



ALEVISM



AŞURE





Who are we?

Britain Alevi Federation is an umbrella organization for approximately 300.000 Alevi living in United Kingdom.

There are Alevi Cultural Centres and Cemevis serving people in UK. These centres are based in London, Glasgow, Coventry, South London, Croydon, Harrow, Bournemouth, Nottingham, Doncaster, Hull, Sheffield, Leicester and Edinburgh. More Alevi Centres need to be open in London, Wales, Kent, Lancashire, Northampton, East and South West England.





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Asure, is the celebration of diversity

Asure, means one for all and all for one

Asure, is the symbol of unity and equality

Asure, is the coming together of different tastes and colours

“Asure, is the name of the unity of different tastes and colours, in the pot of love, with the spoon of discussion, the fire of belief and is the name of Hakk’s sacred meal”

Asure is the soup which is cooked and given out after the mourning fast of Muharrem Matem

Alevis fast and mourn for 15 days every year during the Muharrem month of Hijri calendar. Three days are spent fasting for all oppressed children (Masum-u paklar), one day is spent fasting for all oppressed women (Fatma Ana) and the remaining twelve days are spent fasting and mourning for all oppression against people around the world symbolised by the 12 Imam’s and Kerbela.

Alevi's break their fast all together and discuss the significance of Muharrem, like in all their other ceremonies Alevi's carry out rituals collectively. All rituals, prayers and ceremonies consist of sharing and being in solidarity with each other.

When the fast and mourning finishes, the Asure is cooked. The Asure soup is made up of twelve different ingredients. Traditionally these ingredients are hazelnuts, peanuts, dried grapes, dried wheat, chickpeas, beans, sundried apricots, corn, fig, sugar, salt, water, walnuts, pomegranates and ingredients of the sorts. When cooked together, all of the colours and tastes of the ingredients turn into one colour and one taste.

Like other Alevi beliefs, the cooking and consuming of Asure is done collectively. Everyone contributes towards the ingredients of the Asure. If there is a Cemevi, the Asure is made in the Cemevi, if not, then the Asure is cooked and consumed in a suitable kitchen in someone's home. After the Asure is cooked, all the people present eat the Asure together. Afterwards, it can be shared with neighbours, friends, colleagues and relatives.

When sharing the Asure, Alevi's do not discriminate against the recipients ethnicity, gender, language, age, economic status or any other differentiation. The Asure is shared with everyone. Even if one is in a quarrel or dispute with someone else, one must still share Asure with that person.

Asure represents the norms, traditions and life within a Dergah. In a Dergah every single person contributes according to their knowledge and ability and consumes only according to their needs. Even the ingredients within Asure contribute according to their taste and colour, and the end result is that the colours and tastes in the Asure are all in union.

The Cem ceremony within Alevism is carried out in the same way. Those who enter the Cem bring food. All the food brought to the Cem is mixed and put together in a collective pile. After the Cem every single person takes food according to their needs.

Asure is extremely important in Alevism because; Asure accommodates within itself, unity, equality, peace, love and sharing.

According to Alevi beliefs, Asure symbolises the escape of the 4th Imam Zeynel Abidin from Kerbela. The Kerbela massacre symbolises that throughout history, all oppression and injustices against people cannot be forgotten and that they must all be mourned. Asure mourning/matem teaches that one should not be hateful against anyone and that wars and massacres cannot stop humanist ideas for good against evil.

Alevi's believe that the existence of Hak is within the human being. And for this reason every life and person carries essences of spiritual holiness. So life must be protected. Asure, regardless of everything, allows people to be in a state of peace and love at least once a year.

According to some, Asure is made of ingredients that were left on Noah's ark, and so some cultures call the soup 'Noahs pudding'.

Whatever the name or history, Alevi's consider Asure to represent love and equality.

Kerbela;

is a massacre and name of Iraq's Kerbela desert, it happened on the 10 October 680 (Lunar 10 Muharrem 61). Ali's son Huseyin was murdered alongside his 72 companions by the caliphate Yezit and his army of thousands.

*“the end of the path would be
dark if the path is not science.”*

Hace Bektash Veli

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BRITAIN ALEVI FEDERATION

**LONDON IAKM CEMEVI • COVENTRY / LEICESTER CEMEVI
GLASGOW CEMEVI • CROYDON CEMEVI • SOUTH LONDON CEMEVI
BOURNEMOUTH CEMEVI • HARROW CEMEVI • SHEFFIELD CEMEVI
DONCASTER CEMEVI • HULL CEMEVI • EDINBURGH CEMEVI
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