

# Muharram Booklet

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# A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

In the name of Allah, the most merciful, the most beneficent.

All praise and eternal gratitude is for Allah (SWT), the Lord of the entire universe, Who gave us the capacity and means to complete this project,  
Alhamdulillah!

This booklet wouldn't have been possible without the guidance and constructive input of H.I Seyed Hadi Yassin. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to all the volunteers, who invested their invaluable time and efforts to transform the idea of creating a booklet into tangible reality.

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May Allah (SWT) accept this endeavor, shower his blessings upon the Muslim Umma and hasten in the reappearance of the Imam of our time.

## **ICZ Children's Committee**

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Salamon Alaikum dear friends and the lovers of Imam Hussain (AS),

It is always a pleasure for me to write a message or communicate with you who are so strong in the path of Islam and the love of the Imam of their time.

Another year has passed, all praise to Allah that we can have another month of Muharram. A month full of opportunities for improvement and a month full of lessons from Ahlulbait (AS).

My dear friends, look at Muharram as a very important institution that within 10 days you can graduate from it with the highest degree in Iman and education. Some young ones use this opportunity very wisely to learn more about their religion, Quran, and Ahlulbait (AS) while some might be distracted and not gain that much.

Which group would you like to be part of?

You are one year older and more mature, therefore, Imam Hussain (AS) has more expectations from you and your support. How do you want to support the Imam of your time who is calling you to support Islam?

We are at the beginning of the month of Muharram. Let's make it more practical: Think about the biggest goal that you would like to achieve in these 12 nights that you come to the children's program. What is that one goal that you would like to become better at? For example; patience, anger management, more on time for Salah, etc.

Make sure to write it down and try to measure it every night that you come to the program. See how much closer you are to achieving it and try your best to gain it by the end of the 12 nights.

I pray that Allah (SWT) help us all to be able to act upon the love of Imam Hussain (AS) by following his recommendations.

We pray that Allah (SWT) hasten in the reappearance of our beloved Imam of time Imam Mahdi (AJTF).

JazakumAllah Khair,

Sayed Hadi Yassin  
Resident Alim of  
Islamic Center of Zahra (SA)



## 01 Significance of Amar Bil Maroof and Nahi Anal Munkar

### *Quranic Verse:*

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

Let there be a group among you who call 'others' to goodness, encourage what is good, and forbid what is evil—it is they who will be successful. [3:104]

### *Hadith:*

مَنْ أَمَرَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَى عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ، فَهُوَ خَلِيفَةُ اللَّهِ فِي أَرْضِهِ، وَ خَلِيفَةُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ، وَ خَلِيفَةُ كِتَابِهِ.

The person who commands to that which is good and forbids others from that which is wrong (Amr Bil Maroof and Nahi Anil Munkar) is deemed as the Khalifah (ruler) of Allah upon His Earth and the Khalifah of the Messenger of Allah and the Khalifa of His Book. - Holy Prophet

### *Explanation:*

Amar Bil Maroof and Nahi Anal Munkar are both extremely important for us to help keep our Muslim brothers and sisters on the right path. But, both of these important parts of Islam have to be done in a proper way without offending anyone. If you want to tell someone that what they do is not right, don't do it in front of a large crowd because they might get embarrassed or feel bad. Instead take them aside and tell them one-on-one, this way you complete your duty as a Muslim and also don't embarrass your friend.



## Lesson from Karbala

An example of Amr bil Maroof that was present soon before the battle of Karbala was when Hani Ibn Urwah, a resident of Kufa, hid Muslim Bin Aqeel in his home. The Shias in Kufa began to come to visit Muslim Bin Aqeel secretly in Hani's home. Hani Ibn Urwah's generosity of letting Imam Hussain's (AS) companion stay in his home and allowing the Shias of Kufa to visit Muslim bin Aqeel are an example of Amr Bil Maroof. He encouraged others to give their allegiances to Imam Hussain (AS), not necessarily verbally but through his actions he was able to do Amr bil Maroof. After some time, the ruler of the area, Ibn Ziyad, found out about Muslim Bin Aqeel. Ibn Ziyad wanted Hani Ibn Urwah to bring Muslim to his palace, inevitably this would mean that Muslim Bin Aqeel would be killed or imprisoned. Hani did everything he could to stop Ibn Ziyad from getting Muslim Bin Aqeel. Hani's actions of refusing Ibn Ziyad's command was an example of Nahi Anil Munkar. Hani was martyred by Ibn Ziad but did not follow an order that was not right.





## Anecdote on Amar Bil Maroof and Nahí Anal Munkar

Hundreds of years ago, there was a scholar named Allama Majlesi. His father was also a very learned scholar and he began teaching him from a young age. As Allama Majlesi learned more and more about Islam, he would also tell other children about what he learned. This is an example of Amr Bil Maroof as Allama Majlesi was telling others to do good by pondering and learning more about their faith of Islam. Allama Majlesi encouraged others to do good even after he departed this world by writing many books and personally teaching many students to the level of expert scholars, among them his own daughter. An extremely pious man, the Allama had a keen sense of humor. During the compilation of *Bihar al-Anwar*, one of his students once brought in a book in which the Allama found a few crumbs of bread. He jovially remarked to his student, "Young man, if you wish, I will give you a cloth on which to keep your bread while you eat it! Oh my students, I wish that you are more considerate about these books. I hope you don't eat them or leave them in the sun or use them to swat flies!"



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

After learning a bit about Amr Bil Maroof and Nahi Anil Munjar, it's time to put your brain to work!

1. What are five ways you can practice Amr Bil Maroof in your day to day life?
2. How can you practice Nahi Anil Munkar without hurting others feelings or embarrassing someone?
3. Can we use Amr Bil Maroof and Nahi Anil Munkar on ourselves too?
4. Why is it important that we practice Amr Bil Maroof and Nahi Anil Munkar?

## Activity of the Day:

In today's activity we're going to try and spread some positivity around your neighborhood! All you'll need are some flat rocks and paint!

1. Take a walk with your family to collect a few smooth rocks that you can paint on
2. Wash and dry your rocks
3. Get out your paints and brushes
4. Paint your design and try to include a short positive message!





## 02 Perseverance

*Quranic Verse:*

فَأُسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ وَمَنْ تَابَ مَعَكَ

Then stand you fast (O' Our Apostle Muhammad) (on the right path) as you are commanded, (by your Lord) as also he who has turned (to Allah) with you [11:112]

**Hadith:**

Imam Sadiq (AS) said:

مَنْ ابْتُلِيَ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِبَلَاءٍ فَصَبَرَ عَلَيْهِ كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِ أَلْفِ شَهِيدٍ

Every believer, who happens to be afflicted with a misfortune and (then) exhibits patience in the face of it, shall be granted rewards equivalent to that of a thousand martyrs.

**Explanation:**

Endurance and perseverance can reduce the severity of misfortunes and calamities. A person who possesses faith does not exhibit impatience when faced with trials, lest his faith should suffer.

It has been said: A believer is more resolute than a mountain. This is because he or she is steadfast against the enemies and displays fortitude in the face of misfortune, to the extent that no grief ever finds a way into the heart of a perfect believer.

It is only those who lack sincerity in their perseverance who tend to break down at the slightest of calamities. After all, if the religion of God has reached us today, it is due to the perseverance of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and the patience of infallible Imams (AS).

## *Lesson from Karbala*

Imam Hussain's (AS) perseverance is exemplary. He stood firm against the tyrant of the time who was not obeying the rules of Allah (SWT). Imam Hussain's (AS) ultimate goal was to attain the pleasure of Allah (SWT). This is why even though he knew that he was against the army of thousands he did not give up and continued to follow the right path. It was his perseverance that kept helping him to guide people from Yazid's army until his shahadat. He continued his duty of guiding people towards the right path even though he had just a few companions and family members who stayed firm with him.



## *Anecdote on Perseverance*

Ayatullah Sayyid Ali Husaini Sistani was born on 9th Rabi Al-Awwal 1277, in the holy city of Mashhad. In the beginning of 1338 he started studying basic Hawzah lessons. In late 1346 he migrated to Qum to accomplish his studies in Fiqh and Usul. He was benefited by the two well-known scholars, Sayyid Hussan Tabatabaye and Grand Kuhkamari. In early 1349 he left Qum for Najaf Ashraf and reached Karbala on the occasion of Arba'in (40th day) of Imam Hussain (AS). On having arrived in Najaf, he began attending Ayatullah Khu'i and Shaykh Husayn Hilli's lectures on jurisprudence and fundamentals of jurisprudence for a considerably long time. Meanwhile, he attended lectures of other prominent scholars like Ayatollah Hakim and Ayatollah Shahrudi (may Allah bless them) as well.

In 1358 Ayatullah Sistani traveled back to his hometown, the holy city of Mashhad, expecting to stay and settle in it. In the same year, he was awarded a permit by Ayatullah Al-Khu'i and another by Shaykh Hilli, certifying that he had attained the level of (ijtihad)- deduction of legal judgment in matters of religion. In 1359 he returned to Najaf.

As it is stated in his biography, Ayatullah Sistani started his Islamic education when he was only 11 year old and continued it with a lot of passion and perseverance. He traveled from one country to another, and from one city to another city looking for the best teachers and education to learn Islam. Allah said in the Quran that we do not disregard the efforts of the believers. When you put your energy and efforts in the path of Allah, He will reward you with success in return.

This is clear from how the efforts of Ayatullah Sistani became fruitful and now millions of the believers follow him in Islamic regulations.



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are a few ways you can show Perseverance?

1. When you are near the end of a race and struggling to finish, find a burst of energy to cross the finish line.
2. Try a new sport or skill that is difficult and don't quit.
3. Study and work hard to improve your grades.
4. Save up your money and do extra chores to buy something special for family or friends.
5. Help your friend or younger sibling learn how to ride a bicycle or play a new game.
6. Always finish what you start. Do not give up when things get tough.
7. Try something again, even if you failed the first time. Remember you had to learn to walk before you could run!

## Activity of the Day:

Reach for the Stars: Using Construction paper, make a star. Students should write a dream or goal that they hope to achieve on their star and then decorate it. Tell the students that it takes perseverance to fulfill their dreams.







## 03 *It's Never Too Late to Repent*

### ***Quranic Verse:***

وَهُوَ الَّذِي يَقْبَلُ التَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِ وَيَعْفُو عَنِ السَّيِّئَاتِ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

And He it is Who accepts repentance from His slaves, and forgives sins, and He knows what you do. [42:25]

### **Hadith:**

Imam Ali (AS) narrates: "The sin that makes you sad and repentant is more liked by Allah than the good deed that turns you arrogant."

### **Explanation:**

Tawba or repentance is an Islamic concept of restoring one's connection with his Creator by withdrawing oneself from committing deeds that Allah (SWT) has forbidden.

Oftentimes, a person generates feelings of defeat and irritation in response to not being able to regulate his emotions and desires. A fundamental that is overlooked, is that being human beings, an elemental part of our nature is to learn and grow from our mistakes and wrongdoings.

That is why if someone commits a sin, that person should immediately repent and try to implement changes in their life and grow closer to Allah, regardless of how many times the person messes up and falls for this deceptive world. Allah Himself says, "Take one step towards me, I will take ten steps towards you. Walk towards Me, I will run towards you."

Although we have to keep our distance from sins and anything against Allah's will, it is essential that we understand that the magnitude of our sins is insignificant in comparison to Allah's Mercy. If, and only if one repents out of honest guilt and with a pure heart, Allah's Mercy will always be their reward.

## *Lesson from Karbala*

One of the most exceptional forms of repentance is demonstrated through Hur Ibn Yazid Riyahi. Reflecting upon Hur's life before Karbala; he served the wrong authority, supported tyranny and oppression, and pledged allegiance (bay'ah) to someone like Yazid. However, despite being someone with a history like so, his few hours worth of pure remorse and regret transformed his entire lifetime's worth of sins. His repentance and sincere guilt altered every aspect of his life not only in this world, but also the Hereafter.

Hur on the 9th of Muharram serves as an eye-opener for our society today. His name, his sacrifice, and his devotion towards serving Imam Hussain (AS) continues to inspire people in the modern-day world. His legacy continues to function as a reminder for all of us that, no matter what we've done in our past, it's never too late to repent.



# *Anecdote on It's Never Too Late to Repent*

Ayatollah Wahid Khorasani is one of the Shia Marajah who currently lives in Qum. He is one of the most prominent Marajah of our time who has dedicated his life to spread the knowledge of Islam and Ahlul Bait( AS) by teaching many scholars. He narrates that once, he was teaching in a Hawza (Islamic Seminary) and this strange boy approached him. The young boy looked very lost and disoriented, and he approached Agha Khorasani and addressed him by his name. The boy asked him if he had the key to room number sixteen. Agha Khorasani was very surprised by the fact that he knew his name, because he had never met this boy before. However, he responded by saying "yes." The boy then asked him if he could teach him about Abu Ali-Sina's Philosophy. Agha mentions that the boy insisted so much that he couldn't refuse, and ended up agreeing. Once Agha Khorasani started teaching, he realized that he had to put in a lot of effort in order to teach the boy, because he himself hadn't studied the subject in a long time. What eventually ended up happening was that he would stay up late at night and spend a lot of time reviewing the chapters and lessons himself so he could teach the boy. This bothered Agha Khorasani's family a lot, because he was staying up late and it was disturbing for the rest of his household members. A few days later, he realized that he couldn't find his textbook. Because of this, he started teaching the boy, without the book. He continued doing this for two days and then on the third day, the boy asked him "why are you teaching me without reviewing the course yourself?" Agha responded by telling him the truth, about how he'd lost his book and this was the third day he had been teaching without it. The boy then told him that his wife hid his book in between a mattress and a bed frame. Agha was very surprised as to how the boy knew this. When he went home that night, he looked and found his book in the same exact place the boy had told him. Agha was very surprised and wondered as to who his student was. He came back the next day, and asked the boy who he was, because the boy had known his name, the location of the empty classroom, and where Agha Khorasani's book was. So the boy then told him that I'm from this one village, and my father was a religious scholar (Alim e deen) in his life. He had wanted me to go to school and get a proper education, but I never paid attention to him and didn't go to school. After some time, he passed away. Upon his death, the people of my village made me their resident Alim and started expecting the same things from me. I didn't have that kind of exposure or knowledge, so I started answering peoples' questions according to my own understanding. I continued doing this for a really long time until one day I realized that after I die, I won't be able to justify my actions in front of Allah. So one Friday, I gathered everyone from my village and I confessed what I had been doing. Everyone in that village reacted aggressively, but it was justified. I left the Masjid right after confessing, and I saw a man approach me with a very pure and lit up face. After talking to him for a few minutes, he asked me about why I didn't go to school. I told him that I don't know where to go, and that's when he told me about you. He told me your name, the classroom number, and your book's location. He tells me all this information. Agha Khorasani at that time realized that his student was talking about Imam-e-Zaman (AJTF). Agha Khorasani then tried many times to somehow meet Imam-e-Zaman (AJTF) through the boy but wasn't able to. Agha then understood, and he concluded that if anyone repents for his wrongdoings with a sincere heart, Imam-e-Zaman Himself, will guide and help. Through this, we should sincerely repent and ask for forgiveness; after doing something wrong, and leave the rest in Allah's hands. We should try our best not to commit that mistake ever again.

# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are a few ways you can practice repentance in your daily life?

1. Develop a habit of reciting “Astaghfirullah”.
2. Dedicate a few minutes after namaz for self-reflection and repentance
3. Don't feel embarrassed when saying “sorry”.
4. Every night before you go to sleep, reflect on what you did during the day. Think about the things you said, think about your actions. If you recall doing something or saying something that wasn't right, ask Allah to forgive you.
5. If you say something mean or hurtful behind someone's back ask for their forgiveness and also ask Allah for his forgiveness.

## Activity for Today:

Inside of the left dua hand, write down three mistakes that you have made, that you want to repent for. On the right dua hand, write down three goals you have to avoid making those same mistakes again. Afterwards, decorate and cut out both hands.







## 04 Modesty / Chastity

### *Quranic Verse:*

يَبْنَى آدَمَ قَدْ أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُؤَارِي سَوَاتِكُمْ وَرِيْشًا وَلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ  
آيَةِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَذَّكَّرُونَ

O you Children of Adam! We have bestowed on you to cover your shame as well as to be an adornment to you. But the righteousness, that is the best. Such are among the Signs of Allah, that they may receive admonition. [7:26]

### **Hadith:**

“Modesty is the means to all beauty.” - Imam Ali (AS)

“Chastity comprises one’s whole faith.” - Holy Prophet (SAW)

“Chastity and faith are interrelated; none lasts without the other.” - Holy Prophet (SAW)

“Chastity is women’s beauty.” - Holy Prophet (SAW)

### **Explanation:**

Modesty in Islam is an ideal that is to be practiced by both men and women. The physical and visible form of modesty is the hijab. For women, hijab is the headscarf and wearing modest clothing that covers the body while for men, hijab involves wearing modest clothing and lowering their gaze. The concept of modesty includes behavior as well. One should not act or dress in ways that attract attention as this goes against Islam’s teachings of modesty.

## *Lesson from Karbala*

The women in the family of the Prophet (SAW) took pride in themselves in their hijab. They were beacons of chastity and embodied Islam in the best ways possible. On the plains of Karbala, after the conclusion of the battle, Yazid's army raided the camps of Imam Hussain (AS). They lit the tents on fire and in doing so, some of the women of Imam's (AS) camp had their hijabs burnt as well. Despite these difficult and unjust situations, the women were able to observe their Hijab and their Islamic duties.

This teaches us that no matter how hard the situation or how distracting the environment is, we need to stay with our beliefs and follow our Islamic duties. This is one of the biggest lessons of Karbala that we should always remember.





## *Anecdote on Modesty / Chastity*

Amina Haydar al-Sadr, known as Bint al-Huda al-Sadr, was an Iraqi educator and political activist who was executed by Saddam Hussein along with her brother, Ayatullah Sayyid Mohammad Baqir al-Sadr, in 1980.

Binte Huda is a good role model for modesty. She continued her education until she reached the level of "Ijtihad" and established many religious schools for girls in Kazimiyah, Baghdad. Bint Al-Huda played a significant role in creating Islamic awareness among the Muslim women of Iraq. She would host programs in her home to regularly educate others on Islamic teachings. In a magazine called Al-Adwa, she wrote articles to help girls and women practice Islamic teachings without wrong ideals influencing them. Her articles would include topics such as modesty and how girls and women should follow the Islamic standards for being modest and chaste.



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are some ways you can implement modesty in your life?

1. When you are picking out your outfit for school, analyze it and ask yourself if it is modest.
2. Modesty also entails behavior. When you are in public, take a quick break to ask yourself if you are behaving modestly.

## Activity of the Day:

Research and find those successful Muslim men and women who were able to reach the top levels of their field either in education, sports, art, etc. while observing the Islamic regulations such as Hijab and modesty.





## 05 Supporting the Imam of Our Time

### ***Quran Verse:***

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِيَ الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

O ye who believe! Obey Allah, and obey the messenger and those of you who are in authority; and if you have a dispute concerning any matter, refer it to Allah and the messenger if you are (in truth) believers in Allah and the Last Day. That is better and more seemly in the end. [4:59]

### **Hadith:**

“Kalimatu Laa ilaaha illallah (the saying that there's no God but Allah) is my fortress. Whoever chants it, enters my fortress; and whoever enters my fortress shall be safe from my punishment”. Imam Reza (AS) then paused for a moment and continued, “There are few conditions entitling entrance to the fortress and I am (Wiayat of Ahlul-bayt) one of its conditions.”

### **Explanation:**

Supporting the Imam of our time means to be available to sacrifice anything and everything at any time for Imam Mehdi (AJ). The Imams are the true successors of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) who are designated by Allah for the guidance of us after the demise of the Prophet (SAW). Therefore, to deny or disobey the Imam of our time is to disobey Allah Himself.

## *Lesson from Karbala*

After departing from Madina for Kufa, Imam Hussain (AS) had many companions by his side. All ready to support his mission and die by his side. As the journey continued into Karbala, the support of them was reduced to only 72. Some like Hur joined Imam Hussain (AS) on the day of Ashura. Hur had been called by the Imam of his time and made the difficult but good decision of leaving the world behind and joining and dying by his side.

One important companion was Habib ibn Madhahir al-Asadi, of the Banu Asad clan. He was one of the people of Kufa who sent letters to Imam Hussain (AS). and invited him to Kufa. Though, when he realized that people of Kufa had broken their allegiance to Imam Hussain (AS), he left Kufa, joined Imam Hussain (AS), and was martyred at the age of 75 in support of the Imam of his time. He was an old man and had responsibilities at home like everyone else but none of that mattered to him when the Imam of his time needed support.

Another important companion was Zuhayr ibn Qayn. He is best known for his participation in the Battle of Karbala. As Imam Hussain (AS) met Zuhayr and tried to convince him to come support, Zuhayr did not even want to speak to the Imam of his time. He finally spoke with Imam Hussain (AS) because his wife convinced him to. After He spoke with Imam Hussain (AS), Zuhayr volunteered to join his army against the forces of Yazid and finally became one of the great companions of Imam of his time.



# *Anecdote on Supporting the Imam of Our Time*

Abu Abd Allah Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Nu'man al-Harithi al-Baghdadi (338/949 – 413/1022), commonly known as Shaykh Mufid, was born and lived in a village near Baghdad where he traveled to with his father to further his education.

From the beginning of his education, Shaykh Mufid showed a lot of perseverance and dedication to learning Islam and increase his knowledge. Due to his hard work he was able to become a student of great scholars such as Ibn Qulawayh and Shaykh Sadooq who himself was born with the Dua of Imam Mahdi (AJTF).

Shaykh Mufid became so educated that he trained many great scholars who each became the source of knowledge for many more students. He wrote a large number of books on a wide variety of topics.

Among his students are the famous Sayyid Al Razi (the one who collected Nahj Al Balaqah of Imam Ali (AS), Sayyid Murtaza, and Shaikh Toosi (one of the greatest Shia scholars).

When you dedicate yourself to Allah and to support Islam you become the source of many blessings for others. Shaykh Mufid not only himself was able to help many people during his life but also he trained these great scholars who each could help many people.

Shaykh Mufid reached the level of piety that had the opportunity to receive a letter from Imam Mahdi (AJTF) which talked about him very highly. Here is a part of this letter to Shaykh Mufid:

“In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Peace and mercy of Allah (SWT) be upon you, O helper of religion. O one who invites to Allah (SWT) with the word of truth. We thank Allah (SWT), except Whom there is no deity, for your existence and invoke His blessings for our master and chief, Muhammad (SAW), the seal of the prophets and his Ahlul Bayt (AS). The letter inter alia says: O sincere friend and struggler, may Allah (SWT) help you as He had helped His chosen servants in the past. I promise that if anyone from your brothers in faith acquires the fear of Allah (SWT) and pays that amount which is obligatory on him to the eligible recipient, would be safe from sorrow and calamities...

As you can see in this letter, Imam Mahdi (AJTF) has addressed Shaykh Mufid as the helper of truth and the caller to Allah (SWT) with truth, which are some of the loftiest qualities of righteous people.”

Therefore, we should also do our best in this way to gain the trust of our Imam inshaAllah in the path of Iman and supporting Islam.



# Think Big & Activity



## Thing Big!

What are some steps your community is taking to aid the Imam of their time?

Are there any ways that you yourself are working for the Imam of your time in his absence?

## Activity of the Day:

Think of one new thing you can work on and begin to prepare yourself for when the Imam calls on you for help.







## 06 Contentment

### Verse of Quran

إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى ★ وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَى

Except the seeking of the pleasure of his Lord, the Most High. And he shall soon be well-pleased.  
[92:20 - 21]

### Hadith:

One who is content with divine destiny is the one most aware of Allah (SWT). - Imam Sadiq (AS)  
Allah has placed some good in whatever He has decreed for a believer with which the believer is content. - Imam Sadiq (AS)

Blessed is the one who is guided to Islam, who has sufficient sustenance, and whos is contented with it.  
- Holy Prophet (SAW)

### Explanation:

Contentment in Islam refers to the concept of being satisfied and happy with the way things pan out. This goes hand in hand with trusting that everything happens according to Allah's will. Contentment is also being grateful and appreciative of what Allah has given you. A true believer will place their full belief in the fact that Allah won't let them down and is content, or, at peace, with whatever decisions Allah makes for them.

## *Lesson from Karbala*

Before the battle of Karbala, Imam Hasan (AS) knew he would not be present to help his brother fight. Before his death, he wrote a letter in which he told his son that he would need to be sacrificed for the sake of Islam. Hazrat Qasim (AS) would represent his father. On the night of Ashura, when all the soldiers showed their loyalty to the Imam (AS), Hazrat Qasim (AS) asked if he would be among those who would fight the next day and would be martyred. When Imam (AS) asked him, "How is martyrdom to you", he replied in the known famous words "O my uncle, Death for Islam will be sweeter for me than honey." On the day of Ashura, Hazrat Qasim (AS) asked Imam Hussain (AS) for permission and twice was faced with refusal. When Imam Hassan's (AS) letter was presented to Imam Hussain (AS) he read it and said, "O my brother's son, how can I stop you from doing what your father wanted you to do?". Although it was very difficult for Imam Hussain (AS) to let Hazrat Qasim (AS) go to the battlefield he gave him the permission and he helped Hazrat Qasim (AS) prepare for battle.

This relates to contentment in that, as a 14-year-old, he could have complained or argued that he is young and has his whole life ahead of him. He read his father's letter and obeyed his father's wish with contentment. His final words showed nothing but contentment in that he was able to assist his uncle in saving Islam while representing his father. Whenever Hazrat Qasim (AS) would successfully kill an enemy, he would look back at his uncle Hazrat Abbas (AS) and with contentment on his face, he would wave. Although Imam Hussain (AS) did not want Hazrat Qasim (AS) to go and fight, Hazrat Qasim (AS) begged because he knew in order to defend the truth and the Imam of his time he should go to the battlefield. Completely content with going against such a huge army, the young 14-year-old fought to the best of his abilities until he was struck. He called out to his uncle, Imam Hussain (AS) for help and soon after that, he was among the martyrs of Karbala.



## *Anecdote on Contentment*

Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky is the primary figure and spiritual leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria who is currently imprisoned. He began promoting Shia Islam around 1979. Zakzaky believes that a republic based on similar religious principles could be established in Nigeria. During military administrations in Nigeria in the 1980s and 1990s, he has been detained multiple times on charges of civil disobedience, and he is still suspected or seen as a threat by Nigerian authorities. Throughout his imprisoned life, we can remember Imam Musa Kazim's (AS) life in prison. Allah has given both believers a confined place to just worship and serve Allah in peace. Throughout such burdens, he stayed steadfast on the right path and has shown contentment. As Allah says in the Quran, "Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear." Surah Baqarah (2:286).

As the Shia genocide and the killings of our fellow Shia brothers and sisters were on a high in Nigeria, Sheikh Zakzaky's many sons have been martyred. When he was asked about the situation in Nigeria, he responded with, "Alhamdulillah." This signifies the level of contentment as to which Sheikh Zakzaky feels. Fortunately, according to the news he was released from prison a few weeks ago.



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are some ways you can show contentment?

1. Name a time in your life when you were facing hardship but instead of complaining and being upset about the situation, you convinced yourself to be at peace with it.
2. Make a habit of saying “Alhamdulillah” when something positive happens.
3. Implement making a list every day of 3 things you are grateful for.
4. When something goes wrong, no matter how little or big, try to find ways to think about how it was for your benefit.
5. Try to smile more during the day!

## Activity of the Day:

Make a collage with small pictures of everything you can think of that you are grateful for. Try to fit as many pictures onto one page as possible.







## 07 Bravery

*Quranic Verse:*

وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ. لِيَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ عَلَيْكُمْ حُجَّةٌ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْهُمْ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِي وَلَا يَمَّ يَغْمِي عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ

And from wherever you go out [for prayer], turn your face toward al-Masjid al-Harām. And wherever you [believers] may be, turn your faces toward it in order that the people will not have any argument against you, except for those of them who commit wrong; so fear them not but fear Me. And [it is] so I may complete My favor upon you and that you may be guided. [2:150]

**Hadith:**

Imam Ali (AS) has stated: “Have hope only in Allah, be afraid of nothing but sins.”

**Explanation:**

The idea of bravery is one that is full of value and meaning when a believer is faced with situations that are difficult and may cause harm. To be brave means to wholeheartedly place your trust in The Creator and acknowledge the fact that He will take care of you through all of the trials and tribulations that life has to offer. The story of Karbala in itself is an epic narration of countless figures that remained brave in the presence of oppressors while maintaining full faith within The Lord. The Ahlul-bayt (AS) took any and all measures to ensure that the truth was being defended while promoting acts of goodness and structuring a clear image of a true believer's nature.

There are times where we may be afraid, intimidated or fearful of uncertain outcomes but Allah tells us to stay completely devoted to Him. Therefore, by magnifying His importance, we are minimizing the significance of all worldly objects and circumstances.

## Lesson from Karbala

Bravery is a trait that has been best exercised through a figure such as Hazrat Ali Akbar (AS), the son of Imam Hussain (AS). It has been narrated that he shared similar features to the divine personality of the Prophet (SAW) as well as a similar appearance with broad shoulders and a face that would shine like the moon. The amount of bravery that Hazrat Ali Akbar (AS) displayed in the battle of Karbala and in general is unmatched. On the path to Karbala before the battle had taken place, Imam Hussain (AS) had woken up from a quick nap and said, "I heard a sound saying that 'You are going fast but death will take you to paradise faster.'" Hazrat Ali Akbar (AS) who was next to him then responded, saying that if they are on the right path, then they should not be concerned about death. Not only did he fight with utmost strength, but he also silenced all senses of fear while embracing the fate he knew would inevitably be met with. Hazrat Ali Akbar (AS) was one who passionately expressed bravery and diligence in and out of the battlefield, utilizing his sword and tongue as the weapon to combat injustice. The final moments of Hazrat Ali Akbar's (AS) pain and hardship were brief, but the essence of his bravery will live on forever.





## *Anecdote on Bravery*

Ayatollah Morteza Motahari was born in 1920 and began his journey in Islamic education at a young age under the wing of his father, Sheikh Mohammad Hossein. As he progressed with his studies, he reached a point where a lot of his work was written in response to objections of Islam or ideologies that contradicted its teachings. In this time, Ayatollah Motahari was faced with communists that wanted to alter the religion of Islam. With his bravery, he took it to himself to handle the situation and oppose these wrong ideas by replacing it with truth. He also bravely voiced his opinions whenever it came to the struggle against Zionism as he believes it to resemble tyrannical oppression. His acts of bravery are representative of the way we should also strive to be, as being devoted followers of Allah that requires strength and courage to overcome evil while promoting peace.



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are a few ways you can practice bravery in your daily life?

1. Recite this dua: Allaahumma Asslih Qalbee wa 'amalee
2. Acknowledge any fears and allow yourself to be vulnerable when talking to Allah.
3. Push yourself to speak up if you see something is wrong, even if it uncomfortable.
4. Be persistent in your devotion to Allah; leave your worldly worries to The Master.
5. Remember that fear and pain is short lived but the bounties received in this life and the hereafter are never ending.

## Activity of the Day:

Think of a time where you were afraid but needed to be brave. This can be something like giving a presentation or something like standing up to bullies. Write a few sentences about the techniques that helped you suppress your fears and stay brave and write what you did or would do to be brave in that situation.





## 08 Fidelity / Loyalty

### *Quranic Verse*

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ بِغَيْرِ مَا اكْتَسَبُوا فَقَدْ احْتَمَلُوا بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُّبِينًا

The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and establish prayer and give charity and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah will have mercy upon them, for Allah is almighty and wise. [9:58]

### **Hadith:**

Imam Ali (AS):

O people! Surely loyalty (fulfilment of pledge) and truthfulness are twins. I do not know a better shield (against the assaults of sin) than it. One who realises the reality of return (to the next world) never betrays.

### **Explanation:**

To be loyal to a cause means to express immense feelings of support towards it. Being faithful to our obligations entails that we disregard anything that gets in the way from fulfilling such commitments. Loyalty plays a critical role in terms of our personal growth in relation to The Almighty and our duties towards Him. Therefore, we must be firm in our Islamic beliefs and actions that we express within a functional society while abiding by the laws of the land in which we reside. When our faith is strong, then we become fully secure and unbending to every temptation or obstacle that may tear it down.

Each figure on the side of Imam Hussain (AS) who is present in the story of Karbala perfectly displays an elevated level of allegiance to the religion of Islam and Allah (SWT) as a whole. As good Muslims, we can take these lessons from the Ahlul-bayt (AS) and apply them to every aspect of life by giving importance to loyalty towards our parents, family members, teachers, friends, goals and our country. Furthermore, we should be loyal to our religion and The Creator of all things as He has blessed us with a beautiful, structured and proper way of living to our utmost ability.

## *Lesson from Karbala*

When it comes to loyalty, one extraordinary figure that epitomizes this concept is Hazrat Abbas (AS). Hazrat Abbas (AS) is the son of Imam Ali (AS) and is highly revered for his loyalty towards his brother Imam Hussain (AS). During the final stage of his father's life as he lay on his deathbed, Imam Ali (AS) gave Imam Hussain's (AS) hand to Hazrat Abbas (AS), telling him to take care of his brother. Since that moment, Hazrat Abbas (AS) had fulfilled every one of Imam Hussain's (AS) wishes like a faithful servant. One of Hazrat Abbas's (AS) many significant moments in terms of displaying fidelity occurs on Ashura with his eagerness to fight on the battlefield. Hazrat Abbas (AS) was persistent in his desire to fight injustice without any hesitation as he asked Imam Hussain (AS) multiple times for permission to draw his sword. "No Abbas, how can I let you go? You're the captain of my army," replied Imam Hussain (AS). Finally with the permission of Imam Hussain (AS), Hazrat Abbas (AS) headed to the Furaat river, filled the mashk (water container) but stopped before he could take a sip for himself. Regardless of his own thirst, he refused to drink water knowing that Bibi Sakina and Ali Asghar were thirsty. This noble act is a defining moment of where Hazrat Abbas's (AS) loyalty lies and proves how unbreakable it is. On the way back to the tents, Hazrat Abbas (AS) was attacked by numerous enemies. Even with the loss of his arms, he stayed gripping the mashk tightly in between his teeth. Hazrat Abbas (AS) faced his opponents' bravery and became a martyr while attempting to serve others one last time. The personality of Hazrat Abbas (AS) is a perfect example of loyalty, as he was steadfast in his allegiance to the Ahlul-bayt (AS) until his very last breaths, just as we should be.





## *Anecdote on Fidelity / Loyalty*

Ayatollah Muhammad Taqi Bahjat is an exceptional figure that exercised loyalty towards the Ahlul-bayt (AS) through his deep devotion towards them. From a young age, Ayatollah Bahjat composed eulogies dedicated to Imam Hussain (AS) and his family's resilience in the eye of oppression. When he was 14, his father sent him to Karbala with a trusted friend, though border police ultimately prevented him from entering Iraq due to the absence of his parents. It was due to his intense loyalty that he eagerly desired to visit the land of Karbala at such a young age but it is also because of his loyalty to Allah that he looked past the disappointment, having full faith and confidence till his time to visit the site would come. Throughout the years he sought to satiate his thirst for Islamic knowledge and history. He eventually encountered Ayatollah Hajj Sheikh Ahmad Sa'idi Fumani, a pious man with an abundance of wisdom, and learned about many imperative tests as well as Islamic sciences. After 7 years of involvement and studying, Ayatollah Bahjat was ranked among the top students under Ayatollah Fumani. He'd gone on to acquire vast amounts of information and spiritual insights from a sea of sources. He would spend his mornings teaching Fiqh and his afternoons teaching Usul (principles of Fiqh) through health and through sickness as his loyalty and love for The Creator and the Ahlul-bayt (AS) was unstoppable. However, regardless of his elevated rank he highly valued anonymity and humbleness, he preferred to keep to himself but taught upon the request of others. Although he was also highly revered by Ayatollah Mirza Qazi, he never praised himself and would never even use the word, "I," when speaking. With this level of humility, it's interesting to note how even with 45 years of teaching advanced Islamic principles, Ayatollah Bahjat refused to accept his position. It wasn't until a large number of believers including reputable scholars insisted him to accept this religious authority and publish his resalah (Book of Islamic rulings). Through the life of Ayatollah Bahjat, one can learn about the true merits of loyalty as one should not let anyone get in the way of seeking nearness to Allah through increased knowledge and emphasize traits such as modesty and humbleness, for nothing is greater than The Creator.



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are a few ways you can practice loyalty in your daily life?

1. Aim to read all 5 namaz on time.
2. Seek nearness to Allah by learning more about Him and His Creations.
3. Keep every promise that you make and do everything that you say.
4. Practice obedience to your parents, teachers, elders and to the rules of Islam.
5. Make the teaching of the Ahlul-bayt (AS) your central focus in this world

## Activity of the Day:

Illustrate a flower with 5 petals around the bud. In each flower petal, write down a trait or characteristic that you think a loyal person has, then reflect and share a couple ways that you can personally show loyalty to Allah and the Ahlul-bayt (AS).





## 09 Power of Prayers

***Quranic Verse:***

**وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةٌ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخَاشِعِينَ**

And seek help in patience and As-Salat (the prayer) and truly it is extremely heavy and hard except for Al-Khashi'un (the true believers in Allah- those who obey Allah with full submission, fear much from His Punishment, and believe in His Promise (Paradise,) and in His Warnings (Hell)). [2:45]

**Hadith:**

Imam Hassan (AS) narrates: "The distance between Heaven and Earth is the cry of an oppressed person in dua (prayers).

**Explanation:**

The Ahlul-Bayt (AS) have emphasized on the notion of prayer (salah) throughout the Islamic history. Prayer (salah) can be defined, as an act through which a direct connection is established with Allah (SWT), by requesting His guidance and mercy, as He is Al-Hadi (The Guide) and Al-Raheem (The Most Merciful). Generally, humans tend to place a special focus on their prayers when they are in need of something. However, Allah wants us to call out to Him and remember Him at the time of joy and in hardship.

By reflecting upon Imam Hussain's (AS) persistent devotion and God-consciousness on Shab-e-Ashoor (9th of Muharrum,) prayer is exhibited as a blessing which has been granted to mankind. Each and every salah provides a person with a formal platform to call out to their Lord and ask for whatever their heart desires. It bestows upon man the ability to lighten the burden and weight of this materialistic, misleading world. The degree of emphasis that is placed upon the power of prayer(salah) is solely for our own benefit. If and when we understand this concept, we will be able to reach Allah successfully.

## Lesson from Karbala

Imam Hussain (AS) stands unparalleled in terms of prayer (salah). His love and reliance in Allah intensified his eagerness to connect with His Lord during the hardest night of His life, Shab-e-Ashoor.

Shab-e-Ashoor was the third consecutive day where the caravan of Imam Hussain (AS) was suffering due to thirst, hunger, and fatigue. However, even in that state of distress, Imam Hussain (AS) engaged himself in prostration and remembrance of Allah (SWT). He was well aware of what was soon to become of him and his family after this night, yet he continued to indulge himself in worship and ibadah (worship).

Imam's (AS) ability to find peace in prayer shows how doubt and fear weren't present in him throughout the entire event of Karbala. This level of trust in Allah (SWT) serves as a reminder for all of mankind, that the power of prayer should never be underestimated.



## *Anecdote on Power of Prayers*

Mohammed bin Ali bin al-Hussein bin Musa bin Babawayh; known as Abu Ja'far As-Saduq al-Qummi; the master Sheikh and the head of the narrators. His father was the respectful Sheikh Abu al-Hasan Ali bin al-Hussein bin Musa bin Babawayh: the master Sheikh of Qum in his time. He was also the most precedent, the master jurisprudence, and the most trustful of the ulema of his time.

The story of the birth of Shaykh Saduq is a complete example of the power of dua and connection to Ahlul-bayt (AS).

It has been narrated that the father of Shaykh Saduq asked one of the representatives of Imam Mahdi (AJTF) to ask the Imam to pray to Allah for giving him a male baby. First he was informed that his request was rejected but three days later, the Imam (AS) had prayed to Allah for him and he would be given a blessed male baby who would be the means by which Allah would benefit many people. Moreover, many boys would come after that baby. After a period, Ali bin al-Hussein ( father of Shaykh Saduq) was given Mohammed ( As-Saduq) followed by many other boys.

Shaykh Saduq is one of the most prominent Shia scholars who trained many great Ulama such as Shaykh Mufid. Shaykh Saduq has a very important role in narrating and teaching traditions from the Ahlul-bayt (AS).

All these blessings and the birth of this great scholar happened due to the connection of his father to the Imam of his time (AJTF) and the dua and prayers for the birth of this blessed person.

It shows us that if we sincerely pray and ask Allah, He will grant us the best of our requests and will help us to be successful in this world and hereafter.

# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are some ways we can connect to Allah?

1. Try to read namaz on time, right after Adhaan.
2. Take some time out during the day to talk to Allah about life.
3. Get into the habit of reciting 'Salawat' when doing chores.
4. Read at least one verse of the Quran every day.
5. Practice and memorize small Surahs from the Quran.

## Activity for Today:

Decorate the inside of the rectangle. Draw in designs and patterns or shapes and structures. Color and make sure to fill in the entire white space. Cut out the janamaz. Ask an adult near you to use a hand-held hole puncher to make three holes at the top and bottom of the rectangle. Use bunches of cut up yarn to fill in the holes and tie them off.







## 10 Don't Accept Humiliation

### *Quranic Verse:*

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ بَغَيْرِ مَا اكْتَسَبُوا فَقَدْ احْتَمَلُوا بُهْتَانًا وَإِثْمًا مُّبِينًا

Those who hurt believing men and women who have done nothing to deserve it shall bear the burden of a calumny and open sin. [33:58]

### **Hadith:**

“Death with dignity is better than a life of humiliation.” - Imam Hussain (AS)

### **Explanation:**

To avoid humiliation and have self respect is a prominent part of Islam. Islam forbids mockery and ridicule of others and never allows anyone to be a bad-apple picker! If one is involved in slandering and making fun of others, he is entitled to receive a severe punishment on the Day of Judgment. This implies the fact that Allah, The Almighty, defends and protects His servants against their slanderers. He is The Al-Muntaqim (The Restorer of Justice), The One who restores the rights of those who were shown or done injustice in this present life from their disdainers.

## *Lesson from Karbala*

When Hur Ibn Ziad first met Imam Hussain (AS) in Karbala, he was one of the highest rank generals of Yazid's army. As Imam Hussain (AS) arrived in Karbala and was making his way to Kufa, Hur grabbed the reins of Imam's (AS) horse and said, "You aren't allowed to leave Karbala". In response Imam (AS) said "Hur, may your mother cry for you." Although Hur was known as a brave and courageous warrior, knowing Imam's (AS) status, Hur responded "I can't say anything to you because your mother is Lady Fatima (AS)". As the day of Ashura approached, Hur found himself at cross roads. He was confused at which was the right path: the path that he was on or that of the Imam (AS). After much pondering and thinking, he ultimately realized that the only right path is that of the Imam's (AS). After blindfolding and chaining himself, he went to Imam's (AS) camp. When Hur approached the Imam (AS), he cried and asked for forgiveness. Imam (AS) responded that he had forgiven Hur before he even asked. This lesson from Hur shows that obedience and love for the Imam (AS). If Hur had not come to the side of Imam Hussain (AS) and had fought against him knowing that he himself was wrong, that would be humiliating. On the day of Judgment (Qiyamat), those that tried humiliating the Imams (AS) during their lives will be humiliated by Allah (SWT) in this world and the hereafter. Hur made a decision that allowed him to die a free man. Imam Hussain (AS) even told Hur that he truly is what his mother named him: Hur (which means free). Imam's (AS) has said that "death with dignity is better than a life of humiliation."



## Anecdote on Don't Accept Humiliation

Imam Khomeini is a good role model for not accepting humiliation. During the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini was leading Iran away from the control of the western imperialist countries. In response, these countries tried humiliating Iran and Imam Khomeini through their media outlets. They would constantly pressure Ayatollah Khomeini to back down and submit to them and their ways, but he wouldn't dare be humiliated by the western powers. On a certain occasion, the western powers decided to try and assassinate Imam Khomeini. They sent Apache helicopters to bomb his house and end him once and for all. When he was informed of this, he was content and had faith in Allah, and knew that those on the right path could never be humiliated. On the day of the attack, the Apache helicopters were met by a severe sand storm. This resulted in the helicopters crashing into each other; this proved to be a humiliating defeat for them. No matter who came to suppress Imam Khomeini, he remained steadfast on the right path and fought with dignity, and was never humiliated.



# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

What are some ways to implement humility into your daily life?

1. Recall situations in which you were stubborn and could have shown humility instead.
2. Think of a time when you accomplished something and how you showed or could have shown humility through that accomplishment.
3. An example of humility can be an athlete who gives credit for his success to his teammates.  
Think of a few more examples similar to this that depict humility.

## Activity of the Day:

Ponder about some people that you may have hurt but you didn't say sorry to. It can be friends or family, and apologize to them. Additionally, search up what types of people Allah (SWT) will humiliate on the Day of Judgment.







## 11 Sincerity

### ***Quranic Verse:***

Allah (swt) specifically uses the word sincere (mukhlaseen) to describe His servants who will be rewarded:

إِلَّا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ الْمُخْلِصِينَ ★ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ رِزْقٌ مَّعْلُومٌ

But the sincere servants of Allah—for them is a sustenance determined. [37:40-41]

### **Hadith:**

The Prophet (SAW) said: “As for anyone who works to Allah sincerely for forty days, Allah will make the springs of wisdom come out of his heart and tongue

### **Explanation:**

Sincerity is the attribute of a person who communicates and acts in accordance with the entirety of his or her feelings, beliefs, thoughts and desires in a manner that is honest and genuine.

It is worthy of Allah that the devotion to Him be completely pure and sincere. It should not be tinged with love of one's self or the desire for fame and honor.

In the Quran Allah tells us to say:

Truly my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death are (all) for Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. [Quran 6:162]

If you do things with sincerity, people will trust you. Examples of sincerity include giving people compliments that reflect your true inner feelings, performing acts of kindness without expecting anything in return.



## Lesson from Karbala

Jawn was the slave of Abuzar who joined the army of Imam Hussain (AS) and showed sincerity in his path. On the night before Ashura, Imam (AS) urged Jawn to go away to seek his safety by telling him, *"You have accompanied us all the way but now you may go"*, to which Jawn replied *"How is it fair that I benefit from your company and hospitality but abandon you in your hardship?"*

Jawn spent the whole night before Ashura sharpening his sword. On the following day he helped in repelling the first two attacks from Yazid ibn Muawiya's army. At mid-day, after the Zuhr prayers, Jawn came to Imam Hussain (AS), and stood silently. Imam Hussain(AS) looked at Jawn and said, *"Jawn, I know you have come for my permission to go to the battlefield. You have been a good and trusted friend. I will not deny your martyrdom for Islam. Go, Allah be with you!"*

Jawn smiled happily. Despite his social rank, he could achieve a highest level of worship by supporting Islam and Imam of his time with his life. He did all of this because he was sincere toward the Imam (AS).



## *Anecdote on Sincerity*

Ayatollah Sheikh Abdul Kareem Haeri Yazdi is one of the renowned scholars in Islam and popularly known to be the teacher of Ayatollah Imam Khomeini. Ayatollah Yazdi (1859-1937) studied in Yazd and then in Samarra under Grand Ayatollah Mirza Hassan Shirazi and completed his training in Najaf with Mohammad-Kazem Khorasani and Muhammad Kazim Yazdi.

When things in Najaf became political, he moved to Karbala and in 1913 moved back to Arak in Iran. It was by 1921 that he became well known as a respected teacher and a good administrator. He was invited to Qum to act as most respected and prominent person in the teachings of Shia Islam.

It is Ayatollah Haeri Yazdi's sincerity towards Allah that all his prayers, his service of sacrifice, his life and his death were all for Allah (SWT).

Two months after his arrival in Qum, he began the formation of the seminary. His dedication required meetings with businessmen, learned scholars and jurists. Before taking up the responsibility over the persistence of the scholars to stay in Qum, he prayed to Allah to guide him. Leaving everything in the hands of Allah, he performed a special prayer and pulled guidance from the Holy Quran. The verse from Surah Yusuf [12:93] opened in front of him which said:

'Take this shirt of mine, and cast it upon my father's face; he will regain his sight, and bring me all your folks' It left no doubt in his mind where his future lay. He therefore immediately began the task of setting up the seminary and invited all his former students in Arak to come to Qum.

Under him, Qum moved from a respectable Madrasah to a major center of learning. Ayatollah Haeri Yazdi became known as the founder of an important Islamic seminary (hawza) in Qum, Iran and scholar and marjah.

To this date, his belief and sincerity in Allah is seen by the success of the seminary in Qum which has now become the center of research and learning.

# Think Big & Activity

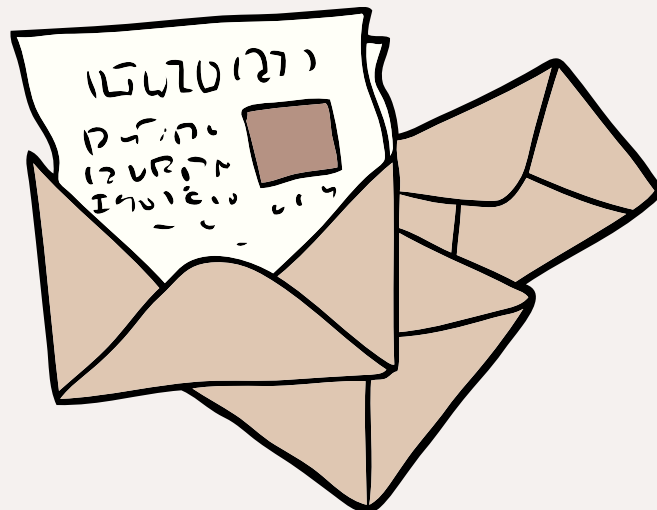


## Think Big!

1. Realize that sincerity comes from the heart: whatever you say or do you really need to mean it. You cannot be sincere if you praise someone but deep inside or behind his or her back, you make fun of him or her.
2. To be sincere you need to be genuine: you should always act in the same way alone as you would in the presence of others. To project yourself as someone different in front of others is not being sincere to oneself. It will make your work hard to be constantly in pretence.
3. Do something good without reward: When you do something good for someone, be sincere and do not just do it for something in return or to expect some reward in return. Remember, Allah is watching all your good deeds and your final reward is with Him.
4. Use positive affirmations: If you want to become sincere to your family member or friend, always look for the good in every situation. Put yourself in the person's shoes and see where they are coming from. Always look on the brighter side and try to pull the positive from every situation and take lessons from it.

## Activity of the Day:

Write a letter to someone you know and be sincere! Compliment them or thank them!





## 12 Support the Truth

### Quranic Verse:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن تَنْصُرُوا اللَّهَ يَنْصُرْكُمْ وَيُثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَكُمْ

O you who have believed, if you support Allah, He will support you and plant firmly your feet [47:7]

### Hadith:

“O people, be truthful, surely Allah is with the truthful; and avoids lying, for it stands far from faith.” - Imam Ali (AS) the Commander of the Faithful

### Explanation:

Supporting the truth is extremely important as it keeps us on the straight path. Even when everyone is on the other side, if one person supports the truth, the truth will stay alive.

Allah, the Wise, has said:

قُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا

And say: The truth has come and the falsehood has vanished; surely falsehood is a vanishing (thing). [17:81]

When the truth stays alive through even one person, it is inevitable for more people to hear about it and spread it amongst their community. When one person decides to risk dealing with the consequences of supporting the truth, they keep the door of clarity and understanding open for future generations. Allah (SWT) has written in the Holy Quran:

وَالَّذِي جَاءَ بِالصَّدَقِ وَصَدَّقَ بِهِ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ  
لَهُمْ مَا يَشَاءُونَ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ ذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Those who have brought the truth and those who have acknowledged it are those who have fear of Allah. They will receive whatever they want from their Lord. Thus is the reward of the righteous ones. [39:33-34]



## *Lesson from Karbala*

Almost every event that happened in the army of Imam Hussain (AS) in Karbala can be seen as a way of supporting the truth, but one example that truly stands out is the story of Hazrat Muslim bin Aqeel. Hazrat Muslim bin Aqeel was the cousin of Imam Hussain (AS) and also one of his most loyal companions. Imam Hussain (AS) would receive thousands of letters from Kufans that they supported his cause and wanted him to come to Kufa. Before Imam Hussain (AS) went, he sent Muslim bin Aqeel to confirm that the people of Kufa were not just supportive on paper. When Muslim Bin Aqeel first arrived he was warmly welcomed and thousands of people pledged allegiance to Imam Hussain (AS), the governor of Kufa was also satisfied as no one was interfering with his rule. When Yazid and the Umayyads heard about this, they removed Kufa's governor and replaced him with a cruel leader who threatened those who supported the cause of our third Imam (AS). After these threats, Muslim bin Aqeel lost his supporters through fear, but until his last breath he never gave up on the mission of Imam Hussain (AS).





## *Anecdote on Support the Truth*

Allama Tabatabai spent much of his life educating others and supporting the truth of Allah's words. No matter what hardship he faced, Allama Tabatabai did not stray from the right path. One example is when his salary was stopped due to some political issues and Allama Tabatabai's savings were also dwindling. Of course this would worry any person, but Allama Tabatabai only worried about it when he was distracted while studying. During his worried thoughts, there was a knock at the door. Allama Tabatabai narrates, I went and opened the door and saw that there was a man at the door. He was tall, his beard was dyed with henna, his turban (amama) was tied in a special manner on his head, and he was wearing a distinctive outfit. As soon as the door opened he said, "Salamun Alaikum".

I replied to his salam, and he said, "I am Shah Husayn Wali! God says [to you] "in these 18 years when have I ever let you go hungry that you have now abandoned your studies and fallen into the thought that until when will the relations between Iraq and Iran remain strained and when will they send us money!" Farewell to you!" I also bid him farewell and closed the door.

I sat at the table. At that time I lifted my head from my hands, and then a number of questions arose for me – did I actually walk to the door, or did I witness this scholar sitting here with my head in my hands?! Had I been asleep or awake?! Had the man called himself Shaykh Husayn Wali or Shah Husayn Wali. His appearance was not appropriate with the title Shah, nor was I sure that he was a Shaykh! Some time passed and these questions remained unanswered, until a letter arrived from Tabriz that I should go there.

In the morning, according to my regular schedule, I went to Najaf's Wadius Salam [graveyard] between dawn and sunrise, and walked between the graves reciting Surah Fatiha. Suddenly I saw a grave that was obviously an important one. I read the gravestone and saw that after many inscriptions in praise of the deceased it was written: the late Shah Husayn Wali! I realized that it was the same individual that had visited my home in Najaf. I looked at the date of his death and saw that it was nearly 300 years earlier.

I was surprised at his sentence "in 18 years when have we ever let you go hungry", because I had spent 9 years in Najaf, and I was 35 years old. So why 18 years?! After some thought I understood that it was exactly 18 years that I had put on the turban (amama) and the clothes of a soldier of Imam Zaman (AJ)!"

# Think Big & Activity



## Think Big!

Now that you've heard the stories of Hazrat Muslim Bin Aqeel and Allama Tabatabai, it's time for you to do some thinking too!

1. What's one way you can support the truth in your day to day life?
2. What does supporting the truth mean to you?
3. What's the difference between supporting the truth and speaking the truth, how are they similar?

## Activity of the Day:

As the truth is often connected with light, today's activity will be creating paper lanterns! For this activity you'll only need three supplies: a sheet of construction paper, a pair of scissors, and a stapler.

1. Cut a 2cm wide strip off the short side of your paper and set it aside to use as a handle
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise (hot dog style)
3. Cut fringe-style incisions from the folded side and stop 2cm away from the edge of the card.
4. Open out the card and fold it so the two short sides of the paper come together and secure with a staple
5. Staple the handle to the top of your paper lantern and you're all done!





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**Department of Education**  
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**Islamic Center of Zahra**