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In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Allah, the All Glorious, says in the Holy Qur'an, in Surah Hud, Chapter 11, Verse 114):

“And establish prayer at the two ends of the day and at the approach of the night. Indeed, good deeds do away with misdeeds. That is a reminder for those who remember.”

INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah (The Almighty), Creator of the Heavens and Earth, Knower of the Seen and Unseen, Originator of the lights. I testify that there is no one worthy of worship except Allah, the Ordainer of all Divine decrees, the One Who, by His Power, alternates the day and the night.

May the peace and blessings of Allah (The Almighty) be upon His Final Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the Chosen One, and upon all his family members and his righteous companions, until the day of Judgement. Ameen.

The day and night are two great signs of Allah's creation. They both affect our lives significantly as we rest in the night when it is dark, and strive to seek our sustenance in the daytime, when there is light. This phenomenon is also applicable to most of the creatures on this planet. Due to the alternation of the day and night in the universe, many changes take place.

Allah, the Almighty says in the Holy Qur'an: “And we have made the night and the day two signs and We have erased the sign of the night and made the sign of the day visible that you may seek bounty from your Lord and may know the number of years and the account of time. And everything We have set out in detail. (Surah Al Israa, Chapter 17, Verse 12).

The day and night are important for human beings in general but for Muslims, it is particularly significant. It is a capital asset for human beings for all the good and bad deeds, performed by day and night, are recorded by the Angels of Allah (The Almighty).

Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: "And they will cry out therein, 'Our Lord, remove us (return us to the previous world), we will do righteous deeds other than what we were doing! 'But did We not grant you life long enough for whoever would remember therein to remember, and the warner had come to you?'" (Surah Fatir, Chapter 35, Verse 37).

From the above it becomes clear that time is an important factor in the life of a Muslim. He should invest each and every moment of his time on earth to do whatever is beneficial to himself, his family, or the society/country he lives in.

The Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) clearly emphasized this fact in the following hadeeth (tradition): "No slave of Allah will be able to leave his place till he is first asked about the following matters:¹

1. His life – how he spent it.
2. His knowledge – what he did with it.
3. His wealth – from where he obtained it and how he used it.
4. His youth – how he utilized it.

Footnote:

1. Related by Imam Al-Tirmidhi and Shaykh Al-AlBani verified its authenticity.

To further emphasize the importance of time, Islamic Sharia came up with the rules of worship, taking into account the time factor, and laid down the necessary conditions for the performance of prayers and other rituals. For example, the five ritual prayers, which constitute the most important pillar of Islam after the testimony of faith, cannot be performed except after the commencement of the proper time assigned for that prayer. This is also a condition for the prayer to be accepted in the Islamic Sharia law, that is, the time for the prayer must have commenced. It is not permitted to pray the ritual prayer before its proper time or after the time expires except for valid reasons or in exceptional cases.

Another example is the fasting in the month of Ramadhan. Fasting during this month is the 4th pillar of Islam and Muslims are not permitted to fast until the

commencement of the month of Ramadhan, as confirmed by the sighting of the moon or completion of the month of Shaaban.

The fasting person is not permitted to break his fast during the day until after sunset. Also, he should not delay to break his fast after sunset unless he has valid reasons.

The pilgrimage to Mecca, which is the 5th pillar of Islam, and represents the largest annual gathering of Muslims from all over the world, has to be performed during the months of pilgrimage, on specific days and time period.

The months of pilgrimage are Shawwal, Dhul Qaadah and Dhul Hijjah (10th, 11th and 12th months of the Islamic lunar calendar). The main events or activities rituals of the pilgrimage occur start from the 8th to the 13th day of Dhul Hijjah, or month of Hajj.

Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: "Hajj is (during) well-known months , so whoever has made hajj obligatory upon himself therein (by entering the state of Ihram), there is (to be for him) no sexual relations and no disobedience and no disputing during the pilgrimage. And whatever good you do – Allah knows it. And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you men of understanding"! (Surah Al Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 197).

Due to the importance of time and its close connection to Islamic rituals and worship, Muslims in the past as well as in the present, have continued to make great efforts to be able to determine time accurately. We find that Muslims in the past paid a lot of attention to astronomy and the movements of the heavenly bodies. Many treatises have been written by early Muslim scholars on the above subjects and Muslim libraries are full of books and academic papers dealing with these topics.

Generation after generation, Muslims inherited this interest and concern grew for verifying time accurately. Calendars were prepared showing the correct timings for each prayer as well as the months of the Islamic lunar year. They also included

the phases of the moon and other important astronomical events, such as the solar and lunar eclipses.

However, due to distances between Muslim countries, their geographical locations (longitudes and latitudes), time differences would naturally occur from one country to another, and from place to place. There were also the issues of differences in the length of day and night and seasonal variations in the various regions of the earth.

This is why we find that every Muslim country is concerned about making a calendar for its own population. Muslims are aware of the moon phases and other major astronomical events of the year. A calendar made for the local population makes it easier for the Muslims to know when to perform their Islamic rituals and worship.

Likewise, the Kingdom of Bahrain, according to the Royal directive from HM King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa, has made great efforts to prepare the Islamic Calendar for its citizens and residents using the most reliable Islamic Sharia principles and scientific and astronomical standards.

Accordingly, a special higher committee was appointed to work on this important project. It consisted of senior experts on this field as well as other areas which had a bearing on the making of this calendar. This special committee has strived to the utmost to achieve a high degree of accuracy required for the prayer timings.

The Islamic Research and Dawah Centers and Institutes section of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, in co-ordination with the special committee for the Islamic Calendar, has included additional useful information in the Islamic Calendar such as:

- Quranic verses which show the importance of time in the life of a Muslim.
- Prophetic teachings on praying on time.
- Different categories of prayer timings.
- Rules of the prayer for the traveler.
- The importance of the Hijri (Islamic lunar) calendar in a Muslim's life.

- The wisdom behind choosing special seasons for worship.
- Some information about each month in the Hijri calendar.
- Daily supplications for the Muslim during the day and evening times.
- The wise sayings of the Companions and prophetic family members or their followers on various topics.
- Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: "And when you have completed the prayer, remember Allah standing, sitting or (lying down) on your sides. But when you become secure, re-establish regular prayer.

Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specific times." (Surah Al-Nissa, Chapter 4, Verse 103).

We ask Allah (The Almighty) to make this work sincerely for Him alone, to guide us to be obedient to Him and to make us always seek His good pleasure. Ameen.

The Original Reason for the Legislation of Prayer Timings

The original reason for this legislation is based on the Holy Qur'an (Surah Al-Israa, Chapter 17, Verse 78), Allah (The Almighty) says: "Establish prayer at the decline of the sun (from its meridian) until the darkness of the night and (also) the Qur'an (i.e. recitation) of dawn. Indeed, the recitation of dawn is ever witnessed."

Nafie bin Jubair bin Mutim said: "Abdullah Ibn Abbas told me that the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: 'The Angel Gabriel led me in prayers at the Ka'ba and he prayed Dhuhr (Noon) prayer when the sun had declined from its zenith position, then he (Gabriel) led me in Asr (Afternoon) prayer when the shadow of an object was equal to the length of the object, then he led me in Maghreb (Sunset) prayer when the sun had set; the time of breaking the fast.

Then he led me in Eshaa (Night)prayer when the red glow disappeared from the horizon and full darkness set, then he led me in Fajr (Dawn) prayer at the onset of dawn when the fasting person is not permitted to eat or drink.'

‘The next day he (Gabriel) prayed Dhuhr prayer when the shadow of an object was equal to the length of the object, then he led me in Asr prayer when the shadow of the object was double its length. Then he (Gabriel) led me in Maghreb prayer when the fasting person breaks his fast (after sunset). Then he led me in Eshaa prayer up to the first third of the night, then he prayed Fajr prayer with me until just before sunrise (when the horizon became yellowish). Then Gabriel turned to me and said: “O Muhammed! These are the prayer timings of the prophets before you. The proper prayer time for each ritual prayer is between these two timings (beginning and ending time for each prayer, as shown on the first day and second day.’ (1)

Footnote:

1.This tradition was related by Imam Ahmed, Abu Dawud, Al-Tirmidhi and Sheikh Al-Albani graded this tradition as sound.

The Importance of Time in the Life of the Muslim

Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur’an: “And it is He Who has made the night and day in succession for whoever desires to remember or desires gratitude.” (Surah Al-Furqan, Chapter 25, Verse 62).

Muslims and non-Muslims all believe in the importance of time. As agreed upon by people of knowledge, time is crucial to the very existence of human beings. Time is of a major importance in the life of Muslims. Major life activities depend upon it. And for the Muslim, time has a greater significance as it is considered a divine gift from the Creator (Allah), granted to mankind to develop this earth and make use of its resources, according to the will and commandments of Allah (The Almighty).

Divine revelation has brought about changes in the way human beings think and function on this earth. Human consciousness has been made aware of the fact that time is a valuable resource and that it must be used correctly and profitably so that multiple benefits can be gained in this life and the next.

Islam has positively changed peoples' perspectives about time. It has enabled its followers to overcome obstacles in their lives by guiding them to invest their time and efforts in beneficial activities. The Muslim individual has become aware that, due to divine guidance, his time on earth has a great meaning and relevance.

It is remarkable that time has played a pivotal role in changing the course of history, achieving cultural leadership and progress in all fields. The Muslim now feels the importance of time which, before Islam, had no real value, as Pagan Arabs used to think of time as a destroyer of everything and that with death, all things came to an end. This false philosophy and negative perception of time had serious consequences on the various aspects of their lives on earth. As they regarded time as the ultimate destroyer of life and rejected God's very existence, they could not understand or believe in the hereafter. This was a means for the destruction of positive and creative thinking and a hindrance to progress and prosperity.

As the tribes of pre-Islamic Arabia had no respect for time nor did they value its importance in their lives, it led them to the intellectual and cultural paralysis of their society. People could hardly think about changing their lives for the better. This is clearly stated in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an:

"And they say, 'There is not but our worldly life; we die and live and nothing destroys us except time.' And they have of that no knowledge; they are only assuming." (Surah Al-Jathiya, Chapter 45, Verse 24).

Islam came with its beautiful divine injunctions to destroy such false beliefs. Islam has emphasized the importance of time and the need to invest it in what benefits the individual and society at large.

Moreover, Islam has added another perspective to the time dimension. It has enjoined on people the belief in the unseen, including all details of the life in the hereafter. A Muslim has to feel the responsibility of how he spends his time in this life and to have fear of the consequences in the afterlife. As a result, Muslims became aware of the importance of thinking about the future and planning for it,

as well as considering the consequences and implications of not utilizing their time on earth in the best ways.

This new perspective of time has enabled Muslims to build a great Islamic civilization. The followers of Islam were called upon to take advantage of their time on earth, to use it wisely, promoting what is good and performing righteous deeds.

Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Two blessings most people don’t take advantage of: good health and free time.” (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari).

Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also said: “Take advantage of five things before five things happen. Your youth before your old age; your good health before your sickness; your wealth before your poverty; your free time before becoming too busy; your life before your death.” (Related by Al-Hakim and Al-Baihaqi, Al Albani graded it as sound).

At the same time, Islam has warned its followers against wasting time in useless activities but rather to utilize it productively or in beneficial ways. Not using time correctly will have serious consequences for the Muslim individual in the hereafter as it would be a sign of ingratitude to Allah (The Almighty). Indeed, He has bestowed upon mankind many favors and blessings.

Islam has closely connected time with the natural phenomenon. The alternation of the day and night, for example, has a bearing on the ritual of worship. A ritual prayer cannot be performed before its proper time (unless where permitted like, for instance, in the case of a traveler or a sick person, where some prayers can be joined together).

Fasting in the month of Ramadhan cannot be performed until the crescent of the new moon has been sighted or the preceding month of Shaaban has been completed (30 days). The same rule applies to ending the fast of Ramadhan. It cannot be completed until the crescent of the new moon of Shawwal has been sighted, that is, after 29 or 30 days of the month of Ramadhan.

The Pillar of Zakat is due only after one lunar calendar year has passed over the amount in one's savings.

The savings should meet the requirements of "Nisaab" (the minimum amount of wealth a Muslim must possess before being obliged to pay the zakat).

This is how Islam ties its Pillars and acts of worship to time so that each Muslim individual will feel and appreciate its importance practically and spiritually.

On the other hand, Islam legislates rules which protect its followers from wasting time and removes superstitious thoughts from their minds such as the belief in zodiacs and stars as sources of knowledge of the future and the unseen as well as amulets as means of protection from harm and gaining of benefits.

An idle mind can easily go astray and start believing in astrological signs, evil omens and witchcraft. This is clearly expressed by Prophet Muhammed (SAW): "There is no ADWA, no TAIRA, no HAMA and no SAFAR."

Allah's Apostle said, '(There is) no 'Adwa (no contagious disease is conveyed without Allah's permission, nor is there any bad omen (from birds), nor is there any Hamah (the belief that if an owl descended on a house ,one of its inhabitants will die), nor is there any bad omen in the month of Safar.

(Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim). These words relate to superstitious beliefs.

The beloved Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also said: "The sun and the moon are two signs of Allah. They don't eclipse for the death of anyone nor for his birth." (Also related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim).

Islam has also directed its followers to the fact that blessing in the time leads to blessing in deeds and accomplishments.

From the above we can understand that time has a great value in the life of a Muslim. It is important for a Muslim to advise people to take advantage of time

by working hard for the good of all human beings (and their societies), irrespective of their nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, color or race. In order to uphold Islamic values, a Muslim must be free from the chains of ignorance, deviant beliefs, extremism and irrational behavior.

The Excellence of Praying on Time

The ritual prayer is the greatest pillar of Islam after the Testimony of Faith as it is a direct connection between a Muslim individual and his Creator (Allah –The Almighty). What demonstrates its high status and significance is that it was legislated in the Heavens during Prophet Muhammad’s (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) miraculous night journey (Al-Israa wal Mearaj) while all the other acts of worship were legislated while the Prophet was on earth, through the agency of Angel Gabriel.

The importance of these ritual prayers were further emphasized when Angel Gabriel was sent down continuously, on two consecutive days, to teach Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the correct prayer timings, through practical demonstrations.

These consisted of Angel Gabriel leading the prayers, with the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) besides him, through all the five prayers, demonstrating practically the beginning (first day) and ending (second day) of the prayer times.

Many verses of the Holy Qur’an have been revealed to mankind to stress the importance of praying on time and within the prescribed timings, without advancing or delaying. Allah (The Almighty)) says: “Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified times.” (Surah Al-Nisaa, Chapter 4, Verse 103).

Allah (The Almighty) also said: “Maintain with care the (obligatory) prayers and (in particular) the middle (Asr) prayer and stand before Allah, devoutly obedient.” (Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 238).

The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was once asked: “What is the most beloved deed to Allah?” He replied: “Performing prayer at its correct time.” (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim). In addition, Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) warned against delaying the obligatory prayer until its proper time has passed, without a valid excuse.

The connection between time and one of the most important pillars of Islam clearly proves that Islam enjoins and trains its followers to value it as a precious gift which will eventually lead them to achieve happiness in this life and the next.

Prayer Timings

These are specified periods for the performance of the ritual prayers as per the Islamic Sharia Law. Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur’an: “Indeed, prayer has been decreed upon the believers a decree of specified timings.” (Surah Al-Nisaa, Chapter 4, Verse 103).

The Prayer timings can be classified into the following categories:

- **Preferred times**

This is at the beginning time of the ritual prayer. There are many traditions of Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which emphasize the preference of performing the ritual prayer at the beginning time. For example, Abo Umar Al-Shebani related that Abdullah ibn Masood asked Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): “Which deed or act is most beloved to Allah (The Almighty)?” The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) replied: ‘Performing the prayer at its proper time.’ Then I asked him which is next? He replied: ‘Being dutiful and kind to parents’. Then he asked, which is next? The Prophet replied: ‘Striving in the way of Allah.’ He (the Prophet) told me that and if I had asked more questions, he would have answered me.” (Related by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim).

Allah (The Almighty) has forbidden and warned against delaying of the ritual prayer until its proper time expires. Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: "But there came after them successors (i.e. later generations) who neglected prayers and pursued desires, so they are going to meet the consequences of error (destruction or evil). Surah Maryam, Chapter 19, Verse 59.

Abdullah Ibn Abbas, a famous scholar of the companions of the Prophet, explained this verse by stating that they neglected their prayers, which meant that they delayed their prayers until the correct time expired without valid reasons.

Alaa, son of Abdul Rahman, related that he went to visit Anas, bin Malik (RA), in his house in Al Basra after the Dhuhr (midday) prayer and his house was next to the mosque. "So when we entered upon him," he (Anas bin Malik) asked, 'Have you prayed the Asr (mid-afternoon) prayer?' We told him that we have just finished performing the Dhuhr prayer. He told us to pray the Asr prayer. So we stood up and prayed the Asr prayer. After we finished performing the Asr prayer, he said to us: "I heard Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) say: "That is the prayer of the hypocrite. He sits and watches the sun until when it is between the two horns of Satan (that is, about to set), then he stands and quickly prays the Asr prayer, without remembering Allah much, just only a little.' (Related by Imam Muslim).

The Time of Necessity

This is the last permitted time for the ritual prayer, before the proper time expires. Whoever delays the ritual prayer until the last permitted time and has a valid reason, or out of necessity, his prayer is accepted and no sin is upon him. But whoever delays the ritual prayer without a valid reason and keeps repeating this practice, he is in serious danger of punishment from Allah and might not be rewarded for his prayers. He will be sinful because of his negligence.

- **Prohibited Times for Prayers**

It is not permissible to perform the ritual prayer before its proper time commences and whoever does this on purpose, his prayer will not be accepted. And whoever purposely delays the ritual prayer until its proper time expires and has no valid excuse (such as being under duress or due to ignorance), he has committed a major sin.

All Muslim scholars agree that performing the five ritual prayers within the five allocated timings is a condition for the acceptance of the prayer by Allah (The Almighty).

- **Prohibited Times for Voluntary Prayers**

These are the times when it is not permitted for a Muslim individual to perform the voluntary or supererogatory prayers;

After the Fajr (Dawn) prayer till the sun rises (that is, 15 minutes' after sunrise.

A. - When the sun is directly overhead i.e. in the middle of the sky.

B. - After the Asr (mid-afternoon) prayer till sunset.

The Best Remembrance (Dhikr)

1. The recitation of the Holy Qur'an.
2. To say: Laa ilaaha illa Allah (There is no-one worthy of worship except Allah alone).
3. To glorify Allah by saying Glory be to Allah (Subhaan Allah)
Praise be to Allah (Alhamdulillah)
There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (Laa ilaaha illa Allah)
Allah is Most Great, Greater than All (Allahu Akbar).
4. To say: Subhaan Allah wa Bihamdihi, Subhaan Allah Al-Atheem, which means "Glory be to Allah and all praise is due to Him, glory be to Allah the Great".

5. Glory be to Allah as many as the number of His creatures, as much as His Good Pleasure, as much as the weight of His Throne and as much as the ink that may be used in recording His Words.
6. "O Allah, exalt the mention of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you exalted the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Glorious. O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as You blessed the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Glorious."
7. To say: La Hawla wa la Quwata illa Billah
(There is no might nor power except with (the help of) Allah).
8. To make (istigfaar): asking Allah for forgiveness, that is to say "Astaghfirullah"
9. All praise is due to Allah as many as the number of His creatures. All praise is due to Allah as much as it fills His creatures. All praise is due to Allah as the number of whatever in Heaven and Earth. All praise is due to Allah as much as what is recorded in His Book. All praise is due to Allah as the number of everything and All praise is due to Allah as much as it fills everything.
- 10- The Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) would say when in distress,
"There is no deity but Allah, the Knowing, the Clement. There is no deity but Allah, Lord of the Magnificent Throne. There is no deity but Allah, Lord of the heavens and Lord of the earth and Lord of the Noble Throne." [Bukhari].
Also some other supplications that have been mentioned in the Holy Qur'an and the correct traditions of Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as shown below;

MORNING AND EVENING SUPPLICATIONS

1. To recite the following chapters of the Holy Qurán “:

[chapters Al-Ikhlâs, Al-Falaq and An-Nas] (three times after each prayer) (1)

Bismi l-lâhi r-rahmâni r-rahîm.
Qul huwa l-lâhu aḥad, Allâhu ṣ-ṣamad,
Lam yalid wa lam yûlad,
Wa lam yakun lahû kufuwan aḥad.

Bismi l-lâhi r-rahmâni r-rahîm.
Qul aʿûdhu bi-rabbi-l falaq, min sharri mâ khalaq,
wa min sharri ghâsiqin idha waqab,
wa min sharri n-naffâthâti fi-l ʿuqad.
wa min sharri ḥâsadin idhâ ḥasad.

Bismi l-lâhi r-rahmâni r-rahîm.
Qul aʿûdhu bi-rabbi n-nâs, maliki n-nâs,
ilâhi n-nâs. Min sharri-l-waswâsi-l-khannâs,
al-ladhî yuwaswisu fî ṣudûri n-nâs,
min al jinnati wa n-nâs.

2. To say the following prayer:

Asbahñâ wa asbaha-l-mulku li-l-lâhi, wa-l-ḥamduli-l-lâhi.
Lâ ilâha illâ l-lâhu, waḥdahu lâ sharîka lahu, lahu-l-mulku wa lahu-l-ḥamdu, wa huwa ʿalâ kulli shay'in qadîr. Rabbi, as'aluka khayra mâ fî ḥâdhâ-l-yawmi wa khayra mâ baʿdahu. Wa aʿûdhu bika min sharri mâ fî ḥâdhâ-l-yawmi wa sharri mâ baʿdahu. Rabbi aʿûdhu bika mina-l-kasali, wa sû'i-l-kibari. Rabbi aʿûdhu bika min ʿadhâbin fi n-nâr wa ʿadhâbin fi-l-qabr. (2)

"We have reached the morning and at this very time unto Allah belongs all sovereignty, and all praise is for Allah. None has the right to be worshipped except Allah, alone, without partner, to Him belongs all sovereignty and praise and He is over all things omnipotent. My Lord, I ask You for the good of this day and the good of what follows it and I take refuge in You from the evil of this day and the evil of what follows it. My Lord, I take refuge in You from laziness and

senility. My Lord, I take refuge in You from torment in the Fire and punishment in the grave."

If he reached the evening time he says : (Amsainâ wa amsaa-l-mulku li-l-lâhi, wa-l-hamduli-l-lâhi).....

"We have reached the evening and at this very time unto Allah belongs all sovereignty, and all praise is for Allah. None has the right to be worshipped except Allah, alone, without partner, to Him belongs all sovereignty and praise and He is over all things omnipotent. My Lord, I ask You for the good of this night and the good of what follows it and I take refuge in You from the evil of this night and the evil of what follows it. My Lord, I take refuge in You from laziness and senility. My Lord, I take refuge in You from torment in the Fire and punishment in the grave."

3. To say :

Allahumma bika aṣḡbahnâ, wa bika amsaynâ,
wa bika naḡyâ, wa bika namûtu, wa ilaylka n-nushûr.(3)

"[In the morning:] O Allah, by your leave we have reached the morning and by Your leave we have reached the evening, by Your leave we live and die and unto You is our resurrection. [In the evening:] O Allah, by Your leave we have reached the evening and by Your leave we have reached the morning, by Your leave we live and die and unto You is our return."

“(In the evening:] O Allah, by Your leave we have reached the evening and by Your leave we have reached the morning, by Your leave we live and die and unto You is our return."

4. To say:

Aṣḡbahna ʿalâ fiṭṛati-l-islâmi, wa ʿalâ kalimati-l-ikhlâṣi, wa ʿalâ dini nabiyyinâ Muḡammadin,
wa ʿalâ millati abîna Ibrâhîma, hanîfan, musliman, wa mâ kâna mina-l-mushrikîn.(4)

"We rise upon the fitrah of Islam, and the word of pure faith, and upon the religion of our Prophet Muhammad (saws) and the religion of our forefather Abraham, who was a Muslim and of true faith and was not of those who associate others with Allah."

Footnotes:

1. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said: whoever says this supplication it will suffice him from all evils. (Related by Imam Bukhari, Muslim, At-Tirmidhi, Abi Dawood, and Imam An-Nisai). Sheikh Al-Albani also verified it.
2. Related by Imam Muslim.
3. Related by Imam At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah. Sheikh Al-Albani also verified it.
4. Related by Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal. Sheikh Al-Albani also verified it.

5. To say :

Allâhumma anta rabbî, lâ ilâha illâ anta.

Khalaqtanî wa anâ ʿabduka, wa anâ ʿalâ ʿahdika wa waʿdika mâ stata'tu.

Aʿûdhu bika min sharri mâ sana'tu. Abû'u laka bi-niʿmatika ʿalayya wa abû'u bi-dhanbî.

Fa-ghfir lî fa-innahu lâ yaghfiru dh-dhunûba illâ ant.(1)

O Allah, You are my Lord, none has the right to be worshipped except You, you created me and I am Your servant and I abide to Your covenant and promise as best I can, I take refuge in You from the evil of which I have committed. I acknowledge Your favor upon me and I acknowledge my sin, so forgive me, for verily none can forgive sin except You."

6. To say;

Allâhumma ʿâlim-alghaybi wa sh-shahâdati, fâtira s-samâwâti wa-l ardi, rabba kulli shay'in wa malîkahu. Ash-hadu anlâ ilâha illâ anta.

Aʿûdhu bika min sharrin nafsî, wa min sharri sh-shaytânî wa shirkihi, wa an aqtarifa ʿalâ nafsî sû'an ajurrahu ilâ muslim.(2)

"O Allah, Knower of the unseen and the seen, Creator of the heavens and the Earth, Lord and Sovereign of all things, I bear witness that none has the right to be

worshipped except You. I take refuge in You from the evil of my soul and from the evil and shirk of the devil, and from committing wrong against my soul or bringing such upon another Muslim."

7. To say:

Allâhumma innî as'aluka-l-^ʿafwa wa-l-^ʿâfiyata fi d-duniyâ wa-l-âkhirati.
Allâhumma innî as'aluka-l-^ʿafwa wa-l-^ʿâfiyata fî dînî, wa dunyâyâ, wa ahlî, wa mâlî.
Allâhumma stur ^ʿawrâtî, wa âmin raw^ʿâtî. Allahumma ḥfaznî minm bayna
yadayya,
wa min khalfî, wa ^ʿan yamînî, wa ^ʿan shimâlî, wa min fawqî. Wa a^ʿûdhu bi
azamatika
an ughtâla min taḥtî.(3)

O Allah, I ask You for pardon and well-being in this life and the next. O Allah, I ask You for pardon and well-being in my religious and worldly affairs, and my family and my wealth. O Allah, veil my weaknesses and set at ease my dismay. O Allah, preserve me from the front and from behind and on my right and on my left and from above, and I take refuge with You lest I be swallowed up by the earth."

8. To say:

Bismi l-lâhi l-ladhî lâ yaḍurrû ma^ʿa smihi shay'un fi-l arḍi wa lâ fi s-samâ'i, wa huwa s-samî^ʿ-ul-^ʿalîm. (repeat 3 times). (4)

In the name of Allah with whose name nothing is harmed on earth nor in the heavens and He is The All-Seeing, The All-Knowing. [Three times]

Footnotes

1. The prophet (PBUH) said: "whoever says this prayer in the day time fully believing in it and dies before he/she reached the evening, he /she will be among the dwellers of paradise. And whoever says this prayer in the night time fully believing in it and dies before morning, he /she will be among the dwellers of paradise. Related by Imam Al-Bukhari.
2. Related by Imam Ahmad and Imam At-Tirmidhi. Sheikh al-Albani also verified it.

3. Related by Imam Ahmad, Abu Dawood, and Ibn Majah. Sheikh Al-Albani also verified it.
4. The Prophet (PBUH) said: Whoever says this prayer three times, nothing will harm him. Related by Imam Bukhari, Muslim, Abi Dawood, Ibn Majah, and Imam At-Tirmidhi. Sheikh Al-Albani also verified it.

9. To say;

Allâhumma ʿâfinî fî badanî. Allâhumma ʿâfinî fî samʿî.
Allâhumma ʿâfinî fî basarî. Lâ ilâha illâ anta.
Allâhumma innî aʿûdhu bika mina-l-kufri, wa-l-faqri.
Wa aʿûdhu bika min ʿadhâbi-l-qabri.
Lâ ilâha illâ anta. (3 times) (1)

"O Allah, grant my body health, O Allah, grant my hearing health, O Allah, grant my sight health. None has the right to be worshipped except You [Three times]. O Allah, I take refuge with You from disbelief and poverty, and I take refuge with You from the punishment of the grave; none has the right to be worshipped except You [Three times]."

10.To say:

Yâ hayyû, yâ qayyûmu bi raḥmatika astaghîth(u).
Aṣliḥ lî sha'nî kullah(u)
wa lâ takilnî ilâ nafsî ṭarfata ʿayn(in)(2)

O Ever Living, O Self-Subsisting and Supporter of all, by Your mercy I seek assistance, rectify for me all of my affairs and do not leave me to myself, even for the blink of an eye."

11. To say:

Subḥâna l-lâhi wa bi-ḥamdihi. (3)

How perfect Allah is and I praise Him. [one hundred times]

12.To say:

Lâ ilâha illa l-lâhu waḥdahu lâ sharîka lah(u)
lahu-l-mulku walahu-l-ḥamd(u),
wa huwa ʿalâ kulli shay'in qadîr. (100 times) (4)

None has the right to be worshipped except Allah, alone, without partner, to Him belongs all sovereignty and praise and He is over all things omnipotent. [100 times]

13.What to say in the early morning?

Subhâna l-lâhi wa bi-ḥamdihi, ʿadada khalqihi, wa ridâ nafsîhi,
wa zinata ʿarshihi, wa midâda kalimâtihi. (3 times) (5)

"How perfect Allah is and I praise Him by the number of His creation and His pleasure, and by the weight of His throne, and the ink of His words. [three times]"

Footnotes:

1. Related by Imam Ahmad and Abu Dawood and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound hadeeth.
2. Related by Al-Hakim and Al-Bayhaqi and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound hadeeth.
3. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Whoever says this, his sins will be wiped out even if it was like the foam of the sea." Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
4. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Whoever says this, it will be similar in reward to freeing 10 slaves, and he will get 100 good deeds recorded for him, and 100 bad deeds will be erased from his records and he will be protected from the Satan and his temptations all that day until the evening and no one will come on the day of judgement with better good deeds than him except someone who has done more than that." Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
5. Related by Imam Muslim.

14. What to say in the night?

A'ûdhu bi-kalimati l-lâhi-t-tâammâti min sharri mâ khalaq (3 times). (1)

"I take refuge in Allah's perfect words from the evil He has created.

[Three times in the evening]"

15. To read the last two verses of Surah Al-Baqarah:

(Chapter 2 verses 284- 286). (2)

Sleeping etiquette and its relevant supplications

1. The prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: When anyone of you gets ready to sleep, let him first pull the sides of his bedsheet and shake it well three times and he should mention the name of Allah because he doesn't know what creature has slept in his bed after they got up. And if he wants to sleep, then let him sleep on his right side and say the following prayer;

❖ Allâhumma aslamtu nafsî ilayka, wa fawwadtû amrî ilayka, wa wajjahtu wajhî ilayka, wa alja'tu zahrî ilayka.
Raghibatan wa rahbatan ilayka. Âmantu bi-kitâbika l-ladhî anzalta wa bi-nabiyyika l-ladhî arsalta. (3)

"In Your name my Lord, I lie down and in Your name I rise, so if You should take my soul then have mercy upon it, and if You should return my soul then protect it in the manner You do so with Your righteous servants."

"O Allah, I submit my soul unto You, and I entrust my affair unto You, and I turn my face towards You, and I totally rely on You, in hope and fear of You. Verily there is no refuge nor safe haven from You except with You. I believe in Your Book which You have revealed and in Your Prophet Whom You have sent."

2. "When retiring to his bed every night, the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would hold his palms together, spit (A form of spitting comprising mainly of air with little spittle) in them, recite the last three chapters (Al-Ikhlâs, Al-Falaq, An-Nas) of the Quran and then wipe over his entire body as much as possible with his hands, beginning with his

head and face and then all parts of the body, he would do this three times." (4)

Footnotes:

1. Related by Imam Ahmad and At-Tirmidhi
 2. The Prophet (PBUH) said: whoever reads this prayer, it will suffice him.
 3. Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
 4. Related by Imam Bukhari.
-
1. "When retiring to his bed every night, the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) would place his palm below his cheek, then say: "In Your name, O Allah, I live and die."
Bismika l-lâhumma amûtu wa ahyâ. (1)

To say: "O Allah, verily You have created my soul and You shall take its life, to You belongs its life and death. If You should keep my soul alive then protect it, and if You should take its life then forgive it. O Allah, I ask You to grant me good health." (2)

To say: "O Allah, Lord of the seven heavens and the exalted throne, our Lord and Lord of all things, Splitter of the seed and the date stone, Revealer of the Tawrah, the Injeel and the Furqan, I take refuge in You from the evil of all things You shall seize by the forelock. O Allah, You are The First so there is nothing before You and You are The Last so there is nothing after You. You are the Al-Dhahir so there is nothing above You and You are Al-Batin so there is nothing closer than You. Settle our debt for us and spare us from poverty." (3)

"How Perfect Allah is [thirty-three times]. All praise is for Allah [thirty-three times]. Allah is the greatest. [thirty-four times]"

Subhâna l-lâh (33 times), al-hamdu li-l-lâh (33 times), Allâhu akbar (34 times). (4)

To say: "O Allah, protect me from Your punishment on the day Your servants are resurrected. [three times]"

Allâhumma qinî cadhâbaka yawma tabcathu cibâdaka. (3 times) (5)

Footnotes:

1. Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
2. Related by Imam Muslim.
3. Related by Imam Muslim.
4. Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
5. Related by Imam Ahmad, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound.

Supplications upon waking up from sleep

1. Saying: "All praise is for Allah who gave us life after having taken it from us and unto Him is the resurrection."

Al-hamdu li-l-lâhi l-ladhî ahyânâ bacda mâ amâtanâ wa ilayhi n-nushûr.

(1)

2. Saying: "All praise is for Allah who restored to me my health and returned my soul and has allowed me to remember Him."

Al hamdu li-l-lâhi l-ladhî câfânî fî jasadî wa radda calayya rûhî, wa adhina

lî bi-dhikrihi. (2)

Supplications when entering the toilet and coming out of it

1. When entering the toilet, he should say: "(In the name of Allah). O Allah, I take refuge with you from all evil male and female devils (jinns)."

(Bismi l-lâhi). Allâhumma innî acûdhu bika mina-l-khubthi wa-l-ghabâ'ith. (3)

2. After leaving the toilet he should say: I ask You (Allah) for forgiveness."

غُفْرَانِكَ (4)

Supplications when climbing any mount or means of transport (Car, Bus, Truck, Train, Plane, Horse, Camel, Donkey, Mule, etc...)

To say: "In the name of Allah and all praise is for Allah. How perfect He is, the One Who has placed this (transport) at our service and we ourselves would not have been capable of that, and to our Lord is our final destiny. All praise is for Allah, All

praise is for Allah, All praise is for Allah, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest. How perfect You are, O Allah, verily I have wronged my soul, so forgive me, for surely none can forgive sins except You."

Bismi l-lâhi. Al hamdu li-l-lâhi. Subhâna l-ladhî sakhkhara lanâ hâdhâ wa mâ kunnâ lahu muqrinîn, wa innâ ilâ rabbînâ la-munqalibûn. Al hamdu li-l-lâhi, al hamdu li-l-lâhi, al hamdu li-l-lâhi. Allâhu akbaru, Allâhu akbaru, Allâhu akbaru. Subhânaka l-lâhumma innî zalamtu nafsî, fa-ghfir lî, fa-innahu lâ yaghfiru dh-dhunûba illâ ant. (5)

Footnotes:

1. Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
2. Related by Imam at-Tirmidhi and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound.
3. Related by Imam Bukhari and Muslim.
4. Related by Imam Ahmad, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound.
5. Related by Imam Ahmad, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound.

Supplications when travelling:

"Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, how perfect He is, The One Who has placed this (transport) at our service, and we ourselves would not have been capable of that, and to our Lord is our final destiny. O Allah, we ask You for birr and taqwa in this journey of ours and we ask You for deeds which please You. O Allah, facilitate our journey and let us cover its distance quickly. O Allah, You are The Companion on the journey and The Successor over the family, O Allah, I take refuge with You from the difficulties of travel, from having a change of hearts and being in a bad predicament, and I take refuge in You from an ill-fated outcome with wealth and family. [upon returning the same supplication is recited with the following addition :] (We return, repent, worship and praise our Lord.)"

Allâhu akbaru, Allâhu akbaru, Allâhu akbaru. Subhâna l-ladhî sakhkhara lanâ hâdhâ wa mâ kunnâ lahu muqrinîn, wa innâ ilâ rabbînâ la-munqalibûn. Allâhumma innâ nas-aluka fî safarinâ hâdhâ al-birra wa t-taqwâ wa mina-l-camali

mâ tardâ. Allâhumma hawwin calayna safaranâ hâdhâ wa twi cannâ bucdahu. Allâhumma anta s-sâhibu fî s-safari, wa-l-khalîfatu fî-l-ahli. Allâhumma innî acûdhu bika min wacthâ'i s-safari wa ka'âbati-l-manzari, wa sû'i-l-munqalabi fî-lmâli wa-l-ahli.

Upon returning the same supplication is recited with the following addition :]
Âyibûn, tâ'ibûn, câbidûn, li-rabbînâ hâmidûn. (1)

Supplication of the resident for the traveler:

"I place your religion, your faithfulness and the ends of your deeds in the trust of Allah."

Astawdicu l-lâha dînaka wa amânataka wa khawâtima camalika. (2)

Supplication of the traveler for the resident:

"I place you in the trust of Allah, whose trust is never misplaced."

Astawdicukumu l-lâha l-ladhî lâ tadîcu wadâ'icuhu. (3)

Supplication of the traveler when stopping or lodging anywhere during his travel:

"I take refuge in Allah's perfect words from the evil that He has created."

Acûdhu bi-kalimâti l-lâhi t-tâmmâti min sharri mâ khalaq. (4)

Supplication upon sighting the crescent moon:

"Allah is the greatest. O Allah, let the crescent loom above us in safety, faith, peace, and Islam, and in agreement with all that You love and pleases You. Our Lord and your Lord is Allah."

Allâhu akbaru. Allâhumma ahillahu calaynâ bi-l-amni, wa-l-îmâni, wa s-salâmati, wa-l-islâmi, wa t-tawfîqi limâ tuhibbu rabbanâ wa tardâ. Rabbunâ wa rabbuka l-lâhu. (5)

Footnotes:

1. Related by Imam Muslim.
2. Related by Imam Ahmad, Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound.
3. Related by Ibn Majah and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound
4. The prophet (PBUH) said: "whoever says this supplication nothing will harm him until he moves from that place." Related by Imam Muslim
5. Related by Imam Ahmad, At-Tirmidhi and Sheikh Al-Albani classified it as sound.

Selected supplications of the Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

1. *Saying: "O our Lord, grant us the best in this life and the best in the next life, and protect us from the punishment of the Fire."*

Rabbanâ âtinâ fî d-dunya hasanatan wa fî-l-âkhirati hasanatan wa qiina Athaaba alnaar (1)

2. Saying: "O my Lord, I have wronged my soul greatly by committing excess sins and no one forgives sins except You. Please forgive me a special forgiveness from You and have mercy upon me. Indeed, You are the Most Forgiving and Most Merciful. (2)
3. O my Lord rectify my religious affairs which is my source of security, and rectify my worldly affairs in which is my livelihood, and rectify my hereafter to which is my return and make my life to increase me in good deeds and make my death, a protection from all evil. (3)
4. O my Lord! Forgive me, have mercy on me, make me healthy, help me, guide me, and provide for me and raise me in rank. (4)
5. O you who overturns the hearts, please make my heart firm on your religion. (5)
6. O My Lord! grant us to fear and reverence You so that we do not disobey You. And grant us acts of obedience to You which will enable us to attain

your paradise and grant us certainty of faith which will make all our problems in this world seem insignificant. And grant us to enjoy the gifts of our hearing, our sight and our strength as long as we live and make them to inherit us and make our vengeance be upon the one who has wronged us and give us victory over our enemies and do not let the biggest calamity be in our religion and do not let the life of this world be our most important concern nor our knowledge be restricted to its affairs only and do not overpower us with an enemy who will oppress us and have no mercy upon us. (6)

The Month of Muharram

The month of Muharram was named so because it was forbidden to fight in this month, as well as in other sacred months.

The four sacred months in the lunar calendar in which it is prohibited to fight are:

1. Muharram 2. Dhul Qaadda 3. Dhul Hijjah 4. Rajab

Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: "Verily the number of months with Allah is twelve months (in a year), so was it ordained by Allah on the day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are sacred. That is the right religion, so wrong not yourselves therein." (Surah Al-Tawbah, Chapter 9, Verse 36).

Abu Bakr related that Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "The months have rotated to its original order when Allah created the heavens and the earth. The year is composed of 12 months of which 4 months are the prohibited months. Three months are in a row successively namely, Dhul Qaada, Dhul Hijjah and Muharram. And Rajab (Mudar) which is between the months of Jumada and Shaaban.

(Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim.)

The sacred months were highly respected and strictly observed in the Law of Prophet Ibrahim (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and this rule continued to be followed by the Arabs before Islam. They forbade fighting during

these sacred months. After the advent of Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), the same rule has been legislated in the Islamic Sharia Law. Allah (The Almighty) has also forbidden Muslims from committing sinful acts during these months.

Allah (The Almighty) says: “So wrong not yourselves therein.” (Surah Al-Tawbah, Chapter 9, Verse 36).

Major Events that took Place in the Month of Muharram

1. This is the month in which it was decided to select the month of Muharram as the beginning month of the Islamic Hijri calendar. It was a suggestion from Othman ibn Affan (May Allah be pleased with him) to Umar Al-Khattab (May Allah be pleased with him), the Caliph in the year 16 H.E.
2. In this month Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) set out on the expedition to Khaybar in 7 H.E. Allah (The Almighty) promised him and the Muslims victory and great booty after the Al-Hudaibiya peace treaty, or truce, with the pagan Arabs in Makkah. Allah (SWT) said in the Holy Qur'an: “Allah has promised you abundant spoils that you will capture, and He has restrained the hands of men from you. That it may be a sign for the believers and that He may guide you to the straight path. (Surah Al-Fath, Chapter 48, Verse 20).
3. In the month of Muharram, Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) sent letters to the kings and rulers of neighboring countries inviting them to Islam. This took place in the year 7 H.E., after returning to Medina from Al-Hudaibiya. He dispatched six messengers to the following rulers on the same day:
 - a. Negus, King of Abyssinia (Ethiopia).
 - b. Hercules-Caesar, King of the Byzantium Empire.
 - c. Al-Muqawqas, Head and Ruler of the Copts in Egypt.
 - d. Kisra Anisharwan, the Persian Ruler.
 - e. Al-Harith, son of Abi Shamr Al Ghassani, Ruler of the Ghassanids.
 - f. Howthaj, son of Ali Al-Hanafi, Ruler of Al Yamama.

4. During the month of Muharram, the battle of the Qaddisiya took place, between the Muslim army (led by Saad ibn Waqqas) and the Persian armies (led by Rustom and Julianos) in Iraq which continued for three days and ended with a resounding victory for the Muslims.
5. The fourth Caliph Uthman ibn Affan (May Allah be pleased with him) was given allegiance and elected the new Caliph of the Muslims during Muharram, in the year 24 H.E.
6. On the tenth day of Muharram, Prophet Moses (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the believers of the Children of Israel were saved by Allah (The Almighty) from Pharaoh of Egypt and his army. Pharaoh and his army drowned in the Red Sea.
7. Prophet Muhammed (SAW) married Safiyya bint Huyay Akhtab in the year 6 H.E., in the month of Muharram.

Valuable lessons and words of wisdom

Prayers/Supplications

“(Who say), “Our Lord let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower.” (Surah Al-Imran, Chapter 3, Verse 8).

(Mention) When the youths retreated to the Cave and said, “Our Lord, grant us from Yourself mercy and prepare for us from our affair right guidance.” (Surah Al-Kahf, Chapter 18, Verse 10).

Humility and Forbearance

Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: “And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily and when the ignorant address them (harshly), they say (words of) peace.” (Surah Al-Furqan, Chapter 25, Verse 63).

The Month of Safar

The name of the month is derived from the plundering practice of Arab tribes before the advent of Islam. They used to attack other tribes and leave their people with nothing. 'Safar' is derived from the Arabic word 'Sifr' which means 'nothing' or 'without anything'.

Also the pagan polytheistic Arabs before Islam used to have superstitious beliefs about this month so Prophet Mohammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) prohibited them from such falsehoods. Abu Huraira (RA) narrated that Allah's Apostle said: (There is) no 'Adwa (no contagious disease is conveyed without Allah's permission). Nor is there any bad omen (from birds), nor is there any Hamah (the belief that if an owl descended on a house, one of its inhabitants will die), nor is there any bad omen in the month of Safar.

The following important events took place in the month of Safar:

1. Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) married Khadija bint Khuwailid (RA), mother of the believers.
2. Khaybar was conquered by the Muslim army in the 7th year after migration.
3. An important battle, known as 'Marj Rahit', took place in the vicinity of Damascus, in the year 13 H.E.
4. The Mongols (Tartars) ransacked Baghdad and murdered the Abbassid Caliph -Al Muatassim Billah and all his family members, including senior officials of his government. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims were killed, ending the Abbassid Caliphate in 656 H.E.
5. Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) migrated from Makkah to Medina in this month but reached Madina in Rabil Al Awwal.
6. Ali bin Abi Talib married Fatima, the daughter of Prophet Muhammed in the year 2 H.E. Ibn Kathir said: "As regards Fatima (May Allah be pleased with her), she was married to her cousin Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) in the month of Safar, in the 2nd year after Hijra. She bore him Al Hassan and Al Hussein. It is also said that she bore him Muhsin, Umm Kulthum and Zeinab.

Valuable lessons and words of wisdom

Wealth and attaining Virtues

The leader of the believers, Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him), said: “To whoever Allah grants wealth, let him spend it to help his relatives, to be generous with his guest, to free the prisoner or slave and give to the poor, the needy, the one in debt and let him remain patient in fulfilling the rights of others upon his wealth, seeking the reward of Almighty God. In fact, to attain such virtues is an honor in this world and will lead to the attainment of great honors and high rewards in the hereafter, God willing.”

Advice of Al-Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him), Uncle of Prophet Muhammed to his son, Abdullah ibn Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him)

Al-Abbas bin Abdul Muttalib, the uncle of Prophet Muhammed, said to his son, Abdullah ibn Abbas: “I notice that this man (meaning the Caliph Umar bin Al-Khattab), is preferring you over the older or senior Sahabah (companions of the Prophet) so take these five things from me as my advice:

1. Do not reveal any secret he confides to you.
2. Do not back bite anyone in his presence.
3. Do not ever lie to him.
4. Do not ever disobey him.
5. Do not let him find in you any betrayal of trust.

The month of Rabi Al-Awwal

It was so named because it was the month in which the pre-Islamic Arab tribes received the booty which they obtained in the previous month Safar. The term ‘Rabeiy’ in Arabic means ‘fertile’.

Important events which took place in this month:

1. The birth of Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), according to most historians.
2. The migration of Prophet Muhammad from Makkah to Medina.
3. Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) died in this month.
4. Abu Bakr (May Allah be pleased with him) was elected the new Caliph of the Muslims and given allegiance in the ‘Saqifa Bani Saaidah” in Madina.
5. Abu Bakr (The New Caliph) sent an army under the command of Usamah bin Zaid to fight the Romans. Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had, before his death, appointed Usamah to lead this army but died before sending him and Abu Bakr did not change the command. The expedition took a total of 40 days back and forth.
6. Al-Hera, a city in Iraq, was conquered by Muslims peacefully through a truce conducted by Khalid bin Walid in 12 H.E.
7. Uthman bin Affan (May Allah be pleased with him) married Umm Kulthum, the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad during this month.
8. The armies of Salah Al-Din Al Ayyubi entered the city of Damascus on 29 Rabi Al-Awwal, 570 H.E. or 29th October 1174.
9. Imam Malik bin Anas (May Allah be pleased with him), a leading Islamic scholar, died in this month. He was the Imam of Madina. He passed away on 14th Rabi Al-Awwal, 179 H.E.
10. Imam Ahmed bin Hanbal (May Allah be pleased with him) died in the city of Baghdad on the 12th of Rabi Al-Awwal, in 241 H.E.

Words of Wisdom

The famous ascetic Ibrahim bin Adham mostly prayed saying: “O Allah transport me from disobedience, humiliation, the lowly state of sinfulness to the honor and lofty state of obedience to You. O You with Great Pardon, O You with Vast Forgiveness, You are the Most Forgiving and, O You Most Merciful, O Lord! O my Lord, Whose Mercy is near! O Possessor of Majesty and Honor! Grant me good health and well-being in this life and the hereafter!”

1. Mar'uf Al Karkhi said:" O Allah, grant me to be among those of your servants who believe in the meeting with You (the Day of Judgement), and who are pleased with Your decree and are satisfied with Your provisions and fear You greatly as You should be feared. O Allah! Grant me a bountiful sustenance and let no one make a mockery or gloat or rejoice maliciously at me."
2. Dhirar bin Dhamra said: "I saw Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) when the night had become very dark and the stars had faded away, sitting in his prayer niche (mihrab), holding his beard with his hands and crying profusely. As he rocked back and forth, I thought I heard him saying, 'O Dunia! O Dunia (O this World! O this World!) Do you want to tempt me? Is it me that you want to attract? Hah, hah, hah, (go) tempt someone else, not me, as I have divorced you three times and there is no chance for re-marriage. Your time is short, your livelihood is despicable, your danger is great! Ah, the provision (of good deeds) is little, the journey to travel is so far (to the Hereafter) and the road is filled with perils."

The Month of Rabial Akher

The following events took place in the month of Rabial Akher:

1. Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) left the city of Madina in the year 1 H.E., with 200 of his noble companions. This was a military expedition intended to encounter people of the Al-Quraish tribe. They reached a place called Buwat near Radhwa, a mountain on the seventh stage on the route to Madina.

The Al-Quraish caravan, led by Umayyah bin Khalaf Al- Jumhi, consisted of 2500 camels laden with goods. The caravan, guarded by 100 men, was camped at Buwat. Upon learning that the Messenger of Allah was approaching them with his companions, the Al-Quraish men abandoned the caravan and fled for their lives and the Prophet didn't indulge in a battle against them. During this expediton, the battle standard was carried by the noble companion, Saad bin Abi Waqqas. Prophet Muhammed (SAW) had

appointed Saad bin Muadh to deputize for him as ruler of Madina pending his return.

2. During this month, in the year 4 H.E, members of the Jewish tribe of Banu Nadhir, were expelled from Madina due to their treachery.
3. The city of Damascus was surrounded by Muslim armies led by Abu Obaidah bin Al-Jarrah and Khalid bin Al-Waleed, in the year 14 H.E., for 70 nights until it surrendered.
4. The city of Homs was conquered by Muslims on the 21 Rabial Akher in the year 15 H.E.
5. The famous Muslim scholar and philosopher, Abi Hamid Al Ghazzali, died on 14th Rabial Akher in the year 505 H.E. He is the author of the book 'Reviving Religious Sciences' and several other books.

Words of Wisdom:

1. Sufian bin Uyayna a great scholar (107 – 198 A.H.) said: "It used to be said that the days are three; Yesterday, which was wise and well-behaved and which has left its wisdom upon you. Today is a friend who has been away from you for a long time until he came to you but you didn't go to him but then you find him moving away from you very fast. And Tomorrow, which you don't know whether you will be alive or not (to see it!)"
2. Al-Qassim bin Muhammad bin Abi Bakr Ass-Siddique, one of the great seven jurists of Madina and the grandson of the first caliph after the Prophet, Abu Bakr As Siddique (35 – 107 A.H.) said, "I went out early in the day to visit Aisha, the Mother of the Believers, in order to greet her. When I reached her house, I found her praying Salat Al Dhuha (pre-noon optional prayer) and she was reading the following verse of the Qur'an: "So Allah

conferred favor upon us and protected us from the punishment of the Scorching Fire.” (Surah Al-Tur, Chapter 52, Verse 27).

She was crying and praying, repeating this verse over and over again.

When I saw her in this state, I got up and left, intending to come back after finishing some work at the market place. However, when I returned, I found her (Aisha) just as I had left her, reciting the same Qur’anic verse, crying and praying to Allah.

3. Wahaeb bin Al-Ward, a great scholar of Hadith and an ascetic (Died in 153 A.H.) was asked: “Does the one who disobeys Allah ever get to taste the sweetness of faith or worship? He replied, ‘No, and even the one who is seriously contemplating to commit a sin.’

The Month of Jumada al Ula

This month was so named because of the freezing of water due to cold weather.

The following important events took place in this month:

1. Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) went on a military expedition to Al-Ushirah, 16 months after the Hijrah to Madina. During this expedition, the Prophet did not encounter any battle but he was able to make peace treaties with the tribes of Banu Mudlaj and Banu Dhamrah. He returned safely to Madina.
2. The Messenger of Allah set out on a military expedition to Najd, seeking to combat the tribes of Banu Muharib and Banu Thalabah from Ghatafan but no military confrontation took place. This expedition was named the ‘Ghazwah Al-Ruqqah’ as the companions of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had to tie pieces of cloth on their feet due to the extreme heat of the desert sand.
3. The famous military encounter between the Muslim and the Byzantium armies took place during this month in Muthah (Syria) in the year 8 H.E. Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

had sent an army after appointing Zaid bin Haritha as its Chief Commander. He instructed the companions who had enlisted to fight in this military campaign to appoint Jaafer bin Abi Talib as the next Commander should Zaid be martyred, and then Abdullah bin Rawaha should be the commander incase Jaafer is martyred. In fact, all the three commanders-in-chief were martyred in this battle. Finally, Khalid bin Al-Waleed took over command of the Muslim army and cleverly engineered a strategic withdrawal.

4. In the year 15 H.E, a famous battle took place between Muslim armies (led by Amru bin Al-Aas, Abu Obaidah bin al Jarrah and Shurahbil bin Hasana) and the Byzantium army led by Al-QubQillah or' Wardan', at a place called Ajnadin (Palestine), between Al-Ramla and Bayt Ilbrin. In this battle, the Roman (Byzantium) army was defeated and their leader 'Wardan' was killed.
5. The city of Constantinople (Istanbul), which was the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium), was conquered by Muslim armies on 20 Jumada Al-Ula in the year 857 H.E. by Sultan Muhammad Al-Fatih (May Allah rest his in peace).
6. The famous battle of Qasr, or the Valley of Stores, was waged in the year 986 H.E. in Morocco between the Muslim and Portuguese armies. The Portuguese army was led by King Sebastian who was defeated and eventually drowned at sea.

Words of Wisdom

Malik bin Anas related that Jaafar bin Muhammad said to Sufian Al-Thawri, "O Sufian, if Allah (The Almighty) has bestowed upon you a favor and you loved that it stayed with you, increase in praising and thanking Allah for it. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: 'And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed, "If you are grateful, I will surely increase you (in favor), but if you deny, indeed My punishment is severe."' (Surah Ibrahim, Chapter 14, Verse 7).

And if your sustenance is slow in coming, increase in making "Istighfar" (asking Allah for forgiveness). Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an: "And said,

‘Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver. He will send (rain from) the sky upon you in (continuing) showers and give you increase in wealth and children and provide for you gardens and provide for you rivers.” (Surah Nooh, Chapter 71, Verses 10 – 12).

“O Sufian! If any calamity or distress befalls you, increase in saying: LA HAWLA WALA QUWWATA ILLA BILLAH (There is no might nor power except with the might and power of Allah). For it is the key to relief and a treasure among the treasures of Heaven.”

Al-Fudhail bin Ayadh said: “Beware of the small sins, because small spots leave marks on a pure and white gown or dress.

Someone asked Hatim Al Asam, “What is the basis or foundation for your dependence upon Allah and trust in Him?” He replied, “Upon four matters, namely:

- i. I became certain that no one will take my sustenance except me so my heart became peaceful.
- ii. I came to know that no one will do my deeds except me so I am now busy doing them.
- iii. I came to know for certain that death comes suddenly, without any warning, so I am preparing for it.
- iv. I came to know for certain that I can’t hide from the sight of Allah so I am now shy of Him.

The Month of Jumada Al-Akhera (Jumada II)

These are the important events which took place in this month in history:

1. The death of Abu Bakr Assidique (May Allah be pleased with him), the first Caliph, at 63 years of age, in 13 H.E. He ruled for only two years and three months. He died on Monday 22 Jumadah Al-Akhera.

2. Caliph Umar (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was given the pledge of allegiance by the Muslims after the death of Abu Bakr As Siddique in the year 13 H.E.
3. The Battle of Yarmouk took place between the Muslim armies led by Khalid bin Al-Waleed and Abu Obaida bin Al-Jarrah and the Byzantium armies in 13 H.E. Some historians say that this battle took place in the month of Rajab 15 H.E.
4. The fall of the city of Akka in Palestine into the hands of the Crusaders led by King Richard the Lion Heart in Jumada II in the year 587 H.E. It remained under the control of the Crusaders until it was liberated by Sultan Al Ashraf Qalawun on 17 Rabial Awwal in the year 690 H.E.
5. The city of Constantinople (Istanbul) was conquered by the Muslim army under the leadership of Sultan Muhammed Al-Fatih (May Allah bestow His mercy upon him) on 20 Rabial Akhera in the year 857 H.E.
6. The death of Imam Al-Qassim bin Firah, nicknamed Al-Shatibi, author of the great poetic system of memorizing the Holy Qur'an, using seven styles of recitation (HIRZ AL-AMANI WA WAJHU AL-TAHANI). He died on 28 Jumada Al-Akhera, in the year 590 H.E.

Words of Wisdom

1. Umar bin Al-Khattab (The commander of the faithful) said: "Islam is destroyed by the slipping of the scholar (from the straight path), the arguments of the hypocrites using the Qur'an and the ruler ship of those who are misguided and thus misleading the people."
2. Mahmood Al Waraq said: "Repent sincerely before death comes upon you and your tongue becomes tied up; make haste for it as it is for the human soul a great treasure and, for the one who is penitent and does good deeds, it is a source for rejoicing."
3. Al-Hajjaj bin Yousef said to one old lady: "I swear by Allah that I will kill your son." The old lady replied, "(Even) if you don't kill him, he will die anyway!" This shows the high intelligence of the old lady as Allah (The Almighty):

said: “Say, ‘Indeed, the death from which you flee – indeed, it will meet you.” (Surah Al Jumuah, Chapter 62, Verse 8).

The Month of Rajab

It was named Rajab as it was derived from the Arabic word Al-Tarjeeb, which means respect or reverence. This month is one of the four sacred months during which battles are prohibited.

Important events that took place in this month:

1. The first migration (Hijrah) of the early Muslims to Abyssinia when they were being severely oppressed in Makkah. Allah gave them permission to migrate to Abyssinia. Uthman bin Affan (May Allah be pleased with him) was amongst them.
2. The Tabuk military expedition took place in this month in the year 9 H.E. This expedition was named the expedition of hardship. On this occasion, Abu Bakr Assidique donated all his wealth (4000 dirhams) and Umar bin Al-Khattab brought half of his assets. Uthman bin Affan brought so much wealth that the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was very impressed. He said: “Nothing that Uthman does will harm him after today.” He said this twice. This meant that no matter what Uthman did from that day on, he would be forgiven due to his immense show of generosity. Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) needed much support at that critical time as he was preparing the army for battle (related by Imam Al-Tirmidhi). Even women came forward and donated to help finance the military expedition.
3. In this month, the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) offered condolences to the Muslims on the death of their brother, the Negus of Abyssinia, and led the Janazah prayer for him (in absentia) together with his companions. This act of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was miraculous as the distance between Madinah and Abyssinia was great and there were no telecommunication

links in those days. It would have taken two to three weeks for the news to reach Madinah by land. This event took place in 9 H.E.

4. The Conquest of Damascus took place in this month in the year 14 H.E. The city surrendered peacefully and the Muslims signed a peace treaty to allow its inhabitants the freedom of worship including praying in their churches. Their houses and churches would be protected and they would be allowed to celebrate their religious festivals. The Muslim army commanders who signed the treaty with them were Khalid bin Al-Waleed and Abu Obaidah bin Al-Jarrah.
5. Jerusalem was restored to Muslim rule after Salah Uddin Al-Ayyubi (May Allah bestow His mercy upon him) liberated it from the Crusaders. This took place on the 27 Rajab, in the year 583 H.E.
6. The great battle of Zallaqah took place in Muslim Spain (Andalusia) in 479 H.E. between Muslim forces led by Yousef bin Tashfeen against the Spaniards. The Muslim army was victorious in this battle.
7. The Battle of Yarmouk took place in this month on Monday, 5 Rajab, 15 H.E., between the Muslim armies and Byzantines forces. The Muslim army, led by Khalid bin Al-Waleed and Abu Obaida, defeated the Byzantines.

Valuable lessons and words of wisdom

Sufian Al-Thawri said, "Three things are evidences of Patience:

- i. Do not talk about your sin.
- ii. Do not talk about your pain (sickness).
- iii. Do not praise yourself.

Bilal bin Saad said: "The sin if it is hidden does not harm anyone except the one who committed it, but if it is exposed and nothing is done to change it, it will harm the whole nation."

Khurashah bin Al-Hur said: "A man testified in front of Caliph Umar bin Al-Khattab (The commander of the faithful) and he said to him, 'I don't know you and it doesn't matter if I don't know you but bring me someone who knows you.'

Someone from among the people said, 'I know him.' So Umar asked the man, 'How do you know him?' He (the man) replied, 'By his truthfulness and justice.' So Umar further asked the man, 'Was he your close neighbor that you know about his coming and going? And do you know what he does in the day and night?' He (the man) replied, 'No'.

Then Umar asked him, 'Were you involved with him in a business transaction so that you can tell whether he is honest and trustworthy?' The man replied, 'No'.

Finally, Umar asked him, 'Were you his travel companion on a journey so that you could see his real character?' The man replied, 'No'.

Umar then said, 'I don't think you really know anything about him. Maybe you saw him in the mosque raising his head and lowering it (only praying). Umar then told the first man to bring him someone who really knew him well.

The Month of Shaaban

The month of Shaaban was so named because the desert Arab tribes go into different paths and ways looking for water, or they involve in different invasions and wars after abstaining from that during the month Rajab, one of the sacred months where wars and fights are prohibited.

The following events took place in the month of Shaaban:

1. The obligation of fasting during the month of Ramadhan was revealed in the year 2 H.E.
2. The Qibla (direction of prayer) was changed from Jerusalem (Al-Aqsa Mosque) to the Kaaba in Mecca, 16 or 17 months after the migration (Hijrah) of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) from Mecca to Madina.

It has also been reported that the Qibla was changed on Monday, in the middle of the month of Rajab, after the decline of the sun from the meridian position (Dhuhr or midday prayer time). This was two months before the Battle of Badr. Prophet Muhammad was in the Mosque of Bani

Salamah and he had already prayed two rakaats of Dhuhr prayer when he had to change the Qibla direction towards Makkah.

3. The Battle of Nahrawan took place in this month between the followers of Ali bin Abu Talib , Commander of the Faithful, and the rebel group Al-Khawarij, who had defected from his army. Ali (May Allah be pleased with him) had previously decided to agree to a peaceful truce to end the dispute between him and Muawiyah (May Allah be pleased with him) on who should be the leader of the Muslims. This would bring to an end the fighting between the two camps in Siffeen. Ali bin Abi Talib defeated the Al-Khawarij group and killed most of their men in 38 H.E. Only 12 men from Ali's supporters lost their lives.
4. The Crusaders took control over Jerusalem on 13 Shaaban, 492 H.E.
5. The leader of the Mamelukes in Egypt, Seifudeen Qutuz, left Egypt at the head of his army, to fight the Mongols in Ayn Jalut in 658 H.E. The Mongols were badly defeated by the Muslim army under the leadership of Seifudden Qutuz.
6. The Messenger of Allah (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) married Hafsa (mother of the believers), daughter of Umar bin Al-Khattab, in the year 4 H.E.
7. The Banu Al Mustaliq Expedition took place in this month in the year 5 A.H., according to some historians. Upon returning home, the prophet was severely tested by a crisis due to some hypocrites who started to spread slanderous rumors about the Mother of the Believers, Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her), the Prophet's wife, who had gone on this trip. Allah (The Almighty) sent verses down from the seven heavens to defend her and prove her innocence.
8. In the year 219 H.E., the Qaramitah (a fanatical sect) forcefully entered the city of Al-Kufa in Iraq and stayed there for 25 days, looting and killing many of its inhabitants.
9. During this month, Al-Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet and son of Ali bin Abi Talib was born. The year was 3 H.E.

Valuable lessons and words of wisdom

1. Abu Jaafer Mohammed, son of Ali Al-Baqir, said: “My father advised me thus: “Do not befriend five types of people, nor talk to them, nor accompany them on a journey.’ I asked him, ‘May I be sacrificed for you, who are those five people?’

He said, ‘Firstly, do not befriend an evil-doer because he will sell you for a bite of food or even less. Secondly, do not befriend a miser as he will not help you from his wealth when you are really in need. Thirdly, do not befriend a liar as he is similar to a mirage. He makes near things seem far away and far-away things look near. Fourthly, do not befriend a foolish person. He wants to help you but actually ends up harming you. Fifthly, do not befriend a person who cuts off his family and kinship ties because I learnt that he is cursed in the Book of Allah, in three places.’

2. Ikrimah, former slave of Abdullah, son of Abbas, said: “Everything has a foundation and the foundation of Islam is good morals (good conduct).
3. Mahmood, son of Al-Hassan Awaraq, said: “Put your trust in Allah in every matter or affair. Do not let weakness prevent you from seeking your goal. Do you not see that Allah (The Almighty) said to Maryam, ‘So shake thee the date tree trunk and ripe dates will fall down upon you? And if Allah had willed for the dates to fall down upon her without any shaking, it would have been happened. However, everything has a cause or reason.”
4. Zuhair, son of Abi Salma, said: “No matter what character a person possesses but who thinks that it is hidden from others, ultimately it will be known to them.
5. Saeed, son of Musaib, said: “There is no honorable person, nor a scholar, nor a ruler, who doesn’t have a weakness or shortcoming. However, there are people whose shortcomings are not mentioned. These are the ones whose good deeds exceed their shortcomings. Their bad deeds or shortcomings are overridden by their good deeds.

The Month of Ramadhan

The month of Ramadhan derived its name from ‘ramadh’, referring to something that is intensely heated by the sun. ‘Al-ramdhah’ is the scorching solar heat.

Important events which took place in Ramadhan:

1. The Holy Qur’an was revealed in this blessed month. Allah the Almighty says: “The Month of Ramadhan in which the Qur’an was revealed as a guidance for mankind, with clear signs of guidance and as a criterion for Judgement (between right and wrong). So whoever is resident in his hometown let him fast the month. “(Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 185).
2. Khadijah bint Khuwailid (May Allah be pleased with her) accepted Islam in this month and she was the first person to believe in the prophet hood of Muhammed. She also died in this month.
3. The Battle of Badr took place on 17 Ramadhan, 2 H.E., which the Holy Qur’an named as the Day of Furqan (discernment between truth and falsehood).
4. The obligation of paying Zakat Al-Fitr and the Zakat on wealth was revealed in the Holy Qur’an. Also, the Eid prayer was legislated in this month, in the year 2 H.E.
5. The great conquest of Mecca took place on 10 Ramadhan, in the year 8 H.E. It was also known as the mother of all conquests as many people embraced Islam after this major victory.
6. The Tha’if delegation accepted Islam in this month, in the year 9 H.E.
7. The Prophet’s daughter, Fatima (May Allah be pleased with her), died in this month, in the year 11 H.E.
8. The martyrdom of the Commander of the Faithful, Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) took place in the morning of 17 Ramadhan, 40 H.E., in the city of Al Kufa (Iraq).
9. The death of Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her), the Mother of the Believers, took place in Ramadhan, in the year 58 H.E.

10. The great battle of Ayn Jalut was waged, in 658 H.E., between the Muslim army, led by Seifudeen Qutuz (May Allah be pleased with him) and the Mongols (Tartars). The Muslim army was victorious over the Mongols.

Fasting in the Month of Ramadhan

Fasting in Ramadhan is obligatory according to the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and the consensus of the Muslim scholars. It is the fourth pillar of Islam. Allah (The Almighty) says in the Holy Qur'an:

- i. The Month of Ramadhan in which the Qur'an was revealed as a guidance for mankind, with clear signs of guidance and as a criterion for Judgement (between right and wrong). So whoever is resident in his hometown let him fast the month. (Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 185).
- ii. Talha, son of Ubaidullah, narrated that a Bedouin Arab came to meet the Prophet Muhammad with disheveled hair and said, "O Messenger of Allah! Tell me what Allah has obligated me to do as regards the prayers." The Prophet replied, "The five obligatory prayers unless you want to volunteer to pray optional prayers."

Then the Bedouin Arab asked the Prophet again, "Tell me what Allah has required me to do as regards fasting." The Prophet replied, "The month of Ramadhan unless you wish to do more voluntarily."

Then he (the Bedouin) asked, "Tell me what Allah has required me to do as regards my Zakat?" The Prophet taught him the Islamic rules and regulations regarding Zakat.

The Bedouin Arab said at the end: 'I swear by Allah, by Him Who honored you, I will not add anything nor will I reduce anything from what He has obligated me to do.'

The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) then remarked: 'He will be successful if he is truthful. Another interpretation is that he will enter Paradise if he is truthful. Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim.

The Virtues of the Month of Ramadhan

The Companion of the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Abu Hurairah (RA) narrated that when Ramadhan came upon them, the Prophet said: "The Month of Ramadhan has come upon you. A blessed month which Allah has made an obligation to fast. In this month, the gates of Heaven are open, the gates of Hell are closed and the rebellious devils are chained. And in this month there is a blessed night which is better in the sight of Allah than a 1000 months. Whoever is deprived of its benefits has been indeed deprived." (Related by Imam Ahmed).

Arfaja reported that he was with Utbah bin Farqad while he was talking about Ramadhan. He said that a man from among the companions of the Prophet came upon them. When Utbah saw him he felt shy to speak in front of him so he kept quiet. The companion of the Prophet then started talking about Ramadhan. He said: "I heard the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) saying, "In Ramadhan the gates of Hell are closed, the gates of Heaven are opened and the rebellious devils are chained." He went on to say, "An Angel will call out: 'O you who want to do good receive glad tidings and O you who want to do evil stop it.'" This call will continue till the end of Ramadhan". (Related by Imam Ahmed and At-Tirmidhi).

Upon the authority of Abu Salamah, son of Abdul Rahman, who reported that Abu Hurairah stated: "The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, 'My nation has been given five

things (favors) in Ramadhan which no other nation received before me. These are as follows:

- i. The bad breath of a fasting person is more beloved to Allah than the scent of musk.
- ii. The Angels pray to Allah to forgive the fasting Muslim until he breaks his fast.
- iii. Allah beautifies Paradise for the fasting Muslim each day and then He says, "It is likely that my righteous servants will be relieved from the difficulties or stresses of life and return to back to you.
- iv. The devils are chained and they cannot mislead people as they used to do before Ramadhan.
- v. The fasting Muslims are all forgiven their sins in the last night of Ramadhan. The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was asked: 'O Messenger of Allah, is it the Night of Decree (Night of Power)?' The Prophet replied: 'No, but the laborer is paid his wages once he has accomplished the work.' (Related by Imam Ahmed, Al-Baihaqi, Al-Harith.

Please note that this hadeeth has a very weak chain but some parts of it is found in authentic hadith. For this reason, some scholars have classified it as sound.

The Wisdom behind fasting by the Lunar Calendar

Why did Allah (The Almighty) legislate fasting during the lunar months and not during the solar months?

Had Allah (The Almighty) legislated fasting in one of the solar months, there would have been no need for Muslims to sight the moon of Ramadhan nor would there have been any dispute among Muslims whether the crescent of the new moon had appeared or not. Muslims all over the world would have fasted Ramadhan on the same day and ended their fast on the same day. Consequently, Eid would have fallen on the same day for everyone.

We all know that Allah (The Almighty) wants Muslims to be united and not to have disputes among themselves. If the Islamic law had selected a month of the solar calendar for fasting, people would have had no difficulties with climatic conditions and the variable hours of day and night. That would have been more attractive or appealing and it would further reduce the chance for people to fall into disputes. But fasting is the decree of Allah (The Almighty) and Muslims have to abide by the rules set by Him.

The researcher and commentator on Ibn Rushd's book, 'Bidayat Al Mujtahid' says: "The human being, no matter how much knowledge he claims to have and how much perfection he thinks he has attained, he will always remain weak and short-sighted. He is limited in his perception and capabilities for he looks at only the outer appearances of matters and not at the wisdom and circumstances behind the laws decreed by Allah (The All-Wise).

1. The determination of the fasting based on lunar months is something known to people of all different segments of the society, whether they are Bedouins or town or city dwellers, educated or illiterate, knowledgeable or ignorant, in high or low positions, male or female. The moon and its phases are visible to all and it does not require any special kind of mathematical genius to determine the days of the month, the lengths of the day and night, and so on.

However, the solar months are not known to many people, especially those who live in the wilderness or open desert, or are travelling in the sea or oceans for months, or are far away from towns or cities. We know that Allah (The All-Knowing and the All Wise) has legislated fasting for all the people who are legally competent. It is not confined to certain category of people or nation or tribe or race.

2. Fasting when based on the lunar calendar means that a Muslim is obligated to fast during all the seasons of the year, including the cold, hot and moderate climatic conditions. Sometimes Ramadhan comes in the hot summer months, when the days are long and the nights short. In winter fasting takes place in the cold months, when the days are short and the nights long. Ramadhan also falls during the milder seasons of spring and autumn, when the days and nights are of equal lengths.

It is clear that fasting has been decreed upon people for the purpose of developing strong qualities in the character of a human being. The fasting person feels the rigors of abstention from food and drink during the different weather conditions and the varying lengths of day and night. Fasting in the face of various life situations, diverse temperatures and other conditions, help to make a person more fortified, both psychologically and spiritually and instills in him the attributes of patience and strong will power.

Conversely, if fasting was to be during a month of the solar calendar, the individual will be exposed to only one kind of situation, for example, either cold or hot weather, or experience abstention for only a few hours of the day. This would not have a substantial impact on his character development or spiritual growth.

3. It is a well-known fact that human nature loves change and diversity. People generally like to experience different life conditions, situations and circumstances. This is why people travel from one country to another, they migrate to other places, they long to see beyond their own cultures and civilizations. People also want to taste different types of food, visit places of interest and seek opportunities away from their own homelands.

There is also a special significance in the sighting of the new moon that signals the beginning of the fasting month of Ramadhan. People are expectant and when the new crescent is sighted, there is a feeling of great joy. They greet one another, spread the news and prepare themselves for this special month. There is also an element of motivation and this serves to bring all the Muslim societies and nations together.

Fasting following the solar calendar would be a month fixed by a specific day or date on the calendar. That would remove much of the spiritual sensation and motivational aspect as experienced when people endeavor to sight the new crescent or wait in hopeful anticipation of the announcement of the onset of Ramadhan.

This wisdom also applies to the months of the Hajj pilgrimage, which is similarly based on the lunar calendar.

4. Muslims all over the world have been concerned about the differences by one or two days among countries in the world regarding the beginning and end of the month of Ramadhan and the announcement of the Eid holiday. These differences occur from country to country, or region to region.

This issue does not in any way undermine the unity of the Muslims worldwide. Whether Muslims live in the East or West, South or North, the matter is based on 'Ijtihad' (religious opinion taken after careful consideration of all available evidences and Islamic Shariah guidelines). Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) approved of the differences of

opinion among his companions so long as they were based on their personal 'Ijtihad'.

A good example of this is the case when Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) sent his companions to Banu Quraidha (a Jewish tribe) living in the vicinity of Madina. The Prophet Muhammad told them that none of them should pray Asr (afternoon) prayer except in the habitations of Banu Quraidha.

While on the way to the Banu Quraidha settlements, the time for the Asr (afternoon) prayer commenced. A group from among the companions said, "We will pray Asr prayer as we are afraid that if we wait until we reach Banu Quraidha, we will miss its proper time." Others disagreed saying that they would rather delay the Asr prayer until the time they reached Banu Quraidha, as instructed by the Prophet.

When they returned to the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) after their mission, they informed him about this matter. He did not rebuke either of the two groups which shows that he approved of both their actions. (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari).

Therefore, 'Ijtihad' and having differences in secondary matters is not something new among Muslims. Prophet Muhammad (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Do not fast until you sight the new moon of Ramadhan and do not end the fast of Ramadhan until you sight the new moon of Shawwal. However, if the sky is cloudy, then make an estimated judgement or make 'Ijtihad'." (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

This speech is addressed to all Muslims in the East and West and not just to one specific group of people. Allah (The Almighty) says: "They ask you (O Muhammed) about the crescent moons. Say, 'They are measurements of time for the people and for hajj (pilgrimage).'

(Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 189).

Regarding the choice of the month of Ramadhan for the purpose of fasting, Allah (The All Glorious) honored it because it is a distinguished month of the lunar calendar. 'Laylatul Qadr' (The Night of Decree) falls during this month and it is the most distinguished night of the whole year. Allah (The All Wise) revealed the Holy Qur'an during this night, thus honoring and blessing the night as well as the month of Ramadhan.

"Indeed, We sent it (the Qur'an) down during the Night of Decree. And what will make you understand what the Night of Decree is? The Night of Decree is better than a 1000 months." (Surah Al-Qadr, Chapter 97, Verses 1-3).

"Indeed We sent it down (the Qur'an) on a blessed night." (Surah Al-Dukhan, Chapter 44, Verse 3).

"The month of Ramadhan (is that) in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for mankind, with clear proofs of guidance and criterion (for judgement between right and wrong)." (Surah Al-Baqarah, Chapter 2, Verse 185).

So Glory be to Allah, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, the Wisest Planner and All-Knower of the conditions of His servants.

Valuable lessons and words of wisdom

The following advice was given by Imam Jaafar Assadiq to his son:

'O my son, he who is pleased with what Allah has provided for him for sustenance will be self-sufficient. And he who looks with his eyes towards the material possessions of others, will die poor. And he who is not pleased or satisfied with Allah's provisions for him, has accused Allah in not being fair in His decree.'

'O my son, he who exposes the secret of others, will have his own house secrets exposed. He who raises his sword unjustly against his

brother, will be killed by his own sword. Whoever digs a hole (plots against) for his brother (in humanity), then the plotter will fall into it.

‘O my son, be among those who recite the Book of Allah and be among those who spreads the peace greetings, and be among those who command good and forbid evil, and be among those who unite the family ties even with those who cut you off, and be among those who give to those who are in need. And say the truth even if it is for you or against you.’

‘O my son, if you visit, then visit the pious and God-fearing people and do not visit the wicked people as they are like a stone which does not permit the water inside it to come out or like a tree whose leaves don’t ever become green or like the barren land which doesn’t grow any vegetation, (shrubs, bushes or grass).’

The poet Ibn Al Moataz said: “The young man dies due to his loose tongue while no one dies from falling due to tripping with his leg.”

The Month of Shawwal

The month of Shawwal was so named as it signifies the time of year in which the she camel would raise her tail to invite the male camel and would become pregnant with her baby.

Abu Ayyub Al-Ansari (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Whoever fasts the month of Ramadhan completely and then follows it with six days of Shawwal, it will be like he has fasted the whole year.” (Related by Imam Muslim).

Important Events which took place in the Month of Shawwal

1. The marriage of Prophet Muhammed (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with Aisha, the Mother of the Believers, daughter of Abu Bakr Assidique, took place during this month, in the year 2 H.E.

2. The birth of the noble companion, Abdullah bin Zubair bin Al-Awwam, in the first year after the Hijrah. He was the first child to be born in Madinah from among the emigrants.
3. The military expedition of Banu Sulaiym bil Kudr took place, seven days after the Battle of Badr and dealing with the prisoners and captives of this armed conflict.
4. The military expedition against Banu Qaynuqah, a Jewish tribe residing in the vicinity of Madinah. This expedition took place in the year 2 H.E. Banu Qaynuqah were the first to confront the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) among the other Jewish tribes of Madinah.
5. The famous Battle of Uhud took place on the 15 Shawwal, 3 H.E. In this battle, the Muslims were about to gain victory but suffered defeat in the end. This happened because of a breach of the Prophet's orders by the archers who left their assigned posts. Seventy Muslims were martyred in this battle, including Hamza bin Abdul Muttalib, the Prophet's uncle.
6. The military expedition of Hamraa Al-Asad took place in the year 3 H.E., immediately after the Battle of Uhud.
7. The Battle of the Trench took place in the year 5 H.E. In this battle, the noble companion of the Prophet, Salman Al-Farisi, (May Allah be pleased with him) proposed digging of a trench around Madina to protect the Muslims from the huge invading armies of the polytheists.
8. The Battle of Hunain was waged during this month in the year 8 H.E. It ended in a decisive victory for the Muslims.
9. The invasion or siege of Taif happened in the year 8 H.E.
10. The birth of the great scholar, Imam Al-Bukhari, took place in the year 194 H.E. He also died in the same month, in the year 256 H.E.

Valuable Lessons and words of wisdom

Kathir Uzza said, “He who does not overlook the faults of his friend, will die while blaming others. And whoever looks out to catch other peoples’ faults will find it, then he will not find someone to be in his company.

Another poet said, “And how many people spend their mornings and evenings in enjoyment and entertainment, while his funeral clothes have been stitched and his is unaware of that.”

Yet another poet said, “We are happy with the passing of each day, whereas each day that goes by brings us closer to our death.”

Abdullah bin Al-Mubarak said, “Train your tongue to speak good words always and it will always say what it has been accustomed to say.”

The Month of Dhul Qaadah

The month of Dhul Qaadah was so named because the Arabs used to abstain from fighting during this time. They were prohibited from engaging in conflicts and battles.

Events which took place in the Month of Dhul Qaadah

1. The death of the Prophet’s uncle, Abu Talib, in the beginning of the month, after the social and economic boycott of members of the Banu Hashim and Banu Al-Muttalib clans in the Valley of Sheeb Abi Talib.
2. The first pledge of Aqabah took place in this month in the year 12 H.E. in which the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) took a pledge of obedience from 12 men from Madina, nine men from the Khazraj tribe and three men from the Aus tribe, after they embraced Islam.
3. The Hudaibiya peace treaty was enacted when the Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companions wanted to perform Umrah in 6 H.E. The Quraish, however, prevented their entrance into the holy precincts.
4. The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) left Madina to perform his farewell pilgrimage in the year 10 H.E.

5. The Syrian towns of Homs and Baalbek were peacefully conquered by Muslims through a peace treaty in 14 H.E., under the command of Abi Obaidah ibn Al-Jarrah.
6. The Battle of Maladh Kurd took place in this month in the year 463 A.H. The Muslim army led by Sultan Alab Arsalan fought against the Roman Byzantium forces commanded by their emperor, Caesar Romanus. The Byzantines suffered a huge defeat and this led to the eventual disintegration of the Roman Empire and consequent expansion of the Muslim empire into the Asia Minor region.
7. The Tartars invaded and conquered all the Muslim lands located on one side of a river in Asia Minor in the year 716 H.E. This was a disaster as thousands of Muslims were killed and their properties looted. Their libraries and centers of learning were destroyed.

Valuable lessons and words of wisdom

Umar bin Al-Khattab (The Commander of the faithful) and the noble companion of the Prophet, said: “I hate to see anyone of you idle, neither working for his livelihood on this earth nor working for his afterlife. “

Abdullah bin Masood (May Allah be pleased with him), the noble companion of the Prophet, said: “Whoever among you wants to follow or imitate someone, let him imitate the companions of Prophet Muhammed because they had the purest hearts in this nation. They were the most knowledgeable, committed no excesses in worship, soundest and well-guided, and in the best form of observance of the Islamic teachings. These are a people Allah (The All Wise) chose to accompany His beloved Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and to establish His religion. So know their true status and follow their footsteps because they were on the straight path of Allah.”

Dhul Nun, the Egyptian ascetic, said: “He who purifies his inner self, Allah will beautify his outer self. He who amends what is between him and Allah, Allah will repair what is between him and his people. And whoever amends or improves his hereafter, Allah will improve his life on earth or make things better him.”

Abu Al Atahiya said: “O my Lord, do not punish me as I accept the evil deeds that I have committed. I have no excuse but I have hope in your forgiveness, if you will but forgive me, as I expect and anticipate from You always.’

“And despite the great number of mistakes and sins that I have committed in the past, You have always been good and kind to me. And whenever I contemplate over my sins and feel regret or remorse, I bit my nails and grinded my teeth. Should I become obsessed with the pleasures of this world and convince myself to live all my life in wishful thinking?’

“If only I had remained aloof from this world, I would have flipped over the back of the shield for the lovers of this world. (Meaning: My condition would have changed for the better). People think well of me but I am the worst person if You do not forgive me.”

The Month of Dhul Hijjah

It is named Dhul Hijjah because it is the month of the pilgrimage.

Events that took place in this month:

1. The second pledge of Aqabah took place in this month, in the year 13 H.E.
2. The military expedition known as Ghazwa Assawiq was undertaken during this month, in the year 2 A.H.
3. The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) marched upon Banu Quraidha in the year 5 H.E.
4. The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) performed the farewell pilgrimage in the year 13 H.E.
5. Ibrahim, the son of the Prophet was born in the year 8 H.E. His mother was Mariyah, the Coptic Egyptian woman.
6. Abu Bakr Assidique, the noble companion of the Prophet, led the pilgrims to Makkah in the year 12 H.E.
7. Uthman bin Affan (May Allah be pleased with him) was elected Caliph of the Muslims after the martyrdom of Caliph Umar bin Al-Khattab (The

Commander of the faithful). He was chosen by the Consultative Council which the Caliph Umar had set up before his death. This included the most senior companions of the Prophet Muhammad. The year was 23 H.E.

8. Ali bin Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) was elected to be Commander of the Faithful and new Caliph on 25 Dhul Hijjah, in the year 35 H.E., after the martyrdom of Caliph Uthman ibn Affan.
9. The death of the Abbasid Caliph, Abu Jaafar Al-Mansoor, on 6 Dhul Hijjah, 158 H.E., took place in Makkah. He was the real founder and architect of the Abbasid Caliphate.

The Pilgrimage

Allah (SWT) says in the Holy Qur'an: "And pilgrimage to Makkah to the House (Kaaba) is a duty that mankind owes to Allah. Those who can afford the expenses (for one's conveyance, provisions and residence) but whoever disbelieves (i.e. denies pilgrimage to Makkah) then he is a disbeliever in Allah. Then Allah stands not in need of any of mankind, jinn and all that exists." (Surah Al-Imran, Chapter 3, Verse 97).

The term 'Hajj' or pilgrimage refers to the journey a person undertakes to visit the House of Allah, the Kaaba in Makkah, in obedience to Allah's (SWT) command and seeking His good pleasure and rewards. All the rituals of Hajj, such as the Tawaf (circumambulation of the Kaaba), the Saee (walking between As-Safa and Al-Marwa), camping all day at Arafat until sunset, spending the night at Muzdalifa, camping for the days of Tashreek in Mina, are forms of ritual worship during the pilgrimage. Included are the symbolic stoning of the Devil in Mina, the sacrifice of animals, and other devotional acts to show true obedience to Allah (The Almighty).

The majority of the scholars are of the opinion that Hajj (pilgrimage) was legislated in the year 6 H.E. Muslim jurists have all agreed that to perform the Hajj (pilgrimage) one has to meet the following conditions:

1. Be a Muslim
2. Be an adult
3. Be sane
4. Be a free person (i.e. not a slave)
5. Have the financial ability to cover all necessary expenses for travel, food, accommodation, etc.
6. Be of sound health.
7. The way to Makkah has to be safe and secure.

The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever performs pilgrimage to Makkah sincerely for Allah’s sake, does not commit sins and avoids having sexual intercourse with his spouse, will return home like the day he was born” (i.e. sinless). Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim.

Divisions of the Seasons of the Year according to the Zodiac Signs

1. Winter, and its Zodiac Signs are three, namely: Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces.
2. Spring, and its Zodiac Signs are three, namely: Aries, Taurus and Gemini.
3. Summer, and its Zodiac Signs are three, namely: Cancer, Leo and Virgo.
4. Autumn, and its Zodiac Signs are three, namely: Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius.

Conversion of Temperatures

- I. Conversion from Fahrenheit to Celsius
Formula: $5/9 \times (\text{degrees F} - 32) = \text{degrees Celsius}$
- II. Conversion from Celsius to Fahrenheit
Formula: $(9/5 \times \text{degrees C}) + 32 = \text{degrees Fahrenheit}$

Conversion of Hijri Calendar to Gregorian Calendar

Gregorian Year = $(622 - \text{Hijri Year}/33) + \text{Hijri Year}$

Example: For Hijri Year 1440, Gregorian Year will be:

$$[622 - 1440/33] + 1400 = 1980 \text{ (Gregorian)}$$

Conversion of Gregorian Calendar to Hijri Calendar

Hijri Year (H) = $[\text{Gregorian Year (M)} - 622] + \underline{\text{M} - 622 / 33}$

Example: For Gregorian Year 1988, Hijri Year will be

$$[1988 - 622] + [\underline{1988 - 622/33}] = 1408 \text{ (Hijri)}$$

Conversion of Arabic Time to Western (European) Time

Method: Add the sunset time for that day to the current Arabic time

Example:

i.	Sunset time today (European)	5 hours	25 minutes
	Arabic time now	+ 6 hours	15 minutes
	European time now	11 hours	40 minutes

Conversion of European Time to Arabic Time

Method: Subtract the sunset time (European) for that day from the current time for the day (European):

Example:

ii.	Current time today (European)	11 hours	00
	Sunset time today (European)	- 07 hours	55
	Arabic time now	03 hours	05

PLEASE NOTE:

If it is not possible to subtract, then add 12 hours to the number to be subtracted from. Similarly, if the total number exceeds 12 hours then subtract 12 from the total number of hours.