

IMAM HUSEIN A.S. JUSTIFIES HIS STAND AGAINST YAZID

BY A.H SHERIFF

The caravan of Imam Hussein a.s with his companions was advancing towards Kufa. It had gone only a little distance beyond Qudsiyah when Hur Ibne Yazid appeared with a force of 1,000 armed men and followed the Imam. After the midday prayers, Imam Husein a.s addressed his companions as well as the force headed by Hur.

“You will please God if you adhere to righteousness and support the claim of the right person. We the members of the Prophet’s family have a stronger claim to the caliphate than others. They (Bani Umayyah) rule over you tyrannically. If you dislike us and do not concede our right, if you have gone back on the promises contained in your communications addressed to me and conveyed through messengers, I am prepared to go back willingly.”

That the Imam whilst asserting his right to the divinely endowed caliphate was not advancing with an aim of putting up any fight or attack on Yazid and his followers, is crystal clear from his foregoing words. His advance towards Kufa was at the express wish and invitation from the Kufans, yet he was willing to go back if they had changed their mind.

Advancing further to a place known as Baizah, Imam Husein a.s. again addressed those present in the following words:

“Oh people! The Prophet has said that whoever comes across a ruler who perpetrates cruelly and transgresses the Divine limits, breaks the covenant made with Allah, violates the Prophet's traditions and rules over the people with coercion if he does not oppose that ruler with word and deed, Allah will not allot him a good abode in the hereafter. Look! They have become the devil's followers and are opposed to Allah's commandments. Corruption has appeared. They are violating the limits imposed by Allah. They are in illegal possession of booty. The lawful is made unlawful and unlawful is rendered unlawful. I am the right person to prevent them from going astray and to lead them to truth and justice”.

By quoting the Prophet's hadith as above, Imam Hussain a.s. justified his strong stand against Yazid and his followers. As a grandson of the Prophet and his rightful vicegerent, he asserted his right and paramount duty to do so and save Islam from complete annihilation.

By his words of protest against the Umayyads and by the supreme sacrifices on the plains of Karbala, Imam Husein not only exposed to the world their tyranny, misdeeds and lack of faith but also provided a model of how to face a tyrant to preserve one's freedom and faith to the world to come.