



Commemoration of the Ashura in the West

A talk delivered by

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at

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

Honourable speakers from various societies and associations, eminent Imams, Ulama, most respected and valuable audience.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu

I would like to congratulate and thank the One Ummah Centre for the Study of Thought and Strategy with the cooperation of the International ASHURA Foundation for organising this important international event under the title of Commemoration of the ASHURA in the West and for inviting me to deliver this short talk.

The 10th day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar marks Ashura day. It has been narrated by various reports and traditions in the TAFSEER AL QUR'AN AND AHADITH explaining the meaning of the holy Qur'an and explaining the sayings of Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W) that a number of events and interesting incidents took place during the day of Ashura.

- It was the day of Ashura that Allah (SWT) forgave Adam (AS)

﴿فَتَلَقَّى آدَمُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ كَلِمَاتٍ فَتَابَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ﴾ (البقرة: ٣٧)

'Then Adam received words from his Lord, and He accepted his repentance. Indeed, He who is the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful'. (Al Quran2: 37)

- It was the day of Ashura on which the Ark of Nooh (AS) came to rest.

﴿فَأَنجَيْنَاهُ وَأَصْحَابَ السَّفِينَةِ وَجَعَلْنَاهَا آيَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ﴾ (العنكبوت: ١٥)

'We saved him and the companions of the Ark. We made the Ark a sign for all people'. (Al Quran 29:15)

- It was the day of Ashura that Allah forgave the people of Yunus (AS).

وَذَا النُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَاضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ
سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ، فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْعَمِّ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنَجِّي
الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿الأنبياء 87-88﴾

“And Zun-nun, when he departed in wrath: He imagined that We would not confine him! Then he cried through the depths of darkness, "There is no god but Thou: glory to Thee: I was indeed wrong!" So we answered his prayer and delivered him from distress and thus do We deliver those who have faith. And thus do We save the believers’. (Al Quran 21:87-88)

- It was the day of Ashura that Allah (SWT) saved Musa (AS) and his people Banu Israel by safely parting the Red sea and allowing them to cross.

وَجَاوَرْنَا بِبَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ الْبَحْرَ فَأَتْبَعَهُمْ فِرْعَوْنُ وَجُنُودُهُ بَغْيًا وَعَدُوًّا حَتَّى إِذَا أَدْرَكَهُ الْعَرْقُ قَالَ
آمَنْتُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي آمَنْتُ بِهِ بَنُو إِسْرَائِيلَ وَأَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ ﴿يونس: 90﴾

‘We took the Children of Israel across the sea, and Pharaoh and his army followed them in tyranny and enmity until when the drowning overtook him he said, “I believe that there is no deity except that in whom the Children of Israel believe, and I am of the Muslims’. (Al Quran 10:90)

- It was the day of Ashura that Ayoub (AS) have been cured and had been lifted the burden.

وَأَيُّوبَ إِذْ نَادَى رَبَّهُ أَلَيْسَ الَّذِي مَسَّنِيَ الصُّرُّ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّاحِمِينَ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ... ﴿الأنبياء 83-84﴾

“And Job, when he called to his Lord, “Indeed, adversity has touched me, and you are the Most Merciful of the merciful. So we answered his prayer”. (Al Quran 21:83-84)

- It was the day of Ashura the 10th of Muharram Sayidina Imam Hussain the most beloved grandson of our Nabi Mohammed (SAW) was martyred (Shaheed).

The martyrdom of Sayidina Hussain (RA) represents paying the ultimate price in the pursuit of justice and righteousness and he is therefore remembered and mourned to this day around the Muslim world.

As we have seen that Ashura is a very significant event and special in nature that we should remember and commemorate it.

It has been reported in Bukhari and narrated by Abu Hurairah (RA) that once when Imam Hussain (RA) was of tender years the Prophet (SAW) was holding his forearms out. He said, "Oh Hussain, climb up, climb up" he started to climb till his feet were face to face. The Prophet (SAW) kissed him with great fondness and said, "Ya Allah, I love him, and you love him too". (Bukhari).

Honourable speakers, respected audience, while we are commemorating the day of Ashura let us turn to Allah (SWT)

- To forgive us for our past sins on the blessed day of Ashura as He forgave Nabi Adam (AS) and the people of Yunus (AS).
- Let us turn to Allah, may he relieve us from hardship as he relieved the people of Musa (AS) and the children of Israel.
- Let us turn to Allah (SWT) that he may lift the burdens from our life and our beloved ones as he lifted the burdens of His servant Ayoub (AS)

May Allah make us among those who love Him and bring us close to His Messengers and Prophets, and to bless us with the Toufeeq to love and follow our beloved Prophet Mohammed (SAW) and his family and the blessed companions (Sahaba) (RA).

As this program is organised by One Umma Centre please remember the ayah.

﴿إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ﴾ (الأنبياء ٩٢)

'Verily this Ummah is a single Ummah and I am your Lord and cherisher, therefore serve Me (and no others)'. (Al Quran 21:92)

Learned Ulama, scholars, eminent Imams, speakers, valuable listeners and audience, once again I would like to thank the organisation of One Umma Centre for the Study of Thought and Strategy with the close cooperation of ASHURA Foundation for organising this important event and inviting me to be part of this memorable occasion.

I would like to thank our learned speakers, Ulama, the honourable Imams and audience.

As we are just entering into the Muslim Hijrah 1443 New Year, I would like to wish all the Muslim Umma a very happy Hijrah New Year.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu