

## MEANING

- “10th day of Muharram.”
- For many Shia Muslims, this is a day of mourning, as Ashura commemorates the martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad’s grandson and the important leader (Imam), al-Husayn.
- For many Sunni Muslims, this is a day of (optional but recommended) fasting to commemorate the deliverance of the Prophet Moses (Musa) and the Israelites from Pharaoh (Fir’awn).

## GREETINGS

- N/A

## WHEN

- Ashura is the 10th day of the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar, Muharram, and shifts up roughly 11 days each year relative to the Gregorian calendar. Ashura is just one day; however, many Shia Muslims will commemorate the nine days and nights leading up to it, and many Sunnis will fast an additional day, either immediately before or immediately after Ashura.
- The date of Ashura may vary among Muslims by a day or two, depending on how and when the new crescent moon is ascertained.
- Ashura technically begins and ends at sunset.

## COMMON PRACTICES

- Many Shia Muslims will gather to mourn and reflect on the martyrdom of al-Husayn and his family and its implications.
- Many Sunni Muslims will fast by abstaining from food and drink from dawn to sunset.

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

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Type of Calendar:

Islamic (lunar)



# Ashura/Muharram

Arabic

[Aa·SHUW·Raa/Mu·har·ruhm](#)



- Shia Muslims partaking in mourning rituals may find it difficult to participate in activities scheduled on this day and night.
- Sunni Muslims who are fasting may find it difficult to participate in activities scheduled toward the end of the day, especially around the time of sunset, when they are ready to break their fast.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

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