

Excellence of Fasting the Day of Aashooraa

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

The Excellence of Fasting the Month of Muharram & the Day of Aashooraa

Shaykhul-Islam Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhaab (d. 1206H) (May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him) mentions in his book 'Aadaab al-Mashy ilas Salaah':

"[And it is from the Sunnah (supererogatory)] to fast the month of Muharram, the best of it being the ninth and the tenth (days). And it is from the Sunnah (recommended) to gather between the two of them (i.e. by fasting the ninth day and tenth day together). And everything that is mentioned regarding the day of `Aashooraa pertaining to actions – other than fasting – then there is no basis for that, rather it is an innovation."

Shaykh Abdul-Muhsin al-Abbaad (May Allaah the Most High preserve him) mentions in explanation:¹

1. That which indicates the excellence of fasting the month of Muharram is the narration of Aboo Hurairah (May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him) that he said: The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him) said: **"The best of fasting after the month of Ramadhaan is the month of Allaah, Muharram. And the most excellent prayer after the obligatory prayer is the night prayer."**²

2. And that which indicates the excellence of fasting the tenth and ninth days of the month of Muharram is the narration of Aboo Qataadah (May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him) was asked about fasting on the day of `Aashooraaa (10th day of Muharram), so he said: **"It expiates the sins of the previous year."**³

And the narration of Ibn `Abbaas (May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him) that he said: The Messenger of Allaah (May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him) said: **"If I live until the next year, I will certainly fast on the ninth day."**⁴

¹ Source: 'Kutub wa Rasaail Abdul-Muhsin bin Hamad al-Abbaad al-Badr'; vol. 5, pages 331-333

² Reported in Saheeh Muslim no. 1163

³ Reported in Saheeh Muslim no. 1162

⁴ Reported in Saheeh Muslim no. 1134