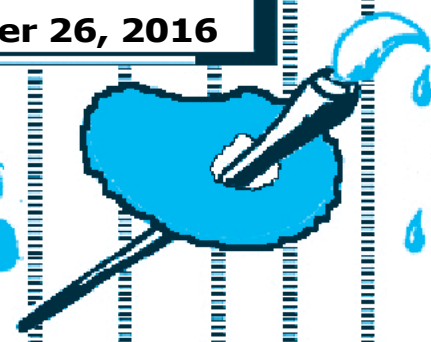


Children's Corner



Picture of Patience and Piety

Salaam dear young friends, and heartfelt condolences to you all on the eve of a doleful day.

Sure, we are in the month of Muharram and in the state of mourning for the heartrending tragedy of Ashura and its equally tragic aftermath, when the noble ladies and children of the household of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), were taken as captives to Kufa, and thence marched through circuitous routes to Damascus in Syria, but today our tears are for a tragedy that occurred 34 years later in Medina, though it could be called continuation of the sufferings of Karbala.

Yes, you have got it right. These days our lamentations are for Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) – son and successor of Imam Husain (AS) – who as a 23-year sick bedridden youth survived the massacre of 10 Muharram 61 AH, but waged a different kind of jihad in its aftermath, and through his patient sufferings, coupled with eloquently moving sermons, made the mission of his father triumph forever.

In 95 AH (713 AD), the 4th Infallible Imam was martyred through poisoning by Waleed I, the self-styled caliph of the usurper Omayyad regime, after an eventful life during which, despite the torment he endured at the hands of Abdullah ibn Zubayr for ten years and the various Omayyads for the next twenty years, he bequeathed to humanity two immortal works.

These are indeed bezels of wisdom that continue to guide the seekers of truth. The first is his set of supplications in the Divine Court, titled “*Sahifat-as Sajjadiyya*” (Psalms of the Prophet’s Household), while the second is the “*Risalat-al-Hoqouq*” (Treatise of Rights).

If the former contains almost all topics under the sun, including scientific issues and the weight of light (something unthinkable a millennium and three centuries ago), the later details even the most minute of rights, ranging from the rights of parents, children, neighbours, and the society to the rights of our own bodily organs upon us.

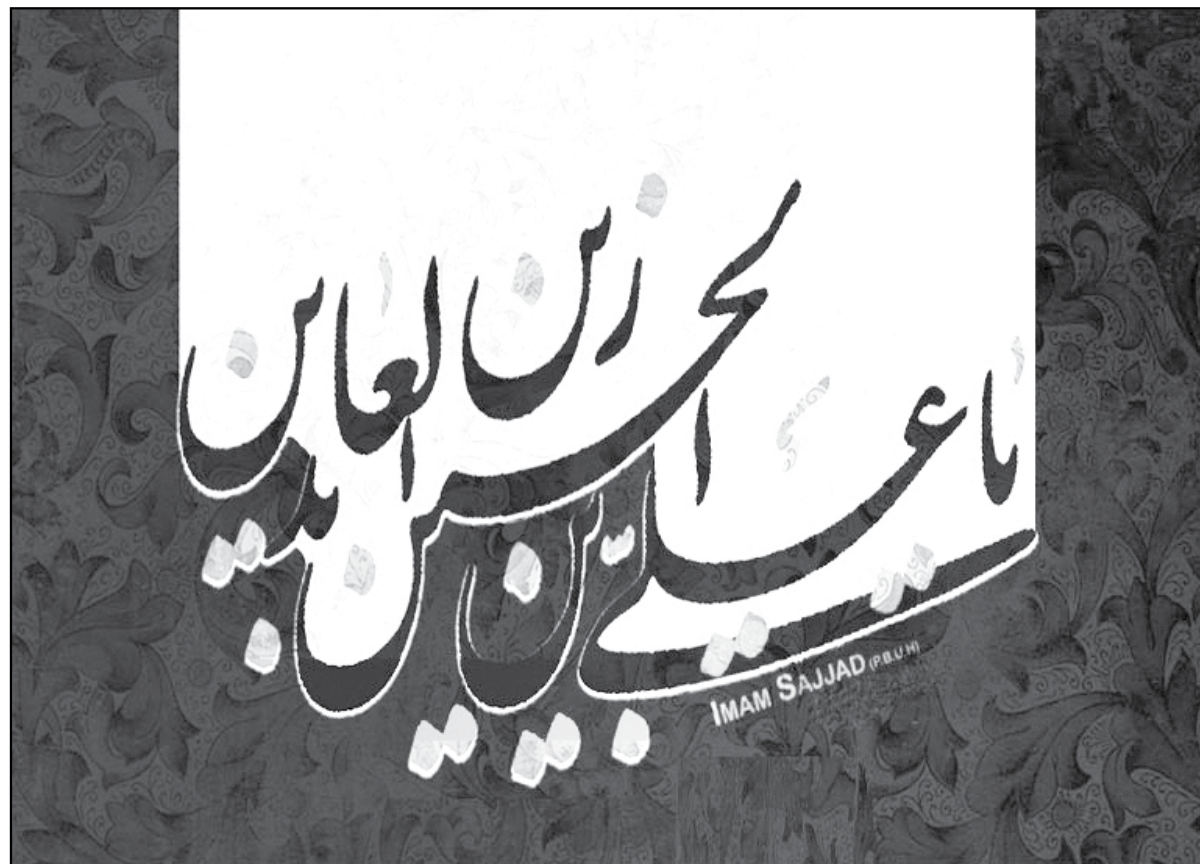
For the information of the youngsters of Iran, the mother of Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS) was the Persian princess, Shahr-bano, the daughter of the last Sassanid Emperor, Yazdgerd III.

In view of his noble lineage from both sides, he was often called by his contemporary poets “Ibn al-Khiyaratayn” (Son of the Two Excellent Ones).

Yet he was the picture of modesty, piety, magnanimity, and clarity of vision, as borne out by incidents throughout his life.

Thus, dear friends, it is adherence to the path of these Infallible Personalities that ensures success in life and salvation in afterlife.

Goodbye and God bless you, until we meet again next week.



The Fox and the Crow

A Fox once saw a Crow fly off with a piece of cheese in its beak and settle on a branch of a tree.

“That’s for me, as I am a Fox,” said Master Reynard, and he walked up to the foot of the tree.

“Good-day, Mistress Crow,” he cried. “How well you are looking to-day: how glossy your feathers; how bright your eye. I feel sure your voice must surpass that of other birds, just as your figure does; let me hear but one song from you that I may greet you as the Queen of Birds.”

The Crow lifted up her head and began to caw her best, but the moment she opened her mouth the piece of cheese fell to the ground, only to be snapped up by Master Fox.

“That will do,” said he. “That was all I wanted. In exchange for your cheese I will give you a piece of advice for the future. Do not trust flatterers”

MORAL: “Do not trust flatterers”

RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

1. We are little airy creatures, all of different voices and features; one of us in glass is set. One of us you’ll find in jet. Another you may see in tin and the fourth a box within. If the fifth you should pursue, it can never fly from you. What are we?
2. Weight in my belly, trees on my back, nails in my ribs, feet I do lack. What am I?
3. I am an English word that is as long as I am valued. What am I?
4. I go inside boots and outside shoes. What am I?
5. I run around the city, but I never move. What am I?
6. I stand in one place yet I fill a whole room. I can be filled with molten rock and come in every hue. What am I?

Answers to last week questions:

1. Dentist
2. Pattern
3. Peach
4. Library
5. Fragile
6. Future

Send your jokes. Heard any jokes lately? Well, try and make us laugh too!

Don’t hesitate! Mail it to us.
Kayhan International address:
Ferdowsi St., Shahid Shahcher-
aghi Alley, Tehran.
Email:kayhanintl@yahoo.com

Imam Husain (AS)

“He who tries to achieve something by being disobedient to Allah will not achieve what he expects, and will fall into what he fears.”

JOKES

Q. Why do the French like to eat snails so much?
A. They can’t stand fast food.

Husband: “Oh the weather is lovely today. Shall we go out for a quick jog?”
Wife: “Hahaha, I love the way you pronounce ‘Shall we go out and have a cake!’”

Tom walks into his boss’ office and tells him, “Sir, I know things are going the best around here but I have three companies that have contacted me recently. I would like a raise.”

His boss agrees and after debating the amount for a while they agree

on a 5 percent raise. When Tom gets up to leave his boss asks him, “What companies contacted you?”
Tom smiles and says, “The cable, electric, and water companies.”

Two men are out hunting when one of them suddenly drops dead. He calls the emergency immediately. The operator says: “Can I help you sir?”
The man replies: “I think my friend is dead! Send an ambulance! But what should I do?”

The operator replies: “Okay, calm down sir. First we have to make sure he is really dead.”

There is silence, then a gun shot, then the man comes back on the line and tells: “Okay, he is dead for sure. What now?”

