

EDITORIAL

Hijrah, the Islamic Calendar, and our Islamic Heritage

It is so important that we, especially our young generation, especially in this country, be reminded continuously of our Islamic heritage. We need to make sure that this heritage lives with them. That's why we have to remind each Muslim about our Islamic Hijrah year, Our calendar, which in this time and age, has unfortunately almost been forgotten. The remembrance of the Hijrah is important to help us remember our Islamic year. It is important to remind us of the sacrifices that our dear Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made in his Hijrah along with his great *Sahabah* (companions) (may Allah be pleased with them).

Our ignorance and neglect of our Islamic heritage such as the Islamic calendar has made us forget important and significant incidents in our own history and it made us admire the achievements of civilizations other than our own civilization. The civilization that helped Europe to achieve its glory and without it, Europe would have continued to be backward and ignorant.

HIJRAH: MEMORIES AND LESSONS

The start of a new Islamic or "Hijri" year brings with it the memories of the greatest occasion in the Islamic History, the Hijrah (emigration) of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions from Makkah to Madinah. It was the milestone that changed the course of history for ever. After thirteen years of hardship, suffering, and oppression, the Muslims can now practice their religion freely, they can read the Qur'an openly without anyone bothering them, and they can declare, with no fear, that they are followers of Muhammad (PBUH). Hijrah gave the Muslims their identity as a one Ummah and established for them their own state that is governed by Allah's laws and the Prophet's teachings. It is after the Hijrah, when Allah (SWT) gave the Muslims permission to fight back those who oppressed them in their belief and forced them to leave their beloved town and confiscated their properties, houses, and wealth:

أَذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقْتَدِلُونَ بَأْسَهُمْ ظَلَمُوا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ
الَّذِينَ أُخْرِجُوا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ بِغَيْرِ حَقٍّ إِلَّا أَنْ يَقُولُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ

((To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight), because they are wronged; and verily, Allah is Most Powerful for their aid; (They are) those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right, (for no cause) except that they say, "Our Lord is Allah.")

It was a migration from a plot that was set by the leaders of Quraysh to kill the Prophet (PBUH) and to destroy the truth. But Allah (SWT) has plotted differently and revealed to the Prophet (PBUH) the details of the assassination plan.

وَإِذْ يَمْكُرُ بِكَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا لِيُثْبِتُوكَ أَوْ يَقْتُلُوكَ أَوْ يُخْرِجُوكَ
وَيَمْكُرُونَ وَيَمْكُرُ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَكْرِينَ

((Remember how the Unbelievers plotted against you, to keep you in captivity, or slay you, or get you out (of your home). They plot and plan, and Allah too plans, but the best of planners is Allah))

The Hijrah also had a major impact on the people of Madinah (Yathrib). After years of wars, killings and hatred, Yathrib and its people became one unity and one brotherhood, and why not? Islam has touched their hearts and made them one group called (Al-Ansar) (the Supporters) for their support and loyalty to the Prophet (PBUH). Islam, in a short period of time, converted their hatred to love and compassionate and their selfishness to self-sacrifice and selflessness.

The life of our Prophet (PBUH) in Makkah and Madinah were two very significant and meaningful phases in the history of Islam. Hijrah is a major inspiration and motivation for us to carry on the Call (Dawah) of the Prophet and his companions after him who were the *As-salaf As-saleh* (the righteous generation). This Dawah is a lifetime commitment for all of us and not a part-time task. No one can escape from his scared calling. We should draw lessons from this Hijrah; thus we should not be careless about this responsibility. This may require to start changing our own selves. Starting from our surroundings, the work we do, the kind of business deals we get involved in, and to change our habits and it may require us "migrate" from our bad influencing associates and those whom we have relationships with.

We pray to Allah to bless us with His Help and Guidance and extend our life so that we could welcome Hijrah in the coming years with strengthened conviction and Imaan (faith) and let us re-live the spirit of togetherness and brotherhood, and the spirit of willing to sacrifice in Allah's path for the success of Islam.

Muslimah

HIC Sisters' Page
Editor: Sr. Zakiyyah Shakoor



The Virtues of Allah's sacred month of Muharram Fasting On the Day of Ashuraa Expiates the Sins of the Preceding Year

When the Day of Judgment comes, we will without doubt all desire to steer clear from our sins and wish that we had done more good deeds that would be a cause for removal of our bad deeds.

Of much interest to us Muslims these days should be the fasting the 9th and the 10th of Muharram. The Prophet, (PBUH) said about the voluntary fasting on the Day of Ashuraa:

"It expiates the sins of the preceding year." [Saheeh Muslim]

Ibn Abbas, radhiyallahu anhu, reported: "The Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, came to al-Madinah and saw the Jews fasting on the day of Ashuraa. He asked them about that. They replied, "This is a good day, the day on which Allah rescued Bani Israeel (children of Israeel) from their enemy. So Mousa observed fast on this day." The Prophet said, "We have more claim over Mousa than you." So the Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, observed fast on that day and ordered (the Muslims) to observe fast (on that day)." [Saheeh al-Bukhari, Muslim]

Ibn Abbas also reported, "The Messenger of Allah fasted on the day of Ashuraa and ordered the people to fast on it. The people said, "O Messenger of Allah, it is a day that the Jews and Christians honor." The Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, said, "When the following year comes - Allah willing - we shall fast on the ninth." The death of the Prophet, sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam, came before the following year." [Saheeh Muslim, Abu Dawood]

So it is recommended to fast on the 10th of Muharram and the 9th along with it as well.

As for the wisdom behind this fast, the following is stated in the compiled version of Ibn ul Qayyim's "*Zaad ul-Ma`aad*": "The day of Ashuraa was the day when Mousa and his men got freedom from the hands of the Pharaoh and it was in the sacred memory of this great event that the Muslims observed voluntary fasting. The idea underlying this is to stress the affinity amongst the messengers of Allah and to show that religious devotion is a constant flow from one generation to another. The Prophet, sallallahu alayhi wa sallam, came not to abrogate all the earlier religious practices but to codify and preserve them for all times to come in ideal forms."

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Friday Night Study Circles: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
 Two study circles for brothers and sisters.
Monday and Wednesday Nights' Short Reminders:
 Short reminders after Isha prayer.
Islamic Weekend School and Study Circle: 9:30-1:00
 Sunday School for children and study circle for brothers and sisters.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr: 5:30 a.m.
 Duhur: 12:15 p.m.
 Asr: 3:30 p.m.
 Maghrib: *Sunset*
 Isha: 7:30 p.m.
 Jumu'a (Friday): 12:30 p.m.

NOTICE

This notification is to remind all existing HIC voting members to renew their membership for the year 2002. Please pay your membership dues to Br. Javed Haider or Br. Rashid Abbas at your earliest convenience. Also, all non-members are highly encouraged to become voting members so together we can make this community a better place for all.
Jazakallahu Khairan!

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 - Buy Papa Jones Pizza Cards. (\$10 cards).
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PARADISE

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