

## [Gilles Deleuze called...]

Gilles Deleuze referred to elegy as "la grande plainte," translating to "the great complaint," a poignant way to express the overwhelming nature of current events or feelings. In the context of Iran, Ashura emerges as a significant day of elegy, characterized by fasting and mourning for the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, who was killed in 680 CE at the age of fifty-five during the Battle of Karbala. This observance is deeply ingrained in Iranian culture and personal identity, embodying a collective grief and remembrance that transcends centuries.

Iranians often express the notion that the events of Ashura remain intensely relevant, asserting, "What happened thirteen centuries ago is still too much for us." This enduring pain of remembrance, encapsulated by "la grande plainte," is a cultural touchstone that connects past tragedies with present emotions. The ritualistic nature of Ashura calls upon individuals to reflect not merely on the historical injustices but also on their ongoing impacts on the collective psyche.

Shekayat bazorg, or "great complaint," serves to highlight how history continues to shape contemporary Iranian identity and consciousness. Each year, as the anniversary of Imam Hussain's martyrdom is observed, the shared experiences of loss and mourning come alive, reinforcing the idea that such sorrow finds a permanent space in the fabric of Iranian life. In this, the past informs the present as each generation inherits the narratives of suffering and resistance from their predecessors, underscoring the cyclical nature of history.

In summary, the elegy surrounding Ashura is deeply interconnected with Iranian identity, illustrating a historical consciousness marked by collective grief. It is a reminder of how the echoes of past martyrdom resonate within the present, ensuring that remembrance is not only a reflection of history but also a vital aspect of cultural existence. This profound sense of loss continues to shape and define what it means to be part of the Iranian narrative.