

Children's Corner



All Eyes Focused on Karbala

Salaam dear young friends and heartfelt condolences to you all. You know the occasion for consoling you, and what makes our heart full of grief these days.

For the information of our foreign friends, especially the readers of our weekly column abroad, particularly in non-Muslim societies, we are on the threshold of a poignant anniversary that has renewed the moist in our eyes, whether the children amongst us, or whether the grownups.

Yes, there are still three days to go for Arba'een – the traditional 40th day of the anniversary of the heartrending tragedy of Ashura. This means, our hearts are turned towards Karbala in Iraq, towards the holy shrine of Imam Husain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), towards each these days everyone seems to be trekking.

In this long and large march on foot by many, are devotees of all ages. The young and the old, the toddlers clinging to the hands of their parents, the babes in prams, the briskly walking teenagers, men and women in the prime of life, the grey-haired, the elderly, and even those walking on crutches or traversing on wheelchairs, braving the scorching heat of the sun in daytime and the bone chilling cold of the desert at night.

Their hearts are beating with the love for Imam Husain (AS) and those martyred along with him in 61 AH (680 AD), including his infant 6-month old son Ali Asghar (AS).

This year as many as 20 million pilgrims, from all over the world, are expected to be in Karbala this Thursday and Friday to pay homage to the Chief of Martyrs.

Many are walking the 80 km distance from Najaf from the shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), towards Karbala. This is indeed the experience of a lifetime. People of all age groups, even toddlers in their strollers are accompanied by their parents through

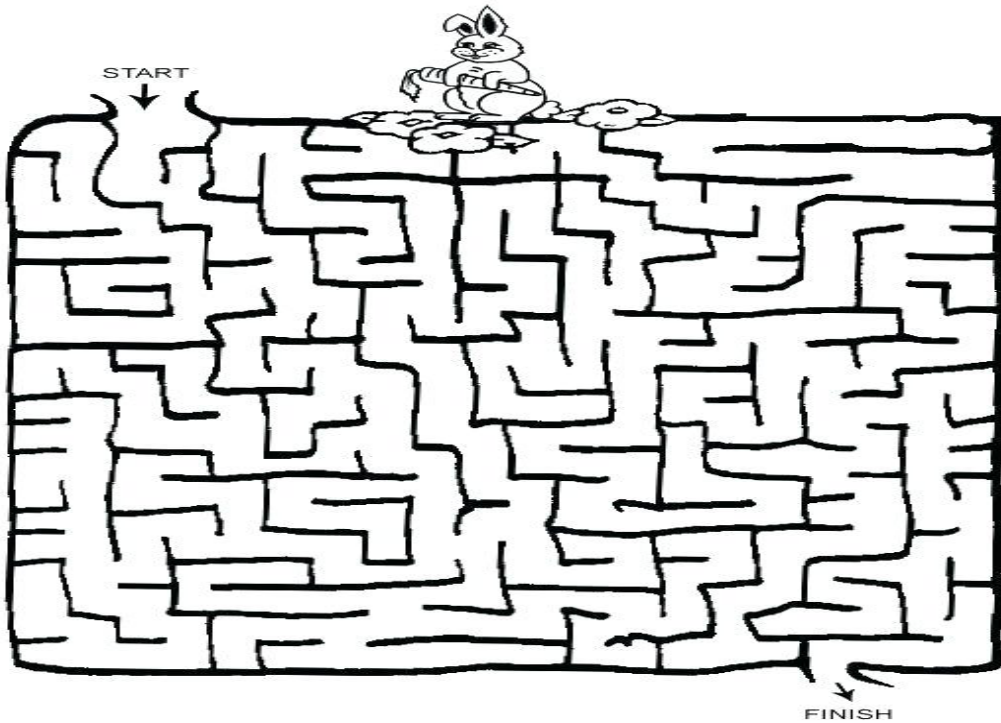
Pilgrims come to Karbala not to admire the physical beauty, or to shop, or to be entertained, or to visit ancient historical sites — but to cry and mourn. They come to join the angels in their grief. They all enter the sacred shrine crying, weeping, and lamenting. It is as if every person has established a personal relationship with Imam Husain (AS). They talk to him, call out his name and touch the walls and doors near his tomb the way one touches the face of a long lost friend.

On the roads leading to Karbala, the local people, for the sake of God, offer whatever they can and beseech the pilgrims to accept their offerings as the honourable guests of Imam Husain (AS). Residents often offer free of charge accommodation, food, drinks, medical services, use of phones and chargers, and repair prams or shoes for the pilgrims.

Sects, ethnicities, language barriers, conflicts, and other fault lines are forgotten as millions of devotees march shoulder to shoulder. It's not just Shi'a Muslims but our Sunni brethren also, as well as Christians, Zoroastrians, Sabians, and Hindus, who undertake the journey.

Everyone is welcome and it is indeed a great lesson in brotherhood for all humanity.

Help the bunny through the winding maze



JOKES

A young executive was leaving the office late one evening when he found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen," said the CEO, "this is a very sensitive and important document here, and my secretary has gone for the night. Can you make this thing work?"

"Certainly," said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button.

"Excellent, excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."

A professor was giving a big test one day. He handed out all of the tests and went back to his desk to wait. Once the test was over, the students all handed the tests back in. The professor noticed that one of the students had attached a \$100 bill to his test with a note saying "A dollar per point."

The next class the professor handed the graded tests back.

This student got his test back and \$56 change.

Imam Husain (AS)

"The company of the intelligent is a sign of success. Disputation with other than the disbelievers is a sign of ignorance; while a sign of a scholar is self-criticism of his sayings and his acquaintance with the various hypotheses."

RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

1. The Titanic is still here. What am I?
2. I am often sold by children entrepreneurs in summer time. What am I?
3. I am milky white and scares people. What am I?
4. Send poorly behaved children to me and let them sit here. What am I?
5. I am a creature with a "tight" name. What am I?
6. I am sometimes referred to as chips. What am I?

Answers to last week's questions:

1. Appendix
2. Report Card
3. Adios
4. Century
5. Backpack
6. Pixel

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 Shahcheraghi Alley, Tehran.

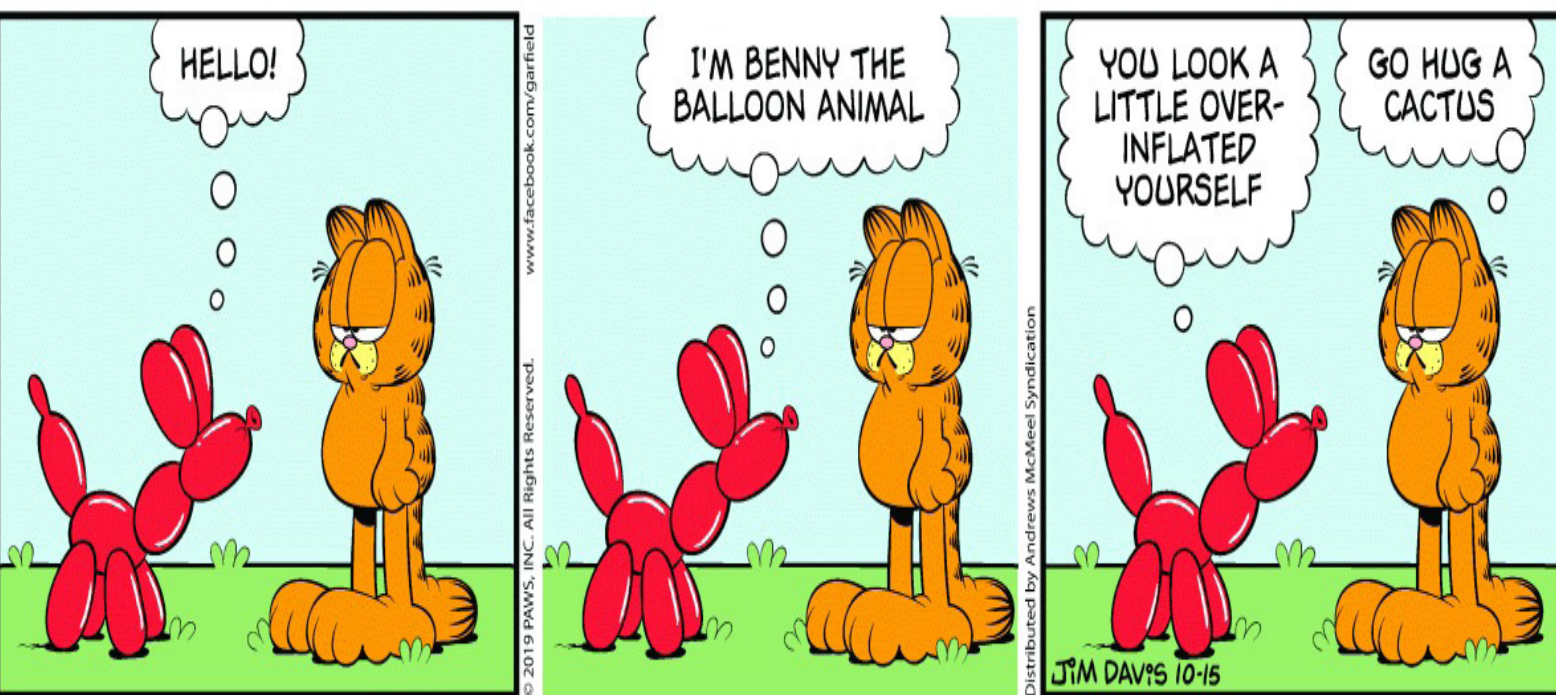
The Man Bitten by a Dog

A man who had been bitten by a Dog went about in quest of someone who might heal him.

A friend, meeting him and learning what he wanted, said, "If you would be cured, take a piece of bread, and dip it in the blood from your wound, and go and give it to the Dog that bit you."

The Man who had been bitten laughed at this advice and said, "Why? If I should do so, it would be as if I should beg every Dog in the town to bite me."

MORAL: Benefits bestowed upon the evil-disposed increase their means of injuring you.



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