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## Husain's Eighteen Year old Soldier Most Revered Ali Akbar ('a)

("Daulat koi dunya mein pisar se nahin behtar")

No greater wealth than your children in this world

No greater peace than their peace in this world

just as no better flavor than a freshly picked fruit

Or the fragrance of a rose with dew in its swirls

Soothing your troubled heart, they make you whole

They are your comfort, they calm your troubled soul

Ask a master of the loss of a household destroyed

Ask the members of the household who can only cry

Ask a parent of the ruin the death of a child brings

Ask Husain of Akbar's parting, the answer is in his sighs

May a parent never so suffer, nor a child thus part

In the tears of a mourning parent, is the blood of a bleeding

heart

When the dastardly arrows pierced Akbar's heart
His breathing became labored and almost stopped
He thought of Husain, as he fell from his horse
And he cried out "Oh Father from you now I part"
"Pray come to this wounded son, so alone, so bruised
Come help your Ali Akbar, whom you're about to lose"
Hearing His son's cries, Husain's heart sank
His legs gave way, He dropped often to the sands
With every breath He felt He could breathe no more
"Oh Asadullah" He cried, clutched His heart in pain
With shock His face ashen, desert dust in His hair
Trembling, He rose again; blinded, He stared

He shouted "Oh Ali Akbar, which way do I comes Do I search in the sand dunes under the blazing sun? My heart palpitates, do I seek the enemy's help? I will come to you, I'll find you, to me you cannot come" "Your loss has robbed your parents of every wish to live Me you were supposed to bury, the job to me you give" "Alter, call out my name, ask me once more to come Call your desolate father, call me, my precious son Call for your isolated, your heart\_broken father now Call your anxious father so that I may come" "whatever God wills must happen, let it be, let it be So I must be beheaded, so what, let it be" Stumbling and falling, Husain found His injured son Lodged in Akbar's heart was an arrow, damage done He felt as though the arrow had pierced His own heart He clutched at His chest, Oh Akbar, so young He heard Akbar's labored breath, his toil to hide the pain The son dying before His eyes, the Father watched in vain Lips dry, ashen faced, hair matted with dust in his eyes a distant look, his body bruised and cut Shoulders and neck wounded with arrows and swords Blood smeared on his face, on his cheeks tears of hurt His lips whispering, "My master hasn't come yet My Father isn't here and I'm so close to my death" "Oh listen my fluttering heart, beat till He gets here Stay Oh parting life, the Lord of Gin and men is near Linger Oh departing soul, the Imam must come Await Him Oh Death, do you hear?" "It is my wish to see Him once then I may die In His laps, in His arms, once more I wish to lie" "I am here Ali Akbar," said Husain, "I have come" "Get up my beloved, my dearest, lovely son You're waiting for me, your eyes searching the battlefield Your forlorn father is here, your wait for me is done" "Say something Akbar, open your eyes, look at me I'll hold you so my miserable face you can see" "You moan in pain, in your neck an arrow is stuck Does it hurt to moves Should I let your rest on the dust? My world has come crashing down on me today

I've raised you in my lap, do I watch you die thus?" "Your liver comes gushing out of your wounded chest Through the open wounds I see your broken ribs no less" "Oh Ali Akbar, Ali Alter, say something, talk to me Open your eyes Ali Akbar, so my face you can see If you're leaving, say goodbye, do not so guietly go You must die and I live, how can it be? " "Even tired grooms do not sleep soundly as you do I weep for you in pain, and yet you do not move" In his unconscious state Akbar heard Husain's cries The obedient son opened his arms and sighed Husain held Akbar to His chest and wept in pain Showed the thirsty son, His own tongue, parched and dry And said "Oh dearest Akbar, not a drop I could find I couldn't get any water, Oh dearest son of mine" Tears flowed from Akbar's bloodied eyes He looked at Husain heard his father's cries And whispered "Mother Zahra has come for me" He took his last breath, shuddered and sighed Eyes open toward Husain, Ali Akbar passed away Resting in his Father's arms, nothing more did he say Historians say that the moment Akbar died Zainab left the camp, "Oh my Ali Akbar" she cried Her chador now forgotten, so intense was her grief The ladies followed her, wailing, teary\_eved The desert air echoed with their grief\_stricken cries "Oh Ali Akbar, Ali Akbar" in unison they cried "Take me to Akbar, show me where he lies Have mercy on me, guide me, hear my painful cries My Brother sits alone with His wounded, youthful son Behind a cloud hides my moon, show me" Zainab cried "In grief I'm now blinded, where must I go? I'm searching for my son, look at my tears flow" Hearing Zainab's cries Husain ran to her side Covering her with His cloak, her face He tried to hide And said "My Zainab, why did you leave the camp? Oh daughter of Ali, dead is my joy and pride" "Bruised with spears, he lies on the desert floor What do you wish to see Oh Sister? Akbar is no more"

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