the Day of Qiamat."

Just as his father Ali (AS) was a shield for the holy Prophet, Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was the protector and defender of Imam Husain's (AS) household in Karbala. Imam Hussain (AS) said: "You are the holder of my standard (alam), the commander of my army."

Our 4th Imam ZainulAbideen (AS) said: "May Allah have mercy upon my uncle al-Abbas, who sacrificed himself for his brother until he lost his two hands. Allah will give him two wings with which he will fly with the angels in Paradise like Jafar e Tayyar."

Our 6th Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS), said: "My uncle Abbas was clear-sighted and firm in faith." He was utterly loyal to Imam Hussain (AS).

Our 12th Imam Mahdi(AS) said:

"Salams be upon Abul Fazl Abbas, son of Ameerul momineen. He sacrificed himself for his brother, protected him, hurried to fetch water, till his two arms were cut."

Hadhrat Ummul Baneen (AS) wept for her son and said: "I hear that his head was struck after his arms were cut O my Lord, when my son fell off his horse, how did he dismount?"

She cried imagining how hard it must have been for Hadhrat Abbas (AS), falling from the horse, when he had no arms to support him as he fell.

Allah in the Holy Quran tells us how the prophet Yaqub (AS) wept when he was separated from his son Yusuf (AS). Grief is natural if you lose someone special. Our holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) himself mourned when Hadhrat Hamza and later Hadhrat Jafar e Tayyar were martyred. He had foretold what would happen in Karbala to his wife Umme Salma.

Each of the 12 Imams have taught us to remember Imam Hussain (AS) not only during the month of Muharram but throughout the year. Karbala is the struggle of Good vs Evil, Justice against Oppression.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) stood firm to establish the Truth, ready to give up his life. We must always remember Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala who gave up their lives with Imam Hussain (AS).

# Chapter 2

## Titles

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) has many titles describing his high position and virtues. Sani e Hyder: The brave son of a brave father, he is known as the second Hyder. He protected the Imam just as his father protected the Holy Prophet(SAW).

**Bab ul Hussain:** Anyone who wished to approach Imam Hussain (AS) needs to go through Hadhrat Abbas. When you go for ziarat, you are asked to visit the tomb of Hadhrat Abbas (AS) before approaching the zareeh of Imam Hussain (AS). You will see that the tent of Abbas is right at the entrance of the Khaima gaah.

**Abul Fazl:** the father of his son Fazl, the title also points to his many virtues. He was full of courage. He was very brave and loyal.

**Alamdardar:** He was given the banner of Islam in Karbala by Imam Hussain (AS). Holding the standard in wars is a very special and important position. He showed such bravery in this role that he held it high even though his arms were cut. In the court of Yazeed, they saw that the standard had been stabbed at every place except its handle. This showed that Hadhrat Abbas (AS) had defended it so well that he took all the attacks but had not let it go.

**Saqqa e Sakina:** reminds us that he went to fetch water for the thirsty children. Everyone, especially Bibi Sakina looked up to him to quench their thirst. Bibi Sakina (AS) had handed him her waterbag as he had left the tent for the last time.

**Shaheed:** He was martyred in Karbala, by the river, killed in the way of Allah, protecting Islam. He has been called **Afzal-u-Shohada**, the leader of all the martyrs.

**As the Kebsh ul-Kateeba:** (the commander), he protected and managed the troops.

**Hami az-Zhaeen:** He guarded the Hussaini camp and spent the night keeping awake, so no one could harm the household of the Prophet.

In a family, known for its beauty and nobility, he was so handsome that every one called him Qamar e Bani Hashim. the moon of the tribe of Bani Hashim. He was tall and strong. He was a mighty horseman. His forehead showed marks of sajda on his bright face. His worship of Allah is recognised by his titles of Aabid and Abd e Saleh, a righteous servant.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) is the door where desires are fulfilled; he is Bab ul-Hawaaij. He enjoys a special rank in the sight of Almighty Allah and when we ask for our needs through his waseela, our duas are accepted.

# Chapter 3

## Family Tree

Hadhrat Abul Fazl Abbas (AS) was the son of Imam Ali (AS) and Fatima Kelabia, known as Ummul Baneen. He inherited valour and courage from both sides of the family.

His paternal grandfather Hadhrat Abu Talib (AS) was a keen supporter of the Holy Prophet. His uncles Hamza and Jaffar e Tayyar had given up their lives defending Islam against enemies. His uncles Aqeel and Talib were full of knowledge and good qualities.

His father Imam Ali's (AS) merits are such that no one can count them. He was excellent in every way: knowledge, piety, courage, patience, morals and eloquence. He was the first in Islam and the foremost in every good deed. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said "Ali and I belong to the same tree while people belong to different trees."

His mother was Fatima Kelabia, known as Ummul Baneen. Many years after the sad martyrdom of Bibi Fatima (AS), it was her name that was suggested by Hadhrat Aqeel when Imam Ali (AS) asked him to suggest a name of a lady he could marry who would give birth to brave and noble sons. Her father was Hizam and her mother was called Layla, who both belonged to the tribe of Kelab. This tribe was known not only in Arabia, but as far away as Rome; for its valour, horsemanship and bravery.

The proposal was accepted as a great honour and the marriage took place in 25 A. H. Hadhrat Umm-ul-Baneen was aware of the high status of Bibi Fatima (AS), the Chief of the women of Paradise. When she entered the house of Imam Ali (AS) she was ready to serve him in the same manner as

Hadhrat Umm-e-Salma had served the Holy Prophet (SAW) after the wafat of Hadhrat Khadija (AS).

Immediately after stepping into the house, she kissed the threshold, and said to Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Husain (AS) "You are the children of my Lady Fatima. I come here not as your mother but as her servant to serve you." She was aware that loving them was a part of faith, the very essence of her duty. They in return treated her with great respect.

She requested that in respect for the children's feelings for their mother not to call her "Fatima". She was given the name Ummul Baneen, meaning the mother of sons. She bore the Commander of the Faithful four sons: Abbas, Abdullah, Usman and Jafar.

She loved the children of her lady, Bibi Fatima (AS) more than she loved her own children. She trained all her sons to keep the love of the Ahlul bayt foremost in their thoughts.

# Chapter 4

## Birth

Imam Ali (AS) had prayed for a son who would help Hussain to save Islam. Allah answered his dua and Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was born on the 4th of Shaban 26 A.H. in Madina.

When his father Imam Ali (AS) was told the good news, he immediately went into sajda to thank Allah. Then he took the baby in his arms and recited the azaan in the baby's right ear and iqamat in his left.

There was great joy and happiness in the family. Imam Ali (AS) named the baby "Abbas". It is given to one who is strong, fearless and brave. One of the meanings of Abbas is a lion that other lions fear. The name itself shows the majesty of this great personality.

The children of Bibi Fatima (AS) celebrated and one by one they held the baby in their arms. Hadhrat Ummul Baneen saw that the baby had not yet opened his eyes.

When Imam Husain (AS) came forward and took him, Hadrat Abbas (AS) opened his eyes for the first time. This was exactly what Imam Ali (AS) had done as a baby, opening his eyes for the very first time in the arms of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

The special bond between Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and Imam Hussain (AS) remained throughout their lives. Just as Imam Ali (AS) was always ready to serve the Holy Prophet, Hadhrat Abbas was like a shadow for Imam Hussain (AS). He called him his Syed wa Maula (my Chief and my Master).

On the seventh day of the birth, following the tradition of the Prophet, a goat was sacrificed when the aqeeqa was performed

and the hair was shaved off the baby's head. Alms were given in charity.

Ummul Baneen took him in her arms saw how beautiful he looked, the "moon of Bani Hashim" and prayed: "

I seek the guard of the One (Allah) for him From the eye of every envious Including the risings and the sitters The Muslims and the unbelievers The comers and the goers And sons and fathers. One day, she saw Imam Ali (AS) with Hadhrat Abbas (AS) on his father's lap.

What she saw next, amazed her. The Imam took the baby's arms and started to kiss them again and again, while tears flowed from his eyes.

"Why are you crying, my Maula?" she asked.

Imam Ali (AS) said "these arms would be cut in the field of Karbala on the day of Ashoor."

She started to weep.

# Chapter 5

## Childhood and Youth

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) grew up under the guidance of the Imams. His father Imam Ali (AS) trained him to regard his brothers as his masters: "Abbas, you are my son but remember that Hasan and Hussain are the sons of the Prophet(SAW)." He gained knowledge and noble traits directly from them.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) loved his brother Imam Husain (AS) very much. He always called him his master and wanted to be the first to serve him. As a child, he would always follow his brother Hussain (AS) everywhere; and people saw him pick up the dust from his Master's footsteps and put it on his own eyes.

During his childhood, from 26 A.H. to 36A.H. , he saw how his father Imam Ali was not given his rights and was leading a quiet life. Muawiya was made the governor of Syria. People were being oppressed and anyone who was the supporter of the Ahlul bayt was made to suffer. Even famous pious companions of the Prophet, like Abuzar Ghaffari, were sent out of Madina. The rules of Islam were getting changed and money was in the hands of a few. When the third Khalif Usman was killed, people came to Imam Ali (AS) and requested him to become their leader. Imam Ali (AS) became the head of the Muslim state. He transferred the capital from Madina to Koofa.

One day Imam Ali (AS) was sitting in the Masjid of Koofa with his sons and companions. Imam Hussain (AS) was thirsty. Qambar (Imam Ali's slave) was asked to bring water for Imam Husain.

Before Qambar could go to bring the water, the young Abbas (AS), who was there, said, "I will bring the water for my Master

myself." He ran and soon returned carrying the water on his head. The water spilled over.

When Imam Ali (AS) saw this, his eyes welled up with tears. When people asked why he was crying, he said "I foresee a day when Husain and his family will be thirsty and Abbas will be drenched not with water but his own blood, while trying to get water for Hussain."

Imam Ali (AS) had to fight three battles against the rebels who were creating mischief in the state. In the Battle of Siffeen in 37 A.H., Muawiya the governor of Syria attacked the army of Imam Ali (AS).

A fierce battle was fought in Raqqa, a place near the Euphrates River. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was only eleven years old but took active part in the battle. He was so tall that he entered the battlefield wearing his father's armour.

When the enemies blocked water to the camp of the Muslims, Hadhrat Abbas (AS) entered the battlefield with a veil on his face to hide his true identity. Muawiyah ordered one of his powerful men Abu Shasa to face him. But the Syrian boasted, "People compare my bravery to a 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. Then Abu Shasa, fuming with rage, swallowed his proud words and personally entered the battlefield seeking to avenge the death of his sons.

But eleven year old Hadhrat Abbas (AS) defeated him. He fought so bravely and was so fast in his attack that Muawiya's soldiers mistook him for his father Ali. However, Imam Ali (AS) himself soon appeared on the battlefield. They were confused.

"Who is the other horseman?" "He is Abbas! The moon of Bani-Hashim." Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was only fourteen years old when he lost his dear father. Imam Ali (AS) was attacked with a poisoned sword on the 19th day of the month of Ramadhan, 40 A.H.

Imam Ali (AS) called all his children to bid them farewell. He gave his son Abbas in the special care of Hussain. He

advised Abbas, "Serve Hussain as your Lord and Master. Help him when he is surrounded by enemies in Karbala."

# Chapter 6

## Manhood

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) remained close to his two brothers; Imam Hasan (AS) and Imam Hussain (AS). He returned with them to Madina. The next ten years of his life he spent with Imam Hasan (AS) from whom he learnt patience and tolerance. Loyalty and self sacrifice he gained from his sisters Bibi Zainab (AS) and Bibi Kulsoom (AS). He served his brother Hussain (AS), who he looked up to as his Master and Lord.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) obeyed the Imam totally for he realised that obeying the Imam was obeying Allah and the Prophet. His every action showed piety and sincerity. His courtesy shone as he showed himself to be a model of faith and sincerity.

He was chivalrous and full of virtue. He had mercy for the weak and put the needs of others before his own. Together with his brothers, he fed many of the hungry people in Makkah and Madina. He was an example of spirituality. The mark of sajda was seen on his forehead. He never missed Tahajjud prayers.

During the time of Imam Hasan (AS), the Bani Ummaya increased their cruelty towards the family of the Prophet and their followers. False hadees were spread. Imam Ali (AS) was cursed by the Umayyads. Bloodshed of Shias continued. Imam Hasan (AS) made a treaty with Muawiya to avoid further destruction of the Umma. The Imam used the pen instead of the sword to lift the mask from the face of those who were destroying the fabric of Islam. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) supported the Imam and accepted his decision without question.

His faith was deep, a true Muslim, submitted totally to the will of the Almighty Allah.

In 50 A.H. Imam Hasan (AS) was poisoned. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and his brave brothers had to be very patient as they saw arrows being aimed at Imam Hasan's coffin. Now there was only Imam Hussain (AS) left from the Panjatan e Paak. Hujr ibn Adi (a pious companion of the Holy Prophet) was martyred in Damascus.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) witnessed these heart-breaking days. He learned to be patient in the face of difficulties. He never spoke a word in anger and always showed great tolerance, accepting the trials. He was loyal to Islam and was ready to face every danger to uphold the true word of Allah.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) married Lubaba, the daughter of Ibn Abbas, son of Abdul Mutallib. Ibn Abbas was a tradition narrator, Quran commentator and a student of Imam Ali (AS). The spiritual and mental character of this lady was formed at the house of her father and she was adorned with knowledge, piety and courtesy. They had three sons: Fazl, Qasim, Ubaidullah.

Hadhrat Lubaba was a constant support and was with Hadhrat Abbas (AS) in Karbala. After his martyrdom on the day of Ashoor, she was among the ladies of the Ahlul Bayt who were taken as prisoners to Koofa and Shaam. She returned to Madina when they were released.

# Chapter 7

## Leaving Madina

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had arrived in Madina, from Makkah. The message of Islam had spread and thousands had become Muslims. Now, 60 years later, his grandson Imam Hussain (AS) was leaving the city and going to Makkah, seeking shelter there.

Before his death, Muawiya appointed his son Yazeed as the ruler after him. Yazeed was wicked and cruel. He had no belief in Islam and openly broke all its rules. When Muawiya died on 22 Rajab 60 A.H., Yazeed sent a letter to Waleed, his governor of Madina, asking him to summon Imam Hussain (AS) to take his oath of support:(Bayat). This would have meant agreeing to all that Yazeed said and did.

Yazeed who openly mocked Islam was demanding the grandson of the Holy Prophet to agree to everything unIslamic. This was impossible.

Waleed called for Marwan ibn Hakam. They sent for Imam Hussain (AS) late in the night. The Imam, accompanied by his brother Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and 17 other young men of his family went to see Waleed. Imam Hussain (AS) went inside, while the others stood by the door.

Waleed read out Yazeed's message. The Imam said "A person like me would never accept the bayyat of a person like Yazeed". He added that he would reply to the message in public and rose up to leave. Marwan said to Waleed "Do not let Hussain go from here."

The Imam raised his voice. At once, hearing the voice of Imam Hussain (AS) the young Hashmi men at the door, led by Hadhrat Abbas (AS), burst in, ready to protect the Imam.

Imam Hussain (AS) came out from Waleed's house, knowing that it would now be impossible to live in Madina. He knew he had to protect the message of Islam, come what may. He could not remain silent. He had to oppose the forces of evil. Imam Hussain (AS) decided to leave the city of his grandfather and go to Makkah with all his family, including the women and children.

### **Hadhrat Ummul Baneen's Farewell**

The next day, the Imam prepared to leave Madina. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was in charge of all the arrangements. Hadhrat Ummul Baneen, his dear mother, called all her four sons (Abbas, Abdullah, Jafar and Uthman) and said to them, "My sons you must remember that Imam Hussain (AS) is your Master. If the Imam or his sisters or his children get hurt while you are still alive, I will never forgive you." There were tears in Abbas's eyes as he promised his mother that he and his brothers would lay down their lives for Imam Hussain (AS) and his children.

Camels with canopies and horses were made ready for the long journey ahead. The ladies of the Holy Household were helped to mount the animals by their sons and brothers.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and Imam Hussain (AS) himself came forward to help Bibi Zainab (AS) and Umme Kulsoom (AS), the daughters of Bibi Fatima (AS). As the time came for Imam Hussain (AS) to mount his horse, Hadhrat Abbas (AS) brought the horse for his Master and held the stirrup of the saddle. Travelling through the desert was full of difficulties. The roads were rough and the weather was hot. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) would ride up and down to keep a constant watch over the caravan and made sure that the holy family of the Ahlul Bayt were safe.

# Chapter 8

## Journey to Karbala

Imam Hussain (AS) stayed in Makkah from the month of Shaban till Zilhij. During this time, he received thousands of letters from the people of Koofa inviting him to Iraq. He sent his cousin Hadhrat Muslim Ibn Aqeel(AS) to Koofa.

As people started to enter Makkah for Hajj, Yazeed sent spies dressed as Hajjis to kill the Imam. To avoid bloodshed in the holy city, Imam Hussain (AS) and his entire family had to set out, leaving Makkah on 8th Zilhij.

This was the last journey of the Imam and the Holy Household as they went towards Koofa. At the head of the caravan, rode Hadhrat Abbas (AS) carrying the alam, the banner of Islam. He accompanied Imam Hussain (AS) the grandson of the Holy Prophet. Then came the camels carrying the ladies and children of the Holy Household. Behind them rode the young men of the Bani Hashim: Ali Akbar, Qasim, Aun o Muhammad and the sons of Ummul Baneen.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) made sure that the children and ladies were comfortable. The weather was hot and the road was rough. He would serve water to everyone specially his four year old niece Sakina, the beloved daughter of Imam Hussain(AS).

On their way they had to cross the desert, going north from Makkah. The map shows 14 stops that were made on the way.

1. Sifah
2. Dhat al Irq
3. Batn er Rumma
4. Zarood
5. Zabala

6. Batn e Aqeeq
7. Sorat
8. Sharaf
9. Dhu Hashm
10. Baidha
11. Uzaibul Hajanat
12. Qasr Bani Maqatil
13. Nainawa
14. Karbala

During the journey, they would halt for the night. They met two travellers who brought news that Hadhrat Muslim (AS) had been brutally killed by Ibn Ziyad in Koofa. The family of The Holy Prophet (SAW) wept in grief. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and his brothers tried even harder to protect the Imam and his family from now on.

At the halt called Sharaf, Imam Hussain (AS) asked his brother Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and the other youth in his caravan to store as much water as they could.

When Hurr, as commander of 1000 Yazeedi soldiers approached, he and his army were all nearly dying of thirst as they had run out of water. They had been sent to capture the Imam but now having run out of water were themselves dying from thirst.

Imam Hussain (AS) called Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and asked him to make sure that all the thirsty men were given plenty of water to drink. Even horses and other animals were helped to quench their thirst in the hot desert. Hurr then told the Imam that he had come with orders that he must take the Imam to Ibn Ziyad (Yazeed's governor in Koofa). If that was not possible, then he had to choose a way neither towards Koofa nor Madina. Hurr had been given orders not to leave the Imam. The caravan now headed towards Karbala.

# Chapter 9

## **In Karbala**

Imam Hussain (AS) reached Karbala on the 2nd day of Muharram 61 A.H. He took out some soil he had with him that had been brought by the angel Jibrael to his grandfather, the Holy Prophet. He looked at the soil of the land and it was exactly the same. "This is the very land Jibrael told my grandfather the Holy Prophet about. Our blood will be shed here, our children will be killed here."

He called Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and asked him to set up the tents. A place near the banks of the river Furat (Euphrates) was chosen and tents were pitched near the riverbank, at the very place where now stands the Muqam e Sahib al Asr in Karbala. Hurr informed Ibn Ziyad that the Imam had reached Karbala.

Umar Saad, sent by Ibn Ziyad, arrived in Karbala with thousands of troops, on the 4th day of Muharram. He demanded that Imam Hussain's camp be moved away from the riverbank.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was angry at the total disregard for the rights of the Holy Household but Imam Hussain (AS) advised patience and Hadhrat Abbas (AS) obeyed without question. The hands that had set up the tents by the river bank now moved the tents away and put them up in the burning desert.

More and more Yazeedi soldiers were sent and the river bank was blocked off from the Imam. Soon he was completely surrounded by the enemy. Orders came from Ibn Ziyad that no one from the camp of Imam Hussain (AS) be allowed water.

By the 7th of Muharram there was no water left in the Husaini camp even for the young children "Al Atash Al atash We are thirsty! We are thirsty!" cried the children in the heat

of the desert, but no water was given. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) tried to dig a well. It is difficult to imagine how hard it must have been to dig the hard ground in the heat of the desert while being thirsty yourself. But no water was found.

An attempt was made to get some water but as the water bag was brought, the children fell on it, the water drained into the hot sand. The thirsty children remained thirsty.

By the 9th of Muharram Umar ibn Saad decided to advance against the Imam. But before that Shimr tried to weaken the Imam further by bringing a letter of security for Hadhrat Abbas and his brothers if they left the Imam.

### **Letter of Security for the Sons of Ummi Baneen**

Shimr stood in front of the followers of Husain (AS) and shouted, "Where are my sister's sons?" he demanded. Hadhrat Abbas (AS), Jafar, Abd Allah and Uthman, sons of Imam Ali (AS) and Hadhrat Ummul Baneen came forward.

"What do you want?" they asked.

"Come to me, for you all are under protection, do not kill yourselves along with your brother. Sons of my sister, you are guaranteed security," Shimr said. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) rejected the offer saying, "The security and protection of Allah is enough for us. Should we desert our Master and Chief and enter your security? May Allah curse you and curse the security which you offer without offering it to the son of Rasool Allah."

Zohair ibn Qain wanted to speak to Hadhrat Abbas on his own and said, "O Abbas, your father had asked Allah for a son like you to help Hussain in Karbala!" They were both on horseback, keeping guard on the camp. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) stood up in his stirrups and said "Are you reminding me! O Zuhair! By Allah, I will show such gallantry and strength against the enemy tomorrow as you have never seen"

Umar ibn Saad, the commander of Yazeed's army, now ordered his troops to attack the Hussaini camp.

When Imam Hussain (AS) heard them coming, he turned to Hadhrat Abbas (AS) and said "Brother, may my life be sacrificed for you, ride on your horse and ask them why they have come."

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) went towards them with about twenty horsemen. He asked. "What do you want?" They answered "The command of the governor of Koofa, Ibn Ziyad is that either you submit or we attack you,"

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) drew a line on the sand and said "Don't move or step over this line, until I have gone back to Imam Hussain (AS) and given your message."

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was held in such awe that the entire army stopped and accepted what he said. He went galloping back and told Imam Hussain (AS) what the enemy had said; while his companions remained to dissuade them from fighting. Imam Hussain (AS), said" Go back to them, and if you can, delay them until the morning so that we may be able to pray to our Lord during the night.

A night's delay in the fight was agreed and the battle postponed to the next morning.

# Chapter 10

## Shab e Ashoor

The sun set over Karbala. Darkness spread. Maghrib and Isha prayers were offered.

Imam Hussain (AS) spoke to everyone and praised them for being sincere and loyal. He told them they could leave if they wanted. Each of them could take a member of his family and disperse. But no one wanted to leave. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was the first to declare his loyalty to the Imam.

“Do you want us to leave so we live after you. May Allah never let us see such a day.” He would never leave the Imam. One by one each declared he would give up his life for Hussain (AS).

The night passed. It was a night radiant with tears. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) joined the Imam for salat ul Layl. Everyone gathered to recite the Quran and spent time in dua, seeking the mercy and pleasure of the Creator.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) gathered the Bani Hashim and encouraged each of them to fight for Islam and get ready for sacrifice. He had taught fencing to his nephews and would see them in action soon.

But during the night they first dug a trench round the camp and lit a fire in it so that they could not be attacked from behind. The tents of the companions were moved closer. The front of the camp had the tent of Hadhrat Abbas which had to be crossed, if anyone dared to attack Imam Hussain (AS) or his family.

The Imam and Hadhrat Abbas (AS) then went round the tents.

They saw how the companions like Habeeb ibn Mazahir and Muslim ibn Ausaja were telling their friends they should be

the first to die for the Imam. They saw how each lady sat with her son and were advising them to be the first to give up their life for Hussain (AS). Umm Farwa was with Qasim and Bibi Zainab encouraged Aun o Muhammad. But as Hadhrat Abbas (AS) approached Umm Kulsoom's tent he saw that she was sobbing and weeping. He asked "Why are you crying so much?"

Umm Kulsoom (AS) replied, "O Abbas tomorrow all the ladies of the household have someone to fight for Hussain. I have no children to help my brother. "

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) said, "Do not cry. O my sister, I will be your sacrifice."

The thirsty and hungry children were put to sleep with great difficulty. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) kept watch over the camp and did not sleep so that the ladies of the Holy household could, knowing that he was guarding them.

# Chapter 11

## Carrying the Alam

The night passed into morning. It was time for Fajr. Imam Hussain (AS) asked his 18 year old son Hadhrat Ali Akbar (AS) to call out the azan. His voice, which resembled the Holy Prophet's, rang out in the desert air. As the prayer finished, a hail of arrows from Umar Saad fell into the camp.

The Imam divided his men into three sections. Zuhair ibn Qain was in charge of the right flank; Habeeb ibn Mazahir was in charge of the left. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was in the centre, holding the banner of Islam. He was the standard bearer, the alamdar.

Carrying the alam was a great honour for it stood as the symbol of success. Imam Ali (AS) had advised that the flag be given to one who was brave and experienced, who can keep the flag raised against very heavy odds so that they keep up the prestige and the courage of the army.

The Holy Prophet had given the flag of Islam to Imam Ali (AS) in the Battles of Badr, Uhud, Khandaq Khyber and Hunayn. He had spelled out the qualities needed to bring success; love for Allah and the Prophet and loved by Allah and His Prophet; one who would be brave and not run away from battle.

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) inherited the bravery of his father and brought all the excellent qualities that are required to being the standard bearer. Indeed Hadhrat Abbas (AS) took it to perfection and now the title Alamdar brings to mind not the other famous holders of the alam in the history of Islam, but the name of Hadhrat Abbas (AS).

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) not only carried the alam, but was the Imam's strength and support in every way. His presence

kept up the morale of the ladies and children when they were in distress. He went to help the companions when they were surrounded by the Yazeedi forces and called for help. He prevented Umar Saad's soldiers from setting fire to the tents. He had taught fencing and the art of combat to his young nephews and he encouraged the youths of Bani Hashim as they fought against the enemy. He was a great warrior and though he fell in battle he is still remembered as Ghazi, a term used for warriors who return successful.

In the history of Islam we find three noble standard bearers who sacrificed their arms before being martyred:

Hadhrat Musayb ibn Umair in the Battle of Uhud,

Hadhrat Jafar e Tayyar in the Battle of Mauta

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) in Karbala.

# Chapter 12

## **Sons of my Mother**

The Yazeedi army under Umar ibn Saad started the attack on Imam Hussain (AS) and his followers. By the time of Zuhr, all the companions of the Imam had been killed. Habeeb had been killed; Zuhair ibn Qayn was no longer alive. Saeed stood facing a rain of arrows as Imam led the prayer. It was time for the Bani Hashim to give up their lives to save Islam. The sons of Hadhrat Aqeel gave up their lives in the way of Allah.

When Hadhrat Abbas (AS) saw the death toll mounting amongst members of his family, he said to his brothers, Abdullah, Usman and Ja'far, "O Sons of my mother! Go forward to meet the enemy so that I may bear witness that you kept your covenant with Allah and His Apostle. May my life be your ransom! Help my Maula Hussain and give up your life. Go ahead so I can face your loss with patience.

Calling his brothers by the words "Sons of my mother", perhaps Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was reminding his brothers of their mother's last words of advice as they left Madina, telling them they must sacrifice their life for Hussain.

It was the custom that each soldier would recite lines to say who he was. This was called rajs. We find that as the brave sons of Ummul Baneen rode out, they proudly identified that they were the sons of Imam Ali (AS) and were fighting to defend Imam Hussain AS on the day of Ashoor.

Abdullah was only 8 years old when his father Imam Ali (AS) had been martyred in Masjid e Koofa. Abdullah was now 28 years old. This brave son of Ummul Baneen rode out into the battlefield, saying,

I am the son of the excellent one, Ali, the sword of Rasool Allah,

My master is Ali, owner of great honour, from Bani Hashim, having great value and generosity.

This is Husain, son of the Messenger Prophet whom I defend with a sharpened sword. May my life be sacrificed for him. What a brother!

In these words he showed his sense of pride to be the son of Ali. He declared his love for Imam Hussain. He was fighting for the sake of Allah and the hereafter. He fought fiercely, a hero of the field of Karbala, but was struck by the enemy from the front and behind. Alas, Abdullah was killed by Hani ibn Shabth Hadhrami, (may Allah curse him).

Usman ibn Ameerulmomineen was the next to go. He was only 25 years old. He had been named after Usman ibn Mazoon, the first companion of the Holy Prophet to be buried in Jannatul Bagee in Madina. He entered the battlefield reciting:

I am Usman, my Master is Ali whose actions were pure He was the brother of the Prophet the Leader of all those present or absent.

He fought against the army of Umar Saad. An arrow brought him down from his horse and he fell. A man from the tribe of Bani Aban bin Darim killed him. May Allah curse the enemies of Imam Hussain and his companions.

The youngest son of Imam Ali (AS) was named Jafar after Jafar e Tayyar. He was only 21 years old in Karbala. He was next to come to the battlefield to seek nearness to Allah. He declared:

I am Jafar of a high rank and degree The son of Ali the best of men The wasi of the Prophet Enough for me is my uncle Jafar and my maternal uncle I come to defend Hussain, the possessor of generosity He fought bravely but was attacked and killed. He fell after Khawli Asbahi shot an arrow that pierced his temple and his eye. Hani bin Sabeet attacked him and killed him.

Hadhrat Abbas was so brave that like Bibi Zainab (AS) he too thanked Allah for accepting the sacrifice of his brothers. They had proved themselves worthy, giving their lives for the Imam. He now sent his young sons to the battlefield.

He called his son Fazl, kissed him on his forehead and sent him to Imam Hussain (AS) to seek permission to go to battle. Fazl was given permission and rode out boldly, reciting

I have decided however many you may be, it will not affect me You are the worst of men on Earth Shortly I will scatter you Separate your heads from your bodies

He made a fierce attack and killed many. The Yazeedi army saw that the youth was so brave and surrounded him. He was attacked by a sword and fell from his horse. He called for help to the Imam as he fell. The Imam wept as he came to his nephew and carried him lifeless to the camp.

When Qasim, the son of Abbas saw his brother killed, he was full of rage and went into the battlefield saying,

Enemies, beware Here comes the slave of the Prophet, A mujahid of Islam

He fought bravely, returned to the camp. He asked for water and the Imam replied, "Your grandfather Ali will quench your thirst." Qasim returned to the battlefield and was killed.

The three sons and the grandsons of Hadhrat Ummul Baneen (AS) were buried in the Ganj e Shaheedaan with the other Martyrs of Karbala. They are among those martyrs who were praised by Imam Hussain (AS) when he said "I do not know of followers more faithful than my followers nor a family more pious and generous than my family." These words show his esteem and love for them.

Each one of them had suffered hunger and thirst with the Imam. They had each listened, during the Night of Ashoor, to his plea to leave him and go to save their life; but had not left. Instead they had laid down their lives to save the message of Islam.

Our salams to the supporters of Allah, who did not surrender until they met Allah on the path of Truth.

# Chapter 13

## Last Farewell

### **Permit me to fight for you**

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) saw his brothers, nephews and sons lying on the sands of Karbala. He was restless to join them. He saw the Imam surrounded by the enemies, keen to kill him. He heard the cries of the ladies as they wept for their loved ones. He saw young children crying al atash as there was no water. "Let me go to the battlefield my Imam", pleaded Hadhrat Abbas (AS) again and again. "Do you permit me?"

As long as Abbas was by him, Imam Hussain (AS) felt strong and powerful. As long as the alam fluttered, the ladies of the holy household felt safe. The Imam wept and said "O dear brother! You are my flag-bearer, the captain of my army. How can I permit you to go?" Hadhrat Abbas (AS) looked right and then left. He asked, "Where is the army O my Imam of whose captain I am?" He heard the cries of the children, "Alatash Alatash, We're thirsty we are thirsty." He saw their dry lips and their weak limbs. He was so moved at the sight, he said, "My chest hurts and I am tired of life. I want to avenge the blood of the martyrs from these hypocrites."

Imam Hussain (AS) said to his brother "If you have to go then bring water for these children." The Imam knew that if he let Abbas go and fight, the enemy would be defeated totally. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) called his four year old niece Sakina and said, "Sakina bring me a mashk, a waterbag, so I can bring you some water."

When she brought the mashk, he tied the mashk to the alam and bid farewell.

As he left, there was loud wailing. Imam Hussain (AS) said "Now the eyes that used to sleep will be awake and the

eyes that were awake will sleep.” The Ahlul bayt were confident of being protected while Abbas was among them, but now he was going! The enemies that were in awe of him will get bolder in their cruelty towards the Imam. Bibi Zainab (AS) looked at her arms and said Sadaqa Abi (My father’s words are true). She knew that the time when her arms would be tied was near. The ladies cried “Wa Abbasa! Wa Ghurbata.”

# Chapter 14

## Martyrdom

Hadhrat Abbas (AS) rode out, holding the alam in one hand and armed only with a spear. He faced the Yazeedi army who were aware of his strength, his valour, his reputation as a warrior. They recalled he had rejected the offer of security in spite of three days thirst. They knew how he had with a few men taken possession of the river bank only a few days before. He had come right into the thick of battle only an hour earlier to rescue the companions who had fallen.

It was a huge army. At least 30000 soldiers, more than 90000 according to some. Umar Saad placed 4000 troops on the bank of the river. They were archers ready to shoot arrows at any one who came. Thousands more blocked the path towards the river. The brave son of Ali (AS) now warned them of Allah's punishment Are you kafir or Muslim? In your faith, is it all right for dogs and swine to drink water But you deny water to Hussain and his children?

Are you not aware of the thirst you will suffer on the day of Qiyamat? This is son of the Saqi e Kausar But they would not listen to his words. He was so brave that he stood firm like a mountain facing their archers. He did not tremble nor did he fear and said, "I do not fear death even if it comes upon me".

I am Abbas who loves the Imam

My father is Ali Murtuza, who has been supported by Allah Himself Hadhrat Abbas (AS) galloped at great speed towards the river, moving any one who came in his way. It was amazing that armed only with a spear he was able to move through thousands of archers to reach the river. He looked at the water and said "

O self! After Husain you are nothing and after him there is nothing. Husain is going towards death while you would drink cool water? By Allah, this Abbas cannot do.

Filling his palm with water was to announce to the enemies that the water, which they had held back from them, was very easy for him to conquer. He did this perhaps to instill fear in their hearts. He was very thirsty himself but did not drink any water, knowing that Imam Hussain and the children were still thirsty.

Even his horse turned away, not sipping a drop. The horse Hadhrat Abbas rode on was called Murtajis, which means thunder. He carried the mashk on his right shoulder, mounted Murtajis and moved towards the tent.

The Yazeedi army that had fled now blocked his way again. Umar Saad shouted "Do not let water reach Hussain." They surrounded Abbas from all sides.

Carrying the water to the camp of Hussain was more precious than his own life. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) said, "

I do not fear death even when it calls out to me", My life is ransom for the one who is the life of Mustafa, Indeed, I am Abbas the one who fetches water, I have no fear on the day of battle".

He scattered the forces, but as he was going back, a wicked Yazeedi soldier called Zayd ibn Warqa Jahni, hid behind a tree and struck his right hand.

The blow was so hard that Hadhrat Abbas lost his right hand. Losing his right arm did not stop Abbas. He took the alam in his left hand, saying, "By Allah ! Although you have severed my right hand,

I shall keep defending my Religion .And the Truthful Imam, who is the son of the Pure and Trustworthy Prophet"

They attacked him again and cut his left hand. Then they started to shoot arrows. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) had only one aim now: to protect the mashk and somehow take it to Sakina. He galloped fast towards the tent, bending down with the belt of the mashk in his teeth and the alam between him and the horse. Such was his loyalty that his own loss of blood, or his pain or severity of wounds did not affect his aim.

The Yazeedi army now attacked him with a rain of arrows. Alas, an arrow pierced the mashk and the water drained out into the hot sand. The loss of water broke his spirit. All his hopes were lost. He turned his horse away.

His head was hit by an iron mace and he fell from his horse. How he came down when he had no hands to support his fall, we can only imagine. A spear was thrown on his chest. An arrow pierced his eye. He called his brother and Imam "My last salams to you O Aba Abdullah." Hearing this cry, Imam Hussain rushed to his brother. He bent down and picked up the severed hands of Abbas (AS).

Imam Hussain (AS) reached Abbas who lay on the sand so wounded that he was drenched in blood. He sat by his brother, hugged him and cleaned the blood from his eyes. Hadhrat Abbas made a last request, "Maula do not take my body back to the qaima." Hadhrat Abbas (AS) looked at his brother for the last time and closed his eyes for ever.

Imam Hussain (AS) wept, kissed his brother and said: "Alas, my back has broken and my strength is gone!" Then Imam Hussain took the alam soaked with blood with the mashk and went back to the camp.

Sakina was waiting by the door. She asked "Where is my uncle Abbas?" There was loud wailing and weeping in the camp as Sakina and the thirsty children gathered round the alam, saying "Wa Abbasa, wa Shaheeda." Bibi Zainab (AS) cried "O my brother! After you, we are helpless".

Soon, the holy family of the Prophet was left utterly helpless as Imam Hussain (AS) himself faced the hordes of Yazeed and as he fell from his horse he called for Abbas. He called his brother again as he was attacked by swords and daggers. He was mercilessly killed. Then the camp of the AhlulBayt was looted. The orphan children ran here and there to get away from the soldiers on horseback as they galloped in. The tents were then set on fire.

Bibi Sakina (AS) called for her uncle as her dress caught fire. The children and ladies cried Wa Abbasa Wa Abbasa as they remembered how he had always protected them. Bibi Zainab (AS) as she guarded the orphans and widows through the night of Shaam e Ghareebaan called for her brother Abbas whose duty she was now performing.

The next morning the ladies, children and the sick 4th Imam ZainulAbidin (AS) were not even allowed to mourn or bury their dead. As they were made to mount the camels without help, they wept as they recalled how Abbas had helped them in Madina.

# Chapter 15

## After Ashoor

The bodies of Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala were left un-buried on the sandy desert.

Three days later, on the 13th of Muharram, after Yazeed's army had left, the tribe of Bani Asad who lived nearby, came to Karbala. They saw that there were bodies on the sand and remembered what Imam Hussain (AS) had asked them to do: bury him and his companions. But they did not know who was who. Umar Saad had taken the heads of the martyrs on spears to show Ibn Ziyad and Yazeed.

By a miracle, as they stood wondering what to do, Imam ZainulAbidin (AS) appeared and guided them. One grave was dug in which Imam Hussain and his sons Ali Akbar and Ali Asghar were buried. On the holy grave, he wrote "Here is Hussain, who was killed, thirsty." The rest of the martyrs were buried together in a mass grave near by.

The fourth Imam then went with the Bani Asad to the river bank where he asked for a grave to be dug. In it he buried his uncle Hadhrat Abbas (AS). He burst into tears and said, "The world after you is dark, o Moon of the Bani Hashim. My salams on you and the Mercy of Allah and His blessings."

Through the difficult days and months when the Ahlul bayt were taken through cities and towns and brought to the court of Ibn Ziyad and Yazeed, they remembered Abul Fazl Abbas. The heads of the martyrs were taken on lances but it is reported that the head of Abul Fazl Abbas was tied to the head of a horse as it kept falling from the lance. After his release from the prison in Damascus, our holy 4th Imam came back to Karbala. He joined the heads to the bodies of the martyrs and

mourned for them. The few surviving ladies and Imam Zainul Abidin (AS) returned in sorrow to Madina.

# Chapter 16

## His Mother's Grief

When the caravan of the 4th Imam and the few ladies and children arrived near Madina, Basheer was sent to announce the arrival and tell them that Imam Hussain (AS) had been killed in Karbala.

People came out of their houses in crowds to listen and started to weep when they heard the sad news. As he came to the area where the Bani Hashim lived he saw a young boy who asked "Tell me, has my father come back?" When Basheer asked "Who was your father?" he replied "Abbas!"

Hadrat Ummul Baneen (AS), with the now infant orphan son of Abbas, Ubaidullah heard all the details of the tragic events of Karbala. She was told of the bravery of her sons and how they supported Imam Hussain throughout. When she received the news stating the martyrdom of her four children, she said: "Tell me about Hussain (AS)".

When she received the news of Imam Hussain (A.S.)'s martyrdom she said: "My heart is torn. May all of my children and whatever that exists under this blue heaven be sacrificed for the sake of Hussain(AS)". Ummul Baneen had such sincerity toward the Holy Prophet's progeny that she loved Imam Hussain (AS) more than her own children.

She used to gather women in her house and held the first Majlis e Aza in Madina. Hadrat Ummul Baneen is the first Noha (lamentation poetry) reciter for the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS).

She used to visit Jannat ul-Baqi often and recite her Nohas in a very sad and pathetic voice. Everybody present there used to

weep bitterly. The Jannat ul-Baqi cemetery became the Centre of Azadari of Imam Husain (AS)

The meaning of 'Ummul Baneen' is 'Mother of Sons'. When all of her sons were martyred along with Imam Husain., she requested people not to call her 'Ummul Baneen' ever again. "Don't call me Ummul Baneen now I remember my lion hearted sons when you do Till I had them, I was Ummul Baneen Now I am nothing My four lions of the Lion of Allah (Ali) Gave their life on the sands of Karbala Whoever came in front of them They fought so bravely that it seemed as if the sky was raining blood.

Can someone confirm Is it really true that my son's hands were severed?

She mourned for her son Abbas saying O those who witnessed the gallantry of Abbas Who had with him the fearless sons of their fearless father

I've heard that his head was hit only after his arms were cut O my Lord! When my son fell from his horse, how did he then dismount? Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) said,

"Ummul Baneen, the mother of the four martyred brothers, would go to (the cemetery of) Baqee and would lament with heart-rending and grief-stricken words for her sons. People would gather and listen to her sorrowful words. One day Marwan ibn Hakam heard her lamenting and started weeping (in spite of being ruthless himself)."

Our salams on Ummul Baneen, the wife of Imam Ali (AS), the mother of Hadhrat Abbas (AS). She was held in great respect by the members of the family of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She had given all her four sons in the way of Allah. When we give her waseela in times of difficulty and pray to Allah, our problems are solved.

Hadhrat Abbas's lineage continued through his son Ubaidullah, who was shown great respect by the fourth Imam. He would weep when he saw this young orphan of Abbas (AS). He grew up to be pious and very learned. He had one son called Hasan, whose line continued through five sons. Fazl ibn Hasan has written an elegy (marsiya) about his grandfather Abul Fazl Abbas (AS).

# Chapter 17

## Salams O Abbas

Salams to Abbas who belongs to the group of the angels, the Prophets, the martyrs and the men of Truth.

Salams to Abbas, Allah's righteous and obedient servant.

Salams to Abul Fazl Abbas, son of Ali Ameerul momineen

I testify that you served Allah His Messenger and your brother sincerely.

You were the most excellent brother. Allah's curse is on those who killed you.

Allah's curse is on those who wronged you. You were the most excellent fighter, protector and supporter of your brother Hussain.

Today we can see that his magnificent shrine in Karbala. The mazar of Abul Fazl Abbas (AS) has a golden dome and beautiful minarets. Inside the building there are mirror tiles that glow to reflect the light of the towering personality that is Abbas (AS).

The actual grave of Hadhrat Abbas (AS) is in the basement of the shrine and even today fragrant water circles round the grave.

Millions of visitors come to Karbala for ziarat.

May Allah give us the chance to touch the zareeh of Hadhrat Abul Fazl Abbas (AS) and pray to Allah to fulfil our needs and wishes in his holy name.

# Chapter 18

## What we can learn

Lessons we can learn from the life of Hadhrat Abbas (AS):

**Obey the Imam and be loyal to him.** Hadhrat Abbas (AS) obeyed without question and always remained loyal to Imam Hussain (AS).

**Be kind and helpful.** Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was responsible for looking after the caravan on the journey to Karbala. He would often ride up to and make sure that the children, specially his niece, Bibi Sakina had water.

**Support the Truth** even if others tries to take you away from the Right Path. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) refused the offer of security from Shimr and stayed loyal to Imam Hussain (AS).

**Lead others to do good.** (Amr bil Maroof) Hadhrat Abbas (AS) encouraged the Bani Hashim youths during the Night of Ashoor to give up their lives for Islam.

**Show patience** when facing hardship. It was very difficult for him when he had to move the tents away from the river bank. But Hadhrat Abbas (AS) remained patient.

**Think of others before yourself.** Though he could have, Hadhrat Abbas (AS) did not drink water while the children of Hussain were thirsty. He gave his life in the attempt to bring water for them.

**Remain steadfast.** Even when both his arms were cut, he did not give up carrying the alam and kept riding towards the camp of Imam Hussain (AS).

# Chapter 19

## Word Search

**Can you find these words?**

KARBALA

ABBAS

ABULFAZL

SAKINA

SAQQA

ABDULLAH

LUBABA

ALAMDAR

HASAN

HUSSAIN

ALI

UMMULBANEEN

FURAT

JAFAR USMAN

**Use the words to complete the sentences:**

1. Hadhrat Abbas (AS) was the son of Imam \_\_\_\_\_.

2. He was the brother of Imam \_\_\_\_\_ and Imam

3. His mother was called \_\_\_\_\_

4. His mother had three more sons called \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. He was born in \_\_\_\_\_

6. He was martyred in \_\_\_\_\_.

7. He held the alam , so he was called the

8. He married \_\_\_\_\_.

9. His loved his niece Bibi \_\_\_\_\_ very much.

10. He went to fetch water for her and so was called—————.

Ya Abbas Ya Abbas Ya Abbas  
Ya Abbas Ya Abbas Ya Abbas  
Ya Abbas Ya Abbas Ya Abbas

ISLAMICMOBILITY.COM

IN THE AGE OF INFORMATION

IGNORANCE IS A CHOICE

*"Wisdom is the lost property of the Believer,  
let him claim it wherever he finds it"*

*Imam Ali (as)*