

Husseinieh Azam Mosque, a hub of religious significance and cultural heritage in Zanjan

Iranica Desk

Husseinieh Azam Mosque is a prominent landmark in Zanjan, the capital city of Zanjan Province, known for its significance as a religious tourist attraction during the month of Muharram. Situated on Ferdowsi Street in the southern part of Zanjan, it has a rich history dating back to the Safavid period.

In the year 1501, simultaneous with the ascendancy of the Safavids, the Shia faith was established as the official religion of Iran, leading to the widespread practice of mourning and recitation of elegies. During that era, due to the increase in pilgrimage journeys, particularly to Karbala hosting the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, venues for mourning pilgrims were constructed along the routes and in various cities.

In the hallway and entrance of the Husseinieh Azam Mosque, there is a stone inscription on the wall with poems underneath, bearing the date of 1261 AH (1845 CE). It is said that this date relates to the



● basijnews.ir

religious congregations in the country.

In the Zanjan Province's event calendar, the eighth day of Muharram is recognized as Abulfazl Day, when thousands of devotees offer sacrifices or donations to the mosque. This ritual has been designated on Iran's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

The Husseinieh is one of the most influential cultural and religious centers of Zanjan Province, extending over an area of 12,000 square meters, this complex has various cultural, religious, and medical facilities. Many people make pilgrimages to religious sites every year.

According to the board of trustees of the Azam Husseinieh of Zanjan, substantial financial and non-financial donations are made to the Husseinieh throughout the year. These funds are used for the construction of numerous cultural, religious, healthcare, and service spaces such as libraries, different halls, clinics, benevolent funds, and more.

Husseinieh Azam Mosque is prepared to host religious tourists traveling to the province during



● visitiran.ir



● visitiran.ir

restoration and reconstruction of the mosque and public spaces of the building. In other words, this structure existed and was

constructed prior to this date. One of the most notable events at Husseinieh Azam is the mourning ceremony held on the eighth

of Muharram in honor of Hazrat Abolfazl Al-Abbas (PBUH), the greatest companion and brother of Imam Hussein (PBUH). This

gathering is renowned as the largest assembly of mourners in Muharram in Iran, earning the Husseinieh Azam the title of

the capital of Hussein mourning. The annual event draws an estimated 500,000 participants, making it one of the largest reli-

Muharram to participate in the mourning ceremonies held for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH).

Mourning traditions for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein in Meyami

Iranica Desk

The traditional rituals of the lunar months of Muharram and Safar in the city of Meyami, located in Semnan Province, are annually celebrated with grandeur, drawing a large number of mourners of Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Imam of Shia Muslims.

These ceremonies include traditional processions, the carrying of religious banners, the preparation and distribution of *aash* (a type of Persian soup), and more, chtn.ir wrote.

According to the elders of Meyami, these inherited ceremonies, observed for over 200 years during the months of Muharram and Safar, are a testament to the ancient and authentic mourning commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH).

The Azam Husseinieh of Meyami was established by Mohammad Taqi Khan Sarhang around two centuries ago, and the mourning ceremonies for Imam Hussein (PBUH) have been a longstanding tradition since its establishment.

Service at the Azam Husseinieh in Meyami is hereditary, passed down from father to son. Each individual is assigned a specific role, such as shoekeeping, water supply, teahouse management, and kitchen duties. Due to the large gatherings and high workload during the mourning processions at the Azam Husseinieh, some servants are unable to participate in mourning activities throughout the day. At the conclusion of the ceremony, everyone gathers inside the building to conduct a

ceremony named Hassan and Hussein. Presently, in addition to the designated servants, the general public also partake in these ceremonies.

Religious groups and chest beaters, particularly youth and adolescents, proceed towards the Azam Husseinieh after attending mourning ceremonies in mosques to engage in the rituals of Hassan and Hussein. Upon reaching the location, they form circles with great fervor.

During this traditional ceremony, each individual holds

the waist of the person next to them with their left hand and beats their chest with their right hand. A person positioned in the center of the circle, in harmony with the chest beaters, alternates saying "Hassan" with the first step, to which the chest beaters respond with "Hussein" on the second step.

The number of circles in the mourning ceremony of Hassan and Hussein varies based on the number of participants, occasionally forming more than 10 circles, showcasing

their reverence for Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions.

Within these ceremonies, certain mourners, adorned in special attire often in green, participate, adding beauty and a sense of special splendor to this religious tradition. The mourning ceremony of Hassan and Hussein in Meyami is nationally recognized, drawing numerous enthusiasts from different regions of the country to witness the execution of this beautiful ceremony during these months.



● IRNA



● chtn.ir



● IRNA