

## 8

**1** As if the evil fate is not enough of pain,  
The poisonous words touched the gentle heart of Husein  
Who again turned in prayer to Almighty Lord:  
Ya Rabb. Send to him his deserved reward  
In an instant, witnessed by thousands of eyes  
His horse shook him off, he cried: al-Atesh

**2** Running around the trench, he shouted: I am burning!  
Many horsemen rode to him with water pouring  
None could help him. More thirsty he was after many drinks  
In front of all eyes, into a crisp he shrinks  
In front of the mighty river, in one hour he burned  
To the land of dark from which no one returned

**3** Still, in the light of the flames of the burning ditch  
Husein turned to his friends and gave this speech:  
O my beloved friends, defenders of the Prophet's kin  
No better people than you, this world has ever seen  
You did not step aside, you did not retreat back  
My honor you defended before the foes' attack

**4** I am content with you, and I see you are content  
With our suffering and our bitter fate  
Today is the end of this life's apparent dream  
This treacherous illusion, how unsteady it seems  
One night alone is left for you to decide  
Whether to proceed or be left behind

**5** The night ahead of us will be dark like a cave  
I give you my permission to quietly leave

Silent is the desert, with my forgiveness granted,  
I will give my consent to all who have departed  
That's why I asked for one last night delay  
To give you this last chance to leave me or to stay

**6** This, my last permission, is of human concerns  
Of who proceeds and who to safety returns  
The fate of all creation is questioned today  
Who will accept eternal life and who will turn away  
The question is eternal, on whose side you will stand  
The destiny of mankind decided on Karbala's sand

**7** If you choose to leave, please convey my salam  
To the people of Medina and Bayt al-Haram  
The enemy's army only wants my life  
For others they don't care, they won't disturb your flight  
To all of this, camp responded: Ya Imam al-Zeman  
We shall not part from you. We give you our life

**8** You are the light of the Last Prophet of Allah  
You are the eye of Nebiyi Zishan  
You are the mirror of his shining light  
You are the kurban, do not send us apart  
We won't leave you alone in the enemy's hands  
That we shall not permit until the last of us stands

**9** May our Lord not permit that one of us remains  
After you in this world, where now all mankind stands  
In the decisive war between the right and wrong  
May God permit us to remain and with you to stay strong  
We face our Lord without fear or shame  
Ready for the day where our deeds are weighed

**10** When the last pledge resounded, to all it was clear  
It is the final choice. Husein lifted his hands in prayer  
For all his noble friends and the Prophet's family  
Prepared to leave this world of shame and tyranny  
Lastly, he returned to bin Ukayl's children  
Imploring them to leave to the Bani Tai tribesmen:

**11** They will escort you with love and kindest care

To your home in Medina, where all of you will prosper  
Enough is your father and two of your brother's pain  
May your young lives from bitter end be spared  
But Muslim's children wept in unison reply:  
O child of our Prophet, do not cast us away

**12** As our father and our brothers departed as shaheeds  
Don't we also deserve to follow their worthy deeds?  
We want the same honor to join you on your path  
And fall as martyrs with your sa'adat  
To which Husein a heartfelt thanksgiving prayer sent  
And placed them to rest in his own tent

**13** In the tenth night of Muharram, a silence on desert fell  
No cricket, no bird, no splash of fish in the river  
Even the shadows of night refused to appear  
When the end of the Prophet's house approached so near  
The countless souls of night and of high heavens wept  
And the angels saying dhikr above the fated tents

**14** The entire night in prayers until the early dawn  
The name of Lord and takbirs through silent night resounded  
The unseen living beings in the heavens and earth  
Like shadows hovered silently above every tent  
The moving lights, the eyes of everyone beheld  
At midnight, a piercing shriek by everyone was heard

**15** Adrikni Ya Rasulallah, echoed the loud sound  
O friend of the Most High, Umm Qulsum enquired  
Of her brother Husein: Ya Imami maksum,  
My dear brother, what was that sound so gloom?  
Awaking from his rest, Husein answered her:  
It woke me from my sleep. The same sound I heard

**16** It was a gloomy, but still a gentle call  
From the world of higher wisdom commanded by our Lord  
In the midst of my dream, my grandfather appeared:  
O Husein, are you for our meeting prepared?  
You are awaited in the world beyond the farthest star  
All souls and prophets ready for tomorrow's iftar

**17** I saw an angel with two crystal jars  
Descending to Karbala among galaxies and stars  
I asked my grandfather: Ya Rasulallah  
What is the sign of this splendid display?  
Your blood will be spilt, I saw it in my dream  
The cups will be filled. He wants me to join him

**18** Joined by Zaynab, wept noble Qulsum  
Tears flowed in the camp from midnight to dawn  
For the last time on this earth, united in grief  
Yet firm in their faith against disbelief  
Imam embraced them all in final farewell  
The sadness of that night my pen can never tell

**19** On Imam's right side, Shahrubanu sat  
Honored and beloved wife of Imam Hazrat  
She tore her shirt and through the tears spoke:  
You, who are so patient and so full of hope  
Even in this furnace of the evil flame,  
Who on this earth would want to remain?

**20** On his left sat Qulsum and Zaynab the wise:  
O light of our Prophet, the world's most noble prize,  
When Ali, your father to heaven departed,  
And your brother Hasan, you were our only father  
After you, who will ever provide the care  
In this bleak world of lies and despair?

**21** At that, heavens were shaking as in a giant storm  
With the night departing followed the gloomy dawn  
The tenth day of Muharram, the day of God's wrath  
Like a guilty thief, crawled in the early light  
Husein stepped out, with sand he did the ablution  
Leading the entire camp in the final devotion

**22** While in their prayers, the commotion greeted him  
To the highest heaven, the words of insult came  
Ready to kill, the soldiers of every rank  
Mad with their rage and insolent and drunk  
Wielding their weapons and beating their shields  
The enemy of God emerged from all fields

**23** The horses neighing, clanging with weapons unsheathed  
Hundred to one in strength, on their horses seated  
They galloped around in early morning light  
To whom were they showing their martial might?  
The darkness prevailed, in a desperate sight  
Like Satan's rejection from the eternal light

**24** The leader of Hades, unworthy ibn Saad  
Last order gave to all in his command  
With the chief in charge on his army flank  
Hujjaj, and on his left flank with his hatred drunk  
Commanded the troop Zil Jushein Shimir  
While in the center commanded Amir

**25** On the opposing side, the Ehlel Bayt  
Seventy-two men stood still and patient  
Heroes outnumbered, tired of thirst and sleepless night  
Stood in the lines, resolved to the last fight  
Shoulder to shoulder on foot and on steed  
Awaiting the Imam's order for the battle to proceed

**26** Two camps in the last confrontation stood  
A mighty army against the tired few  
The multitude failed to have an effect  
On Hazrati Husein, who sat straight and erect  
On his Zuljannah, beloved fighting steed  
The sword of Muhammad tied to his left hip

**27** Zuljannah, Hussein's beloved mubarak horse  
Used to the clash of weapons in so many wars  
Unafraid of noise and spears and swords,  
Proudly trotted with his master before the numerous foes  
Calm as the wind of the sea before the storm,  
Husein gave the last orders. Last hesitation gone

**28** On the right side, he placed Habib bin Majar  
On the left side, the brave Hazrati Abbas  
Shining as the morning sun, in the front he rode  
The light of heaven reflected on him as pure gold  
The army of shaheeds, knew they can never fail  
While the enemy might was not to their avail

**29** Thus separated forces of truth and the lies  
Batil and Haq, Lord clearly divides  
Separated like a world of truth and deception  
Like the night and day, permitting no exception  
Ready to charge in the moment of decision  
In the fight for truth that demands division

**30** O town of Kufa, O people of this land,  
I have few words for you: Alone soon you shall stand  
Before our lord as you do today, in this sand  
You will look me in the eye when you hear the demand  
Of explanation. I will accuse you  
Of the grandest crime for which a man is sued

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**Source URL:** <https://www.al-islam.org/husein-epic-shaykh-asaf-shaykh-asaf/8#comment-0>