

Immense Blessings of Muharram and the Day of 'Ashura

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic Hijri Lunar Calendar. It is the Islamic New Year, marking the important event of Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu 'Alayhi wa Sallam*) move from Makkah to Madinatul Munawera. Muharram is also one of the four sacred months of the year, in which fighting is forbidden.

Some significant events of Muharram are as follows:

- Prophet Muhammad (swas) fled from Makkah in Muharram
- Imam 'Ali (as) laid down in prophet (saws)'s place to sacrifice himself and make it possible for Prophet (saws)'s to go to Madina
- Prophet Muhammad (saws) went to the Cave in the way to Madina with his companion Abubakr Siddiq in Muharram. This event is mentioned in Holy Quran, Surat at Tawbah 9:40.
- Prophet Muhammad (saws) arrived in Madinatul Munawera on the Day of 'Ashura.
- Imam Hussain(as) entered Karbala and established camp on the second day of Muharram

إِلَّا تَنْصُرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِيًا إِثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا ۗ
فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَمْ تَرَوْهَا

*Illa tansuroohu faqad nasarahullahu idh akhrajahul ladheena kafaro thaniya ithnayni
**idh huma fil ghari idh yaqolu lisahibihi la tahzan inna Allaha ma'ana, fa
anzalAllahu sakeenatahu, 'alayhi wa ayyadahu, bi junodin lam tarawha ..."***

"If you do not aid the Prophet - Allah has already aided him when those who disbelieved had driven him out [of Makkah] as one of two, **when they were in the cave and he said to his companion, "Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us,** And Allah sent down his tranquility upon him and **supported him with angels** you did not see... " (Holy Quran, Surat at Tawbah -The Repentance 9:40)

The Significance of Muharram to the Naqshbandi Path

Muharram is also a month of great importance to Naqshbandis. Our Master and Imam of the *Tariqah [Master of Naqshbandi Sufi Path]* **Shah Bahauddin Naqshband (qaddas Allahu sirrah) was born on the 14th of Muharram.** It is thus important and most desired that his followers congregate on the eve of this holy day for *Khatm* and *Dhikr*, read the *Mawlid un Nabi (Praises on Prophet Muhammad (saws))* in dedication to Mawlana Shah Naqshband, and read excerpts from his saintly life.

It is a tradition and practice of Sultan al Awliya Shaykh 'Abdullah al Daghistani (*qaddasallahu sirrah*) to make *Qurban* (sacrifice) two sheeps on the day of 'Ashura and distribute the meat to the poor and needy. He also did this on the birthday of Shah Naqshband (*qaddasallahu sirrah*).

Historical Significance of the Day of 'Ashura (10th of Muharram)

'Ashura is the 10th day of holy month of Muharram. It is a day of great historical significance in which many Prophets and their nations were saved. On the day of 'Ashura:

- **Sayyidina Adam (as)** was forgiven by Allah (aj) after his exile from Paradise;
 - **Sayyidina Nuh (as)** and his companions in the ark were saved by Allah (aj).
 - Allah extinguished the fire in which **Sayyidina Ibrahim (as)** was thrown by Nimrod.
 - Allah (swt) spoke directly to **Sayyidina Musa (Moses) (as)** and gave him the Commandments. Also on this day, the sea was parted for **Sayyidina Musa (as)** and the nation of Israel was saved from captivity, and Pharaoh's army was destroyed.
 - **Sayyidina 'Isa (Jesus) (as)** was raised to Jannah on the day of 'Ashura.
 - **Sayyidina Muhammad (saws)** was given the City of Light (Madinatul Munawara) on the day of 'Ashura
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- It was on this day that the Skies, earth and the Lauw-e-Qalam came into existence.
 - On this day Sayyidina Adam (AS) and Sayyidatina Hawa (Eve) were created.
 - **Sayyidina Ayyub (as)** 's health was restored (from leprosy).
 - **Sayyidina Yusuf (as)** was reunited with his father Ya'qub (as) after 40 years.
 - **Sayyidina Yunus (Jonah) (as)** was taken out from the belly of the fish.
 - **Sayyidina Dawud (as)** was forgiven.
 - The kingdom of **Sulaiman (as)** was restored.
 - Sayyidina Muhammad (saws) married Sayyidatina Khadija (ra).
 - **Sayyidina al Hussain(as)** [the Holy Prophet's (saws), grandson] achieved the honor of Martyrdom in the battle of Karbala 61 AH(Oct 10, 680 AD).

Worship Allah (swt) as much as you can on 'Ashura. Whoever fasts on this day is like one who fasts all his life. Whoever clothes a naked person Allah (swt) will release him from a painful punishment. He who visits a sick person, Allah (swt) will grant him a reward that will not be decreased. Whoever places his hand on an orphan's head, or feeds a hungry person or gives water to a thirsty person, Allah will feed him a feast from Paradise and will quench his thirst with Salsabil (a wine that does not intoxicate). And who ever makes *ghusl* (shower) on this day will enjoy excellent health and freedom from sickness and laziness. Whoever provides generously for his family on this day, Allah (swt) will be generous to him throughout this year. And whoever applies kohl to his eyes will never suffer from eye-sore again, *insha'Allah al-'Aziz.* "