

Ashura and the day of Musa

The Prophet (peace be upon him) found the Jews of Madinah fasting the 10th of Muharram. They said it was the day Musa was saved. He said: we have more right.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 2004, Sahih Muslim 1130

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Why Muslims fast Ashura

It is the day Allah saved Musa and the Bani Israel from Pharaoh. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: we have more right to Musa than they (Bukhari 2004). The lineage of the prophets is shared; the gratitude is owed by their followers.

2. The 9th and the 10th

When the Prophet (peace be upon him) was told the Jews fast only the 10th, he said: if I live until next year, I will fast the 9th too (Muslim 1134). To distinguish, and to take advantage of two days. Most scholars recommend 9th plus 10th today.

3. What the fast erases

Fasting Ashura expiates the sins of the previous year (Muslim 1162). One day on the calendar, twelve months in the ledger. Cleared.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to ashura and the day of musa.

Suggested closing: If you are reading this in Muharram, plan now. The 9th and the 10th. Set the reminder before the day passes.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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