

# THE ROARING REPORT



## Welcome Back Lions!

The Roaring Report would like to welcome back all Al-Hadi Lions and extend a special welcome to the new students and families that we are so excited to add to the Al-Hadi family!

We would also like to welcome all the new incredible staff members! We are very excited to learn from your wisdom, benefit from your guidance, and look forward to sharing this time in our journeys.

We look forward to learning new things, having a ton of fun, and getting closer to Allah (SWT). May Allah's blessings be upon us to start off this wonderful year!

## Hadith of the Month

يا فاطمة! كل عين باكية يوم القيامة، إلا عين بكت على مصاب الحسين فإنها ضاحكة مستبشرة بنعيم الجنة.

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W.) said: "O' Fatimah! Every eye shall be weeping on the Day of Judgment except the eye which has shed tears over the tragedy of Hussain (A.S.) for surely, that eye shall be laughing and shall be given the glad tidings of the bounties and comforts of Paradise."

Bihar al-Anwar, Vol 44: p. 293

## What's In This Issue?

Page 2	Page 3	Page 4	Page 5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8	Page 9	Page 10
Significance of Muharram and Safar	Karbala and its Lessons of Justice	Arbaeen: A Human Phenomena Like None Other	Short Story: "The Raffle Ticket"	Short Story (cont.) & Student Featured Poetry	Crossword & Etymology	Israel Air Strikes in Gaza City	Albuquerque Shia Shootings	Attempted Murder of Salman Rushdie

# SIGNIFICANCE OF MUHARRAM AND SAFAR

By: Parinaz Dargahi

The months of Muharram and Safar are of great significance for Muslimeen. . Muharram means forbidden in Arabic, referring to the forbidden nature of warfare during this month. This first month of the Islamic calendar is a month of reflection and grieving. It is thought that Prophet Muhammad (SAW) referred to Muharram as the "Sacred Month of Allah" and the month of Muharram is steeped in both religious and historical significance for Shias, remembering the martyrdom of the Holy Prophet's grandson Imam Hussain Ibn Ali (A), his companions, and his family.

Imam Hussain (A) was martyred at the Battle of Karbala, taking place on the day of Ashura (the 10th of muharram) in 680 AD as the Imam stood for justice in the face of the tyrant ruler Yazid and his army.. Shias grieve and recall the fortitude of the Prophet's family in their love for the Imam and to recognize his great sacrifice in saving the religion of Islam.

Islam's survival and blessings are associated with the months of Muharram and Safar. The tribulations endured by the women and children of Imam Hussain's family are described throughout the following month, Safar and the shahadat of Bibi Sakina (A), Imam Hasan (A) and Hazrat Zaid Ibn Ali (A). During Safar, the family, specifically the women and children of Banu Hashim were treated very harshly upon entering Damascus. After being left outside the gates for 3 days they were taken near Yazeed's castle where they were held captive. In these times , we remember Hazrat Sajjad and Bibi Zainab's famous speeches at Yazeed's castle that have left an impression upon our ummah till this day.

## Significant Dates: Muharram

- 1- Mourning of Muharram begins
- 2- Imam Hussain (as) reached Karbala
- 7- Access to water was cut off to Imam's camp
- 10- Ashura-e-Muharram
- 12- Soyem Shuhada-e-Karbala (as)
- 25- Shahadat Imam Zain-ul-Abideen (as)

## Safar

- 1 - Prisoners of Karbala reach Yazid's palace
- 13 - Martyrdom of Bibi Sakina
- 17 - Martyrdom of Imam al-Raza (as)
- 20 - Arbaeen/Chehlum
- 24 - Martyrdom of Bibi Zainab
- 28 - Wafat of Prophet Muhammad (SAW)
- 28 - Martyrdom of Imam Hasan (as)

Some people think that suffering tragedies or disasters during the month of Safar brings one closer to Allah. It cultivates reverence for God and submission to the Almighty. It renews our faith in the one ultimate being, Allah. Safar in Arabic means empty or void and corresponds to when people would leave their empty houses to return with food (SAFER). Safar saw a number of important events, including the Prophet's migration from Makkah to Madinah. He became severely ill this month, at the end of which he passed away.

Both Muharram and Safar are months of commemoration and showing our gratitude and appreciation to Allah and Prophet's family's sacrifices in the name of Islam. Each year we become stronger with our faith and reach towards the ways of Prophet (S) and remembering the Ahlul Bayt.

# KARBALA AND ITS LESSONS OF JUSTICE

By: Aashib Zaidi

In the history of humanity, no one has made a better stand for justice than Imam Hussain in the plains of Karbala. While the rest of the Muslim ummah covered in fear, Imam Hussain stood for the truth against the 30,000 strong army of Yazid, watching his companions, family, and children killed by the heartless mal'oons, and knowing what was to happen to the women and children of Banu Hashim. Meanwhile the Kufans who relentlessly invited the Imam with their thousands of letters had let Imam Hussain's cousin brother Muslim ibn Aqil die in cold blood. The betrayal of those very Kufans demonstrated their adornment of their temporary, material lives, neglecting their true purpose of existence.

We listen to the fazail and masaib of Imam Hussain, his companions, and his family, lamenting and wailing for the martyrs of Karbala. We pray endlessly for the zahoor of Imam al-Asr, al-Hujjatullah, asking him to return every hour of every day, complaining to him about how it pains us that he is not with us. But this sounds all too familiar. Were the Kufans not momineen like us? Did the Kufans not send letter after letter asking for their beloved Imam to come to them just as we ask for our Imam to come to us? We must not repeat the same mistakes of the Kufans and discern the true reality of existence, beyond materiality and desire, and see justice and truth. We must demonstrate servitude toward our Imam and obedience to Allah at all worldly expense. Imam Hussain made the greatest sacrifice of humanity to guide and showed us what we must do for the sake of Allah and our Imam.

Justice is one of the five roots of Islam, and what Imam Hussain died to preserve. Our job as Shia's of Imam Hussain is to stand up against injustice in this world.

The world is drowned in oppression against marginalized groups which include Muslims like you and I. If we can't bring attention to the problems our own people are facing, then what good are we? If we can't speak for the unspoken, how can we be united? If we don't hold up our end and play our part, is there really any point of azadari? We must represent the ideals of Imam Hussain by speaking up for the people of Palestine, Yemen, the Uyghur Muslims, and the Muslimeen all around the world that are oppressed and live in adversity. Shia's speaking up for injustices committed against our brothers and sisters in other lands is the least we can do to follow in the footsteps of Imam Hussain. We must take a stand against the Yazid's of our world today, the Yazid's that are trying to eliminate us for their own selfish reasons. We must take a stand and do what our Moula wants us to.



*Worshippers gathered inside the holy shrine  
of Imam Abbas (as), in Karbala  
Source: Al-Jazeera*

# ARBAEEN: A HUMAN PHENOMENA LIKE NONE OTHER

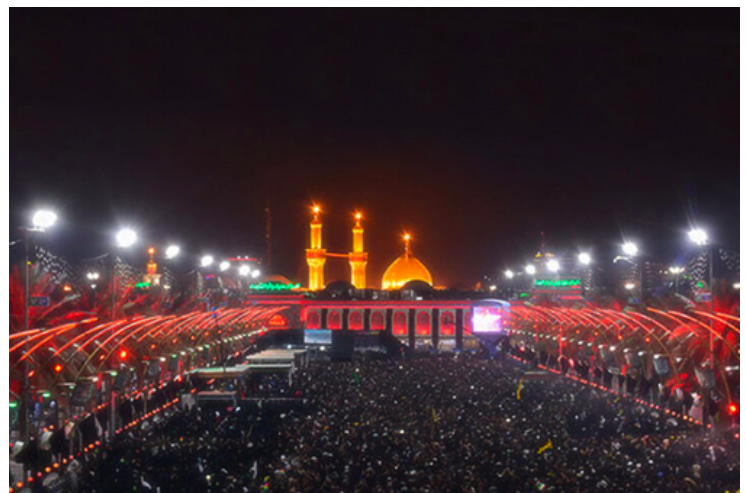
**By: Fatima Hussain**

Every year, forty days after the tenth of Muharram, millions of Muslims from all over the world walk from Najaf to Karbala (nearly 80 km) for Arbaeen. Following a week-long journey where people of all ages and backgrounds gather for the purpose of commemorating the tragedy of Karbala, Arbaeen (literally translating to, “forty” in Arabic) is one of the most important days in every Islamic year.

What’s fascinating about the Arbaeen walk is the organization of such a large body of people during a single journey from Najaf to Karbala. Beginning from Jabir ibn Abdullah al-Ansari’s pilgrimage to the holy grave of Imam Hussain (a.s) in 61 AH, today over millions of people have been making the walk, a symbol of unity that continues to this day. In just 2019 alone, 14 million people attended the pilgrimage, and while the numbers were hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, thousands of people still journeyed towards Karbala during that time.

But Arbaeen’s significance isn’t just within the sheer number of people who fly from all over the world to brave the walk. It’s also the people who make the journey comfortable and possible—the volunteers lining the 80km walk passing out free food, water, housing, and massages for weary travelers. To them, passing out hot food and giving respite to Za’ireen walking towards Karbala is a privilege and a blessing. It’s an opportunity they prepare for in the month prior to Arbaeen. This display of selflessness all for the sake of Imam Hussain is Arbaeen’s most phenomenal quality.

This year Arbaeen is said to fall within September. In the upcoming days, Momineen all over the world attend majalis in honor of Imam Hussain and his companions, while volunteers begin to prepare for the blessed journey from Najaf to Karbala.



Just a fraction of the millions of pilgrims gather at Karbala

*Source: khamenei.ir*



An example of the kindness shown by the local residents towards the pilgrims

*Source: imamhussain.org*

# THE RAFFLE TICKET

By: Zahra Ali

"To sum it all, my experience in Iraq during Arbaeen can not be compared and it was truly a blessing. I hope you all get the chance to visit Iraq one day."

I snorted, partially by accident.

Everyone turned and directed their gaze towards me expecting an explanation, but I stayed silent.

The guy who felt the need to preach narrowed his eyes on me. There was tangible silence in the room as he folded his arms and asked pretentiously, "I'm sorry, did I say something funny?"

The presentation was already irritating, but his attitude reached new heights. "No, sorry I just find this all stupid. Go recruit people who actually buy into this crap"

"I am in no way imposing my religion on you," he replied with a smirk, "I was sharing a meaningful experience as instructed by the assignment. But, if mocking my religious beliefs is your way of asking questions while also dealing with your own doubts and fears, then I welcome it."

The professor chimed in and brought an end to the quarrel, "Alright students, that's enough. I am all for discussion and debate, but this conversation is heading in the wrong direction."

I rolled my eyes. This was what religious people were good at; proclaiming their religion was the superior one. How could one become so emotionally attached to a place to the point of neglecting his daily life and the world? My parents had always been distant from Islam, and I was glad I hadn't grown up in a religious household. Otherwise I would have turned out like these bearded idiots who bargained their virtues and sins for heaven and hell.

I was walking back to my car when I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around and saw the same guy who was presenting. I took out my earbud from my left ear and sighed. This guy was not giving up in trying to prove his religion's worth.

"Haider, right?"

"Yeah."

"Well, I am Hamza. I just wanted to apologize for our minor disagreement. It wasn't my intention to make you or anyone else feel excluded from my presentation."

"Alright."

I started to walk towards my car when he called out, "You a fan of Hom Tanks?"

I looked down at my Gorrest Fump t-shirt and laughed.

The next Visual Arts class, Hamza came and sat right next to me. He opened his sketchbook and the first page had an Arabic verse written on it.

I was hesitant but I asked, "What does it say?"

He gave me the most sincere smile and replied, "It translates into 'In the name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful'".

We went to grab a bite, and an unimaginable friendship began. From binging Hom Tanks movies to skipping class for Halal Bros, I started to see Hamza as less of an annoying know-it-all and more of a person I could trust and confide in.

A few weeks later he took out two tickets and said, "You have heard me speaking about my ziyarat experience, and fortunately I won the ziyarat raffle this year. Now that I have an extra ticket, I'd like to invite you to accompany me to Karbala."

# THE RAFFLE TICKET

## CONT'D

**By: Zahra Ali**

I let out a chuckle, "Man, you know me. You are more than a friend to me, but we have very different beliefs."

"I know, but I just want you to experience Arbaeen, the world's largest public religious gathering. Just think about it."

Hamza was one of the most sincere friends I'd ever known. We shared similar interests but held opposing views. However, meeting him made me realize that I did not despise people who practiced a religion, rather I envied them because they believed in a higher purpose in life. I used to label religious people as traditional and old-fashioned, but I was the one who was closed-minded towards the faithful.

Then I thought, 'why not?'. I would be missing out if I didn't take the opportunity to be part of the world's largest public gathering. At the very least, it would be a memorable experience.

We were walking in Najaf and taking off our shoes when he asked me, "Haider, do you know what your name means?"

I replied, "The lion of God. I was named after my grandfather."

He asked, "Do you know who was given this title?"

I shook my head and he said, "Imam Ali, whose shrine you are about to enter."

I looked around at the golden dome, the Quranic inscriptions, the marbled floors, and the millions of people rushing past me. Despite the chaos, there was peace. My heart felt tranquil and my life came to a halt. I stood there next to my shoes that were now covered with thousands of other shoes, unable to enter the shrine.

Eventually, the crowd pushed me in and when I saw Hamza recite poetry with his beautiful voice, or take out money from his pocket every now and then to give to the needy and the orphans, or when he was sobbing with his hands in the air, I could hardly breathe.

I wish I had come earlier.

I wish I embraced my identity.

I wish I was closer to Allah.

But I was beyond grateful for the moments brought about by my decision to take the ziyarat raffle ticket, agree to be Hamza's companion, and catch a flight to Iraq.

## Student Featured Poetry

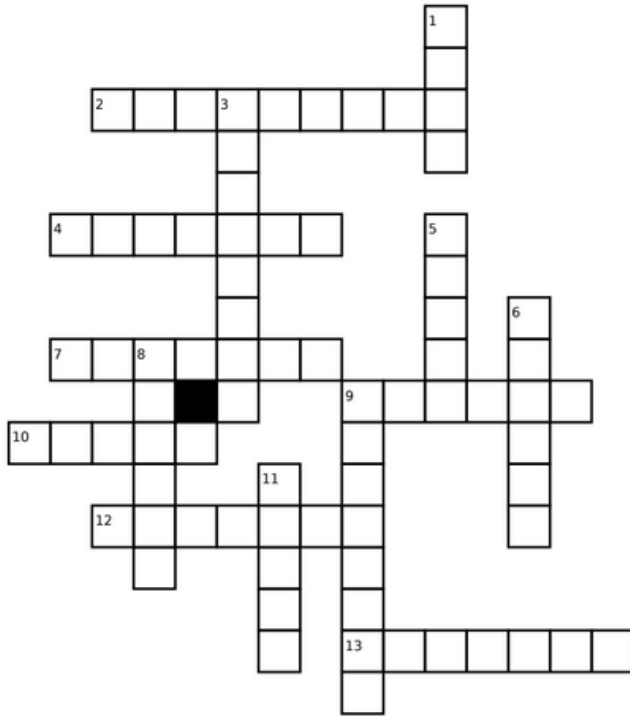
**By: Mansha Ali**

### PARADISE

Words cannot describe how I feel  
like a wound with no heal.  
My guilty soul is drowned in my sins,  
and I'm lost in this world of things.  
Head down I walked to your door,  
wishing I had come before.  
Tears fell from my eyes,  
suffocated in my sins I was about to die.  
But then I saw a light  
as if it were paradise.  
Taking me to your grave  
it guided me the way.  
The gold gleaming shrine  
was a sight so divine.  
I saw with my two eyes,  
under your dome a paradise.  
When I entered your land  
I found true love at hand.  
The peacefulness I had never felt before  
was at paradise's door.  
I ran to my true home  
as it was under your dome.  
I found my joy and pain  
within your holy name, Hussain.

# CROSSWORD & ETYMOLOGY

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### DOWN:

1. "a free man in this world and the Aakhira"
3. son of Imam Hussain who resembled the Prophet
5. flag bearer of imam Hussain's army
6. sister of Imam Hussain
8. commander of Yazid's army
9. the first month of the Islamic calendar
11. "death to me is sweeter than honey"

### ACROSS:

2. The youngest shaheed of Karbala
4. Maloon that shot a 3 headed arrow
7. The last martyr of the battle of Karbala
9. The first martyr of of Karbala
10. The tyrant ruler of the time
12. The place Prophet Muhammad's grandson was killed
13. The world's largest annual public gathering

## ETYMOLOGY OF KARBALA

With the August issue dedicated to the events of Karbala and the tragedies that occurred, it is important to understand where the word "Karbala" itself originated from. While there are many theories regarding the word's roots, Shias believe that the true meaning was narrated to Prophet Muhammad through Angel Jibreel- "the land which will cause many agonies (karb) and afflictions (bala)." Karbala is said to be one of the "Valleys of Paradise " and it is evidently clear seeing as commemorations are being carried on and are alive to this very day.

# ISRAEL DROPS AIR STRIKES IN GAZA CITY

By: Zehra Rizvi



Was injured by an unexploded ordnance that damaged her eyes and hands

Requires urgent medical treatment outside Gaza but is unable to get a travel permit for her parents



Suffers from anxiety & nightmares after he was injured by an Israeli aid raid that destroyed his house

Suffers from nightmares after witnessing a man being ripped apart by Israeli shelling



*(Source: Save the Children June 15, 2022)*

In their biggest attack since last year, Israel plummeted Gaza with airstrikes in early August, killing twenty-nine and wounding many. Most of the rockets sent in retaliation were intercepted, as Israeli civilians ran to bomb shelters with no signs of serious casualties reported. Just a few days before, Israel had stopped transporting fuel into Gaza's lone power plant. Already understaffed and underfunded, hospitals are preparing for frequent loss of power and supplies, setting the occupied region into a state of panic as more and more wounded civilians seek treatment. Palestinian children suffering from mental and physical health issues are at a severe disadvantage - with four out of five suffering from depression, sixty percent anemic, and ninety-five percent without access to clean water. Kids who have known nothing but airstrikes, rubble, and fear all their lives have been severely traumatized, and desperately need mental health support; something that can be accessed just a few miles away but still isn't available to them due to Israeli occupation.

In May of 2021 similar attacks sparked worldwide protest from Muslims and non-Muslims alike, as people ran to social media, news outlets, and the streets to learn about Palestine and its tragedy. It is clear that such an outrage has not been the response this year, but it is still necessary for any proponent of justice to keep fighting for the Palestinians and the injustice brought upon them.



# ALBUQUERQUE SHIA SHOOTINGS

By: Zohaw Hourshad

**Four murders. Four Muslims dead. All within 10 months in Albuquerque, New Mexico.**

Once again, American Muslims are faced with the threat of Islamophobia- but this time it's a little different.

Three of the Muslim men were shot over a 10-day period that resulted in the Muslim community in Albuquerque growing fearful of a serial killer on the loose with a strong distaste for Islam.

On August 9th 2022, police in New Mexico arrested a 51-year-old by the name of Muhammad Syed in relation to the murder of the 4 Muslims dead and while his motive is still unclear, many claim he held hatred for Shia Muslims due to 3 of the murdered identifying as Shia. Some reports have suggested the possibility that Syed, a Sunni Muslim, had targeted his victims over anger that his daughter had married a Shia Muslim. "Detectives have discovered evidence that shows the offender knew the victims to some extent and an interpersonal conflict may have led to the shootings," a police statement said.

Syed is a well known community member and would actively visit the local mosque. "For months, this guy was praying next to other members of the community as if everything was normal," said Leena Aggad, the 23-year-old vice president of the University of New Mexico's Muslim Student Association.

Syed has been officially charged for 2 of the 4 murders and police say he is the primary suspect in the other 2 killings. He was arrested during a traffic stop more than 100 miles from Albuquerque according to authorities. Reports say he was on his way to the city of Houston.

As of now, he has denied connection to the shootings.



Naeem Hussain, killed on August 5, 2022



Muhammed Afzal Hussain, killed on August 1, 2022



Mohammad Ahmadi, killed on November 7, 2021



Aftab Hussein, killed on July 26, 2022

Source: NPR News

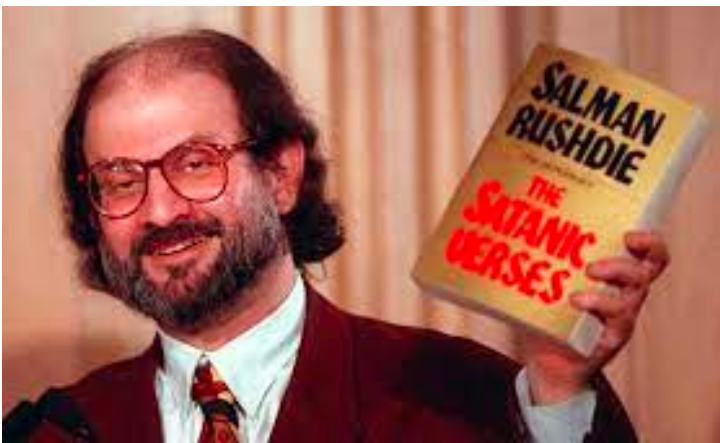
# SALMAN RUSHDIE

## ATTACKED AT CONFERENCE

**By: Aashib Zaidi**

Salman Rushdie is one of the most controversial personalities in the past 30 years. In 1988, he published a book called *The Satanic Verses*, a book insulting many prominent Islamic figures including Prophet Muhammad. The publishing of this book led to widespread protests around the Muslim world. A year later, Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa that Salman Rushdie was *wajib-e-qatl*. Someone who is *wajib e qatl* is liable to be killed, but you as an individual aren't obliged to do so. On August 12th, Salman Rushdie was stabbed while giving a speech in New York.

The perpetrator, Hadi Matar, was identified as a Shia. He also announced his support for Ayatollah Khamenei in an interview. Many were quick to celebrate the stabbing, excited to see Rushdie die once and for all. But was this the right move for the image of Islam?



Rushdie pictured holding his revolting 1988 book  
*Source: Sky News*

The sales of the book surged after the stabbing, just like they did in 1989 after the original fatwa was released. The stabbing was a failed murder attempt and didn't even kill Rushdie and now he likely will have a larger platform to speak against Islam. Iran claimed no responsibility for the attack and Matar also stated that he acted alone.

There was still some confusion about whether or not the fatwa was still in effect. In 1998, former Iranian president Mohammed Khatami said that the Iranian regime no longer supported the killing of Salman Rushdie.

However, a fatwa cannot be dropped. When asked a question about whether or not the fatwa is still in effect Ayatollah Khamenei stated, "The decree is as Imam Khomeini (ra) issued." This eliminates any questions of whether or not the fatwa still stands today.

After the stabbing, there was public outrage. People rushed to Rushdie's defense. Many said that Rushdie had the right to freedom of expression. However this double standard is not to be taken seriously; if the book were to be critiquing Judaism, or daresay insulting Judaism, would it too be considered freedom of speech? Would critiquing western ideologies that defy everything we believe and stand for be considered freedom of speech? The west's disdain for our religion is intolerable. The question is what we will do to represent our religion as the religion of Rasulullah (SAW).

# **We value your feedback!**

Please reach out to  
**[theroaringreport@gmail.com](mailto:theroaringreport@gmail.com)**  
with any questions, comments, or  
concerns.



Make sure to follow  
us on Instagram!

