

The Fast of Aashura

Muharram is here with its *Rahmah* and Blessings. And in this auspicious month the greatest of days is the day of *Aashura*, the 10th of Muharram.

Rasoolullah *Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* greatly emphasised the importance of fasting on this day. The Hadith states,

“The fast of Aashura wipes out the sins of a year.” (Muslim)

Rasoolullah *Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* further advised the Ummah to keep an additional fast a day before or after the tenth of Muharram. The reason being, the Jews also fasted on the tenth. It was necessary that the Muslims be distinct and apart from the practices of the non-Muslims.

This leaves a powerful lesson for his Ummah. Muslims will, at any given time or place be distinct and different from the practices, norms and culture of the non-Muslims.

Additionally, the day of Aashura is an excellent opportunity to spend on one's family. Instead of giving gifts on birthdays and anniversaries, let us use this occasion to spend on our families. Rasoolullah *Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam* has stated,

“Whoever is generous to his family on the Day of Aashura, Allah will be generous to him for the rest of the year.” (Targheeb, classified Authentic)

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