

The meaning of muharram

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Taken from the works of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

With regards to the meaning of muharram in the Islaamic Sharee'ah, Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ comments:

The takleefiyyah² are of five types:

waajib (obligatory)

mandoob (recommended)

muharram (prohibited)

makrooh (disliked)

mubaah (permissible)

The meaning of muharram in the (Arabic) language is: mamnoo' (prohibited).

And its technical meaning is: that which the Lawgiver has prohibited, in a way that it is obligatory to leave off (that action) – such as disobedience towards the parents.

And the statement of ours “that which the Lawgiver has prohibited” excludes that which is waajib (obligatory), and that which is mandoob (recommended), and that which is mubaah (permissible).

And the statement of ours “in a way that it is obligatory to leave off (that action)” excludes that which is makrooh (disliked).

And the person who avoids something muharram is rewarded if (he does it) in obedience (to Allaah);

and the person who does it is deserving of punishment.

And it is also known as mah-dhoor and mamnoo'.

(Al Usool min 'ilm ul usool, quoted in Rasaa-il fil usool of Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al 'Uthaymeen rahimahullaah , p127)

¹ (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² Rulings which relate to the actions of the people who are bound by the Islamic duties – so this excludes the young child and the insane person for example.