

REMEMBERING AND PAYING HOMAGE TO OUR BELOVED ONES.

Years have now passed after the death of my beloved father in Birmingham, but it seems that it was just yesterday that I and my whole family had parted with him in this world. His memories and belongings are still a part of my routine vision and feel that even his hand written documents when gone through my eyes would fill hours of my time looking and thinking the day he wrote or spoke to me. His belongings which are now just a part of the cupboard or shelves are of remembrance and I do always pay homage to them in whatever the best way I can, i.e. wearing them, touching them and at times glancing at them only. This is all because I used to love my father very much and was inspired by his lifestyle and also his deeds, which always made me to do so.

These introductory words I have written as just to let the people know how the feelings of your beloved ones touch you and you feel like always glancing or paying tribute or even when you see a photo or a movie, keep on touching or looking at it.

Hereby now would like to elaborate some of the rituals we have in our religion. People when they pay homage to the replicas of the shrine of any of our Imams (A.S.) or places of Ziarat, usually do so in just recognition as a past practice forwarded by our ancestors. I hereby would like you first to know why we do so, i.e. go to the Zarihs' of the Imams (A.S.), see them, touch them or even kiss them and just come out without knowing what we are doing. I request you once to put the concept into your mind that what are we doing?

Yes! First let us embrace the thought of the place where the REPLICA of the Zarih is. Secondly consider yourself as if you are present at such a place and in front of the Zarih e Mubarak of any of the Imams (A.S.). Now keep into your mind that our Imams (A.S.) are not dead but they are alive as quoted in the Holy Quran as "Shaheed". This leads you that they are in front of you and the replica of the shrines, at which you are paying your homage, is actually real and you are just in front of Imam (A.S.). Immediately you would like to shake hands or just bow in front of them. This is the inner feeling of any of the faithful and to just pay homage to the Imam (A.S.), automatically the word of "**As Salaamun Alayka Ya Abaa Abdillah**" or similar words would come out. Next you would like to kiss the hand or the Roza, Zarih, Tazia, Julla, Panja, etc., of the Imam (A.S.) but you just have the replica in front of you and thus the least you can offer is just touch or even kiss a part or portion of the replica as if you are with Them.

Here again I would like to share my feelings of just kissing or embracing the photo of the Roza, Zarih, Tazia, Julla, Panja, etc., as you would have kissed the photo of your beloved ones. Even to see or keep the photo or photos of your beloved ones whether dead or alive is a human feeling and instinct. This is my perception and whenever I go to pay homage to any replica or real Roza, Zarih, Tazia, Julla, Panja, etc., I have this concept and out of nowhere the words of "**AS SALAAMUN ALAYKA YA ABAA ABDILLAH**" or similar verses automatically come out and feel like being there for hours and kissing the replica or the real shrine if physically present at these places.

Do try first to put this perception in your mind when next time you go to pay homage i.e. "**SALAAM**" to any of these Roza, Zarih, Tazia, Julla, Panja, etc. You will feel a change in your spiritual satisfaction and would like to be there for the maximum time available for you.

This article is not from any of the Aalims but a self proclaimed thinking and this has touched my heart and I am sharing the same with you all. Please forgive me if I have compared my family with the infallibles, but I honestly tell you that my family, live or dead are of no near to be compared with and will never be of anywhere near to be compared, but just to explain the inner feeling of a human being and then understanding our Imams or Infallibles is just my perception. Please forgive me once again. Was Salaam.

An article by Br Shiraz Onali written for MKSI Leicester Jamaat. All are requested to remember Marhum Onali Alibhai Ratansi by reciting Sura Fateha.