

2nd Month of Islamic Calendar

Safar al-Muzaffar



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Safar al-Muzaffar is the second month of the Islamic calendar. Literal meaning of Safar is empty. During this month the houses used to be empty and deserted because the ban on going to war in the month of Muharram came to an end and everyone proceeded towards the battlefield.

Safar also means to be yellow. When the names of the months were being given it was the season of autumn and the leaves of the trees were yellow.

Many people have erroneous beliefs regarding this month i.e. it is a month of misfortune and calamities. The divine commandments of Allah Almighty and the teachings of His Most Beloved Rasool (Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam) gives us clear guidelines on such incorrect beliefs.

Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an al-Kareem:

مَا أَصَابَ مِنْ مُصِيبَةٍ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ

"No misfortune befalls except by Allah's command..." [64:11]

These erroneous beliefs have also been condemned in the context of the following Ahadith:

لَا عُدْوَى وَلَا طَيْرَةٌ وَلَا هَامَةٌ وَلَا صَفْرٌ

There is no superstitious owl, bird, no star-promising rain, no bad omen in the month of Safar. [Sahih Bukhari, Hadith 5707]

لَا عُدْوَى وَلَا صَفْرٌ وَلَا غُولٌ

There is no bad omen in the month of Safar and no Ghouls (evil spirits). [Sahih Muslim, Hadith 2222]

The above Ahadith clearly refutes all incorrect beliefs and superstitions regarding the month of Safar. These incorrect beliefs flow from the pre-Islamic period of Jahiliyyah.

The Month of Safar during the Days of Ignorance

The Muhaddithin have recorded many of the superstitions harbored by the Arabs during the Days of Ignorance. A few are mentioned below:

1. The pre-Islamic Arabs believed Safar to be a snake which lives in the stomach of a human being and when hungry, bites the person. This is the discomfort one experiences when gripped by the pangs of hunger.
2. Some said Safar are worms which originate in the liver and ribs due to which the color of the person becomes yellow, a condition we know today as jaundice.
3. According to some, the month of Safar flanked by Muharram and Rabi al-Awwal is full of calamities and misfortune.

With the advent of Islam and the teachings of Sayyiduna Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam), all evil and incorrect beliefs common in pre-Islamic times were discarded.

Incorrect Beliefs:

Today too, there are some Muslims who hold incorrect beliefs regarding the month of Safar.

1. A nikah (marriage) performed in this month would not be successful.
2. This month is full of misfortune and calamities.
3. To commence any important venture, business etc. during this

month will bring bad luck.

4. The first to the thirteenth of Safar is ill-fortune and evil.

5. To celebrate the last Wednesday of Safar and regard it as a holiday.

What to do?

1. To shun all types of erroneous beliefs regarding the blessed month of Safar al-Muzaffar.

2. To understand that the most unfortunate person is he who disobeys Allah's commandments e.g. does not perform the five daily salaah etc. It is narrated in a hadith that Rasoolullah (Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam) said: "Pray, O Allah! Cause not anyone of us to be a wretched destitute." He then asked: "Do you know who is a wretched destitute?" Upon the request of the Sahabah (Radi Allahu Ta'ala Anhum), He replied, "A wretched destitute is he who neglects his Salah."

3. We should understand that all conditions which befalls us, good or bad, favorable, or unfavorable are from Allah Almighty (most probably as a result of our actions). Allah Almighty says: "And whatever calamity befalls you, is because of what your hands have earned – and there is a great deal He pardons!" [42:30]

4. We must create awareness and educate people about these baseless beliefs and invite them to join the company and discourses of the pious and prominent Ulama to learn the correct beliefs and practices of Ahl as-Sunnah.

Allah Almighty for the sake of His beloved Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam) protect us and our loved ones from all sorts of evil and bless us all with firmness upon the true teachings of Qur'an and Sunnah and keep us all with the pious and righteous Ulama of Ahl as-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah... Aameen!!