



ISLAMIC NEW YEAR 1446 1st Muharram

Assalam o alikum

Muharram being the first month of the Islamic New Year holds great importance in Islam.

It is one of the four sacred months in the Islamic calendar. Muharram in its literal sense means “forbidden”. Similar to the other sacred months, waging war during this month is forbidden.

“The year is of twelve months, out of which four months are sacred: Three are in succession Dhul-Qa’ da, Dhul-Hijja and Muharram, and (the fourth is) Rajab...” (Bukhari 3197).

Muharram is not only the 1st month of Islamic Calendar but also called ‘The month of Allah’ and Optional (Nafil) fasting during this month is considered the most rewarding after the month of Ramadan. This is evident from the following Sahih Hadith:

“The Messenger of Allah (S.A.W.) said: “The best fasting after the month of Ramadan is the month of Allah, Al-Muharram.” (An-Nasai: 1613)

The hadith does not mean that the award of Muharram’s fasts can be achieved only by fasting the whole month. On the contrary, each fast during this month has its own merits. Therefore, one should avail this opportunity and fast as much as one can during this blessed month.

Unfortunately, many Muslims still believe Muharram is an evil or unlucky month due to the incident of Karbala. We know that it was an unfortunate event but remember one thing that according to **Sahih Muslim: 1163 (a)** and [Tirmidhi: 438](#), this is Allah’s month.

As Allah say in the Quran Surah At Taubah:9:36

“Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred.”

Before the Hijri calendar came into use, Muslims used ‘Am Al-Fil’ (the year in which the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) was born), to demarcate date and time. But second Caliph **Umar ibn Khattab (R.A.)** established new calendar and, after many suggestions from Companions (R.A.), he announced that the year in which the Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) migrated would mark the beginning of the Hijri calendar. The calendar would begin with the month of Muharram and end with the month of Dhul Hijjah. Consequently, 622 AD [the year of the Prophet’s (S.A.W.) migration] became the first year in the Hijri Calendar.

Ashura this year is to take place on the 17th July 2024. Ashura holds special significance due to which Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) used to fast on this day. Earlier on it was obligatory to fast on the 10th of Muharram. However later, fasting was made obligatory in the month of Ramadan only.

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Narrated by Hazrat Aisha (RA):

“The people used to fast on ‘Ashura (the tenth day of the month of Muharram) before the fasting of Ramadan was made obligatory. And on that day the Ka’ba used to be covered with a cover. When Allah made the fasting of the month of Ramadan compulsory, Allah’s Apostle said, **“Whoever wishes to fast (on the day of ‘Ashura’) may do so; and whoever wishes to leave it can do so.”** (**Bukhari 1592**)

But why did he fast on this day? On this day, Prophet Musa (AS) performed the miracle with the help of Allah (SWT) whereby he was able to save his people from the Pharaoh by dividing the sea into two parts creating a pathway for his people to safely cross the sea, while the Pharaoh’s army drowned. Hence, the Jews used to fast on Ashura i.e. the 10th of Muharram.

The Prophet (PBUH) himself fasted on this day and also ordered the Muslims to do so as he said that:

“I am closer to Moses than they.” (Bukhari 3397)

The Companions observed that Jews and Christians also consider the day as special, fasting on the day. So Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) announced that from next year they will fast on the 9th of Muharram so as to distinguish themselves from the Jews and Christians. Unfortunately, Prophet (PBUH) did not live to see the next year.). **“If I live until next year, I will fast the ninth day (of Muharram) too.” (Ibn Majah: 1736)**

Therefore, Muslims consider the 9th and 10th of Muharram, Ashura, as significant days in the Islamic calendar and observe fast on these days. **[Sahih Muslim: 1134 (a)]**

In the light of the Hadith, it is more advisable but not mandatory that the fast of 10th of Muharram should be attached with another fast preferably on 9th of Muharram because Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W.) wanted to distinguish the Islamic way of fasting from that of Jews as they only keep fast on the 10th of Muharram. However, most scholars agree that the fast of Ashura should be observed with fasting on the 9th or 11th of Muharram.

When Ibn Abbas (R.A.) was asked about observing of fast on the day of Ashura, whereupon he said:

“I do not know Allah's Messenger (S.A.W.) singling out any day's fast and considering it more excellent than another, except this day (the day of Ashura) and this month, meaning the month of Ramadan.” [Sahih Muslim: 1132 (a)]

So fasting on the day of 'Ashura' is a confirmed Sunnah of the Holy Prophet and makes one entitled to a great reward from Allah.

According to a tradition, when the Prophet (PBUH) was asked about fasting on the day of 'Ashura (10th of Muharram), he said:

“It expiates the sins of the preceding year.” (Muslim 6: 2603)

Similar to the regular New Year, one should make resolutions at the start of the Islamic New Year to improve oneself. You can set small goals for yourself to become a better person. These goals can be both spiritual and social. You can strengthen your relationship with Allah (SWT) through regular Dhikr and Duas. You can help others out through participating in a social cause. It does not need to be a big social project. Allah (SWT) rewards every good deed. It might be small in your eyes but it might inspire

someone else to do a good deed, thereby creating a ripple effect of goodness. Thus, a tiny good deed might be of way more magnitude than you deem it to be. Verily Allah (SWT) knows the best!

“The most excellent fast after Ramadan is in Allah’s month; al-Muharram, and the most excellent prayer after what is prescribed is prayer during the night.” (Muslim 6: 2661)

Events that took place on the Day of Ashura

Martyred of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) held on the 10th day of Muharram (Ashura). Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) is the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and son of Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Fatima (RA). Hazrat Imam Hussain is the third Imam of Muslims. Martyred of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) occurred in the battle of Karbala that took place between the good and the evil in which Imam Husain (AS) represented good and Yazid represented evil. So, on the day of Ashura, Muslims remember the sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and His family for the religion of Islam.

- It was on this day that Prophet Adam (AS) and Hazrat Hawa (AS) were created.
- It has been narrated that this was the day on which Allah Almighty forgave our father Prophet Adam (AS)
- The day on which the Ark of Prophet Nuh (AS) came to rest on the mountain known as al-Judi
- The day on which Allah forgave the people of Prophet Yunus (AS).
- Prophet Yunus (AS) was released from the stomach of the fish. Prophet Yunus had recited this famous prayer “La ilaha illa anta, Subhanaka, Inni kuntu minaz-zalimin (There is none worthy of worship other than you. You are far exalted and above all weaknesses. Surely, I am from amongst the wrongdoers). This prayer, also called “Ayat-e-Kareema,” is described in Surah Al-Anbiya verses 87 and 88.
- Ashura is the day on which Allah Almighty saved Prophet Musa (AS) and his people and drowned Firaun and his army who were against Prophet Musa (AS). Prophet Musa (AS) fasted out of gratitude to Allah and his people continued the practice after him. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) told the Jews that his nation was closer to Prophet

Musa than them. He (SAW) then fasted that day and ordered his Companions to fast

- Allah Almighty recovered Prophet Ayub (AS) from the disease.
- Allah had created the skies, earth, oceans and heavens.
- Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) was born on 10th of Muharram.
- Prophet Ibrahim (AS) had received the status of Khaleelullah (the friend of Allah).

- Prophet Yaqub (AS) had met his son Prophet Yusuf (AS) after 40 years on the 10th of Muharram.
- Prophet Idrees (AS) was raised to the skies on this day.
- Prophet Dawood (AS) had sought divine forgiveness, which was granted by the Prophet's Creator.
- Prophet Sulaiman (AS) was rewarded with a Kingdom on 10th of Muharram
- Jesus or Prophet Esa (AS) was raised into the skies on 10th of Muharram.
- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) had tied marital knot with Hazrat Bibi Khadija (RA) on this day, many years before the massacre of Karbala.
- It is on this day Friday 10th Muharram that Qiyamat or the Day of Resurrection will occur.

Other significant events in Muharram

1st Muharram

- In 23 Hijri (year 644), Hazrat Umar Ibn Khattab (RA) was martyred during Fajr prayers by a Persian soldier Piruz Nahavandi or Abu Lulu. Hazrat Umar was buried in Madina alongside the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him)
- Beginning of economic blockade of Prophet Muhammad (s) and Banu Hashim in the Shi'b Abi Talib 6 BH/616
- Battle of Dhat al-Riq'a' 7/628
- First zakat collection 9/930
- Conquest of Egypt by 'Amr b. al-'As 20/640
- Demise of Muhammad b. al-Hanafiyya 81/700

2nd Muharram:

- Hussain Ibn Ali (RA) entered Karbala and establishes his camp. Yazid's forces were present surrounding him.
- Demise of the Prophet Adam (a)

- Entrance of [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) into [Karbala](#) 61/680

3rd Muharram:

- 235 Hijri or year 849, Hazrat Imam Ibn Abi Shayba (RA), the teacher of both Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim, had left for his eternal abode.
- Prophet Yusuf's (a) rescue from prison
- Inviting the rulers of neighboring countries by Prophet Muhammad (s) 7/628
- Entrance of 'Umar b. Sa'd into Karbala 61/680

4th Muharram:

- ['Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad's](#) speech against [Imam al-Husayn](#) in the [Mosque of Kufa](#) 61/680
- Martyrdom of [Qays b. Mushir](#) envoy of [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) in to [Kufa](#) 61/680

5th Muharram:

- Banu Israel cross the sea under the leadership of Prophet Musa (a) (Moses)
- Dispatching the army by ['Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad](#) in order to prevent people of [Kufa](#) from joining the army of [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) 61/680

6th Muharram:

- Martyrdom of the Prophet [John \(a\)](#)
- [Habib b. Mazahir](#) asked [Banu Asad](#) to help [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) in the [Event of Karbala](#) 61/680
- First siege of [Euphrates](#) by the army of Kufa during the [Event of Karbala](#) 61/680
- Demise of [al-Sharif al-Radi](#) 406/1015

7th Muharram:

- After Yazidi's order access to water banned from Hussain Ibn Ali (RA).

8th Muharram:

- Martyrdom of Zain Ul Abideen (RA), son of Hussain Ibn Ali (RA) he was the only survivor of the battle of Karbala.
- Imam al-Husayn's (a) meeting with 'Umar b. Sa'd during the Event of Karbala

9th Muharram:

- The evening of this date is considered important as the next day (10th Muharram) is the day when Hussain Ibn Ali (RA) and Abbas Ibn Ali (RA) was martyred along with his household leaving only Zain Ul Abideen (RA) as the only male survivor of the Karbala.

- Siege of Imam al-Husayn's camp during the Event of Karbala 61/680
- Sons of Um al-Banin were offered a safe-conduct before the battle of Ashura 61/680
- [Imam al-Husayn's \(a\)](#) request for postponing the war 61/680

10th Muharram:

- It is the [day of Ashura](#), It was the day when Hussain ibn Ali (RA) was martyred after Abbas (RA) was martyred at Euphrates river in Karbala. It was the day when Prophet Musa (AS) was recused from Pharaoh.
- Martyrdom of [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) and his companions in the [Event of Karbala](#) 61/680
- Demise of [Umm Salama](#) wife of the [Prophet Muhammad \(s\)](#) 62/681
- Death of ['Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad](#) 67/686

11th Muharram:

- Moving the household of [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) towards [Kufa](#) 61/680

12th Muharram :

- Burial of the [Martyrs of Karbala](#) 61/680
- Entrance of the household of [Imam al-Husayn \(a\)](#) into [Kufa](#) 61/680
- Martyrdom of [Imam al-Sajjad \(a\)](#) (according some reports) 94/712

13th Muharram

- Presence of Imam al-Husayn's (a) household in the palace of ['Ubayd Allah b. Ziyad](#) 61/680
- Martyrdom of ['Abd Allah b. Hanif](#) 61/680

15th Muharram:

- Sending the heads of the [Martyrs of Karbala](#) to [Yazid b. Mu'awiya's](#) palas in [Syria](#) 61/680

19th Muharram:

- Departure of [captives of Karbala](#) from [Kufa](#) towards [Syria](#) 61/680

20th Muharram:

- Death of Bilal (RA) first Muazzin of Islam.
- Burial of the body of Jawn b. Huwai, the slave of Abu Dhar al-Ghifari who was martyred in
- the Event of Karbala 61/680

25th Muharram:

- Birth of Hasan (RA) elder son of Ali (RA).
- Martyrdom of Imam al-Sajjad 95/713

26th Muharram:

- Siege of Mecca and stoning the Ka'ba by Yazid b. Mu'awiya's army 64/683

- Martyrdom of 'Ali b. al-Hasan al-Muthallath 144/761

28th Muharram:

- Demise of Hudhayfa b. al-Yaman the companion of the Prophet Muhammad (s) 36/656
- Entrance of Imam al-Husayn's (a) household in to Baalbek as captive after the Event of Karbala 61/680
- Imam al-Jawad's exile from Medina to Baghdad 220/835
- Overthrow of Abbasid Dynasty 456/1064

29th Muharram:

- Entrance of Imam al-Husayn's (a) household in to Damascus after the Event of Karbala 61/680

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