



## *Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat O Momineen of North America, Inc*

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***As of July 2019, the Anjuman has loaned out approximately US\$ 2.03 million to over 400 students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and post graduate degrees in educational institutions in the US. We are neither able to thank Allah enough for His mercy nor you for the continued patronage. Thanks.***

### **AZADARI AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

As we enter the year 1441 hijri and with the advent of the month of Muharram, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Imam (A.S.) of our time on the martyrdom of our third Imam, Imam Husain (A.S.) and his 72 companions on the plains of Karbala in 61 Hijri (year 680). The supreme sacrifice of Imam Husain (A.S.) finds no parallel in the history of mankind and the victory of so few over so many has never been replicated. The sacrifice of Imam Husain (A.S.) has a universal message of truth, justice and the propagation of the message started right after the martyrdom of the Imam by Janab e Zainab SA through the institution of azadari. To date, azadari remains the foremost medium of propagation of this message of justice, truth, steadfastness, patience, courage, love, human rights, compassion, trust and faith and we are blessed to have this annual renewal of our faith through azadari. One wonders though if Imam Husain (A.S.) laid down his life only for the preservation of the religion of Islam for his shias or is it a universal message that he delivered for the mankind? If it is a message for mankind, then azadari is not an end in itself but a means for the propagation of the message of Imam Husain (A.S.) to every human on this planet. The question arises then if the institution of azadari is

being used to deliver the voice of Karbala to the masses?

If Azadari was to be an end in itself, it would have been sufficient for Syeda Zainab SA to organize a few majalis and be content with that. However, her mission was the transmission her brother's message to world and make it a universal movement. While it started from current day Syria, Azadari spread to the greater Arab world, Iran, parts of Africa and then to the Indian sub-continent, far-east and parts of modern day Europe. Whichever part of the world Azadari went to, it took on a local flavor as it is observed in different parts of the globe, has cultural undertones and observations. The reason for this adaptation was to appeal to the common man in that locale and make it relevant to the masses. Had it not been for the local adaptation of the medium, language and customs, the message would have been confined to just the Arab world.

As we migrated to the West, it became our responsibility to convey the message of Imam Husain (A.S.) to the masses here. The institution of Azadari in the West has certainly been established in a very big way and continues to grow and prosper. However, we observe that it has yet to take on a local flavor and it is in a very large way a replica of what we had practiced in our countries of origin. Doubtlessly, we are fulfilling the wishes of Bibi Fatima (S.A.) by commemorating the events of Karbala and mourning over the martyrdom of her son and his companions; yet we have kept the message to ourselves. We have been observing azadari behind the closed doors of our Husainiyas and the Imambargahs and for

## EDUCATE AND EMPOWER

For the most part, have not communicated the message of Husain (A.S.) to our friends, neighbors and the communities we live in. This would require a rethinking of our ways of commemorating Karbala as well. Our practices, observances, rituals and symbolism that we use to remember the tragedy of Karbala has a meaning for us based upon our cultural heritage and memories. However, these practices and rituals have little relevance to the land we live in.

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**It is for us to ponder and devise ways of demystifying our rituals, practices and ways of observing azadari and to make Karbala relevant to the common man.** We need to re-think our practices in the local context and analyze if we are, in reality, presenting Imam Husain's (A.S.) case to others in a way they are attracted to it or are we frightening them away with some of our rituals. Are we delivering the Imam's message in the language, manner and medium that the masses understand? It remains our responsibility to make Imam Husain's (A.S.) message relevant to the land we live and to the people we live with in a fashion that they can relate to it and then automatically the Weeping, Matam, Alam, Zuljinnah, Panja, Taboot and the Zulfiqar will become potent symbols for them representing the victory of truth and social justice over tyranny and oppression.

Other than the Imambargah's the Anjuman is one of the oldest organizations in the US that has been serving the community for close to 3 decades now. Since the Anjuman does not have the pulpit and the microphone, this organization also appears to be the least known of the community organizations. Despite of our apparent disadvantages, Allah has been most kind and with His blessings and with the blessings of the Masoomen (A.S.), we surpassed the two million dollar amount is disbursed loans this year. \$2 million plus is not a small number for an organization that is run completely on volunteer basis. We have kept our expenses to the lowest possible level and we strive to spend every penny received from donors for the purpose of helping the bright minds in our community who are in need of financial assistance. It gives us immense pleasure and satisfaction to see the beneficiaries of the Anjuman obtaining higher levels of education and achieving professional successes.

The Anjuman believes that no student in the community should be denied superior education due to financial reasons. It is our communal responsibility to enable all our children to get the best possible education and the take advantage of the best opportunities that await them. None of our efforts would have borne any fruit without the help and support of our donors and supporters. We are thankful to donors and thankful to the Almighty that He made us the *wasila* for channeling the funds of the community to educate and empower our youth.

**In this holy month of Muharram, we appeal to you again to support this noble cause by becoming a member, renewing your membership, donating your Khums, creating a Yadgar Fund in the memory of a beloved departed soul or through a general donation. All of this can be easily done on-line on our website ([www.anjumanwazifa.org](http://www.anjumanwazifa.org)). If you shop on Amazon, you can choose the Anjuman as your charity of choice and .05% of your purchase amount will be donated to the Anjuman.**

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## **Membership Form**

*(Tax Exempt under IRS 13-3588100)*

Dear Sir,

I wish to become a member of the Anjuman Wazifa Sadaat o Momineen and enclose herewith my check/cash/online payment for US\$\_\_\_\_\_being the subscription for the year \_\_\_\_\_ or for Life time Membership. I hereby undertake to abide by the Anjuman's Constitution, Rules and Regulations as approved by the Board of Directors.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced By: \_\_\_\_\_

I am donating a sum of US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

to support educational programs of the Anjuman.

I am contributing US\$\_\_ from my Khums money. *(Anjuman has obtained 'Ijaza' from Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Al- Seestani)*

I am donating a sum of US\$\_\_\_\_\_to establish an "Endowment Fund" in the memory of my late \_\_\_\_\_, the income from which will be utilized by the Anjuman for supporting its aims and objectives.

Name and contact information of person(s) who may be interested in Anjuman's membership:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address and Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

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CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION FORM

**CARDHOLDER INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_  
E Mail Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD INFORMATION**

Credit Card Type     MasterCard    Visa    American Express    Discover  
Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION INFROMATION**

I authorize a one- time charge on my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 I authorize a recurring charge on my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
once every \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year) beginning on \_\_\_\_\_  
and ending on \_\_\_\_\_ or indefinitely.

The Purpose of my contribution is:

Annual Membership Dues  
 Lifetime Membership Dues  
 Khums  
 Contribution to Yadgar Fund in the memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation  
 Repayment of my student loan from the Anjuman