

SAYING OF IMAM HUSEIN ON WAY TO MARTYDOM

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Words spoken by great men during their life times are not only preserved but quoted again and again in the annals of history. Their uttering not only portray their lofty ideals and noble tread of thinking, but they become the sources of guidance and inspiration to future generations.

Let us herewith examine some of the noble sayings of Imam Husein a.s., the grandson of Prophet Muhammad s.a., who laid down his life a martyr in the way of Allah to save Islam.

Philosophy of Life-Death

Explaining the circumstances wherein death was much preferable to life, the Imam had said: "I do not consider death as anything but a privilege and good fortune and life with oppressors but humiliation"

In other words, the Imam believed to die an honourable death was better than to live in humiliation under the oppression of Yazid, the tyrant.

Exhorting his followers to understand the true meaning and aim of life, the Imam said: "Verily life consists of faith and struggle"

That true and successful life of salvation is for the one who cherishes pure and staunch faith in Allah coupled with constant struggle to uphold the truth and refusing to bow down before falsehood.

Reasons for sacrifice

To those who came to persuade him not to proceed to Karbala lest he was killed by the Umayyads, The Imam told them: "Don't you witness that the truth is not being acted upon and the falsehood is not being denied from"

In other words, the Imam was justifying his firm stand in refusing to bow before Yazid and swear allegiance to him. As a grandson of Prophet Muhammad s.a. and rightful vicegerent, the Imam was pronouncing his sacred to defend Islam against falsehood spread by the tyrant Yazid.

In the course of his jihad on the plains of Karbala against the Omayyids on the 10th Muharram 61 A.H., the Imam is mentioned to have uttered these words: " If the creed of Muhammad s.a (Islam) cannot survive except by my being killed, then oh swords come and take me away."

That the Imam's supreme sacrifice at Karbala was not tainted in the least by lust of power or any ultra motive nor was he a victim of sudden unforeseen circumstances is

evidenced from those words. The martyrdom was consciously accepted in the way of Allah for the noble cause of upholding and safeguarding the tenets of Islam.

Submission to the will of Allah

Towards the dark evening of 10th Muharram 61 A.H. when the Imam was profusely bleeding from countless wounds inflicted upon his body, he could no more hold himself on horseback. As he slowly leaned down towards the ground and his forehead touched the burning sands of Karbala, he uttered these words addressed to Almighty Allah: “Willingly do I submit to Thy will and bow down do I to Thy command, accepting from Thee the trials and afflictions with forbearance. Oh The Helper of those who seek help.”

It is human for one to lose his presence of mind when surrounded by harsh calamities and adverse circumstances. The Imam was passing through most critical last moments of life in face severest tortures of three day thirst under the burning sun, the separation of his dear kith and kin. Yet we witness from these words of the Imam his supreme degree of tranquility and undaunted faith in Allah, having fully submitted to His will.

Over Thirteen hundred years have passed since the tragedy of Karbala yet the memory of Imam Husain still survives. His sublime words will continue to act as beacons of light in proclaiming the truth and condemnation of oppression and falsehood.