

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

Performing Ziyarat (Visiting the Graves) of the Martyrs of the Family of Prophet Muhammad (P)

Introduction: Visiting of graves was encouraged by Prophet Muhammad (p). It was only the Wahhabis and Salafis who later discouraged it. This article will attempt to show, who are the chosen members of the family of the Prophet (p) who laid their lives in the service of Allah (swt) as martyrs, and the significance of why Muslims visit their graves.

Who are the members of the family of Prophet Muhammad (p)?

During the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad (p), they were his daughter Fatima, her husband and the cousin of the Prophet, Ali ibn Abu Talib, and their two sons, Hasan and Husain, peace be upon them all.

A few verses of the Holy Qur'an regarding the merits of the chosen family members of the Prophet are:

The Verse of Purification:

"Allah only desires to keep away all uncleanness from you, O people of the house, and to purify you a (thorough) purifying." (33:33)

The famous **Hadith-e-Kisa** (Event of the Blanket) describes that only the above five individuals were under a blanket in the house of Lady Umm-e-Kulthum (wife of the Prophet), when Archangel Jibreel brought this verse to the Prophet (p). There were many occasions when people asked the Prophet as to who were the "people of the house" in the above verse, and the Prophet would point to the house of his daughter, Fatima, and said that it was she and her family.

The Verse of Love of Near of Kin (of the Prophet):

"Say (O Prophet): 'I do not ask of you any reward for it (my services), except for love of (my) near of kin.'" (42:23)

There are numerous hadiths in which the Prophet (p) pointed out that the above four personalities were his near of kin that were alluded to in this verse of the Qur'an.

The Verse of Wilayah (Guardianship):

"Only Allah is your Wali (Guardian), and His Apostle, and those who believe, those who keep up their Salat and pay Zakat while bowing down (in Ruku)." (5:55)

This refers to a well-documented incident where a needy person entered the masjid asking for help. No one present fulfilled his need. Ali ibn Abu Talib extended his hand while in the state of Ruku (bowing), allowing the needy man to remove the ring from his finger. The Prophet (p) soon received this verse in praise of Imam Ali.

The Hadith in praise of the family of the Prophet (p):

“I leave behind me amidst you two great (weighty) things, the Book of Allah (the Qur’an) and my Ahl-ul-Bayt. Should you be attached to these two, never, never shall you go astray after me, for verily these two will never be separated from each other until they meet me at the Spring of Kauthar.”

(Tafseer-e-Kabir, Tafseer Durr-e-Manthur)

Why Muslims visit the shrines (graves) of members of the family of the Prophet:

1. To show love and affection to the family of the Prophet (p). As stated above, it is obligatory on all Muslims (Qur’an 42:23).
2. To show our gratitude to them for their sacrifices with their lives to safeguard our Deen.
3. Imam Husain (AS) sacrificed his life, the lives of his children, relatives, and companions at Karbala. It is related in numerous traditions that the visitation of Imam Husain’s (AS) grave shall result in forgiveness of sins, be a means of entering Paradise, and grant liberty from Hell. It shall also result in the negation of evils, elevation of rank, and fulfillment of desires. The one who goes to visit the grave of Imam Husayn (AS), while being cognizant of his rights, Allah will forgive all of his sins.*
4. To receive reward from Allah (swt). It is said that a visit to the shrine of Imam Husain in Karbala, Iraq, earns greater rewards than many optional Hajj.
5. To receive intercession from Prophet Muhammad (p) and his family members on the Day of Judgment.
6. To be in the company of the Prophet (P) and his family in the Hereafter.
7. To achieve greater acceptance of our Dua’ from Allah (swt).
8. To keep the memory of these great martyrs alive, and to refresh their teachings and implement them in our lives.

There are numerous traditions from the Prophet (p) and from the Imams from his family, about the merits of visiting the grave of Imam Husain (AS). Please see the reference below for more details.

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*Ref.: “Merits of Visiting the Grave of Imam Husayn,” from the book *Nafsul Mahmum*, by Abbas bin Muhammad Rida al-Qummi <www.al-islam.org>.