

# Imam Husain Bin Ali

(Peace be upon him)

## The Defender of Truth, the great Martyr

The story of Imam Husain is that of victory of good over evil. Imam Husain was the grandson of the last prophet of God, Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. He was the spiritual leader of the Islamic nation of his time (1400 years ago). Yezid had declared himself the ruler of the Islamic nation. He gained power and support with a combination of ruthlessness, bribery and trickery. He demanded that either Imam Husain submit to him or he will be killed. Yezid falsely claimed to be the true successor of Prophet Muhammad. Imam Husain's reply was that Yezid was an imposter and that *Good cannot submit to evil*. Imam Husain and his family members and supporters were surrounded by Yezid's army and they were denied food and water for 3 days. They were attacked by an army of several thousand soldiers. Imam Husain's supporters included infirm, elderly, teens, children and an infant 6 month old totaling about one hundred individuals. They defended themselves and fought bravely until their last breath. Their camps were looted and women and children were taken as prisoners.

Of the male survivors, was his ailing young son Ali. Ali and his sister Zainab were taken to ruler Yezid's court in shackles and humiliated and faced execution. However, undaunted they bravely challenged Yezid to public debate and exposed his falsehood. This was a moral defeat of Yezid and his philosophy. The blood sacrifice of Husain and the bravado of his sister sparked a revolution, which in a short period brought the downfall of Yezid's evil rule. Truth prevailed and the religion of Islam was saved from eternal defacement.

Thus, Imam Husain established the principle that truth must be defended even if it requires sacrificing everything including one's life. He showed us that truth will eventually prevail over falsehood even in the face of apparent helplessness and despair.

Muslims and non-Muslims all over the world commemorate Imam Husain's sacrifice every year. It gives people courage to stand up for the truth. His sacrifice changed the destiny of nations. Husain died more than a thousand years ago. Nevertheless, he has touched the lives of tens of millions of people, and he continues to do so even today. Below are two of many statements of historians and philosophers.

*Thomas Carlyle wrote:*

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

*Edward Gibbons wrote:*

*"In a distant age and climate, the tragic scene of the death of Husain will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader."*

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