

Muharram and the new Hijri year

Allah's sacred month, and the start of the Islamic year. Why the calendar begins with the Hijrah, and what fasting Ashura earns.

CENTREPIECE Sahih Muslim 1163

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The Hijri calendar starts with sacrifice

Umar chose the Hijrah as the start of the Islamic year, not the birth of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or his prophethood. Because the Hijrah was when the ummah was born as a community willing to leave everything for Allah.

2. Allah's month

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: the best fasting after Ramadan is in Allah's month, Muharram (Muslim 1163). The only month He attaches to Himself directly.

3. Ashura, the day Musa was saved

Musa and his people crossed the sea, freed from Pharaoh. The Prophet (peace be upon him) found the Jews of Madinah fasting that day and said: we have more right to Musa than they. He fasted it and ordered the fast. Expiates the previous year (Muslim 1162). Add the 9th to make it a sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him).

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to muharram and the new hijri year.

Suggested closing: If you missed Muharram this year, plan for next. If it is still in this year, fast at least the 9th and 10th.

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.

Prepared by Sumit Sharma for Barakah Life. Updated 2026-09-03.