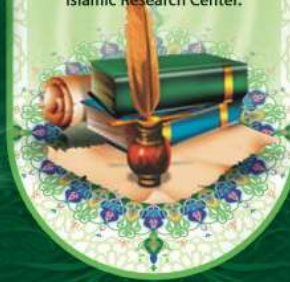




Is the month of Safar unlucky?

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What does Islam say about taking something as unlucky or inauspicious? What do the Holy Quran and Hadith say about the month of Safar, which many people believe is unlucky

Islam is a religion of truth and veracity. It has illuminated the whole world with the radiance of monotheism and Prophethood and has ended all kinds of fallacious and polytheistic customs and rituals.

One among the fallacious beliefs of the days of ignorance (the pre-Islamic) days was that people believed that the month of Safar (the 2nd month in the Islamic calendar) was unlucky. They actually believed that because of the coming of this month, they would be entangled in difficulties and their finances and livelihoods would be affected as well. They held the belief that because of this month, they would get diseases and that nothing new should be started in this month.

With the coming of Islam, all these fallacious beliefs were uprooted. Through the eternal bounty of faith, it gave the message that difficulties and trials are not related to any month or year, but that they are tests by Allah Most High for His pious servants and for the erring ones, they are the result of their own deeds. Allah Most High says in the Holy Quran:

And whatever misfortune befalls you (comes upon you) as a result of that (evil work) which your own hands have done whilst He forgives most of your (misdoings). Surah Shoora (42:30)

In the days of ignorance, people would take omens from the flight of birds. If the bird flew to the right, then it was taken as a good omen. If the bird flew straight up or straight down, it was taken as a sign that that particular task would be accomplished but would be delayed. If the bird flew to the left, they would take it as an ill omen that that task could never be accomplished. If they saw an "Uqaab," they would take it as an ill omen as the name of this particular bird means punishment. If they saw a

crow they would take it as an omen for difficulties in journey. If they saw a hoopoe, they would take it as an omen of guidance.

The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said in negation of this fallacious beliefs:

Translation: No disease comes on its own, taking an ill omen is impermissible and there is no inauspiciousness in the month of Safar. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 5380; Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 3, Pg. No. 446)

Good and evil, and the will of Allah

In reality, Almighty Allah is the One who grants all good. He is the One who endows comfort and solace. He is the One who grants success to one and all. He grants comfort and He showers mercy. Along with all this, the Lord Almighty also tests His slaves. Sometimes He tests them with His bounties and sometimes He tests them through trials and difficulties to see which slave of His turns to Him in times of plenty and quietude and who distances oneself from Him. Almighty Allah makes it clear whether the slave turns to Him with thankfulness or turns away from His door, whether the slave is patient on the trials and tribulations or despairs and swerves from His path, whether the slave stays on the illumined paths of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah or loses himself/herself in the darkness of disobedience and noncompliance. Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran:

And when We bestow upon man (some) blessing, he turns away (from gratitude) and escapes, but when some distress comes upon him, he despairs (i.e., he is neither grateful nor patient). Say: ?Everyone acts according to his own (respective) style and nature, and your Lord knows

full well who is best guided to the straight path. Surah Bani Israil (17:83, 84)

It is the belief of every Muslim that good and evil are both from Allah and that bounties are granted from His door. Trials and tribulations are also by His design. Spring and bloom are also from Him and storms and droughts are also from Him, protection of life and wealth is also from Him and danger to them is also from Him. Thus, He tests His slaves in every manner. When we believe in Almighty Allah and the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), we will surely be tested, as Almighty Allah says in the Holy Quran:

Alif, Lam, Mim. (Only Allah and the Messenger [blessings and peace be upon him] know the real meaning.) Do people think that they will be released (just) on saying: 'We have believed,' and they will not be tried? Surah Ankabut (29:1, 2)

Our blind beliefs impel us to think that the month of Safar has come, God knows how these days will be spent, in what difficulties will we be embroiled, what disease will we be afflicted with?

It should be remembered that months and days don't bring difficulties; hardships don't come because of a particular month. If we reflect on this, we will understand that these difficulties are a direct result of our bad deeds. In the month of Safar, we should think over carefully whether our blind beliefs haven't led us to this end.

If we surrender all our affairs to Almighty Allah and His glorious Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) then neither will we fall prey to these suspicions nor will such thoughts worry us.

The blind beliefs of the nation of Thamud

The Holy Quran mentions the blind beliefs of the nation of Thamud that out of fear of hunger and thirst they rejected the bounty of Almighty Allah. That dromedary that had been sent to them as a sign of Allah's power, they slaughtered that dromedary, kept on disobeying Almighty Allah and because of this, they were punished. They were not prepared to let Hadhrat Saleh (May peace be upon him) and his followers to even stay with them. They told him that we consider you and your followers as inauspicious that this difficulty has come on us because of you. It is given in the Holy Quran:

They said: ?You have caused us misfortune, and so have your companions.? (Salih) said: ?(The cause of) your misfortune is (written) with Allah; you people have rather been put to trial.? Surah Naml (27:47)

This verse of the Holy Quran shows us that difficulties are a result on one's own deeds. Holding others responsible for them is not the practice of Muslims. It is in fact the practice of those who deny Allah, as mentioned in this verse of the Holy Quran:

And whatever misfortune befalls you (comes upon you) as a result of that (evil work) which your own hands have done whilst He forgives most of your (misdoings). Surah Shoorah (42:30)

Prohibition of taking an ill omen from something

As far as taking an ill omen is considered, the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) has declared this very belief as wrong and negated it in the following words: Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud (May Allah be well pleased with

him) that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Taking an ill omen is similar to polytheism. He repeated this thrice. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 1712; Sunan Abu Dawood, Hadith No. 3912)

Hadhrat Mulla 'Ali Qari (May Allah shower His mercy on him) writes in the interpretation of this Hadith:

Translation: Taking something as an ill omen is Shirk (associating things with Allah), as in the pre-Islamic days, people used to believe that by acceding to the demand of an ill omen, they will receive some benefit or that it removes some hardship or difficulty and if they accede to that demand then it is as if they have ascribed partners to Allah and this is called Hidden Polytheism (Shirk Khafi) and if a person holds the belief that there is something other than Allah which can benefit and harm, which has its own power, then they have committed Blatant Polytheism (Shirk Jali). (Mirqaat Ul Mafateeh Sharh Mishkaat Ul Masabeeh, Vol. 4, Pg. No. 522)

'Allama Qazi Iyaz (May Allah shower His mercy on him) says:

Translation: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) declared this as polytheism because those kind of people believe that that thing from which they take the ill omen has the power to affect and acceding to these things is generally Hidden Polytheism, especially when ignorance and blind beliefs are also present, then it is all the more obvious why this is Hidden Polytheism. (Mirqaat Ul Mafateeh, Vol. 4, Pg. No. 522/523)

There is another Hadith in Sunan Abu Dawood:

Translation: Drawing omens using birds, taking something as ill omen and drawing omens using pebbles

are all satanic activities. (Sunan Abu Dawood, Hadith No. 3909)

The month of Safar is not unlucky

There is a Hadith in Sahih Bukhari:

Translation: No disease comes on its own, taking something as ill omen is prohibited and there is no inauspiciousness in owl or in the month of Safar. (Sahih Bukhari, Hadith No. 5380)

Muhaddith-e-Deccan Hadhrat Abul Hasanaat Syed Abdullah Shah Sahab Naqshbandi Mujaddidi Qadri (May Allah shower His mercy on him) writes in the explanatory notes of this Hadith:

Translation: Imam Abu Dawood (May Allah shower His mercy on him) writes in Sunan Abu Dawood that Muhaddith Baqiya asked his teacher Muhammad bin Rashid about this Hadith and he said: In the days of ignorance, people used to consider the month of Safar unlucky, so the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) made it clear that Safar is not unlucky. Imam Qazi Iyaz (May Allah shower His mercy on him) says: With this Hadith, this superstition about the month of Safar is negated, that difficulties descend more in Safar. (Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 3, Pg. No. 447)

With these lines, it becomes clear that considering the month of Safar is unislamic. Not marrying in this month or considering having celebrations as unreasonable is all wrong and is a remnant of the days of ignorance. They have no place in Islam.

Even if we look at the month of Safar historically, there is a Hadith that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) performed the marriage of the Lady of Jannah,

Hadhrat Fatima Zahra (May Allah be well pleased with her) with Hadhrat 'Ali (May Allah be well pleased with him) in this month, although the famous narration is about the month of Shawwal. This narration is in Subul UI Huda War Rashad, Vol. 12, Pg. No. 469:

Translation: Hadhrat Ja'afar bin Muhammad (May Allah be well pleased with him) says: Hadhrat 'Ali (May Allah be well pleased with him) married Hadhrat Fatima Zahra (May Allah be well pleased with her) in 2 Hijri in the month of Safar and she came to live with him 22 months after the Emigration in the beginning days of Dhul Qa'ada. (Subul UI Huda War Rashad, Vol. 12, Pg. No. 469)

Some people consider starting a journey in the month of Safar as unlucky, although the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) started for Madina from Makkah in the last days of Safar, as given in Sharh Zurqani 'Alal Mawahib, Vol. 2, Pg. No. 102.

Safar – Month of success and victories

This month of Safar has proven to be a month of extraordinary success and victories for Muslims and Islam. This was the month, which had the Conquest of Makkah concealed in it. In a way, the Hijrah in Safar became the reason of propagation of Islam. That is why, normally Safar is referred to as "Safar-e-Muzaffar," Lit. Safar, the one of victory.

Muslims should strictly refrain from entertaining such superstitions. In the same way, keeping eggs, oil, etc. in the name of "Tera Tezi" is also a useless act. Staying away from these things is also necessary. If someone wants to give charity, Sadqa, etc. to please Almighty Allah, then like in other months, it is permissible and is an established Sunnah.

Some people believe that on the last Wednesday of Safar, we should go on picnics and walk on green grass, etc. If this walking is done to remove difficulties (!), then there is no concept of this in the canons of Islam. If you think that on the last Wednesday, difficulties descend, then in this case, instead of picnics, etc. you should pray and worship Almighty Allah and give charity, as it removes the wrath of Almighty Allah and the approval of Almighty Allah is gained as mentioned in this Hadith of Jame' Tirmidhi:

Translation: It is narrated on the authority of Hadhrat Anas bin Malik (May Allah be well pleased with him), he says: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Verily charity and good deeds calms the wrath of Allah and drive away a bad death. (Jame' Tirmidhi, Hadith No. 666; Shua'bul Iman, Hadith No. 3202)

Dua to recite in the month of Safar

There is a Hadith in Zujajatul Masabeeh on the authority of Sunan Abu Dawood:

Translation of Hadith: It has been narrated on the authority of Hadhrat 'Urwa Bin A'amir (May Allah be well pleased with him), he said that unluckiness, ill-omen, etc. was mentioned before the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam). He (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Good omen is good, unluckiness, ill omen, etc. do not become an obstacle in the work of any Muslim. Thus, if any one of you sees anything which he (or she) does not like, recite:

Transliteration: Allahumma La Yaatee Bil Hasanaati Illa Anta, Wa La Yadfa'auss Sayyiaati Illa Anta, Wa La Haula Wa La Quwwata Illa Billah.

Translation: O Allah! You are the one who brings every kind of good; You are the one who removes every kind of

evil, there is no strength to stay away from evil and there is no strength to perform anything good except through the help of Allah (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). (Zujajatul Masabeeh, Vol. 3, Pg. No. 445, Hadith No. 3921)

Wednesday is not unlucky

This is true that one day is better than others and one period of time is better than others, but considering other days/months, etc. as without blessings (Barakah) and unlucky is not correct at all. As far as Wednesday is concerned, its excellence is mentioned in the rigorously-authenticated Hadith (Sahih Hadith). There is a Hadith in Sahih Muslim on the authority of Hadhrat Abu Hurairah (May Allah be well pleased with him):

Translation: The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said:and Allah Ta'ala created Noor on Wednesday. (Sahih Muslim, Vol. 2, Pg No. 371, Hadith No. 7231; Musnad Imam Ahmed bin Hambal, Hadith No. 8563; Sunan Kubra Lil Baihaqui, Vol. 9, Pg. No. 3; Sunan Kubra Lin Nasai, Hadith No. 11010; Mojam Al Ausat Lit Tabarani, Hadith No. 3360)

This Hadith shows that Wednesday is that blessed day in which Almighty Allah created Noor (radiance). Thus, this belief that no important work should be done on this day is wrong. Doing anything important on this day will, by the will of Almighty Allah, be blessed.

Imam Sakhawi writes in Maqasid Hasanah:

Translation: It is mentioned on the authority of Burhan Ul Islam from his book "Ta'aleem Al Muta'allim" who narrates that his famous teacher, the author of Hidayah, 'Allama Marghinani (May Allah shower His mercy on him), would start a new lesson on Wednesday and would relate

a Hadith in this respect that the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said: Whatever is begun on Wednesday will come to fruition. (Maqasid Ul Hasanah, Harf Ul Meem)

For this reason, in the world famous Islamic university Jamia Nizamia, Hyderabad, lessons are begun on Wednesday.

Repentance – Cure for all difficulties

If we Muslims establish the fear of Almighty Allah in our hearts and seek the benevolence of Allah and shed tears of regret on our present states, then Allah will surely enrich our lives with blessings and our sorrow and cares will be removed.

Here we present an anecdote from Tafseer Kabeer, the exegesis of Imam Raadhi (May Allah shower His mercy on him), which is very beneficial for us:

Translation: A person came to Hadhrat Imam Hasan Basri (May Allah be well pleased with him) and complained of insufficient rains. The Imam asked to repent. Some other person came and complained of being poor, somebody else complained of not having children and somebody else complained about the fruits of his orchards. Hadhrat Imam Hasan Basri (May Allah be well pleased with him) instructed all of them to repent i.e. to ask Allah for forgiveness. People were surprised at this. They said: People came to you with different complaints and you asked all of them to repent. In reply, Hadhrat Hasan Basri (May Allah be well pleased with him) recited this verse of the Holy Quran: Surah Nooh 10,12

Every moment spent in remembrance of Allah is auspicious

Hadhrat Imam Hasan Basri (May Allah be well pleased with him) has declared repentance as the cure for all troubles and instructed the Ummah to turn to Allah. Nowadays we have to ensure that our days and nights be spent in the remembrance of Allah, that we follow the Shariah and act upon the Holy Quran and the Hadith, that we think over our actions, that we value our time, that we don't spend time in heedlessness as inauspiciousness will enter our lives only when we become heedless of Allah and His Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) and disobey them.

It is mentioned in Ruh Al Bayan in the exegesis of a verse of the Holy Quran:

Translation: For a slave every moment spent in the obedience of Allah is full of blessings and auspiciousness and every moment spent in disobeying Allah is devoid of blessings for him. The inauspiciousness is in fact in committing sins. (Surah Tauba, 37)

Indeed the moments we spend in the remembrance of Allah are full of blessings for us, the moments we spend in acting upon Sunnah are auspicious for us, the moments we spend in obeying the laws of Islam are full of mercy for us.

May Allah, for the sake of the Holy Prophet (Sallallahu alaihi wa sallam), fill our hearts with the true beliefs of Islam, guide us to perform virtuous deeds and make us steadfast on the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Hadith.
