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Major Islamic Religious Dates in North America						
ALL ISLAMIC DATES BEGIN AT SUNSET THE PRECEDING EVENING						
Gregorian Dates abbreviated as month/date/year(2 digits)						
Gregorian Islamic	2002/03 1423AH	2003/04 1424AH	2004/05 1425AH	2005/06 1426AH	2006 1427AH	2007 1428AH
New Year Begins 1st Muharram	3/15/02 (Fri)	3/04/03 (Tue)	2/22/04 (Sun)	2/10/05 (Thu)	1/31/06 (Tue)	1/21/07? (Sun)
 Aashura 10th Muharram	3/24/02 (Sun)	3/13/03 (Thu)	3/02/04 (Tue)	2/19/05 (Sat)	2/09/06 (Thu)	1/30/07? (Tue)
Miladun-Nabi 12th Rabi-al-Awwal	5/25/02 (Sat)	5/14/03 (Wed)	5/02/04 (Sun)	4/21/05 (Thu)	4/11/06?? (Tue)	3/31/07 (Sat)
Israa' & Me'raj Eve. after 26th Rajab	10/03/02 (Thu)	9/23/03 (Tue)	9/11/04 (Sat)	9/01/05?? (Thu)	8/21/06?? (Mon)	8/10/07 (Fri)
Nisfu-Sha'ban 15th Day of Sha'ban	10/22/02 (Tue)	10/11/03 (Sat)	9/30/04 (Thu)	9/20/05? (Tue)	9/09/06? (Sat)	8/29/07? (Wed)
 Fasting Begins 1st day of Ramadan	11/06/02 (Wed)	10/27/03 (Mon)	10/16/04 (Sat)	10/05/05 (Wed)	9/24/06 (Sun)	9/13/07 (Thu)
Lailatul-Qadr Eve. after 26th Ramadan	12/01/02 (Sun)	11/21/03 (Fri)	11/10/04 (Wed)	10/30/05 (Sun)	10/19/06 (Thu)	10/ 8/07 (Mon)
 Eid-al-Fitr 1st Shawwal	12/06/02 (Fri)	11/25/03 (Tue)	11/14/04 (Sun)	11/04/05 (Fri)	10/24/06 (Tue)	10/13/07 (Sat)
Waqfatul-Arafat (New Saudi Taqweem)	02/10/03 (Mon)	01/31/04 (Sat)	01/20/05 (Thu)	01/09/06 (Mon)	12/30/06 (Fri)	12/19/07 (Wed)
 Eid-al-Adha Based on 10th Zul-Hijja	02/12/03 (Wed)	02/01/04 (Sun)	01/21/05 (Fri)	01/11/06 (Tue)	12/31/06 (Sun)	12/20/07 (Thu)
? slight chance that this event may fall 1 day before this date, if moon is sighted in North America.						
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 Islamic Holidays

NOTE: AH means After Hijra. Islamic Calendar began when Muhammad migrated from Mecca to Medina. The event in Arabic is called Hijra or migration. So it has been over 1400 years since that event occurred.

Thursday, 21MAR02 or Al-Khamees, 7Muharram1423.

Source: <http://www.moonsighting.com/>

ASHURA

Ashura refers to the 10th day of Muharram, the first month of Islamic Calendar. Muslims around the globe will be performing optional fast during any two consecutive days between 23-25 March.

In pre-Islamic Arabia, people used to fast on this day. When Muhammad arrived in Medina leaving behind persecution in Mecca, he found the Jews fasting on this day. Upon learning that the Jews celebrate the freedom from bondage from Pharaoh when he and his people were drowned in the Nile, Muhammad commanded his companions to fast. He said that I am closer to Moses as a messenger and we have more right to celebrate the victory of Bani Israel through God. Later, when the commandment for fasting in Ramadan became obligatory, Ashura's fast was made optional.

For **Shi'ite Muslims** the day has political and religious significance as described below.

ASHURA'S SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE SHI'ITE (pronounced SHEE-AH)

From "World Religions: Western Traditions" by Willard G. Oxtoby

On the day of Ashura, the Tenth of Muharram, in the year 680 CE (Common Era) or 81 AH, (*After Hijra, After Migration. Islamic Calendar began when Muhammad migrated from Mecca to Medina*) the beloved grandson of Muhammad, Hussain or Husayn, was brutally murdered in the Battle of *Karbala* (In Iraq). The tragic death of Husayn on Ashura represents a special day blending sorrow and merriment, blessing and mystery and a highly eschatological view of history. It is a day marking suffering and martyrdom for the Shi'ite Community. It has inspired a rich devotional literature in Persian, Arabic and Urdu as well as other languages. In countries such as Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, India and many Gulf States with Shi'ite population, the day is commemorated with solemn processions, public readings, plays enacting the story of Husayn's death, a liturgical pilgrimage to the sacred spot of Karbala (real or created) and devotional acts.

The theme of Husayn's fight (**considered both a political and religious figure**) against tyranny, injustice and oppression fueled the momentum for the revolution in Iran that began in 1962 on the day of Ashura and culminated in the fall of Shah and the establishment of Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979.

During the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s the Iranian youths would wear a headband that said, "Every day is Ashura, every place is Karbala and every month is Muharram."

MAWLUD OR MILADUN-NABI or PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY (pronounced MAWLOOD or MEELAAD UN NABEE)

12th Rabi-al-Awwal

On the 12th day of the third Islamic month, some Muslims around the world celebrate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad. Muhammad prohibited his companions and followers to celebrate the day fearing that people would start worshipping him instead of God. Nonetheless, millions of Muslims celebrate the day.

ISRA' & ME'RAJ or THE NIGHT JOURNEY AND THE ASCENSION

Evening. after 26th Rajab

Friday Sermon during the week are based on the following Qur'anic verse and the Prophetic Tradition that follow:

"Glory be to God Who did take His servant for a Journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque whose surrounding areas We did bless, in order that We might show him some of Our signs: for He is the One Who hears and sees all things." Qur'an 17:1

Narrated by Jabir bin 'Abdullah that he heard Muhammad saying, "When the people of Quraish did not believe me (in the night journey and ascension), I stood up in *Al-Hijr* and God displayed Jerusalem in front of me, and I began describing to them while I was looking at it." Sahih Bukhari, Vol 5, # 226.

NISFU SHA'BAN

15th Day of Sha'ban

Muslims believe that on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Islamic Calendar Almighty God decides who will born in the next year, who will die in the next year and how much provision is set aside for each person in the next year. Planning for a New Divine Fiscal Year is made and Angels are instructed to carry out their duties for the next 12 months. Muslims may choose to perform an optional fast so they may be on the good side of Almighty.

LAILAT-UL-QADR or THE NIGHT OF HONOR/POWER

Qur'an describes the Night of Power:

"We have indeed revealed this Message (Qur'an) in the Night of Power; and what will explain to you the importance of the importance of the Night of Power. The Night of Power is better than the thousand months. Therein come down the angels and the Spirit by God's permission on every errand. Peace, until the rise of morning." Chapter 97

The night of Power occurs during the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. In Muslim countries people spend the last ten days in the mosques, starting the night of the 20th Ramadan until the new moon is seen marking the end of Ramadan and beginning of 'Eid-ul-Fitr, the feast after Ramadan.

WAQFATUL ARAFAH AND 'EID-UL-ADHA

Waqfatul Arafah is one of the rituals of Hajj, Pilgrimage to Mecca, and 'Eid-ul-Adha is the Feast of Sacrifice after Hajj commemorating Abraham's sacrifice to his elder son Ishmail, according to Islam.