

The Significance of Muharram and ‘Ashura

Alhamdulillah, Allah (Subhanahu wa Ta'ala) has blessed us to see another year. The first month of this year is Muharram. In this month is an excellent day—the day of ‘Ashura—which falls on the 10th of Muharram. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) recommended that we fast on this day, by his Sunnah. He also indicated how we should observe the fast of ‘Ashura.

Abu Qatada (Radiyahallahu 'anh) relates that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) said that the fast on the 10th of Muharram atones for the sins of the preceding year. [Sahih Muslim]

Abu Huraira (Radiyahallahu 'anh) reports that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) said that after Ramadan, the fasts of Muharram have the greatest excellence. [Sahih Muslim]

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (Radiyahallahu 'anh) relates that when the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) said:

"If I live till next year, I will definitely observe the fast of the 9th of Muharram (as well)." [Sahih Muslim]

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (Radiyahallahu 'anh) relates that Rasulullah (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) said:

Fast on ‘Ashura (10th of Muharram) However, oppose the practise of the Yahud, So (along with Ashura) fast a day before or a day after”

(Note: What the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) meant was that he would also fast on the 9th as well as the 10th to which he was accustomed. We also should try fasting on the 9th and the 10th of Muharram.)

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (Radiyahallahu 'anh) reports that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) arrived in Madinah and found the Jews observing fast on the day of ‘Ashura... They said: "It is the day of great (significance) when Allah delivered Hazrat Musa ('Alaihis-Salaam) and his people and drowned Pharoah and his people, and Sayyidina Musa ('Alaihis-Salaam) observed fast out of gratitude. And we also observe it." The Holy Messenger of Allah (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) responded: ***"We have more right, as we have a closer connection with Sayyidina Musa ('Alaihis-Salaam) than you have"***; so Allah’s Messenger (Sallallahu ‘alayhi wa Sallam) observed fast (on the day of ‘Ashura) and gave us orders to observe it. [Sahih Bukhari and Muslim]

The tenth of Muharram this year 1432(December 2010) will occur on

Thursday 16th of December 2010

**We are thus advised to fast either on *Wednesday & Thursday* , or
*Thursday and Friday***