

Zainab and Hussain

By Saeed Alhakeem

*Zainab feels medinas sun as it fills the sky
Under its warmth there hussain lies
He rests under the date tree, it's branches shade his skin
He looks so peaceful, so why does zainab worry within?*

*Come inside dear brother, she called from their home
Fearful of the vision of him laying alone
In her vision he lays there without any shade
And it's a different land, not where they played
Zainab approaches him with a loving embrace
She's fearful she can't do so in that place
This vision unsettles her heart For its filled with a red Hugh
But the red doesn't come from the flowers their mother grew*

Zainab's laughter makes Hussain turn
Why for her laughter does he suddenly yearn
Why does he stay here a longer while
Taking in his sisters fleeting smile
He was about to leave but decides to watch her play
Something inside him forces him to stay
SHe falls, gets up and continues to run
A sinking feeling washes over him foretelling what's to come

*Zainab glances at hussain doing wudu preparing for his prayer
This sight of him draws to her eyes a tear
Zainab takes in his noor as his hand wipes his head
She then sees a vision but another hand is holding his neck instead
The clear water trickling is replaced with red
This vision fills her heart with dread
She wonders why these visions are filling her head
What is waiting for her Hissain in the road ahead*

*Zainab looks at hussain praying as his head touches the ground
She hears the sound
Allahu Akbar
But something else she hears*

*Allahu Akbar
What is this vision that appears
Allahu Akbar
Why is he covered in spears
Allahu Akbar
Why is he not moving and around him why do people cheer?
Allahu Akbar
She says hussain my dear
To your sister come near
Let me hold you for while whilst I still have you here.*

Hussain hears his sister performing the prayer of the night
Darkness surrounds but from her room a soft light
No matter the circumstances salat ul layl she always prays
Outside her door for a while longer hussain stays

Oddly, he starts to smell smoke
His eyes water and he starts to choke
He tries to move, but can't, he feels frustration
He still sees zainab but now in prostration

Zainab, he shouts, his voice muffled away
Zainab im here for you, he tries to say

But the fire surrounds them in this dark night
Zainab in the desert alone, a heart wrenching sight

Oh zainab why can't i move to your aid
Whats a brother to do if his sister he can't save

He hears hooves of horses trampling the sand
Echoes of laughter dissipate the land

Abbas he thinks, or Ali Al akbar
Surely one of them cant be that far

But no one comes to her salvation
The shadow of his sister, still in prostration

*Zainab looks out of her tent and sees hussain removing from their path the sticks and stones
But what is a foot injury to broken back bones
She sees him raise his head to the stars and gaze upon the moon
She then has a vision of his head looking up to the sun of a harsh afternoon
This luminous face bruised in blue and maroon*

*Upon a spear a head with no body
Why was he being paraded ahead with nobody
coming to his aid*

*Zainabs mind traces back to that ground where they played
To the palm tree under which he laid
With its branches giving him shade
To The home in which hussain once prayed
The memories of their childhood seemed so far away
She thought where had time gone?
Of them what became
And what was to come*

Hussain to her was a lifetime in a second

*And from her tent she looked as time slipped away into the night
She memorised his every feature
For with the breaking of dawn
Her sun was to set
For eternity*

Zainab stands upon a sand dune taking in the scene
It feels more like a nightmare than a dream
Women running between burning tents
Sobbing and wailing as they lament

Her beloved family scattered on the ground
Silently she watches not making a sound

The ahlulbayt are almost no more
Ali the son of hussain upon deaths door

She set her woes aside and grimy looked on
Between the clouds was the radiance of zainabs Sun

The mourning would have to wait
The tears would have to dry

هل منة ناصر بينصرنا

Zainab would be the reply

She had to stand firm and be her families shield
She had to face the oppressors formidable and not yield

I am zainab sister of Hussain daughter of Ali

*You the enemies of God Have slain my family
I will not stand here forgotten wailing quietly
This will not be the last that you hear of me*

With a strange tranquility and feeling of calm
She turned to look towards the land of shaam

The Poet Saeed Alhakeem asks for your dua