

FROM THE IMAM

By Imam Hassan Selim

OCTOBER 2017

Activities and Highlights



The Islamic New Year
1439



Muharram & Ashura
October 1st



Upcoming Event
October 5th



Arabic for Beginners
Sundays
Maghreb—Isha

Islamic New Year

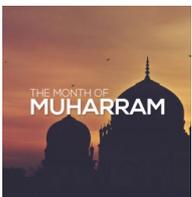


On the occasion of the start of the Islamic/Hijri new year, I wish every and each one of you a happy new year. Alhamdulillah, God grants us these new beginnings to be means of filling us with hope. A great way to kick off this year is to recite this du'ah/prayer: *"O Allah, bring this [month or year] upon us with security, faith, safety, Islam, your pleasure and protection from evil."* ~ Tabarani 6237

Note that the prophets' first priority for the new year is security. Without the stability that comes with security, no faith can be attained. Then, comes safety, without the peace of safety, no Islam (which refers to the ritual aspects of the religion) can be practiced.

I ask God to bestow security and safety upon our world. Amen!

Muharram & Ashura



It is reported that the Prophet once said: *"The year is of twelve months, out of which four months are sacred: Three are in succession Dhul-Qa' da, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram, and (the fourth is) Rajab..."* ~ Bukhari 3197

The month of Muharram has already begun about a week ago. Muharram literally means "forbidden", that is because fighting during this month, as in the other three sacred months, is forbidden. Alhamdulillah, Islam is a religion that seeks to establish peace in every and each possible opportunity.

As individuals, we can achieve this peace in a personal level, and therefore, hopefully, transform it into our respective communities. This can be attained through observing the recommended fasting during this month.

The prophet is narrated to have once said: *"The most excellent fast after Ramadan is in Allah's month; al-Muharram, and the most excellent prayer after what is prescribed is prayer during the night."* ~ Muslim 6: 2661

Recommended day to fast:

Day of Ashura 10th Muharram, 1439h/Sunday October 1st, 2017

Upcoming Event



One of the ways I represent the Muslim community while at the same time give back and serve the large Cedar Rapids community is by serving as a member of a community Task Force on Faith and Medicine.

The Task Force has been planning for an upcoming event that I would love to invite all of you to attend. In fact it is a series of events titled **"Speak Up"**. The topic of these series of events is: **helping people have important conversations about medical care at end-of-life.**

The first event takes place on Thursday, October 5, 6:30 p.m., at First Lutheran Church at 1000 3rd Ave SE, next to PCI. Dr. B. J. Miller will be will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Miller faced death as a young man, and this experience led him to think deeply about how we deliver medical care in the United States. So often, we think in terms of treating a disease. What would it mean to treat the patient? As an introduction, check out his TED Talk, "What Really Matters at the End of Life."

[https://www.ted.com/talks/bj_miller_what_really_matters_at_the_end_of_life?utm_campaign=tedspread--a&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/bj_miller_what_really_matters_at_the_end_of_life?utm_campaign=tedspread&a&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

Past Events



Alhamdulillah I was honored to represent the community in the 9th Annual Abdel-Kader Education Project (AEP) Forum. The title of the forum this year was: **Abdelkader vs. ISIS: The Many Meanings of Jihad**

My participation was on a panel discussion along with Mr. Mark Danner, a Nation Security Analyst from Washington DC, and Dr. Raphael Danziger, Abdelkader scholar and author from Washington DC.

The forum was videotaped and you can watch it on <https://youtu.be/5k61918XIC0>

Please see attachments for prayer times and upcoming events.

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