



# Darul Arqam Educational Trust

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## **The Day of *Ashura***

Darul Arqam  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه ومن اهتدى بهداه

When the Messenger of Allah (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) came to Medina he found the Jews fasting the Day of `Ashura`, the tenth of Muharram. He asked them why they were fasting and they told him that it was an auspicious day: the day on which Allah saved Musa and his people and drowned Pharaoh and his people. Musa fasted out of gratitude to Allah and his people continued the practice after him. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) told the Jews that his nation was closer to Musa than them. He then fasted that day and ordered his Companions to fast.<sup>1</sup>

Several narrations point to the significance of this day from the earliest of times. It has been narrated that it was the day on which Allah forgave our father Adam, the day on which the Ark of Nuh came to rest on the mountain known as al-Judi and the day on which Allah forgave the people of Yunus (peace be upon him and all the Prophets). The Messenger of Allah (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) taught us to commemorate this day, primarily by fasting. He informed us that if we do so Allah wipes out the sins of the previous year.<sup>2</sup> We may ask: if we have already fasted the Day of `Arafat then Allah has already erased our sins in the previous and coming year so what more can be gained from fasting `Ashura`?

Some of the scholars mention that continuously fasting both days leads to a deeper erasure of one's wrongdoings, protection from falling into sin in the future and also has the effect of wiping out the wrongdoings of one's family and neighbours. Why does fasting the Day of `Arafat wipe out the sins of two years whereas fasting the day of `Ashura` only wipes out the sins of one year? One reason, the scholars say, is that the Day of `Arafat is a day attributed to Liege Lord Muhammad (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) which is clearly superior to `Ashura` which is attributed to Liege Lord Musa (peace be upon him).

He recommended (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) that his Ummah also fast the day before or the day after so that our tradition be distinct from the tradition of the Jews. We should also renew our repentance on `Ashura.` The Messenger of Allah (may Allah bless him and grant him peace) said that it is a day on which Allah allowed a certain people to repent and He will continue to allow others to do the same.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim

<sup>2</sup> Narrated by Muslim

<sup>3</sup> Narrated by al-Tirmidhi