

'ĀSHŪRĀ' (10TH MUHARRAM)

The virtue of the day of 'Āshūrā' (10 Muharram) traces back to the time of previous Ambiyā' 'Alayhimus Salām, and long predates any other event – including the tragic martyrdom of the grandson of our Beloved Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam, Sayyidunā Husain Radhiyallāhu 'Anhu. Ibn 'Abbās Radhiyallāhu 'Anhu said: *"I never saw Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam choosing to fast on any specific day, giving it special virtue over others, except for this day (the day of 'Āshūrā')."* (Bukhāri, 2006).

Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam would fast on this day before Hijrah. Upon migration, he found the Jews fasting on this day as well. They explained that this was the day upon which Allāh Ta'ālā saved Mūsā 'Alayhis Salām from Fir'aun. Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam then continued fasting on this day and now ordered the Sahābah Radhiyallāhu 'Anhu to do so as well, because *"We are more worthy (of following) and closer to Mūsā than you (the Jews)."* (Bukhāri, 3397)

Opposing the disbelievers

During the early stages of Islām, Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam would sometimes do things similar to the Ahle-Kitāb, as long as he wasn't commanded against it (due to these religions previously being true). This would also be a means of drawing the Jews and Christians closer to Islām.

Once Islām had gained dominance, we were commanded to totally oppose their ways. This will now remain until the day of Qiyāmah. The year before Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam left this world, he commanded us to oppose the Jews in this 'Ibādah of fasting the day of 'Āshūrā', saying: *"If I live to see next year, I will most definitely fast the 9th (in contrast to the Jews)."* (Muslim, 1134). We should therefore, together with the 10th, fast a day before or after it as well.

Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam made it clear that we should distinguish ourselves from the disbelievers. He Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam said: *"Oppose the Jews..."* (Abū Dawūd, 652). In another narration: *"Oppose the idolators. Let the beard grow and trim the moustache."* (Bukhāri, 5892).

As Muslims, we have our own beautiful Shari'ah and Sunnah. We should never imitate the kuffār in their lifestyle, ways, and dressing.

A beautiful point regarding nurturing of children

Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam once sent a Sahābi to the villages of the Ansār to announce that they should fast the day of 'Āshūrā'. The narrator mentions: *"We would fast it, and we would make our children fast. We would make toys out of wool for them. When one of them would cry for food, we would give them the toys (to distract them) until the time of Iftār."* (Bukhāri, 1960)

Imām Ibn Hajar Rahimahullāh mentions that this Hadīth proves that one should inculcate the habit of fasting in children, even at a time when it's not yet Wājib upon them. Similarly, Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam taught us to command our children to perform Salāh when they are 7, and to discipline them (upon leaving it out) at the age of 10. (Abū Dawūd, 495)

To nurture and inculcate Islām and Akhlāq in their lives is a major part of Dīn. This outward strictness is actually a manifestation of true love for them, as this will be a means of their everlasting success. We will be answerable regarding our children. Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi wa Sallam said: *"Each one of you is a shepherd, and every one of you will be questioned regarding his flock."* (Bukhāri, 5200)

May Allāh Ta'ālā grant us the ability to distinguish ourselves from the disbelievers and to nurture our children such that He is pleased with us, Āmīn!

C008 - 8 Muharram 1446 / 15 July 2024



WIFĀQUL 'ULAMA (SA)
ASPIRING TO PRESERVE THE ESSENCE OF SUNNAH

✉ admin@wifaq.org.za 🌐 wifaq.org.za 📞 084 559 4327 📞 011 852 0466