

Excellence of Fasting the Day of Aashooraa

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

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

Shaykhul-Islaam Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahhaab (d. 1206H) (رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ)¹ 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 (حفظه الله)² mentions in explanation:³

1. That which indicates the excellence of fasting the month of Muharram is the narration of Aboo Hurairah (رضي الله عنه)⁴ that he said: The Prophet (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁵ 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.”**⁶

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 (رضي الله عنه) that the Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about fasting on the day of `Aashooraaa (10th day of Muharram), so he said: **“It expiates the sins of the previous year.”**⁷

And the narration of Ibn `Abbaas (رضي الله عنه) that he said: The Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **“If I live until the next year, I will certainly fast on the ninth day.”**⁸

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

² (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

³ Source: 'Kutub wa Rasaa'il Abdul-Muhsin bin Hamad al-Abbaad al-Badr'; vol. 5, pages 331-333

⁴ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

⁵ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu `alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

⁶ Reported by Muslim no. 1163

⁷ Reported by Muslim no. 1162

⁸ Reported by Muslim no. 1134