

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

MUHARRAM

the
Month of Allah

Imam Sikander Ziad Hashmi

Friday, December 2 after `Isha (7:40 pm)

Value & Importance • Prophetic Teachings
Customs & Practices • This Month in History

Is Muharram a forbidden month for good things such as marriage? Is it a month of mourning? Why is it called the "Month of Allah"? What practices should be adopted in this month?

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VALUE & IMPORTANCE

- إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرُمٌ
- "Verily, the number of months with Allah is twelve months (in a year), so it was ordained by Allah on the Day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them, four are sacred. ..." [Al-Qur'an 9:36]



VALUE & IMPORTANCE

- عَنْ أَبِي بَكْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ
السَّنَةُ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرْمٌ ثَلَاثَةٌ مُتَوَالِيَاتٌ ذُو الْقَعْدَةِ
وَذُو الْحِجَّةِ وَالْمُحَرَّمُ وَرَجَبٌ مُضَرَّ الَّذِي بَيْنَ جُمَادَى وَشَعْبَانَ
- "The year is twelve months of which four are sacred, the three consecutive months of Dhu'l-Qa'dah, Dhu'l-Hijjah and Muharram, and Rajab *Mudhar* which comes between Jumada and Sha'ban." [Bukhari]
- Rajab: *Mudhar* because tribe of *Mudhar* didn't tamper with timing



VALUE & IMPORTANCE

- Ibn ‘Abbas (RA): Sin in these months is more serious and good deeds bring a greater reward
- Imam al-Razi:
ومعنى الحرم : أن المعصية فيها أشد عقاباً ، والطاعة فيها أكثر ثواباً
- Rewards for good actions are multiplied and likewise the punishment for sins perpetrated in these months are multiplied



PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

- أَفْضَلُ الصِّيَامِ بَعْدَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ الْمُحَرَّمُ وَأَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الْفَرِيضَةِ صَلَاةُ اللَّيْلِ
- “The best fasting after Ramadan is the month of Allah Muharram, and the best prayer after the obligatory prayer is prayer at night.” [Muslim]
- أَنَّ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ كَانَ يَوْمٌ عَاشُورَاءَ تَصُومُهُ قُرَيْشٌ فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ وَكَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَصُومُهُ فَلَمَّا قَدِمَ الْمَدِينَةَ صَامَهُ وَأَمَرَ بِصِيَامِهِ فَلَمَّا فُرِضَ رَمَضَانُ تَرَكَ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ فَمَنْ شَاءَ صَامَهُ وَمَنْ شَاءَ تَرَكَهُ



PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

- Quraish used to fast on the day of 'Ashura' in the Pre-Islamic period, and then Allah's Apostle ordered (Muslims) to fast on it till the fasting in the month of Ramadan was prescribed; whereupon the Prophet said, "He who wants to fast (on 'Ashura') may fast, and he who does not want to fast may not fast." [Bukhari]

- فَعَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ : مَا رَأَيْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَتَحَرَّى صِيَامَ يَوْمٍ فَضَّلَهُ عَلَيَّ غَيْرِهِ إِلَّا هَذَا الْيَوْمَ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ وَهَذَا الشَّهْرُ يَعْنِي شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ



PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

- “I never saw the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) so keen to make sure he fasted any day and preferring it over another except this day, the day of ‘Ashura’, and this month – meaning Ramadan.” [Bukhari]
- صِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ وَالسَّنَةَ الَّتِي بَعْدَهُ وَصِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَاشُورَاءَ أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ
- “Fasting the day of ‘Arafah I hope Allah will expiate thereby for the year before it and the year after it, and fasting the day of ‘Ashura’ I hope Allah will expiate thereby for the year that came before it.” [Muslim]



PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

- قَالَ قَدِمَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْمَدِينَةَ فَرَأَى الْيَهُودَ تَصُومُ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ فَقَالَ مَا هَذَا؟ قَالُوا: هَذَا يَوْمٌ صَالِحٌ، هَذَا يَوْمٌ نَجَّى اللَّهُ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ مِنْ عَدُوِّهِمْ فَصَامَهُ مُوسَى، قَالَ فَأَنَا أَحَقُّ بِمُوسَى مِنْكُمْ فَصَامَهُ وَأَمَرَ بِصِيَامِهِ
- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came to Madinah and saw the Jews fasting on the day of 'Ashura'. He said, "What is this?" They said, "This is a good day, this is the day when Allah saved the Children of Israel from their enemy and Musa fasted on this day." He said, "We have closer connection to Musa than you." So he fasted on this day and told the people to fast. [Bukhari]



PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

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PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

- Fasting an extra day with the 10th of Muharram
- حِينَ صَامَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ وَأَمَرَ بِصِيَامِهِ قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ يَوْمٌ تُعْظَمُهُ الْيَهُودُ وَالنَّصَارَى فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَإِذَا كَانَ الْعَامُ الْمُقْبِلُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ صُمْنَا الْيَوْمَ التَّاسِعَ قَالَ فَلَمْ يَأْتِ الْعَامُ الْمُقْبِلُ حَتَّى تُوَفِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
- When the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) fasted on the day of ‘Ashura and told the people to fast, they said, “O Messenger of Allah, this is a day that is venerated by the Jews and Christians.” The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Next year, if Allah wills, we will fast on the ninth day.” But by the time the following year came, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had passed away.
[Muslim]



PROPHETIC TEACHINGS

- "One who generously spends on his family on the day of 'Ashura, Allah will increase (his provision) for the whole year." (Baihaqi)
- Discussion regarding this hadith (weak or not)
- Imam Al-Baihaqi: "When all the chains of these narrations are gathered, they assume (sufficient) strength."
- Practiced and reported by some scholars



HISTORICAL EVENTS

- Children of Israel saved from Fir`awn
- Reports deemed unreliable: Creation of Adam [AS], birth of Ibrahim [AS], repentance of Adam [AS], day of Qiyamah – all on 10th of Muharram
- Tragic martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA)



CUSTOMS & PRACTICES

- Severe mourning
- قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ : لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ لَطَمَ الْخُدُودَ وَشَقَّ الْجُيُوبَ وَدَعَا بِدَعْوَى الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ
- “He is not one of us who strikes his cheeks, rends his garment, or cries with the cry of the Jahiliyyah.”
[Bukhari & Muslim]
- Hussain (RA): “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.”



CUSTOMS & PRACTICES

- Scope of worship expanded by some to include good works (and some extras – clip nails, apply kohl) – not proven through actions of Prophet (peace be upon him) or his companions (RA)
- Superstitions – unlucky month (avoid marriage, new venture): No basis whatsoever
- Particular dates or months cannot bring any harm or danger



THANK YOU!

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