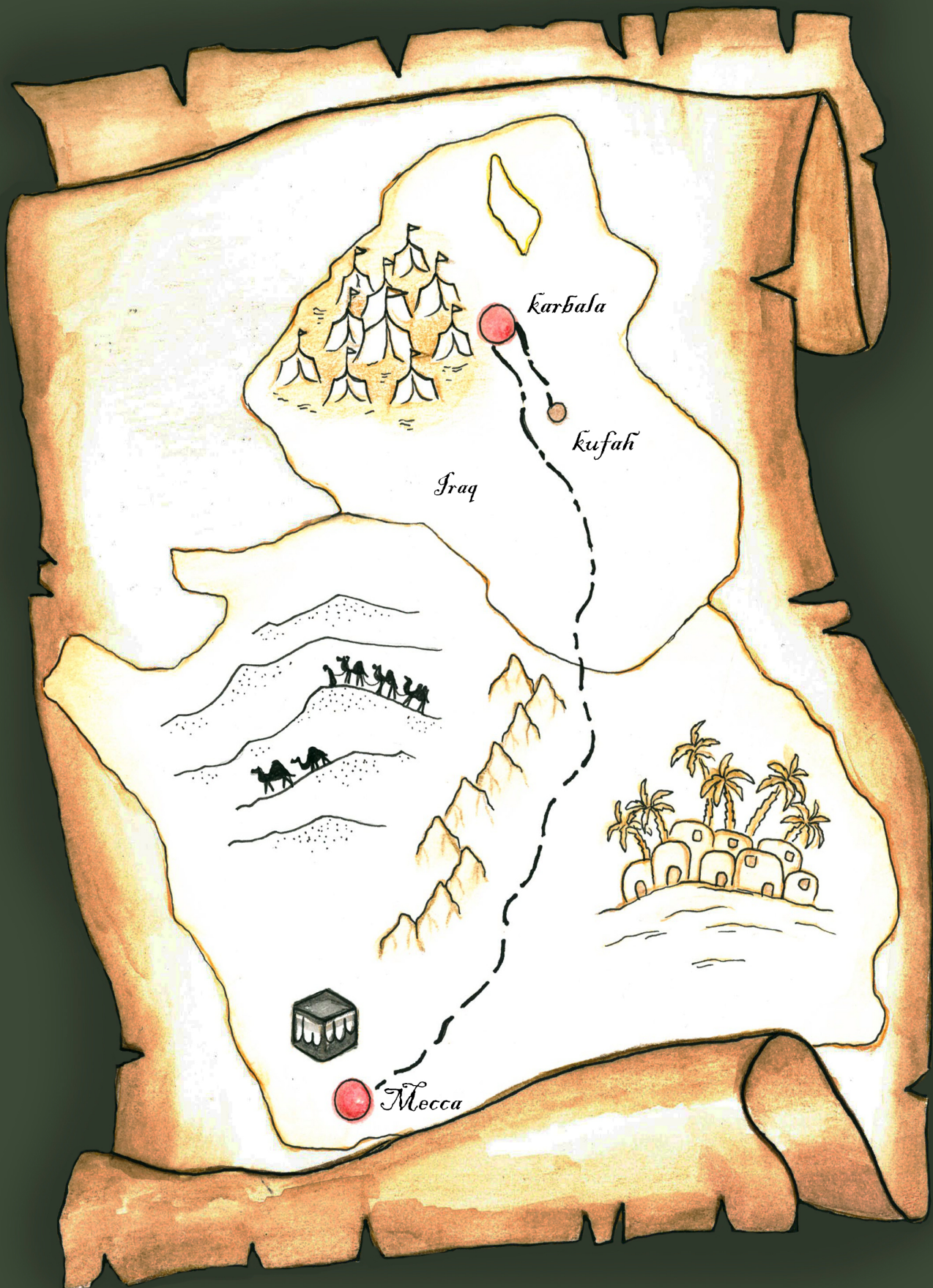


Journey to Karbala



Labbayk Ya Hussain

“Mama, where are you?” 6-year-old Musa called out looking for his mother. He saw that she was reciting Ziyarah. He suddenly saw the frame which said “Labbayk Ya Hussain”.

“Mama what does Labbayk ya Hussain mean?” he asked her.

“My son, it means Oh Imam Hussain, I’m here to answer your call,” she replied lovingly. It is a promise to the Imam that no matter what, we will always be with him.”

“But Imam Hussain is not here with us now so how can we be with him?” Musa looked puzzled. His mom smiled and asked, “Would you like to hear the story of Muslim Ibn Aqeel who helped Imam Hussain(AS) although he was far away?” Musa nodded eagerly. She continued. “He was Imam Hussain’s cousin. The people of Kufa wrote many letters to Imam Hussain inviting him to be their leader. Imam sent Muslim Ibn Aqeel to Kufa to see what was going on.

The governor Ubaidullah Ibn Ziyad had announced that he will be angry and will hurt those who support Imam Hussain(AS). The people got scared and now nobody was ready to help Imam Hussain(AS).

Muslim Ibn Aqeel was very brave and he was not afraid of the enemy. He supported the truth and was loyal to his Imam. He fought against a very huge army till he was finally martyred. This was Muslim Ibn Aqeel’s “Labbayk” to Imam Hussain.”

Musa was very impressed by the story.

His mother explained that we should say Labbayk not only by words but also by our actions.

Musa asked, “How?”

His mom smiled and said, “Each time we help somebody who is in need or who is being oppressed, we are saying Labbayk Ya Imam by our actions. Also, speaking gently and not hurting people’s feelings is a way of saying Labbayk by our words. This will make Allah and Ahl-e-bait happy. Musa, you must always ask Allah to help you to be good and to do good and support your Imam.”

Musa was happy and thanked his mom for teaching him such a wonderful lesson.



Daily Fact: *The Islamic Calendar starts with the month of Muharram.*

Friends

vs.

Foes

Wahab	Yazid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wahab was a Christian but had a love for truth and justice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yazid denied the Prophethood of Rasoolullah (SAWW) and the Islamic rulings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He embraced Islam along with his wife and got martyred with Imam Hussain (AS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He publicly committed sins such as drinking alcohol, dancing, attacking Makkah, hurting many innocent people, and Rasoolullah's (SAWW) companions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was only 25 years old in Karbala and was married for less than 20 days when he became martyred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yazid ordered the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and is responsible for the sufferings of the AhlulBayt (AS).

History:

Muawiya was the son of Abu Sufyan. He died in 60 AH. His son Yazid became the Caliph of the Muslims. Yazid was not a good person. He denied the Prophethood of Hazrat Mohammad (SAWW). He publicly committed major sins like drinking and gambling. He hurt many innocent people. He forced Imam Hussain (AS) to declare allegiance to him. Imam refused because that would mean he was supporting Yazid's wrongdoings.

With a very heavy heart, Imam Hussain (AS) left Madina with his family on the 28th of Rajab. He proceeded to Mecca to stay near the Ka'aba for safety.

Knowledge Check:

1. Labbayk Ya Husein means 'I am _____ O Imam.
2. Muslim Ibn Aqeel was Imam Hussain's _____.
3. Imam Hussain (AS) left Madina on _____ of _____.
4. Wahab was a _____.
5. Wahab was _____ yrs old when he was martyred in Karbala.

True or False:

1. Imam Hussain (AS) sent Muslim ibn e Aqeel to Kufa.
2. Yazid was a very pious man.
3. Wahab was in the army of Imam Hussain (AS)

Lesson 2
What does friendship mean?
Habib Ibn Mazahir

Musa came home crying. Mama asked, “What happened my dear?”

“Isa broke my favorite toy dinosaur. He smashed it into pieces. I don't like him.” said Musa, still crying.

His mother hugged him and said, “I know you are very sad Musa because you really loved your dinosaur. You know my dear, there are some things that are more important than toys and cannot be fixed once they are broken and we really have to take very good care of them.”

“What are those things Mama?” asked Musa looking puzzled.

“Like friendship, my dear,” she said “It is very precious! We have to be very careful how we treat people, especially our friends. We should always see the best in them and forgive them.”

Musa was still upset. “But Mama, it was my favorite toy!”

“Your Baba will help you fix it, Musa,” she said gently. “Maybe Isa was having a bad day or it was just by accident. You should be good to your friend and forgive him. That will surely please Allah. Good friends are always there for each other just like Isa was there for you when you fell off your bike and broke it. He helped you by letting you ride his bike.” His mom reminded him.

“Would you like to listen to the story of two best friends whose friendship remained very strong till the end?”

“Sure Mama,” replied Musa eagerly.

“This is the story of true friendship between Habib Ibn e Mazahir and Imam Hussain (AS). They were very close. Although Habib was older than Imam Hussain (AS) yet he respected and followed the Imam wherever he went. He loved the Imam and helped him for the sake of Allah. Many years later, when Imam Hussain was forced to go to Karbala, he remembered his childhood friend Habib and sent him a letter asking him to come and help. Habib was quite old, yet he answered the call of his Imam and became a shaheed. Today also both friends lie close in Karbala. Habib’s grave is near Imam Hussain’s grave. This is proof of their strong friendship.”

His mother said lovingly.

Musa was very touched by this story. He said, “Mama, I want my friendship with Isa to be strong.”

Mama was happy. She said “My dear, first go and talk to your friend. Imam Ali (AS) said, “The first to apologize is bravest, the first to forgive is strongest and the first to forget is the happiest.”

“Thank you Mama for teaching me such a wonderful lesson!” Musa gave her a big hug and ran off to apologize to Isa.



Did you know? Muharram is an Arabic word. It means not allowed or forbidden.

Friends	Foes
Aabis	Ubaidullah Ibn Ziyad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was the first person to announce his loyalty to Imam Hussain (AS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was the ruler of Kufa in Yazeed's time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was a very wise person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was very cruel and hurt anybody who did not obey him.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He took Muslim Ibn Aqeel's letter to give it to Imam Hussain (AS) in Mecca and remained with him till the end. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He did not like Muslim Ibn Aqeel and wanted to hurt him.

History:

The people of Kufa wrote 12000 letters to Imam Hussain (AS) inviting him to come and rule over them. He sent Muslim Ibn Aqeel to Kufa to find out what was going on. The people of Kufa said that they were faithful to the Imam, so Muslim wrote a letter asking the Imam to come. Sadly the people got scared of their cruel Governor Ubaidullah Ibn Ziyad who said he would hurt anybody who was friends with Imam Hussain or his cousin Muslim. Now Muslim was left alone. An army was sent to fight with him and he was martyred.

Imam Hussain got the news that Yazid had sent some people to Mecca to hurt him, so he left Mecca after doing Umrah.

Knowledge Test

1. Habib ibn Mazahir was Imam Hussain's _____.
2. _____ took Muslim Ibn Aqeel's letter to Imam Hussain.
3. Ubaidullah Ibn Ziad was the ruler of _____.
4. Imam Hussain called _____ to Karbala to help him.
5. Habib's grave is close to _____'s grave.

True or False

1. Ubaidullah Ibn Ziad loved Muslim Ibn Aqeel.
2. Habib Ibn Mazahir's grave is in Kufa.
3. Aabis joined Imam Hussain in Mecca.
4. Habib was younger than Imam Hussain.
5. Imam Ali (AS) is our first Imam.

Lesson 3: Taking Care of Orphans

Fatima, Isa, and Musa were busy planning their trip to the lake with their families. They heard their mothers calling them, so they all went downstairs. They were surprised to see a family they had never met before. First, they said Salaams to everyone. Then Isa's mother introduced the guests,

"This is Zainab and her Mother. They will also come with us to the lake." The children were very happy to have a new friend.

Later, Fatima asked her mother, "Will Zainab's dad also come with us to the lake?"

Her mother replied, "No dear, her dad got very ill and went back to Allah. Zainab is an orphan like Mohammed and Ibrahim, and we must all take good care of her."

"Mama, who were Mohammed and Ibrahim?" asked Fatima.

Mama replied, "They were the sons of Muslim Ibn Aqeel. After he was martyred, Ubaidullah Ibn Ziyad put these young boys in prison. An evil man hurt them, but they were loyal to their Imam. Even though they were hurt they did not side with the Imam's enemies."

Fatima listened and promised that she would take good care of Zainab.

They all had a great time at the lake! They played games and had yummy snacks. Later when it was time for prayers they did wudu and prayed. Everybody enjoyed the picnic.

Mama smiled at Fatima and Musa. She said, "I am very proud of you, and I am sure the Imam of our time is also happy with you! You really took very good care of Zainab. Our 6th Imam said, "Whoever takes care of an orphan will go to Heaven ."



Fact: Muharram, Rajab, Dhul Qaida, and Dhul Hajja are the months mentioned in the Quran as months of haram.

Friends	Foes
Zohair	Omar bin Sa'ad
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was from the brave family of Bajila.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He knew the Imam very well, yet wanted to hurt him.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He joined Imam Hussain(AS)'s army when he knew about Imam's purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He shot the first arrow at the Imam's camp on Ashura and started the war.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On Ashura, Zohair was the commander of Imam's right-wing army.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He was the commander of Yazid's army.

History

Imam Hussain(AS) met Hadhrat Zainab's husband Abdullah bin Jaffer and their two sons Aun and Mohammad on his way to Kufa. Abdullah asked Imam Hussain (as) not to go towards Kufa.. Imam Hussain replied that it was Allah's wish. Abdullah was sick so he could not go with the Imam, but he sent both his sons with him.

Imam met Zohair on his way towards Kufa. Initially, he did not want to join the Imam's army. Later, when he found out about the Imam's actual purpose, he joined him.

Knowledge Check

1. Zohair was from the family of _____.
2. Hadhrat Zainab's husband was _____.
3. Zohair was the commander of Imam's _____ army.
4. _____ was the commander of Yazid's army.
5. The first person to start the war on Ashura was _____.

True or False

1. Imam Hussain (AS) met Zohair at Mecca.

2. Hadhrat Zainab's sons were Aun and Mohammad.
3. The four months mentioned in the Quran are June, July, August, and September.
4. Abdullah did not join Imam Hussain (AS) because he was sick.

Lesson 4:
It is never too late to Repent
The Story of Hurr Ibn Yazid-al-Riyahi

Fatima was having fun playing with her dolls. Soon she heard the adhan on her mom's phone. "Fatima dear, it is time for salah," after a few minutes her mother reminded her.

"Mama, I have already prayed," Fatima said, still playing. Time kept passing. Soon salah time was over and Fatima missed her salah. Now she was very sad and guilty for two reasons: missing her salah and lying to her mother. Mama came to her room and saw that Fatima was crying. "What happened my dear?" She asked. "I'm sorry Mama, I lied to you. I missed my salah today and I am very sad about it. Her mom hugged her and said, "Ask Allah to forgive you, dear. We know that missing salah and lying are sins, but Allah loves us so much that He forgives us when we are sincerely sorry."

"Let me tell you the story of Hurr bin Yazid al Riyahi," said Mama, "He was a brave person in Karbala. First, he was against the Imam, but as soon as he realized his mistake he was sorry, and then he was forgiven." Fatima nodded and sat down with her mom to listen to the story.

Her mother continued, "On his way to Karbala Imam Hussain (AS) met Hurr and his army. They were very thirsty. Imam Hussain gave them and their animals, lots of water to drink. Hurr was a leader of Yazid's army and had been ordered to stop the Imam from going to Kufa. He held the reins of the Imam's horse. Imam Hussain looked at him and said, "Hurr your mother will cry for you (when she knows what you are doing)." Hurr was very moved by Imam Hussain's words.

He knew the Imam's mother Hadhrat Fatima Zahra (AS). His mother had told him to love and respect this great lady who was the Prophet's (S) daughter. Soon Hurr realized that he was in the wrong camp. Allah helped him to realize his mistake. His love for the Ahl e Bait changed his life!

Early morning on the day of Ashura, Hurr went to Imam Hussain's camp. The Imam welcomed him with love and respect. Hurr said that he was sorry for his mistake and asked Imam Hussain to forgive him. The Imam said, "Oh Hurr, I forgive you and so does Allah." Now Hurr fought from the Imam's side as his helper till he was martyred."

"Mama, does that mean that Allah forgives us when we are truly sorry?" asked Fatima.

Her mother replied, "Yes Fatima, He does. At the same time, you must try your best not to make the same mistake again."

Fatima jumped from her bed and said "Alright Mama, I am going to do my salah now. I will try my best not to miss it and I will always speak the truth."



Fact: Even before Islam, Moharram was a holy month.

Friends	Foes
Hurr	Shimr
First, Hurr was the captain of Yazid's army. He forced Imam Hussain (AS) to go to Karbala.	He was a greedy and jealous man. He wanted the things that others had.
Hurr means to be free. He freed himself from the fire of hell by joining the army of Imam Hussain (as).	Shimr was a leader of Yazid's army. He hurt Imam Hussain very badly.
He was a strong man. He knew what was right or wrong.	He was not a good person. He told lies and hurt others.

History

On his way to Kufa, Imam Hussain (AS) met some people who told him about the Shahadat of Muslim Ibn Aqeel. They asked him not to go to Kufa because now the people were not his friends.

The Imam told his army, "We are going on a very difficult journey. Whoever wants to leave me is free to go." Some people left the Imam. Only his true friends remained with him.

Knowledge Check

1. Hurr had been ordered by Yazid to stop _____ from going to Kufa.
2. _____ was sorry for his mistake and asked the Imam to forgive him.
3. On his way to Kufa Imam got the news of the shahadat of _____.
4. Shimr was a leader of _____'s army.
5. Hurr means _____.

True or False

1. Shimr was a very good man.
2. Hurr had love and respect for Imam Hussain's mother.
3. Hurr forced Imam Hussain to go to Madina.
4. Imam Hussain gave lots of water to Hurr's army and animals.
5. Imam Hussain forgave Hurr

Lesson 5

Support the Truth

Hadrath Ali Akbar

It was Monday morning and Musa was excited to go to school. He had waffles and orange juice for breakfast and then he hugged his mother goodbye.

“Khuda Hafiz, Musa,” she said. “Have a nice day son, and be good to your friends.”

“You are a very kind boy Musa and I am proud of you!” said his father. “You must also be honest and always speak the truth.”

“Yes Baba, I will be honest and truthful to my friends,” said Musa.

They left for school. His father was driving the car. Musa hopped in the back seat and fixed the seat belt. He said to himself “I will always be kind, honest, and truthful.” After thinking hard, he looked up and told his dad, “Baba, when you know you will be in trouble or your friends will get upset, it is hard to speak the truth.”

“My son, you are right,” he said, “At times it is very hard to do what is right, yet you should be strong and do it. Remember in Karbala when Hadrath Ali Akbar asked his father Imam Hussain (AS) if they were on the side of truth and our Imam said yes indeed. “Then I am not afraid of anything,” said Ali Akbar, who was young and brave. He always supported the truth.

“Thank you Baba, Hadrath Ali Akbar is my role model and I will follow in his footsteps,” said Musa.

Soon they arrived at school. Musa went off happily. He was glad to see his friends. At recess, he saw Hasan doing a new trick with his ball. “Wow Hasan, that is amazing!” said Musa, “Who taught you?”

“My dad. He is great at these tricks,” said Hasan. He tapped the ball with the outside of his foot.

“This is the step-over move. See how I do and then you can do it yourself.”

Musa wanted to score a goal so he kicked the ball hard. It went up high and came down upon a pink water bottle! The bottle broke with a loud noise and glass flew all over. The girls who were playing nearby were scared because of the sound.

When Sarah saw this she started crying, “Who broke my new bottle?”

The girls knew it was Hasan’s ball so they blamed him. Musa saw all this. He remembered what his parents had told him in the morning about being truthful and honest, and also about Hadrath Ali Akbar. Musa said to himself, “It is my fault, I should be honest and save Hasan from being blamed.” He went up to his friends and said, “It is my mistake. I kicked the ball.” Then he went to Sarah and said, “I am very sorry Sarah for breaking your bottle. I will be careful next time.”

“I know it was an accident, Musa. Please don’t feel so bad about it.” she said.

The teacher was very happy with Musa. “It is very brave and honest of you to admit your mistake, Musa,” she said. “Our first leader Imam Ali (AS) said, “Honesty will always save you!”

Musa got a new bottle for Sarah the next day. She was very happy and thanked him for his kindness.

Musa was happy that he spoke the truth. His honesty saved his friend Hasan from being blamed.



Friends	Foes
Saif Ibn Harith Jabiri	Marwan bin Hakam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saif and his cousin came from Kufa to join Imam Hussain in Karbala. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marwan was a jealous man.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saif was loyal to the Imam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imam Hussain had saved Marwan's life in a battle, yet he wanted to hurt the Imam.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saif was sad that he could give only his life to the Imam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He did not respect Imam Ali and said bad words about him.

Fact: Imam Hussain (AS) passed 18 stops on his way to Kufa.

History

At a place called Sorat Imam Hussain asked his friends to get lots of water. Soon they saw an army coming. They went to a nearby mountain.

Knowledge Check

1. Hadhrat Ali Akbar supported the _____.
2. _____ did not respect Imam Ali(AS).
3. Marwan wanted to hurt _____.
4. Imam Hussain and his army went to a _____ when they saw an army coming.
5. Imam Hussain passed 18 _____ on his way to Kufa.

True or False

1. Hadhrat Ali Akbar was Imam Ali's son.
2. Hadhrat Ali Akbar (AS) was a very brave person.
3. Saif came to Karbala to join Imam Hussain (AS).
4. Marwan said bad words about Imam Ali (AS).
5. Marwan had saved Imam Hussain's life.

Lesson 6:
Trust Allah (swt)
Story of Aun and Mohammad

Fatima was excited! There was an event at the Masjid and she was giving a speech on the mission of Imam Hussain(AS) in Karbala. She knew very well what she was going to say. As her turn came near, Fatima began to feel a bit uneasy. Her mother saw this and asked, “Fatima dear, are you feeling okay?” “Mama, I am a little shy of speaking in front of so many people. I am afraid that if I make a mistake they will laugh at me,” she said.

Her mother hugged her and said, “My dear, you are speaking in front of such a big crowd for the first time so you feel uneasy. Do your best and trust in Allah just like Aun and Mohammad did.”

Fatima asked, “Who were Aun and Mohammad, Mama?”

Mama said, “They were the sons of Hadhrat Zainab. They were quite young, but they had a strong faith in Allah(swt). Both brothers took permission from their uncle Imam Hussain (AS) very bravely to let them go to the battlefield. They trusted in Allah (swt) and sacrificed their lives for His sake. They knew that their love and support for the Imam(AS) is the way to make Allah(swt) happy and they did the right thing.”

“I will also trust in Allah(swt) so He helps me in my speech,” said Fatima

“Yes dear, He will. Always remember the golden words “Tawakkaltu ala Allah. It means I put all my trust in Allah. Since you will speak on Imam Hussain(AS) and his mission, this will make Allah happy and He will help you.”

Fatima thanked her mom and went on the stage to give her speech. Now she was feeling brave and confident.



Fact: Three Imams were present in Karbala: Imam Hussain(AS), Imam Sajjad (AS), and Imam Baqir (AS).

Friends	Foes
Abdullah bin Umair Kalbi	Harmala
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a brave friend of Imam Ali from Kufa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was very good at aiming arrows, sadly he used his skills in a bad way.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was honest and strong. He and his wife joined Imam Hussain in Karbala. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He hurt Hadhrat Ali Asghar with a 3 headed arrow.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was one of the first martyrs on Ashura. • His wife Umme Wahab was the first woman to be martyred. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a very bad person. He also hurt Imam Hasan's son Abdullah.

History:

Imam Hussain (AS) told his army that if your ruler does not follow the orders given by Allah (swt) and His Prophet (saww) then do not listen to him. Stand up for the truth. Do not live with people who do wrong deeds.

Knowledge Check:

1. Aun and _____ were brothers.
2. _____ Imams were present in Karbala.
3. Abdullah bin Kalbi was Imam Ali's friend from _____.
4. Harmala hurt Hadhrat Ali Asghar with a _____ arrow.
5. Tawakaltu ala Allah means I put all my trust in _____.

True or False:

1. Umme Wahab was the first woman to be martyred in Karbala.
2. Harmala hurt Imam Hasan's son Abdullah.
3. Aun and Mohammad were the sons of Imam Ali.
4. Abdullah bin Umair and his wife joined Imam Hussain in Karbala.
5. Harmala used his skills to help the Imam.

Lesson 7:
Patience In Adversity
Hadhrat Qasim

Musa was very fond of gardening. He wanted to grow fruits and vegetables in his own backyard. Then his family would be able to enjoy fresh cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, apples, and lots more from their own vegetable garden! Luckily his grandfather was good at gardening and was coming to help Musa.

Musa had always thought about how a tiny lifeless seed grows into a big tree with roots, branches, leaves, and flowers. He praised Allah for how He splits the seed and gives it food, water, air, and sunlight to grow. He also protects the baby sapling from birds, animals, rain, and wind with His mercy. Musa wanted to watch it all.

Soon the bell rang and Grandfather came. Musa ran to welcome him and gave him a big hug.

“Ready for some gardening, Musa?” asked Grandfather.

“Sure,” replied Musa.

They cleared up the weeds from the soil and dug it. Now it was time to sow the seeds. It was a lot of hard work in the hot sun, but Musa was excited to see his new vegetable garden! All evening Musa thought about it. At night when he fell asleep, Musa saw fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers in his dream. He woke up and ran downstairs to see if the seeds had grown. He was very sad to see that nothing had sprouted. “Mama, I don’t see anything in the garden,” he said.

“Musa dear, seeds don’t grow overnight. You have to be patient just like Hadhrat Qasim,”

Mama said.

“Who was Hadhrat Qasim, Mama?” asked Musa.

“He was the son of Imam Hasan (AS). His father had been martyred when he was very young. A few years later, in the battle of Karbala Qasim wanted to support his uncle Imam Hussain (AS). His mother gave him his father’s armor and a special sword. Hadhrat Qasim went to the Imam and asked him to let him go to fight the enemy. Qasim reminded Imam Hussain (AS) of his brother so much that he did not allow his young nephew to go to the battlefield.

Qasim was very sad. His mother told him to wait and be patient. After a while, Qasim went to his uncle again and asked for permission. Now the Imam agreed. So you see Musa, it is very important to be patient and wait for the right time,” said Mama.

Musa nodded and said, “Just like Hadhrat Qasim was patient till Imam Hussain (AS) let him go, I will also be patient with my garden to let it grow. Now I also know that everything happens when Allah wants it to happen.”

Two days later Musa saw tiny green sprouts in his backyard. He was very happy and praised Allah for helping his garden grow at the right time. He also saw that the stems, leaves, and vegetables all grew at their own time. Now Musa knew how important it is to be patient.



Fact: *Ashura* is taken from the Arabic word *ashara* which means tenth.

Friends	Foes
Saeed bi Abdullah	Muhammad Ibn Ashath
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saeed went with Aabis to give Muslim Ibn Aqeel's letter to Imam Hussain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> His father did not speak the truth. His sister hurt Imam Hasan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saeed said that he will never leave the Imam alone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ibn Ziyad sent him to hurt Muslim Ibn Aqeel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the day of Ashura Saeed was hurt while protecting the Imam in Dhuhr salah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was the leader of an army of 4000 men in Karbala.

History:

On the way to Kufa, Imam Hussain(AS) met Hurr and his army of 1000 men. They were very thirsty. The Imam gave them and their animals lots of water to drink. He led Dhuhr prayers and both armies prayed with him.

Then Hurr stopped the Imam from going to Kufa and forced him to go to Karbala to which Imam (a.s.) explained that the Kufans had written thousands of letters requesting him to lead them against Yazid. When Hurr denied his knowledge of any such message, Imam (a.s.) realized that people's loyalty had been compromised and prepared to return to Medina. However, Hurr led the Imam (a.s.) and his companions towards the barren land called "Naynawa" (Karbala) and prevented them from returning home.

Knowledge Check:

1. Hadhrat Qasim's father was _____.
2. Ashara means _____.
3. Imam Hussain met _____ and his army on the way to Kufa.
4. Hurr stopped the Imam from going to _____.
5. Saeed was hurt while protecting the Imam in _____ salah.

True or False:

1. Hadhrat Qasim asked Imam Hussain (AS) only once if he could go to the battlefield.
2. Saeed said that he will never leave the Imam(AS) alone.
3. Muhammad Ibn Ashath's sister hurt Imam Hasan (AS).
4. Hurr's army gave lots of water to Imam Hussain (AS).
5. Ibn Ziyad sent Saeed to hurt Imam Hussain (AS).

Lesson 8:
Eethar (Sacrifice)
The story of Hadhrat Abbas (AS)

Musa was very excited! Uncle Abbas was coming to spend a few days with the family. Musa was looking forward to having lots of fun with his favorite uncle. “Musa, since we don’t have a spare room would you please share your room with Uncle Abbas?” asked Mama.

Musa was not very happy with this idea. He had his toys and books in his room. He did not want to share his room with anybody.

“Why Mama?” he asked.

“Musa dear, our religion teaches us to be good to others in every way. Our beloved Prophet (saww) taught us that a guest is a special blessing from Allah (swt). We should welcome our guests and make sure they feel comfortable. Whatever we have we should share with them. This act of sacrifice will make Allah and the Imam our time (ajtf) happy.”

Now Musa understood that this was the right thing to do. He went off to clean up his room and put away his toys and books. Mama reminded Musa that the last time when Uncle Abbas had come he used to read out books to him. They had a lot of fun. Musa remembered the different places they visited. He also remembered the hike. They had walked so much that his feet hurt a lot and Uncle Abbas had carried him on his shoulders till the top of the hill. “That was so nice of Uncle,” he told Mama. “Do you remember Mama, it was a very hot day and we had finished all our water. When we were closer to the peak Baba was quite thirsty. Uncle gave us his water bottle although he was also tired. He did not keep any water for himself.”

Mama smiled. “Musa, your uncle is keeping up to his name,” she said. His spirit for sacrifice, or as we call it ‘Eethar’ is because of his love for Hadhrat Abbas (AS).”

“Who was Hadhrat Abbas, Mama?” asked Musa.

“He was Imam Hussain (AS)’s brother. He loved and obeyed the Imam (AS) for the sake of Allah (swt). He was very brave and strong. He even reached the river, and had a chance to drink water, but did not have a sip because his Imam was thirsty. His sacrifice and complete submission to Imam Hussain(AS) earned him the title of Babul Hawa’ij meaning the door to fulfill needs.”

“This teaches us to support the Imam of our time Imam Madi (ajtf) by our actions. Following the path of Ahl e Bait means we are supporting them and obeying Allah.

Your uncle was thirsty, yet he chose to give you and Baba all his water. This is the meaning of sacrifice. You, Musa, make me happy by sharing your room with Uncle and being good to him.”

Now Musa was really happy that Uncle Abbas was coming! He started counting the days for him to arrive.



Fact: *Hadrath Abbas was the leader and flag bearer of Imam Hussain's army.*

Friends	Foes
Jawn	Samarah bin Jundab
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jawn was a loyal friend of Imam Hussain(AS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samarah was a companion of the Holy Prophet. • The Prophet had told Samarah that he would go to hell.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a true believer. He was strong. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a chief of Yazid's army.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a slave of the Prophet's companion Abuzar, who freed him later. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He told many people to fight Imam Hussain(AS).

History:

Imam Hussain's caravan was passing through very dry land. He asked the people of Bani Asad who lived there, "What is the name of this place?"

They told him some different names for the place. One of them said "Karbala." Imam said, "Yes, this is the place of pain and hardship, it is the place of Karbin wa bala. This is our last stop. We will be martyred here and lie here forever." He bought the land and asked his companions to set up their tents.

Knowledge Check:

1. Hadhrat Abbas was Imam Hussain's _____.
2. Bab ul Hawaij means _____.
3. Jawn was a slave of _____ who freed him later.
4. Samarah was a chief of _____'s army.
5. The tribe of _____ lived in Karbala.

True or False:

1. The Prophet told Samarah that he will go to Heaven.
2. Hadhrat Qasim was the flag bearer of Imam Hussain's army.
3. Samarah told people to fight Imam Hussain.
4. Hadhrat Abbas sacrificed his life in obedience to Imam Hussain.
5. Imam Hussain bought the land of Kufa from Bani Asad.

Lesson 9:
The Greatest Sacrifice
Story of Imam Hussain (AS)

It was the night of 10th Muharram. Everyone was getting ready to go to the Masjid. “Musa, where are you?” Fatima looked all over the house for her brother. She found him fast asleep in his room. Very slowly she woke him up. “Wake up Musa,” she said, “It’s time to go.”

Musa quickly jumped out of bed to get ready. Fatima reminded him gently, “Musa tonight is the night of Ashura. Ashura is the saddest day in history. These are the days to mourn the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (a.s.) and his family. Will you please not run around and play at the Masjid and also remind your friends of tonight’s importance.

They went to the garage and saw their father loading bottles of water in the car. “Tonight we will pass out water in the name of Imam Hussain,” he said in a sad voice.

Fatima remembered how their Grandma thought of Imam Hussain’s thirst each time she drank water.

They got in the van. Everyone was sad and quiet.

Musa asked, “ Why is tonight so important Mama? Why do we have to stay awake all night?”

Mama replied,” The night of 10th Muharram also known as the night of Ashura was the last night Imam Hussain(AS) and his companions got to spend with their families. Umar bin Sa’ad who was the leader of Yazid’s army wanted the battle to begin on the 9th of Muharram, but the Imam asked for one more night so he could pray to Allah. He(AS) and his companions spent all night praying and reciting the Quran. As true followers of Ahl e Bait, we should also spend the night of Ashura by remembering the tragedy of Karbala and crying for our beloved Imam, his family, and companions. Our 8th Imam Ali Ridah(AS) said “Whoever stays away from the worldly desires on Ashura, Allah will give him his wishes for this world and hereafter.”

Musa and Fatima were listening with great attention. Then Musa asked, “Mama, Imam Hussain (AS) was such a kind person, then why did people hurt him?”

Mama replied,” During Imam Hussain’s time the ruler was Yazid. He did not respect the Prophet and his teachings and was very evil. People were forced to accept him as their ruler because they did not want to lose their life and money. Imam Hussain tried his best to teach them that it is more important to take care of their faith. Sadly, many people became his enemies and martyred him in the end.”

“Mama, why is Imam Hussain the greatest Martyr?” asked Musa.

“Son, because his sacrifice was great. He gave not only his own life but also sacrificed his family and friends including his 6-month-old baby.”

Musa and Fatima were very sad to hear the story of Karbala. Musa promised to himself that as a true follower he would act upon the Imam’s teachings and respect the sad days.



Fact: *Imam Hussain(AS) lived for 175 days after he said he would not obey Yazid.*

Friends	Foes
Yazid Ibn Ziyad Muhaasir	Sanaan Ibn Anas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was brave and knew how to fight on the battlefield. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He was one of the captains of Yazid's army. ● He hurt Imam Hussain.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He joined Imam Hussain on the way to Kufa. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He fought the Imam so he could get lots of money from Yazid.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He shot more than 100 arrows in the battle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He hit the back of Imam Hussain with a spear. The Imam fell off his horse.

History:

On 2nd Muharram Imam's tents were set up near the river Euphrates. Umar bin Sa'ad was the first one to come with his army to fight the Imam(AS). Many more enemy troops also came.

They did not let any water reach the Imam's camp.

Imam Hussain(AS) and his companions were thirsty for 3 days.

Knowledge Check:

1. Umar Ibn Sa'ad wanted to begin the battle on _____ Muharram.
2. Yazid Ibn Muhaasir joined Imam on the way to _____.
3. Sanaan hit the back of Imam Hussain with a _____.
4. Imam Hussain sacrificed his family and _____ for Allah.
5. Imam Hussain and his companions were thirsty for _____ days.

True or False:

1. Yazid Ibn Muhaasir shot more than 100 arrows.
2. Sanaan ibn Anas was a captain of the Imam's army.
3. On 2nd Muharram Imam's tents were set up near river Euphrates.
4. Yazid had great respect for the Prophet and his teachings.
5. Imam Hussain and his companions prayed on the night of Ashura.

Lesson 10

Love Allah the Most

Isa proudly showed his beautiful new car to Musa. Musa liked it a lot and asked him, “Can I have this car, Isa?”

“Musa, this is a gift from my mother. I will ask her to get one for you too.” Isa replied.

Musa was very sad. He felt like crying. He ran home as fast as he could. His sister Fatima saw tears in his eyes and asked, “What happened Musa? Why are you sad?”

“Allah (swt) loves Isa more than He loves me. He gave Isa such a cool car. I always wanted one like that,” cried Musa.

“Allah loves us all very much, Musa. He takes care of our needs even before we are born. Most of the time He gives us things without having to ask Him. We never have to ask Him for the air we breathe and the water we drink. There are so many other things Allah gives us for which we should thank Him every day. We should love Him for all His blessings. Even Hadhrat Ali Asghar gave his life for the love of Allah,” said Fatima.

“You mean Imam Hussain’s six-month-old baby?” asked Musa.

“Yes,” said Fatima, “On the day of Ashura when all of the Imam’s companions had been martyred he called out for help. He heard the sound of crying from his camp. Imam saw his thirsty son Ali Asghar crying in his mother’s lap. His sister Hadhrat Zainab was also worried about the baby. So the Imam carried his baby in his arms and took him to the battlefield. He asked the enemy to give him some water. Sadly, instead of water, they hurt the baby with a 3-headed arrow. Ali Asghar gave his life for the love of Allah. All the children in the Imam’s camp had faith in Allah’s Love and Mercy.”

“How can I show my love to Allah?” asked Musa.

“By following the teachings of Islam and the Ahlul Bayt and by being thankful to Allah,” said Fatima, “We should use words such as Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah to thank Him.

Imam Ali (AS) said, “Those who love us Ahlul Bayt are happy for our happiness and sad for our sadness.”

“I will go to Isa and tell him I am sorry for making him upset today. He is my friend and I should have been happy for him,” said Musa.



Fact: *72 companions of Imam Hussain were martyred on Ashura.*

Friends	Foes
Muslim bin Ausaja	Amr Ibn Hajjaj Zubaidi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a friend of the Prophet(saw). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He stopped water for Imam Hussain's army.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a true friend of Imam Hussain (AS) and Muslim Ibn Aqeel. He was very brave. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was the leader of the right side of Yazid's army.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He and his son were martyred on Ashura. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He told people to hurt Imam Hussain(AS).

History:

On the fajr of Ashura, Imam Hussain(AS) asked his son Ali Akbar to recite the Adhan. He prayed his morning salah with his companions. Then he gave the flag of his army to Hadhrat Abbas. First, his friends went to fight the enemy. Then his family members followed. One by one everybody was martyred. Imam Hussain(AS) was the last one to sacrifice his life for Allah.

Knowledge Check:

1. Muslim Ibn Ausaja and his _____ were martyred on Ashura.
2. _____ stopped water for Imam Hussain's army.
3. Hadhrat _____ was only 6 months old.
4. _____ was the last one to sacrifice his life on Ashura.
5. Imam Hussain gave the flag of his army to _____.

True or false:

1. On the fajr of Ashura Imam Hussain asked Hadhrat Abbas to say the Adhan.
2. 14 companions of Imam Hussain were martyred on Ashura.
3. Hadhrat Ali Asghar was hurt by a 3 headed arrow.
4. Amr Ibn Hajjaj Zubaidi told people not to hurt Imam Hussain.
5. Muslim Ibn Ausaja was a true friend of Imam Hussain.

Lesson 11

The Power of Prayers

Musa had gone to the hospital to visit his sister Fatima. She was quite sick and Musa was very worried for her.

“Mama, will Fatima get better?” Musa asked his mother.

“Musa you need to pray to Allah (swt) for your sister to get well. He alone knows what is best for us because He is the Best Planner. We must bow down to His will just like Imam Sajjad(AS) did,” said Mama.

Musa was a bit hopeful now. He asked, “Mama, so how did Imam Sajjad bow to Allah?”

“On the day of Ashura Imam Sajjad made lots of dua to Allah to save Islam, and Allah answered his prayer in a very different way,” said Mama. “Imam Sajjad fell so sick that he could not go to the battlefield. His life was saved and the message of Islam continued to spread through him and the other Imams who came after him. It was Allah’s plan to save Imam Sajjad (AS) so he could be Imam and guide the people. It was his strong faith in Allah and in duas that kept the teachings of the Prophet alive. Today, all that we know about Karbala and the teachings of Imam Hussain (as) is because of him. Imam Sajjad told the people what happened in Karbala and how Yazid’s army hurt them.”

“Mama, now I see how powerful dua can be,” said Musa, “I will pray to Allah for Fatima to feel better.”

Musa prayed to Allah to do whatever is best for Fatima and to make her well.

The next morning when Musa woke up he was surprised to see Fatima at home! She was feeling much better and was back from the hospital. Musa immediately thanked Allah for answering his prayers and giving good health to his sister.



Fact: *The family of Imam Hussain (AS) passed 14 stops from Kufa to Damascus.*

Friends	Foes
Hani Ibn Urwa	Shabath Ibn Rebie
He was a very special friend of Imam Hussain(AS) and supported him.	First, he invited Imam Hussain to Kufa, then he joined Yazid's army.
Ubaidullah Ibn Ziyad ordered to hurt Hani.	He did not follow the Imam of his time.
When Imam Hussain was on his way to Kufa he came to know about Hani's martyrdom. The Imam was very sad.	He made the wrong choice by joining the enemy.

History:

Imam Hussain's body was covered with cuts and wounds. The enemies took away his belongings even after he was martyred. They hurt the ladies and children of the Imam's family and set fire to their tents.

Knowledge Check:

1. Imam _____(AS) was sick on the day of Ashura.
2. Ahlulbayt passed _____ stops from Kufa to Damascus.
3. The enemies set fire to the Imam's _____.
4. Ubaidulla Ibn Ziyad ordered to hurt _____.
5. Shabbat Ibn Rabie joined _____'s army.

True or False:

1. Imam Sajjad(AS) had great faith in Allah(swt).
2. Imam Hussain's body was covered with cuts and wounds.
3. Hani Ibn Urwa was not a friend of Imam Hussain(AS).
4. Shabbat followed the Imam of his time.
5. Allah(swt) is the Best Planner.

Lesson 12

Don't Accept Humiliation: Hadhrat Zainab (s.a)

Fatima, Musa and their neighbor Ali were walking home from school together. Ali was very sad. His dad had lost his job a few months ago and he could not buy new clothes and shoes like other kids in his class. Some of them even made fun of Ali and this really hurt him.

Fatima was quite unhappy about this and wanted to stand up for Ali, but did not know what to do.

When Fatima and Musa reached home their dad saw that they were upset.

“What’s the matter with you guys?” he asked them.

They told him about Ali. “Baba, I really want to defend Ali,” said Fatima. “It really makes me unhappy when some children laugh at him.”

Baba reminded them of Hadhrat Zainab(s.a). After the martyrdom of Imam Hussain(A.S) the noble ladies of the Imam’s family were made prisoners and were treated very badly. Their hands were tied and they were taken to the court of Yazid. He had no mercy for them.

Hadhrat Zainab was the brave daughter of Imam Ali(A.S). She did not put up with what Yazid was saying. In front of hundreds of people she spoke very courageously. “O Yazid, do you think that by killing the grandson of the Holy Prophet and by bringing us here to your palace you have won the battle? No, Yazid, no. You are mistaken. By sacrificing his life for the truth, Hussain made sure that others like you will never be able to do evil in the name of Islam. The true winner is Hussain.”

When the people in Yazid’s court heard this, they knew the truth that the prisoners were actually the family of the Prophet. They were very angry at Yazid. Thus Hadhrat Zainab spoke out against oppression and did not accept humiliation.

You should always stand up for the truth and for those who are oppressed.

Next day Fatima told her class not to make fun of Ali. “What if you were in Ali’s situation, would you like others to make fun of you? Always treat others how you want to be treated. Be thankful to Allah for what He has given you.”

The children were now sorry for their behaviour and promised not to make fun of anyone again.



Fact: *Umm Wahab was the only lady martyred in Karbala.*

Friends	Foes
Nafee Ibn Hilal	Haseen Ibn Numayr
He was very brave. Imam Ali (AS) had taught him how to use a bow and arrow.	He did not like Imam Ali (AS). He fought against Imam Ali in the battle of Siffin.
He was Imam Ali's friend. He helped the Imam in the battles of Siffin, Jamal, and Nahrawan.	He tried to destroy the Holy Kaaba.
He recited the Quran and Hadith very well.	He was the commander of Yazid's army.
He left Kufa and joined the army of Imam Hussain(AS).	He was hurt when Mukhtar was hunting the enemies of Imam Hussain(AS).

History:

Upon the orders of Umar Ibn Sa'ad the ladies and children of Imam Hussain's family were made prisoners. They were taken from Karbala to Kufa and Syria. Finally, after many days of hardship, they were sent back to Medina.

Knowledge Check:

1. Hadhrat Zainab (AS) was Imam Hussain's _____.
2. Nafee Ibn Hilal was a _____ of Imam Ali (AS)
3. Haseen Ibn Numayr fought against Imam _____ in the battle of Siffin.
4. _____ was the only lady who was martyred in Karbala.
5. The ladies and children of Imam Hussain's family were taken from _____ to Kufa and Syria.



Islamic Center of Zahra (SA)
Department of Education
Children's Committee

www.iczsa.org
kids@iczsa.org

