

THE LIFE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD

INTERACTIVE TIMELINE

400 CE

550 CE

569 CE

570 CE

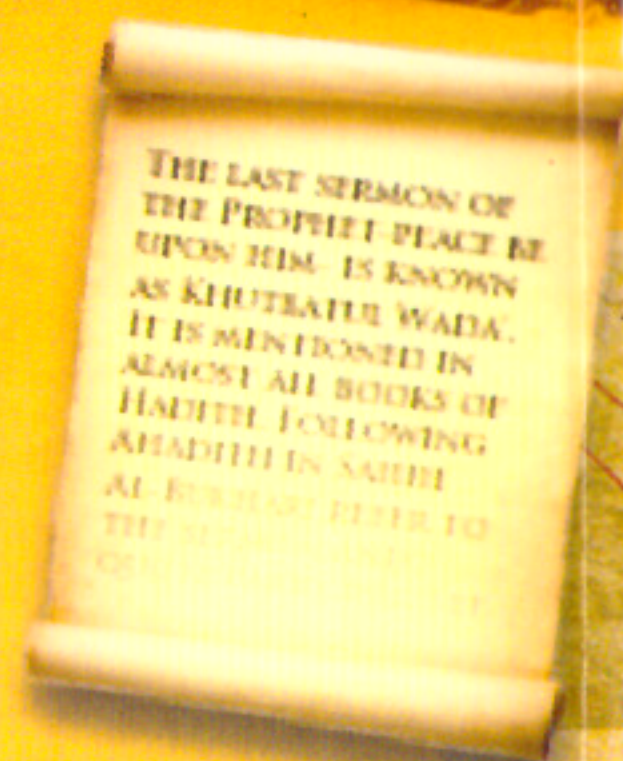
571 CE

578 CE



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MILESTONES - A DIARY OF ISLAMIC EVENTS

MILESTONES

A Diary of Islamic Events

By

Mufti Abdool Kader Hoosen





Milestones

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Published by
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June 2011

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FOREWORD

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

All praise is due to Allah Ta'ala the most merciful who taught man what he knew not. Salaat and Salaam be upon the final Messenger of Allah Ta'ala, mercy unto the worlds.

Muhtaram Mufti Abdul Qadir Saheb has reached another milestone in his life with the publication of another outstanding, highly informative, very educational and inspirational book "**Milestones - A Diary of Islamic Events.**"

The book discusses in a concise manner topics such as:

- (1) Islamic months and the significant events that took place in each month.
- (2) Ghazawaat or those expeditions in which Rasulullah (sallallahu alaihi wasallam) personally participated with the Sahaaba (radiyallahu anhum)
- (3) Timeline of Rasulullah (sallallahu alihi wasallam's) life.
- (4) Prominent personalities eg: The four Khulafa Hazrat Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthmaan and Ali (radiyallahu anhum), the four famous Imams of Fiqh, The six Imams of Hadith etc.

With information on such wide ranging topics discussed and penned by a very reputable, well renowned and highly qualified scholar of Quran Sharif, Hadith Sharif, Fiqh and History: you have an excellent book to learn from and practice upon.

The Muslim Ummah's tragedy is that there is a great amount

of ignorance of the history of our pious predecessors and their achievements. What were their characteristics and noble traits which made them rulers over the world? What was that motivating force that moved them across the oceans, over the mountains to far and distant lands observing how people came into Islam in large numbers. They conquered with their sword of Akhlaaq and educated the world. They took people out from the darkness of ignorance and brought them into the light of knowledge, making them true human beings and true worshippers of Allah Ta'ala.

May Allah Ta'ala reward the author for the effort that he has made in producing this work. May Allah Ta'ala accept his service to the Deen of Islam which he is rendering through Channel Islam and other platforms. I pray that this book, his other works and services become a Sadaqa-e-Jariya for him and most beneficial for the Ummah at large. Aameen.

Was-Salaamu 'alaykum wa-Rahmatullah

(Hazrat Moulana) Yunus Patel
Imam - Musjid-e-Noor (Durban, South Africa)
27 Jumadal Ula 1432 - 1 May 2011

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

الحمد لله رب العالمین والصلوة والسلام علی محمد وعلی آلہ واطحابہ اجمعین اے ائمہ

مولانا مفتی عبدالقادر حسین صاحب مدت دراز سے فتویٰ دینے کا کام فرماتے ہیں

دارالعلوم بینو کانسٹل میں بھی افتا کا کام انجام دیتے رہے۔

اس کے بعد چینل اسلام سے منسلک اور ریڈیو کے مقبول ٹیپ بولنے والے بن گئے۔

بعض فتویٰ میں ہندو فقیہ کے ساتھ مشورے بھی فرماتے رہے۔

اب بعض احباب اس کا نشریاتی فتاویٰ کو جمع کر کے شائع کر رہے ہیں

اللہ تعالیٰ سے دعا ہے کہ اس مجموعہ کو نافع اور مقبول بنائے۔

اور مفتی صاحب اور جامع اور دیگر معاونین کیلئے ذخیرہ اخراج بن جائے۔

رضاء الحق صاحب

دارالعلوم زکریا لینیا

جنوب افریقہ

۱۴۲۹
یکمربیع الاول
۱۰ مارچ ۲۰۰۸

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS,
THE MOST MERCIFUL

All Praise is due to Almighty Allah, the Sustainer of the universe. Peace, Salutations and Blessings be upon Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alaiyihi wasallam) and his family and all his companions.

Moulana, Mufti Abdul Kader Hoosen Saheb has been issuing Islamic verdicts for a long period of time. In Darul Uloom Newcastle issuing of these decrees was one of his portfolios. Subsequently, he joined Channel Islam International and has become an accomplished and prominent radio personality.

In certain fatawa, he regularly consulted this humble servant. It has now been suggested by some close associates that these fatawa broadcasted on air, be compiled and published.

I supplicate to Almighty Allah that He makes this publication beneficial and accepted. As for Mufti Saheb, the publishers and all those who assisted, May Almighty Allah make this presentation a treasure for them in the hereafter (Aameen).

(Hazrat Mufti) Ridha-ul Haq Saheb
Darul Uloom Zakariyya, Lenasia
South Africa
1 Rabi ul Awwal 1429
10 March 2008



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To whom it may concern

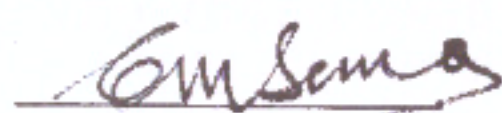
15th September 2006.

This is to confirm that Respected Hazrat Mufti Abdul Kader Hoosain حفظه الله was a Teacher/Lecturer for 20 years in Darul Uloom Newcastle. He Lectured on various subjects viz. Arabic grammar, Balaagah, Translation of the Holy Quraan, Tafseer of the Holy Quraan, Fiqh, Usoolul-Fiqh, Usoolul-Tafseer, Hadith and Usoolul-Hadith etc.

He was also a Mufti of Darul Uloom Newcastle for over ten years, during which period hundreds of Fatawa were issued to Istiftas on various matters relating to our noble Deen.

During this period he also delivered impressive talks on various topics of Deen throughout the Country whereby the Muslim Community derived authentic guidance on matters of Islamic Aqaaid and Laws of Islam.

May Allah give him health, wealth and a long life to carry on his noble Islamic activities. Ameen.


ML.C.M. SEMA,
PRINCIPAL,
DARUL ULOOM NEWCASTLE.



INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Almighty Allah in whose timeless existence we exist as mortals. May His choicest salutations continue to descend upon our Master and Leader Nabi Muhammad SAW - whose teachings offer eternal felicity.

It is with a sense of overwhelming appreciation and praise to our bountiful Creator Almighty Allah that I present to you this book entitled "MILESTONES - A Diary of Islamic Events". The book as the name suggests sketches some glorious events from our historical past. Every month of our lunar calendar connects us to certain insightful events that have forever altered the destiny of man.

The battles of our Leader and Master Muhammad (SAW) serves as an invaluable inspiration that helps us navigate and chart our direction and purpose in life. This book accordingly deals with:

- Important historical events that took place in each of the lunar months
- A timeline of events in the life of Nabi (SAW)
- A "Question and Answer" section

I sincerely hope that this book will serve as a resourceful reserve for an enquiring mind. I pray that Allah accepts this humble effort and makes it a source of salvation for all those who have directly and indirectly contributed to the publishing of this book. I specifically acknowledge the assistance of Dr Yunus Moosa and family of Kroonstad, South Africa, for their co-operation and contribution which will Insha-Allah serve as a recurring charity for them.

Wa Ma Taufiqi Illah Billah
Abdool Kader Hoosen [15 Jumadal Ula 1432 - 20 April 2011]

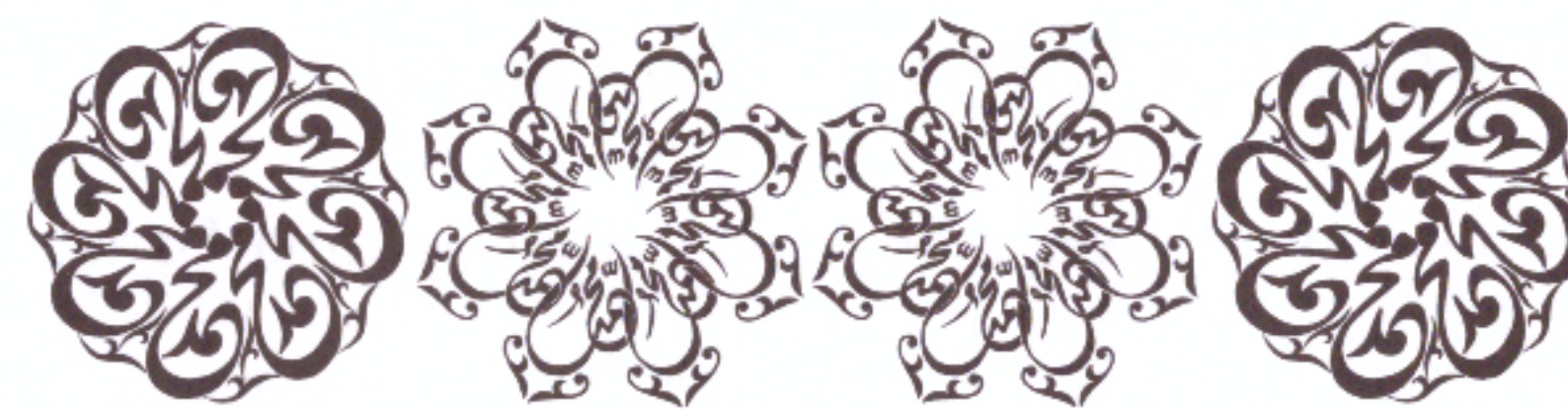
DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to all my respected teachers past and present. May Almighty Allah grant all of them Afiya and Jannatul Firdous.

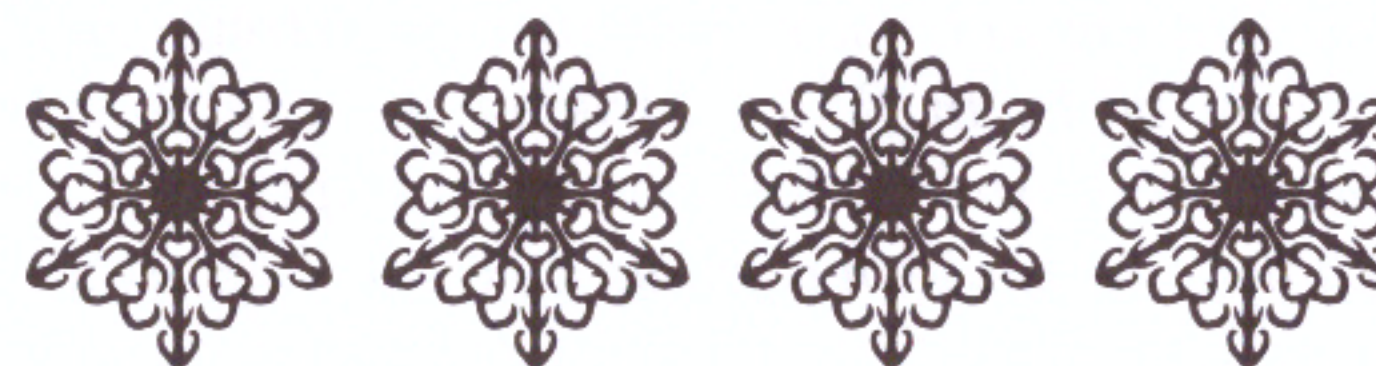
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ABBREVIATIONS

SAW	- Sallallahu alaiyhi wasallam
AS	- Alaiyhis salam
RA	- Radhiyallahu anhu / Radhiyallahu anha
ra	- Rahmatullahi alaiyh
AH	- After Hijrah
CE	- Christian era
PBUH	- Peace be upon him



Significant Events in Islamic Months



MUHARRAM *(The Sacred Month)*

1 Muharram 24 AH – beginning of Sayyidina Usman's (RA) khilafat

3 Muharram 13 AH - 9 March 634 - Amr bin Aas (RA) departs from Madina to Palestine

10 Muharram – Ashura

10 Muharram 61 AH – martyrdom of Sayyidina Husain (RA)

13 Muharram 7 AH – battle of Khaibar

15 Muharram 19 AH (14 January 640) - Nahawan was conquered

16 Muharram 16 AH – death of Mariya Qibtiyya (RA)

17 Muharram - Incident of Ashabul Feel (the people of the elephants) took place prior to the blessed birth of Nabi (SAW). *“Have you (O Muhammad (SAW) not seen how your Lord dealt with the Owners of the Elephant? [The elephant army which came from Yemen under the command of Abrahah Al-Ashram intending to destroy the Ka'bah at Makkah]. Did He not make their plot go astray? And sent against them birds, in flocks, Striking them with stones of Sijil (baked clay). And made them like an empty field of stalks (of which the corn has been eaten up by cattle)”.* (Surah Feel)

17 Muharram 1336 AH (2 November 1917) – the Balfour declaration

26 Muharram 978 AH (1 July 1570) – the harbour of Larinqa was conquered. Nowadays, it is known as Tuzla

Muharram 12 AH (April 633) - the battle of Zatis Salaseel in Kazima between Khalid bin Walid (RA) and Hurmuz

Muharram 22 AH (December 642) - Fustat is made the capital of Egypt

Muharram 22 AH (December 642) - Sayyidina Umar (RA) started digging tunnels between river Nile and the Red sea



SAFAR *(month which is void)*

1 Safar 8 AH – Khalid bin Walid (RA) embraces Islam

1 Safar 1425 AH (22 March 2004 CE) - Sheikh Ahmad Yaseen (ra), founder of Hamas was martyred by the Israelis.

9 Safar 656 AH - Halaku Khan in 1258 attacked Baghdad, killing 1,6 million people in the city and ending the signs of glory of this great city. The mongols came, burnt and killed the innocent as they were savage people.

10 Safar 645 AH - Tiberias re-captured from the Crusaders

20 Safar 50 AH - Death of Sayyidina Hasan (RA)

25 Safar 20 AH (11 February 640 CE) - Heracles dies in Constantinople, Istanbul

26 Safar 16 AH (29 March 637 CE) - Jumma salat is established in the court of Kisra, Madain

27 Safar 589 AH (4 March 1193) – Salahuddin (ra) passed away at the age of 55.

27 Safar 1 AH - The migration of Nabi (SAW) to Madinah

30 Safar 11 AH – starting of Nabi (SAW) fatal illness

RABI UL AWWAL *(early spring)*

1 Rabi ul Awwal 1 AH - Depature of Nabi (SAW) and Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) from the cave of Thaur to Madina.

4 Rabi ul Awwal 886 AH – death of Sultan Muhammad Fateh, conqueror of Istanbul

7 Rabi ul Awwal 179 AH - Death of Imam Malik (ra)

9 Rabi ul Awwal 4 AH - Ghazwa Banu Nadhir

9 Rabi ul Awwal 11 AH - Aswad Anasi the impostor from Yemen, was killed by Fayrouz Daylami (RA).

10 Rabi ul Awwal 10 AH - Demise of Ibrahim (RA), son of Nabi (SAW)

12 Rabi ul Awwal 570 gregorian - birth of Nabi (SAW) according to many scholars

12 Rabi ul Awwal 11 AH (8 June 632 CE) - Demise of Nabi (SAW)

12 Rabi ul Awwal 241 AH - death of Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (ra)

19 Rabi ul Awwal 1411 AH (8 October 1990) - The masacre at masjidul Aqsa by the Zionists

23 Rabi ul Awwal 15 AH (5 May 636) - Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah (RA) conquers Baalbek

23 Rabi ul Awwal 974 AH (7 December 1566) - Sultan Sulaiman Qanuni of the Ottoman Empire passed away

25 Rabi ul Awwal 41 AH – year of unity - Sayyidina Hasan (RA) abdicates and hands over power to Amir Muawiyya (RA)

25 Rabi ul Awwal 15 AH (7 May 636) - Hims was conquered by Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah (RA)

25 Rabi ul Awwal 1376 AH (29 October 1956) - The massacre at Kafar Qasim in Palestine

27 Rabi ul Awwal 12 AH (11 June 633) - Sharahbil bin Hasana (RA) arrived in Madina from Iraq after conquering Hiyara

Rabi ul Awwal 4 AH - Demise of Zainab bint Khuzaimah (RA)

Rabi ul Awwal 857 AH (May 1453) - Istanbul conquered by Muhammad al-Fateh (ra).



RABI UL AAKHIR (late spring)

1 Rabi ul Aakhir 11 AH (26 June 632) - Usama bin Zaid (RA) goes to Muta.

2 Rabi ul Aakhir 12 AH (16 June 633) - conquest of the Levant (Sham) took place and the flag was hoisted for Khalid bin Saeed (RA)

11 Rabi ul Aakhir 561 AH - Demise of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jailani (ra)

17 Rabi ul Aakhir 76 AH – Abdul Malik bin Marwan mints Islamic coins.

17 Rabi ul Aakhir 1408 AH (8 December 1987) – the first intifidha (uprising) in Palestine

23 Rabi ul Aakhir 583 AH – Salahuddin (ra) conquers Tiberias

25 Rabi ul Aakhir 583 AH – battle of Hittin, Palestine

Rabi ul Aakhir 16 AH (May 637) - Jerusalem conquered and the keys of the city handed over to Sayyidina Umar (RA)

Rabi ul Aakhir 979 AH (September 1517) - Cyprus was conquered

JUMADAL ULA *(the first dry month)*

- 1 Jumadal Ula 583 AH – Salahuddin (ra) enters Akka
- 4 Jumadal Ula 4 AH – Ghazwa Riqā
- 5 Jumadal Ula 8 AH – Battle of Muta (Jordan)
- 14 Jumadal Ula 2 AH – Ghazwa Ushaira
- 17 Jumadal Ula 690 AH – the last crusaders expelled from the Levant
- 20 Jumadal Ula 857 AH – Constantinople conquered
- 24 Jumadal Ula 359 AH – building of Azhar university begins
- 28 Jumadal Ula 13 AH – corresponding to 3 July 634 battle of Ajnadin took place. Khalid bin Walid (RA) defeated the Romans, thus opening the road to conquer the Levant.
- 29 Jumadal Ula 583 AH – Salahuddin (ra) re-captures Beirut
- Jumadal Ula 16 AH (June 637) - Abdullah bin Mu'tim (RA) conquers Tikrit, Iraq. Rabi bin Afkal (ra) conquers the two the forts in Mawsil, Iraq
- Hafsa (RA) passed away in Jumadal Ula 45 AH

JUMADAL AAKHIRA *(the last dry month)*

- 5 Jumadal Aakhira 671 AH – Zahir Beber defeats the Moguls at the Euphrates River
- 7 Jumadal Aakhira 13 AH (8 August 634) - Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) becomes ill
- 7 Jumadal Aakhira 1389 AH – mimbar of Masjid Aqsa burnt by a Jewish terrorist, Denis Michael Rohan
- 13 Jumadal Aakhira 1386 AH (29 August 1966) – martyrdom of Sayyid Qutub (ra)
- 14 Jumadal Aakhira 505 AH - Death of Imam Ghazali (ra)
- 21 Jumadal Aakhira 13 AH (22 August 634) - Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) passes away
- 21 Jumadal Aakhira 21 AH (25 May 642) - Constantine, the son of Heracles died in Constantinople
- 23 Jumadal Aakhira 13 AH - The beginning of Umar (RA)'s Khilafah
- 28 Jumadal Aakhira 8 AH - battle of Salasil

RAJAB *(the revered month)*

1 Rajab 9 AH – departure of Nabi (SAW) for Tabuk

1 Rajab 60 AH – death of Amir Muawiyya (RA)

4 Rajab 2 AH – change of qibla to Baitullah

4 Rajab 204 AH - Death of Imam Shafi'e (ra)

4 Rajab 12 AH (15 September 633) - Khalid bin Walid (RA) conquers Ambar province, Iraq

5 Rajab 15 AH (12 August 636) - battle of Yarmouk took place

5 Rajab 92 AH (20 April 711) - Tariq bin Ziyaad (ra) leaves by boat from Tangiers to Gibraltar to conquer Andalus, Spain

6 Rajab 13 AH (5 September 634) - Sayyidina Umar (RA) removes Khalid bin Walid (RA) as commander in chief and replaces him with Abu Ubaida (RA)

9 Rajab - The Sahabah (RA)'s first migration to Abyssinia (5 years after prophethood)

10 Rajab 9 AH – Ghazwa Tabuk

12 Rajab 479 AH – battle of Zalaqa, Spain

15 Rajab 14 AH (4 September 635) - Damascus is conquered. It is called Damascus as it was built speedily.

24 Rajab 12 AH (5 October 633) - Khalid bin Walid (RA) conquers Dumatul Jandal (a fortified town held by the christian chief Ukaydar)

25 Rajab 101 AH – demise of Umar bin Abdul Aziz (ra)

27 Rajab - 11 years after prophethood – Isra and Miraj occurred according to some scholars.

27 Rajab 583 AH – Salahuddin (ra) re-captures Jerusalem from the Crusaders

Rajab 16 AH (August 637) - Utba bin Ghazwan (RA) conquers Abla and Shattul Arab (river), Iraq



SHA'BAN (*the month of division of good deeds*)

- 2 Sha'ban 150 AH - Death of Imam Abu Hanifa (ra)
- 3 Sha'ban 5 AH - Battle of Banu Mustalaq
- 5 Sha'ban 4 AH - Birth of Hussain (RA)
- 6 Sha'ban 3 AH - Nabi (SAW) marriage to Hafsa (RA)
- 6 Sha'ban 9 AH - Demise of Umme Kulthoom (RA)
- 7 Sha'ban 12 AH (17 October 633) - Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah (RA) leaves Madina for the Levant
- 12 Sha'ban 13 AH - battle of the Bridge (jizr)
- 14 Sha'ban 680 AH - the battle of Hims against the Tatars
- 16 Sha'ban 2 AH - fasting of Ramadhan becomes compulsory
- 16 Sha'ban 15 AH (22 September 636) - battle of Qadisiya took place
- 17 Sha'ban 15 AH (23 September 636) - Saad bin Abi Waqqas (RA) writes a letter to Amirul Momineen Sayyidina Umar (RA) that the Muslims have defeated the enemy in Qadisiyya

- 19 Sha'ban 1293 AH - Abdul Hamid ii becomes the sultan in Turkey
- 21 Sha'ban 95 AH - Saeed bin Jubair (RA) is killed. He was the last person to be martyred by Hajjaj bin Yusuf
- 21 Sha'ban 1354 AH - Sheikh Issuddin Qassaam (ra) is martyred
- 23 Sha'ban 12 AH (2 November 633) - Heracles delivers a sermon in Palestine
- 23 Sha'ban 492 AH - Crusaders occupy Palestine
- 23 Sha'ban 923 AH (10 September 1517) - Sultan Saleem leaves Egypt for Istanbul
- 23 Sha'ban 1396 AH (12 August 1976) - the massacre at Za'tar, Palestine
- 28 Sha'ban 12 AH (7 November 633) - Heracles delivers a sermon in Damascus
- Sha'ban 868 AH (April 1463) - Hungary was conquered



RAMADHAN (*burning of sins – hot month*)

1 Ramadhan 20 AH, corresponding to 16 August 641. Egypt was conquered during the reign of Amir ul Mu'minin Sayyidina Umar (RA). The Sahabi who conquered Egypt was Amr bin 'Aas (RA).

2 Ramadhan 82 AH corresponding to 9 October 701. Hassaan bin Nu'man conquered Algeria which was known as Al-Maghrib Al-Awsat.

2 Ramadhan 114 AH (26 October 732). The battle of Balatush Shuhada ended between the Muslims and the French. The Muslim leader was Abdur Rahman Al-Ghafiqi and the opponent was Charl Martell. The battle continued for ten days and ended inconclusively as no one could defeat the other.

3 Ramadhan 37 AH corresponding to 11 February 658. Arbitration was established between Sayyidina Ali (RA) and Amir Mu'awiya (RA) after the battle of the Siffin.

4 Ramadhan 1 AH (11 April 623) - Nabi (SAW) gave the first flag to his uncle Sayyidina Hamza (RA) to be the head of 30 muhajirs (migrants) to intercept the caravan of the Quraish that was coming from Syria to Makkah Mukarrama with Abu Jahl as their leader. However, no combat took place.

5 Ramadhan 93 AH corresponding to 18 June 712 after Tariq bin Ziyaad (ra) entered Andalus (Spain & Portugal). Thereafter, Musa bin Nusair (ra) entered

with an army of 18 000 and conquered several cities.

5 Ramadhan 1367 AH corresponding to 11 July 1948 Moshe Dayan, the Zionist extremist, carried out a massacre in Lud and 426 Palestinians died and the people were given 30 minutes to leave the city without any food or drinks.

6 Ramadhan 532 AH corresponding to 24 May 1138. The first victory was granted to the Muslims against the Crusaders in Halab, Syria. The leader of the Muslims was Imaduddeen Zanki (ra).

7 Ramadhan 596 AH (27 June 1200) - King Ala-uddeen Muhammad Khawarizim Shah extended his borders to the cities of Ma Wara Un Nahar (river Aamu which is between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan). Subsequently, the areas of Makraan and Kirmaan on the western side of river Sindh were also conquered.

8 Ramadhan 8 AH (31 December 629) - Nabi (SAW) sent a regiment under the leadership of Abu Qatadha Al-Ansari (RA) to Batne Idham to prepare the path for the Muslims for the conquest of Makkah.

9 Ramadhan 12 AH (18 November 633) - Heracles reaches Antioch, Southern Turkey and makes it his headquarters

9 Ramadhan 212 AH (5 December 827) - The Muslims arrived on the shores of Sicily to spread Islam and victory was granted to Ziyaad bin Aghlab (ra).

10 Ramadhan - 3 years before the migration of Nabi (SAW) to Madina Munawwara corresponding to 21 April 620. Sayyida Khadija (RA) passed away and she is buried with her son, Qasim, in Mu'alla, the graveyard at Makkah Mukarrama.

11 Ramadhan 9 AH (24 December 630) - A delegation from Thaqeef arrived in Madina Munawwara and embraced Islam. Nabi (SAW) sent them with Abu Sufyan (RA) and Mughira bin Shu'ba (RA) to destroy their idol Laat.

11 Ramadhan 986 AH (20 November 1578) - The Ottomans defeated the Safawiyeen in the battle known as Shamahi in Caucis. The Safawites lost 15000 men in this battle.

12 Ramadhan 265 AH (11 May 879) - The grand masjid of Ahmad bin Tulun in Cairo, Egypt was completed. It is one of the oldest masjid in Cairo.

13 Ramadhan 886 AH (14 November 1481) - Al-Masjidun Nabawi in Madina Munawwara burnt, but the blessed grave of the Master Nabi Muhammad (SAW) and the dome remained untouched.

13 Ramadhan 414 AH (4 December 1023) - An oath of allegiance was taken on the hand of Abdur Rahman bin Hisham in Cordova, Spain. He was an Umayyad leader and he ruled the people for 1 month 17 days.

14 Ramadhan 748 AH (25 December 1347) - Sultan Hasan bin Nasir became the leader of Egypt.

14 Ramadhan 630 AH (30 June 1233) - Muzzaffarudeen Kukuburi passed away. He was one of the senior commanders with Salahuddeen Ayyubi (ra) in the battle against the Crusaders. Kukuburi refers to his fearlessness and boldness in the path of Allah Ta'ala.

15 Ramadhan 3 AH - Birth of Hasan (RA)

15 Ramadhan 1414 AH (25 February 1994) - A massacre took place in Masjid Ebrahimi in the city of Khalilur Rahman, (Hebron). The Muslims were performing fajr salat and Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish terrorist murdered more than 70 brothers in the masjid before he was killed.

15 Ramadhan 1224 AH (24 October 1809) - The Ottoman Empire defeated the Russians in the battle of Tatarija. Ten thousand Russians were killed.

16 Ramadhan 727 AH (12 August 1327) - Allama Kamaluddeen Muhammad bin Ali al-Ansari passed away. He was one of the greatest Shafi'e jurist and was the Qadhi (judge) in Halab, Syria.

16 Ramadhan 1213 AH (21 February 1799) - Napoleon Bonaparte attacked Egypt and his army reached Areesh. Subsequently, they were defeated in Akka.

17 Ramadhan 2 AH (14 January 624) - The battle of Badr took place. Three hundred and thirteen companions of Nabi (SAW) defeated approximately

1000 polytheists. Seventy of the non-muslims were killed and 70 were taken as captives. Fourteen Muslims were martyred and Abu Jahl was also killed in this battle.

17 Ramadhan 57 AH (15 July 678) - Our mother Sayyida Ayesha (RA) passed away and is buried in Baqi, the graveyard in Madina Munawwara. Abu Huraira (RA) performed her salat ul janaza.

17 Ramadhan 40 AH - Demise of Ali (RA). He was martyred by Abdur Rahman bin Muljim in Kufa, Iraq.

17 Ramadhan 223 AH (15 August 838) - The Muslims defeated the Romans in the battle of Amuriyya. The leader of this army was Mu'tasim Billah, the Abbasid Caliph. A Muslim woman who was taken captive used to shout Wa Mu'tasama and this was the catalyst for the battle. The Romans were defeated and humiliated.

18 Ramadhan 1365 AH (16 August 1946) - Riots broke out in Calcutta, India between Muslims and Hindus and this spread to other cities. The battle raged on for 3 days and 7000 people lost their lives.

19 Ramadhan 21 AH (18 August 642) - Alexandria, Egypt is conquered

19 Ramadhan 101 AH (6 April 720) - Ayyub bin Shurahbil, the governor of Egypt, during the reign of

Umar bin Abdul Aziz (ra) passed away.

20 Ramadhan 1001 AH (19 June 1593) - The German army comprising 40 000 soldiers attacked the Ottoman army, who were 10 000 in Zaghreb. Seven thousand of the Muslims were martyred in this battle.

20 Ramadhan 2 AH - Demise of Ruqayyah (RA), the daughter of Nabi (SAW)

21 Ramadhan 8 AH (13 January 630) - Conquest of Makkah, when the vast majority of the Arab Peninsula embraced Islam. The 360 idols were removed from the Baitullah.

21 Ramadhan 95 AH (12 June 716) - Hajjaj bin Yusuf died. He was notorious for his oppression. According to some scholars, he was the person to place nuqtas (diacritical marks) in the Noble Quran.

22 Ramadhan 8 AH (14 January 630) - The battle of Taif took place. The Thaqeef were defeated in this battle.

22 Ramadhan 1275 AH (25 April 1859) - In Egypt digging started for the Suez Canal to join the two oceans. It is 163 km long and took more than ten years to complete.

23 Ramadhan 9 AH (5 January 631) - The idol Laat was demolished.

24 Ramadhan 1422 AH (9 December 2001) - Muhammad Abdul 'Aati, passed away. He was one of the famous

mujahideen against the Zionist regime in the 1973 October war between Egypt and apartheid Israel.

25 Ramadhan 463 AH (1 July 1071) - Alab Arsalan the leader of the Muslim army and the King of the Saljuks won a decisive battle against the Byzantine Empire in a place known as Mila Zakart and the Emperor of the Byzantine dynasty was taken captive by the Muslims.

25 Ramadhan 544 AH (1 February 1150) - Fakhruddeen Razi was born, his full name was Muhammad bin Umar bin Husain bin Ali. He compiled more than 100 books and his greatest contribution is the tafseer on the Noble Quran.

25 Ramadhan 658 AH – Battle of Ayn Jalut in which the Moguls were defeated.

26 Ramadhan 762 AH (6 August 1361) - Mahmud bin Ahmad, who was well known as Badruddeen Ayni was born. His magnum opus is Umdatul Qari, a commentary on Sahih Al- Bukhari.

26 Ramadhan 927 AH (8 September 1521) - The Ottoman ruler, Sulayman al-Qanuni sent Bir Muhammad Basha to lay siege on Belgrade as the Muslim envoy was murdered there. The Muslims defeated them and the first Jummah salat was performed there.

27 Ramadhan (25 August 610) - 13 years before the Hijra -Nabi (SAW) received revelation whilst he was in the cave of Hira at Makkah Mukarrama. The first 5 verses of Surah Alaq were revealed on this occasion.

28 Ramadhan 4 AH (5 March 626) - Nabi (SAW) married Zainab bint Khuzaima (RA). She was known as Ummul Masakeen due to her love for the poor.

28 Ramadhan 2 AH - Nabi (SAW) commanded the Muslims to pay their Sadaqatul Fitr to the poor Muslims so that they could also rejoice and prepare for Eid ul Fitr.

28 Ramadhan 92 AH – Andalus is conquered.

28 Ramadhan 92 AH (19 July 711) - Tariq bin Ziyaad (ra) defeats Rodericks in the battle of Wadi Lakka (Lajunda) and conquers Toledo.

29 Ramadhan 699 AH (25 June 1300) - The Muslims defeated the Tartars in a place called Marj us Safar on south east Damascus under the leadership of Ahmad Nasir bin Qalawun (ra).

29 Ramadhan 1425 AH (11 November 2004 CE) - Yaser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, passed away.

30 Ramadhan 384 AH (12 November 994) - Ali bin Ahmad, who is known as Ibn Hazm was born in Cordova. He was one of the most famous scholars of Muslim Spain. His famous work is Al- Muhalla on jurisprudence. His son Fadhl, states that his father had written 400 volumes of Islamic works on various subjects.



SHAWWAL (*the month going forth for hunting*)

1 Shawwal 43 AH (6 January 664) - Amr bin Aas (RA) passes away in Fustat

4 Shawwal 9 AH - A delegation from Najran came to Nabi (SAW) and discussed the status of Nabi Isa (AS). Nabi (SAW) was prepared to make *Mubahala* with the delegation of 60. *Mubahala* means to pray humbly to Almighty Allah and to curse the opposition. The delegation of Najran ultimately refused the *Mubahala* and paid a ransom instead.

7 Shawwal 3 AH - Ghazwa of Uhud

8 Shawwal 926 AH (22 September 1520) - Sultan Saleem the first passed away

10 Shawwal 8 AH - Battle of Hunain

11 Shawwal 569 AH - Death of Nuruddin Zanki (ra)

12 Shawwal 5 AH - Battle of the Trench

15 Shawwal 2 AH - Ghazwa Banu Qainuqa

16 Shawwal 3 AH - Battle of Hamraa-ul-Asad

18 Shawwal 664 AH - The Berbers re-captures Safd

25 Shawwal 8 AH - Battle of Taif

27 Shawwal, 10th year after Nubuwwat Prophet (SAW)'s journey to Taif

4 AH - Prophet (SAW)'s marriage to Umme Salmah (RA)

10 years after prophethood - The Prophet (SAW)'s marriage to Saudah bin Zam'ah (RA)

Marriage to Sayyida Ayesha (RA) - 10 Shawwal 10th year of Prophethood. She only started staying with Nabi (SAW) after the migration to Madina.

Shawwal 102 AH (719 CE) - Muhammad bin Idrees (ra) attacks Sicily



ZUL-QADA (the month of rest)

1 Zul Qa'da 16 AH (24 November 637) - Qaqa bin Amr (RA) conquers Hulwan

10 Zul Qa'da 852 (17 January 1448) - Sultan Murad and his army defeated the European allies in Kosovo

15 Zul Qa'da 584 AH - Salahuddin (ra) conquers the fort of Kawkabul Hawa

17 Zul Qa'da 339 AH - the return of the black stone to the Baitullah after an absence of 22 years

18 Zul Qa'da 5 AH - Battle of Banu Quraizah

18 Zul Qa'da 10 AH - Nabi (SAW) returned from Hajj to Madina and stopped at a pool of water known as Ghadir Khumm. Here Nabi (SAW) praised Sayyidina Ali (RA).

20 Zul Qa'da 932 AH (29 August 1526) - the Ottomans defeated the Hungarian army

21 Zul Qa'da 6 AH – the pledge of allegiance under the tree. Almighty Allah says: *"Indeed, Allâh was pleased with the believers when they gave their Bai'â (pledge) to you (O Muhammad (SAW)) under the tree, He knew what was in their hearts, and He sent down As-Sakinah (calmness and tranquillity) upon them, and He rewarded them with a near victory, And abundant spoils that they will capture. And Allâh is Ever All-Mighty, All-Wise."* (surah 48 verses 18-19)

23 Zul Qa'da 798 (April 1395) - the Ottomans defeated the European allies

25 Zul Qa'da 10 AH - Nabi (SAW) departure from Madina to Makka for Hajjatul Wida

25 Zul Qa'da 12 AH (31 January 634) - Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) departs from Madina for hajj

26 Zul Qa'da 6 AH - peace treaty of Hudaibiya

26 Zul Qa'da 889 AH (9 September 1493) - Slovenia was conquered

28 Zul Qa'da 13 AH (23 January 635) - Abu Ubaida bin Jarrah (RA) defeats Saqlar in Baysaan

29 Zul Qa'da 1402 AH (17 September 1982) - the massacre of Sabra and Shatila by Sharon and the Zionists. The massacre took place at the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, Lebanon between September 16 and September 18, 1982, during the Lebanese civil war. Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were massacred in the camps by Christian Lebanese Phalangists while the camp was surrounded by the Israel Defense Force. In that period of time, Israel was at war with the PLO in Lebanon. Israeli forces occupied Beirut, dominated the refugee camps of Palestinians and controlled the entrance to the city. After the assassination of Bachir Gemayel, leader and president-elect of the Lebanese Kataeb Party, a Maronite

group, also called Lebanese Forces militia group, entered the camp and murdered inhabitants during the night. The number of victims massacred were between 2,500 to 3,500. Israeli forces allowed entry of the Kataeb Party group to the refugee camps, by providing them transportation from outside Beirut and firing illuminating flares over the camps. The Phalangists were under the direct command of Elie Hobeika, who later became a long-serving member of the Parliament of Lebanon and, in the 1990s, a Lebanese cabinet minister. In 1982, an independent commission chaired by Sean MacBride concluded that the Israeli authorities or forces were, directly or indirectly, responsible. The Israeli government established the Kahan Commission to investigate, and in early 1983 it found Israel indirectly responsible for the event. Ariel Sharon was held personally responsible for allowing the massacre to occur.

Zul Qa'da 17 AH - Kufa was made the capital of Iraq

4 AH - The Prophet (SAW)'s marriage to Zainab bint Jahash (RA)

4 AH - The Prophet (SAW)'s marriage to Maymoonah bint Harith (RA)

7 AH - Umratul Qadhaa of the Prophet (SAW)

ZUL – HIJJA (*the month of pilgrimage*)

7 Zul Hijja 12 AH (12 February 634) - Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) reaches Makka for hajj

10 Zul Hijja 19 AH (29 November 640) - the day of Eid - Amr bin Aas (RA) and his army were in Areesh

14 Zul Hijjah 1213 AH - flight of Napoleon from Akka

25 Zul Hijja 595 AH - Albania is re-captured from the Crusaders

25 Zul Hijja 23 AH (31 October 644) - Abu Lu'lu the fire worshipper, stabbed Sayyidina Umar (RA) with a dagger

28 Zul Hijja 978 (24 May 1571) - Moscow was conquered

3 AH - The Prophet (SAW)'s marriage to Zainab bint Khuzaimah (RA)

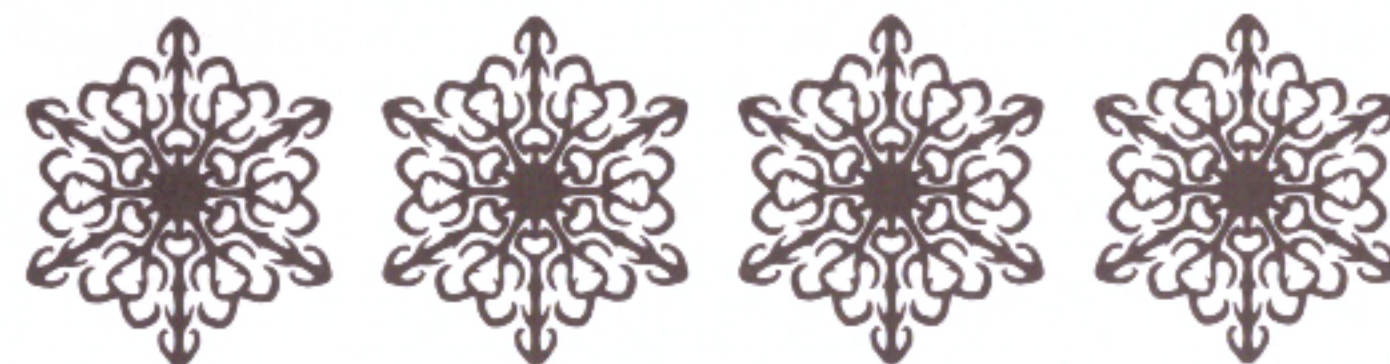
7 AH Zul Hijja (April 629) - Nabi (SAW) sent letters to the Roman Emperor Heracles, governor of Egypt, Maquoqis and the Persion Emperor, Parvez.

8 AH - Birth of Ibrahim (RA), the son of the Prophet (SAW)

Zul Hijja 35 AH (June 656) - Sayyidina Uthman (RA) is martyred. Beginning of Ali (RA)'s khilafah



Important Personalities



WIVES OF NABI (SAW)

1. **Khadija bint Khuwaylid (RA)** – passed away at the age of 65 in the 10th year of prophethood when Nabi (SAW) was 50 years old. She is buried in Mu'alla, Makkah.
2. **Sauda bint Zam'a (RA)** – passed away in Shawwal 54 AH and is buried in Baqi, Madina.
3. **Ayesha bint Abu Bakr (RA)** – passed away on 17 Ramadhan 57 AH at the age of 66. Abu Huraira (RA) performed her janaza salat and she is buried in Baqi, Madina.
4. **Hafsa bint Umar (RA)** – passed away in Sha'ban 45 AH at the age of 63 and is buried in Baqi, Madina.
5. **Umme Habiba bint Abu Sufyan (RA)** – passed away in Madina 44 AH and is buried in Baqi, Madina.
6. **Umme Salamah (RA)** – her name is Hind bint Abu Umayya (RA) – passed away in 59 AH at the age of 84 and is buried in Baqi, Madina.
7. **Zainab bint Jahsh (RA)** – passed away in 20 AH at the age of 50. She was the first wife of Nabi (SAW) to pass away after the demise of Nabi (SAW). Sayyidina Umar (RA) performed her janaza salat and she is buried in Baqi, Madina.
8. **Juwayriya bint Harith (RA)** – passed away in Rabi ul Awwal 56 AH at the age of 65 and is buried in Baqi, Madina.
9. **Maymuna bint Harith (RA)** – passed away in Sarif, 61 AH at the age of 81. Nabi (SAW) married her in

Sarif, consummated the marriage in Sarif and she is buried in Sarif (place outside Makka).

10. **Saffiya bint Huyay (RA)** – passed away in Ramadhan 50 AH at the age of 60 and she is buried in Baqi, Madina.
11. **Zainab bint Khuzayma (RA)** – she was known as Ummul Masakeen (mother of the poor). She stayed with Nabi (SAW) for few months only and passed away in Rabi ul Akhir 4 AH.



DAUGHTERS OF NABI (SAW)

Zainab (RA) - passed away in 8 AH.

Ruqaiyya (RA) - passed away 20 Ramadhan 2 AH.

Umme Kulthum (RA) – passed away on 6 Sha'ban 9 AH.

Fathima (RA) – she was the youngest daughter of Nabi (SAW), passed away on 3 Ramadhan 11 AH.



SONS OF NABI (SAW)

Ibrahim (RA) (son of Nabi (SAW)) - passed away on 10 Rabi ul Awwal 10 AH. He was 18 months old.

The other sons, Qasim (RA) and Abdullah (RA) passed away in their infancy.



ASHARAH MUBASHHARA

1. **Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA)** passed away on 21 Jumadal Akhirah 13 AH, aged 63. Sayyidina Umar (RA) performed his janaza salat between the Mubarak grave of Nabi (SAW) and the pulpit. He was buried by his son Abdur Rahman, Sayyidina Umar, Sayyidina Uthman and Talha (RA).
2. **Sayyidina Umar (RA)** was performing fajr salat and was stabbed by Abu Lu'lu al-Majusi the fire-worshipper. Abdur Rahman bin Awf (RA) completed the salat as the imam. This incident occurred on 25 Zul Hijja 23 AH and he passed away after a few days and was buried on 1 Muharram 24 AH. His janaza salat was performed by Suhaib Rumi (RA).
3. **Sayyidina Uthman (RA)** was martyred on Friday, 18 Zul Hijja 35 AH. He was buried in Baqi on Saturday at age of 90. Zubair bin Awwam (RA) performed his salatul janaza.

4. **Sayyidina Ali (RA)** was attacked by Abdur Rahman bin Muljim in Kufa on 17 Ramadhan 40 AH. His sons Sayyidina Hasan, Sayyidina Husain and Abdullah bin Jafar (RA) gave the ghusal and Sayyidina Hasan (RA) performed the janaza salat. Sayyidina Ali (RA) is buried in Najaf, Iraq according to some scholars.
5. **Sayyidina Talha bin Ubaidullah (RA)** was martyred in the battle of Jamal (camel) on Thursday, 10 Jumadal Akhirah 36 AH. He is buried in Basra and his last words were Bismilla.
6. **Sayyidina Zubair bin Awwam (RA)** was also martyred in the battle of Jamal, at the age of 75. His estate was worth millions and each of his 4 wives received more than a million dirhams.
7. **Sayyidina Abdur Rahman bin Awf (RA)** passed away in the year 32 AH at the age of 72 and is buried in Baqi.
8. **Sayyidina Sa'ad bin Abi-Waqqas (RA)** passed away in Aqeeq, on the outskirts of Madina and Marwan bin Hakm (RA) performed his salatul janaza. This was in the year 55 AH.
9. **Sayyidina Sa'eed bin Zaid (RA)** passed away in Aqeeq and is buried in Baqi in the year 50 AH.
10. **Sayyidina Abu Ubaidah bin Jarrah (RA)** passed away in the plague of Amwas in 18 AH. Muaz bin Jabal (RA) performed his salatul janaza.



OTHER FAMOUS PERSONALITIES

ANAS BIN MALIK (RA) – He was the last companion of Nabi (SAW) to pass away in Basra, Iraq, year 91 AH at the age of 103.

ABU AYYUB ANSARI (RA) – His was name was Khalid bin Zaid (RA) and passed away in the year 51 AH and is buried in Istanbul.

UWAIS QARNI (ra) – He was in Yemen during the time of Nabi (SAW) but never met Nabi (SAW) due to him taking care of his mother. Nabi (SAW) said: *Uwais is the best of successors* (Muslim). He passed away in the year 37 AH during the battle of Siffin.

ASMA BINT UMAIS (RA) – She migrated to Abyssinia with her husband J'afar (RA). After J'afar (RA) was martyred, she married Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA). After his demise she married Sayyidina Ali (RA). She passed away after Sayyidina Ali (RA).

SAYYIDINA BILAL (RA) – the first muezzin of Islam. He had no off-spring. He passed away in the year 20 AH at the age of 63 and is buried at Babus Saghir graveyard in Damascus, Syria.

JABIR BIN ABDULLAH (RA) – He participated in 19 battles. He was the Mufti of Madina Munawwara and conducted classes in Masjid Nabawi. In the latter portion of his life he became blind. He passed away in Madina in the year 74 AH at the age of 94. He was the last

companion to pass away in Madina Munawwara. His father Abdullah (RA) was martyred in the battle of Uhud.

J'AFAR BIN ABU TALIB (RA) – was 10 years elder than his brother Sayyidina Ali (RA). He resembled Nabi (SAW) in features and character. He was martyred in the battle of Muta, 5 Jumadal Ula 8 AH aged 41.

J'AFAR SADIQ (ra) – was a teacher of Imam Abu Hanifa (ra), Imam Malik (ra) and Imam Sufyan Thauri (ra). He passed away in Shawwal 148 AH. He is buried in Baqi with his father Muhammad Baqir (ra) and his grandfather Ali Zainul Abedeen (ra).

SAYYIDINA HAMZA (RA) – was the paternal uncle of Nabi (SAW). His agnomen was Abu Umara. He was the foster brother of Nabi (SAW) as Thuwayba breastfed him and Nabi (SAW). He embraced Islam in the sixth year of Prophethood. He was martyred in the Battle of Uhud on 7 Shawwal 3 AH.

HASAN BIN ALI (RA) – the beloved grandson of Nabi (SAW) was born on 15 Ramdhan 3 AH and passed away on 7 Safar 50 AH and is buried at Baqi.

HUSAIN BIN ALI (RA) – the beloved grandson of Nabi (SAW) was born on 5 Shaban 4 AH. He was martyred on Friday, 10 Muharram (ashura) 61 AH, in Karbala, Iraq at the age of 57.

HASSAN BIN THABIT (RA) – the famous poet of Nabi (SAW). He was 120 years old when he passed away in 39 AH. He spent 60 years as a non-muslim and 60 years as a Muslim.

HAKIM BIN HIZAM (RA) – he was born inside the ka'ba, 13 years before the birth of Nabi (SAW). He embraced Islam in 8 AH. Nabi (SAW) gave him 100 camels after the battle of Hunayn. He passed away in 60 AH at the age of 120, 60 years as a non-muslim and 60 years as a Muslim.

HASAN AL-BASRI (ra) – born in the year 21 AH and his tahnik (inserting a chewed date or honey in the new born's mouth) was done by Sayyidina Umar (RA). Umme Salama (RA), the consort of Nabi (SAW), occasionally used to breastfeed him as his mother used to work for Umme Salama. He passed away in Rajab 110 AH. He met 70 of the companions who participated in the battle of Badr.

HAJJAJ BIN YUSUF – died in Wasit, Iraq, Shawwal 95 AH at the age of 54. He was notorious for his oppression.

ABU ZAR GHIFARI (RA) – was the fifth person to embrace Islam. He led a very simple life. He passed away in Rabza, year 32 AH during the reign of Sayyidina Uthman (RA).

ZAID BIN THABIT (RA) – was an expert in the field of inheritance. He was the person who collated the Noble

Quran during the time of Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA). He passed away in the year 45 AH aged 56.

SA'AD BIN MU'AZ (RA) – Nabi (SAW) called him the leader of the Ansaar. He passed away in the month of Zul Qa'da 5 AH at the age of 37.

SALMAN FARSI (RA) – Nabi (SAW) made him part of his own household. He passed away at the age of 250, in Mada'in, Iraq, year 35 AH.

SAEED BIN MUSAYYAB (RA) – one of the greatest successors. He performed 40 Hajj and passed away in the year 93 AH.

SAEED BIN JUBAIR (RA) – was the last person Hajjaj bin Yusuf murdered. He was martyred in Sha'ban 95 AH at the age of 49.

SHADDAD BIN AWS (RA) – passed away in Palestine in the year 58 AH at the age of 55. He is buried near Masjid Aqsa.

ABU TUFAIL (RA) – his name is Amir bin Wasila and passed away in the year 111 AH. He was the last companion of Nabi (SAW) to pass away in the whole world.

ABDULLAH BIN ABBAS (RA) – was only 13 years old when Nabi (SAW) demise took place. He is considered one of the greatest commentators of the Noble Quran. He passed away in Taif, year 68 AH aged 71.

ABDULLAH BIN UMAR (RA) – he liberated 1000 slaves and performed 1000 umras and 60 Hajj. He passed away in the year 73 AH.

ABDULLAH BIN MAS'UD (RA) – he was one of the greatest jurists' who passed away in the year 32 AH and is buried in Baqi. During a campaign Abdullah bin Masud (RA) climbed a tree to cut wood. Some people laughed at his thin legs. Nabi (SAW) reproached them and said: *"Do you laugh at those thin legs. They will weigh heavier than mount Uhud on the scales of the hereafter."* (Musnad Ahmad).

UBADA BIN SAMIT (RA) – passed away in Palestine in the year 34 AH at the age of 72. Sayyidina Umar (RA) sent him as a judge to Palestine. He is buried near Masjidul Aqsa.

AMMAR BIN YASIR (RA) – his mother Sumayya was the first martyr in Islam. Nabi (SAW) called him the pure one. He passed away in the battle of Siffin 37 AH.

MUAWIYYA BIN ABU SUFYAN (RA) – he was one of the scribes of Nabi (SAW). He ruled the ummah for 20 years and passed away in Rajab 60 AH.

ABU MA'ZURA (RA) – his name was Aws. He was the muezzin of Nabi (SAW) in Makkah and learnt the azan directly from Nabi (SAW) at J'iranah and passed away in 59 AH.

SHAIBA BIN USMAN (RA) - embraced Islam in 8 AH. Nabi (SAW) gave him the keys of the ka'ba. The keys of the ka'ba upto this day are in the possession of his family. He passed away in 59 AH.

AYYASH BIN ABI RABI'A (RA) – he migrated to Abyssinia and Madina Munawwara. Abu Jahl captured him in Makkah and Nabi (SAW) used to make dua for his freedom. He passed away in 15 AH.

AMR BIN JAMUH (RA) – was a cripple. He asked Nabi (SAW) that if he fights in the path of Allah, then will he walk normally in jannah. Nabi (SAW) said yes. He was martyred in the battle of Uhud.

AAMIR BIN RABI'A (RA) – he migrated to Abyssinia and Madina Munawwara. He participated in the battle of Badr.

SAHL BIN ABI-HATHMA (RA) – he was a guide for Nabi (SAW) on the night of Uhud. When Nabi (SAW) passed away he was 18 years old.

ABDULLAH BIN HUZAFI (RA) – he participated in the battle of Badr. He passed away in Egypt during the reign of Sayyidina Usman (RA). The following incident is mentioned in Baihaqi : Sayyidina Umar (RA) despatched an army and the Romans captured him. They told him to become a non-muslim otherwise they will torture him. He cried and when they asked him why is he crying, he said: How I wish I had 100 lives and each time I give it in the path of Allah. The ruler said: Kiss me

on my forehead and I will set you free, he said: I will kiss you if all my companions are also set free. The ruler agreed and he kissed him. Sayyidina Umar (RA) kissed Abdullah on his forehead and instructed the other companions to do the same.

AQIL BIN ABI TALIB (RA) – brother of Sayyidina Ali (RA). He embraced Islam in the 8 AH. He was an expert in the lineage of the Quraish. He passed away during the reign of Muawiyah (RA).

AWS BIN HUZAIFA (RA) – Imam Abu Dawud, Nasai and Ibn Majah (ra) mentioned his hadith. He passed away in 59 AH.

MIQDAD BIN ASWAD (RA) – he was the only companion on a horse in the battle of Badr. On one occasion Abdur Rahman bin Awf (RA) asked him why are you not married. Miqdad replied, give your daughters hand to me in marriage and this infuriated Abdur Rahman (RA) and he abused Miqdad (RA), who complained to Nabi (SAW). Nabi (SAW) said: *I marry you to Ziba'a* (cousin of Nabi (SAW)). He passed away in 33 AH.

JUBAIR BIN MUT'IM (RA) – he was amongst the captives of Badr and when he heard Nabi (SAW) reading "*Wat Tur*", a flicker of light entered his heart and he accepted Islam after Hudaibiyya. He passed away in 57 AH.

ABU LAYLA AL-ANSARI (RA) – participated in the battle of Uhud and resided in Kufa and was with Sayyidina Ali (RA) in all his battles and martyred in the battle of Siffin.

UMM ATIYAH AL-ANSARIYYAH (RA) – her name is Nusaiba bint Harith. She participated in seven battles with Nabi (SAW) preparing food for them, nursing the injured and tending to the ill.

NAJASHI (ra) – was the king of Abyssinia. His name was Ashamah. Nabi (SAW) read his janaza in absentia.

SULTAN MUHAMMAD AL-FATIH conquered Istanbul (Constantinople) on 2 Jumadal Ula 857 AH, corresponding to 29 May 1453. He passed away on 4 Rabi ul Awwal 886 AH, corresponding to 3 May 1481. Nabi (SAW) said: *You will conquer Constantinople and the leader will be excellent and the army very good* (Musnad Ahmad). This distinction was conferred to Sultan Muhammad Al-Fatih and his army by Almighty Allah.

TAMIM BIN AWS DARI (RA) – he embraced Islam in 9 AH and was the first person to place lanterns in Masjid Nabawi. He passed away in 40 AH.



COMPANIONS WHO NARRATED MORE THAN 1000 AHADITH

1. **Abu Huraira (RA) – 5374 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Abu Huraira RA : Malik reports from Abu Zinad and he reports from A'raj from Abu Huraira (RA).
2. **Abdullah bin Umar (RA) - 2630 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Abdullah bin Umar : Malik from Nafi' from Abdullah bin Umar (RA).
3. **Anas bin Malik (RA) - 2286 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Anas bin Malik : Hammad reports from Thabit who reports from Anas(RA).
4. **Sayyida Ayesha (RA) - 2210 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Sayyida Ayesha RA : Sufyan bin Uyayna or Malik bin Anas reporting from Zuhri from Urwa bin Zubair from Sayyida Ayesha (RA).
5. **Abdullah bin Abbas (RA) - 1660 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Abdullah bin Abbas(RA) : Malik from Zuhri from Ubaidullah bin Uyayna from Abdullah bin Abbas (RA).
6. **Jabir bin Abdullah (RA) - 1540 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Jabir bin Abdullah : Sufyan bin Uyayna from Amr bin Dinar from Jabir bin Abdullah (RA).
7. **Abu Saeed Al-Khudri (RA) - 1170 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Abu Saeed Al-Khudri : Shu'ba reports from Qatada and he reports from Saeed bin Musayyab from Abu Saeed Al-Khudri.

COMPANIONS WHO NARRATED BETWEEN 500 AND 1000 AHADITH

1. **Abdullah bin Mas'ud (RA) - 848 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Abdullah bin Masud: Sufyan Thawri from Mansur bin Mu'tamir from Ebrahim bin Yazeed from Alqama from Abdullah bin Masud (RA).
2. **Abdullah bin Amr bin Aas (RA) - 700 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Abdullah bin Amr bin Aas : Amr bin Shuaib from his father from Abdullah bin Amr bin Aas (RA).
3. **Sayyidina Ali (RA) - 586 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Ali bin Abi Talib : Ayyub Sakhtiyani from Muhammad bin Sereen from Abida from Ali bin Abi Talib (RA).
4. **Sayyidina Umar (RA) - 537 Ahadith.** The best chain on the authority of Umar bin Khattab : Malik from Nafi' from Abdullah bin Umar to Umar bin Khattab (RA).

COMPANIONS WHO NARRATED BETWEEN 100 AND 500 AHADITH

Companion	Ahadith narrated
1. Umm Salamah (RA)	378
2. Abu Musa Ashari (RA)	360

3. Bara bin Azib (RA)	305
4. Abu Zar Ghifari (RA) -	281
5. Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas (RA) -	271
6. Abu Umama Bahili (RA)	250
7. Sahl bin Sa'ad (RA)	188
8. Ubada bin Samit (RA)	181
9. Imran bin Husain (RA)	180
10. Abu Darda (RA)	179
11. Abu Qatada (RA)	170
12. Buraida bin Husayb (RA)	167
13. Ubay bin Ka'ab (RA)	164
14. Muawiya bin Abu Sufyan (RA)	163
15. Muaz bin Jabal (RA)	157
16. Abu Ayyub Ansari (RA)	155
17. Sayyidina Uthman (RA)	146
18. Jabir bin Samurah (RA)	146

19. Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA)	142
20. Mughira bin Shu'ba (RA)	136
21. Abu Bakrah (RA)	132
22. Usama bin Zaid (RA)	128
23. Thawban (RA)	127
24. Samurah bin Jundub (RA)	123
25. Nu'man bin Bashir (RA)	114
26. Abu Mas'ud Al-Ansari (RA)	102
27. Jarir bin Abdullah (RA)	100



FAMOUS SCHOLARS OF HADITH

IMAM MUHAMMAD BIN ISMAIL BUKHARI (ra) born 13 Shawwal 194 AH - passed away 1 Shawwal 256 AH, the night of Eid. He was buried in Khartang. His magnum opus is his Sahih Bukhari, which is the most authentic hadith compilation which took him 16 years to complete.

IMAM MUSLIM BIN HAJJAJ (ra) - born 206 AH - passed away 25 Rajab 261 AH, buried in Nasrabad, Nisahpur. His famous work is Sahih Muslim.

IMAM ABU DAWUD (ra) Sulayman bin Ashas - born 202 AH in Shistan - passed away 16 Shawwal 275 AH, buried next to Sufyan Thauri (RA) in Basra. His famous work is Sunan Abu Dawud.

IMAM TIRMIDHI (ra) Muhamamad bin Isa - born 209 AH - passed away 13 Rajab 279 AH, buried in Tirmidh. His famous works are his Jami' and Kitabul Ilal.

IMAM NASAI (ra) Ahmad bin Shuaib - born in Nasa, Khurasan, 215 AH - passed away 13 Safar 303 AH, buried in Palestine. His famous works are his Sunan Sughra and Sunan Al Kubra.

IMAM IBN MAJAH (ra) Muhammad bin Yazid, - born 209 AH, passed away 22 Ramadhan 273 AH. Some scholars say Majah was his mothers name and others state it was his grandfathers name. His magnum opus is his sunan.

IMAM MALIK (ra) Malik bin Anas - born in 93 AH - passed away 10 Rabi ul Awwal 179 AH in Madina Munawwara. Imam Malik (ra) taught Hadith in Masjid Nabawi right next to the Mubarak grave of Nabi (SAW) and compiled a work on Hadith, entitled "Muwatta Imam Malik" which was presented to 70 scholars who concurred with him. He is buried in Baqi, Madina Munawwara. His greatest student was Imam Shafi'e (ra).

IMAM ISHAQ BIN RAHAWAY (ra), the teacher of imam Bukhari (RA) passed away on 15 shabaan 238 AH.

IMAM AHMAD BIN HUSAIN AL-BAIHAQI (ra) passed away 8 jumadal ula 458 AH. His Sunan Al-Kubra is one of his most famous works.

IMAM ABU ABDULLAH HAKIM (ra) passed away in Safar 405 AH.

IMAM ALI BIN UMAR DARAQUTNI (ra) passed away on 8 Zul Qa'da 385 AH.

IMAM DARIMI (ra) passed away on 8 Zul Hijja 255 AH.

IMAM ABU ZUR'AH RAZI (ra) passed away on 30 Zul Hijja 264 AH.

IMAM TABARANI (ra) passed away on 28 Zul Qa'da 360 AH. He lived for 100 years.

IMAM MUHAMMAD BIN HASAN SHAYBANI (ra) - born in Wasit, 132 AH - passed away in Ray, modern day Tehran in 187 AH. On the same day Imam Kasai, the gramarian passed away. Harun Rashid remarked, jurisprudence and the Arabic language are buried in Ray.

IMAM ABU JAFAR TAHAWI (ra) Ahmad bin Muhammad - born 239 AH - passed away Zul Qada 321 AH, buried in Egypt.

IMAM AWZAI (RA) - Abdur Rahman bin Amr - born 88 AH - passed away 157 AH. Buried in Beirut.

AHMAD BIN ALI BIN MUHAMMAD AS-SHAFI'E (ra) who is well known as Ibn Hajr Asqalani, commentator of Bukhari Shareef, his work is entitled "Fathul Bari". He is considered as one of the greatest scholars of hadith. He passed away on 8 Zul Hijja 852 AH.

IMAM ABU HANIFA (ra) - Nu'man bin Thabit - born 80 AH - passed away 150 AH. Imam Abu Hanifa (ra) was a Tabi'ee as he met a few companions of Nabi (SAW). He was one of the greatest jurist of his time and when the Khalifa wished to appoint him as a judge, he refused and therefore whipped. The works attributed to him are, Fiqhul Akbar and Musnad Abi Hanifa. He is buried in Azamiyya, Iraq. His greatest students are Imam Muhammad (ra) and Imam Abu Yusuf (ra).

IMAM AHMAD BIN HANBAL (ra) - Ahmad bin Muhammad was born 164 AH in Baghdad. He passed away on Friday 12 Rabi ul Awwal 241 AH in Baghdad. The day he passed away 20 000 Non-Muslims embraced Islam. His magnum opus is, Musnad Ahmad which contains thousands of Ahadith. His greatest student was Imam Bukhari (ra).

IMAM SHAFI'E (ra) Imam Shafi'e RA was born in Ghazza, Palestine. He was a prolific writer and scholar and his greatest works are, Kitabul Umm, As-Risala, Musnad Shafi'e. He entered Egypt in the year 199 AH

and passed away in Cairo in 204 AH. His greatest student was Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (ra).

PIOUS PREDECESSORS

MALIK BIN DINAR - he passed away in the year 130 AH. Once Malik bin Dinar embarked on a ship. When the ship was far out at sea the mariners demanded, "Produce your fare", he answered, "I do not have it", they beat him till he was senseless. This happened on two occasions and the third time they threw him overboard and the fish put their heads up with two gold dinars in their mouth. Malik took two dinars from one of the fish and handed it over to them and they apologized profusely, that is why he was called Malik bin Dinar.

RABIA BASRIYA - her full name is Rabia bint Ismail Al-Adawiya. She was born in humble circumstances and sold into slavery as a child. She was born in the year 135 AH and passed away in 185 AH. Her tomb is just outside Jerusalem. She is called Rabia because she was the fourth daughter. Once Rabia (ra) gave Hasan Basri (ra), three things; a piece of wax, a needle & a strand of hair. She said: "Be like wax, illuminate the world and you yourself should burn (make sacrifice). Be like a needle, always be working naked (sincerity), when you have done these two things a thousand years will be like a hair (split second).

FUDHAYL BIN IYAZ - he passed away in 187 AH. He was a highway robber. One night a caravan was passing and a person was reading the Noble Quran and the

following verse reached Fudhayl – *“has the time not yet come for the believers should be humbled in the remembrance of Allah”* (surah 57 verse 16). It was as though an arrow pierced his soul and he repented and became a great friend of Allah.

IBRAHIM BIN ADHAM – he is known as the king who renounced his kingdom of Balkh and led a simple life until his death in 165 AH.

BISHIR BIN HARITH AL-HAFI – was born near Marw in 150 AH and passed away in Baghdad in 227 AH. He was once asked: “Why do you not wear shoes”. He replied: Almighty Allah says *I have made the earth a carpet for you* (surah 51 verse 48). He would say it does not behove the slaves to walk on the carpets of kings with shoes.

DHUN NUN MISRI – his name was Thaubaan bin Ebrahim (ra). He was born in upper Egypt in the year 180 AH and passed away in 246 AH. He was once accused of stealing a jewel. He cried to Almighty Allah, You know the truth, and thousands of fish put their heads out of the water, each with a jewel in its mouth. Hence, he was called Dhun Nun (the man of the fish). They all apologized profusely.

ABDULLAH BIN MUBARAK AL-MARWAZI – he was born in 118 AH and passed away in 181 AH. He wrote the book “Kitabus Zuhd”.

SUFYAN BIN SAEED THAWRI – he was one of the greatest jurist of his time, born in the year 95 AH and passed away in Basra in 161 AH. He used to make dua, O Allah! Place the world in our hands but not in our hearts.

MA'ROUF BIN FAYROUZ AL-KHARKHI – he passed away in 200 AH in Baghdad. His parents were non-muslims and when they sent him to school the teacher taught him about trinity. He replied: Allah is One Only. After his teacher assaulted him and he ran away then his parents gave him the choice to follow the religion he desires.

SARI SAQATI – he passed away in the year 253 AH at the age of 98. He was a pupil of Hazrat Ma'rouf Kharkhi (ra).

JUNAID BAGHDADI – he passed away in Baghdad in 298 AH. The day he passed away, he completed the entire Noble Quran.

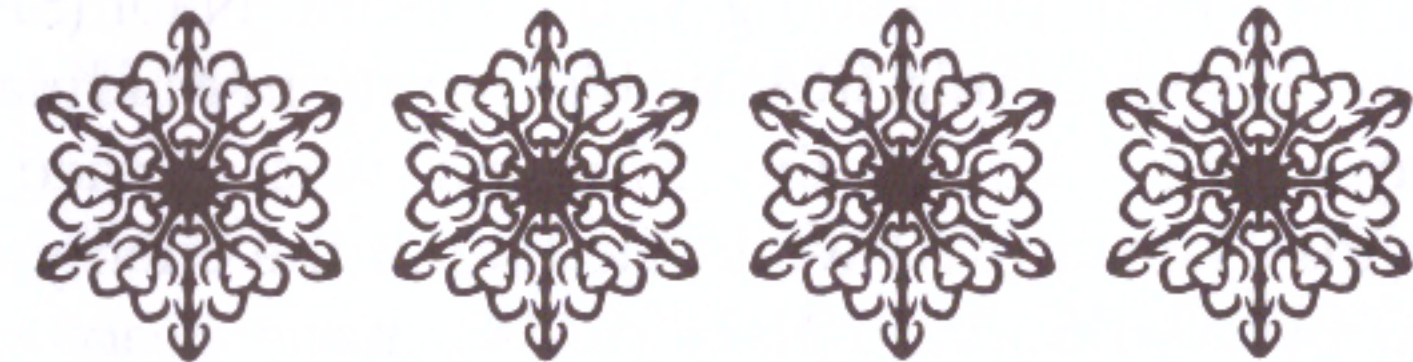
AL MUHASIBI – He was born in Basra in 165 AH and he passed away in 243 AH. His most important book was Kitabur Riaya. His teachings and writings influenced Imam Ghazali (ra) greatly.



NAME OF PROPHET	MEANING	NUMBER OF TIMES MENTIONED IN QUR'AN
1. Nabi Muhammad (SAW)	the praised one	4
2. Nabi Adam (AS)	brownish complexion	25
3. Nabi Idrees (AS)	teaching	2
4. Nabi Nuh (AS)	crying	43
5. Nabi Hud (AS)	guide	7
6. Nabi Saleh A(S)	pious	9
7. Nabi Lut (AS)	mending things	27
8. Nabi Ibrahim (AS)	compassionate father	69
9. Nabi Ismaeel (AS)	listening to Allah	12
10. Nabi Ishaq (AS)	smile	17
11. Nabi Yaqub (AS)	second twin	16
12. Nabi Yusuf (AS)	overcome problems	27
13. Nabi Shuayb (AS)	branches of mercy	11
14. Nabi Harun (AS)	eloquent	20
15. Nabi Moosa (AS)	box floating on water	136
16. Nabi Uzayr (AS)	honourable	1
17. Nabi Dawud (AS)	running fast	16
18. Nabi Sulaiman (AS)	corresponding with the wind	17
19. Nabi Ayyub (AS)	turning to Allah	4
20. Nabi Zul Kifl (AS)	one who gives guarantee	2
21. Nabi Yunus (AS)	familiar	4
22. Nabi Ilyas (AS)	brave	2
23. Nabi Al-Yas'a (AS)	wide	2
24. Nabi Zakariyya (AS)	remembering Allah	7
25. Nabi Yahya (AS)	life	5
26. Nabi Isa (AS)	fair complexion	25



Famous Battles in Islam



1. ABWA – SAFAR 2 AH

The Muslims went to attack a caravan of the Quraish which was proceeding to the Levant (Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon) to weaken them economically. The actual place where the battle took place is Waddan. Nabi (SAW) appointed Saad bin Ubada (RA) as his deputy in Madina for fifteen days. The flag of the Muslims was carried by Sayyidina Hamza (RA) and the enemies flag by Umayya bin Khalaf. The result was a peace treaty between the Muslims and the Banu Dhamirah.

2. BAWAT – RABI UL AKHIR 2 AH

The Muslims attacked a caravan of the Quraish at Radhwi whilst they were returning from the Levant. Nabi (SAW) appointed Saad bin Ubada (RA) as his deputy in Madina for one week. The flag of the Muslims was held by Saad Ibn Abi Waqqas (RA) and the enemies flag by Umayya bin Khalaf. The Muslims were 200 and the enemy were 100 in number. The enemy managed to escape.

3. AL-USHAYRA – JUMADAL ULA 2 AH

The Muslims attacked a caravan of the Quraish at Yanbu, whilst they were proceeding to the Levant. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Salama (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 25 days. The flag of the Muslims was carried by Sayyidina Hamza (RA) while the flag of the enemy was carried by Abu Sufyan. Nabi (SAW) made peace with Bani Mudlaj.

4. SAFWAAN – JUMADAL AKHIRA 2 AH

Kurz bin Jabir attacked the shepherds in Madina and stole some of their flock. Nabi (SAW) went with 200 companions in pursuit of them but they escaped. The flag of the Muslims was carried by Sayyidina Ali (RA) and Nabi (SAW) deputy in Madina was Zaid bin Haritha (RA).

5. BADR – 17 RAMADHAN 2 AH

The Muslims initially wanted to attack the Quraish returning from the Levant but Abu Sufyan escaped and Nabi (SAW) defeated the army at Badr which came from Makkah under the leadership of Abu Jahl. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Lubaba (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 19 days. The flag of the Muslims was carried by Mus'ab bin Umair (RA) and the flag of the enemy by Abu Jahl. The Muslims were 313 in number whilst the enemy were 950. It was a massive victory for the Muslims against all odds and 70 of the non-muslims were killed and 70 taken captive. Almighty Allah says: *"And Allâh has already made you victorious at Badr, when you were a weak little force. So fear Allâh much [abstain from all kinds of sins and evil deeds which He has forbidden and love Allâh much, perform all kinds of good deeds which He has ordained] that you may be grateful."* (surah 3 verse 123)

6. BANU SULAYM – 1 SHAWWAL 2 AH

Nabi (SAW) came to know that the Banu Sulaym are causing mischief against the Muslims. Nabi (SAW) went out with 200 companions and Siba bin Arfatah (RA) was

made the deputy in Madina. The flag of the Muslims was carried by Sayyidina Ali (RA). The enemy took flight and the Muslims returned with 500 camels as booty.

7. BANU QAINUQA – 15 SHAWWAL 2 AH

The Jewish tribe violated the peace treaty with Nabi (SAW), then Nabi (SAW) went out with the companions to teach them a lesson. The deputy of Nabi (SAW) in Madina was Abu Lubaba (RA) and Sayyidina Hamza (RA) carried the flag of the Muslims. The Muslims surrounded them and confiscated some of their weapons. Almighty Allah says: *"Say (O Muhammad (SAW)) to those who disbelieve: "You will be defeated and gathered together to Hell, and worst indeed is that place to rest. There has already been a sign for you (O Jews) in the two armies that met (in combat i.e. the battle of Badr): One was fighting in the Cause of Allâh, and as for the other (they) were disbelievers. They (the believers) saw them (the disbelievers) with their own eyes twice their number (although they were thrice their number). And Allâh supports with His Victory whom He pleases. Verily, in this is a lesson for those who understand."* (surah 3 verses 12-13)

8. SAWIQ – ZUL HIJJA 2 AH

The Quraish wanted to attack the Muslims in Madina and both sides had 200 men. The enemy took flight and left their food behind, hence the name of the battle.

9. DHU AMR – MUHARRAM 3 AH

The Muslims of Madina were informed of an imminent attack by Banu Salama against them. They met the enemy at Dhu Amr in Najd. The deputy of Nabi (SAW) in Madina was Sayyidina Uthman (RA) for more than a month. The enemy took flight and there was no combat. Almighty Allah says: *"O you who believe! Remember the Favour of Allâh unto you when some people desired (made a plan) to stretch out their hands against you, but (Allâh) withheld their hands from you. So fear Allâh. And in Allâh let believers put their trust."* (surah 5 verse 11)

10. BUHRAN – RABI UL AWWAL 3 AH

The Banu Sulaym tried to attack Madina and Nabi (SAW) with 300 companions repelled them and no combat took place. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Um Maktum (RA) as his deputy.

11. UHUD – 7 SHAWWAL 3 AH

The idolators of Makka were humiliated in Badr and therefore mobilised themselves to take revenge and attacked the Muslims at Uhud. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Um Maktum (RA) as his deputy. Mus'ab bin Umair (RA) carried the flag of the Muslims whilst Abu Sufyan carried the flag for the enemy. The Muslims were 700 and the enemy 3000 in number. The end result was that the Muslims lost 70 companions and enemy 23. Sixty verses of Surah Ale Imran were revealed regarding this battle.

12. HAMRA UL ASAD – SHAWWAL 3 AH

The angel Jibrael AS informed Nabi (SAW) to pursue the non-muslims after they returned from Uhud. Abdullah Ibn Maktum (RA) was made the deputy in Madina for 3 days. Sayyidina Ali (RA) carried the flag and Abu Sufyan carried the flag of the enemies. The Muslims were 630 and the enemy 2977 in number. The Quraish took flight so that they do not suffer any more casualties. Almighty Allah says: *“Those who answered (the Call of) Allâh and the Messenger (Muhammad (SAW)) after being wounded; for those of them who did good deeds and feared Allâh, there is a great reward.”* (surah 3 verse 172)

13. BANU NADHIR – 9 RABI UL AWWAL 4 AH

The Banu Nadhir tribe violated the peace treaty as they intended to assassinate Nabi (SAW). Abdullah bin Umm Maktum (RA) was appointed by Nabi (SAW) as his deputy for 15 days. This battle took place on the outskirts of Madina Munawwara and both sides had 200 men. Sayyidina Ali (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims and the leader of the enemy was Salaam. Subsequent to the battle the Muslims expelled the Banu Nadhir from Madina Munawwara. Almighty Allah says: *“He it is Who drove out the disbelievers among the people of the Scripture (i.e. the Jews of the tribe of Banî An-Nadîr) from their homes at the first gathering. You did not think that they would get out. And they thought that their fortresses would defend them from Allâh! But Allâh's (Torment) reached them from a place whereof they expected it not, and He cast terror into their hearts, so that they destroyed their own dwellings with their own hands and the hands of the believers. Then take*

admonition, O you with eyes (to see). And had it not been that Allâh had decreed exile for them, He would certainly have punished them in this world, and in the Hereafter theirs shall be the torment of the Fire. (surah 59 verse 2-3)

14. THE PROMISED BADR – ZUL QA'DA 4 AH

Abu Sufyan threatened the Muslims in the battle of Uhud that the following year he will meet them in Badr and Nabi (SAW) accepted the challenge. Nabi (SAW) deputy in Madina was Abdullah bin Abi Rawaha (RA) for 9 days. Sayyidina Ali (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims and Abu Sufyan was the leader of the enemy. The Muslims were 1500 whilst the non-muslims were 2000 in number. No combat took place as the enemy took flight.

15. DUMATUL JANDAL – RABI UL AWWAL 5 AH

It was a fortified town held by the Christian chief Ukaydar. They mobilised their army to fight the Muslims. Nabi (SAW) appointed Siba bin Arfatah as his deputy in Madina for approximately 2 months. The Muslims were 1000 in number and the enemy were the various tribes of Dumatul Jandal. The Muslims attacked them and they took flight in different directions and there was a peace treaty with Uyayna bin Hisn al-Fazari.

16. BANU MUSTALAQ – SHABAAN 5 AH

Harith bin Abi Dhirar and his people intended to attack the Muslims in Madina. The Muslims attacked them in Murayse'. Nabi (SAW) appointed Zaid bin Haritha (RA)

as his deputy for approximately 1 month. Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims. The Muslims were 700 in number. The Banu Mustalaq were defeated and their wealth was taken as booty. The incident of Hazrat Ayesha (RA) being accused (Allah forbid) when they were returning from this battle. This is mentioned in the Noble Quran in surah 24 verses 11-26.

17. KHANDAQ – 12 SHAWWAL 5 AH

Huyay bin Akhtab, the Jew and some Jewish tribes with the assistance of the idolators from Makkah formed a coalition (Ahzaab) and wanted to annihilate the Muslims. Nabi (SAW) and the companions dug a trench which was a suggestion by Salman Farsi (RA). Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Umm Maktum (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 25 days. Zaid bin Haritha (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims and Abu Sufyan was the leader of the non-muslims. The Muslims were 3000 in number and the non-muslims 10 000. (Almighty Allah speaks of this battle in surah 33 verses 9-11 – *“O you who believe! Remember Allâh's Favour to you, when there came against you hosts, and We sent against them a wind and forces that you saw not [i.e. troops of angels during the battle of Al-Ahzâb (the Confederates)]. And Allâh is Ever AllSeer of what you do. When they came upon you from above you and from below you, and when the eyes grew wild and the hearts reached to the throats, and you were harbouring doubts about Allâh. There, the believers were tried and shaken with a mighty shaking.”* The non-muslims departed frustrated as they could not cross the trench.

18. BANU QURAIZA – SHAWWAL 5 AH

The Jewish tribe of Banu Quraiza violated the peace treaty with the Muslims as they also colluded with the Ahzaab (coalition that participated in the battle of the Trench). Nabi (SAW) then attacked them on the outskirts of Madina. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Umm Maktum (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 25 days. Sayyidina Ali (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims and Ka'b bin Asad was a leader of the Jews. The Muslims were 3000 and the enemy 700 in number. The Muslims defeated them and took their wealth as booty. Almighty Allah says: *“And those of the people of the Scripture who backed them (the disbelievers) Allah brought them down from their forts and cast terror into their hearts, (so that) a group (of them) you killed, and a group (of them) you made captives.”* (surah 33 verse 26)

19. BANU LIHYAN – JUMADAL ULA 6 AH

The Muslims attacked the non-muslims in Gharaan due to their treachery. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Umm Maktum (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 14 days. The Muslims were 200 in number and the enemy were the Banu Lihyan tribe. The conclusion was that the Banu Lihyan took flight when the Muslims attacked them.

20. HUDAYBIYA – 26 ZUL QA'DA 6 AH

Nabi (SAW) and his companions went to perform Umra and the Quraish prevented them from entering Makkah at Hdaybiya. Nabi (SAW) appointed Namila al-Laythy

(RA) as his deputy in Madina for 45 days. The leaders of the enemy were Khalid bin Walid and Ikrimah bin Abu Jahl. The Muslims were 1400 in number. A peace treaty was drawn up and the Muslims will come the following year to perform Umra. Almighty Allah says: *“Verily, We have given you (O Muhammad (SAW)) a manifest victory. (surah 48 verses 1). Indeed, Allâh was pleased with the believers when they gave their Bai'â (pledge) to you (O Muhammad (SAW)) under the tree, He knew what was in their hearts, and He sent down As-Sakinah (calmness and tranquillity) upon them, and He rewarded them with a near victory, And abundant spoils that they will capture. And Allâh is Ever All-Mighty, All-Wise. (surah 48 verses 18-19)*

21. GHAABA – MUHARRAM 7 AH

Abdur Rahman bin Uyayna stole the camels that produce milk in Ghaaba. The battle took place in Zul Qirad. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Umm Maktum (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 5 days. Miqdad (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims. The Muslims were 500 in number and the enemy were the Banu Ghitfaan tribe. The Muslims killed Abdur Rahman and captured the camels.

22. KHAIBAR – 13 MUHARRAM 7 AH

After the peace treaty of Hudaibiya, Nabi (SAW) attacked the Jews of Khaibar due to their treachery. Nabi (SAW) appointed Siba bin Arfatah (RA) as his deputy in Madina for approximately 2 months. Sayyidina Ali (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims and the leader for the enemy was Marhab. The Muslims were 1600 and the

enemy 10 000 in number. The Muslims defeated them after destroying their forts and the Jews agreed to pay jizya (tax).

Almighty Allah says: *“And He caused you to inherit their lands, and their houses, and their riches, and a land which you had not trodden (before). And Allâh is Able to do all things. (surah 33 verse 27)*

23. ZATUR RIQA – RABI US THANI 7 AH

Banu Thalaba and other tribes wanted to steal the wealth of the Muslims, hence the Muslims attacked them in Najd. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Zar (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 15 days. The Muslims were 400 in number and the enemy were the tribes of Najd. There was no combat in this battle.

24. UMRATUL QADHA – ZUL QA'DA 7 AH

Nabi (SAW) and the companions came to perform the qadha of the aborted Umra. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Zar (RA) as his deputy in Madina for more than a month. The Muslims were 1400 in number. Almighty Allah says: *“Indeed Allah shall fulfil the true vision which He showed to His Messenger (SAW) [i.e. the Prophet (SAW) saw a dream that he has entered Makkah along with his companions, having their (head) hair shaved and cut short] in very truth. Certainly, you shall enter Al-Masjid-al-Haram; if Allah wills, secure, (some) having your heads shaved, and (some) having your head hair cut short, having no fear. He knew what you knew not, and He granted besides that a near*

victory." (surah 48 verse 27). The Muslims performed the Umra and the dream of Nabi (SAW) was fulfilled.

25. CONQUEST OF MAKKAH – 21 RAMADHAN 8 AH

The Quraish violated the peace treaty of Hudaibiya when they assisted the Banu Bakr against Khuza'a who were the allies of the Muslims and Nabi (SAW) attacked them. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Zar (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 3 months. The Muslims were 10 000 in number and the opposition were the Quraish and Banu Bakr led by Abu Sufyan. The Muslims conquered Makkah and no real combat took place as the enemy surrendered.

Almighty Allah says: "O you who believe! Take not My enemies and your enemies (i.e. disbelievers and polytheists, etc.) as friends, showing affection towards them, while they have disbelieved in what has come to you of the truth (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism, this Qur'ân, and Muhammad (SAW)), and have driven out the Messenger (Muhammad (SAW)) and yourselves (from your homeland) because you believe in Allâh your Lord! If you have come forth to strive in My Cause and to seek My Good Pleasure, (then take not these disbelievers and polytheists, etc., as your friends). You show friendship to them in secret, while I am All-Aware of what you conceal and what you reveal. And whosoever of you (Muslims) does that, then indeed he has gone (far) astray, (away) from the Straight Path.

Should they gain the upper hand over you, they would behave to you as enemies, and stretch forth their hands and their

tongues against you with evil, and they desire that you should disbelieve.

Neither your relatives nor your children will benefit you on the Day of Resurrection (against Allâh). He will judge between you. And Allâh is the All-Seer of what you do.

Indeed there has been an excellent example for you in Ibrâhim (Abraham) and those with him, when they said to their people: "Verily, we are free from you and whatever you worship besides Allâh, we have rejected you, and there has started between us and you, hostility and hatred for ever, until you believe in Allâh Alone," except the saying of Ibrâhim (Abraham) to his father: "Verily, I will ask for forgiveness (from Allâh) for you, but I have no power to do anything for you before Allâh!" Our Lord! In You (Alone) we put our trust, and to You (Alone) we turn in repentance, and to You (Alone) is (our) final Return. (surah 60 verses 1-4)

26. HUNAYN – 10 SHAWWAL 8 AH

The tribes of Hawazin and Thaqif wanted to attack the Muslims after the conquest of Makkah and a battle ensued at Wadi Awtas. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Zar (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 3 months. The Muslims were 12 000 in number and the non-muslims were 4000 and they defeated the enemy.

Almighty Allah says: "Truly Allâh has given you victory on many battle fields, and on the Day of Hunain (battle) when you rejoiced at your great number but it availed you naught and the earth, vast as it is, was straitened for you, then you turned back in flight.

Then Allâh did send down His Sakînah (calmness, tranquillity and reassurance, etc.) on the Messenger (Muhammad (SAW)), and on the believers, and sent down forces (angels) which you saw not, and punished the disbelievers. Such is the recompense of disbelievers. (surah 9 verses 25-26)

27. TAIF – 25 SHAWWAL 8 AH

Nabi (SAW) commanded the Muslims to go to Taif as some of the non-muslims took refuge in the forts at Taif. Nabi (SAW) appointed Abu Zar (RA) as his deputy in Madina for 3 months. Khalid bin Walid (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims and Malik bin Auf was the leader of the enemy. The Muslims were 12 000 in number and the enemy were the Thaqif tribe. Nabi (SAW) made dua for them to embrace Islam and all of them embraced Islam.

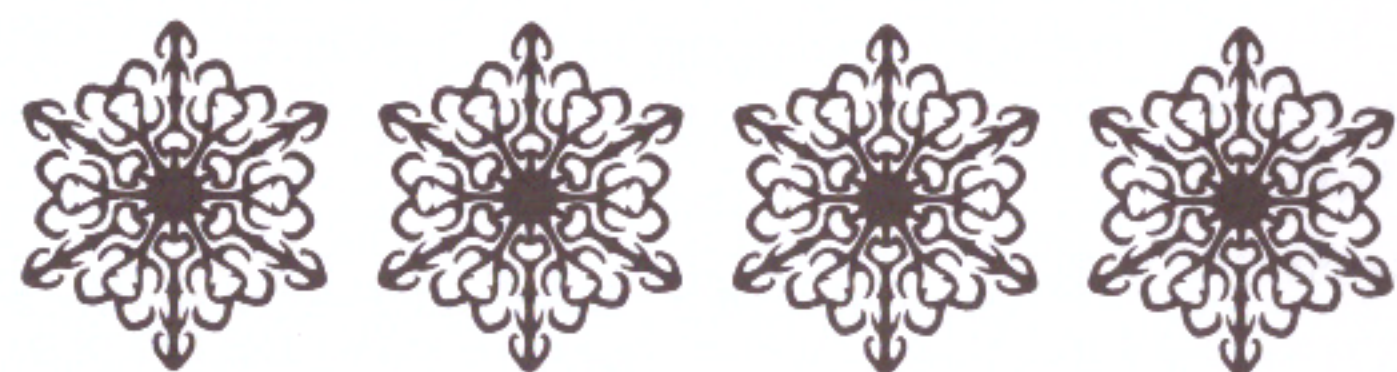
28. TABUK –10 RAJAB 9 AH

The Romans mobilised 40 000 people to fight the Muslims. Nabi (SAW) went to Tabuk with 30 000 companions. Nabi (SAW) appointed Muhammad bin Salama (RA) as his deputy in Madina for approximately 2 months. Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) carried the flag for the Muslims. No combat took place as they agreed to pay the jizya (tax). This was the last battle of Nabi (SAW). (surah 9 verses 38 -122 discusses this battle extensively)

DISTANCES FROM MADINA MUNAWWARA (APPROXIMATE KM)	
Abwa	250 km
Buwat	75 km
Safwaan	70 km
Zu Ushayra	120 km
Badr	155 km
Banu Sulaym	150 km
Banu Qainuqa	outskirts of Madina
Sawiq	100 km
Dhu Amr	100 km
Buhran	160 km
Uhud	outskirts of Madina
Hamra ul-Asad	20 km
Banu Nadhir	outskirts of Madina
The Promised Badr	155 km
Dumatul Jandal	450 km
Banu Mustalaq	300 km
Khandaq	outskirts of Madina
Banu Quraiza	outskirts of Madina
Banu Lihyān	300 km
Hudaybiyah	425 km
Ghaba	35 km
Khayber	165 km
Dhatur Riqā	1000 km
Umratul Qada	450 km
Conquest of Makka	450 km
Hunayn	420 km
Taif	490 km
Tabuk	780 km



Auspicious & Significant days in the Islamic calendar



Significant days in the Islamic calendar	
1 st Muharram	Islamic new year commences
10 th Muharram	Day of Ashura
12 th Rabi-ul-awwal	Birth of prophet Muhammad (SAW)
27 th Rajab	Laylatul-Mi'raj
15 th Sha'ban	Laylatul-Bara'ah
1 st Ramadan	commencement of fasting
1 st Shawwal	Eid-ul-fitr (termination of fasting)
10 th Zul-hijjah	Eid-ul-adha (day of sacrifice)

1st MUHARRAM: ISLAMIC NEW YEAR COMMENCES

The literal meaning of Muharram is "forbidden." It was forbidden to wage war and fight during this month. Muharram is so-called because it is sacred (haram) and as an affirmation of its sanctity.

It is regarded as one of the sacred months (Ash'hurul-Hurum). Each year Muslims throughout the world begin the new Islamic year on the 1st of Muharram. The Hijrah, which records the migration of the Prophet (SAW) from Makkah to Madinah, is the central historical event of early Islam. It led to the foundation of the first Muslim city-state, a turning point in Islamic and world history. The Islamic (Hijrah) calendar is usually abbreviated A.H. in Western languages from the Latinised *Anno Hegirae* or more commonly known as "After Hijrah."

The Islamic calendar is based on lunar months, which begin when a thin new crescent moon is actually sighted

in the western sky after sunset within a day or so after the new moon. Hence, the month is either 29 days or 30 days. There are 12 months in an Islamic year, which is either 354 days long or 355 days long, compared to (Gregorian) calendar year of 365 or 366 days. Since the Islamic lunar year has 12 lunar months, it is on an average, 11 days shorter than the (Gregorian) year, the Islamic year shifts earlier in each year by about 11 days. Muharram is the month with which the Muslims begin the lunar Hijrah Calendar. It is one of the four sanctified (sacred) months about which the Noble Qur'an says: *"The number of the months according to Allah is twelve months (mentioned) in the Book of Allah on the day in which He created the heavens and the earth, of them four are sacred."* (surah 9 verse 36)



DAY OF ASHURA: 10th MUHARRAM

Although the month of Muharram is a sacred month as a whole, the 10th of Muharram is the most sacred among all its days. The day is named '*Ashura*'. It is one of the most important and blessed days in the Islamic calendar.

According to the Ibn Abbas (RA), when the Prophet (SAW) migrated to Madinah, he found that the Jews of Madinah used to fast on the 10th day of Muharram. They said that it was the day on which the Prophet Moosa Alayhis Salaam and his followers crossed the Red Sea

miraculously, and the Pharaoh was drowned in its water. On hearing this from the Jews, the Prophet (SAW) said,

"We are more closely related to Moosa (AS) than you." So the Prophet (SAW) instructed the Muslims to fast on the day of Ashura. (Abu Dawood)

According to another Hadith, it is more advisable that the fast of Ashura should be either preceded or succeeded by an additional fast. It means that one should fast two days: the 9th and 10th of Muharram or the 10th and 11th. The reason of this additional fast as mentioned by the Prophet (SAW) is that the Jews used to fast on the day of Ashura alone, and the Prophet (SAW) wanted to distinguish the Islamic-way of fasting from that of the Jews. Therefore, he advised the Muslims to add another fast to the day of Ashura.

Some Ulama (scholars) are of the opinion that before the fasts of Ramadhan were made compulsory, the fast of the day of Ashura was compulsory upon the Ummah.

This is stated in a Hadith reported by Hazrat Ayesha (RA): *"that the Prophet (SAW) ordered the observance of the fast of Ashura. However, when the fast of Ramadhan became compulsory, then whosoever wished, kept this fast and whosoever desired did not observe this fast."* (Bukhari)

Nevertheless, the Prophet (SAW) continued to fast this day and encouraged his Companions to do the same.

Recommended deeds on the day of Ashura

The Prophet (SAW) has exhorted and encouraged his Ummah to fast on this day. He said: *"This fast (of Ashura) is a compensation for the (minor) sins of the past year."* (Muslim)

One should also observe the fast of the 9th of Muharram or 11th of Muharram to safeguard oneself from resemblance with the Non-Muslims who fast only on the 10th of Muharram.

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (RA) said: *"When Rasulullah (SAW) observed the fast of the day of Ashura and ordered (his Companions) to fast, they said: 'O Rasulullah! It is a day revered (glorified) by the Jews and Christians.' Thereupon Rasulullah said: 'The coming year, if Allah wills (I remain alive), I will for surely fast on the ninth (also).'"* (Muslim)

These Ahadith indicate clearly that one should fast on the ninth and tenth of Muharram. However, if one does not manage to fast on the ninth, then he/she should fast on the eleventh of Muharram instead.

The Prophet (SAW) said: *"Observe the fast of Ashura and oppose the Jews. Fast a day before it or a day after."* (Baihaqi)

Thus, to fast only on the day of Ashura is *Makrooh* (reprehensible) as stated by Allamah Ibn Aabideen Shaami (ra).

One should be generous to one's family and dependants and spend more on them on the day of Ashura than what is normally spent.

Rasulullah (SAW) said: *"One who generously spends on his family on the day of Ashura, Allah will increase (his provision) for the whole year."* (Baihaqi)



BIRTH OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW): 12th RABI-UL-AWWAL

The month of Rabi-ul-Awwal marks the birth of Nabi (SAW), the last and final prophet of Allah Ta'ala. A personality whose struggles and sacrifices, against every odd, were aimed at liberating and freeing not just a people, nor a nation, but instead humanity at large.

Allah Ta'ala aptly reminds us in the Noble Qur'an of His magnanimous favour in sending Nabi (SAW) to mankind where He says: *"Indeed Allah had conferred a great favour on the believers when He sent among them a messenger from amongst themselves"* (Sura Ale Imraan, verse 164).

Islam has not prescribed any festival for the birthday of any person, however great or significant he may be. The prophets of Allah are the persons of the highest status amongst all human beings. But the Prophet (SAW) or his

noble companions never observed the birthday or anniversary of any of them. Even the birthday of the Prophet (SAW) which was the most happiest day for the whole of mankind was never celebrated by the Prophet (SAW) himself, nor by his blessed Companions.

The Companions of the Prophet (SAW) remained alive after him for about a century, but despite their unparalleled and profound love towards the Prophet (SAW), they never celebrated the birthday or the death anniversary of the Prophet (SAW). Instead, they devoted their lives for promoting the cause of Islam, for bringing his teachings into practice, for conveying his message to the four corners of the world and for establishing the Islamic order in every walk of life.

What is really important with regard to the Prophet (SAW) is, firstly, to follow his teachings, secondly to make his pious Seerah available to every Muslim, to preserve it in the hearts of the Muslims from early childhood, and to educate the family members to change their lives according to it.



LAYLATUL-MI'RAJ: 27TH RAJAB

Rajab is the seventh month in the Islamic lunar calendar. This month was regarded as one of the sacred months (Al-Ash-Hurul-Hurum) in which battles were prohibited in the days of the Prophet (SAW). It is also a prelude to

the month of Ramadan, because Ramadan follows it after the intervening month of Sha'ban. Therefore, when the Prophet (SAW) sighted the moon of Rajab, he used to pray to Allah in the following words:

"O Allah, make the months of Rajab and Sha'ban blessed for us, and let us reach the month of Ramadan (i.e. prolong our life up to Ramadan, so that we may benefit from its merits and blessings)." (Mishkat Shareef)

Yet no specific way of worship has been prescribed by the Shari'ah in this month. However, some people have invented some special rituals or practices in this month, which are not supported by reliable sources.

Celebration of Lailatul Mi'raj

It is generally believed that the great event of Mi'raj (ascension of the Prophet (SAW) to the heavens) took place in the night of 27th of Rajab. Therefore, some people celebrate the night as "Lailatul- Mi'raj" (the night of ascension to heavens).

Indeed, the event of Mi'raj was one of the most remarkable episodes in the life of our beloved Prophet (SAW). He was called by Almighty Allah and he travelled from Makkah to Baitul-Maqdis in Jerusalem and from there he ascended the heavens through the miraculous power of Allah. He was honoured with a direct contact with his Creator at a place where even the angels had no access. This was the unique honour conferred by Allah to the Prophet (SAW) alone. It was the climax of the spiritual progress which is not attained

by anybody except him. No doubt the night in which he was blessed with this unparalleled honour was one of the greatest nights in the history of this world.

But, Islam has its own principles with regard to the historic and religious events. Its approach about observing festivals and celebrating days and nights is totally different from the approach of other religions. The Noble Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW) did not prescribe any festival or any celebration to commemorate an event from the past, however remarkable it might have been. Instead, Islam has prescribed two annual celebrations only. One is Eid-ul-Fitr and the other is Eid ul-Adha.

Keeping this principle in view, the following points should be remembered with regard to the "Lailatul-Mi'raj":

(1) We cannot say with absolute certainty in which night the great event of Mi'raj took place. Although some traditions relate this event to 27th night of the month of Rajab, yet there are other traditions that suggest other dates.

(2) It is also not known in which year the event of Mi'raj took place. The books of history suggest a wide range between the fifth-year and the twelfth year after the Prophet (SAW) was entrusted with prophethood.

(3) After the demise of the Prophet (SAW) also, none of his companions is reported to celebrate this night as a night of special acts of worship.

Isr'a literally means a journey by night and **Mi'raj** literally means an elevator or a ladder, i.e., an instrument which lifts something up. But, In Islam, Isra' refers to a miraculous night-journey made by the last Prophet (SAW) from Makkah to Jerusalem, and **Mi'raj** refers to the vehicle which took the Prophet (SAW) from Jerusalem through to the seven heavens. As for its exact date, there is difference of opinion amongst the scholars regarding it.

Some important lessons from Mi'raj:

Lesson 1: After hardship there is ease

Shortly before the Hijrah, (the migration to Madinah) the Prophet's uncle Abu Talib died. Though the Prophet (SAW) tried his best to get him to accept Islam, he chose to remain in the religion of his forefathers. This hurt the Prophet (SAW) a lot because Abu Talib had raised him from his early childhood and had protected him from a lot of harm which the Quraysh tried to inflict on him. So Abu Talib's death affected the Prophet (SAW) in two ways:

- (1) He did not embrace Islam.
- (2) He could no longer shield the Prophet (SAW) from the anger of Quraysh.

Three days after Abu Talib's death, the Prophet (SAW)'s wife, Khadijah bint Khuwaylid (RA) died. It was she

who comforted him during his first difficult experiences with revelation and during the early attacks and rejection of his people.

Following that the prophet (SAW) went to Taif with the aim of winning the leaders of it to Islam so they could support him and establish Islam, but his invitation was totally rejected. He was chased out of the city and stoned so badly that his sandal became clogged with blood. Almighty Allah says:

"After hardship there is ease. Verily with the hardship there is relief" [Surah 94 verses 4-5]

From these events which occurred around the same time, we can see that the Prophet (SAW) had suffered a series of disappointing set-backs and trials. Thus, Almighty Allah took him up into His presence in order to strengthen him and prepare him for the next, forthcoming difficult stage of Prophethood which would be the Hijra, the establishment of the Islamic state and the carrying of Islam to the world by Da'wah.

Lesson 2: Liberation of Al-Aqsa and Palestine

Imam Ahmad reported from Anas bin Malik (RA) that the Messenger (SAW) of Allah said: *"Al-Buraq was brought to me, and it was a white animal bigger than a donkey and smaller than a mule. One stride of this creature covered a distance as far as it could see. I rode on it and it took me to Bayt Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem), where I fastened it at the hitching post of the Prophets."* In the narration of Muslim, *"I entered Masjid Al-Aqsa Sanctuary and prayed 2 rak'ah there..."*

The narration is very lengthy and many of us will be aware of it. It explains how Muhammad (SAW) ascended through the heavens meeting the different Prophets of Allah, then to Baytul-Ma'mur and then to Almighty Allah.

Ibn Kathir says in his Tafseer: *"Then Prophet (SAW) led the Prophets in prayer in Baytul Maqdis when the time for prayer came. It may have been the dawn prayer of that day."*

Significance:

- The first Qiblah of the Muslims.
- The station of Al-Isra and Al-Mi'raj (the miraculous journey of Nabi (SAW)).
- The second house of Allah built on earth - it has been destroyed and rebuilt many times.
- The place where hundreds of Messengers of Allah are buried.
- The place where many companions are buried.
- A place where miracles were shown by Allah's will.
- A place which Allah Himself calls a 'blessed place'.
- Referred to directly and indirectly, 70 times in the Noble Quran.
- The place where Angels have descended with Allah's message.
- The only place on earth where all the Messengers of Allah prayed at the same time led by Nabi (SAW).
- The only Masjid mentioned by name in the Noble Quran apart from the Masjidul Haram.

Al-Aqsa was the first Qibla of the Muslims. It is the third most sacred masjid. The masjid itself forms part of the al-Haram ash-Sharif or "Sacred Noble Sanctuary" (along

with the Dome of the Rock), The masjid is known to be the second house of prayer constructed after the Masjid al-Haram in Makkah.

Imam Muslim (ra) quotes Abu Dharr (RA) as saying: "I asked the beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) which was the first "masjid" [i.e. house of prayer] on Earth?" "The Sacred House of Prayer (Masjid al-Haram), i.e. Ka'ba," he said. "'And then which', I asked?" "The Furthest House of Prayer (Masjid al Aqsa)", he said. "I further asked, 'what was the time span between the two'?" "Forty years," Prophet Muhammad (SAW) replied." (Mishkat Shareef)

Maymunah Bint Sa'd (RA) relates that she asked the Prophet (SAW), "O Messenger of Allah, inform us about Bayt Al-Maqdis (Jerusalem)". He said, "Visit it for prayer ". She further asked, "If one of us cannot visit it, what should we do"? He said, "If you cannot go for prayer then send some oil to be used for its lamps, it will be as if he has prayed in it". (Ahmad, Ibn Majah, Abu Dawud, Tabarani)

Zaid Ibn Thabit (RA) reports that the Prophet (SAW) said, "How blessed is Ash-Sham"! The Companions (RA) asked, "Why is that"? The Messenger (SAW) replied, "I see the Angels of Allah spreading their wings over Ash-Sham". Ibn Abbas (RA) added, "And the Prophets lived therein. There is not a single inch in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) where a Prophet has not prayed or an Angel not stood". (Tirmidhi, Ahmad)

In the backdrop of the significance that Masjidul Aqsa has in Islam, it is the duty of every Muslim in all parts of the world to support the liberation of Al-Aqsa and Palestine from its oppressors and occupiers.

Lesson 3: Leadership of the prophets and humanity

The Prophet (SAW) is the leader of all the Prophets who brought the final revelation and complete Deen.

Jabir (RA) narrated that the Messenger (SAW) of Allah said: "I have been given five things which none before me was given: (One of which is) each Prophet was sent specifically to his people while I have been sent to every white and black." (Muslim)

Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated that Allah's Messenger (SAW) said: "I have been preferred over other Prophets with six things," one of which was that: "I am sent to all of creation." (Muslim)

We follow the law that Muhammad (SAW) brought and present this beautiful deen to all people of the world.

Lesson 4: Salah - the ascension for a believer

We know the obligatory Salah was revealed during this journey. It is one of the pillars of Islam. Many of us are aware of the hadith where initially 50 salah a day was prescribed by Allah, then Moosa (AS) advised the Prophet (SAW) to ask for a reduction. Allah Ta'ala in His Infinite mercy reduced the number to 10 times a day and then finally to 5 times a day.

"When I came back to Moosa (AS), he said, 'What have you been ordered?' I replied, 'I have been ordered to observe five prayers a day.' He said, 'Your followers cannot bear five prayers a day, and no doubt, I have the experience of the people before you, and I have tried my level best with Bani Israel, so go back to your Rabb and ask for reduction to lessen your follower's burden.' I said, 'I have requested so much of my

Rabb that I feel ashamed, but I am satisfied now and surrender to Allah's Order.' When I left, I heard a voice saying, 'I have passed My Order and have lessened the burden of My Worshipers.' [Bukhari]

The Salah is a time when we are in direct communication with Allah and we are in front of Allah Ta'ala.

Also the Hadith of the Prophet (SAW) as narrated authentically in the Musnad of Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal:

"The covenant between Myself and yourself is the Salah, whoever abandons prayer commits an action of disbelief"

This hadith highlights the importance of Salah and how the one who leaves it, is on the border line of disbelief. So it is a great sin, hence the Prophet (SAW) has used the word 'kufr' to describe the gravity of the situation where one omits salah.

Lesson 5: Punishments for disobedience to Allah

The ahadith mention that the Prophet (SAW) was shown people being punished for various types of sins. We should remember these narrations and be careful to stay away from such sins. He saw those who committed adultery and their punishment, those who slandered, those who engaged in Riba (interest) and various other sins.

Some experiences of the Prophet (SAW) with regard to punishment:

Then the Prophet (SAW) went on for a little while. He saw groups of people who had bellies as large as houses,

and there were snakes in them which could be seen through their skins. Every time one of those people stood up he would fall again and he would say: "O Allah, don't make the Hour of Judgment rise yet!" Then they meet the people of Fir'aun on the road and the latter trample them underfoot. (The Prophet (SAW) said) "I heard them clamoring to Allah." He asked: "O Jibril, who are these?" He replied: "They are those of your Community who eat up usury. They cannot stand up except in the manner of those whom the shaytan touches with possession."

Then the Prophet (SAW) went on for a little while. He saw groups of people whose lips resembled the lips of camels. Their mouths were being pried open and they would be stoned. One version says: A rock from Jahannam was placed in their mouths and then it would come out again from their posteriors. (The Prophet (SAW) said:) "I heard them clamoring to Allah." He asked: "O Jibril, who are these?" He replied: "They are those of your Community who eat up the property of orphans and commit injustice. They are eating nothing but a fire for their bellies, and they shall be roasted in it."

Lesson 6: Iman - the example of Abu Bakr (RA)

The following morning, the Prophet (SAW) went to the Quraysh's Tribal meeting place, and when Abu Jahl came up to him, he informed him of his journey. Abu Jahl then called all the people to hear the Prophet (SAW)'s story, and when he (SAW) related it to them, they stared at him in amazement and disbelief. Some Muslim converts whose Iman was weak left Islam and returned to Kufr, because of the incredible narration which the Prophet (SAW) narrated.

Some of the people ran to Abu Bakr (RA) and told him and his companions that Muhammad (SAW) claimed that he went to Jerusalem, made Salah there, and returned to Makkah in one night. They told him that the Prophet (SAW) was at the Ka'bah telling people. When they told him that, they were sure that he would also leave Islam. However, Abu Bakr (RA) told them, *"By Allah, if he actually said that, he has told the truth. There really is nothing to be amazed about, for he has told me that information comes to him from Allah, from the sky to the earth, in an instant during the night or day and I believe him. And that is even more strange."* Because of that statement of Abu Bakr (RA), the Prophet (SAW) gave him the title of "As-Siddiq (the truthful)."

The people then demanded from the Prophet (SAW) proof of what he said. They knew that he had never travelled to Jerusalem, so some of them demanded that he describe it. The Prophet (SAW) worried, as he had forgotten most of its' details. He had only been there at night and had not paid much attention to its' details. But, Allah blessed him with a vision in which he saw Jerusalem as if he were there. So he was able to describe even its' smallest details to them. For the others, he told them that on his way to Jerusalem he passed by a stray camel belonging to one of the clans which had camped in a valley. It had escaped from a group of them and he led them to it. He also told them that on his return he passed by the same clan's caravan and found them all sleeping. They had a drinking vessel with some water in it which they had covered, so he uncovered it, drank its contents and put the cover back on the same way it was. He then informed them that the caravan was on its way to

Makkah and he further described its lead camel. So the people rushed out to meet the caravan and found it as he had described. They then asked the clan about the stray camel and the drinking vessel, and they replied, *"By Allah! He told the truth. We had camped in a valley which he mentioned and one of our camels had run off. We heard a man's voice calling us to it until we caught it."* They also mentioned that they had left water in their jug and were surprised to find that it was all gone the next morning.

And Almighty Allah revealed the verse: *"We appointed not the vision which we showed you but as a test for mankind."* [surah 17 verse 60]



LAYLATUL-BARA'AH: 15th SHA'BAN

Allah Ta'ala has, afforded His servants certain selected opportunities whereby they may reap His infinite mercy and forgiveness. Some explicit examples of these occasions are the month of Ramadan and Laylatul Qadr. The night of the fifteenth of Shában is one such opportunity. Several Ahadith expound the tremendous merit of this occasion. Amongst them is the fact that countless people are forgiven by Allah Ta'ala during this blessed night. It is due to this reason that it is called "The Night of Bara'at" (i.e. the night wherein judgment of salvation from Jahannam (hell) is passed).

Certain Ahadith prove that it is a meritorious night in which the people of the earth are attended by special

divine mercy. However, it should be borne in mind that a vast majority of narrations declaring the benefit and virtue of this night are weak but acceptable for purposes of virtue.

Some of these Ahadith are:

1. Ummul-Mu'mineen Ayesha (RA) is reported to have said, "Once Rasulullah, (SAW) performed the Salah of the night (Tahajjud) and made a very long Sajdah until I feared that he had passed away. When I saw this, I rose (from my bed) and moved his thumb (to ascertain whether he is alive). The thumb moved, and I returned (to my place). Then I heard him saying in Sajdah: 'I seek refuge in Your forgiveness from Your punishment, and I seek refuge in Your pleasure from Your annoyance, and I seek Your refuge from Yourself. I cannot praise You in the manner that You deserve. You are exactly as You have defined Yourself.' Thereafter, when he raised his head from Sajdah and finished his salaah, he said to me: 'Aishah, did you think that the Prophet has betrayed you?' I said, 'No, O Prophet of Allah, but I was afraid that your soul has been taken away because your Sajdah was very long.' He asked me, 'Do you know what night it is?' I said, 'Allah and His Messenger know best.' He said, 'This is the night of the half of Shában. Allah Ta'ala looks upon His slaves in this night and forgives those who seek forgiveness and bestows His mercy upon those who pray for mercy but leaves those who have malice (against a Muslim) as they were before, (and does not forgive them unless they free themselves from malice).' (Targheeb wat tarheeb on the authority of Imam Bayhaqi (ra))

2. In another Tradition, Ummul-Mu'mineen Ayesha (RA) has reported Rasulullah (SAW) to have said, "This is the middle Night of Sha'ban. Allah emancipates in it a large number of the people from the Fire, more than the number of the hair growing on the sheep of the tribe, Kalb. But He does not cast a glance at a person who associates partners with Him, or at a person who harbours malice in his heart (against someone), or at a person who severs family ties, or at a man who leaves his clothes extending below his ankles, or at a person who disobeys his parents, or at a person who has a habit of drinking wine." (Targeeb wat Tarheeb on the authority of Imam Bayhaqi (ra))

Kalb was a big tribe the members of which had a very large number of sheep. Therefore, the last sentence of the Hadith indicates the large number of people forgiven on this night by Allah Ta'ala.

3. Sayyiduna Muaz ibn Jabal (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) said: "Allah Ta'ala looks upon all those he created in the middle Night of Shában and forgives them all, except the one who associates partners with Him or the one who has malice in his heart (against a Muslim)". (Targeeb wat Tarheeb from Imam Tabrani and Saheeh ibn Hibban)

4. Sayyiduna Abdullah ibn Amr (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) said, Allah Ta'ala looks upon his creation on the middle night of Shában and forgives them, except one who harbours malice in his heart and a murderer. (Targeeb wat Tarheeb from Imam Ahmad (ra))

Although the chain of narrators of some of these traditions have minor technical defects, when all these traditions are combined and brought together, it becomes clear that this night has some well founded merits, and observing this night as a sacred night is not baseless as envisaged by some modern scholars who, on the basis of these minor defects, have declined to give any special importance to this night. Certain scholars of Hadith have granted these Ahadith authenticity and consider their defects very minor, which are amended by the variety and manner of narration. It is for this reason that Ulama and pious personalities of the past always observed this night as one of special merits and tremendous benefits.

Below are a few comments about the ahadith regarding the virtue of this night:

Sheikh Nasiruddeen Albani (ra) in his magnum opus *Silsila Al-Ahadeeth As-saheeha* has authenticated a hadith for the 15th night of Sha'ban and refuted the claims of those who reject the auspiciousness of this night. (*Silsila Al-Ahadeeth As-Saheeha* vol. 3 hadith no. 1144)

Some of the pious predecessors used to specially devote this night for salah. (*Faydhul Qadeer*, vol. 2, pg.317)

Moulana Abdur Rahman Mubarakpuri writes in his commentary of Tirmizi: "The sheer number of Ahadith regarding this night serves as proof against those people

who refute the excellence of this night." (*Tuhfatul-Ahwazi*, vol. 2, pg. 53)

Allama Anwar Shah Kashmiri (ra) has written that the significance of the night of Bara'at is proven. There is however, no proof for those weak and unacceptable narrations mentioned in certain books. (*Al-Arfus-Shazi*, pg. 156)

The virtue of this night established from these Ahadith is that from the very beginning of the night, Allah Ta'ala turns with special mercy and attention towards the creation and forgives those who repent and seeks forgiveness. Every Muslim should therefore value this night. Turn towards Allah Ta'ala with sincere regret and shame over sins committed and make a promise never to return to sin again and seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'ala. Seek forgiveness for oneself and all Muslims, living and deceased. Have firm hope and conviction in the heart that Allah Ta'ala will surely show mercy and forgiveness.

Unfortunate people

It is understood from Ahadith that even on this great night, some unfortunate individuals are deprived of Allah's forgiveness.

They are:

1. Idolaters.
2. Those who harbour enmity against others.
3. Those who consume alcohol.

4. Those who disobey their parents.
5. Those who wear their trousers, kurtas, lungis, etc. below their ankles with pride.
6. Those who commit murder.
7. Those who sever family ties.

We can thus gauge the severity of these sins and need to abstain from them at all times.

The special virtues of the night of Bara'at are:

1. Contrary to other nights where the last third of the night has special blessings and Allah descends to the lowest Heaven during this section of the night, on the night of Bara'at, the special rain of mercy and forgiveness of Allah Ta'ala begins to shower down right from the beginning of the night and continues until dawn.
2. The sins of countless people are pardoned. As already mentioned, Allah Ta'ala's Special mercy descending during this night to the lowest Heaven occurs from the very beginning, unlike other nights. Furthermore, the number of pronouncements seeking forgiveness far supercede those, which occur on other nights. (Hafiz Zaynud-deen Iraqi, Faydhul Qadeer, vol. 2, pg. 317)

It should be remembered that while the narrations regarding the night of Bara'at maybe weak, the narrations regarding Allah Ta'ala's descending to the nearest Heaven during the last third of every night are authentic.

Fasting during the month of Sha'ban is Sunnah and a clearly established practice of the Shariah

Fasting in the month of Shában, without the stipulation of any day, is proven from Rasulullah (SAW). In fact, he used to fast excessively during this month. A Hadith of Hazrat Ayesha (RA), wherein she describes the fast of Rasulullah (SAW) substantiates this. She says that aside from the month of Ramadhan, he never used to fast for an entire month. However, of the remaining months, he would fast in Shában the most. (Bukhari)

Fast of 15th Sha'ban

On the day immediately following the Night of Bara'at, i.e. the 15th of Shában, it is advisable to fast.

Though majority of the scholars of Hadith have certain doubts regarding the authenticity of a narration in Ibn Majah, advising one to fast on this day, stating it is extremely weak, it has been mentioned earlier that the fasts of the first half of Shában have special merits and Rasulullah (SAW) used to fast most of the days in Shában. Moreover, a large number of the elders (salaf) of the Ummah have been observing the fast of the 15th Shában. This constant practice of our learned and pious predecessors establishes its Istihbaab (preference).

Therefore, it is mustahab (desirable) to fast on the 15th of Shában. Cognisance should be taken of the fact that to fast on the 13th, 14th and 15th is Sunnah.

What should be done on this night?

In order to obtain maximum benefit from this auspicious night, one should allocate a specific portion of the night for repentance. Fervent dua should be a priority for Almighty Allah's pleasure and reformation of oneself.

Other observances that may be practiced are:

(a) Salah – Salah is one the most preferable acts to be performed during this night. There is no particular number of rak'ats but preferably it should not be less than eight. It is also advisable that each part of the salah like qiyam, ruku and sajdah should be longer than normal. Also try and recite as much qiraat in salah as possible.

(b) Tilawah – The recitation of the Noble Quran is another form of worship that is very beneficial on this night. After performing salaah, or at any other time, one should recite as much of the Quran as possible.

(c) Zikr – Engage ones heart in Zikr (remembrance of Allah Ta'ala).

One should also recite abundant durood on Rasulullah (SAW). Zikr can also be recited while walking, lying on bed and during other hours of work or leisure.

(d) Dua – The best benefit one can draw from the blessings of this night, is prayers and supplications. Dua (supplication) itself is an 'Ibadah, and Allah Ta'ala gives reward on each prayer along with the fulfillment of the

supplicator's need. Even if the purpose prayed for is not achieved, one cannot be deprived of the reward of the prayer, which is, sometimes more precious than the mundane benefits one strives for. The prayers and supplications also strengthen one's relation with Allah Ta'ala, which is the main purpose of all kinds and forms of worship.

(e) There are some people due to circumstances will not be able to carry out any vigorous or lengthy Ibadah. Such people should not deprive themselves completely of the blessings of this night. They should attempt to fulfill the following:

(i) Perform Maghrib, Esha and Fajr with congregation in the Masjid, or at home in case of illness.

(ii) Keep ones tongue wet with Zikr, in whatever condition they are until they sleep.

iii) Plead to Allah Ta'ala for forgiveness and for their other objectives. One can do so even whilst one is lying in bed.

(f) Women during menstruation cannot perform salaah, nor can they recite the Quran, but they can recite any Zikr, Tasbeeh, Durood sharif and can pray to Allah for whatever purpose they like in whatever language they wish. They can also recite the Arabic prayers mentioned in the Quran or in the Hadith with the intention of supplication (and not with the intention of recitation).

(g) **Rasulullah (SAW) visited the graveyard of Baqi'** during this night where he prayed for the Muslims buried there. Hence, some of the fuqaha (jurists) are of the view that it is mustahab (advisable) to visit the graveyard during this night and pray for the dead. However, this act is neither obligatory nor should it be observed regularly as an obligatory act.



1st RAMADAN (COMMENCEMENT OF FASTING)

The ninth month of the Islamic calendar is called Ramadhan and it is the most meritorious month of the whole year. Ramadhan means to burn and incinerate the sins. Hence, it is compulsory upon every Muslim to burn all the sins and make sincere tauba (repentance). Almighty Allah states: *"O you who believe! Turn towards Allah in sincere repentance."* (surah 66 verse 8)

Advice of Rasullullah (SAW) to the Muslims when Ramadhan approached

Hadhrat Salman (RA) narrates that during the last Jumu'ah of the month of Sha'ban, Rasullullah (SAW) recited a Khutba (sermon) in which he said: *"O People! An auspicious month has dawned over you. In that month is a night which is superior to a thousand months (i.e. ibadat in this night is superior to the ibadat rendered in a thousand*

months. Allah Ta'ala has made fasting compulsory in this month, and has decreed wakefulness at night (i.e. Taraweeh Salat) Sunnah. A Nafl (non-obligatory or optional) act rendered in this month for attaining proximity to Allah, is equal to a Fardh act rendered in other months. A Fardh act rendered in this month is equal to seventy Fardh acts of other months. Whoever gives to a fasting person something for Iftar, his sins will be forgiven and he will be saved from Jahannam; he obtains as much reward as the fasting person (to whom he had given something for Iftaar) while the reward of the person is not reduced in any way." The people asked: *'O Rasullullah! All of us are not by the means to give something for the Iftar of another. (They were at the time under the impression that Rasullullah (SAW) referred to a full meal). Rasullullah (SAW) said: "This reward is even for a person who gives another a date, a drink of water or milk (for Iftaar)..."* (Ibn Khuzaimah)

Unique features of Ramadhan

Fasting has been made compulsory and Taraweeh salat is performed at night. I'tikaf during the last ten days should be observed and Sadaqatul Fitr to be paid before Eid salat. The Night of Majesty which is greater than a thousand months is one of the many characteristics of Ramadhan.

A recommended daily program for Ramadhan

One should wake up early with the intention of Tahajjud 2-12 rakats, thereafter 15-20 minutes should be spent in making dua and istighfar. Thereafter one should partake of Suhur. The men should perform all their five Fardh salat in the Masjid with jamat and the females at home as soon as the time enters. Thereafter, Fajr salat and Tilawat of the Noble Quran, including surah Yaseen. Twelve to fifteen minutes after sunrise, one should read Salatul Ishraq (2-4 rakaats). Thereafter, one should go to work or rest if possible. After Zohr salat recite the Noble Quran and then rest for half an hour to an hour with the intention of qaylula(rest). Then one can engage oneself in reading some deeni material. After Asr one should engage oneself in the Tilawat of the Noble Quran, Salawat and Durud upon Nabi (SAW). Ten to fifteen minutes before Iftar, one should make an individual Dua, as supplications are accepted at that time. After Maghrib, meals and Surah Waqiah and after Esha, 2 Sunnats, then Taraweeh and Witr. Before sleeping one should recite Surah Mulk.

Things that should be Avoided in Ramadan

All sinful acts should be avoided completely during the month of Ramadhan. Although the sinful acts are totally prohibited in *Shariah*, whether in Ramadhan or at any other time, but their prohibition becomes more severe in

this month. It is evident that every Muslim avoids certain lawful acts, like eating and drinking, during the fasts. If he continues to commit sins in Ramadhan, it will be a mockery to avoid lawful things and yet be engaged in unlawful acts never allowed in *Shariah*. Thus, the abstinence from sins becomes all the more necessary in this month.

Especially the following acts should be avoided totally:

1. Telling a lie;
2. *Gheebah* or backbiting, i.e. condemnation of a person in his absence;
3. Quarrelling: The Prophet (SAW) has particularly forbidden from it when one is in the state of fasting. He has directed us that, if someone wants to quarrel in Ramadhan, we should tell him that we are fasting, hence we are not prepared to indulge in any quarrel.
4. Eating unlawful things;
5. Earning through unlawful means;
6. Any act which may harm a person without a valid cause;
7. Burdening one's servants or employees beyond their ability, without providing them facilities to carry it out.

In short, one should try his best to refrain from all kinds of sins, and protect his eyes, ears, tongue and all other organs from indulging in an unlawful activity.

Purpose of fasting

Almighty Allah states: *“O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed upon you as it was prescribed upon those before you so that you practice self-restraint.”* (surah 2 verse 183). The very essence of fasting is to inculcate the quality of taqwa and to suppress our desires. Hence, one must guard all the limbs whilst fasting and stay away from all haram speech and actions.

Rewards for fasting

Nabi (SAW) said: *“My ummah has been given 5 special things that were not given to anyone before them. The smell from the mouth of a fasting person is sweeter to Allah than the fragrance of musk. The fish in the sea seek forgiveness on their behalf until they break fast. Allah decorates His special jannah everyday and then says the time is near when My faithful servants shall cast aside the trials of the world and come to you. In this month the rebellious shayateen are chained, so as not to incite evil which they normally do in other months. On the last night of Ramadhan, the fasting Muslims are forgiven.”* The companions inquired: *“O Messenger of Allah: Is that night Laylatul Qadr.”* Nabi (SAW) replied: *“No, but it is only right that a servant should be given his reward on having completed his duty.”* (Reported by Ahmad and Baihaqi)

Virtues of fasting

Nabi (SAW) said: *“Every good deed of the child of Adam is increased (in reward) from 10 to 700 times.”* and Almighty Allah says: *“Except fasting, for verily it is for Me and I, Myself will reward it.”* *“The fasting person abstains from desire and food for My sake.”* (Mishkhat Shareef). Nabi (SAW) said: *“For the fasting person there are two occasions of joy – pleasure at the time of breaking the fast and at the time of meeting his Rabb (Sustainer).”* (Mishkat Shareef)

Benefits of fasting

Imam Ghazali (ra) states, fasting overpowers shaytan, the enemy of Allah because the base of all carnal desires is the stomach. By filling the stomach, lust exhibits its actions. Shaytan by manipulating these carnal desires, targets people as his prey. When the Muslim adopts hunger by fasting, the lustful desires weaken, then the shaytan is beaten into despondency.

One should ensure that the food with which one makes iftar is halal without the slightest doubt. Do not eat so much that the body feels bloated and the purpose of fasting is defeated.

Most virtuous acts in Ramadhan besides fasting

Hadhrat Ibn Abbas (RA) reported: Somebody asked Rasulullah (SAW) as to which of the acts is the most virtuous. Rasulullah (SAW) replied, *(‘Al-haal wal-*

murtahil'). The man inquired, 'O, Rasullullah (SAW)! What is 'Al-haal wal-murtahil ?' Rasullullah (SAW) replied, "It is that particular reader of the Qur'an who starts reading from the beginning and continues till he reaches its end, and after the end, he starts at the beginning again. Wherever he stops, he proceeds further." (Tirmidhi)

Virtues of performing I'tikaf

Hadhrat Ali Ibn Husain (RA) narrates from his father that Rasullullah (SAW) said: "He who observes the ten days I'tikaf during Ramadhan will obtain the thawaab of two Hajj and two Umrah." (Bayhaqi)

Hadhrat Abdullah bin Abbas (RA) reported that Rasullullah (SAW) said: "Whosoever for Allah's sake did even one days I'tikaf, Allah would keep him away from Jahannam by trenches." (Tabarani)

Hadhrat Ibn Abbas (RA) reported that Rasullullah (SAW) said, (about him who engages in i'tikaf), "that he is safe from sin and he also gets that reward which everyone (outside I'tikaf) gets for pious deeds." (Ibn Majah)

One of the virtues of I'tikaf, is the seeking and engaging in worship seeking Laylatul Qadr. Hazrat Abu Saeed Khudri((RA)) reports that Rasullullah (SAW) once performed I'tikaf for the first ten days of Ramadhan. Thereafter he made I'tikaf in a Turkish tent (inside the masjid) for the middle ten days. Thereafter he raised his head out of the tent and said, "Verily in search of Laylatul

Qadr did I perform I'tikaf for the first ten days, then for the middle ten days....." (Mishkaat)

Virtue of Laylatul Qadr

Hadhrat Anas (RA) reports, "Once when Ramadhan commenced, the Messenger of Allah ((SAW)) said: 'A month has verily dawned over you; wherein lies a night (ie. Laylatul Qadr) better than a thousand months. Whoever misses such a night has indeed been deprived of all that is good; and none is deprived of it, except he who is really unfortunate." (Ibn Majah)

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (RA) reported that Rasullullah (SAW) said: "Whoever stands in prayer and ibadah on the night of Power (Laylatul Qadr) with sincere faith and with sincere hope of gaining reward, his previous sins are forgiven." (Bukhari and Muslim)



EID-UL-FITR (TERMINATION OF FASTING): 1st SHAWWAL

The 1st of Shawwaal is known as "Eid-ul-fitr". It is one of the only two annual festivals recognized by the Shari'ah. This happy day is designed by the Shari'ah as a sign of gratefulness by the Muslims on the accomplishment of Ramadhan, and as an immediate reward by Allah for

those who spent the month of Ramadhan in fasting and performing other forms of ibadah.

In prescribing the ways to celebrate the happy day, Islam has adopted another unique approach. The festivals of other religions or nations normally comprise of some acts of rejoicing and enjoyment. The whole happy day is normally spent in dancing, singing and playing.

In contrast, Islam has prescribed a simple yet graceful way to observe the happy day. First of all, it is mandatory on all the well-off Muslims to start their day by paying "*Sadaqat-ul-fitr*" to the poor of their society, so that they, too, may enjoy the day along with others, and may not be worried for earning their livelihood at least on that day of happiness.

After paying the "*Sadaqat-ul-fitr*", the Muslims are required to proceed to an open place where they can offer the *Eid* prayer collectively. In this way, they are supposed to present themselves before their Creator and offer two *rak'ats* of this special type of salah, which makes them receive blessings from Allah and start their celebration by these divine blessings.

After the *Salah* also, they are supposed to rejoice the day in a responsible manner, without violating the limits prescribed for them and not indulging in acts prohibited by Allah.

The Night Preceding 'Eid-ul-Fitr'

It had been the practice of the Prophet (SAW), that he would not sleep the night preceding the day of *Eid-ul-fitr*. This night has been named in a Hadith as the Night of Reward (*Lailatul Jaiza*). Almighty bestows his rewards on those who have spent the month of Ramadhan abiding by the dictates of Shari'ah, and all their prayers in this night are accepted. Therefore, it is desirable to perform *nafl* prayers in this night. The Prophet (SAW) is reported to have said:

"Whoever stands up (in worship) in the nights preceding the two Eids expecting rewards from his Lord, his heart will not die when the other hearts will die." (Ibn Majah)

To benefit from this opportunity, one should perform as much worship in this night as one can, and should pray for all one's needs and desires.

Sunnats and mustahabs of Eid

- 1) To take a bath.
- 2) Apply Ittar.
- 3) To wear ones best clothes Islamically.
- 4) To recite the Takbeer whist going to the Musalla.
- 5) To perform Eid salat in the Eidgah (Musallah).
- 6) To give out abundant charity.
- 7) To clip the nails and remove unwanted hair.
- 8) To go walking to the Musalla if it is near.
- 9) To eat dates in odd numbers before Eidul Fitr.
- 10) To use different routes when going and returning.
- 11) To beg Almighty Allah for acceptance.

Virtues of keeping the 6 fasts of Shawwal

Hadhrat Abu Ayyub (RA) reported that Rasullullah (SAW) said: *"If anyone who has kept the fasts in Ramadhan, follows them up with six (optional) fasts of Shawwal then (he will get reward for the fasts of a year but if he does that always) it is as if he fasted all his life."* (Muslim)

Hadhrat Sauban (RA) reported that Rasullullah (SAW) has said that: *"Joining six days of the fasts of Shawwal is equal to the fast of the whole year. Each good act is equal to ten such acts."* (Ibn Majah, Nasai)

It means that the reward of each good deed is atleast multiplied ten times. Therefore, thirty days of the fasts of Ramadhan is thus equal to three hundred days and the six days of Shawwal is equal to sixty. Thus, making the total of three hundred and sixty, which is the maximum number of days in the lunar Islamic year.

**EID-UL-ADHA (DAY OF SACRIFICE): 10th ZUL-HIJJAH**

The month of Zul-Hijjah is indeed a month of tremendous virtues and blessings. The First Ten Days of this month are especially significant and are among the most magnificent days in the Islamic calendar. It is

reported from Hazrat Ibn Abbaas (RA) that Rasulullah (SAW) said: *"There is no day wherein any good action is more beloved to Allah Ta'ala than these ten days (the first ten days of Zul Hijjah)".* The Sahabah (RA) enquired: *"Not even Jihad in the path of Allah ?"* (i.e. are actions performed in these days more beloved than even the act of Jihad)". *"Not even Jihad in the path of Allah,"* replied Rasulullah (SAW), *"with the exception of that person who left with his life and wealth (in the path of Allah) and did not return with any of it (i.e. he is martyred)".* (Bukhari, Tabarani)

It is also narrated from Hazrat Ibn Abbaas (RA) that Rasulullah (SAW) said: *"No days are as weighty with Allah and so liked by Him for good deeds than the first ten days of Zul-Hijjah".* Therefore in these days increasingly recite: *"La ilaha illallah, Allahu Akbar, Al-Hamdu-lillah, Subhanallah."* (Tabarani)

Fasts in the First 10 Days

The Prophet (SAW) has said, *"One fast during these days is equal to the fasting of one complete year, and the worship of one night during this period is equal to the worship in the "Lailatul-Qadr".* (Tirmizi)

The mother of the believers, Hafsa (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) used to fast the (first) nine days of Zul Hijjah. (Nasai, Ahmad, Abu Dawud)

The 9th day of Zul-Hijjah

The 9th day of Zul-Hijjah is called *Youmul - Arafah* (The Day of Arafah). This is the date when the hujjaj (pilgrims) assemble on the plain of 'Arafat, a few kilometres away from Makkah al-Mukarramah, where they perform the most essential part of the prescribed duties of Hajj, namely, the Wuqoof of Arafat (the stay in Arafat).

Sayyidatina Ayesha (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) said, *"There is no day in which Allah sets free more souls from the fire of hell than on the day of Arafah. And on that day Allah draws near to the earth and by way of exhibiting His Pride remarks to the angels, 'What is the desire of these (servants of mine)?"* (Muslim)

Hazrat Talha (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) said, *"Apart from the day of the Battle of Badr, there is no day on which the shaytān is seen to be more humiliated, more rejected, more depressed and more infuriated, than on the day of Arafah, and indeed all this is only because of beholding the abundance of descending mercy (on the day) and Allah's forgiveness of the great sins of the servants."* (Mishkāt)

The Fast of Youmul 'Arafah

For those not performing hajj, it is Sunnah to fast on this day according to their own lunar calendar dates of their own country. The fast of Youmul Arafah has been emphasized by the Prophet (SAW) as a Mustahabb (desirable) act. According to a hadith, the fast of this day

becomes a cause, hopefully so, of forgiveness for sins committed in one year.

Hazrat Abu Qatadah (RA) reported that Rasullullah (SAW) said: *"I have hope in Allah Ta'ala that the fast of Arafat will be an atonement for the sins of the past and the forthcoming year."* (Tirmizi)

Takbir-ut-Tashriq

Beginning from the Fajr of the 9th Zul-Hijjah up to the Asr prayer of the 13th, it is obligatory on each Muslim to recite the Takbir of Tashriq after every Fardh prayer in the following words: *"Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illallahu, Wallahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa lillahilhamd."* (There is no god but Allah and Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest and to Allah belongs all praise.)

According to authentic Islamic sources, it is obligatory on each Muslim, to recite this Takbir after every fard salah. However, male Muslims should recite it in a loud voice, while females should recite it in a low voice.

Night of Eidul Adha

The nights of both Eid are described in the hadeeth as amongst the great and sacred nights in the Muslim calendar. To remain awake on the nights of Eid and perform ibādah is a source of great virtue and reward.

Hazrat Abu Umarah (RA) related that Sayyidatina Ayesha (RA) reports that Rasulullah (SAW) said, *"Whosoever stays awake and performs 'Ibādah (worship) on*

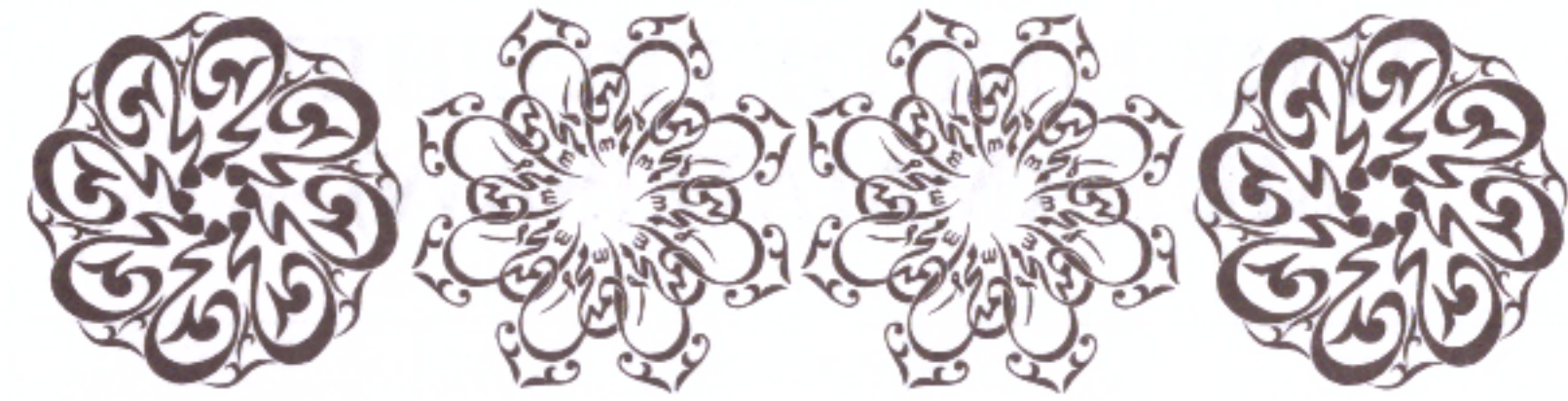
the nights of the two 'Eid, with hope for abundant reward (from Allah), his heart will not die on the day (i.e. Qiyāmah) when all hearts will be dead." (Targheeb)

Virtues of Qurbāni

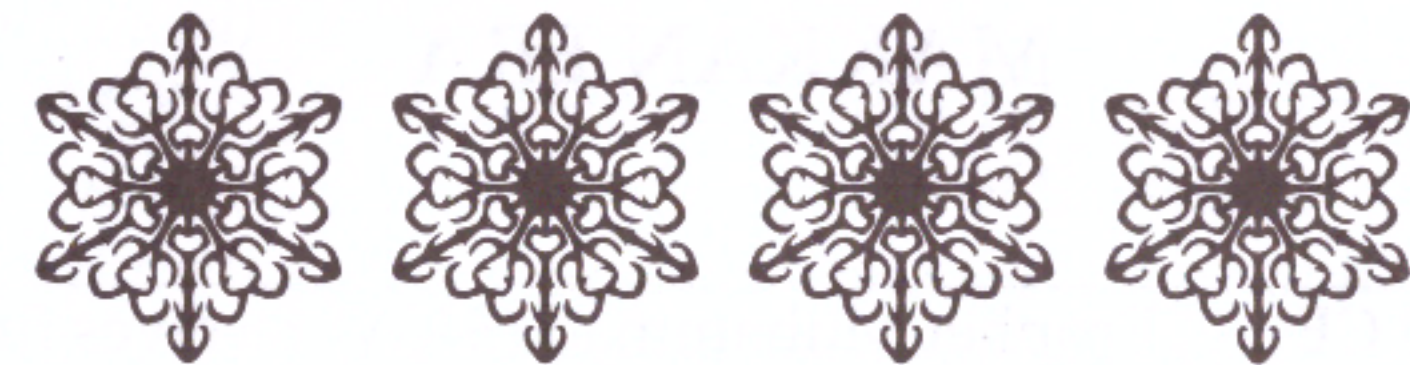
Rasulullah (SAW) said, "There is nothing dearer to Allah Ta'ala during the days of Qurbani than the sacrificing of animals. The sacrificed animal shall come on the Day of Judgment with its horns, hair, and hooves (to be weighed). The sacrifice is accepted by Allah before the blood falls on the ground. Therefore sacrifice with an open and happy heart." (Tirmizi, Ibn Majah)

Hazrat Zayd Ibn Arqam (RA) relates that the Companions (RA) queried, "O Rasulullah (SAW), What is Qurbani?" He replied, "It is the Sunnah of your father Ibraheem (AS)." They again asked, "What benefit do we derive from it?" He answered, "A reward for every hair (of the sacrificed animal)." "And (what reward is there for animals with) wool, O' Rasulullah (SAW)?" they asked. "A reward", he said, "for every fibre of the wool." (Ibn Majah)

When a person slaughters a Qurbani animal, he is forgiven at the fall of the first drop of blood, and verily, the animal shall be brought forward on the Day of Judgment with its blood, meat, limbs, etc. and shall be increased in weight seventy times, and then placed on the scale of deeds. (Kanzul Ummal)



Prophetic Timeline



TIME LINE OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (SAW)

PRE-PROPHETHOOD ERA	
1500 – 2000 BC	The descendents of Ibrahim (AS)
400 – 600 CE	Ascendency of Quraysh
570 CE	Abraha attempts to destroy the Ka'bah. Birth of Nabi Muhammad (SAW) in Makkah. Year of the Elephant
571 – 578 CE	Early childhood of Nabi Muhammad (SAW).
576 CE	Death of Aminah (Prophet (SAW)'s mother)
578 CE	Death of Abdul Muttalib (grandfather)
582 CE	Journey to Syria (With his Uncle Abu Talib)
595 CE	Marriage to Khadijah (RA)
MAKKAN ERA	
610 CE (1 st year of Prophethood)	Prophet Muhammad (SAW) receives first revelation (surah 96 verses 1-5) at Mount Hira.

611 CE (2 nd year of Prophethood)	Private propagation commences.
612 CE (3 rd year of Prophethood)	Inviting to One Allah.
613 CE (4 th year of Prophethood)	End of private propagation.
614 CE (5 th year of Prophethood)	Persecution of the Muslims by the Quraysh. The first migration to Abyssinia.
615 CE (6 th year of Prophethood)	Sayyidina Hamza (RA) accepted Islam and three days later Sayyidina Umar (RA) embraced Islam.
616 CE (7 th year of Prophethood)	Embargo and Boycott of Banu Hashim (Prophet (SAW)'s family) by Quraysh. Boycott of the Muslims begins and continues for three years.
617 CE (8 th year of Prophethood)	Surah Rum was revealed.
618 CE (9 th year of Prophethood)	Boycott revoked. Miracle of the splitting of the moon took place.
619 CE (10 th year of Prophethood)	Year of Sorrow - Abu Talib died and three days later the demise of Sayyidina Khadija (RA) took place. Nabi (SAW) went to Taif and he was mocked and jeered.
620 CE (11 th year)	Isra and Miraj.

621 CE (12 th year of Prophethood)	First pledge at Aqaba. Twelve men from Madinah participated.
622 CE (13 th year of Prophethood)	Second pledge of Aqaba. 73 male and 2 women took the Oath of Allegiance.
MADINAH ERA	
622 CE (1 AH)	Prophet Muhammad (SAW) migrates to Madina. Treaty with Jews and brotherhood established between Muhajir and Ansar.
623 CE (2 AH)	Battle of Badr. Change of the Qiblah from Jerusalem to the Ka'bah. Marriage of Fatimah (RA), Prophet (SAW)'s youngest daughter to Ali (RA).
624 CE (3 AH)	Battle of Uhud on 7 th Shawwal.
625 CE (4 AH)	The incident of Bir of Mauna wherein 70 qaris were martyred. Expedition of Banu Nadhir.
626 CE (5 AH)	Battle of Trench. Expedition of Banu Quraizah.
627 CE (6 AH)	Hudaybiyah Treaty.
628 CE (7 AH)	Battle of Khaybar. Invitation to Kings and World Leaders.
629 CE (8 AH)	Conquest of Makkah. Battle of Hunain. Birth of Ibrahim (Prophet (SAW)'s son). Abbas (RA) and Abu Sufyan (RA) embraced Islam.

630 CE (9 AH)	Battle of Tabuk. Year of Deputations. Demise of Negus, the ruler of Abyssinia. Hajj led by Abu Bakr (RA).
631 CE (10 AH)	Jarir bin Abdullah (RA) embraced Islam. He was known as the Yusuf of this ummah due to his extreme handsomeness. Nabi (SAW) sent Sayyidina Ali (RA), Muaz bin Jabal (RA) and Abu Moosa Al-Ash'ari (RA) to Yemen. Death of Ibrahim (Prophet (SAW)'s son). Farewell Pilgrimage
632 CE (11 AH)	Last Revelation. Demise of Nabi (SAW) - 12 Rabi ul Awwal. Election of Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) as the khalifah. Usamah leads expedition to the Levant. Campaigns against Bani Tamim and Musailima, the impostor.
AFTER THE DEMISE OF THE PROPHET (SAW) - PERIOD OF THE 4 RIGHTEOUS CALIPHS	
633 CE	Compilation of the Quran begins.
634 CE	Death of Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA). Sayyidina Umar (RA) becomes Khalifah. Conquest of Damascus.
635 CE	Conquest of Madain.
636 CE	Conquest of Syria, Mesopotamia and Palestine.

637 CE	Conquest of Egypt.
640 CE	Government starts minting Islamic coins.
644 CE	Martyrdom of Umar (RA). Uthman (RA) becomes Khalifah.
645 CE	Campaigns in North Africa. Conquest of the island of Cyprus.
646 CE	Campaigns against the Byzantine.
647 CE	Naval battle against the Byzantine. Persian Empire was defeated.
649 CE	Martyrdom of Uthman (RA). Ali (RA) becomes the Khalifah. Battle of the Camel.
650 CE	Ali (RA) shifts the capital from Madina to Kufa. Battle of Siffin.
652 CE	Martyrdom of Ali (RA). Muawiyah (RA) becomes Khalifah.



TIMELINE FROM THE BIRTH OF PROPHET (SAW) UPTO CURRENT EVENTS IN ARAB & MUSLIM WORLD

570 CE	Nabi Muhammad (SAW) was born in Makka Mukarrama, Hejaz.
610 CE	Nabi (SAW) received revelation from Almighty Allah. The first five verses of chapter 96 were revealed.
622 CE	Nabi (SAW) migrates to Madina Munawwara from Makka. This incident is known as the Hijra and the Muslim calendar begins on this date.
632 CE	Nabi (SAW) passes away in Madina.
1446 CE	The first documented Ale-Saud leaves the nomadic life of the desert and settles in Dariya (old Riyadh).
1744 CE	Muhammad Ale-Saud establishes a partnership with Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab, the teacher. The combined forces of the warrior and teacher punish the people for committing crimes.
1799 CE	4 May 1799 (30 Zul Qada 1213) - Tipu Sahib, the great warrior Sultan of Mysore, Southern India, fights to the death when the British overwhelm his capital at Seringapatam.
1802-1806 CE	Sons of Muhammad Ale-Saud and Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab attack and capture Makka and Madina. Arabia unites under one authority.

1843-1865 CE	The Sauds extend authority southwards to Oman.
1869 CE	17 November 1869 (13 Sha'ban 1286) - On this day Suez Canal opened, construction began on 25 April 1859, and the workforce initially consisted of 8213 men and 368 camels. The cost of the canal was \$29 million.
1871 CE	The Ottomans take control of the province of Hasa.
1876 CE	Abdul Aziz bin Saud, founder of Saudi Arabia is born.
1887 CE	The city of Riyadh is captured by the Rashids.
1891 CE	The Saud family and clan flee from Riyadh into the Empty Quarter.
1893-1894 CE	The Saud clan marches across the desert to Kuwait.
1901 CE	Abdul Aziz now 25 years old, along with his warriors leave Kuwait for Riyadh.
1902 CE	Abdul Aziz and his men capture Riyadh, the new Al-Saud Dynasty begins.
1912 CE	The Ikhwan (brotherhood) Movement is founded following the teachings of Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab. It flourishes and provides support for Abdul Aziz bin Saud.
1915 CE	Abdul Aziz bin Saud enters into an agreement with the British Government to receive 5000 pounds per month to fight the Turks.

1917 CE	29 February 1917 (8 Jumadal Ula 1335) - Arthur Balfour, British Foreign Secretary, wrote a letter to Lord Rothschild stating the following: His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.
1924 CE	3 March 1924 (27 Rajab 1342) - Kamal Ataturk abolishes the Khalifat and bans the Islamic Religion in Turkey.
1926 CE	Abdul Aziz is proclaimed king of Hejaz in Masjidul Haram, Makka Mukarrama.
1927 CE	Kamal Ataturk said that it was necessary to abolish the hat and fez which was an emblem of ignorance, fanaticism and hatred of progress and civilization.
1932 CE	Unification of the dual kingdoms of Hejaz and Najd. The new name is Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
1933 CE	During the month of May, the USA wins concessions over the British to search for oil in Saudi Arabia.
1934 CE	A war takes place between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. A month later peace is established.
1934 CE	In revenge for the Yemen war King Abdul Aziz is attacked in the Haram Shareef at

	Makka by 3 knife-wielding Yemenis. His eldest son, Saud, flings himself in front of his father and is wounded.
1936 CE	28 April 1936 (7 Safar 1355) - King Fuad of Egypt dies at the age of 68. He became a monarch when Britain granted Egypt independence in 1922.
1938 CE	Oil is discovered in Dammam, Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.
1939 CE	War in Europe halts oil production.
1944 CE	Oil production in Saudi Arabia rises to 8 million barrels per annum.
1945 CE	14 February 1945 - President Roosevelt of USA meets King Abdul Aziz aboard USS Quincy. 17 February 1945 - Britains Prime Minister, Winston Churchill meets King Abdul Aziz aboard USS Quincy.
1946 CE	22 July 1946 (23 Shabaan 1365) - A bomb planted at the King David Hotel, Jerusalem killed 91 people and 45 injured. The target of the Jewish terrorist organization Irgun Zvai Leumi was the British military headquarters and the civil secretariat.
1947 CE	24 September 1947 (9 Zul Qada 1366) - A train load of Muslim refugees fleeing to Pakistan were massacred by Sikhs at Amritsar, Punjab. There were at least 1200 defenceless people shot and hacked to death.

1948 CE	- Radio Makka, the first radio station in the Kingdom is opened despite some opposition from the Ulama. - The Day of Nakba (catastrophe for the Palestinians) on 15th May 1948 after apartheid Israel was established on 14th May.
1952 CE	- King Abdul Aziz bans alcohol imports for non-Muslims. 11 August 1952 (21 Zul Qada 1371) - The Crown Prince of Jordan, Husain is named successor to his schizophrenic father, King Talal.
1953 CE	9 November 1953 - King Abdul Aziz dies at the age of 77. Saud becomes the King and Faisal becomes the crown prince.
1957 CE	Usama bin Laden is born in Saudi Arabia. His mother is Saudi and father Yemeni. Usama is the 17th son of 51 children of Muhammad bin Laden.
1958 CE	- March 1958 - Crown Prince Faisal takes administrative control of the government due to financial turmoil. 14 July 1958 (27 Zul Hijja 1377) - King Feisal of Iraq, his uncle the crown prince Abdul Ilah and the Prime Minister, Noori Al-Saeed were murdered in Baghdad during a coup.

1959 CE	25 July 1959 (20 Muharram 1379) - The monarchy is abolished in Tunisia and the country becomes a republic with Habib Bourguiba, the arch enemy of Islam, as its first president. 4 June 1959 (26 Shawwal 1378) - Charles de Gaulle stuns French colonists in Algeria by instructing them that they must integrate with the Muslim Algerians if they wish to stay there.
1960 CE	December 1960 - King Saud dismisses his brother Faisal from administrative duties and assumes control of the government.
1962 CE	Slavery is abolished in Saudi Arabia. Most slaves continue to live with the families that own them.
1963 CE	The first girls school open in Saudi Arabia which causes riots.
1964 CE	3 November 1964 - King Saud abdicates and leaves for Beirut. Faisal is declared king and Khalid crown prince.
1965 CE	- The first television station is opened in Riyadh despite protests. - September 1965 - Prince Khalid bin Musaid is killed as he leads an armed protest against the opening of the television station.
1967 CE	June 1967 - Six day war between Israel and Arab neighbours.

1969 CE	February 1969 - Deposed King Saud dies in Athens.
1970 CE	16 January 1970 (9 Zul Qada 1389) - Colonel Gaddafi becomes chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in Libya.
1973 CE	6 October 1973 - War between Israel and Arab neighbours. Saudi Arabia sends troops. 20 October 1973. King Faisal announces an oil embargo against USA due to Americas military assistance of Israel.
1975 CE	25 March 1975 (13 Rabi ul Awwal 1395) - King Faisal is assassinated by his nephew Faisal bin Musaid, during a ceremony at the palace in Riyadh to commemorate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). Khalid is made the king and Fahd the crown prince.
1977 CE	King Khalid issues a government decree that forbids women from travelling abroad unless accompanied by a male family member.
1979 CE	- Saudi Arabia severs diplomatic ties with Egypt after they made peace with Israel. - November 1979 - The Haram Shareef in Makka is attacked by extremists. All those captured were executed. 16 January 1979 (17 Safar 1399) - The

	Shah of Iran dies in exile in Egypt. 4 April 1979 (7 Jumadal Ula 1399) - Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the ousted Prime Minister of Pakistan is hanged by the military, headed by General Zia ul Haq for the murder of a political opponent.
1980 CE	- Usama bin Laden graduates from King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. He joins the Mujahideen in Afghanistan to fight the Soviets. 9 January 1980 (21 Safar 1400) - Saudi Arabia announced that 63 of the Shia extremists who occupied the Haram Shareef in Makka Mukarrama on 23 November 1979 have been executed.
1981 CE	Saudi Arabia is a founder member of the Gulf Co-operation Council.
1982 CE	King Khalid dies of a heart attack. Fahd is declared king and Abdullah as crown prince.
1983 CE	14 November 1983 (9 Safar 1404) - The worlds largest airport, King Khalid International, opened near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The \$ 3864 million airport covers 221 square km. It also has the world largest control tower, 74m high.
1984 CE	1 January 1984 - The Sultan of Brunei, the worlds richest man appointed himself Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Home Affairs Minister.

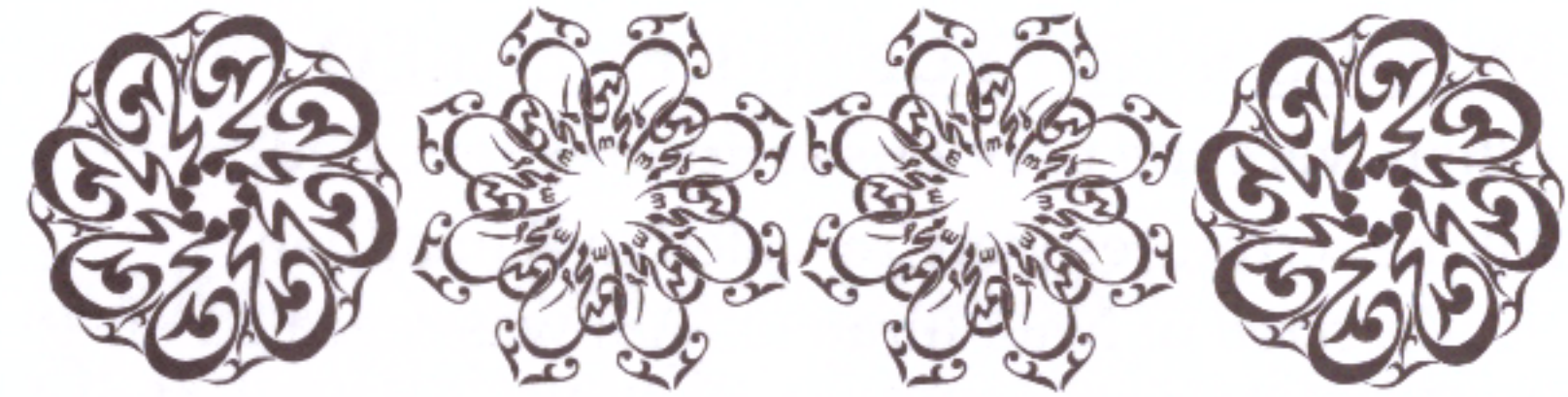
1986 CE	King Fahd adds the title Khadimul Haramain Shareefayn - Custodian of the two Holy Mosques to his name.
1987 CE	Saudi Arabia resumes diplomatic ties with Egypt.
1988 CE	- Usama bin Laden establishes Al-Qaida network. The headquarters is in Afghanistan and Peshawar, Pakistan. 17 August 1988 (5 Muharram 1409) - General Zia ul Haq, Pakistans ruler for 11 years died at the age of 64 when his plane crashed shortly after take-off. 17 November 1988 (8 Rabi ul Akhir 1409) - Benazir Bhutto becomes the first woman leader of an Islamic country, Pakistan. 30 November 1988 (21 Rabi ul Akhir 1409) - PLO leader Yasir Arafat is refused a visa to enter the US in order to address UN General Assembly in New York.
1989 CE	2 February 1989 (26 Jumadal Ula 1409) - The Soviet Army finally quits Afghanistan. The Soviet Unions nine year military occupation of Afghanistan ended on this day with 120 000 troops leaving Kabul. Usama bin Laden returns to Saudi Arabia, welcomed as hero by family, friends and the authorities.
1990 CE	2 August 1990 (11 Muharram 1411) - Kuwait is invaded by Saddam Hussein

	of Iraq and on 8 August Iraq annexes it as its 19th province. The Al-Sabah family which ruled Kuwait for more than two centuries flees to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia protests against the invasion and King Fahd allows foreign troops into the country. • 2 July 1990 (9 Zul Hija 1410) - Hundreds of Pilgrims passed away due to suffocation in a tunnel in the Holy City of Makka Mukarrama and Mina during the occasion of Hajj.
1991 CE	• 16 January 1991 (1 Rajab 1411) - The Americans and the allied forces bombed Baghdad in the first Gulf War. • 27 February 1991 - Coalition forces enter Kuwait and President Bush declares Kuwait liberated. Usama bin Laden is critical of the Saudi government as it was involved in air attacks on Iraq. He settles in Sudan.
1993 CE	23 February 1993 - A bomb explodes in the World Trade Center killing 8 people and wounding approximately 1 000. One of the accused, Ramzi Yusuf has close ties to Usama.
1994 CE	Usama bin Laden is stripped of his Saudi nationality as he was critical of the government. South African Muslims are voting for the first time.

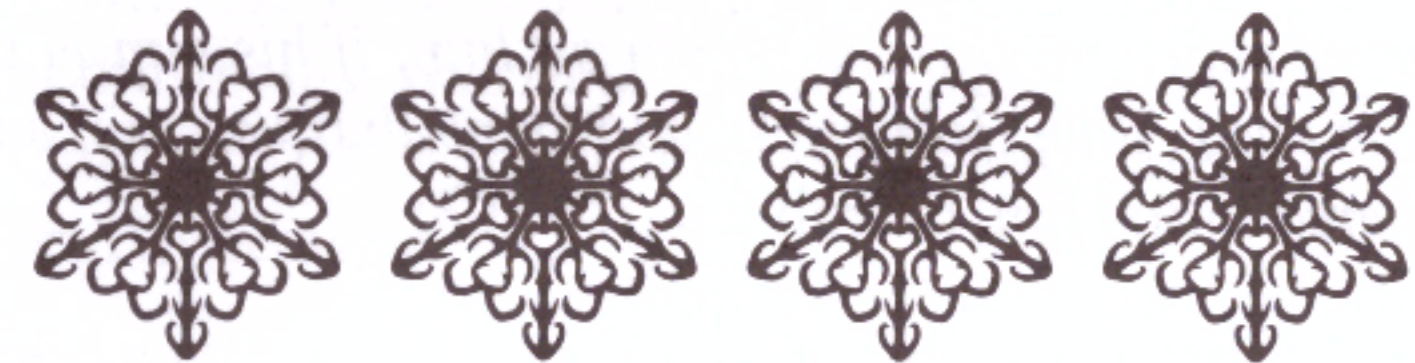
1995 CE	King Fahd suffers a stroke. Crown Prince Abdullah is entrusted with the day to day affairs of the country.
1996 CE	Under pressure from the USA and Saudi Arabia, the Sudanese government ask Usama to leave. He declares Jihad. 19 American soldiers are killed in Khobar Towers, Saudi Arabia.
2000 CE	5 October 2000 - The Mujahideen attack the USS Cole. Seventeen American soldiers are killed and 38 injured. Al-Qaida is suspected of carrying out this attack.
2001 CE	11 September 2001 - Twin Towers are attacked and the western media states that 15 of the 19 hijackers are Saudi Nationals.
2003 CE	The USA announces that it will pull out all its troops from the Kingdom, ending Americas presence from 1991.
2005 CE	King Fahd passed away and Abdullah is appointed as the sixth king of Saudi Arabia. Sultan is appointed as the crown prince. King Fahd's greatest contribution was expanding Masjidul Haram in Makka Mukarrama and Masjidun Nabawi in Madina Munawwara. He also established the Quran Complex at Madina in 1984 and millions of Quran copies in various languages are printed and distributed gratis globally.
2009 CE	The Israelis invaded Gaza killing over 1000 people, most of them innocent women, children and civilians.

2011 CE

- Massive unrests and protests by the general populations against their rulers sweep through Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, Yemen and Syria. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was ousted after 18 days of demonstrations on 11 February 2011, ending his 30 year rule. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Tunisian president was forced to step down and fled the country on 14 January 2011 to Saudi Arabia. In early February 2011, major political protests, inspired by protests in Tunisia, Egypt and other parts of the Arab world, broke out in Libya against Gaddafi's government and turned into a civil war. On 17 March 2011 the United Nations declared a no fly zone in Libya passing a resolution authorizing an air campaign.
- 2 May 2011 - Usama bin Laden is martyred by the Americans in Pakistan.



Q & A



PREVIOUS SCRIPTURES REVEALED**Q: When were the previous scriptures revealed?****A:** All the scriptures were revealed in Ramadhan.

- i. *The scroll of Nabi Ibrahim (AS) was revealed on 1st Ramadhan.*
- ii. *The Torah was revealed to Nabi Moosa (AS) on 6th Ramadhan.*
- iii. *The Injeel was revealed to Nabi Eesa (AS) on 13th Ramadhan.*
- iv. *The Zabur was revealed to Dawud (AS) on 18th Ramadhan.*

For reference see: Musnad bin Hanbal (ra) and Tafseer Ibn Kathir (surah 2 verse 185).

MA'DUDAT AND MA'LUMAT**Q: What is the meaning of Ma'dudat and Ma'lumat?**

A: Ma'dudat refers to 11th, 12th, 13th of Zul Hijja. *"And remember Allâh during the appointed Days. But whosoever hastens to leave in two days, there is no sin on him and whosoever stays on, there is no sin on him, if his aim is to do good and obey Allâh (fear Him), and know that you will surely be gathered unto Him. (surah 2 verse 203)*

Ma'lumat alludes to the first 10 days of Zul Hijja. *"That they may witness things that are of benefit to them (i.e. reward of Hajj in the Hereafter, and also some worldly gain from trade, etc.), and mention the Name of Allâh on appointed days (i.e. 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th day of Dhul-Hijjâh), over the beast of cattle that He has provided for them (for sacrifice) (at the time of their slaughtering by saying: Bismillah, Wallâhu-Akbar, Allâhumma Minka wa Ilaik). Then eat thereof and feed*

therewith the poor who have a very hard time." (surah 22 verse 28)

MARRY IN SAFR & MUHARRAM**Q: Is it permissible to get married in Muharram or Safar?**

A: It is permissible to get married anytime of the year. Some people think that to get married in Muharram or Safar is unlucky – this has no basis in Islam.

ALI (RA) MARRY HAZRAT FATHIMA (RA)**Q: When did Hazrat Ali (RA) marry Hazrat Fathima (RA)?**

A: Hazrat Ali (RA) married Hazrat Fathima (RA) during Ramadhan 2 AH.

NABI (SAW) MARRY AYESHA (RA)**Q: When did Nabi (SAW) marry Hazrat Ayesha (RA)?**

A: Nabi (SAW) married Hazrat Ayesha (RA) in Shawwal. Therefore, she used to encourage her family members to get married in Shawwal (Tirmidhi). Mulla Ali Qari (RA) has mentioned that Nabi (SAW) married her on 10th Shawwal.

SUNNAH DUA FOR THE NEW MOON**Q: What is the sunnah dua for the new moon?**

A: When one sights the crescent one should read: *Hilalu khairin wa rushdin*

هَلَالٌ خَيْرٌ وَرُشْدٌ

O Allah ! Make this month a month of goodness and righteousness. (Abu Dawud).

Nabi (SAW) used to also read the following dua when sighting the new moon:

Allahu Akbar. Allahumma ahillahu alayna bil amni wal imaani was salamati wal islami wat tawfiqi lima tuhibbu wa tardha, Rabbi wa RabbukAllah.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلُهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ ، وَالسَّلَامَةِ
وَالْإِسْلَامِ ، وَالتَّوْفِيقِ لِمَا تُحِبُّ وَتَرْضَى ،

رَبِّي وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ

Allah is the Greatest, O Allah, let the crescent loom above us in safety, faith, peace and Islam and grant us the ability to do that which You love and pleases You, Our Sustainer and your Sustainer is Allah. (Tirmidhi)

SPECIAL SALATS IN LUNAR MONTHS

Q: Are there any special salats to read when the lunar month commences?

A: No special salat is mentioned in the authentic Ahadith of Nabi (SAW). However, Imam Malik (ra) used to exert himself in worship in the beginning of the month and said that if the starting is good then the entire month will go well.

UMAYYADS AND ABBASIDES

Q: Kindly explain when the Umayyads and Abbasides ruled the ummah?

A: Nabi (SAW) demise took place in 11 AH, subsequently the ummah was ruled by the rightly guided Khulafa, namely, Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA); Sayyidina Umar (RA); Sayyidina Uthman (RA); Sayyidina Ali (RA); Sayyidina Hasan bin Ali (RA), who abdicated power on 25 Rabi ul Awwal 41 AH and handed it over to Ameer Muawiya (RA). This was the beginning of the Umayyad Dynasty which lasted from 41 AH to 132 AH and consisted of 14 rulers. They ruled for more than 90 years from Syria. It is known as the Umayyad Dynasty as Muawiya (RA) was the great grandson of Umayya, one of the leaders of the Quraish tribe. The Abbaside Dynasty descended from Abbas, the paternal uncle of Nabi (SAW). The Abbaside Dynasty comprised 37 khalifas, who ruled from 132 AH to 656 AH. Hence, they ruled for 524 years from Iraq.

WHO IS YUSHA (AS)?

Q: Who is Yusha (AS)?

A: He is Yusha bin Nun, his name is not mentioned in the Noble Quran. Yusha means to produce beauty. He is the servant who accompanied Nabi Moosa (AS) when he went to meet Hazrat Khizar (AS) as mentioned in surah 18 verse 59. Subsequently, Almighty Allah blessed him with Prophethood.

BATTLES OF KHALID BIN WALID (RA)

Q: In how many battles did Khalid bin Walid (RA) participate?

A: As a non-muslim he participated in the battles of Uhud, Shawwal 3 AH, and the battle of trench, Shawwal 5 AH. He embraced Islam on 1 Safar 8 AH and participated in the following battles:

1. **Battle of Mu'ta** - Jumadal Ula 8 AH - August 629
2. **Ghazwa Hunayn** - Shawwal 8 AH - December 629
3. **Ghazwa Taif** - Shawwal 8 AH - December 629
4. **Battle of Salaseel** - Muharram 12 AH - March 633
5. **Battle of Mazar** - 1 Safar 12 AH - 17 April 633
6. **Battle of Waljah** - 22 Safar 12 AH - 8 May 633
7. **Battle of Alees** - 25 Safar 12 AH - 11 May 633
8. **Battle of Amghishiya** - 28 Safar 12 AH - 14 May 633
9. **Battle of Maqar** - Rabi ul Awwal 12 AH - May 633
10. **Battle of Hira** - Rabi ul Awwal 12 AH - May 633
11. **Battle of Ambaar** - 4 Rajab 12 AH - 15 September 633
12. **Battle of Anynut Tamar** - 11 Rajab 12 AH - 23 September 633
13. **Battle of Dumatul Jandal** - 24 Rajab 12 AH - 4 October 633
14. **Battle of Maseekh** - 19 Shabaan 12 AH - 29 October 633
15. **Battle of Thani** - 23 Shabaan 12 AH - 2 November 633
16. **Battle of Zameel** - 23 Shabaan 12 AH - 2 November 633
17. **Battle of Firadh** - 15 Zul Qada 12 AH - 21 January 634
18. **Battle of Ghassan** - 19 Safar 13 AH - 25 April 634
19. **Conquest of Busra** - 25 Rabi ul Awwal 13 AH - 29 May 634

20. **Battle of Ajnadeen** - 27 Jumadal Ula 13 AH - 29 July 634
21. **Battle of Marjus Safar** - 17 Jumadal Akhira 13 AH - 18 August 634
22. **Battle of Fahl, Baysan** - 28 Zul Qada 13 AH - 23 January 635
23. **Conquest of Damascus** - 15 Rajab 14 AH - 3 September 635
24. **Conquest of Balbak** - 25 Rabi ul Awwal 15 AH - 6 May 636
25. **Conquered Hims** - 21 Rabi ul Akhira 15 AH - 2 June 636
26. **Battle of Yarmouk** - 5 Rajab 15 AH - 13 August 636

END OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Q: How long did the Ottoman Empire last?

A: The Ottoman Empire lasted from 1299 - 1924, when it was abolished by the apostate Atarturk.

MAJOR EVENTS DURING REIGN OF THE FOUR KHULAFAs

Q: Kindly explain what major events occurred during the reign the four khulafa?

A: Hereunder find a list of events which occurred chronologically:

1. Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA) was appointed the Khalifa in 11 AH. The Noble Quran was written on paper and given the name Mushaf.
2. Sayyidina Umar (RA) became the Khalifa in 13 AH. Egypt, Syria and Iran was conquered during his

reign.

3. Sayyidina Uthman (RA) was made the Khalifa in 24 AH. He supervised the writing of the Noble Quran according to the Quraish dialect.
4. Sayyidina Ali (RA) was appointed the Khalifa in 35 AH. The battles of the Camel and Siffin took place.

END OF UMAYYAD DYNASTY

Q: When did the Umayyad Dynasty end?

A: The Umayyads had 14 rulers from 41 - 132 AH. The last one being Marwan, who was defeated by the Abbasides, pursued to Egypt and slain on the banks of the Nile. The end of the Umayyad Dynasty occurred in 132 AH corresponding to 750 CE.

END OF ABBASIDE DYNASTY

Q: When did the Abbaside Dynasty end?

A: The Abbasides ruled from 132 - 656 AH and consisted of 37 rulers. The last ruler was Mutasim, who became the ruler in 640 AH. Subsequently, Halaku the grandson of Genghis Khan captures Baghdad and kills the Khalifa and 1,6 million in the city of Baghdad. This incident occurred in 656 AH - 1258 and was perpetrated by the Mongols and brought an end to the Abbaside Dynasty.

KHILAFAT IN ANDALUS (SPAIN)

Q: How long did the Khilafat last in Andalus (Spain)?

A: The khalifat in Andalus (Spain) was founded by a descendant of the Umayyad Dynasty, Abdur Rahman bin Muawiya. Muslims ruled over Cordova from 711 when Tariq bin Ziyad conquered Spain. The first person

to assume the title of khalifa was Abdur Rahman. Muslims ruled from 755 - 1492 CE for a period of 732 years. During this period there were 57 rulers. When Granada fell in 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella planted the symbols of the Christian faith on the walls of Granada and proclaimed the destruction of Muslim rule in Andalus - *Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi rajioun*.

COUNTRIES CONQUERED BY MUSLIMS

Q: Name some of the countries that were conquered by the Muslims ?

- a) 27 AH (648 CE) - Uthman bin Affan (RA) grants permission to Muawiya (RA) to attack Cyprus
- b) 33 AH (654 CE) - Muawiya (RA) conquers Cyprus
- c) 62 AH - 682 CE - Uqba bin Nafi (RA) conquers Morroco
- d) 256 AH (869 CE) - Abul Gharanik Muhammad bin Aglab (ra) conquers Malta
- e) 818 AH (1415 CE) - Izmir was conquered
- f) 865 AH (1460 CE) - Serbia was conquered
- g) 865 AH (1460 CE) - Athens was conquered
- h) 868 AH (1463 CE) - Albania was conquered
- i) 869 AH (1463 CE) - Bosnia was conquered
- j) 927 AH (1521 CE) - Belgrade conquered
- k) 941 AH (1534 CE) - Tunis was conquered and became part of the Ottoman Empire

UNIQUE FEATURES OF RAMADHAN

Q: What are the unique features of Ramadhan?

A: The revelation of the Noble Quran commenced in Ramadhan. "*The month of Ramadân in which was revealed*

the Qur'ân, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadân i.e. is present at his home), he must observe Saum (fasts) that month...." (surah 2 verse 185). Fasting became compulsory and the Night of Power was given as a gift to this ummah.

FOUR SACRED MONTHS

Q: Which are the 4 sacred months?

A: Nabi (SAW) said: *three months are consecutive Zul Qa'da, Zul Hijja, Muharram and Rajab.* (Bukhari Shareef). "Verily, the number of months with Allâh is twelve months (in a year), so was it ordained by Allâh on the Day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are Sacred, (i.e. the 1st, the 7th, the 11th and the 12th months of the Islâmic calendar) ..." (surah 9 verse 36)

MONTH OF ALLAH

Q: Which month is known as the month of Allah?

A: The month of Allah is Muharram as mentioned in Tirmidhi Shareef.

LAYLATUL QADR

Q: When is the night of Laylatul Qadr?

A: Hafiz Ibn Hajr Asqalani (ra), in his magnum opus, the commentary on Bukhari Shareef, Fathul Bari in the ending on the chapter on fasting mentioned 46 different verdicts on this issue. Thereafter, he mentions that according to the majority of the scholars it is most

probably the 27th night, whilst Imam Shafi'e (ra) states that it is the 21st or 23rd night.

Hadhrat Ayesha (RA) reports that Rasullullah (SAW) said: "Seek "Laylatul Qadr" among the odd numbered nights of the last ten days of the month of Ramadhan (ie. 21, 23, 25, etc.)." (Mishkaat)

Hadhrat Ubaadah bin Saamit (RA) said: 'Once Rasullullah (SAW) came out to inform us of the (true date of) "Laylatul Qadr". Unfortunately, a quarrel took place between two Muslims, whereupon he said: "I came out to inform you as to when "Laylatul Qadr" occurs, but because two people quarrelled with each other, the knowledge of the correct date was taken away; perhaps that is better for you. Who knows that this forgetting was better in Allah's knowledge of things. So, seek it among the ninth, seventh and fifth nights." (odd nights). (Bukhari, Mishkaat)

Hadhrat Ayesha (RA) reports that Rasullullah (SAW) said: "Seek "Laylatul Qadr" among the odd numbered nights of the last ten days of the month of Ramadhan." (Mishkaat)

Q: Why is it called Laylatul Qadr ?

A: It is known as Laylatul Qadr because of its rank and status. Hence, it is known as the night of majesty and power.

Q: What should one read on Laylatul Qadr?**A:** It is recommended to do the following:

- 1) Salatut tasbeeh.
- 2) Tilawat of the Noble Quran.
- 3) Abundant Salawat upon Nabi (SAW) and Istighfar.
- 4) Read *Allahumma innaka afuwun tuhibbul afwa fa'fuanni*

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُورٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

O Allah! You love to forgive, so forgive me.

- 5) Abundant recital of the kalima *La ilaha illallah muhammadur rasullullah*.
- 6) Make dua for yourself and the Ummah at large, not forgetting the deceased and the Mujahideen.

Q: What are the signs of Laylatul Qadr?**A:** According to the authentic Ahadith there are three signs of this blessed night:

1. Ubay bin Ka'ab (RA) reports that Nabi (SAW) said: *"That the sun rises in the morning without any (strong) rays."* (Muslim Shareef).
2. Abdullah bin Abbas (RA) reports that Nabi (SAW) said: *"The Night of Power is a calm night, neither hot nor cold. The sun rises with weak rays."* (Reported in Sahih Ibn Khuzaima, Hadith 2192 and Musnad Tayalisi)
3. Wathila (RA) reported that Nabi (SAW) said: *"The Night of Majesty is a radiant night, neither hot nor cold nor are there any falling stars."* (Reported by Tabarani in Kabir and by Imam Ahmad in his Musnad.)

Q: Why did Almighty Allah give this Ummah the Night of Power?**A:** Nabi (SAW) observed that previous nations were given long lives and this Ummah, relatively were granted short lives. Therefore, Almighty Allah granted this Ummah the blessed night of Laylatul Qadr.

(Reported by Imam Malik (ra) in his Muwatta in the chapter of I'tikaf)

SPECIFIC NAMES TO NEWBORNS**Q: Is it true that when there is a newborn during a certain month a specific name should be given to the baby?****A:** This has no basis in Islam. One can keep any good name. Nabi (SAW) said that the best names are Abdullah and Abdur Rahman (Tirmidhi). In the case of a female it would be Amatullah and Amatur Rahman.**LUNAR VERSUS SOLAR CALENDAR****Q: Why does Islam choose the lunar calendar and not the solar calendar?****A:** Everything in Islam is natural. Hence, one finds that fasting of Ramadhan, the two Eids, Hajj etc. all rotate throughout the year. In the solar calendar the non-muslims celebrate Christmas and New year on a specific date and their whole life it will be in summer or winter depending on their location. Secondly, Islam is for all, the educated and the laymen. When one scans the sky one will be able to calculate the date of the lunar calendar. Thirdly, the solar calendar is inconsistent as

originally the new year for the Romans was the first of March. Thus, September is derived from septem, October, November and December are the latin words for eight, nine and ten. New years day was changed from March 1st to January 1st for the pagans so-called god - Janus, who was a two faced god. Therefore, we follow the lunar calendar for our Fasting, Hajj etc.

VIRTUES OF ISLAMIC MONTHS

Q: What are the virtues of the Islamic months?

A: Hereunder find the virtues of the lunar months:

1. Muharram, it is one of the four sacred months (surah 9 verse 36). Nabi (SAW) said: *The best fast after Ramadhan is the month of Allah, Muharram* (Muslim Shareef). Hence, one should fast abundantly during this month. To fast on the tenth of Muharram is sunnah. Nabi (SAW) said: I expect Almighty Allah to erase the sins of the previous year (Sahih Muslim). However, one should fast on the 9 and 10 or 10 and 11, so that one does not imitate non-muslims. Nabi (SAW) said: *Whosoever increases the sustenance for his family on the day of Ashura, Almighty Allah will increase his rizq for the whole year* (Baihaqi, Razin & Mishkat). Thus one should be a bit lavish with ones family on 10 Muharram. Nabi (SAW) said: Almighty Allah accepted the repentance of a people on the tenth of Muharram and Almighty Allah will accept the tauba of others (Tirmidhi). Almighty Allah accepted the tauba of Nabi Moosa (AS) people, hence we should sincerely

repent and beg Almighty Allah for forgiveness on this auspicious day.

2. Safar, Nabi (SAW) said: *There is no evil omen* (Bukhari). During the pre-Islamic days the pagans considered the month of Safar to be bad luck. Islam abolished this pagan belief.

3. Rabi ul Awwal, in this month was the blessed birth and demise of the Master Nabi Muhammad (SAW). Nabi (SAW) said: *My life is better for and my demise is better for you* (Munad Bazzar).

4. Rabi ul Aakhir, Jumadal Ula & Jumadal Akhira, there are no special virtue for these months in the Noble Quran or Ahadith of Nabi (SAW).

5. Rajab, it is one of the four sacred months (surah 9 verse 36). When Nabi (SAW) sighted the crescent for Rajab, he recited the following dua:

Allahumma barik lana fi Rajab wa Shaban wa ballighna Ramadhan. (Baihaqi & Mishkat)

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ

O Allah ! Grant us blessing during Rajab and Sha'ban and let us reach Ramadhan.

5. Sha'ban, Nabi (SAW) was asked, which fast is the most meritorious after the fast of Ramadhan. Nabi (SAW) replied: *The fast of Sha'ban in honour of*

Ramadhan (Tirmidhi). Usama bin Zaid (RA) asked Nabi (SAW), I observe you fasting during the month of Shabaan so frequently that I never see you fasting in any other month. Nabi (SAW) replied: *Sha'ban is a month between Rajab and Ramadhan which is neglected by many people. This month is presented to Almighty Allah with the account of our deeds. Therefore, I wish that my deeds are presented whilst I am fasting* (Sunan Nasai). Hence, we should try and fast as much as possible during this month.

Nabi (SAW) read the following Dua in Sajda on the 15th night of Sha'ban. [Targheeb]

أَعُوذُ بِعَفْوِكَ مِنْ عِقَابِكَ ، وَ أَعُوذُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ
سَخَطِكَ ، وَ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْكَ ، جَلَّ وَجْهُكَ لَا أُحْصِي
ثَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ ، أَنْتَ كَمَا أَثْنَيْتَ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ

*A'uzu bi afwika min iqabik wa auzu bi ridaka min sakhatik
wa auzu bika minka jalla wajhuk la uhsi thanaa an 'alayka
anta kama athnayta 'ala nafsik.*

O Allah! I seek protection through Your forgiveness from Your punishment. I seek protection from Your anger by means of Your pleasure. I seek protection in You from You, I cannot truly praise You, as You ought to be praised, You are as You have praised Yourself.

7. Ramadhan, every Muslim should try and incinerate as many sins as possible during this sacred month. Nabi (SAW) said: *The angel announces O you seeker of good, advance and O you seeker of evil, abstain. Almighty Allah liberates people from the fire and that is every night of Ramadhan* (Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah). Everyday and night of Ramadhan is an auspicious day. We should repent, spend in the path of Allah and read the Noble Quran excessively. [For further details refer to my book Ramadhan Q&A]

8. Shawwal, it is the beginning of the months of Hajj (surah 2 verse 197). The first of Shawwal is the day of Eid ul Fitr. One should ensure that one has paid ones sadaqatul fitr before Eid salat. Nabi (SAW) said: *Whosoever, completed the fast of Ramadhan then followed it with the six fast of Shawwal will receive the reward of fasting for the whole year* (Sahih Muslim). Nabi (SAW) married Hazrat Ayesha (RA) in Shawwal and she encouraged her family members to marry in Shawwal (Tirmidhi).

9. Zul Qa'da, it is one the four sacred months (surah 9 verse 36). Nabi (SAW) fastened ihram on four occasions, thrice for Umra during this month of Zul Qada in the 6th, 7th & 8th year of the Hijra. The fourth Umra was performed with the Farewell Hajj.

10. Zul Hijja, the 9th is the day of Arafat. Nabi (SAW) said: *Whoever keeps fast on this day, Almighty Allah will forgive the previous years and following years sins* (Muslim, Ibn Majah). The tenth of Zul Hijja is the day of Eid ul Adha and the Muslims sacrifice their animals for

the pleasure of Almighty Allah. Nabi (SAW) said: *Fasting during these first ten days of Zul Hijja is equal to the fasting of one year and the worship of one night is equal to the worship of Almighty Allah on the night of power (laylatul qadr) (Tirmidhi).* To fast on 10, 11, 12, 13 of Zul Hijja is not permissible. [For further details refer to my book Hajj and Umra Q&A]

SURAHS COMMENCE WITH ALHAMDU

Q: How many surahs commence with Alhamdu in the Noble Quran?

A: There are five surahs which begin with Alhamdu, namely, Al-Fatiha, Al-Anaam, Al-Kahf, Fatir and Saba.

LONGEST AND SHORTEST SURAHS

Q: Which are the longest and shortest surahs in the Noble Quran?

A: Surah Baqarah is the longest surah and comprises 286 verses whilst Surah Kawthar consists of three verses.

LONGEST VERSE IN THE NOBLE QURAN

Q: Which is the longest verse in the Noble Quran?

A: There are 6236 verses in the Noble Quran and verse 282 of Surah Baqarah is the longest verse.

SHORTEST VERSE IN THE NOBLE QURAN

Q: Which is the shortest verse in the Noble Quran?

A: The shortest verse in the Noble Quran is Taha (surah 20 verse 1).

INSECT & BIRD MENTIONED IN QURAN

Q: Which insect and bird spoke and are mentioned in the Noble Quran ?

A: The bird is hud-hud which said, *I found a lady ruling and she has been given everything and she has a honourable throne* (surah 27 verse 23). The ant said: *O Ants, enter your homes, Sulaiman and his army should not crush you while you perceive it not* (surah 27 verse 18).

ALLAH IN EVERY VERSE OF QUR'AN

Q: Which surah in the Noble Quran has Allah in every verse?

A: It is Surah Mujadala in the beginning of the 28 part of the Noble Quran.

MEANING OF INJEEL

Q: What is the meaning of Injeel?

A: It is a Hebrew word and refers to something blessed.

HALIMA (RA) HUSBAND'S NAME

Q: What is Halima Sadiyya's (RA) husband's name?

A: His name was Harith bin Adul Uzza and he was the foster father of Nabi (SAW).

ACCOMPANIED NABI (SAW) TO MADINA

Q: How many people accompanied Nabi (SAW) to Madina Munawwara?

A: Three people accompanied the Master Nabi Muhammad (SAW), one was Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA), the second was the guide Abdullah bin Ariqat and third was the servant, Aamir bin Fuhaira.

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MUAZZIN IN NABI (SAW)'s TIME

Q: How many muazzin were there in Nabi (SAW) time?

A: There were three muazzins, Bilal bin Raba (RA), Abdullah bin Umm Maktum (RA) and Abu Mahzura (RA).

WHERE IS THERE NO QIBLA ?

Q: Where in the world is there no Qibla for a person?

A: It is inside the Baitullah because any direction he faces, he is facing the Qibla.

AYAT REVEALED INSIDE THE BAITULLAH

Q: Which ayat was revealed inside the Baitullah?

A: Verily Almighty Allah commands you to hand over the trust to the rightful owners (surah 4 verse 58).

QURAISH MADE DOOR OF KAABA HIGH

Q: Why did the Quraish make the door of the Kaaba so high?

A: They made the door of the Baitullah high to protect it from floods.

FIRST SARIYA NABI (SAW) DISPATCHED

Q: Which was the first *Sariya* Nabi (SAW) dispatched?

A: *Sariya* refers to a regiment which Nabi (SAW) sent but did not participate himself. The first *Sariya* sent by Nabi (SAW) was Abdullah bin Jahsh (RA) to the coast. There were 50 *Saraya* in total and *Saraya* is the plural of *Sariya*.

WHO WAS ABBAS BIN FIRNAS?

Q: Who was Abbas bin Firas?

A: Abbas bin Firas passed away in the year 274 AH when he was almost 80 years old. He grew up in Qurtuba, Spain and was known as Hakeem (wise man) of Andalusia. He is the most ancient scholar in aviation and aerodynamics. He initiated the first flight by tying feathers on to himself and jumped from a building, falling after a brief hovering and miraculously escaping death.

MADRESSAH NIZAMIYYA

Q: When was Madressah Nizamiyya established?

A: One of the most famous Islamic University, Nizamiyya of Baghdad was established in 1067 CE. In jurisprudence they followed the Shafi'e school and Imam Ghazali RA was one of the most famous graduates of Nizamiyya.

JEWS EXPELLED FROM SPAIN

Q: When were the Jews expelled from Spain?

A: Queen Isabela of Castile ordered the expulsion of 150 000 Jews from Spain on 14 March 1492. They had to accept Christianity or face immediate expulsion.

WHO BUILT THE TAJ MAHAL?

Q: Who built the Taj Mahal?

A: Shah Jehan, the mighty Mogul Emperor of India built the Taj Mahal as a mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. He passed away on 22 January 1666 at the age of 74.

DEMISE OF IBN SINA

Q: When did Ibn Sina pass away?

A: The Persian physician, Avicenna as he was known in the west passed away on 18 June 1037. His greatest works are As-Shifa and the Canon of Medicine, which has become a valued source of knowledge throughout the Middle East and Europe.

DEMISE OF SALAHUDDIN AYYUBI (RA)

Q: When did Salahuddin Ayyubi (ra) pass away?

A: Salahuddin passed away in Damascus on 27 Safar 589 AH (4 March 1193) at the age of 55. He was the conqueror of Palestine and commander during the Crusades.

SULAYMAN THE MAGNIFICENT

Q: When did Sulayman the Magnificent pass away?

A: Sulayman was the Ottoman Sultan for 46 years. He passed away in Constantinople (Istanbul) on 6 September 1566. He conquered Hungary, Iraq and many parts of the Arab world.

DEATH OF GENGHIS KHAN

Q: When did Genghis Khan die?

A: The Mongol ruler Genghis Khan died on 18 August 1227 after falling from his horse. The name Genghis Khan became synonymous with brutality and oppression as he pursued his goal of world conquest.

APRIL FOOL IN ISLAM

Q: Is April fool permissible in Islam?

A: April fool is known as *Awwalu Nisaan* in Arabic. It refers to those people who lie and make a joke of somebody on April 1. It is not permissible to indulge in this activity due to the following:

- 1) Nabi (SAW) said: *Woe and destruction to a person who speaks and tell lies so that people could laugh, woe to him destruction to him.* (Abu Dawud, Tirmidhi).
- 2) Nabi (SAW) said: *It is not permissible for a person to frighten a Muslim.* (Tabarani).
- 3) Nabi (SAW) said: *The biggest dishonesty is when one speaks to his brother and he thinks that one is speaking the truth, whilst he is lying.* (Ahmad, Tabarani).

Hence, it is haram due to lying and imitating non-Muslims.

WHAT IS NASEE?

Q: What is Nasee?

A: Almighty Allah states: *Verily the postponing (of a prohibited month) is an addition to disbelief. The disbelievers are led to wrong thereby; they make it lawful one year and forbidden another year in order to adjust the number of months forbidden by Allah (surah 9 verse 37).* This refers to the practice of postponement, the three consecutive holy months, Zul Qada, Zul Hijja and Muharram seemed too long for the pagans to refrain from bloodshed and therefore they violated it and allowed an ordinary month to be a sacred month. The Noble Quran describes this practice as an additional instance of kufr because it

contravenes Almighty Allahs laws with regard to the observance of the lunar calender in respect of various religious duties.

ANCIENT NAME OF JUMU'AH

Q: What was the ancient name of Jumu'ah?

A: During the days of paganism Friday was known as Aruba. It refers to something which is manifest and clear. After the advent of Islam the names of the days changed and Friday was known as Jumu'ah. It alludes to the Muslim gathering for prayer on Fridays and Almighty Allah dedicated an entire chapter to this auspicious day in the Noble Quran. Chapter 62 is known as Suratul Jumu'ah.

WHEN WAS NABI ISA (AS) BORN?

Q: When was Nabi Isa (AS) born?

A: In a Quranic chapter named Maryam, chapter 19 verses 16-40 there is a detailed discourse on Hazrat Maryam (RA). In surah 19 verses 24-25 Almighty Allah sent an angel to inform her that a stream is flowing below her and she must shake the palm tree and the ripe dates will fall. The Arabs knew that the ripe dates only appear in summer, more so in the areas of Bethlehem and Nazareth. The exact date is unknown.

The leaders of the Christian church decided in 440 AD that the date of the birth of Jesus (PBUH) should be stipulated. Currently some people observe it in May and others in January. The date mooted is December 25, the day the Romans celebrate the winter solstice. Christmas

is not the actual date of the birth of Nabi Isa (AS) but a compromise with paganism. The gospels inform us that the sheperds were guarding their flocks in the open air. Hence, the birth of Jesus (PBUH) took place in summer and not in winter. It is interesting to note that in 1647 Britains Puritan Parliament banned the Christmas ceremony as pagan.

NO WORK ON SUNDAYS

Q: Why do the Christians not work on Sundays?

A: Emperor Constantine instructed his people in 321 CE not to work on Sundays. Furthermore, the Christians believe that God rested on Sundays as He was exhausted (Allah forbid), therefore they also must rest. This notion is totally rejected and blasphemous in Islam. Almighty Allah states that He created the universe in six days and no fatigue touched Him. (surah 50 verse 38)

NABI NUH (AS) STARTED HIS JOURNEY

Q: When did Nabi Nuh (AS) start his journey in the boat during the floods?

A: The journey of Nuh (AS) started on 1 Rajab and ended on 10 Muharram when the boat stopped at Mount Judee, Iraq. (Tarikh Tabari, Musnad Ahmad)

START OF HIJRA CALENDAR

Q: When did the Hijra calendar actually commence?

A: The Hijra calendar commenced on Friday, 16 July 622.

AYYAM TASHRIQ**Q:** What does Ayyam Tashriq refer too?**A:** Ayyam Tashriq alludes to the 11th, 12th & 13th of Zul Hijja. The hide of the animals were tanned in the bright sunlight during these days, hence the name Tashriq.**NAMES FOR THE DAYS OF HAJJ****Q:** Kindly furnish us with the various names for the days of Hajj?**A:**

1. **The first day of Hajj** is the 8th Zul Hijja - known as *yawm tarwiya*, the day of quenching the thirst.
2. **The second day of Hajj** is the 9th Zul Hijja - the *day of Arafah*, the greatest day of hajj.
3. **The third day of Hajj** is the 10th Zul Hijja - known as *yawm nahr*, the day of sacrifice due to the Eidul Adha celebrations.
4. **The fourth day of Hajj** is the 11th Zul Hijja - this day is known as *yawm qar*, the day of staying in Mina.
5. **The fifth day of Hajj** is the 12th Zul Hijja - known as *yawm nafar*, one may depart from Mina.

COMPANION GIVEN A SHAWL**Q:** Which companion of Nabi (SAW) is known for his poetry and Nabi SAW gave him his own shawl?**A:** Nabi (SAW) gave Ka'ab bin Zuhair (RA) his shawl after listening to his poetry. Therefore, he is known as Sahib Qasida al-Burda.**ARABIC SOLAR CALENDAR****Q:** What are the names of the months according to the Arabic solar calendar?**A:** These months are used primarily in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine. The Arabic names of these months are as follows:

1. January - *Kanun* (second winter, extremely cold and people would not go out unnecessarily)
2. February - *Shubaat* (lightening and thunder)
3. March - *Aazaar* (overcast conditions)
4. April - *Niesaan* (rain)
5. May - *Ayyaar* (hot winds)
6. June - *Haziraan* (harvesting of crops)
7. July - *Tamuz* (summer)
8. August - *Aab* (everything green because of the rain)
9. September - *Aylul* (crying)
10. October - *Tashreen* (First beginning of autumn)
11. November - *Tashreen* (Second ending of autumn)
12. December - *Kanun* (First winter)

MEANING OF ZAINAB**Q:** What is the meaning of Zainab?**A:** Zainab refers to a beautiful tree with a wonderful fragrance.**KNOWN AS THE POET OF POETS****Q:** Who is known as the poet of poets?**A:** Imru ul Qais (RA) was given the title of *Asharush Shuarah* - the poet of poets.

DAYS OF WHITENESS**Q: Which days are known as the days of whiteness?****A:** The 13th, 14th & 15th of the lunar month are known as the days of whiteness. They are called *Ayyamul Beez* due to the whiteness and brightness of the full moon. It is sunnah to fast on these 3 days.**MEANING OF KHANSA****Q: What is the meaning of Khansa?****A:** It alludes to the beauty of the eyes and she was one of the greatest poetess in the history of Islam. Four of her sons were martyred in the Battle of Qadisiyya.**LAYLA AND MAJNUN****Q: In the legendary story of Layla and Majnun, who does Majnun refer to?****A:** It refers to Qais bin Maluh who was madly in love with Layla, hence the name Majnun, insane.**KUNYA MENTIONED IN NOBLE QURAN****Q: Which persons Kunya is mentioned in the Noble Quran?****A:** *Kunya* refers to an agnomen, Nabi (SAW) *Kunya* was Abul Qasim, the father of Qasim. The only person whose *Kunya* is mentioned in the Noble Quran is Abu Lahab, father of flame. (surah 111)**COMPANION MENTIONED IN QURAN****Q: Which companion of Nabi (SAW) name is mentioned in the Noble Quran?****A:** Zaid bin Haritha (RA) name is mentioned in the Noble Quran. (surah 33 verse 37)**SAHABI THAT ANGELS USED TO VISIT****Q: Who is the Sahabi that the Malaika used to visit and shake his hand?****A:** Imran bin Husain (RA) had the honour of seeing Jibraeel (AS) twice and shaking his hand. He embraced Islam in 7 AH and passed away in Basra in 52 AH.**WHO IS KNOWN AS ZUN NUR?****Q: Who is known as Zun Nur?****A:** *Zun Nur* refers to a person who possesses effulgence and nur. It alludes to Abdullah bin Tufail Al-Azdi (RA). Sayyidina Uthman (RA) was known as *Zunnurain* as he married two daughters of Nabi (SAW).**WHO IS KNOWN AS ZU SAYFAIN?****Q: Who is known as Zu Sayfain?****A:** The person with the two swords refers to Abul Haytham bin Tayhan al-Ansaari (RA).**UMMUL MASAKIN****Q: Who was known as Ummul Masakin?****A:** Nabi (SAW) married Zainab bin Khuzaima Al-Hilaliyya (RA), who belonged to the tribe of Sasa'ah during the month of Ramadhan. She was known as

Ummul Masakin (mother of the poor) due to her generosity and excessive charity.

JEW BEQUEATH ONE THIRD OF WEALTH

Q: Which Jew bequeath one third of his wealth to Nabi (SAW)?

A: He was Mukhairiq, a Rabbi, who said that if he is killed in the battle of Uhud, one third of his wealth must go to Nabi (SAW).

WHO WAS KNOWN AS ZUL AYN?

Q: Who was known as Zul Ayn?

A: It alludes to the companion of Nabi (SAW), Qatada bin Nu'man (RA), who had big eyes.

AL-HAMRA PALACE IN GRANADA

Q: Who built the Al-Hamra palace in Granada?

A: It was built by Muhammad bin Ahmar in 635 AH, hence the name Hamra palace (Red Palace).

AYESHA (RA) MOTHERS NAME

Q: What was Sayyida Ayesha (RA) mothers' name?

A: Her name was Zainab bin Aamir (RA) and her Kunya was Umm Ruman.

KNOWN AS SHAHIDUL MEHRAB

Q: Who was known as Shahidul Mehrab?

A: This title refers to Sayyidina Umar (RA), who was stabbed by Abu Lu'lu al-Majusi whilst performing Fajr salat at Masjid Nabawi and this led to his martyrdom.

ABDULLAH BIN ATIK (RA)

Q: Who was Abdullah bin Atik (RA) ?

A: Nabi (SAW) appointed Abdullah bin Atik (RA) as a leader to go to Abu Rafi, the Jew. He was a person who caused harm to Nabi (SAW) and incited others as well. When Abdullah and his group reached the fort of Abu Rafi, the sun had set, Abdullah (RA) told his companions to remain there and he will try to enter the fort. He spoke to the doorkeeper after disguising himself and he said, enter quickly as he wants to close the door. Abdullah (RA) states that he hid away and waited for the storytellers to depart from Abu Rafi, and slowly went in his direction locking every door behind him. Eventually he reached Abu Rafi and shouted: O Abu Rafi and he responded, who is there, and I struck him with my sword. Then Abdullah waited for a little while, and again shouted) O Abu Rafi, then he said, curse your mother, I have been injured. Then I put my sword in his stomach and killed him. Whilst I was escaping, I injured my calf and then we returned to Nabi (SAW) and informed him that Abu Rafi was dead. Nabi (SAW) said; Stretch your leg and rubbed it, and I was cured. This incident took place in Ramadhan 6 AH.

ZAKAT BECOME COMPULSORY

Q: When did zakat become compulsory in Islam?

A: Zakat became compulsory in 2 AH. It is the third pillar of Islam and is mentioned with salat in 82 verses of the Noble Quran.

THAQIF TRIBE ACCEPT ISLAM

Q: How did the Thaqif tribe accept Islam?

A: Nabi (SAW) returned to Madina from Tabuk in Ramadhan 9 AH and a delegation from Thaqif came to visit Nabi (SAW). Prior to Nabi (SAW) entering Madina Urwa bin Masud Thaqafi embraced Islam. He informed Nabi (SAW) that he will go back to Thaqif and invite them towards Islam. Nabi (SAW) said: They are arrogant and they will kill you. Urwa responded: O Messenger (SAW), I am one of their senior and they will not harm me. When he invited them towards Islam, they attacked him with their arrows and martyred him. Nabi (SAW) said: He is like the person mentioned in Surah Yaseen who was killed by his people. After realizing their mistake they came to Nabi (SAW) and embraced Islam.

IDOL UZZA DESTROYED

Q: How was the idol Uzza destroyed?

A: After the conquest of Makka, Nabi (SAW) wanted to remove all the idols on the outskirts of Makka. Hence, on 25 Ramadhan 8 AH, Nabi (SAW) sent Khalid bin Walid (RA) to demolish Uzza. It was a tree and on it were idols, the tribes of Ghitfan and Banu Qinana used to worship it whilst the Banu Shayban were the supervisors. Khalid bin Walid (RA) returned to Nabi (SAW) and said he had destroyed it. Nabi (SAW) asked him, did you see anything? Khalid (RA) responded no. Nabi (SAW) said: *You have not destroyed it, go and demolish it.* Khalid (RA) was furious with himself and when he produced his sword, a naked dark looking lady with unkept hair appeared and Khalid (RA) read poetry and said; O Uzza!

We reject you and indeed Allah has disgraced you and then demolished it to pieces. Nabi (SAW) confirmed that, it was Uzza.

BATTLE OF HITTIN

Q: When did the battle of Hittin take place?

A: Salahuddin Ayyubi (ra) mobilized his forces on 21 Rabi ul Akhir 583 AH, corresponding to 1 July 1187. The Crusaders were retreating due to the intense heat and scarce water supply. Salahuddin ensured that they must not reach the water of Tiberias and instructed the Muslims to light a fire in the forest of Hittin and the smoke went in the direction of the Crusades. They spent the night hearing the Muslims Glorifying the name of Allah and on 24 Rabi ul Akhir 583, corresponding to 4 July 1187, the Crusaders realized that they were surrounded by the Muslim troops. Every time they tried to run to the mountains of Hittin the Muslims intercepted them and defeated them. This victory was the prelude for Salahuddin and eventually he conquered Jerusalem and Masjid Aqsa on 27 Rajab 583 AH, corresponding to 12 October 1187. May Almighty Allah liberate the land of Palestine in the near future.

AYN JALUT

Q: What happened at Ayn Jalut?

A: The Tatars and the Muslim army engaged in battle at Ayn Jalut on Friday, 25 Ramadhan 658 AH. The Muslim ruler Saifuddin Qutb commanded the army to pursue the defeated Tatars who were retreating to Damascus and Aleppo (Halab). The Muslims attacked the Tatars and

burnt the cross. The Tatars massacred the Muslims in the 7th Century and were ultimately defeated at Ayn Jalut and their leader, Hulaku had to return humiliated and disgraced.

BATTLE OF SHAQHAB

Q: What occurred in the Battle of Shaqhab?

A: It was 3 Ramadhan 702 AH when the Muslim army under the leadership of Sultan Nasir bin Muhammad fought the Tatars who were led by Qazan. In the Muslim army was Sheikhul Islam Ibn Taymiya (ra), who encouraged the troops to supplicate to Almighty Allah, to recite the Noble Quran, and he mentioned the virtues of jihad. Eventually the Muslims defeated them and this was known as the Battle of Shaqhab. When people praised Ibn Taymiya (ra) after the victory, he uttered the wise words, *I am man for the ummah and not for a specific country.*

ADVICES OF IBRAHIM BIN ADHAM (RA)

Q: What advices did Ibrahim bin Adham (ra) give his students?

A:

- 1) You recognize Allah but do not adhere to His commands.
- 2) You read the Noble Qur'an but do not practice on it.
- 3) You claim you love Nabi (SAW) but omit his Sunnah.
- 4) You claim you hate shaytan but follow him.
- 5) You claim you love jannah but do not prepare for it.
- 6) You claim that you fear the fire but you cast yourself in it.

- 7) Death is inevitable and yet you do not prepare for it.
- 8) You are engaged in finding the faults of your brethren and forget your own faults.
- 9) You enjoy the bounties of Allah but remain ungrateful to Him.
- 10) You bury your dead but do not take heed.

BATTLE OF QADISIYAH

Q: When did the battle of Qadisiyah take place?

A: The battle of Qadisiyah took place in Ramadhan 15 AH during the reign of Sayyidina Umar (RA). The Persians despatched a strong force of 10,000 men under the command of Hurmuz, who attacked Musanna after Khalids' departure from Iraq to Syria. The Persians used elephants and the Arab steeds could not face them and out of an army of 8,000 only 3,000 remained under the standard of Musanna. Sayyidina Umar (RA) sent reinforcements and the Muslim army had 30,000 men. The enemy were invited to Islam but they mocked the Muslim envoys. Rib'e bin Aamir informed Rustam: 'our message is to remove mankind from the servitude of men to the worship of Almighty Allah and to remove men from the narrowness of this world to the vastness of the hereafter and from the oppression of tyrants to the justice of Islam.' The last envoy was Mughira, who placed his hand on the sword and said: 'if you do not accept Islam or pay the jizya (tax) the sword will decide the matter.' Rustam went into a rage and exclaimed: 'By the sun I shall annihilate the whole of Arabia tomorrow.' Rustam was clad in a double set of armour and said tomorrow I will smash the whole of Arabia. The first engagement in the battle of Qadisiyah is called *Yowmul*

Arwath in Arabic. One of the generals QaQa had recourse to an ingenious device. He covered the heads of the camels with flowing vestments which gave them a frightful appearance. Abu Mahjan Thaqafi, who was incarcerated by Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas (RA) for indulging in alcohol and was roaring like a caged lion and when he could not take it any longer, he begged Salma, the wife of Sa'd to release him. Eventually Salma freed him and he attacked the enemy with such force that their army was in disarray. In the evening he returned to prison and put on the chains himself. Sa'd (RA) said: *I cannot inflict punishment on a person who proved his devotion to Islam in such a manner.* Abu Mahjan said: *I will never drink alcohol again.* Rustam was killed by Hilal and his dead body was flung under the hoofs of the mules and the Persians lost hope and all fled for their life. The victory at Qadisiyah was the stepping stone to the conquest of Persia.

MEANING OF TARIQAH

Q: What is the meaning of Tariqah?

A: Literally it means a path or way. According to the Sufis, it refers to a specific way of reaching Almighty Allah. There have been traditionally four schools which have become popular. Each one of them developed a system of reformation under the guidance of a sheikh. The four schools are as follows:

- 1) **Qadiriyya** : followers of Hazrat Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani (ra) who passed away in 1166 CE.
- 2) **Suhrawardiyyah** : disciples of Sheikh Shihabuddeen Suhrawardi (ra), who passed away in 1191 CE.

- 3) **Chistiyya** : followers of Hazrat Muenuddeen Chisty (ra), passed away 1234 CE.
- 4) **Naqshbandiyya** : those who follow the teachings of Khawja Bahauddeen Naqshbandi (ra), passed away 1789 CE.

All the schools of Sufism teach the following points:

- i. *Ubudiyya* : complete submission to Almighty Allah
- ii. *Mahabba* : love of Almighty Allah
- iii. *Zuhd* : to abstain from the love of this world
- iv. *Marifat* : to recognize the bounties and favours of Almighty Allah
- v. *Haqiqa* : realization of the truth and to repent
- vi. *Shariah* : this is the goal that one should try to attain and practice on the Divine Law at all times and places.

WHO ARE THE QADIYANIS?

Q: Who are the Qadiyanis?

A: The founder of Qadiyanism was Mirza Ghulam Ahmad who was born in the year 1835. He started studying Christian missionary literature and started debating with some Christians in nearby towns. At the age of 40 he said he received his first revelation. In 1889 he decided to break away from the mainstream Muslim and founded the Ahmadiya community. He initially stated that he is a Mujaddid, one who revives Islam. He also abrogated Jihad against the British and wrote to them that he was a faithful servant of the British Empire. He also made predictions and many of them backfired on him. He said he would die at the age of 80 but the angel of death seized him in 1908 at the age of 73. He

prophesied that he would die in Makka or Madina. However, it is alleged that he died in a toilet at Lahore, Pakistan. He sent a proposal to the daughter of Mirza Ahmad Baig, her name was Muhammadi Begum, but Mirza Ahmad rejected the proposal as he knew that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was an apostate. Mirza Ghulam also threatened the family that they will die in a few years time, all which turned out to be false. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad has to be given credit for at least one of his predictions that came true. He predicted that the liar between him and his arch enemy Moulana Thanauallah would die first. Mirza Ghulam died long before the Moulana, a fitting finale. There is consensus amongst the ulama that all Qadiyanis and Ahmadis are non-Muslims.

WHO ARE THE RAFIDIS?

Q: Who are the Rafidis?

A: *Rafidi* means one who left the path. This term is used for the Shias who deserted Imam Zaid (ra) as he refused to curse the Khulafa. The Rafidis reject the Khalifate of Sayyidina Abu Bakr (RA), Sayyidina Umar (RA) and Sayyidina Uthman (RA). Furthermore, they reject the virtues of majority of the companions of Nabi (SAW) including some of his wives by calling them hypocrites or apostates (Allah forbid). They are also out of the fold of Islam.

WHAT IS MEANT BY TAQIYYA?

Q: What is meant by Taqiyya?

A: Taqiyya alludes to dissimulation or concealing ones beliefs due to some danger. Taqiyya is a term which

features permanently amongst the Shias. According to them Taqiyya is an article of faith, one is not a true Shia if one does not practice Taqiyya. Abu Abdullah said: O Abu Umar, nine-tenth of (our) religion is in Taqiyya. He who has no religion has no Taqiyya and there is Taqiyya in everything except in wiping on the socks (Al-Kafi, vol 2, page 217). Cognisance should be taken of the fact that Shias reject making masah on the khuf or leather socks.

WHO WAS BAHLUL (RA)?

Q: Who was Bahlul (ra)?

A: Bahlul's name is Abu Wuhayb Amr bin Mughira Al-Kufi, he was a contemporary of Harun Rashid, the Abbasid Khalif. Bahlul was the sage of the age and passed away in 190 AH and is buried in Iraq. It is reported that when Harun Rashid departed for Hajj, he passed Kufa and met Bahlul, the following conversation took place between them:

Rashid: "I have been longing to see you O Bahlul".

Bahlul: I was not longing to see you.

Rashid: Advice me.

Bahlul: What is there for me to say; here there are palaces and there are their graves.

Rashid: Give me more advice.

Bahlul: Whomsoever Allah gave wealth and beauty and he remained chaste and generous, his name is written in the register of the pious.

Rashid: I have ordered the payment of your debts.

Bahlul: Debts cannot be paid from debts. You better return the rights of those they belong to and pay your own debts.

Rashid: Do you have any needs.

Bahlul: You and I are both in need of Almighty's help so it is impossible that Allah remembers you and forgets me.

WHAT HAPPENED AT DEIR YASIN?

Q: What happened at Deir Yasin?

A: The Deir Yasin massacre took place on April 9, 1948, when around 120 extremists from the Irgun and Lehi Zionist terrorist groups attacked Deir Yasin near Jerusalem, a Palestinian-Arab village of roughly 600 people. The assault occurred as Jewish militia sought to relieve the blockade of Jerusalem during the civil war that preceded the end of British rule in Palestine. Approximately 107 Palestinians were killed during and after the battle for the village, including women and children, while others died when hand grenades were thrown into their homes. Several villagers were taken prisoner and were killed after being paraded through the streets of West Jerusalem. Four of the terrorists died and 35 were injured. The killings were condemned by two chief rabbis. The Jewish Agency for Israel sent Jordan's King Abdullah a letter of apology, which he rebuffed.

The deaths became a pivotal event in the Arab-Israeli conflict for their demographic and military consequences. News of the killings sparked terror within the Palestinian communities, forcing them to flee from their towns and villages in the face of Jewish troop advances.

TURKISH FLOTILLA TO GAZZA?

Q: Kindly explain the Turkish flotilla to Gaza?

A: The Gaza flotilla raid also known as the flotilla incident of 31 May 2010, was a military operation by Israel against six ships of the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla" in international waters of the Mediterranean Sea. The flotilla, organized by the Free Gaza Movement and the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (İHH), was carrying humanitarian aid and construction materials, with the intention of breaking Israel's seige of the Gaza Strip. On 31 May 2010, 13 Israeli naval commandos boarded the ships from speedboats and helicopters. On the Mavi Marmara, clashes broke out after activists resisted. Nine activists were killed. On three other ships, activists showed passive resistance, which was suppressed by Israeli forces. The activists were subsequently arrested and detained in Israel before being deported. Widespread international condemnation of the Israel piracy on high seas followed, Israel-Turkey relations were strained.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- 1957** Born in Heidelberg, Gauteng, South Africa.
- 1963-1973** Attended school at Heidelberg and William Hills, Benoni, Gauteng.
- 1968-1970** Completed memorizing the Noble Qur'an by Hafiz Ebrahim Limalia.
- 1974-1980** Studied in Karachi, Pakistan, for the Alim Fadhil course.
- 1981-2000** Senior lecturer, Vice Principal and Mufti at Darul Uloom Newcastle.
- 1987** Obtained merit award from Unisa for Arabic language.
- 1990** Obtained an MA degree (cum laude) from Rand Afrikaans University in Islamic studies. The thesis was on *"Imam Tirmidhi's Contribution towards Hadith."*
- 2001** Joined Channel Islam International. Portfolios include Mufti and presenting tafseer of the Noble Qur'an, Ahadith, Fiqh, Q & A etc.

He is widely travelled and has delivered lectures in Makkah Mukarrama, Madinah Munawwara, USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Kenya, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Mauritius and various other Southern African countries.