

Al-Maktab

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Muharram & Aashura



The first month in the Islamic Year is the month of Muharram and the last month is the month of Zul Hijjah. The Islamic year has approximately 355 days. The Islamic calendar is based on the movement of the moon in the sky. When the new crescent is sighted, this means that the new month has commenced.

Rasulullah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said, "After the fasts of Ramadhaan, the best fasts are during the month of Muharram." It is reported from Ibn Abbaas (radiyallahu anhum) that Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said: "The one who observes the fast of the day of Arafah, two years of his (minor) sins will be forgiven and the one who fasts during the month of Muharram, for each day that he fasts, he will receive the reward of fasting for an entire month."

FASTING IN MUHARRAM

Before fasting became compulsory in

the month of Ramadhaan, the fast of the 10th of Muharram was compulsory. This day is known as "The Day of Aashura". When Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) made Hijrat to Madinah Munawwarah, he noticed the Jews in Madinah fasting on this day. When he asked them why they were fasting on this day, they replied that this was the day when Allah Ta'ala saved Moosa (alayhis salaam) and the Banu Israa'eel (the followers of Hadhrat Moosa alayhis Salaam) from the cruelty and oppression of Fir'oun (the wicked king of Egypt) and his people. Allah Ta'ala destroyed Fir'oun and his army by drowning them in the Red Sea and He saved and protected Hadhrat Moosa (alayhis salaam) and his people. When Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) heard this, he said, "We are closer to Moosa (alayhis salaam) than you." He then instructed the Sahaabah to fast on this day and ordered them to encourage their children also to fast. The Sahaabah used to make toys for

their children out of wool and if any child felt hungry and cried for food, then they kept them busy with these toys until the time of Iftaar.

OPPOSING THE JEWS

This remained the practice of Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) and the Sahaabah till the end of his life. In the 11th year of Hijri, after the fast of Aashura, before Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) passed away, he commanded the Sahaabah (Radhiyallahu Anhum) to oppose the Jews and to add another day of fasting together with the tenth. Rasulallah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam) said that if he lived till the following year he would fast for two days; either the 9th and 10th or the 10th and 11th of Muharram. To fast on these days is optional and encouraged.

The lesson we learn from this is that we should always oppose the Non-Muslims in their ways. As Muslims

we are different from the rest of the world. We have our own way of dressing, eating, sleeping, etc. We follow the way of life of our beloved Rasulallah (sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) and not the way of his enemies.

SPENDING ON ONE'S FAMILY

Besides fasting, we should buy some extra food for our family on the day of Aashura. Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (radiyallahu anhu) reports that Rasulallah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said, "Whoever spends freely upon his family on the day of Aashura, Allah Ta'ala will bless him with plentiful provisions for an entire year."

No other actions were done by Rasulallah (Sallallaahu alayhi wasallam) or the Sahaabah on this blessed day. Therefore all other practices which are regarded as acts of Ibaadah and virtues of Aashoorah will be without any benefit or reward, but will be a source of sin and punishment. May Allah Ta'ala protect us from such actions. Aameen.

Is Man Really From A Monkey?

Early one Monday morning after the first break, the teacher of the grade 7 class walked in with Mr Thomas, a professor from Europe. The teacher addressed the class saying, "We have a guest with us today who will be explaining to us the great theory of EVOLUTION." The class was baffled to hear such a big word. Each child frowned to himself thinking what this could mean. The professor began putting up charts on the wall and then began his detailed explanation on "DARWINS THEORY OF EVOLUTION" Little Muhammad sat tight in his chair shocked at what the professor was explaining. The professor kept on pointing to the charts on the board that showed the pictures of a few apes and then a picture of a man. "And this is how man came to be," he said. "First there were only monkeys and apes, and then slowly these apes turned into humans and today we have the whole world filled with human beings who were originally apes and monkeys."

The class roared with laughter. Who will believe that such a thing can ever happen? This really upset Mr. Thomas. "Why are you laughing?" he shouted. Ebrahim, an intelligent young boy who attends the local maktab stood up and

said, "Mr. Thomas, with due respect to you, we have learnt in the Holy Qur-aan that Allah (God) created human beings and the first human to be created was the Prophet Aadam (peace be upon him). He then created his wife. They were then married and had many children. Their children then got married and also had many children until, presently the entire world is filled with the children of our father, Prophet Aadam (peace be upon him)."

Mr. Thomas was not very satisfied with this response. He now began yelling at the top of his voice saying, "I am telling you that we are from monkeys. If you trace our ancestry you will find that we are definitely linked to monkeys and apes as professor Darwin explains in his great theory."

The children made out that the professor was now really angry. His face had turned red and his veins were popping out of his head. Hafiz Yusuf, a quite student, who attends the local hifz classes under Qari Saahib, stood up and cautioned Ebrahim saying, "Don't force the professor to believe what you are saying, Ebrahim. If he wants to prove that his ancestors were

monkeys and apes, by all means he may do so, but in no way can he force us to believe that our ancestors were monkeys and apes."

This enraged the teacher even more and he stormed out of the class. Idrees, the monitor of the class, stood in the doorway and stopped Mr. Thomas from leaving. He then explained to him, "Sir, if someone tells you that a rat became a cat will you believe him? Likewise if he says, a fox became an ox will you accept what he is saying? Most definitely not. Now! If someone tries to fool us, by telling us, that a monkey became a human and that is how we are human, we will never fall for this silly "monkey trick". We are not monkeys, nor were our grandfather's monkeys. We are all humans. Our great great grandfather is Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) and we are all the beautiful creation of our one ALLAH."

NOTE: The theory of evolution explained by Mr Darwin, of man evolving from a monkey, is a theory of kufir and disbelief. No Muslim must ever believe in such a theory, as this will take a person out of the fold of Islam. May Allah Ta'ala protect us all.

DROUGHT

For the first time in many years, South Africa has been struck with such a severe drought. Many parts of our country have no water at all. People and animals are dying without water. Many dams have dried up. Sheep, goats and cattle are dying on the fields because there is no water available. Salaatul Istisqaa (a special salaah to perform begging Allah Ta'ala for rain) has been performed in many towns. Some of the provinces have no water for the last 8 months. People have to buy water or fetch water from farmers who have a borehole facility. Many Muslim organisations are going into the poor areas and are distributing water free of charge. May Allah Ta'ala have mercy on us and shower upon us beneficial rains. It is mentioned in the Holy Qur-aan:

"We have given life to everything from water." When Hadhrat Ebrahim (alayhis salaam) left his wife and little son in the middle of the desert, the little baby began crying out of hunger and thirst. At that time Allah Ta'ala allowed the spring of Zam Zam to flow from the place where Hadhrat Ismaeel (alayhis salaam) was kicking. Allah Ta'ala could have sent anything else but He sent that which was most important and vital for mankind.

SAVING WATER, A GREAT SUNNAH OF RASULULLAH ﷺ

Our Beloved Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) always advised his beloved Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) not to waste water. Once, Rasulullah

(sallallahu alayhi wasallam) passed by one Sahaabi (radiyallahu anhu) whilst he was performing wudhu. Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) asked him, "Why are you wasting water?" The Sahaabi (radiyallahu anhu) asked, "Can one waste water even whilst making wudhu?" Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said, "Yes, even if you were on the banks of a flowing river."

We learn a very important lesson from this Hadith. A Muslim must never waste water. Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) used to make wudhu with one mudd (type of measure) of water. i.e. approximately 750ml. We as Muslims should try and save water wherever possible. This Hadeeth teaches us to save and not waste.

TIPS ON SAVING WATER

1. Never let the tap run during wudhu. Try using a jug for wudhu rather than making wudhu from a tap.
2. Close the tap when brushing your teeth. Don't allow the tap to run unnecessarily.
3. When waiting for hot water to come out of the tap, collect the cold water in a container or a bucket so that amount of water can be saved instead of it getting wasted down the drain.
4. Use a bucket instead of a shower when bathing. This is closer to the sunnah of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Don't ever fill the bath tub and bath in this manner. This is totally against the sunnah.
5. Try not to make extra and unnecessary washing. Keep your clothing clean and tidy.
6. Use less water when washing dishes by soaking them in the sink and then washing and rinsing wisely.
7. When washing cars and watering gardens do not use a hose pipe. Use a bucket and use the bare minimum.
8. If you see a leaking tap or pipe, report it to your Parents /Moulanas and Apas.

Dear Children! Let us all try and save as much water as we can. Insha Allah, Allah Ta'ala will shower His mercy upon us and send down beneficial rains that will fill the dams and water the crops. This will benefit the whole creation Insha Allah. Also don't forget to daily make dua for beneficial rain.

QUIZ

Answer all Questions and submit your entries. The first 5 correct entries drawn will receive R50-00 cash.

1. Who was the first human to be created?
2. Which fast was compulsory before the fast of Ramadhaan?
3. What is the reward of spending on one's family on the day of Aashura?
4. Mention 3 of your own tips on how to save water. (It must not be mentioned in the Al-Maktab)
5. What does Allah Ta'ala say in the Qur-aan regarding water?
6. How much water did Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) use to make wudhu?
7. Are we created from monkeys?
8. What is the reward for fasting in the month of Muharram?
9. What is the reason for Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) instructing us to fast for two days either on the 9th and 10th or 10th and 11th and not only on the 10th?
10. Mention the 12 months of the Islamic year.

PROJECT

1. The Month of Muharram.
2. The story of Hadhrat Aadam (AS).
3. Water, The gift of life.

All entries must be handed in before the 21 November 2016. Winners in each grade will receive a R100.00 cash prize. Grades 1-2 (1 Page A4). Grades 3-7 (3-5 pages A4).

N.B. Please write your name, the name of your Madrasah, the area and your grade on the cover of your project in big bold writing. Jazak Allah.



Most beloved Children

Assalamu alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakaatuhu.

How was Eidul Adha? I'm sure we must have all really enjoyed slaughtering the Qurbaani animals for the sake of Allah Ta'ala. May Allah Ta'ala accept everyone's Qurbaani and Haj. We have now come to the last term of the year where we will be revising all our previous work and getting ready for the final exams.

Below is a few simple guidelines so that you may be successful in the exams.

- Thoroughly revise all work before coming to the exam room.
- Read two rakaats Salaatul Hajaat before the exams and make dua to Allah Ta'ala to help you in your exams and to make it easy for you.
- Ask your parents to also make special dua for your success.
- Read the Tasmiyah before you start writing.
- Recite Ya Fattahu and Ya 'Aleemu in abundance.
- Write neatly.
- Always write your full name on the exam paper.
- Look through the whole paper first properly before answering it.
- Start off by answering the easy questions.
- Read each question carefully.
- Check, Check and check your paper when you are finished.

Once again we have entered the mubaarak month of Muharram. JazakAllah to all the children who took part in the quiz and project competitions. Masha Allah! It was overwhelming to see such a good response from all the maktab. May Allah Ta'ala accept every pupil's contribution. The names of the winners are as follows:

Name	Maktab	Grade
1. Zahra Rahim	Tongaat	3
2. Ziyaad Sallie	R.Hills	4
3. Saleha Kosadia	Dundee	5
4. Fatima Z. Emambacus	Kokstad	6
5. Zakia Kharodia	Greytown	4

Congratulations to you all. Masha Allah! You all have done well and your prizes are on the way.

The winners for the best projects for each grade are as follows:

Name	Maktab	Grade
Muhammed Kadir	Empangeni	1
Sahl Mohamed	Baitul Ilm	2
Yusuf Salajee	Ashrafiyya	3
Layah Latiff	Redfern	4
Mariam Asmal	Bergville	5
Aaminah Rahiman	Eastview	6
Labeeba Adamjee	Umar Farooq	7

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