

The Day of *Aashuura'*

Fasting was legislated on the tenth day of this month called the day of *Aashuura'*. Actually, fasting on this day was mandatory upon Muslims even before the fasting of the month of *Ramadaan*. However, later when fasting the whole month of *Ramadaan* was made an obligation, fasting on the day of *Aashuura'* became recommended. Aishah رضي الله عنها said, “The tribe of Quraish used to fast on the day of *Aashuura'* in the Pre-Islamic Period of *Jaahilliyyah*, and Allaah’s Messenger صلى الله عليه وسلم used to fast on that day too and ordered others to fast as well. Later when the fasting of the month of *Ramadaan* was prescribed, he gave up fasting on the day of *Aashuura'* and it became optional for one to fast on it or to leave its fast.” [Recorded by Imaams Buhkaari and Muslim]

During the life of the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, the Jews and the Christians used to fast on the day of *Aashuura'*, out of respect and reverence, because it was the special day on which Allaah ﷻ saved Mousa and his followers, from Pharaoh and his soldiers. Mousa fasted on that day as a way of showing his gratitude to Allaah for saving him and his followers. Ibn Abbaas رضي الله عنه said, “The Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم came to Al-Madinah from Mecca and saw the Jews fasting on the day of *Aashuura'* and asked them about their fasting. They replied, “This is a good day, the day on which Allaah rescued the children of Israel from their enemy. So, Mousa fasted on this day.” Therefore, the prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم fasted on that day and ordered (the Muslims) to fast on that day as well.” [Recorded by Imaams Buhkaari and Muslim] In another narration the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: “*If I live to next year I will fast the ninth day (as well as the tenth).*” [Recorded by Imaams Muslim and Ahmad]

From this *hadeeth*, we learn the historical importance of fasting on the day of *Aashuura'*. It is a good day in which Allaah ﷻ saved Mousa and his followers from their enemy: Pharaoh and his soldiers. To show his appreciation to Allaah ﷻ, Prophet Mousa fasted on that day. Furthermore, the messenger Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and we are more worthy of honoring Mousa than the Jews because we are the true followers of the message of pure Oneness that Mousa and all the other messengers came with. Also to set us apart from the Jews in their fasting of this day, we follow the Prophet’s orders to fast the day before and the day of *Aashuura'*.

The victory of Mousa and the believers over Pharaoh and his soldiers is a victory of truth over falsehood. This was a victory for truth and for oppressed people; the followers of Mousa over falsehood, aggressors, the arrogant and oppressors. All this occurs by the will of Allaah ﷻ and only with His help. It is His decree for His creation and this is the way it has always been and will forever be.

The prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم was asked about the rewards of fasting on this day and he replied: “*It wipes off the sins of the last year.*” [Recorded by Imaams Muslim, At-Tirmidhi, and Ahmed] The opportunity to fast on this day and reap its rewards is a blessing and mercy of Allaah ﷻ upon His believing servants.

We ask Allaah ﷻ to help us fast on this day and accept it.