

MELIKA SALIHBEG BOSNAWI

K A R B A L Ā `

*Bismi`llāh*

Karbalā`!

Do not cry!

Karbalā` is not the place of mourning!

Karbalā` is a field of the qiyām,  
the very site of rising to Eternal life.

\*

‘Āshūrā`!

Do not cry!

‘Āshūrā` is not the time for dying!

‘Āshūrā` is the way of becoming immortal.

\*

But if you have to cry, then do it with joy  
for Karbalā` is the highest station of Allāh`s *dmi-*

*Islām,*

and ‘Āshūrā` the best means to annihilate  
whatever is not He.

\*

Do not curse! For Islām is the belief in

One & Oneness,

therefore how to curse Only One in Existence?!

\*

But if you have to, then invoke evil on  
the one who is already nought,  
or invoke only upon those who force you out of  
your dwellings,  
and killing you, and oppressing...  
But forget not to damn, even more passionately:  
hypocrites within you, yourselves  
or idle ones,  
curse your own words lifted not up  
to the Heaven  
by your good deeds,  
do curse your own being afraid of anything  
except for Him!

\*

Do not hate!  
But if you have to,  
then loathe by His loathing,  
not ever by your own!

\*

Do not kill!  
But if you have to,  
then kill only him who's already done for  
by his own evilness!

\*

Do not wail for Karbalā`, or `Āšūrā`!  
Because `Āšūrā` is the morning star  
reddening for centuries over the field of Karbalā`.  
Do not moan, as Karbalā` does not mean just  
fighting for.

Karbalā` also means:  
returning to,  
and repeating,  
and purifying,  
or confirming,  
once again,  
the very old covenant  
you made once with your Lord  
in the `Azal.  
Your eternal *balā'*.  
Your *balā*  
to the Only Lord of all worlds.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Sarajevo, 2002, 01)

Notes:

Karbalā`, a field in Iraq where the greatest battle in Islām took place, killing eighteen members of Prophet Muḥammad (s) family, his grand son, Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) first of all.

ʿĀshūrā`, a tenth day of Muḥarram, month in which a said battle occurred

ʿAzal, Pre-Eternity

*balā'*, test, trial

*balā*, yes, confirmation