

Shawwal

Shawwal is the tenth month of the Islamic Calendar.

Shawwal means uplift/breakage. Before Islam, Arabs believed that any marriage held in Shawwal would always turn out to be unsuccessful. Hence, the month deprived the above mentioned meanings, however the superstitious belief was later abolished.

The month Shawwal is from the months of Hajj, Shawwal is the first of them.

The first day of Shawwal is Eid-UI-Fitr and also the day when sins are forgiven.

Some important events in the month of Shawwal

1. Hadrat Aa'ishah Siddiqah (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anha*) was born in Shawwal four years after Prophethood which is nine years before Hijrah.
2. Hadrat Aa'ishah Siddiqah (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anha*) was married in this month ten years after Prophethood which is three years before Hijrah.
3. The fight between Banu Qaynaqaa took place between the battle of Badr and Uhud (Shawwal 2 A.H. after Hijrah)
4. The battle of Uhud also took place in Shawwal, three years after Hijrah.
5. Hadrat Imam Hussain (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anhu*) the Beloved Prophet's (*Salla Allahu ta'ala alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) grandson (son of Hadrat Fatima *Radi Allahu ta'ala anha*) was born in the month of Shawwal four years after Hijrah.
6. The Beloved Prophet (*Salla Allahu ta'ala alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) married Hadhrat Umme Salamah (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anha*) in Shawwal in the fourth year after Hijrah.
7. Imam Bukhari (*Radi Allahu anhu*) was born on a Friday of Shawwal in the year 194 A.H.

EID UL FITR

Eid is a celebration day for Muslims. It should be celebrated according to the Islamic Shariah laws. On this day it is important to show joy and happiness and to meet Muslims and exchange gifts and give charity to the poor.

Great Reward on Edir-ul-Fitr

The night of Eid-ul-Fitr is the Night of Reward (Lailatul Jaiza). Almighty bestows his rewards on those who have spent the month of Ramadhan according to Shariah, Prayers in this night are accepted. Therefore, it is desirable to perform nafl prayers in this night.

Rasulullullah (Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), is reported to have said:

"Whoever stands up (in worship) in the nights preceding the two Eids expecting rewards from his Lord, his heart will not die when the other hearts will die." (Ibn Majah)

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Hazrat Ibn Abbas(radhiyallahu anhu) says in a lengthy hadith, that he heard Rasullullah(sallallahu alaihi wassallam) say:

On the morning of Eid Allah sends down the Malaa'ikah to all the lands of the earth where they take their positions at access points of roads, calling out with a voice that is heard by all except man and jinn.

"O Ummah of Muhammad(sallallahu alaihi wassallam) come forth from your houses towards a Lord that is Noble and Gracious, who grants much and pardons the major sins".

When they proceed towards the places for their Eid Salaah, Allah says to the Malaa'ikah:

"What indeed is the reward of that employee who had rendered his services?"

The Malaa'ikah replies, "O Lord and Master, it is only right that they should receive his reward in full for his services".

Allah then says,

"I call you to witness, O My Malaa'ikah, that for their having fasted during the month of Ramadhaan, and for their having stood before Me in prayer by night, I have granted to them as reward My pleasure and have granted them forgiveness. O My servants ask now of Me, for I swear by My Honour and My Greatness, that whatsoever you shall beg of Me this day in this assembly of yours for the needs of the Hereafter, I shall grant you; and whatsoever you shall ask for worldly needs, I shall look at you favorably. By My Honour I swear, as long as you shall obey My commands, I shall cover your faults. By My Honour and My Greatness do I swear that I shall never disgrace you among the evil-doing ones and disbelievers. Depart now from here, you are forgiven. You have pleased Me and I am pleased with you." (Targheeb)

Things to do on Eid ul Fitr

- Wake up Early
- Prepare for personal cleanliness (remove unwanted hair, trim nails etc.)
- Take a Ghusl (bath) after Fajr.
- Brush teeth using Miswak
- Dress up, putting on best clothes available, whether new or cleaned old ones.
- Use I'tr (perfume).
- Eat something before leaving for Eid-ul-Fitr prayers. It is Sunnah to eat odd number of dates.
- Pay Sadaqat-ul-Fitr before Salaat-ul-Eid.
- Go for Eid prayers early.
- Use separate route for going and returning from Eid prayers.
- Celebrate and express happiness, give charity etc.
- Avoid sinful acts.
- Recite the following TAKBIR on the way to salaah-ul-Eid and until the beginning of salaah-ul-Eid

Allahu-Akbar, Allahu-Akbar, Allahu-Akbar

La ila-ha ill-lal-lahu. Allahu-Akbar, A llahu-Akbar Wa-lillahill hamd.

(Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest

There is no god but Allah. Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest. And all praises are for Allah).

Sadaqat al-Fitr

The wisdom in Sadaqat al-Fitr is that it cleanses one's fasting from shameless talk and the foul acts of

indecent and also it rids the poor of the need to beg on the day of Eid.

1. Hadrat Ibn Abbas (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anhu*) states,

" To purify one's fasting from shameless talk and indecent and to provide the poor with food, the Beloved Prophet (*Salla Allahu ta'ala 'alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) stated the importance of Sadaqat ul-Fitr. Thus whoever pays Sadaqat ul-Fitr before Eid prayer it is Zakaah worthy of acceptance. And whoever pays Sadaqat al-Fitr after Eid prayer his Sadaqat is like ordinary Sadaqat." (Ibn Maajah)

2. Hadrat Ibn Umar (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anhu*) narrates :

The Most Beloved Prophet (*Salla Allahu ta'ala 'alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) stated Sadaqat ul-Fitr to be Waajib (compulsory).

He (*Salla Allahu ta'ala 'alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) said,

" The Fast of Ramadhaan remains suspended between the earth and the sky and it is only Sadaqat ul-Fitr that takes it up. "

The Ruling on Sadaqat al-Fitr

Sadaqat al-Fitr is Waajib on every free Muslim who, after the requirements of his fundamental needs, is the owner of Nisaab, irrespective of whether a year has passed or not (on his ownership of the Nisaab). Such a person must give Sadaqat ul-Fitr on his own behalf, on behalf of his minor children.

The time for when Sadaqat al-Fitr becomes Waajib is the time of the dawn (Fajr Saadiq) on the day of Eid ul-Fitr. Sadaqat ul-Fitr is not Waajib on the person who dies before this time. Similarly the person who is born or accepts Islam after this time, Sadaqat ul-Fitr is not Waajib upon him.

It is Mustahabb (desirable) that people should pay Sadaqat ul-Fitr before setting off for Eid prayer on the day of Eid ul-Fitr. It is permissible to pay Sadaqat ul-Fitr before the day of Eid ul-Fitr. If people do not pay it on Eid day they will still have to pay it after wards, the responsibility is not removed.

The Amount of Sadaqat ul-Fitr

The amount of Sadaqat ul-Fitr is half of a Saa' (1.667 kg) of wheat or one Saa' (3.334 kg) of dates, barley or fig.

It is permissible to give the monetary equivalent of these commodities. However it is better to pay it in cash for this is more beneficial for the poor.

The current equivalent monetary value is £ 3.00 per person in UK.

Hadrat Abdullah ibn Umar (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anhu*) narrates that at the completion of the fasting of Ramadan, the Most Beloved Messenger (*Salla Allahu ta'ala 'alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) made Waajib one Saa' of dates or barley in terms of Sadaqat ul-Fitr. Irrespective of whether one is a free Muslim or a slave : male or female ; young or old.

Hadrat Ibn Umar (*Radi Allahu ta'ala anhu*) states:

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" Then the people deemed half a Saa' of wheat as its equivalent and then they deemed two Mud of wheat as equivalent to half a Saa'. "

Fasts of Shawwaal

Hadrat Abu Ayyub Ansari (*Radi Allahu' Anhu*) reported that the Beloved Messenger of Allah (*Salla Allahu ta'ala alayhi wa Sallam*) said:

" The one who observes the fasts of Ramadan and follows this with six voluntary fasts of Shawwaal will be regarded as though he had fasted perpetually " (Muslim Shareef).

In another Hadith, Hadrat Jabir bin Abdullah (*Radi Allahu'Anhu*) reported that the Messenger of Allah (*Salla Allahu ta'ala alayhi wa Sallam*) said:

" The one who observes six fasts of Shawwaal after Eid al-Fitr will be regarded as though he has fasted the entire year."

Hazrat Sauban (radhiyallahu anhu) reported that Rasullullah(sallallahu alaihi wassallam) has said that:

"Joining six days of the fasts of shawwaal is equal to the fast of the whole year. Each good act is equal to ten such acts." (Ibn Majah, Nasai)

Note: The six fasts in Shawwaal can be kept consecutively or on six different days.

Six fasts of Shawwal:- In the month of Shawwal it is Sunnah to keep six fasts, as narrated in the following Hadith by Abu Ayyub Ansaru (*Radi Allahu anhu*) that the Beloved Prophet (*Salla Allahu ta'ala alayhi wa aalihi wa Sallam*) has said, "If one throughout his life keeps the fasts of Ramadan and keeps six consecutive fasts in Shawwal it will be as though he has kept a whole life time of fasts, and if one keeps the six consecutive fasts for one Shawwal month it will be as though he has observed fast all year round."