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Remembering Hazrat Abbas

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LUCKNOW: It will be the eighth of Moharrum on Sunday. Shias will pay tribute to Hazrat Abbas, the 32-year-old younger brother of Hazrat Imam Husain, who was slain on the banks of the Euphrates in Iraq when he went to bring water for the thirsty children in his camp.

Many a majlis (religious congregation) will be held throughout the day on Sunday, with orators narrating the valour and the tragic death of Hazrat Abbas. In the morning, majlis will be held at the Shia College on Victoria Street and Imambara Ghufraan Ma'ab in Chowk. These will be addressed by Maulana Agha Roohi and Maulana Kalbe Jawwad respectively. Madrasa-e-Nazmia will also host a gathering later in the day.

Alam-e-fateh-e-Furat will be taken out from the Daryawali Masjid behind KGMU at 9 pm. This procession will end at the Imambara Ghufraan Ma'ab at around midnight. Lakhs of people from the state capital and nearby districts are expected to participate in it.

Hazrat Abbas was tall, handsome and one of the bravest soldiers of his era. He used to respect and obey his elder brother Imam Husain. Abbas is held in high esteem by people belonging to different communities. Hindu devotees describe him as 'Imam Husain's Lakshman'. Hazrat Abbas and Lord Lakshman have set fine examples of brotherly love and devotion. A couplet by Tajuddin Haider (Zakhmi Lakhnavi), a famous poet of the pre-Independence era is worth mention here. Bazu-e-Shah-e-Karbala Abbas, tashnakamon ka aasra Abbas (A right hand man of Imam Husain, Abbas was a ray of hope for thirsty children). According to scholars, women accompanying Imam Husain were consoling the children that Abbas would soon bring water for them, when they went without water for three days.

Imam Husain and his 72 companions were put to sword within a matter of hours on 10th Moharrum. The day is known as Roz-e-Ashura. However, Shias have fixed different dates to commemorate different martyrs.

The Arab brutality reached its peak when Ali Asghar, the six-month-old infant of Imam Husain was mercilessly killed. This infant is remembered on the sixth Moharrum every year.

Moharrum is the first month of the Islamic calendar and people of other faiths and religions too celebrate the advent of the new year. However, Muslims begin their new year by mourning the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain and his companions who were slain in Karbala about 1400 years back.

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