



MUHARRAM REVIVAL PACK

The Legacy of Prophet Musa عليه السلام
and New Beginnings



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Introduction

Assalamu Alaikum dear fellow MAS members,

This packet is a resource that you can adapt to best serve your youth and community.

Please feel free to use supplemental materials, ideas, or mix & match activities in a way that maintains building on the topic. We'd love to hear how you and/or your chapter modifies and implements this program or the activities included!

Muharram is for new beginnings. It is the first month of the Islamic Calendar, ushering in the new year for Muslims. Marked by the hijrah (migration) of the Prophet (S) and his companions to Medina, this month holds some of the most significant days of the Islamic calendar. *The renowned scholar Ibn Rajab said "The best days of Muharram are the first ten days." He quoted Abu 'Uthmaan An-Nahdi, a hadith narrator as saying, "They (the people) would glorify three tens: the last ten days of Ramadan, the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah and the first ten days of Muharram". [Ad-Durar al-Manthur]*

It is also within this month that we commemorate Ashura – the day the Prophet Musa and his people were liberated after the

Red Sea was split to grant them safe passage away from Pharaoh.

The early Muslims in Makkah received much-needed consolation when this miracle was revealed through the Quran. They too were facing persecution at the hands of the Quraish and had to make the difficult choice to leave everything they knew behind to find relief.

Prophet Musa's story resonated with them, and also resonates with us today countless years later. We learn that during our most difficult times, when we feel we are trapped, that there is no way out, we must have full trust and confidence in Allah's power and might. We must have absolute certainty that Allah will make a way out for us and lead us to a blessed new beginning.

Please reach out to Tarbiya at TD@MuslimAmericanSociety.org if you have any questions or need any support – JazakumAllah khairan for your service!



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Significant Dates

Name	Hijri Date	Gregorian Date
HIJRI NEW YEAR	Muharram 1, 1444	July 29-30, 2022
ASHURA	Muharram 10, 1444	August 7 – 8, 2022

National Offerings Coming Soon!

What we have in store for you:



DAILY SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:

Follow us @MuslimAmericanSociety on facebook and instagram as we reflect on Muharram and Prophet Musa's legacy. If your chapter is looking for a social media plan, it can be found on page #.



SPECIAL REMASTERED PODCAST EPISODE:

Stay Tuned! Our special Ashura focused podcast will be released Tuesday, August 2nd.



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The Hijri New Year

ABOUT THE HIJRI NEW YEAR

The Hijri New Year is the first day of the Islamic calendar, specifically the first of Muharram. Because it is a lunar calendar, the Hijri calendar months advance 11 days ahead of the Gregorian calendar every year. It originated when the Prophet (s) first made hijra, or migration, to Medina from Makkah. It is primarily used to signify the timing of Islamic occasions and rituals.

IMPORTANCE

While the Islamic New Year is not commemorated with big displays of fireworks and night-long parties, it does hold a fair amount of significance. It is a reminder of the migration of the early Muslims to a safe haven which ultimately became a bastion of Islam – the holy city of Medina as we know it today. The hijrah was a new beginning, a new chance to practice Islam in peace and security, a new avenue to foster a deeper relationship with Allah. Similarly, a new Hijri year is a fresh start to thank Allah for our enormous blessings and revitalize our commitment to Him.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE HIJRI CALENDAR

622 AD

The Prophet Muhammad and his followers migrate from Mecca to Medina, making it the first day of Muharram.

638 AD

Caliphate Umar Ibn Al Khattab adopts the hijri calendar as the official reference of the Ummah.

2002 AD

Saudi Arabia follows astronomical calculations to determine the Islamic New Year dates and settles on the current scheme.



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The Hijri New Year

A NEW YEAR CALLS FOR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A new year brings with it a particular kind of energy to better ourselves. Now is the time to plan your new year resolutions, BUT in a way that you can actually achieve them inshaAllah!

TIPS FOR ACTUALLY ACHIEVING YOUR RESOLUTIONS

1. **Start by making a sincere intention to improve yourself for the sake of Allah.**

Write out your intention on a piece of paper to make it official. You can also type it up and save it as your wallpaper on your phone or computer, somewhere you will see it everyday.

2. **Your goals should be small but ones you are excited about.**

Setting up big, ambitious goals will quickly become overwhelming and disheartening to work toward. Allah loves small and consistent deeds. The Prophet (S) tells us "Take up good deeds only as much as you are able, for the best deeds are those done regularly even if they are few." [Ibn Majah]

3. **Your goals should be measurable.** For example, you can have a goal to be a more God-conscious person by the end of the year, but how will you measure that?

One way is dhikr. Plan to do a specific amount of dhikr every day and keep track of it. You can do that by creating a daily litany for yourself. Here's a sample: recite Astaghfirullah 100 times a day, recite SubhanAllah, Alhumdulillah, Allahu Akbar 33 times each after every salah, and send salawat upon the Prophet (S) 10 times in the morning and evening.

4. **Hold yourself accountable.** Every night before sleeping, mentally evaluate whether you have completed the daily tasks that you've committed to doing to work towards achieving your goals. Alternatively, you can also create a spreadsheet to keep track of your progress every day.

5. **Make du'a and don't give up.** Make sure to ask Allah for help and steadfastness in achieving your goals every day. Believe that Allah will most definitely answer your prayers. Ultimately, it is Allah who makes all things possible.





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The Hijri New Year Resolutions Sheet

Below, use SMART goals to achieve a goal that you are aiming to reach this year:

Goal	Strategic	Measurable	Achievable	Relevant	Time-Bound	Done
Meaning	What needs to be accomplished?	Use metrics or data to measure success	How to make it attainable?	Is it within the scope?	What's your time range?	
Example	Making duaa daily	1 duaa a day	the duaa will be made after Magrib Prayer	To boost my connection Allah & constantly think of him	This will be done for 3 months	<input type="checkbox"/>
1						<input type="checkbox"/>
2						<input type="checkbox"/>
3						<input type="checkbox"/>
4						<input type="checkbox"/>
5						<input type="checkbox"/>

LOOKING FOR IDEAS? HERE'S A FEW:

- Implement what you learn in your usra
- Perform more du'a
- Reach out more frequently to Parents and Family
- Be more intentional and take responsibility for your actions
- Be more humble
- Give more Sadaqah/Zakat

- Set up A waqf/endowment fund
- Praying on time
- Pray all the sunan attached to prayer
- Reading more Islamic and faith-related books (that can be found in the resource center), listening to podcasts and lectures, and attending more halaqas and usras



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Ashura

HONORING PROPHET MUSA'S LEGACY

The Children of Israel (descendants of Prophet Yaqub (A)) entered Egypt at the time of the Prophet Yusuf (A), but became enslaved over the years. The Pharaoh, the ruler-king of Egypt, had a dream that an Israelite would devastate his kingdom, and so he ordered that Israelite male infants be killed upon birth. Prophet Musa was the Israelite chosen by Allah to preach tawhid to Pharaoh, who called himself a god, and to free his people from oppression.

Ashura, or the 10th of Muharram, is the day Prophet Musa split the Red Sea with his staff to create safe passage for his people, liberating them from the grasp of Pharaoh through Allah's will. This opening served as a new beginning for him and his people to create a new homeland for themselves where they could live freely and practice their faith in peace.



REFLECTION TIME:

Imagine this scene below. How would you feel standing with Prophet Musa with the sea in front of you and Pharaoh's army right behind you?

- When Prophet Musa (A) and his people found themselves at the shore of the sea, many panicked, the sea was before them and the pharaoh was close behind them.

The companions of Moses cried out, "We are overtaken for sure." (Surah

ash-Shu'ara, ayah 61)

- But Prophet Musa had no doubt in Allah; he knew Allah would save them.
Moses proclaimed, "Certainly My Lord is with me—He will guide me." (Surah Ash-Shu'ara, ayah 62)

- And at this moment of complete faith and trust in Allah, Allah granted Musa a miracle, a way out for him and his people, a path to a new beginning

Then We inspired Moses, "Strike with your staff the sea," and it parted, and each portion was like a great towering mountain. And We advanced there to the pursuers. And We saved Moses and those with him, all together. Then We drowned the others. Indeed that is a sign, but most of them were not to be believers. And indeed, your Lord – He is the Exalted in Might, the Merciful." (Surah Ash-Shu'ara, Verses 63-68)

The early Muslims took solace in this story revealed in the Quran as they made their own migration out of Makkah, where they were persecuted by the pagan leadership. After the hijrah to Medina, they attained the freedom to worship Allah freely and were able to effectively organize to defend themselves against their oppressors.



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Ashura



DISCUSSION POINT

What are some other parallels you see between the trials of the people of Prophet Musa (A) and the early Muslims of Makkah?

HOW DO WE COMMEMORATE IT?

Abdullah Ibn Abbas (R) reported: The Messenger of Allah (S) came to Medina, and he found the Jews fasting on the day of Ashura. The Prophet (S) said, "What is this day you are fasting?" They said, "This is a great day in which Allah saved Musa and his people, and he drowned Pharaoh and his people. Musa fasted on it due to gratitude, so we also fast on it. The Prophet (S) said, "We are more deserving and are closer to Musa than you." The Prophet fasted the day of Ashura, and he commanded fasting on it." [Bukhari]

The Prophet Mohammad (S) had made it obligatory to fast the 10th of Muharram before the commandment to fast the month of Ramadan was revealed. Afterwards, even when it was no longer mandatory to fast on Ashura, the Prophet (S) was reported to be

more eager to fast on this day than any other outside of Ramadan. It carries the reward of forgiveness of one's past year of sins.

OTHER SIGNIFICANCE

The grandson of the Prophet (S) Hussain (R) and members of his family were assassinated on the 10th day of Muharram because of political differences with the caliph at the time. The killing is condemned by both Sunni and Shia Muslims. Shias, in particular, mourn this incident annually throughout the first 10 days of Muharram, and also refer to their commemoration as Ashura.



DISCUSSION POINT

How do the events of Ashura motivate you to stand up for justice and do the right thing despite any odds?





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Prophet Musa's Legacy

TARBIYA LESSONS

- We celebrate Ashura in remembrance of Allah SWT saving Bani Israel and leading them out of Egypt under the leadership of prophet Musa
- Prophet Musa taught us that even in our most difficult times, when we feel we are trapped, can not see a way out, can not see the light, we must not lose trust and full confidence in Allah's power and might, we must have absolute certainty that Allah will guide us to the light / to the way out
- When Musa and his people crossed the sea, it was a new beginning for them, a start of a new phase in their history
- When we fast Ashura and reflect on this new beginning Allah granted Moses and his people, let us take these days of fast as days:
 - *To start a new chapter in our lives*
 - *To make a promise to ourselves that we will not go back to old habits that are not pleasing to Allah*
 - *To make a promise of beginning new habits that will bring us closer to Allah SWT*



DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUTH ON PROPHET MUSA'S LEADERSHIP

٢٩ هَرُونَ أَخِي ٣٠ أَشْدُدْ بِهِ أَزْرِي ٣١ وَأَشْرِكْهُ فِي أَمْرِي ٣٢
كَيْ نُسَبِّحَكَ كَثِيرًا ٣٣ وَنَذْكُرَكَ كَثِيرًا ٣٤ إِنَّكَ كُنْتَ بِنَا بَصِيرًا ٣٥

And appoint for me a minister from my family -Aaron, my brother. Increase through him my strength and let him share my task, that we may exalt You much and remember You much. Indeed, You are of us ever Seeing."

If you are appointed as a leader, how can you:

- Make sure to realize your weaknesses along with your strengths?
- Make sure to surround yourself with those who will fill in the gaps that are your weaknesses?
- Make sure those you surround yourself with and make part of your team also share your beliefs/values?
- Make sure that those you work with in Islamic work will stand side by side in the remembrance of Allah and in seeking to earn His pleasure alone?



5 Duás of Prophet Musa:

1. FORGIVENESS

{ رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمْتُ نَفْسِي فَاغْفِرْ لِي }

"My Lord! I have definitely wronged my soul, so forgive me." [Al-Qasas: 16]

As imperfect human beings, there are sure to be things we've done in the past year that Allah warned us against and have been harmful for us. Now is the time to ask for forgiveness.

2. SAFETY

{ رَبِّ نَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ }

"My Lord! Deliver me from the wrongdoing people." [Al-Qasas: 21]

Allah warns us about destructive forces in our surroundings, including ill-intentioned people. When you are feeling unsafe, recite this du'a of Prophet Musa.

3. RIZQ/PROVISION

{ رَبِّ إِنِّي لِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ }

"My Lord! I am truly in [desperate] need of whatever provision You may have in store for me." [Al-Qasas: 24]

Looking for a new job, marriage, or simply any form of goodness in the coming year? This du'a made by Prophet Musa in his most desperate state, gave him all these things in one day.

4. CONFIDENCE/ELOQUENCE

{ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي وَأَحْلِلْ عَقْدَةً مِنْ لَسَانِي يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي }

"My Lord! Uplift my heart for me, and make my task easy, and remove the impediment from my tongue so people may understand my speech..." [Taha: 25-28]

A classic du'a you are probably familiar with, but a powerful weapon nonetheless for when you want a confidence boost from Allah to take on a difficult task or conversation.

5. ALLAH'S MERCY

{ رَبِّ أَغْفِرْ لِي وَلِأَخِي وَأَدْخِلْنَا فِي رَحْمَتِكَ وَأَنْتَ أَرْحَمُ الرَّحِيمِينَ }

"My Lord! Forgive me and my brother! And admit us into Your mercy. You are the Most Merciful of the merciful." [Al A'raf:151]

No matter what, at the end of the day, Allah's mercy is what we need to get through all aspects of life and attain success in the hereafter. Ask for it often.