

Fasting the Day of Ashura

In a hadith we are told that fasting the day of `Ashura' (the 10th of Muharram) expiates the sins of the previous year as the Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Fasting the day of `Ashura' (is of great merits), I hope that Allah will accept it as an expiation for (the sins committed in) the previous year" (Muslim).

After the hijrah when the Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings be upon him) came to Madinah, he found that the Jews of Madinah also used to observe this day (the 10th of Muharram) with fasting. The Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings be upon him) asked them the reason of their fasting on this day. They said, "This is a blessed day. On this day Allah saved the Children of Israel from their enemy (in Egypt) and so Prophet Musa fasted on this day giving thanks to Allah." The Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "We have more claim to Musa than you." He fasted on that day and commanded Muslims to fast on this day (the 10th of Muharram). (Al-Bukhari, hadith 1865)

Ibn `Abbas also quoted the Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings be upon him) as saying, "If I live next year, I shall also fast on the 9th day." (Musnad Ahmad ibn Hanbal, hadith 2002)

The Prophet said, "Observe fasting on the day of `Ashura' (the 10th of Muharram), but differ from the Jews and fast one day before it (the 9th of Muharram) and one day after it (11th of Muharram)." (Reported by Ahmad)

The day of 'Ashoora (Muharram 10th)

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Fasting in Muharram

It was proven from the Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that the best fasting after Ramadan is fasting in the month of Muharram. It was narrated that Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah, Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "**The best fasting after Ramadan is the month of Allah, Muharram, and the best prayer after the obligatory prayer is prayer at night.**" Narrated by Muslim, 1163