

Standwithdignity.org is a campaign inspired by one of the greatest movements of FAITH, LOVE & HUMANITY.

The questions we raise deeply invoke the heart:

What do we stand for?
What values would we fight for?
How often do we have compassion for others?

As proud Americans who value freedom, equality, peace, and justice for all, we aim to share the universal lessons learned from a significant event in time that changed the course of history.

Over 1,400 years ago, one man made a stand... He defied the tyrant ruler through one battle, igniting the beginning of an inspiring movement that continues until today.

This man was Imam Hussain.

Did you know...?

### 26 million pilgrims

visited the tomb of Imam Hussain on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2015, marking it as one of **the largest peaceful gatherings in history** 



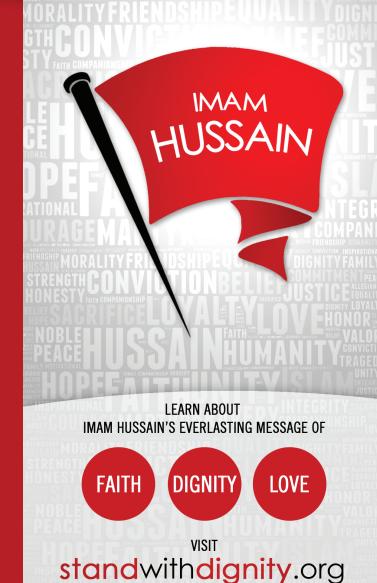
The leader of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had said, 'I learnt from Mahatma Gandhi...' who had said,

'I learnt from Hussain how to achieve victory whilst being oppressed."

Mahatma Gandhi's first Salt march was inspired by Imam Hussain's historical victory against the tyranny of Yazid.

standwithdignity.org

1,400 YEARS AGO,
ONE MAN MADE A STAND
THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE
HEARTS ALL THROUGHOUT



# THE BATTLE OF KARBALA

OCTOBER 10, 680 AD

#### BACKGROUND HISTORY:

In 661, Umayyad Caliph Muawiyah signed a Peace Treaty with Imam Hasan, the eldest grandson of Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) vowing to relinquish his reign to him or his brother, Hussain.

After assasinating Imam Hasan, Muawiyah broke the Treaty and acclaimed his son, Yazid, as the next Caliph after him. Yazid summoned Imam Hussain from Medina to Damacus, Syria to submit his allegience to his rule, or face death.

Yazid was openly an oppressive and corrupt ruler with complete disregard for Islamic Law and Muslim traditions.

Hussain, the guardian of his grandfather's message, fled Medina towards Mecca, then Kufa, where he was promised support for his cause to reform the Muslim society. Yazid's army blocked his route and directed him towards Karbala, Iraq for battle.

# IMAM HUSSAIN

**YAZID** 

ARMY OF

**OVER 30,000 MEN** 

ARMY OF 72



FAMILY MEMBERS
AND LOYAL COMPANIONS

MOTIVATION TO BATTLE:

FAITH - LOYALTY - DIGNITY RIGHTEOUSNESS - LOVE HUMANITY - ALLIEGIANCE

GREED-HYPOCRISY-REVENGE RANK PROMOTION - BRIBERY IGNORANCE-SIN-COWARDICE

IMAM HUSSAIN & HIS ARMY WERE MARTYRED DEFENDING ISLAM, WOMEN & CHILDREN CAPTURED AS PRISONERS OF YAZID

THE WOMEN FROM HUSSAIN'S CARAVAN DELIVERED ELOQUENT SERMONS CONDEMNING THE INJUSTICES OF YAZID, UNVIELING HIS HYPOCRISY OF FOLLOWING PROPHET MUHAMMED YET KILLING HIS GRANDSON. EVENTUALLY, YAZID WAS DISGRACED AND HIS REIGN ENDED.

# UNIVERSAL LESSONS

FROM KARBALA & IMAM HUSSAIN

"NO BATTLE IN THE MODERN AND PAST HISTORY OF MANKIND HAS EARNED MORE SYMPATHY AND ADMIRATION AS WELL AS PROVIDED MORE LESSONS THAN THE MARTYRDOM OF HUSSAIN IN THE BATTLE OF KARBALA."

ANTOINE BARA- LEBANESE CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR

DIGNITY

"A PERSON LIKE ME CAN NEVER PAY ALLEGIANCE TO A PERSON LIKE YAZID." -IMAM HUSSAIN (A.S.)

FAITH

"THE BEST LESSON WHICH WE GET FROM
THE TRAGEDY OF KARBALA IS THAT HUSSAIN
AND HIS COMPANIONS WERE RIGID BELIEVERS
IN GOD. THEY ILLUSTRATED THAT THE
NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY DOES NOT COUNT
WHEN IT COMES TO THE TRUTH AND FALSEHOOD..."
-THOMAS CARLYLE [SCOTTISH HISTORIAN]

LOVE

"THERE IS NO-ONE WHO ACHIEVED WHAT
HE ACHIEVED...FOR HE CHALLENGED DEATH,
AND DEATH HE THEN DECEIVED
NOW PEOPLE OF ALL AGES FOR HIM
HAVE GRIEVED...WHERE CAN YOU FIND SUCH
LOVE AND DEDICATION?" - POET NOURI SARDAR



HUSSEIN'S SACRIFICE INDICATES SPIRITUAL
LIBERATION. IN ORDER TO KEEP ALIVE JUSTICE
AND TRUTH, INSTEAD OF AN ARMY OR WEAPONS,
SUCCESS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY SACRIFICING
LIVES, EXACTLY WHAT IMAM HUSSEIN (A.S.) DID.
- INDIAN POET RABINDRANATH TAGORE

VICTORY

"IT IS HUSSAIN'S (A.S.) SACRIFICE THAT HAS KEPT ISLAM ALIVE OR ELSE IN THIS WORLD THERE WOULD BE NO ONE LEFT TO TAKE ISLAM'S NAME." -SWAMI SHANKARACHARYA

# AN EVERLASTING STAND

WITH AN IMMORTAL MESSAGE

Islamic & Biblical history share countless similarities and prophecies.

The lives of St. John the Baptist & Imam Hussain mirror each other in that achieving martydom for the cause of God is true victory:

## **BIBLICAL & ISLAMIC PARALLELS IN HISTORY**

PROPHET IBRAHIM [ABRAHAM]

**ANCESTOR** 

**PROPHET YAHYAH**JOHN THE BAPTIST

HUSSAIN IBNE ALI GRANDSON OF PROPHET MUHAMMED

Both leaders were firm believers in God, held in highest esteem by the people for their knowledge, purity, & wisdom

Their power of influence intimidated the tyrants of the time, who forced them to choose: SUBMISSION? or EXECUTION?

JOHN & HUSSAIN
CHOSE DEATH WITH DIGNITY
RATHER THAN A LIFE OF
HUMILIATION

Millions of people
visit their graves today in reverence
of their stand against corruption
to protect God's message

Damascus, Syria

Karbala, Iraq