



ḤORR-E RIĀḤI

ḤORR-E RIĀḤI AL-ḤORR B. YAZID al-Riāḥi al-Yarbu'i al-Tamimi, a leading tribesman in Kufa, who obeyed the orders of 'Obayd-Allāh b. Ziād (see [EBN-E ZIĀD](#)) by intercepting Ḥosayn b. 'Ali and his party and leading them to Karbalā, but later repented and fought on Ḥosayn's side. The first meeting between Ḥorr and Ḥosayn was not hostile. However, Ḥorr pressed upon Ḥosayn to change his course and follow him, even after the latter had informed him of the letters of support he had received from the Kufans, towards whom his party was heading. Ḥorr further obeyed Ebn-e Ziād's subsequent order to force the rebels to stop in a deserted area. Thus, Ḥosayn was led to the plain of Karbalā, where he was encircled by the troops dispatched by Ebn-e Ziād under the command of 'Omar b. Sa'd (see [EBN SA'D](#), 'OMAR). Once the latter had rejected Ḥosayn's final proposals and decided to fight him on the morning of 'Āšurā (q.v.), 10 Moḥarram 61/10 October 680, Ḥorr then repented and joined Ḥosayn, who promised him God's forgiveness.

According to most historians, many men from Ḥosayn's side were killed before Ḥorr (see, e.g., Ṭabari, II, p. 350; tr. I. K. A. Howard, XIX, p. 144). However, Ḥorr's own words when he rallied behind Ḥosayn imply that he might have been the first to be killed at Karbalā. Shi'ite tradition has retained this sequence of events, apparently derived from the work of Šayḡ al-Mofid, who does not mention anyone having been killed before Ḥorr, except Moslem b. 'Awsaja (tr. Howard, 1981, pp. 356 f.). In Turco-Persian *maq̄tal-nāma* narratives of the drama of Karbalā, which were used extensively by Kāšefi for his *Rawzat al-šohadā'* (see Calmard, 1996, p. 155), after having killed many



enemies, Ḥorr became the first martyr of the battle. His martyrdom was followed by those of his brother, Moṣ'ab b. Yazid, his son 'Ali, and the latter's slave (Kāšefi, pp. 277 ff.; see Calmard, 1975, pp. 351 ff.).

Ḥorr's courageous rallying behind Ḥosayn and sacrificing himself to his cause are widely celebrated in Moḥarram rituals and related popular literature, such as *martias* (elegies), *nawḥas* (dirges), and *ta'zias* (religious dramas). Many scenes dedicated to Ḥorr are included in *ta'zia* collections, particularly in the Cerulli version (see Rossi and Bombaci, 1961, Index).

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