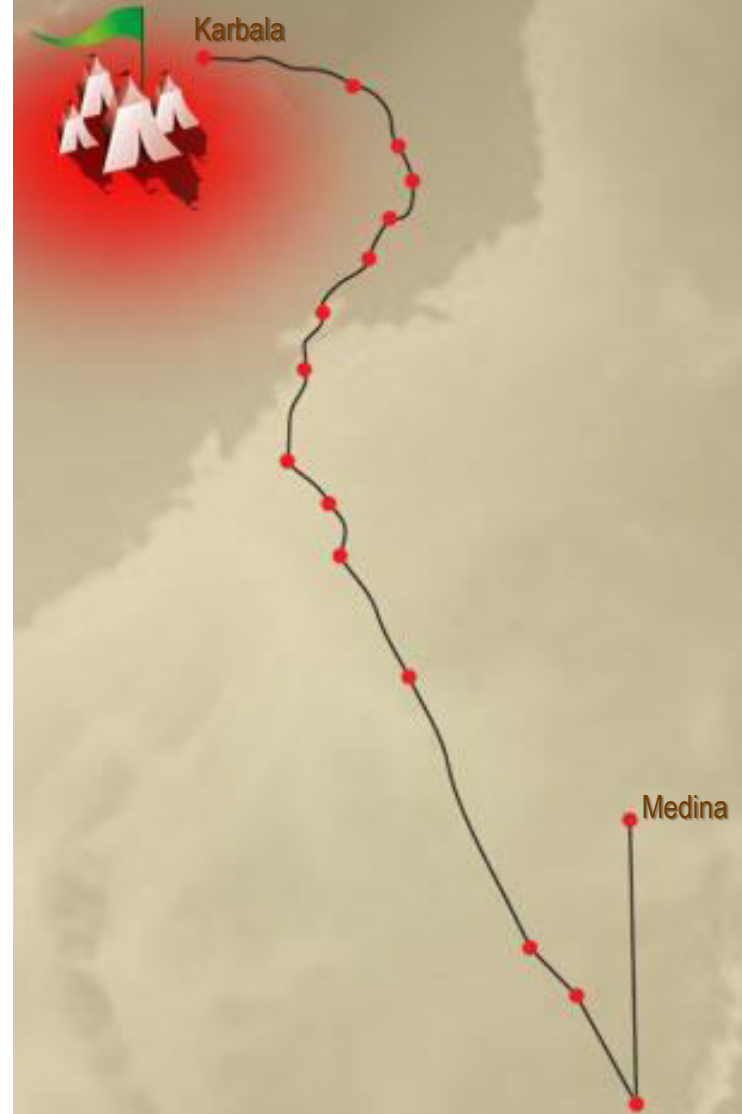


# The Journey of Imam Husain [a.s.] from Medina to Karbala



# With Imam Husain from Medina to Karbala....

The reasons behind Imam Husain's journey can be found in his words from Medina where he began it and at the stopovers he had until he reached Karbala. This presentation gives an overview of the journey of Imam Husain with the names of the places and their approximate locations from Medina to Karbala. Important events at specific locations are also included.



# Medina

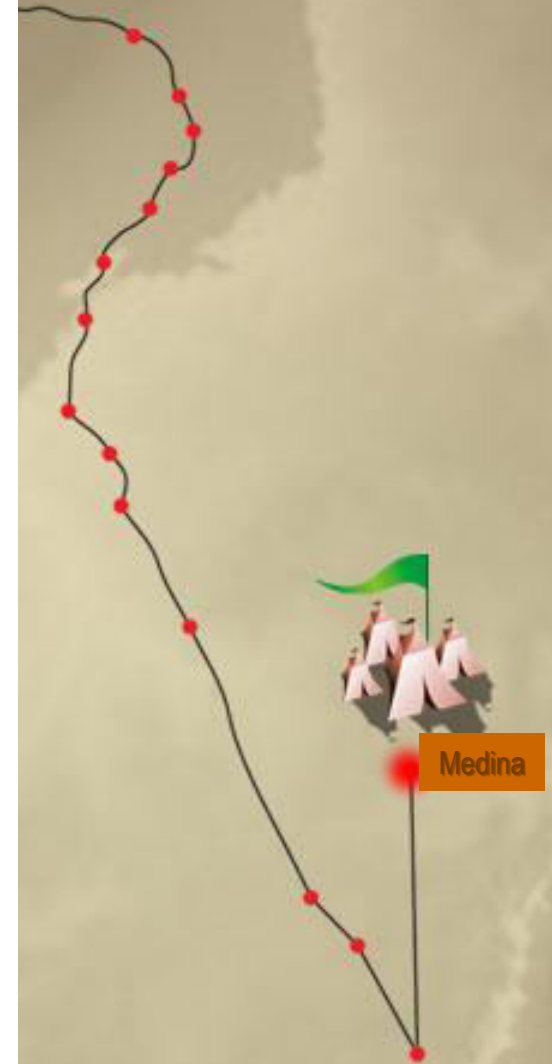
**Time: The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Rajab, 60 AH**

After Mu'awiya's death, Medina's governor [Walid Ibn Utbah] was ordered to ask Imam Husain to pay homage to Yazid. Imam said: "Yazid drinks wine and kills innocent people. He spreads vice, corruption and depravity in society. I will never swear allegiance to him."

When Marwan ibn al-Hakam asked the Imam to pay homage to Yazid, Imam [as] answered: "Go away you enemy of God! I heard from the Prophet of God that kingdom of Abu Sufyan's children is unlawful, if you see Mu'awiya on the Prophet's pulpit, kill him. Our people saw him there, but they didn't obey the Prophet's command. Now God has made the immoral Yazid their Khalifa to punish them."

Imam Husain, on 28<sup>th</sup> of Rajab of 60 AH, with most of his relatives and some of his friends, after saying farewell to his grandfather Prophet Muhammad, moved from Medina to Mecca.

Imam Husain accounted reason for this journey in his will: 'It's to set right the *Ummah* of my grandfather, that I am leaving in this journey: To order them to do good deeds and prevent them from evil deeds. This is the way of my father, Ali [as], and my grandfather, Muhammad [s].'



# Mecca

**Time: From 3<sup>rd</sup> Sha'ban to 8<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH**

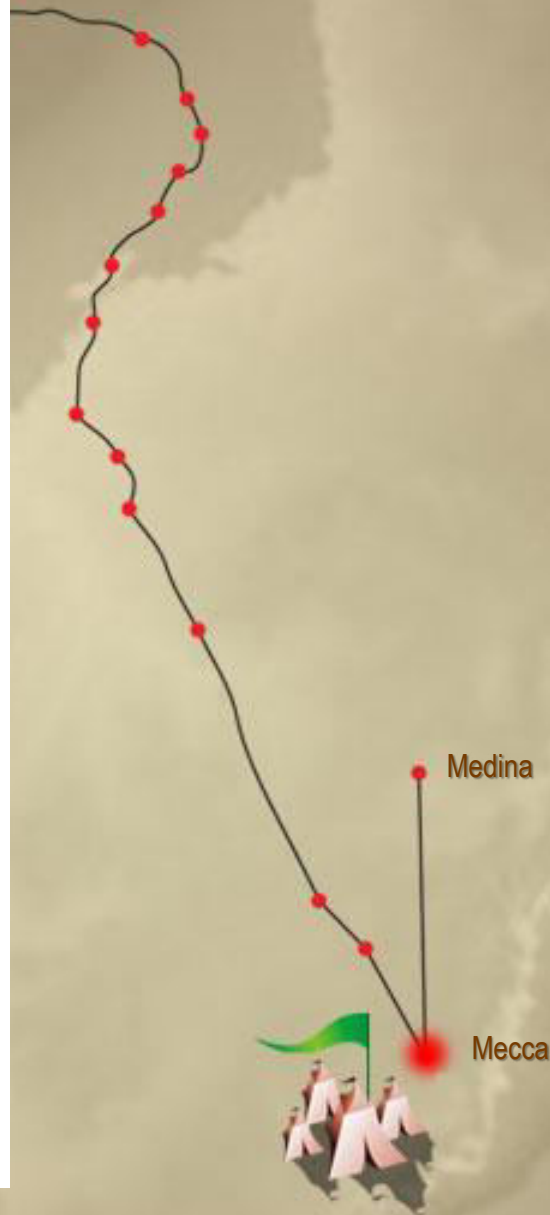
Imam Husain arrived in Mecca on 3<sup>rd</sup> of Sha'ban and went to Abbas Ibn Abdul Muttalib's house. Some of Meccan people and others from other cities, met the Imam.

When the number of letters from Kufa reached twelve thousand, Imam Husain sent Muslim Ibn Aqeel to Kufa as his representative on 15<sup>th</sup> of Ramadhan.

Imam sent many letters to Kufa and Basra, and indicated that he was the lawful Khalifa and the Prophet's household.

When Imam received Muslim Ibn Aqeel's letter implying that people of Kufa were his allegiants, he planned to move to Iraq despite opposition of many friends.

An excerpt from Imam Husain's last words in Mecca:  
"We, the Prophet's household, are dedicated to God's decree. He who wishes to join us and sacrifice his life for the sake of God, should get ready to come with us."



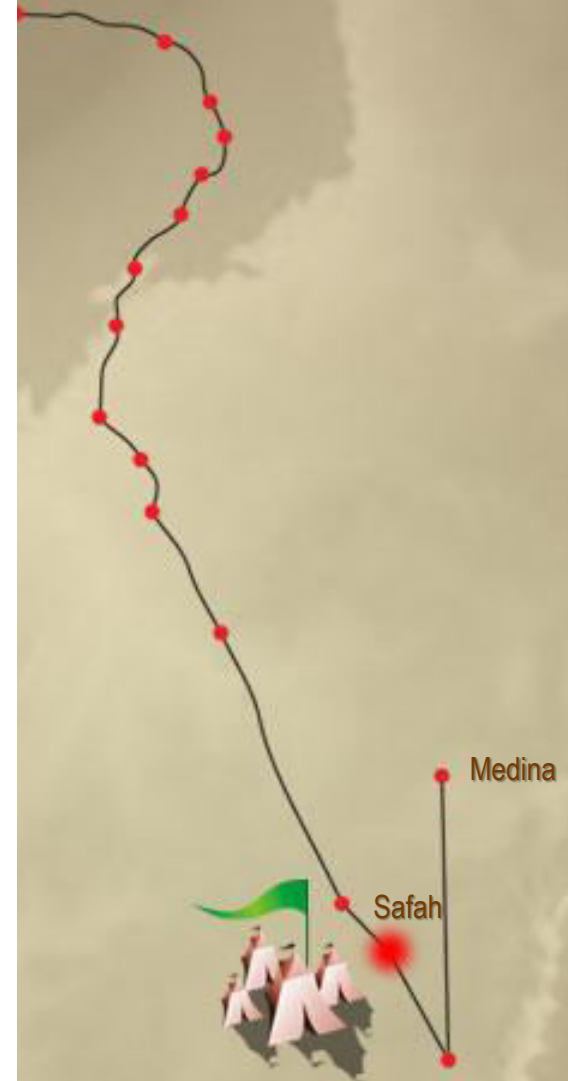
# Safah

**Time: Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH**

Before reaching Safah, in a place called Ta'nim, Imam Husain commanded to stop the caravan (which was delivering illegal goods from Yemen's ruler to Yazid). That was a sign of protest against Banu Umayya's unlawful kingdom.

Imam Husain said to the friends who disagreed to travel to Kufa: "I dreamed of Muhammad [s] and he ordered me an important task. I have to follow it." Famous poet Farazdaq, who was going to Mecca, met Imam Husain Safah. He said: "People's hearts are with you (in Kufa), but their swords are with Banu Umayya!"

Imam Husain said to Farazdaq:  
'If things conform to our beliefs, we'll thank God. Otherwise, everyone whose purpose is right won't get harmed.'



# Zaat 'Arq

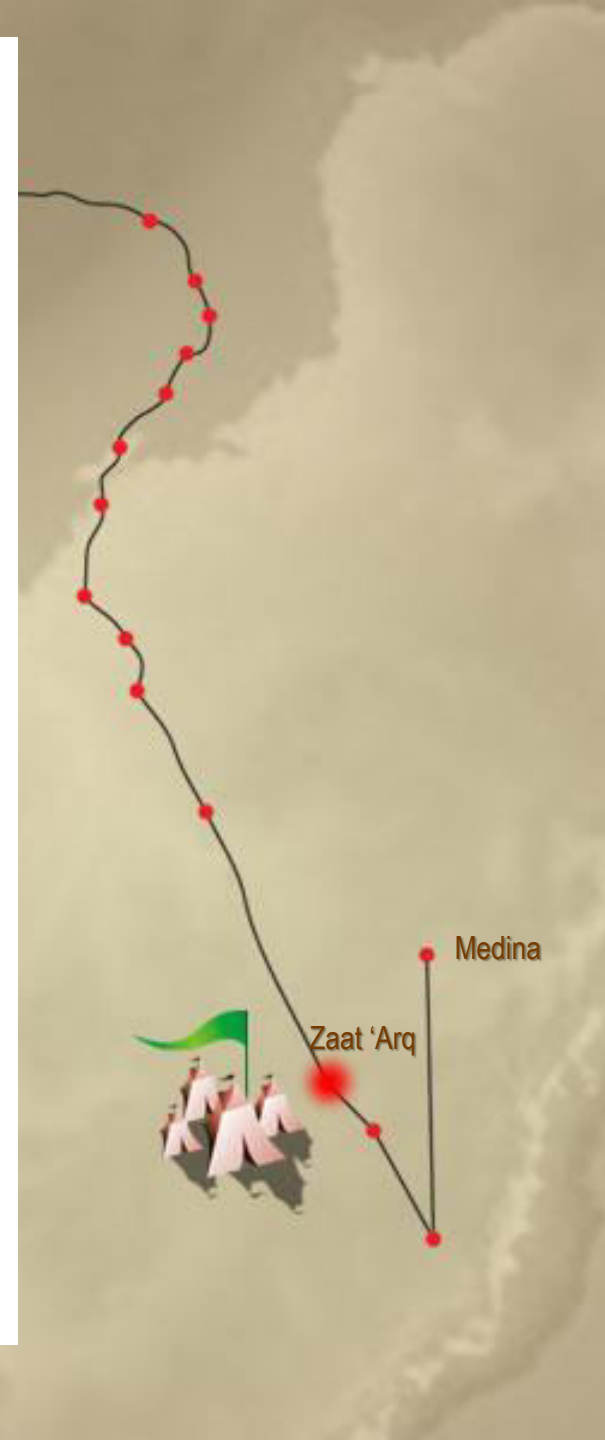
Time: Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH

Imam Husain met Bashar Ibn Ghalib and asked about people of Kufa. Bashar answered: "Their swords are with Banu Umayya, but their hearts are with you." Imam [as] confirmed his words.

Abdullah Ibn Ja'far, Zeinab's husband, received a letter of protection from governor of Medina, Amr Ibn Sa'eed, which indicated: "I want to prevent you from division, and I'm afraid that you may perish. Come back to me, to be secure." Imam [as] commented: "Someone who invites to God and does good deeds and says I'm Muslim, will never dissent with God and His Prophet. If you have wished my welfare, I hope God rewards you."

Abdullah Ibn Ja'far enjoined his sons [Aun and Muhammad] to be with Imam Husain and to fight for him. Then, he left for Mecca.

A portion of Imam's Husain's letter to Amr Ibn Sa'eed: 'Best protection is the one which is from God. We ask God to help us fear Him in this world so that we get His protection and forgiveness for the other world.'



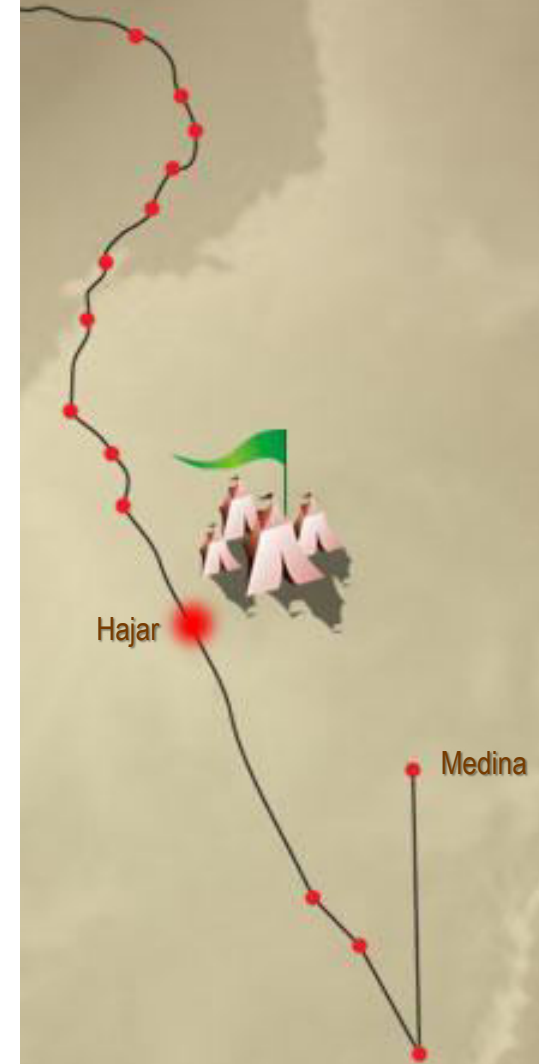


# Hajar

Time: Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH

Imam sent some letters to Kufa through Qays Ibn Mosahhar which implied: “I received Muslim Ibn Aqeel’s letter indicating you are willing to help us get our right. I pray God helps you. As Qays Ibn Mosahhar arrives in your city, be firm. I’ll come to you soon.”

Qays Ibn Mosahhar was arrested in the midway. He tore Imam’s letter to deny the enemy its content. They brought him to Dar Al Imarah palace to Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad. They asked him to reveal to people who had sent letter and to curse Imam Husain and his father and his brother in front of people. Qays Ibn Mosahhar went to the upper corner of the palace, and after praising Imam Ali and his progeny, he cursed Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad and his cronies instead. Then he announced that Imam Husain will come soon, and he encouraged people to help him. Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad shouted to throw him from the top of the palace down to the floor. Thus he lost his life in defense of Imam Husain. A piece of Imam Husain’s speech on his way to Karbala: ‘I don’t see death but salvation, and I see living with tyrants nothing but disgrace.’



# Khozaimiyyah

Time: Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH

Imam Husain and his friends stayed in Khozaimiyyah a day and a night. Zainab came to Imam Husain in the morning and said:

“Brother, I came out of the tent at the midnight and heard that Hatefi is rhyming this poem:  
“Hey Eyes! Cry! Who will cry for these martyrs after me? Death would bring them to where they fulfill their promise to God.”

Imam Husain consoled his sister and encouraged her to be patient. Zuhair Ibn Qayn joined Imam Husain here.

Imam Husain told his sister Zainab:  
‘Whatever God wishes, it will happen.’





# Zuroud

**Time: Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH**

Zuhair Ibn Qayn was traveling back to Kufa from Haj. He was pro-Uthman and disliked his being with Imam Husain.

Imam sent someone to Zuhair Ibn Qayn inviting him to the Imam's tent. Zuhair Ibn Qayn didn't respond to the request. His wife said: **"Muhammad's grandson is inviting you, how come you don't accept it!"** Zuhair Ibn Qayn was ashamed, went to Imam unwillingly, but when he came back he was so joyful! He said to his friends: "I decided to join Imam Husain. He who likes to help the Prophet's grandson should come with us. I say goodbye to the others." His wife was with him until the last moments of his life.

After Zuhair Ibn Qayn's martyrdom, Imam Husain said:

**'O Zuhair! God bless you and curse whoever killed you and make them into pigs and monkeys in the other world.'**



# Tha'labiyyah

**Time: Tuesday, 22nd Dhulhajjah, 60 AH**

Imam Husain arrived in Tha'labiyyah at night. He heard that Muslim Ibn Aqeel and Hani ibn Urwa had been brutally killed.

Then, Imam said: **"We are from God and we'll return to God. There is no point in living after them."** Afterward, he cried and his friends cried too.

Imam Husain asked Muslim Ibn Aqeel's sons of what they would do after their father's death. They answered: **"We won't return till we revenge or get martyred."**

Imam Husain told his friends of the course of events. Thus, some of his friends elected to leave Husain and return to their cities to save their lives. A piece of Imam Husain's speech with a man from Kufa:

**'By God, if I had met you in Medina, I would have shown you signs of Gabriel's descent in our home. The populace had taken knowledge from us.'**



**Time: Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dhulhajjah 60 AH**

Imam Husain announced to his friends that Muslim Ibn Aqeel, Hani and Ibn Buqtar had been killed. Then he said: **“People of Kufa have abandoned us. Anyone wishing to return from this journey, can return, you have no obligation towards us.”** Some who accompanied the Imam, left him.

Abdullah Ibn Buqtar was the emissary of Imam Husain to Muslim Ibn Aqeel. But he was arrested and brought to Obaidullah ibn Ziyad. He defied Ibn Ziyad, announced at the top of Dar Al Imarah palace: **“I’m Imam Husain’s representative. Help him and fight against the horrible Yazid.”** Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad’s cronies threw him from the top of the Building down to the floor, killing him immediately.

Imam Husain answered a man who asked about the Ayah of Quran: **يوم ندعوا كل اناس بامامهم**

**A leader invited people to the right way, and some accepted his invitation. Another leader invited people to perversion, and some accepted his invitation. The first group will be in heaven and the second will be in hell.**



# Batn Al Aqabah

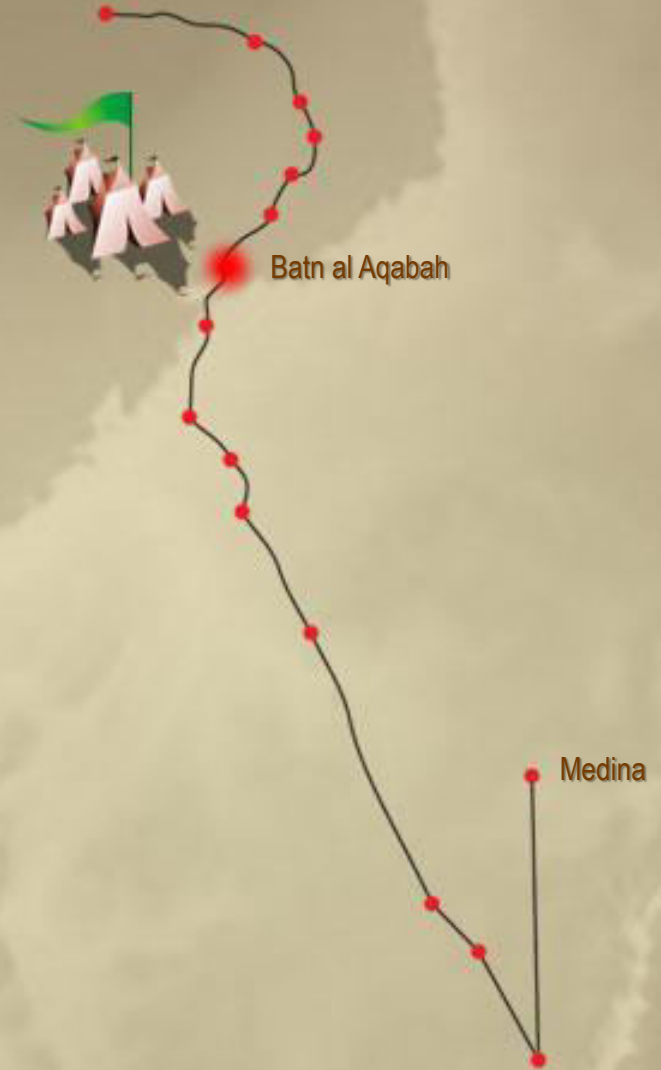
Time: Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah 60 AH

An old man told Imam Husain : “Return from here, because you will only face swords in this journey. The people who had invited you won’t fight for you. I think you’d better not continue.” Imam said: “This is obvious for me, but none can change what God has decreed.”

Imam Husain said to his friends: “I see myself die.” His friends wondered: “Why!?” He answered: “I dreamed of some dogs attacking me. One of them was wilder than others and they were tearing me to pieces!”

A selection from Imam’s words:

“Banu Umayya won’t leave me until they kill me. When they will kill me, God will make some other people rule over them who will humiliate them.”



# Sharaaf and Dhu Hasm

Time: Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah 60 AH

Imam Husain asked his friends to bring enough water for the next morning on the way. At the midway, at noon, they faced the enemy's army [with Hurr commanding it]. Imam commanded his friends to give water to the humans and the horses of Hurr's army. Both sides said their noon and afternoon prayers with Imam Husain leading.

Imam told enemy's army: "We, the Prophet's household are the rightful leaders over you. We deserve it more than those who treat you with injustice and are cruel to you. I came to you, because you invited me. If you don't like it, I'll return."

When Imam wanted to return, Hurr stopped him and said: "I have come to take you to Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad. If you don't accept it, at least choose a way which goes neither to Kufa nor to Medina."

A piece of Imam's speech at this place:

"Don't you see that the right is not conveyed and the wrong is not prohibited. Let believers wish to die and righteously meet their God."



# Baydhabh

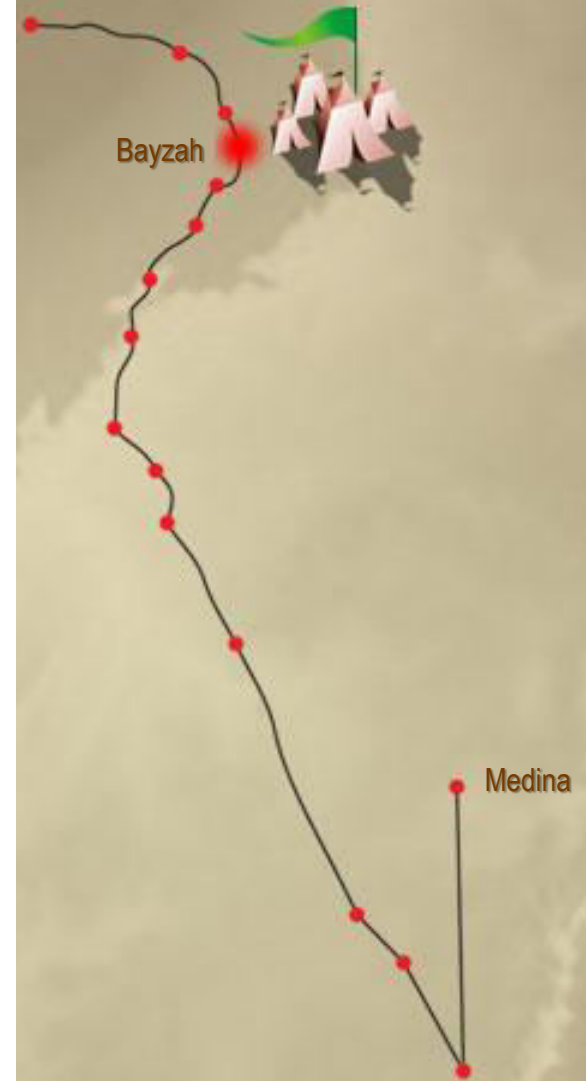
**Time: Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH**

Both sides arrived in Baydhabh. Imam Husain said to Hurr's army: "Banu Umayya listened to the Devil and committed wrong. They crossed God's limits and made public treasury exclusively for themselves. They made what God has made lawful, unlawful, and what God has made unlawful, lawful.

You wrote to me a lot of letters indicating that you are my allegiants. If you remain my allegiants, you have done a wise act, because I'm the son of Muhammad's daughter and your leader. If you break your covenant, I won't be surprised, because you did the same with my father, Imam Ali, and my brother, Imam Hasan, and my cousin, Muslim Ibn Aqeel. If you break it, you'll lose your salvation."

A selection from Imam's words:

"O men! The Prophet of God said: "Anyone who has seen a cruel king who makes unlawful deeds, lawful, and opposes God, and does not protest against that king, he would be in the hell with him."





# Udhayb al Hajanat

Time: Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> Dhulhajjah, 60 AH

A few people from Kufa met Imam Husain and described the condition of city: “They have given big bribes to influential people. Now, they all oppose you. Other people’s hearts are with you, but their sword will be against you tomorrow!”

Imam Husain asked about Qays Ibn Musahhar. They said: “Having been arrested, they brought him to Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad. He went to the top of his palace and condemned Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad and his father instead of you and your father. So they threw him from high up, down and he got martyred.” Imam Husain cried and said: “From the believers, some of them fulfilled their promise with God, and some of them are waiting for it.”

After hearing about martyrdom of Qays Ibn Musahhar, Imam Husain prayed:

‘O God! Gather us, the believers, at a high place near You.’



# Qasr Banu Muqatil

Time: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Muharram 61 AH

Some people from Kufa were there. Imam Husain asked them for help. Some of them said: “We don’t want to die!” and others said: “We have wives and children. We owe lots of money.” indicating no involvement.

Imam Husain asked young men to bring water. Imam slept on the way. When he woke up, he was repeating: “**We are from God, and we’ll return to him.**” Ali Akbar went to the Imam and wondered: “Father, why are you repeating these words?” Imam [as] answered:

“**I dreamed of a horse rider in front of me who said that these people are traveling at night and death is coming for them!**”

Ali Akbar asked: “**Father! Aren’t we on the right!?**” Imam answered: “**No doubt we certainly are on the right.**” Ali Akbar said: “**Therefore, we are not afraid of death.**” Imam said: “**May God reward you aplenty!**”

Imam Husain told Obaidullah Ja’fi:

“**If you don’t help us, beware not to fight against us. By God, if someone hears us needing help, and doesn’t help, God will throw him to the fire on his face.**”



# Karbala

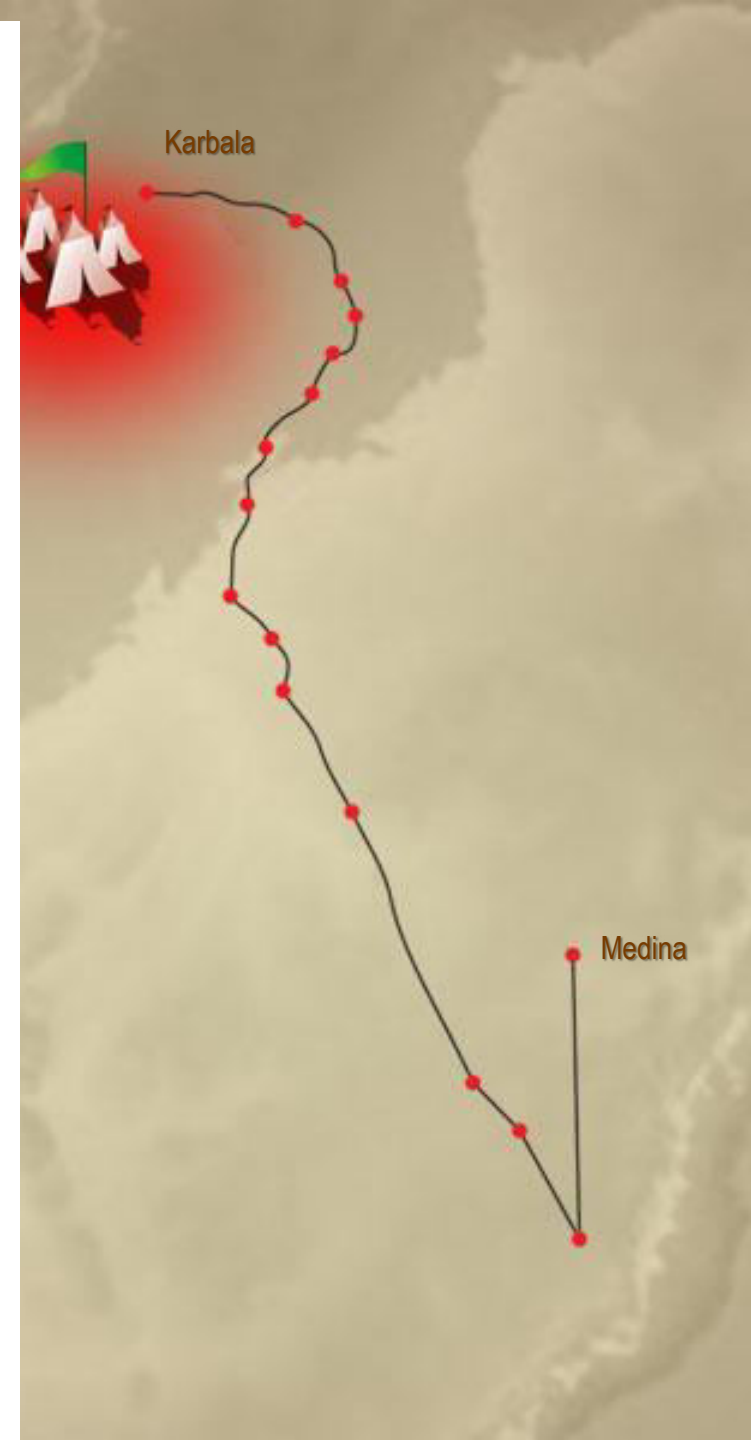
**Time: Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

Karbala is where Hurr was ordered to stop. There was no vegetation or water in that desert. When the Imam heard the area was called “Karbala”, he said: “Get off your horses. Here is where we will die. Here will be our graves. My grandfather had told me so.” Imam’s companions grounded there. Hurr’s army grounded across from them.

Imam gathered his friends, took a look at them, and then cried. He said: “O God! They kicked us out from our grandfather’s city. Banu Umayya oppressed us. They opposed us. Help us get our right and win.”

Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad wrote a letter to the Imam indicating: “I heard you have entered Karbala. Give homage to Yazid and be saved.” Imam answered: “There is no answer for this letter, because God’s punishment is a must for Obaidullah ibn Ziyad!” As Imam read Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad’s letter , he said:

“Never will be salvaged a nation who wins the happiness of the creatures at the cost of the displeasure of the Creator.”



# Karbala

**Time: Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

Omar Ibn Sa'd came to Karbala with an army of 4000 men. Omar Ibn Sa'd's tribe came to him to prevent him from this war. Moreover, one of his sons [Hafs] was encouraging him to fight there and his other son was opposing him. So, Hafs went with his father to the war.

Omar Ibn Sa'd sent a man to Imam Husain to find out why he had come. Imam said: **"Your people had sent me letters and invited me. If you don't like me to be here, I'll return."** When Omar Ibn Sa'd heard Imam's message, he said: "I hope God prevents me from fighting Husain."

A selection from Imam Husain's words while entering Karbala:

**'People are slaves of the world, and as long as they live favorable and comfortable lives, they are loyal to religious principles. However, in hard times, the times of trials, truly religious people are scarce.'**



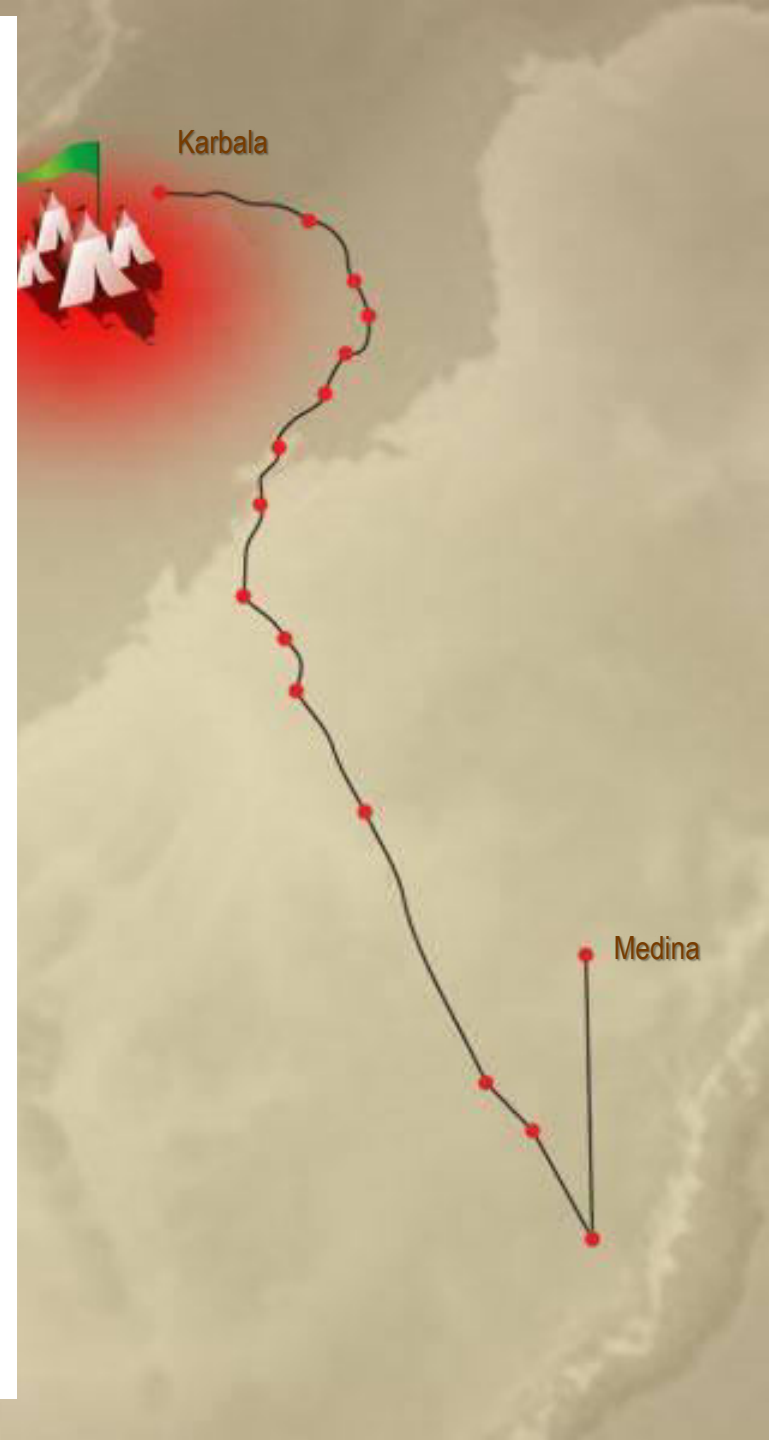
# Karbala

**Time: Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad shouted to people in Kufa's mosque: "O Men! You tested Abu Sufyan's family, and found them the way you desired. You know that Yazid is benevolent and gracious. And his father was just like him. Now Yazid has commanded me to give you some money and send you to a war against Husain, his enemy." Then he ordered people to go to the war.

Shimr Ibn Dhiljowshan with an army of 4000 men, Yazid Ibn Rekaab with 2000 men, Hisin Ibn Numayr with 4000 men, Mazayer Ibn Rahin with 3000 men, and Nasr Ibn Harashe with 2000 men got ready for the war against Imam Husain.

Imam Husain answered Qays Ibn Ash'ath: **"By God, I won't pay homage to them with ignominy, and I won't escape the war."**





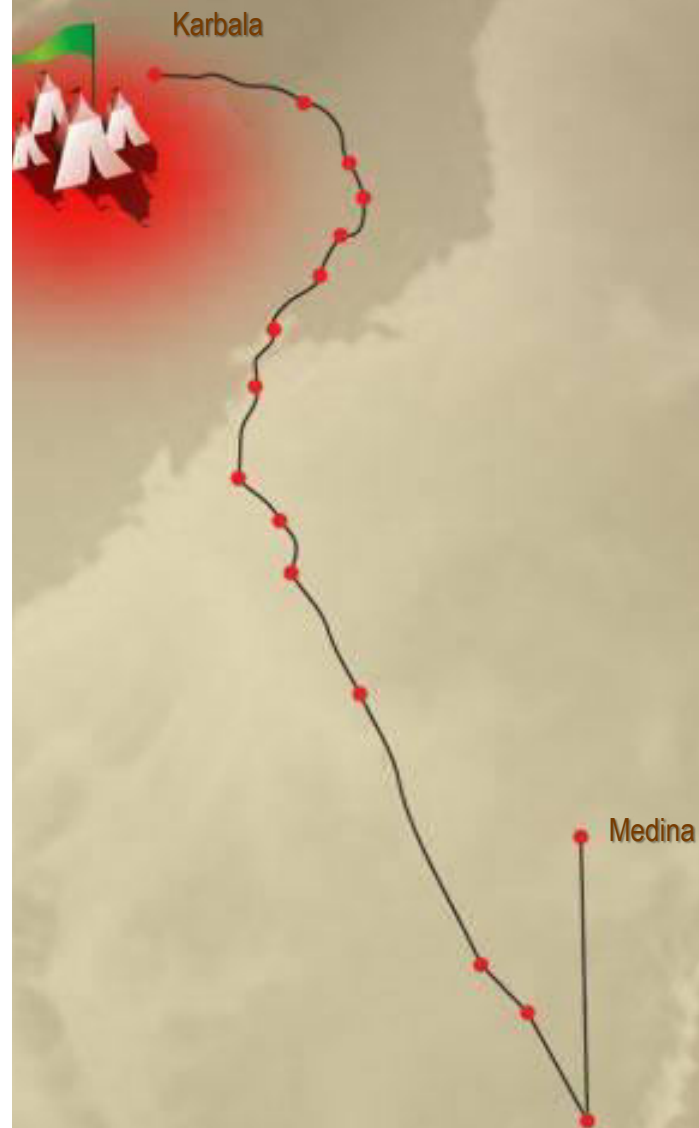
# Karbala

**Time: Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

People joined Omar Ibn Sa'd's army. It is written that Shebs Ibn Rabee joined with 1000 men. Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad ordered some men to look out on the way to Karbala and to stop people who were going to help Imam Husain.

As most of the people knew that fighting against Imam Husain is equal to fighting against God and his Prophet, many of them escaped their armies in the midway. It is written that a commander with 1000 men on the way to Karbala would have reached there with only 300 or 400 men remaining. Others had escaped the army, as they had no belief in it.

From Imam Husain's speech to the enemy's army:  
**"We won't live with ignominy. God and his Prophet and the believers never chose it for us. The pure people, who had nurtured us, would never let us choose ignominy instead of martyrdom."**





# Karbala

**Time: Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> Muharram, 61 AH**

Omar Ibn Sa'd received a letter from Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad indicating: "I have sent you enough men and cavalry. Beware that I have agents who tell me what is happening every day."

Imam permitted Habib Ibn Mudhahir to go to people of Bani Asad, who lived somewhere near Karbala, for help. 90 men were coming with Habib Ibn Mudhahir. They faced Omar Ibn Sa'd's army on the way, and they escaped. Habib Ibn Mudhahir narrated what had happened to the Imam. Imam Husain answered:

**“لا حول و لا قوة الا بالله”**

An excerpt of Imam Husain's letter to Muhammad Ibn Hanafiya and Banu Hashim:  
**“As if the world has never existed, and the other world is eternal.”**



# Karbala

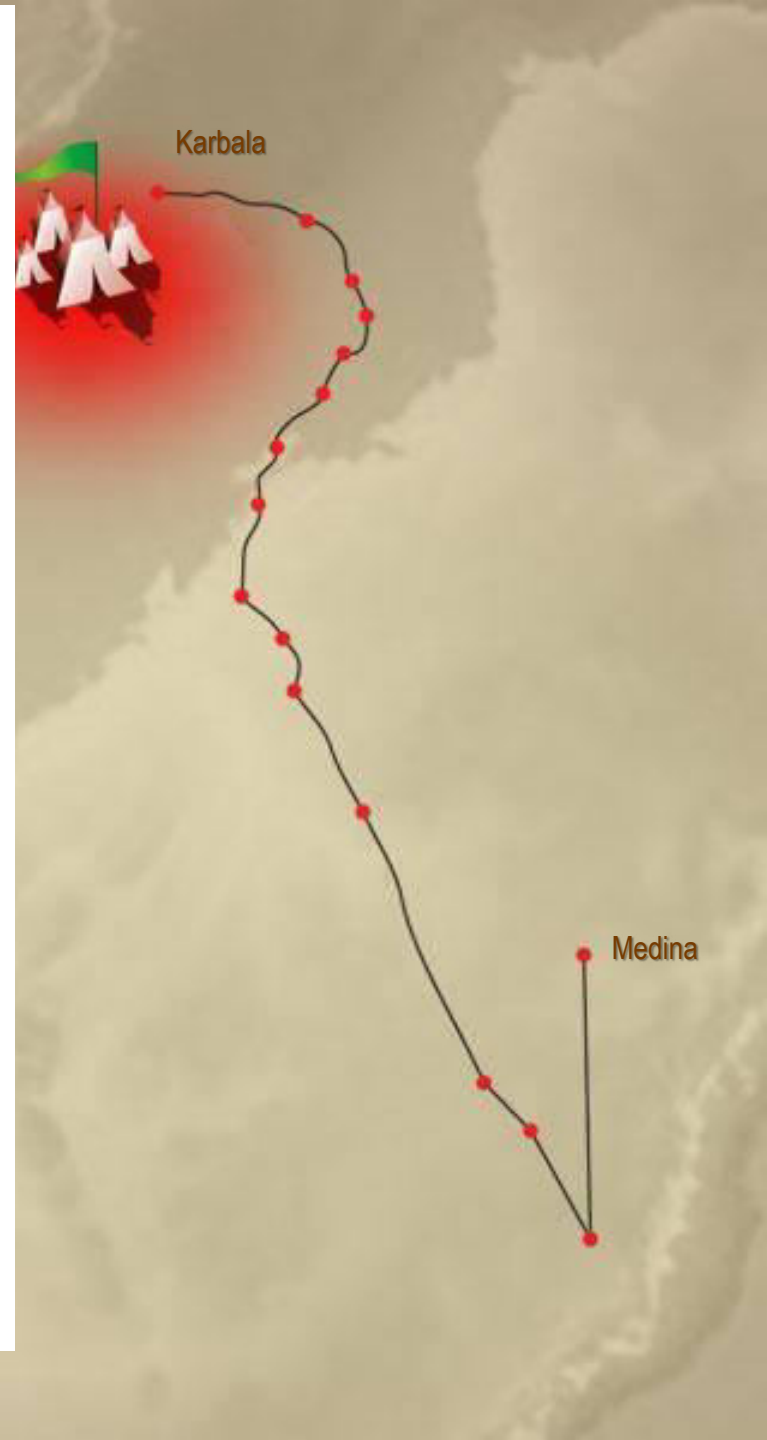
**Time: Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> Muharram, 61 AH**

The number of people who received weapons, armor, and money from Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad for the war was more than 30,000.

Omar Ibn Sa'd received a letter from Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad indicating: "Try to make Imam Husain and his army distant from Furat River water, so you deny them water, like Uthman Ibn Affan who was denied water!" Omar Ibn Sa'd ordered 500 horsemen to stay near Furat. One of them shouted: "O Husain! By God you won't drink a drop of this water, till you die from thirst." Imam Husain prayed: **"O God! Let his wishes against me inflict him instead."** Hamid Ibn Muslim said: "I saw with my own eyes how that man himself died of merciless thirst!"

Imam Husain about the enemy's army:

**"O God! Stop rain for them, and force famine on them, and impose that Thaqafi slave [Hujjaj Ibn Yusuf] on them so that he makes them drink cup of venom, and take my revenge and my friends' revenge from them."**



# Karbala

**Time: Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

In Imam's tents, the thirst was increasingly severe. Imam ordered his brother, Abbas and a few of his friends, to quietly go to Furat river and bring some water at night. They attacked the enemy there at night and brought some water.

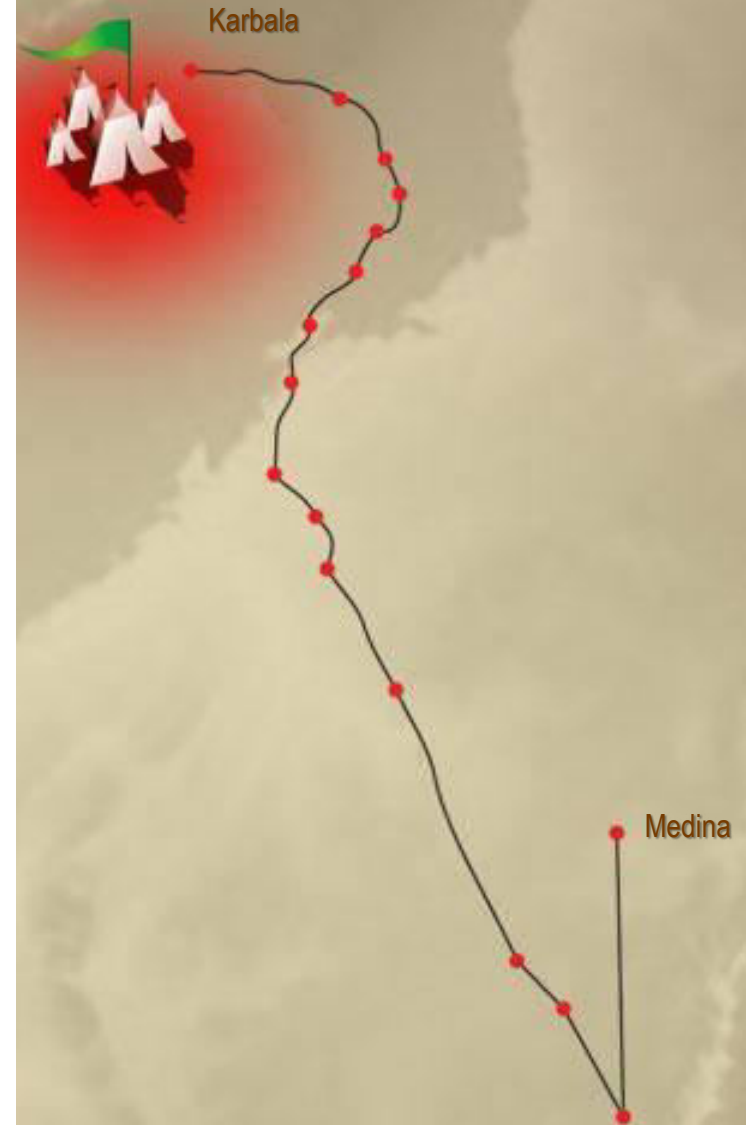
Imam's meeting with Omar Ibn Sa'd:

Imam said: "O Omar Ibn Sa'd! Do you want to fight against me? Aren't you afraid of God!?" Omar Ibn Sa'd said: "If I leave this group, they will demolish my home, and take all my belongings. I fear Obaidullah's anger at my family." Imam answered: "What will happen to you!? You'll die in your bed soon, and God won't pardon you. Do you think you'll be governor of Ray and Gorgan!? By God, you won't be."

Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad sent a letter to Omar Ibn Sa'd and threatened him with dismissal. He said: "If you don't obey me, I will replace you with Shimr Ibn Dhuljowshan as the commander-in-chief."

Imam Husain said to his friends:

"O great people! Be patient as death is like a bridge which will let you pass over all pain and sufferings and reach the eternal blessings in the heaven of God."



# Karbala

**Time: Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

Shimr Ibn Dhuljowshan went near Imam's army's tents and shouted: "O Abbas and Husain's friends! Obaidullah Ibn Ziyad sent you a letter of mercy and security." They all answered: "Be damned, you and your letter. You want us to be secure while Imam Husain is in danger!?"

The enemy's army permitted Imam Husain and his army to pray and recite Quran, by Abbas' request. Imam's companions dug a ditch around their tents, so that the enemy could attack them only from one side,

A group of Omar Ibn Sa'd's army, joined Imam's army.

Imam Husain said to the enemy:

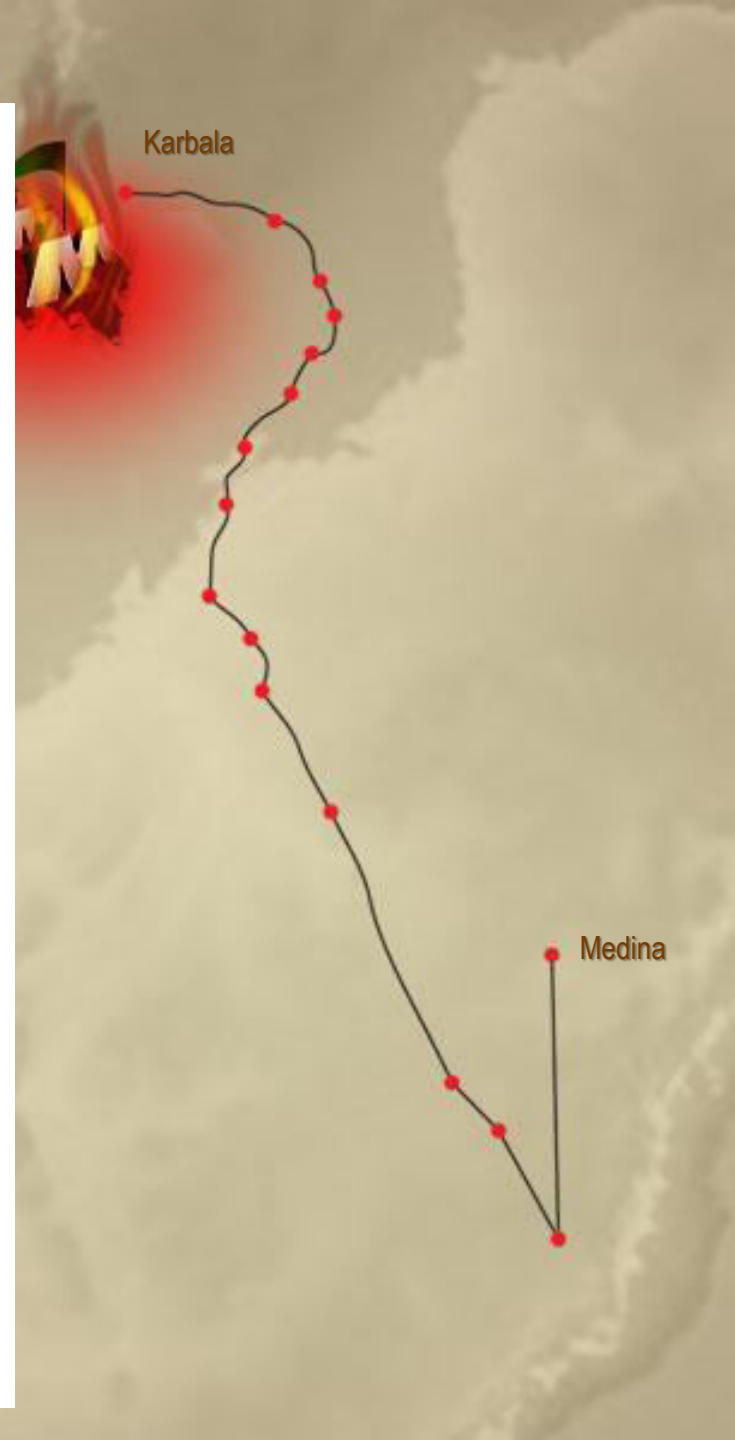
**"What will you lose if you listen to me!? I'm inviting you to the right way. But you don't listen to me, because you have eaten foods bought from unlawful money, and your hearts are callous."**



# Karbala

**Time: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

Imam Husain performed his Fajr prayers with his companions. Then he said: **“God has ordained my and your martyrdom. So you have to be patient.”** Imam Husain assigned Zuhair Ibn Qayn to be in charge of the right flank of his fighting force, and Habib Ibn Madhafer, in charge of the left flank. He gave the war banner to his brother, Abbas. The enemy’s army was approaching, but the Imam didn’t take any action against them and said: **“I don’t want to be the one who starts the war with them!”** Omar Ibn Sa’d shot an arrow and shouted: **“Behold! I am the first man who shot the arrow!”** Then the army of Omar Ibn Sa’d began to shoot arrows too. Imam Husain said: **“O My friends! Go and fight. God bless you.”** In the first attack, more than 40 faithful followers of Imam were martyred. The remaining men of Imam went to the war one by one and got martyred. Then, it was Banu Hashim’s turn. All of them got martyred including his six-month old baby, Ali Asghar. Imam Husain was the last remaining, after looking at the killed bodies. he went to the tents for the last time.



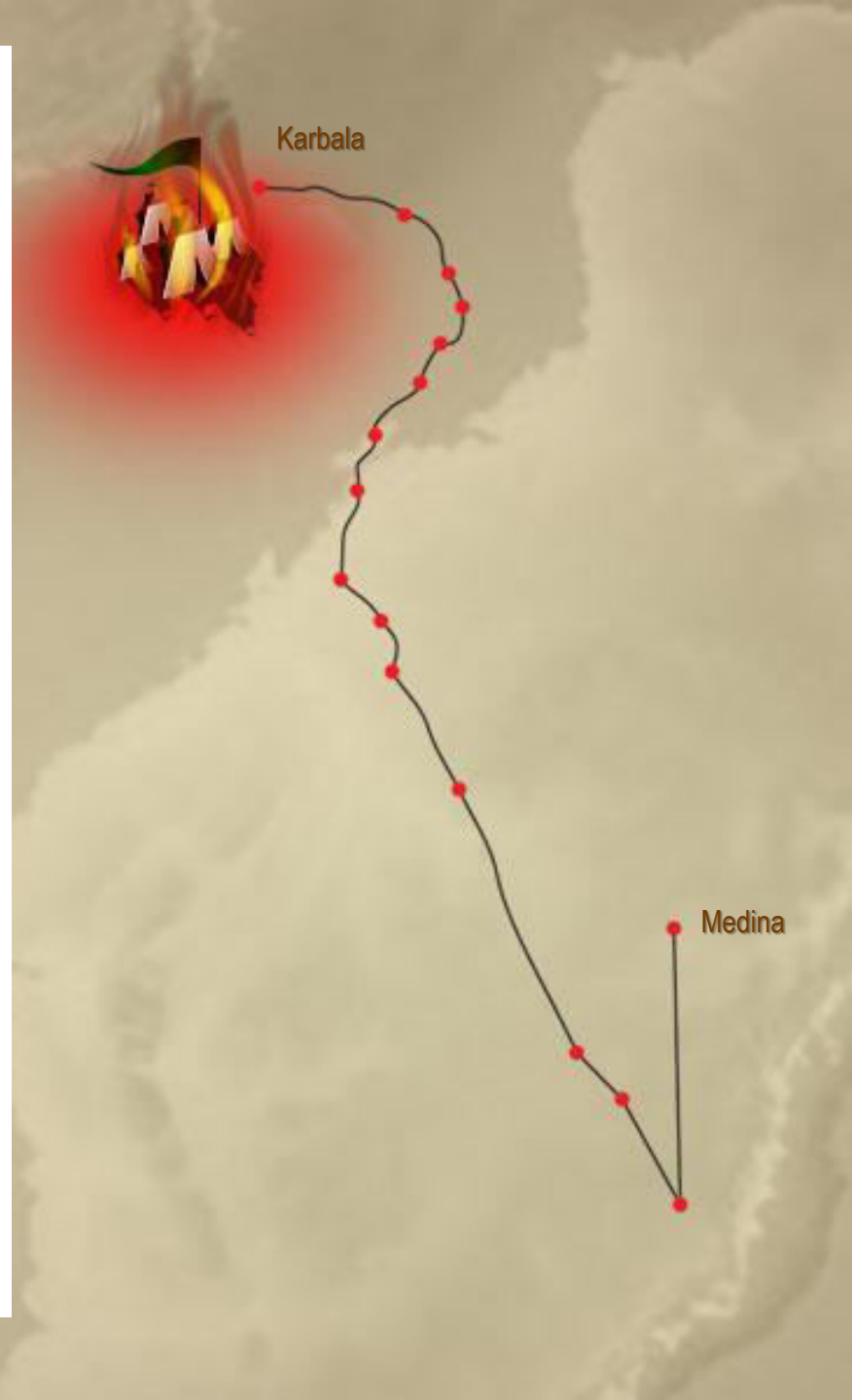
# Karbala

**Time: Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> Muharram 61 AH**

Alone, he then went to the war and started to fight. He was stuck from every angle by the enemy. He received numerous arrows, cuts and lances, that finally he fell in shock: Bleeding, exhausted, Thirsty. The enemy were taken aback, they hesitated to cut his head. It was Shimr Ibn Dhuljowshan who screamed, sat on his chest, then separated his head from the body! They heard Al-Husain uttering at that moment: **“I am at peace with the decree of God and I have bowed to His order.”**

While all these atrocities were going on, his family, women and children were watching, alarmed, dumfounded, grief-stricken, and horrified....

The enemy then attacked the tents and burned them and took his family as captives.





The Prophet of God about Husain:

"Surely for the martyrdom of Husain, there exists a warmth in the hearts of the believers that never subsides"

*[Mustadrak al-Wasail, vol.10, pg. 318]*

Peace be upon Husain, his loyal  
companions and his family  
members...

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Thank you

and

May Allah Bless you