

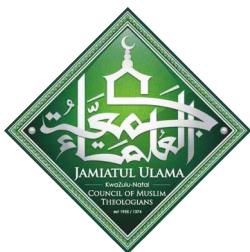
MUHARRAM & THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR

The Islamic new year cannot help but remind us of the very origin of the Islamic Calendar. In the era of Ameerul Mumineen Sayyiduna Umar Al-Farouq رضي الله عنه, the Sahaabah رضي الله عنهم gathered in consultation to decide on the implementation of an Islamic Calendar. Among the various opinions, the Sahaabah رضي الله عنهم finally agreed on the *Hijrah* (the emigration from Makkah to Madina) for the commencement of the Islamic calendar.

The Hijrah was a momentous occasion for it completely transformed the Islamic landscape. The Muslim Ummah, thus far under persecution finally found a home, a refuge against oppression and a capital for its soon to be empire. Weakness turned to strength and adversity to prosperity for as Yathrib became Madinatun Nabi (the City of Prophet) a transformation took place that was to indelibly alter the course of history. Rasulallah's صلى الله عليه وسلم arrival in Madina ignited a lantern whose rays would shine across the globe transforming barbarism to civilisation and restoring justice to a tyrannical world.

Today's world is sorely in need of that very transformation. The revival of Islam in the world is dependent on the Muslim Ummah reforming themselves. Allah Ta'ala states, **"Allah never changes a people's state until they change what is in themselves."** (Surah 13, Verse 11)

If we resolve to change ourselves for the better, the world will become a better place. But if we continue living our lives oblivious of our Islamic responsibilities, then nothing will halt the downward trajectory that we find ourselves in.



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