

MUHARRAM

THE FIRST MONTH OF THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR

The Islamic year begins with Muharram Haram, the first month of the Hijri calendar. While followers of many other religions spend their opening month in worthless merriment, the first month of Islam teaches us lessons of admonition, good counselling, knowledge of Allah Ta'ala, sacrifice, selflessness, patience and seeking the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala created Hazrat Adam (alaihissalaam) in this month.

PRAYERS ON THE FIRST OF MUHARRAM

On the first of Muharram offer 2 rakats Nafil prayers. In each rakat after Surat Faatiha recite Surah Ikhlas 3 times. After the salam pray to Allah Ta'ala for all your needs and desires. From the blessings of this prayer, Allah Ta'ala will appoint an Angel for such a person. The Angel will guide him or her to do only good deeds and prevent them engaging in sinful acts.

PRAYERS ON THE EVE OF ASHURA (9th MUHARRAM)

On the eve of Ashura offer 4 rakats Nafil Salat as follows: In every rakat after surah Fateha recite 'Ayatul Kursi' once and Surah Ikhlas 3 times. After completing the namaz recite Surah Ikhlas 100 times. Allah Ta'ala will purify such a person of all their sins and grant them endless bounties and blessings in Paradise.

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND DEEDS FOR ASHURA (10 MUHARRAM)

The person who remains Ibadaat during the night of Ashura gets the sawab of the pious persons of the seven heavens.

- (i) Perform Ghusl (bath) .
- (ii) Pray 4 rakat Nafil Namaz in such a way that in each rakat after surah Faatiha, pray Surah Ikhlas (Qulhuwallaho'Ahad) eleven times
- (iii) Pray another 4 rakat Nafil Namaz in such a way that in each rakat after surah Fatiha pray Surah Ikhlas 15 times and send the sawab of this namaz to Hazrat Imam Hassan (radi Allahu anho) and Imam Hussain (radi Allahu ano}
- (iv) Meet Aalims (learned men of Islamic Knowledge) and attend special meetings or congregations for this occasion.
- (v) Make a meal of 7 types of grains.
- (vi) Fast on the 9 and 10 of Muharram or the 10 and 11th of Muharram.
- (vii) Give as much charity as you can afford.
- (viii) Give generously to one's relatives.
- (ix) Recite Dua -e-Ashura.
- (x) Visit shrines of Awliyas and graves of Muslims.
- (xi) Place a hand of affection on an orphan's head.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Masood (radi Allahu anho) , a companion of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAW) reports the following saying of the Messenger of Allah Ta'ala., *"Whosoever prepares ample food and drink for his family on this sacred day and delights in feeding them generously, Allah Ta'ala will increase His provision for that year and place much blessings and good therein."*

FASTING: One will receive the reward of 1000 Hajj and 1000 shaheeds for fasting on the day of Ashura. If one performs one good deed he will get the sawab of One thousand good deeds on this day.

DUA -EASHURA AN INSURANCE FOR AN YEAR'S LIFE.

Hazrat Imam Zainul Abidin (radi Allahu anho) reports that whoever recites this dua on the 10th of Muharram, any .time after sunrise and before sunset, or listens to its recitation from someone else, Allah Ta'ala will certainly make it an insurance for an year's life for him, by keeping death away from him. However, if one is to become the victim of death in that year, by some strange coincidence will not remember to recite it. This duo is found in most Panj-Surahs.



YAUM E ASHURA" THE IMPORTANCE"

Since the beginning of the world, this day has been a very important one. On this day:

1. Repentance (sorrow for having done wrong (Tawbah) of Hazrat Adam (alaihissalaam) was accepted by Allah.
2. The Ship of Hazrat Nooh (alaihis-salaam), in which he was saved with his followers from the flood, came to rest upon Mount Al-Judi.
3. a) Hazrat Ibrahim (alaihis-salaam) was born. (b) He got the title 'Khalil Ullah' e Friend of God) (c) The fire, in which he was thrown by Namrud, became cool and means of safety for him by the command of Allah.
- 4 Allah delivered Hazrat Ayyub (alaihis-salaam) from distress and he was restored to prosperity. 5 By Grace of Allah, Hazrat Yunus (alaihis-salaam) after 40 days of being swallowed by a big fish was cast onto the shore.
6. Hazrat Moose (alaihis-salaam) got victory over Firaun (Pharaoh)
7. Hazrat Isa (Jesus Christ) (alaihis-salaam.) was lifted up alive.
8. Hazrat imam Hussein (radi Allahu anho) was martyred in the battlefield of Karbala.
9. On this very day would be the day of Qayamat (Resurrection and Judgement).
10. Allah Ta'ala created the heavens and the earth on this blessed day. On this day He gave His infinite blessings and bounties to many of his Prophets and delivered them from the clutches of their enemies.