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"S H A H A D A T" (MARTYDOM)

AS EVALUATED AND PREDICTED BY PROPHET MUHAMMAD S.A.W.

In the way of Allah, what supreme act of virtue could it be for man other than the sacrifice of a thing most dear to him and that is his own life. Endorsing this view, the Prophet of Islam says:

"Over every act of virtue, there is another one till a man is martyred in the way of Allah, then there is no other virtue over it."

And for a martyr, what best honour could it be for him other than to be the first among the people entering heaven. This is also endorsed by the Prophet of Islam who said:

"The first person to enter Heaven will be the martyr"

Since the creation of Adam, the first man on this earth, the list of those who laid down their lives in the way of Allah is a long one and an enumerable one. But no one has been universally honoured with an epithet of Seyyido Sshuhada i.e. Chief of the Martyrs other than Imam Husain (a.s.) The impact of his sacrifice was going to be so profound and its effect so lasting that the Prophet of Islam had predicted it in these words:

"Verily with the martyrdom of Imam Husain A.S., a wave of heat would erupt from the hearts of believers which will never cool down"

More than 1300 years have elapsed since the tragedy of Kerbala, yet we find that ^{the} memory of Husain lives afresh with the wave of heat as predicted by the Prophet. Through discourses, eulogies, processions and publications, he is remembered in East and West, North and South. The conscious of people continue to be awakened and the examples set by the martyrs are emulated by people. Nay it arouses revolution among the down-trodden and oppressed against oppressors.

The Prophet of Islam went even further by predicting the lasting and undiminishing memory evoked from the burial place of the Chief of the Martyr despite strong efforts to erase it.

"And they (the people) will erect on this land over the grave of Seyyido Sschuhada a sign and flag whose mark will never be wiped out and its custom will never efface in the course of long lapse of days and nights not withstanding the fact that the unbelievers and the misguided will strive to wipe it out but indeed it would not extend except with eminence"

Today 1400 years since the foregoing prediction was made by the Prophet of Islam (saw) the banner to the memory of the Chief Martyr continues to flutter over his grave. It is a sign to his memory which continues to grow and spread far and wide throughout the world.

The fact is that there is a divine hand in this for Imam Husain A.S. had sacrificed all he had in the way of Allah for the noble cause of Islam.

If the raising of a banner or for that reason any replica and symbol in memory of martyrs were an act of shirk-polytheism as considered by some of misguided Muslims, the Prophet of Islam would not have predicted and it would not have survived for so long.