

Muharram
ul
Haram

The sacred month!

Muharram-ul-Haram

Muharram-ul-Haram is the first month of the Islamic calendar. It is one of the four scared months.

The 1st day of Muharram-ul-Haram is the Islamic New Year's Day.

Ashura Day

Ashura Day is the 10th day of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Since the beginning of this world, Ashura Day has been a very important day. On this day great signs of Allah's powers and Glory have appeared in the world.

On Ashura Day the following important events have taken place.

1. Repentance of Prophet Adam (Allah's blessings be upon him) was accepted by Allah.
2. The ship of Prophet Nuh (Noah) (Allah's blessings be upon him) came to rest on a mount Al-Judi.
3. Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) (Allah's blessings be upon him) was born.
He awarded the title of Khalil-ullah (the friend of Allah) on this day.
The fire in which Prophet Ibrahim (Allah's blessings be upon him) was thrown by the king Namrud became cool and means of safety for Prophet Ibrahim, by the order of Allah.
4. Allah delivered Prophet Ayub (Job) (Allah's blessings be upon him) from distress and he was restored to prosperity.
5. By the Grace of Allah, Prophet Yunus (Jonah) (Allah's blessings be upon him), after forty days of being swallowed by a huge fish (or Whale), was cast out on the shore.
6. Prophet Musa (Moses) (Allah's blessings be upon him) was born.
7. Prophet Musa (Moses) (Allah's blessings be upon him) got victory over Pharaoh.
8. Prophet Suleiman (Solomon) (Allah's blessings be upon him) was made a king to rule over mankind, Jins, animals and the air.
9. Prophet Issa (Jesus) (Allah's blessings be upon him) was born.
10. Prophet Issa (Jesus) (Allah's blessings be upon him) was lifted to heaven alive.
11. Prophet Idris (Enoch)(Allah's blessings be upon him)) was lifted to heaven alive.
12. Imam Hussein (May Allah be pleased with him), the grandson of our beloved Prophet, was martyred at Karbalah in Iraq.
13. The day of resurrection and judgement will take place on this day.
14. The heavens were created on this day.
15. The mountains and seas were created on this day.

Things to do on Ashura Day

It is Mustahab (desirable) to do the following on Ashura Day.

1. to take a bath
2. to fast
3. to give charity
4. to offer Naf'l (optional) prayers
5. to read sura Ikhlas 1,000 times
6. to provide food generously to family members
7. to trim nails
8. to visit the sick
9. to help orphans
10. to invoke blessings (Make Dua in abundance)

Prayers on Ashura Day

1. Perform 2 rakaats Naf'l prayer, after having a bath. In each rakaat recite Sura Fatiha once and Sura Ikhlas 10 times. On completion of the prayer recite Ayaat-ul-kursi once and Darood Ibrahim 9 times followed by Ashura Day dua.
2. Perform 6 rakaats Naf'l prayer.
In Each rakaat recite the following suras once.
 - a) Sura Fatiha
 - b) Sura Wa-Shams
 - c) Sura Qadr
 - d) Sura Zulzilah
 - e) Sura Ikhlas
 - f) Sura Falaq
 - g) Sura Na'as

On completion of this prayer read sura Kafiroon once in Sajdah and then invoke the blessings of Allah. It has been written in Ghuniya-Tut-Talibean that after performing this prayer whatever good is asked from Allah it will be granted.

3. Perform four rakaats Naf'l prayer.
In each rakaat recite Sura Fatiha once and Sura Ikhlas 50 times.
Allah will forgive 50 years of sins and a palace will be prepared in paradise. (Rahatul Kulub)

To Hold Meetings On Ashura Day

Holding of religious meetings during the first ten days of Muharram-ul-Haram-ul-Haram, specially on Ashura Day, is allowed and carries a lot of reward.

In these meetings, speeches are made about the heroic deeds and virtues of Martyrs of Karbalah. These meetings create a sense of stability, peace and endurance in the hearts and minds of Muslims. On such occasions speeches should also include stories from the lives of Khulfa-e-Rashedean (Rightful Caliphs) and others Ashabs (Companions).

Fatiha And Isal-e-Sawaab

Fatiha and Isal-e-Sawaab means sending rewards of good deeds to the souls of Muslims who have passed away.

Fatiha and Isal-e-Sawaab is lawful and in accordance with the tenets of Islam.

On Ashura Day Muslims make Fatiha and Isal-e-Sawaab for the souls of Imam Hussein and other martyrs of Karbala. For this purpose Muslims prepare sweet dishes, cold drinks (Sharbat), fruits etc, and distribute these things among relatives, friends and the poor.

Fasting On Ashura Day

Fasting on Ashura Day carries a great reward.

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has said that this is the most rewarding fast next to Ramadhaan. (Muslim Sharif)

Our beloved Prophet has also said that fasting on Ashura Day will compensate for one year's sins. (Tirmidhi Sharif)

It is better to fast on both 9th and 10th of Muharram-ul-Haram.

It is said that when Prophet Nuh (Allah's blessings be upon him) landed safely on mount Al-Judi, after the flood, he along with others, including birds and animals, observed a fast on Ashura Day to thank Allah. (Tafsir-e- Sawi)

Hazrat Hafsa (Allah be pleased with her) is reported to have said that our beloved Prophet practised the following four things without fail.

- 1. Fasting on Ashura Day**
- 2. Fasting during the first nine days of Zil-Haj.**
- 3. Fasting for three days in every month (13th, 14th and 15th of each Islamic month).**
- 4. Two rakaat Sunnah prayer of Fajr.**

(Nasai Sharif)

Hazrat Ibne Umar (Allah be pleased with him) has reported that our beloved Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that fasting on Ashura Day is equivalent to the reward of fasting for one year. (Ma Sabata Bis-Sunnah)