

MUHARRAM IS NOT A FESTIVAL!!

ITS COMMEMORATION....



The commemoration falls in Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. The event marks the Battle of Karbala, when Imam Hussain ibn Ali (a.s) the grandson of prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was killed by the forces of the second Umayyad caliph(LA) Family members accompanying him were killed or subjected to humiliation. The commemoration of this event during the yearly mourning season, with the Day of Ashura as the focal date, serves to define Shia communal identity.

The mourning of Muharram was started by the family, especially womenfolk, of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)(the Ahl-ul-Bayt) immediately after the death of his grandson and even before entering Damascus. Following the battle of Karbala, Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) granddaughter Zaynab bint Ali sister of Imam Hussain (a.s), began mourning and making speeches against Imam Hussain ibn Ali's (a.s) opponents: Ibn Ziyad and Yazid (LA). News of Imam Hussain ibn Ali's (A.S) death was spread by Imam Zain-ul-Abideen(A.S), who succeeded Imam Hussain (a.s) the 4th Imam of shia, via sermons and speeches throughout Iraq, Syria and Hejaz.

Shia Muslims around the world every year commemorate the mourning custom of death of Hussain ibn Ali (A.S) his family and his follower in months of Muharram and Safar.

The words Azadari (Persian: عزاداری) which mean mourning and lamentation; and Majalis-e Aza have been exclusively used in connection with the remembrance ceremonies for the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (a.s). Majalis-e Aza, also known as Aza-e Husayn, includes mourning congregations, lamentations, matam and all such actions which express the emotions of grief and above all, repulsion against what Yazid (L.A) stood for.

Expression of grief with thumping of the chest by Shia Muslims is known as Latmya, Latmaya or latmia in Arabic-Persian countries. In India and Pakistan it is called Matam or Matam-Dari/Sina Zannee (chest beating).

The term majalis has both a grammatical meaning and a meaning which relates to Aza-e-Husayn. In its technical sense, a majalis is a meeting, a session or a gathering.