The Virtues of the month of Allaah, Muharram and the day of 'Ashoora'
The Virtues of the Month of Allaah, Muharram and the Day of 'Ashoora'

Bismi'llah al-Rahman al-Rahim

In the Name of Allaah, the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful.

All praise is due to Allaah, We praise Him, We seek His assistance and We seek His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allaah from the evils of our souls and from the evils of our actions. Whoever Allaah guides, no one can lead him astray and whoever is led astray, there is no guide for Him. I bear witness that there is none worthy of being worshipped except Allaah alone without any partners, and Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and Messenger.

"O you who believe! Fear Allaah as He ought to be feared and do not die except while you are Muslims." [3:102]

"O mankind! Fear your Lord who created you from a single soul and created from it its mate, and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allaah from whom you demand your mutual rights. Indeed Allaah is an All-Watcher over you." [4:1]

"O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allaah and fear Him, and always speak the truth. Allaah will then rectify your actions and forgive you for your sins. And whoever obeys Allaah and His Messenger has indeed achieved a great achievement." [33:70-71]

As to what follows:

Indeed, the best speech is the Book of Allaah, and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad ﷺ. And the worst of affairs are the newly invented matters, and every newly invented matter is an innovation, and every innovation is a misguidance and every misguidance is in the Hellfire.
The Virtues of the month of Allaah, Muharram and the day of 'Ashoora''

The month of Allaah, Muharram is a great and blessed month. It is the first month of the Hijri year and is one of the sacred months concerning which Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"Verily, the number of months with Allaah is twelve months (in a year), as ordained by Allaah on the Day He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are Sacred. That is the correct religion, so do not wrong yourselves therein"

[SURAH AT-TAWBAH 9:36]
The Virtues of the month of Allaah, Muharram and the day of ‘Ashoora’

It was narrated that Ibn ‘Abbaas said, concerning the words of Allaah [interpretation of the meaning]

"So do not wrong yourselves therein" [Surah at-Tawbah 9:36]

(The command not to wrong yourself) applies in all months. Then Allaah singled out four months and made them sacred, emphasized their sanctity, made sin during them more grave, and made righteous deeds and the reward thereof greater

[Tafseer Ibn Katheer]
THE VIRTUES OF THE MONTH OF ALLAAH, MUHARRAM AND THE DAY OF 'ASHOORA'

IT WAS NARRATED FROM ABU BAKRAH (MAY ALLAAH BE PLEASED WITH HIM) FROM THE PROPHET ﷺ:

"...THE YEAR IS TWELVE MONTHS, FOUR OF WHICH ARE SACRED. THREE OF THEM ARE IN SUCCESSION; DHUL-QA'DA, DHUL-HIJjah AND AL-MUHARRAM, AND (THE FOURTH BEING) RAjab OF Mudar WHICH COMES BETWEEN JUMAADA AND SHA'BAN"

[AL-BUKHAARI]
The Virtues of the month of Allaah, Muharram and the Day of 'Ashoora'

'Umar, 'Uthman and 'Ali رضي الله عنهم chose (the commencement of the Hijri calendar) to be with the month of Muharram because it is a sacred month which follows the month of Dhul-Hijjah wherein the Muslims perform their hajj and fulfill the obligatory pillars of their religion. Therein (the month of Muharram), the Ansaar pledged their allegiance to the Prophet ﷺ and the resolution to make Hijrah (to Madeenah) took place. Therefore, the Islamic Hijri calendar begins with the sacred month of Al-Muharram.

Paraphrased & Abridged

الطبري في "تاريخ الرسل والملوك" : (2/389)
The Virtues of the month of Allaah, Muharram and the day of 'Ashoora'

The virtue of observing a great deal of nawafil (supererogatory) fasts during the month of Muharram

It was narrated that Abu hurayrah (May Allaah be pleased with him) said: The messenger of Allaah ﷺ said:

"The best fast after Ramadhan is in the month of Allaah, Muharram"

[Muslim]
The Virtues of the month of Allah, Muharram and the day of 'Ashoora'

Fasting the day of 'Ashoora' is an expiation for the past year.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

"Fasting the day of 'Arafah, I hope Allah will expiate thereby for the year before it and the year after it, and fasting the day of 'Ashoora' I hope Allah will expiate thereby for the year that came before it"

[Muslim]
THE VIRTUES OF THE MONTH OF ALLAAH, MUHARRAM AND THE DAY OF 'ASHOORA'

The prophet ﷺ used to be very keen to make sure he fasted on the day of 'Ashoora' because of its great status.

It was narrated that Ibn 'Abbaas (May Allaah be pleased with him) said:

I never saw the prophet ﷺ so keen to make sure he fasted any day and preferring it over another like this day, the day of 'Ashoora' and the month of Ramadhan.

[Al-Bukhaari]
The Virtues of the month of ALLA AH, Muharram and the day of 'Ashoora'

Ibn 'Abbaas narrated:

The Prophet ﷺ came to Madeenah and saw the Jews fasting on the day of 'Ashoora'. He said, "What is this?" They said, "This is a great day when ALLA AH saved Moosa and his people and drowned Pharaoh and his people, so Moosa observed fast (on this day) out of gratitude, so we also observe it"

He ﷺ said, "We are closer to Moosa than you" so he ﷺ fasted on this day and told the people to fast

[Muslim]
THE VIRTUES OF THE MONTH OF ALLAAH, MUHARRAM AND THE DAY OF 'ASHOORA'

IBN 'ABBAAS NARRATED:

WHEN THE MESSENGER OF ALLAAH ﷺ FASTED ON THE DAY OF 'ASHOORA' AND TOLD THE PEOPLE TO FAST, THEY SAID:

"O MESSENGER OF ALLAAH, THIS IS A DAY THAT IS VENERATED BY THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS."

THE MESSENGER OF ALLAAH ﷺ SAID, "NEXT YEAR, IF ALLAAH WILLS, WE WILL (ALSO) FAST ON THE NINTH DAY."

BUT BY THE TIME THE FOLLOWING YEAR CAME, THE MESSENGER OF ALLAAH ﷺ HAD PASSED AWAY

[MUSLIM]
The Virtues of the month of Allah, Muharram and the Day of 'Ashoora'  

As for the Shi'ah, the reprehensible actions that they do on the Day of 'Ashoora' have no basis in Islam.  

'Abd-Allah ibn Mas'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said:  
The Prophet ﷺ said:  

"He is not one of us who strikes his cheeks, rends his garment, or cries with the cry of the Jahiliyyah."  

[Al-Bukhaari & Muslim]