#### Imam Reza (AS)

"God surely hates gossips, squandering, and asking - for financial help - from the enemies."

# **Walking Towards Paradise**

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 one or two 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 babies 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-plus pilgrims, from all over the world, are expected to be in Karbala 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.

Pilgrimage to the holy shrine on the Day of Arba'een is indeed a clear path towards paradise, as promised by the Prophet and testified by many a hadith.

This is the reason that among the pilgrims there are many Sunni Muslims and even Christians, Izadis, Zoroastrians, Hindus, and Sabians.

As Arba'een is near, here we would like to share a famous hadith from the Prophet's 11th Infallible Heir, Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS): There are five signs to recognize or determine a true believer, and recitation of the special ziyarat (or salutation) for Imam Husain (AS) on the Day of Arba'een is one of these signs.

The other signs of a true believer: are recitation in raised voice of the Qur'anic ayah Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Raheem during the ritual prayers; performance of 51 raka'at of ritual prayers in a single day at different times (that is, 17 obligatory and 34 recommended); prostration on soil or clay; and wearing of ring in a finger of the right hand.

The special Arba'een Ziyarah has been related on the authority of Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), the great-grandson of the Martyr of Karbala and the 6th Infallible Heir of the Prophet. It was dictated to his disciple Safwan Jammaal.

So dear friends, please remember us when you visit the holy shrine of Imam Husain (AS) and share with us your experiences of this spiritual journey.



## **Funny Questions & Answers**

Question: How is 1/3rd of six equal to ten?

Answer: One-third part of SIX is X which is ten in Roman numerals.

Question: What did the sea say to the sand?

Answer: Nothing, it just waved.

Question: How can half of five multiplied by half of eight be equal to zero?

Answer: If you cut the figure 8 in half you get zero. The product of any number and zero is zero.

Question: Why is an island like the letter t?

Answer: Both are in the middle of water.

Question: What do they call the small rivers that run into Nile?

Answer: Juveniles

Question: How can you bring together 6 and 40 to make 64?

Answer: You can bring together 'SIX' and 'FORTY' to form the words SIXTY FOUR.

#### RIDDLES

Dear youngsters, could you answer the following questions.

- 1. Against the sun, I protect your eyes and am often worn on the face of spies. What am I?
- 2. I can be found in water but never wet. What am I?
- 3. I make things short, but I am pretty long myself. What am I?
- 4. Many people own a copy of me. Without me the world would fall. What am I?
- 5. I am an object which is used in baseball, during the day I can't be seen at all. What am I?
- 6. I am wood that is neither hard, straight, nor crooked. What am I?

Answers to the questions asked in the previous issue:

- 1. Police Car
- 2. Window
- 3. Moose
- 4. Minecraft
- 5. Children
- 6. Stick

Send your jokes. Heard any jokes lately? Well, try and

Don't hesitate! Mail it to us. Kayhan International address:

make us laugh too!

Ferdowsi St., Shahid

Shahcheraghi Alley, Tehran.

## The Fox and the Mosquitoes

A Fox after crossing a river got its tail entangled in a bush, and could not move.

A number of Mosquitoes seeing its plight settled upon it and enjoyed a good meal undisturbed by its tail.

A hedgehog strolling by took pity upon the Fox and went up to him:

"You are in a bad way, neighbour," said the hedgehog; "shall I relieve you by driving off those Mosquitoes who are sucking your blood?"

"Thank you, Master Hedgehog," said the Fox, "but I would rather not."

"Why, how is that?" asked the hedgehog.

"Well, you see," was the answer, "these Mosquitoes have had their fill; if you drive these away, and others will come with fresh appetite and bleed me to death."

MORAL: "There were politicians in Aesop's time"





