

Nastaliq
بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

ALI 422: Arba'īn Ziyārat

In this webinar we will discuss the merits (fadhilat) and etiquette (ādāb) of going for ziyārat to Karbala, Kazimayn, Najaf and Samarra. Our focus will be on how to connect to the holy souls buried in these places and general ādāb of ziyārat.

Practical issues such as saying salāt on airplane, performing wudhu made easy and whether we read complete or shortened (qasr) prayers at the holy places. We also plan to dedicate some time on points for those planning to walk from Najaf to Karbala. The last 15 minutes will be devoted Q & A.

Safar 2, 1439/ October 22, 2017

Besides trip prep taqwā should be our provision

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وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى
وَاتَّقُونِي يَا أُولِيَ الْأَلْبَابِ

- Q 2:197 *And whatever good you do, Allah knows it. And take provision, for indeed the best provision is taqwā. So be wary of Me, O you who people of understanding!*
- 'Allāmah Tabātabāī: it is a reminder that one's actions are not hidden from Allah; it calls one to piety and fear of Allah, so that **one's acts of worship might not be devoid of the spirit of devotion**; so that one might not go through the external rites or worship with one's mind absent and one's heart forgetful (*Al-Mizan*, v.3, p.115).

Hadith on performing ziyārat of Arba‘īn

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From reliable books of Hadiths it has come from Imam Hasan al-‘Askarī *alayhis salaam* that the signs of a believer:

وَرَدَ فِي الْكُتُبِ الْمُعْتَبَرَةِ عَنِ الْإِمَامِ الْحَسَنِ الْعَسْكَرِيِّ: عِلَامَاتُ الْمُؤْمِنِ
خَمْسٌ: صَلَاةٌ إِحْدَى وَخَمْسِينَ، وَزِيَارَةُ الْأَرْبَعِينَ، وَالتَّخْتُمُ بِالْيَمِينِ، وَتَعْفِيرُ
الْجَبِينِ، وَالْجَهْرُ بِبِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ.

Arba‘īn is one of the four occasions on which visiting Imam al-Husayn (a) is highly recommended. Other occasions are on: The Day of ‘Ashura, Middle of Sha‘ban and the Day of ‘Arafah.

Reflections before departing for the trip:

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- Knowledge (ma‘rifat) about the person
 - Understand & ponder over recitations
 - What if we were to visit them during their life time?
How different it would be?
 - Total humility & reverence when nearing
 - Renewal of the pledge to the Imam (a)
 - How can I change on account of this trip?

Ensure that we do not delay or miss our salāt

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On account of being a traveler and lacking good facilities, many pilgrims delay their daily prayers or sometimes even miss them. Avoid this totally.

أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ع: حَجَّةٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَمَا فِيهَا وَصَلَاةٌ فَرِيضَةٌ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ أَلْفِ حَجَّةٍ

Imam al-Sadiq (a): *Performing one Hajj is better than the world and whatever is in it, and saying obligatory prayers is better than one thousand (mustahab) Hajj.* (Tahdhib al-Ahkam, 2:240, H.953; Wasā'il H. 4460)

Read this message from Āyatullāh Sayyid Ali Sistani (dz):

<https://marefatmagazine.wordpress.com/2016/10/31/must-read-message-of-grand-ayatollah-sistani-for-people-going-to-karbala-for-arabeen/>

Abstracts from Ayt. Sistani's message

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It is one of the essentials of this ziyārat that the pilgrim, in addition to remembering Imam Husayn's sacrifices and devotion in the way of Allah, the Exalted, observes the teachings of Islam including those relating to prayer, hijab, self-reform, selflessness and moral etiquette etc. so that his pilgrimage may be a step towards developing and training the soul for accepting these and consolidating their effects until the next pilgrimage.

Fear Allah in relation to your prayers. As stated in the hadith, it is the pillar of your religion and the ascension of the believer, if it is accepted, all other acts will be accepted and if it is rejected, all other acts of worship will also be rejected. It is befitting for believers to offer their prayers on time because Allah loves those who rush to prayer as soon as they hear the call for it. It is not appropriate for a believer to engage in any other acts of worship in the prime for prayer because prayer is the best form of obedience to Allah. It has been narrated from the Ahlul-Bayt, peace be upon them, that they said: Our intercession (with Allah) will not be won by that person who depreciates or undervalues the prayer. We must know that if we act as per their advice, it is hoped that we shall be resurrected along with their friends. Because it has been reported that Imam Ali (a) said in the Battle of Jamal: *Today we are accompanied by those who are still in the loins of their fathers and uteruses of their mothers.*

One of the main purpose of ziyārat

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عَنْ الْحَسَنِ بْنِ عَلِيِّ الْوَشَّاءِ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ الرَّضَا ع يَقُولُ إِنَّ لِكُلِّ إِمَامٍ عَهْدًا فِي عُنُقِ
أَوْلِيَائِهِ وَ شِيعَتِهِ وَ إِنَّ مِنْ تَمَامِ الْوَفَاءِ بِالْعَهْدِ وَ حُسْنِ الْأَدَاءِ زِيَارَةَ قُبُورِهِمْ فَمَنْ زَارَهُمْ
رَغْبَةً فِي زِيَارَتِهِمْ وَ تَصَدِّيقًا بِمَا رَغِبُوا فِيهِ كَانَ أَيْمَتُهُمْ شُفَعَاءَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ.

Hasan b. Ali al-Washha reports that he heard Imam al-Ridha (a) saying: For every Imam there is a covenant on the neck of his friends and followers (shi'ahs); the best and complete way to fulfilling this covenant is to visit their graves. One who goes there with a sincere desire of visiting them and with conviction, then their Imams will intercede on their behalf on the Day of Resurrection (Al-Kafi, v. 4, p. 567)

Etiquette of ziyārat

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From the *Mafatīḥul* in section on Ziyārat the 1st part is *ādāb al-Safar*

- If possible travel on select days. Better to travel on Sat, Tue & Thu; avoid Mon, Wed & Fri before zuhr.
- Fast for 3 days: Wed, Thu & Friday
- **إِنَّ أَبِي . . . اشترى السلامة مِنَ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ بِمَا تَيْسَّرَ**
- Say some of recommended Du'ās
- **مِنْ فِقْهِ الْمُسَافِرِ حِفْظُ نَفَقَتِهِ**

Rights of fellow pilgrims (zawwār)

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Al-Bāqir (a): *It does not matter if one visits this House if he does not possess three traits: Cautiousness which prevents him from sinning; forbearance which helps him rule over his anger; and good interaction with those who are with him.*

► Imam al-Sadiq (a): *You should be a good companion to those who accompany you, speak less and say only that which is good, mention Allah increasingly, wear purified clothes, perfume, Ghusl before going to holy places, be humble, establish a lot of prayers, say salawāt, help needy ones, not look at (what is forbidden)*

► Imam al-Kazim (a): *whoever prays for his brothers (in belief) in his absence, is called from the Throne, '(O Servant of Allah) you will have one hundred thousand times as much reward as one may receive for his prayer*

Wudhu made simple

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Use of spray bottles for wudhu

- ▶ You can carry it on board, 3 oz. or less, in your purse or pocket when going to Haram
- ▶ Ensure that you spray enough water
- ▶ Washing should be different from wiping
- ▶ Use bathrooms for wudhu or spray bottles when travelling by plane, trains or coaches
- ▶ Renew your wudhu using spray bottle whilst in the Haram if you would like to keep your spot
- ▶ Ladies to ensure that not to expose hands & feet

Saying salāt on board - 1

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If you are scheduled to arrive at your destination early enough to go through security, perform wudhu, determine Qibla and find a suitable place to say your prayers then you are allowed to say your prayers at the destination, provided they do not get qadhā. Otherwise, you need to say your prayers on board.

- ➡ 1. Say Qasr salāt on board, except if you are a frequent traveler (*kathīrus safar*).
- ➡ 2. When traveling, it is advisable to maintain the *tahārah* (ritual purity) of your body and clothes till at least prayer time. For those who can retain their wudhu for longer time, it is advisable to perform the wudhu with the niyyat of *qurbatan ilallāh* (seeking nearness to God) before departing.

Saying salāt on board – 2

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3. Ensure that the prayer time has begun before you say prayers. Use of app from www.halaltrip.com is helpful in finding prayer times when flying. Alternatively, if you have info on local sunrise and sunset timings while you are traveling then it is helpful in determining prayer timings.
4. Face completely towards qibla direction when saying takbīratul ihrām (i.e. the saying of first *Allāhu akbar* after the *niyyat*). Use of app from www.halaltrip.com is helpful in determining qibla direction on board. Alternatively, you can use TV screens in the airplane or ask member of the crew about the direction to Makkah. Do not be concerned about the change in direction of the airplane when you are saying your prayers. Of course, you will again determine qibla direction when you begin the next prayer, such as ‘asr after zuhr and ‘ishā after maghrib prayer.

Saying salāt on board - 3

13 Where possible observe all qiyām (standing), rukū (bowing), sajda (prostrating) and qu‘ūd (sitting) positions required in salāt. This can be done in the exit rows or in designated prayer places on some Muslim flights (e.g. Iran Air, Saudi Airline). Otherwise, after rising and facing towards Qibla during takbīratul ihrām, say your prayers on the assigned seats. Use gestures (*‘ishāra*) to determine the four position in salāt, such as sitting straight in lieu of qiyām, slight tilting for qu‘ūd, bending for ruku, further bending for sajad. (Note there is a difference of opinion between scholars on whether one should say the prayers in the aisles, washrooms, and serving corners/sections of the plane or confine to saying prayers in the designated seats. You may check with a local scholar and decide accordingly. It is essential that a Muslim does not face unnecessary harassments or profiling by airline crew or security officials. Saying prayer is personal devotion between the Almighty Lord and a humble servant.)

Praying full in Iraq

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- 1) Haram of Imam al-Husayn in the Haa'ir
 - 2) Masjid Kūfa, rather the entire city of Kūfa
 - One prayer is equal to 1000 prayers
 - 1 wājib prayer = 1hajj with the Prophet; 1 mustahab prayer = umrah with the Holy Prophet (s).
 - If people were to know its merits, they would come to it crawling (6I)
 - Special prayer of Hajaat in the middle of it
 - 1000 prophets & 1000 awsiyaa have prayed in it
 - It will be the venue of payer for Imam Mahdi
- 3) Masjid Sahla – considered as part of new Kūfa

Walking from Najaf to Karbala - 1

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➤ A few advices for those planning to walk this year:

1. Know the background to walking and whether it is part of ādāb of the ziyārat of Arba'in or not?
2. Traveling light during walks. Either live on limited means in Karbala or send your luggage with someone going by car
3. Don't be concerned about having delicious food & snacks during your walk. Its disturbing to see WhatsApp messages saying where one can get certain types of food on the way.
4. Drink a lot of fluid - the best drink is water
5. Essentials include: under clothes to remain tāhir and fresh, tissue paper, medicines, cell battery charger, minimum toiletries, sticking hooks if you are alone, etc.

Walking from Najaf to Karbala - 2

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6. Helpful to *mawakib* (sing. *mawkib*) by offering service or finance. Donations to be given discreetly as some get offended.
7. Do a lot of dhikr on the way. The five common dhikr are: *tasbihat arba'*, *salawāt*, *istighfār*, *law hawla wala*, & *tasbīh of Nabi Yunus (a)*
8. Recall the great sacrifice of Imam al-Husayn (a), his family and his companion.
9. Remember heart rendering atrocities and difficulties faced by the shuhada and their families in Karbala & thereafter. You can take MP3 files to listen to them on your way
10. See how can this walk change you for good.
11. Consider sponsoring relatives, friends & needy for ziyārat, especially youths for many have changed on account of these trips.

References and additional material

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Holy places in Iraq & their history: <http://www.al-islam.org>

► Significance of ziyārat: www.al-islam.org/revolution/2.htm

► Ziyārat manuals with translation: <http://www.asserattours.com>

► <https://www.academyofislam.com/ali-374/>

► <http://www.duas.org/walkoffree.htm>

& <http://www.duas.org/ziaratiraq.htm>