

Lady Zainab's Speech in the Court of Yazid

All praise is due to God, Lord of the Worlds. May the blessings of God be on Muhammad and his progeny. God spoke the truth when He said, "Then evil was the final end of those who perpetrated evil, because they denied the signs of God and used to mock them." (30:10)

Did you imagine O Yazid, when you straitened the pathways of the earth and the horizons of the sky before us, so that we were herded about like common prisoners, that we were humiliated before God, and you were honoured before Him? And that was your great virtue before Him?

So you turned up your nose (at us) and looked about with self-satisfaction and delight. You felt that the world was in your hands, that things were going your way, and that our kingdom and authority were now exclusively under your mandate.

Slow down and take some time (to think); have you forgotten the words of God, Almighty, "And let those who disbelieve imagine that our respite to them is better for them. We [only] give them respite so that they may grow in sinfulness; and for them awaits a humiliating punishment."? (3:178)

Is it justice – O son of a freed slave – that you cover your maids and your women, while you openly parade the daughters of your God's Messenger (s) as captives? You snatched their cloaks, exposed their faces and allowed their enemy to drive them from one town to the next. The inhabitants of the waystations and townships came forth to stare at them, and their faces were studied by people close and distant, by the degenerate and the noble. They had no guardian from among their menfolk and no defender from among their protectors!

How can any concern be expected from the (son of the) one spat out the (chewed) liver of the righteous, and whose flesh was nourished by the blood of the martyrs?

And how can one who looks at us with hatred, enmity, jealousy and malice expect to [one day] seek shade in the shadow of the Ahlulbayt (as)?

Then you say without any sense of gravity and great sin of your words,

They would have praised God and clamoured in delight. And would have said, "O Yazid, may your hand never be paralyzed."



[You speak these words] while you lean forward to poke the teeth of Aba Abdillah (a) who is the chief of the youth of paradise.

And why would you not say that, when you have reopened [old] wounds and revived ancestral feuds by spilling the blood of the offspring of Muhammad (s), and the shining star on the earth from the progeny of Abd al-Muttalib.

Then you call your forefathers imagining that you are actually addressing them! Soon you will join them [in hell] and then you will wish that you had become paralyzed and struck dumb and that you had not said what you did and not done what you did.

O God, take back our right [from the uspers], avenge us against those who oppress us, and unleash Your wrath on the one who spilled our blood and killed our protectors.

For I swear by God, you have only torn off your own skin and cleaved your own flesh. You will surely be brought to God's Messenger (s) carrying the grievous burden of spilling the blood of his offspring and violating the sanctity of his children and kin.

There God will bring them all together, gather their distressed ones and restore their rights. "Do not count those who have been killed in the way of God as dead; rather they are alive with their Lord, receiving provision." (Q31:69)

So God will be sufficient for you as a Judge, Muhammad (s) as an accuser and Jibrael as his supporter.

Those who have paved the way for you and placed you on the neck of the Muslims will soon come to know how deadful the recompense of the oppressors is, and which of you is in the worse place, and weaker in support.

These circumstances have forced me to address you, otherwise I consider your status as low, and your guilt as great. But the eyes weep and the hearts burn.

How astonishing is the massacre of the party of the noblemen of God at the hands of the freedmen of the party of Satan! These are the hands that drip with our blood and the mouths that salivate at [the thought of devouring] our flesh, while out there lie the pure and purified corpses being ravaged by wolves and hyenas.



If you have seized us as spoils of war, then you will find us a great burden on the day when you shall encounter nothing except what your hands have sent forth. “And your Lord is not unjust (in the least) to His slaves.” So our complaint is to God and on Him is our reliance.

So hatch your plots, strive your utmost, and bring all your resources to bear, but by God, you will never erase our remembrance [from the hearts of people] or extinguish our message, or reach our status or wash off the disgrace of your actions.

Will your judgement not be confuted, your days at an end, and your supporters dispersed, on the Day when the herald will call out, “Behold! The curse of God is on the oppressors”? (11:18)

So all praise is for God, who granted felicity and forgiveness to our ancestors and the honour of martyrdom and mercy to our present generation. We ask God to complete their reward and grant them even more, give them good succesors for us, for He is all-Merciful, all-Affectionate. “Sufficient for us is God, and a most Excellent Protector.” (3:173)