

Muharram

Ihyaad-Deen

An Effort to Revive Deen in Totality

THE BLESSED MONTH OF MUHARRAM

From the twelve months of the Islamic calendar, special sanctity and sacredness has been given to Ramadhaan and the four sacred months i.e. Zul Qa'dah, Zul Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab. Similarly, among the days of the Islamic year, the Day of Aashura has been blessed with exclusive virtues and immense blessings.

While the month of Zul Hijjah has been divinely selected for the fulfilment of the rituals of Haj and sacrifice, it is the month of Muharram that enjoys the honour of being the month of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى and the month which contains the fast of the Mubaarak Day of Aashura.

The immense virtues and abundant blessings of this day can be gauged by the desire and eagerness that Rasulullah ﷺ expressed in awaiting its arrival. Hazrat Abdullah bin Abbaas رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا reports, "I did not see Rasulullah ﷺ await the fast of any virtuous day with more eagerness than (the fast of) the Day of Aashura." (Saheeh Bukhaari #2006)

SUNNATS AND AADAAB OF THE MONTH OF MUHARRAM

1. One should learn and recite the Masnoon Dua at the Commencement of Muharram. The masnoon Dua is:

اللَّهُمَّ أَدْخِلْهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ وَالْإِسْلَامِ وَرِضْوَانٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَنِ وَجِوَارٍ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ

O Allah! Let it (this new month or new year) enter upon us with safety, imaan, security, Islam, the pleasure of Raghmaan (i.e. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى) and protection from shaitaan. (Al-Mujamul Awsat #6241)

2. One should increase his good deeds in the month of Muharram, as the month of Muharram is among the four sacred months, and the rewards of good deeds carried out in these months are multiplied. (Lataaiful Maarif, Pg. 222)

3. One should refrain from committing sins in this month, as the severity of sins is also multiplied in the sacred months.

4. One should abstain from inconveniencing people, fighting or quarrelling in this blessed month, as these actions cause one to be deprived of the blessings of this month.

5. One should try to fast during the month of Muharram. For every day that one fasts in Muharram, one will receive the reward of fasting for an entire month. (*Al-Mujamus Sagheer* #963)

6. The 10th of Muharram is the Day of Aashura. Fasting on this day is among the great sunnats of Rasulullah ﷺ. The reward for fasting on this day is that one's minor sins of the previous year will be forgiven. (*Saheeh Muslim* #1162)

7. Together with fasting on the 10th of Muharram, one should also fast one day before or one day after (i.e the 9th and 10th, or the 10th and 11th of Muharram). This is in order to oppose the Jews who only fasted on the Day of Aashura. (*Sunanul Kubra lil Baihaqi* #8406)

8. The occasion of Aashura teaches us an important lesson - the lesson of firmly maintaining our Islamic identity at all times and completely refraining from imitating the kuffaar in their culture. Hence, Rasulullah ﷺ instructed the Ummah to fast for two days (i.e. the 9th and 10th or 10th and 11th) in order to oppose the Jews.

When Rasulullah ﷺ expressed such dislike for his Ummah to resemble the Jews in the aspect of fasting (which is an ibaadah), then one can well imagine how much more Rasulullah ﷺ would dislike his Ummah emulating the disbelievers in their culture, dressing and other aspects of their lives.

9. On the Day of Aashura, one should be more generous in feeding his family and spending upon them. The Hadith explains that the one who generously spends upon his family on this day, Allah تبارك وتعالى will bless him with abundant sustenance for an entire year. (*Shuabul Imaan* #3515)

10. One should refrain from engaging in baseless practices and customs which some people engage in on the 10th of Muharram such as mourning over the martyrdom of Hazrat Husain رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ as practised by the Shias.

Note: It should be borne in mind that the gruesome martyrdom of Hazrat Husain رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ was undoubtedly among the most tragic and heart-breaking events that occurred in the annals of history. However, the occasion of Aashura and its virtues are not associated with the martyrdom of Hazrat Husain رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Instead, Aashura had received its virtue and auspiciousness even before the birth of Hazrat Husain رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. Hence, the custom of mourning the martyrdom of Hazrat Husain رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, as practised by the Shias, has no basis in Islam.