

THE AWAKENING

The Official Newsletter of Lewisham Islamic Centre



Muharram 1433 / December 2011

THE MONTH OF MUHARRAM

Muharram is the month with which the Muslims begin their lunar Hijrah Calendar. It is one of the four sanctified months about which the Holy Quran says, "The number of the months according to Allah is twelve (mentioned) in the Book of Allah on the day He created heavens and the earth. Among these (twelve months) there are four sanctified."



These four months, according to the authentic traditions, are Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab. All the commentators of the Holy Quran are unanimous on this point, because the Holy Prophet, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, in his sermon on the occasion of his last Hajj, declared: *"One year consists of twelve months, of which four are sanctified months, three of them are in sequence; Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah, Muharram, and the fourth is Rajab."*

The specific mention of these four months does not mean that any other month has no sanctity, because the month of Ramadan is admittedly the most sanctified month in the year. But these four months were specifically termed as sanctified months for the simple reason that their sanctity was accepted even by the pagans of Makkah.

Fasting During the Month

The Noble Prophet, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, has said: *"The best fasts after the fasts of Ramadan are those of the month of Muharram."*

Although the fasts of the month of Muharram are not obligatory, yet one who fasts in these days out of his own will is entitled to a great reward by Allah Almighty.

The Day of 'Ashurah'

Although Muharram is a sanctified month as a whole, yet, the 10th day of Muharram is the most sacred among all its days. The day is named 'Ashurah'. According to the Holy Companion Ibn 'Abbas, Radi-Allahu anhu. The Holy Prophet, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, when migrated to Madinah, found that the Jews of Madinah used to fast on the 10th day of Muharram. They said that it was the day on which the Holy Prophet Musa (Moses), alayhis salam, and his followers crossed the Red Sea miraculously and the Pharaoh was drowned in its waters. On hearing this from the Jews, the Holy Prophet, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, said, *"We are more closely related to Musa, alayhi salam, than you,"* and directed the Muslims to fast on the day of 'Ashura'. (Abu Dawood)

Misconceptions and Baseless Traditions

However, there are some legends and misconceptions with regard to 'Ashura' that have managed to find their way into the minds of the ignorant, but have no support of authentic Islamic sources, some very common of them are these: This is the day on which Adam, alayhi salam, was created. This is the day when Ibrahim, alayhi salam, was born. This is the day when Allah accepted the repentance of Sayyidina Adam, alayhi salam. This is the day when Qiyaamah (doomsday) will take place. Whoever takes bath on the day of 'Ashura' will never get ill.

All these and other similar whims and fancies are totally baseless and the traditions referred to in this respect are not worthy of any credit.

Some other people attribute the sanctity of 'Ashura' to the martyrdom of Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu, during his battle with the Syrian army. No doubt, the martyrdom of Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu, is one of the most tragic episodes of our history. Yet, the sanctity of 'Ashura' cannot be ascribed to this event for the simple reason that the sanctity of 'Ashura' was established during the days of the Holy Prophet, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, much earlier than the birth of Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu.

On the contrary, it is one of the merits of Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu, that his martyrdom took place on the day of 'Ashura'.

Another misconception about the month of Muharram is that it is an evil or unlucky month, for Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu, was killed in it. It is for this misconception that people avoid holding marriage ceremonies in the month of Muharram. This is again a baseless concept, which is contrary to the express teachings of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

Ayah of the Month

"In the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the alternation of night and day, and the ships that run in the sea with that which profits men, and the water that Allah sends down from the sky, then gives life therewith to the earth after its death and spreads in it all (kinds of) animals, and the changing of the winds and the clouds made subservient between heaven and earth, there are surely signs for a people who understand"
Al-Quran (2:164)

Lamentations and Mourning

Another wrong practice related to this month is to hold the lamentation and mourning ceremonies in the memory of martyrdom of Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu. As mentioned earlier, the event of Karbala is one of the most tragic events of our history, but the Holy Prophet, Sall-Allahu alayhi wa sallam, has forbidden us from holding the mourning ceremonies on the death of any person. The people of jahiliyyah (ignorance) used to mourn over their deceased through loud lamentations, by tearing their clothes and by beating their cheeks and chests.

A number of authentic Ahaadith are available on the subject. To quote only one of them:

"He is not from our group who slaps his cheeks, tears his clothes and cries in the manner of the people of jahiliyyah." (Sahih Bukhari)

All the authentic jurists are unanimous on the point that the mourning of this type is impermissible. Even Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu, shortly before his demise, had advised his beloved sister Sayyidah Zainab, Radi-Allahu anha, at not to mourn over his death in this manner. He said, *"My dear sister! I swear upon you that in case I die you shall not tear your clothes, nor scratch your face, nor curse anyone for me or pray for your death."* (Al-Kamil, ibn Kathir vol. 4 pg. 24)

It is evident from this advice of Sayyidna Husain, Radi-Allahu anhu, that this type of mourning is condemned even by the blessed person for the memory of whom these mourning ceremonies are held.

Hadith of the Month

*The Messenger of Allah (saw) said:
"Certainly the fast of the day of 'Aashoorah is regarded by Allah as an expiation for the sins of the previous year"*

PRAYER TIMETABLE

Schedule of Events

December 2011	Fajr	Jama'ah	Sunrise	Duhur	Jama'ah	Asr	Jama'ah	Maghrib	Jama'ah	Isah	Jama'ah	
Thursday	01	06:05	06:45	07:45	11:55	12:30	01:37	02:00	03:58	04:03	05:27	08:00
Friday	02	06:06	06:45	07:47	11:56	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:57	04:02	05:27	08:00
Saturday	03	06:08	06:45	07:48	11:56	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:57	04:02	05:27	08:00
Sunday	04	06:09	06:45	07:49	11:56	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:56	04:01	05:26	08:00
Monday	05	06:10	06:45	07:50	11:57	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:56	04:01	05:26	08:00
Tuesday	06	06:11	06:45	07:52	11:57	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Wednesday	07	06:12	06:45	07:53	11:58	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Thursday	08	06:13	06:45	07:54	11:58	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Friday	09	06:14	06:45	07:55	11:59	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Saturday	10	06:15	06:45	07:56	11:59	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Sunday	11	06:16	06:45	07:57	11:59	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Monday	12	06:17	06:45	07:58	12:00	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Tuesday	13	06:18	06:45	07:59	12:00	12:30	01:35	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Wednesday	14	06:19	06:45	08:00	12:01	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Thursday	15	06:19	06:45	08:00	12:01	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Friday	16	06:20	06:45	08:01	12:02	12:30	01:36	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Saturday	17	06:21	06:45	08:02	12:02	12:30	01:37	02:00	03:55	04:00	05:26	08:00
Sunday	18	06:21	06:45	08:03	12:03	12:30	01:37	02:00	03:56	04:01	05:27	08:00
Monday	19	06:22	06:45	08:03	12:03	12:30	01:37	02:00	03:56	04:01	05:27	08:00
Tuesday	20	06:22	06:45	08:04	12:04	12:30	01:38	02:00	03:57	04:02	05:28	08:00
Wednesday	21	06:23	06:45	08:04	12:04	12:30	01:38	02:00	03:57	04:02	05:28	08:00
Thursday	22	06:23	06:45	08:05	12:05	12:30	01:39	02:00	03:58	04:03	05:29	08:00
Friday	23	06:24	06:45	08:05	12:05	12:30	01:40	02:00	03:58	04:03	05:29	08:00
Saturday	24	06:24	06:45	08:05	12:06	12:30	01:40	02:00	03:59	04:04	05:30	08:00
Sunday	25	06:24	06:45	08:06	12:06	12:30	01:41	02:00	04:00	04:05	05:31	08:00
Monday	26	06:25	06:45	08:06	12:07	12:30	01:42	02:00	04:01	04:06	05:31	08:00
Tuesday	27	06:25	06:45	08:06	12:07	12:30	01:42	02:00	04:01	04:06	05:31	08:00
Wednesday	28	06:25	06:45	08:06	12:08	12:30	01:43	02:00	04:02	04:07	05:32	08:00
Thursday	29	06:25	06:45	08:06	12:08	12:30	01:44	02:00	04:03	04:08	05:33	08:00
Friday	30	06:25	06:45	08:06	12:09	12:30	01:45	02:00	04:04	04:09	05:34	08:00
Saturday	31	06:25	06:45	08:06	12:09	12:30	01:45	02:00	04:05	04:10	05:34	08:00

Tuesday:
Tarbiyyah Classes
@ 7pm with Imam Shakeel

Wednesday:
Fiqh with Sh. Faraz Farhat @ 8pm

Friday:
Selective Topics by Various Speakers @ 7pm

Football for Youngsters meet at Masjid @ 7pm

Girls Youth Club for 13 to 19 year olds @ LIC 5pm

Saturday:
Sisters Only Study Circle @ 2.30pm

Uloom-UI-Quran @ 5pm

Sunday:
New Sister Shahadah Class @ 12.30pm
1st Sunday of Every Month

Arabic Lecture with Sh. Shuaib Al-Misry @ 8pm

Sisters Only Swimming @ 2.30pm

Brothers Only Swimming @ 4pm

St. Dunstance Collage
Stanstead Rd
London SE6 4TY

Friday Khutbah @ 12.30pm

LIC Football Club
Contact Br. Rana
0794 444 6643

Scouts Program
Contact Br. Hakan
0755 730 2191

Wing Chung
Martial Arts

Brothers Contact
Br. Usamah
0797 991 2577

Sisters Contact Fiona
0785 104 4245

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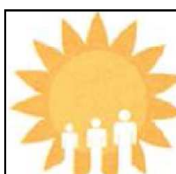
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