

Karbala – Agony and Affliction

Indeed, the day of martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson and master of the youths of paradise, Abu Abdullah, was a day of sorrow and an affliction on all the Islamic people. Hussain's revolution is a revolution for all Muslims, regardless of their sect. The love of *Ahl Al-Bayt*—the Prophet's household—should dwell in the heart of every Muslim until the Day of Resurrection.

Memory takes me back to my childhood during *Muharram*—the first month of the Islamic calendar—when endless numbers of people would start coming to my father's house. Enormous amounts of food and servants scrambling rapidly throughout the house were familiar sights during the month of Ramadan when Iftar feasts were served to the poor and my father would break his fast with them. I asked my mother, "What's going on today?" "It's Muharram," she answered, "Your father sends food to the Hussainiyat." (Hussainiyat are special halls used throughout the year for Shia religious ceremonies. The most important of these is *Ashura*, which commemorates the death of Imam Hussain on the tenth day of the month of Muharram.) At the time, I didn't understand anything about Muharram or Hussainiyat, but I could tell there was a lot of excitement around the ceremony. That memory circles in my head every year as Muharram approaches, and whenever I review my father's financial records and see his contributions to the Hussainiyat and Shia mosques. My father was a man of religion, a teacher and imam of Naif Palace Mosque for several years. He taught the Maliki School of Islam and was keen to share in consoling our Shia brothers. It was a nice gesture that we cherish.