

## In the name of Allah most Gracious most Merciful The Month of Muharram

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Allah assigned special privileges to the day of Friday and the day of *Arafa*, the days of (*Tashreeq*) or the three *Eid* days after *Hajj*, the day of Eid 10<sup>th</sup> of Del-Hejjah, The last ten days of Ramadan, the night of Qadr (the night the Quran was descended from the heavens) in the month of Ramadan and the special Haram or sanctified months. This month that starts today is the month of "Muharram". It is also one of the four Muslim forbidden or sacred or *haram* months. Those Haram or sanctified months are: 11 Thul-Qada, 12 thul-Hejjah, 01 Al-Muharram, and 07 Rajab.

Many Muslims' historic events took place in the month of Muharram, amongst them: the tear up of the article boycotting Muslims issued by Quraish, the sending of the messages by the messenger ppbu to the kings and rulers of the big empires at the time. In addition, the approval of the Muslim's *Hijry* dates calendar, the battle of Kadissiyah and the prophet (PPBU) going for Khaiber. They all happened during the month of Al-Muharram.

After the *Hijrah* or migration of the prophet (PPBU) to the city of Madinah, he entered into a treaty with the Jews. They did not adhere to it, they broke the promises they made; and betrayed the agreement they signed with the prophet. They inflicted suffering upon Muslims in contrary to the treaty. So the prophet (PPBU) cancelled the treaty and decided to face up the Jews. They kept plotting against Islam and entered into several treaties with Gatafan clan into a united front to face Muslims despite the treaties which clearly prevented both sides from doing so.

In the month of Muharram of the 7th year after *Hijrah* a Muslim army of 1400 fighters including 200 nights led by the prophet himself headed to Khaiber. The Jewish armies assembled in the city of Khaiber and took their positions inside the highly fortified castles, and the Muslim army surrounded it.

Outside Khaiber the army stopped and the prophet made this *duaa'* or prayer:

Lord of the seven heavens and what they cover,  
 And lord of the seven earths and what they contained,  
 And lord of all Satans and whom they misguided,  
 We ask you the good in this town and the best of its people, and the best of what's in it.  
 We ask you to protect us from the evil in this town and evil of its people and the worst of what's in it.

At night the messenger (PPBU) told his companions that the next day he will give the leadership of the army to a man who loves Allah and who is loved by Allah. All were wondering who the lucky one who is being loved by Allah. At dawn prayer they all assembled except Ali the cousin of the prophet who had a skin rash; and he was sick and was unable to make to *Fajr* (dawn) prayer. He was the one, selected by the prophet (PPBU) and he gave him the leadership.

The prophet's instructions were: "Call them to Islam, Tell them what's in it, By Allah, if through you Allah will guide to Islam one of them is better to you than all you may gain winning a fight".

The Jews had a man whom they called Marhab. He was a very big and strong and heavy man. He was known amongst the Jews to equal a hundred men. He dared the Muslim army for a man-to-man fight. Ali Ben-Talib came out from the Muslim side and the fight started. It only took a few seconds when Marhab fell off his horse awkwardly and he broke his neck.

Ali called them to Islam, they refused and the fight took place. Muslims took over the highly fortified castles one after the other.

They made an offer instead of having to leave the land. They offered to work the land and pay half the produce to the Muslims who accepted. This arrangement or agreement continued until the time they attempted to poison the prophet

(PPBU). His companion at the meal Beshr ben-al-Bara (بشر ابن البراء) died from poisoning.

The prophet (PPBU) recommended fasting on the tenth day of the month of al-Muharram which is the day of Ashooraa'. When he came to Madina on his migration from Mekkah he found that Jews fast that day. When he asked them the reason why they fast, they told him that this is a good day; it is the day Allah save the children of Israel from their enemy Pharos. Prophet Moses used to fast this day. The Prophet Muhammad (PPBU) said: "I am more deserving (or more entitled) to Moses than they are." He did fast this day and he ordered Muslims to do so. The scholars differ: some recommend fasting three days: 9th, 10th and 11th of Muharram, some recommend two days: 9th and 10th and some recommend to fast the 10th day alone.