

## 6

**1** Sixty first year of hijrah, Muharram seventh day  
The choice was given to mankind to reject or obey  
The law that governs the planets, sun, and stars  
To choose the healing grace over the wounds and scars  
The mighty army gathered against a few  
Thirty-three thousand against seventy-two

**2** Where are the kingdoms and mighty empires?  
Where are their ranks? Where human desires?  
Where are the pleasures craved by blind illusion?  
Where goes this life? In empty confusion  
All vanish with no trace, like in the desert sand  
Golden throne of Yazid, the throne of Tibristan

**3** Where is their gold and pearls and joyous feasts?  
Like Nabukadnezar in the field of beasts  
Like Belshazar, whose kingdom was found in want  
Like Ramses the Great with the open sea affront  
The palaces overhang with spider webs  
Changing like the tide that always flows and ebbs

**4** They all ride like shadows into awaiting night  
The weapons and horses only apparent might  
Even the sun was not reflecting on their ornaments  
They rode to their darkness, where human glory ends  
The army of shadows, in their final ride  
With no joy on their faces, with no trace of pride

**5** All for the sake of a worthless reward  
Pleasing the tyrant, who lives by the sword

When justice is silent where the law is corrupt  
Where the demons are fed with innocent blood  
Why all their power? Why all this display?  
They didn't know whom they were going to slay

**6** Perhaps the shame touched the heart of ibn Saad  
Remembering his father, Saad bin Vakas  
The companion of the Prophet, the honorable knight  
In struggle for truth his sword had never dried  
And now, the same sword is wielded again  
Against the same Prophet, against his Husein

**7** For the slight delay, of inevitable end  
A blind human life is uselessly spent  
All wealth of the true life promised by the Lord  
For the righteous deeds in this brief abode  
Till the patience of heaven is exhausted at last  
With both worlds' reward forever denied

**8** O light, O the ray of the burning sun  
How pleasant your warmth upon the grateful man  
In the life of peace, in the days of content  
And how cruel your heat in the times of want  
When the blood boils, when the dry mouth wails  
When the water is near, but not a drop remains

**9** The mighty Euphrates reflects the mid-day sun  
Before the very eyes of Prophet's hamedan  
No heat of desert stops the river flow  
While the heat from above and the heat from below  
Stops even breathing of the bodies so dry  
That even the tears don't flow from the eye

**10** Five hundred of Yazid's soldiers guard the river banks  
Not a bird, nor a jackal can break through their ranks  
Until Husein's brother, the intrepid Abbas  
With fifty companions broke through their ranks  
And swift like arrows, dashed to the river shore  
With water skins full, for a while life was restored

**11** Yet each drop of water and instant relief

Enraged the demons, the moment so brief  
Lasted too short. Two thousand more  
Ibn Saad sent to guard the river shore  
Faced with the horror of children dying of thirst,  
Husein invited Saad for further talks

**12** Omar ibn Saad accepted the call  
With a dozen soldiers, they proceeded all  
Between two camps, and awaited thus  
For Husein, Ali Akbar, and Abbas  
Proud and straight, they rode to a sandy hill  
And commenced the talk with no sign of fatigue

**13** O ibni Saad, I ask you, Imam Husein said  
Did your father Wakas in his will ordain  
To join the forces of Abu Sufyan  
And fight the Holy Prophet in this final crime?  
Denying water to the Prophet's family  
Sealing forever your gloomy destiny

**14** Don't you know, Omar, the day is so nigh  
When Ruzi Mahsher, spring of our Lord most high  
Will refresh the thirsty with the Kauthar water  
Their refreshment is sweet, but yours will be bitter  
Our thirst is brief, but yours will never end  
And the thirst of Beni Umayya, unquenchable as sand

**15** I don't ask you for favors but offer the way  
To come to the right path from the road astray  
Repent while you can, to escape damnation  
The last warning is offered, proceed to salvation  
Reflect for a moment while you all still can  
Accept the law of God over the laws of man

**16** Responded ibni Saad: O Prophet's beloved child  
What you said is true, but I'm so afraid  
Of ibni Ziyad's wrath for a mission not completed  
To compromise is the same as being defeated  
He will take away all of my possessions,  
He will destroy me and sever my connections

**17** Fear not, Omar, Husein responded,  
What you lose in this world, it will be returned  
In the world that knows no end in generous giving  
Repent, and take reward of our Lord so forgiving  
I will witness for you in front of my grandfather  
He will vouch for you and for today's encounter

**18** Ibn Saad said: My property in Kufa is countless  
In lands, horses, gold, cattle and the fields  
To lose it all will make my heart destroyed  
I cannot give it up, even for eternal reward  
The lofty state that in heaven I would get  
It's not enough. My loss would be worse than death

**19** Husein replied: Your property is small  
Compared to mine in Hejaz. Take it all  
Together with livestock and crops and all lands  
To me all worthless like the desert sands  
For, in the real life, to me it will return  
While this wealth, like a brief flame will burn

**20** Omar remained speechless, for he understood  
The offer of Husein he cannot refuse  
And he stopped in thoughts, while the Imam continued:  
O poor man, my offer does not seem to matter  
For your wealth and your power is to no avail  
In both worlds, for sure you will forever fail

**21** Even the pleasure of this world, for which you crave  
Will be denied to you before your grave  
But, beyond this life, your loss is much more  
Even if the whole world you possessed before  
As soon as my destiny at Karbala is fulfilled,  
Both you and your younger son will soon be killed

**22** Husein remained true to his word  
Ibn Saad and his son fell to the sword  
Of Mukhtar's revenge before their reward  
Both worlds for them, forever denied  
How blind are you, O shallow human greed  
How unfulfilling your insatiable need

**23** The freedom of choice is given to all  
Ibn Saad selected his fate and his fall  
For a fleeting illusion of glory of this life  
Swift as a wind in its unsteady flight  
To deep darkness of horror, and despair of eternal end  
All who don't fear God, will surely descend

**24** In the camp of Husein, in faithful Hanedan  
A companion, bin Hasin, implored the Imam  
To give him permission to ride to Yazid's side  
And to have a final word with ibni Saad  
A Prophet's companion of highest respect  
His wish was granted and to Omar he went

**25** Bin Hasin's intent was to warn once more  
The entire army of Saad, they cannot restore  
Their honor if they proceed with their evil intent  
Without permission he entered Saad's tent  
Without selam, he sat next to ibn Saad  
Without removing his shoes, he on the carpet sat

**26** Saad knew him well and said: O Aziz,  
You are a respected guest, but what manner is this  
To enter my tent without selam,  
Such unusual behavior, I implore you to explain,  
What is the reason for your conduct so rude  
Worthy of explanation to be understood

**27** Aziz responded with manner so calm:  
Only to a Muslim I offer selam  
Are we not Muslims? Ibn Saad inquired  
In response, Janabu Barbar replied,  
After a delay, with hadith he responded soon:  
Al Muslim min selem al Muslimoon

**28** A Muslim is the one who provides the peace  
To another Muslim by good words and deeds  
While you, ibn Saad, even water deny  
To unprotected Muslims from the river nearby  
Your deeds are evil, proven by your will  
Not to comfort, but to harm another Muslim and kill

**29** For your foul intent, you deserve no selam  
To harm another Muslim, is no deed of Islam  
I see from your face and your angry frown,  
You have sold your honor for a golden crown  
My last attempt to save your poor soul  
Appears in vain. My failure is your fall

**30** Bin Hasin departed from the tent of ibn Saad  
To camp of Ehlel Bayt on the other battle side,  
And said to Husein: In my mission I failed  
Between right and wrong, their evil has prevailed  
With that duty performed, I remain content  
My sword and my life is all that is left

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