

Mosque presentation marking the birthday of Imam Husayn (AS)

Teacher: Salaam Alaikum. Last week I requested you to read up on the topic of Amr bil Maaruf. Before we start our discussion, as this week marks the birthday of our 3rd Imam, Imam Husayn (AS... [salawaat] just a few highlights about our Imam

Can anyone tell me what incidences mentioned in the Holy Qura'an include Imam Husayn (AS):

Student A: The story of the Imam and his family fasting for 3 days and each evening giving their food to beggars mentioned in Sura-e Insaan, Sura 76

Student B: The event of Mubahila when the Imam represented the sons in Sura Ale Imran 3: Aya 61

Teacher: Does anyone remember an event in the life of our Holy Prophet (SAW) showing his great love for Imam Husayn (AS)

Student C: I remember the story of our Prophet (SAW) prolonging his sajda because Imam Husayn (AS) was sitting on him.

Teacher: Ok, now let us discuss Amr bil Maaruf. Who can tell me about Amr bil Maaruf?

Student D: I can! There is this wonderful story about Bahlool (groan by other students....).

Student B: You always want to talk about Bahlool. I thought you will talk about Imam Husayn (AS), his trials in Karbala for the sake of Amr bil Maaruf.

Student D: Yes that is true... but look at how Bahlool, acting like an insane person, managed to constantly do Amr bil Maaruf with the feared Haruon Rashid...

Teacher: OK, tell us

Student D:

This story is called Bahlool's Gift to the Khalifa

One day Haroun Rashid gave Bahlool some money and told him to distribute it amongst the poor and needy. Bahlool took the money, but a moment later gave it back to the Khalifa, who asked the reason why he did this. Bahlool said, "I thought a lot, but found no one more dependent and poor than the Khalifa. This is the reason why I returned the money. I see that your guards and officers stand in the shops and whip people, collect tax and revenue, and then pour them all into your treasures. So I thought that you are the most needy person, and gave the money back to you."

Oh! Oh! (raising her/his hand) and there is another story:

Bahlool Sits on Haroun Rashid's Throne

One day Bahlool arrived at Haroun's palace and saw that the throne was empty. There was no one to stop him, so he unhesitatingly and fearlessly went and sat in Haroun's place. When the court slaves saw this, they immediately started whipping him and took him off the throne. Bahlool started crying. Haroun came and saw this; he asked those nearby why Bahlool was crying. A slave told him the whole story. Haroun scolded them and tried to cheer Bahlool up. Bahlool said he wasn't crying at his condition, but at Haroun's condition. "I sat on the seat of Khalifate wrongfully for a few seconds and received such a beating; but you have been sitting on this throne all your life! What troubles you must receive, yet you still don't fear the consequence."

Teacher: These are very good examples of Amr bil Maaruf. Every Muharram we hear stories of Imam Husayn (AS) and his acts of Amr bil Maaruf. Bahlool lived at the time of our 7th Imam when Haroun Rashid would kill anyone he knew to be a lover of the Ahlul Bayt. On the 7th Imam's advise he acted insane to save his life but did not stop performing Amr bil Maaruf. Imam Husayn (AS)'s approach was direct, Bahlool did it indirectly.

Amr bil Maaruf is one of the 10 Furooh e Deen with prayers and fasting. Do we pay enough attention to this important tenant of our religion.

By the way, Bahlool's real name was Wahab bin Amr