

MERITS OF DHUL HIJJAH



WARRINGTON
ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION

25th Dhul Qa'dah 1437

18th August 2017

The First Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah

We are about to enter the blessed month of Dhul Hijjah. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ informed us that there are no days in which righteous actions are more beloved to Allah than the first ten days of this month (Narrated by al-Bukhari, Abu Da'ud, al-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah)

For that reason some scholars have ruled that these days are better than the final ten days of Ramadan, although the nights of Ramadan are superior to these nights.

The Prophet ﷺ said that fasting one of these days is equal to the reward of fasting for a whole year and standing in one of these nights in prayer is equal to standing in prayer on Laylat al-Qadr (Narrated al-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah). It has also been narrated that the reward for actions in these days is multiplied seven hundred times.

These are days in which we should remember Allah abundantly. Allah says that **they remember the name of Allah on well-known days** (Al-Hajj, 22:28). These "well-known days" according to the majority of scholars are the ten days of Dhul Hijjah. This is why the Prophet said ﷺ that in these days we should make abundant tahlil (saying la ilaha ill'Allah), takbir (saying Allahu akbar) and tahmid (saying alhamdulillah) (Narrated by Ahmad)

The Day of 'Arafah

The Day of Arafat (the 9th of Dhu'l-Hijjah) is the greatest day of the year. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said there is no day in which Allah saves more people from the fire than the Day of 'Arafah (Narrated by Muslim, al-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah). It has also been narrated that anyone who has an atom's weight of faith in their heart will be forgiven by Allah on this day, whether or not they actually stand at 'Arafah (Narrated by Abu Daud).

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ taught those not on hajj to fast on this day with the promise that this would wipe away the wrongdoings of the previous year and the wrongdoings of the year to come (Narrated by Muslim, Ahmad, Abu Daud and al-Nasa'i)

We should also turn to Allah to ask for forgiveness and for our needs to be answered, especially in the afternoon of this day. In doing so we imitate the people standing at 'Arafah, to whom forgiveness is guaranteed, and we ask Allah to give to us what He is giving to them. As the Prophet ﷺ said: "The one who imitates a people is one of them." (Narrated by Abu Daud and Ahmad).

The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best prayer is the prayer of the Day of 'Arafah. The best thing which I and the Prophets before me have said is:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَهُوَ عَلَى
كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

**La ilaha ill'Allahu wahdahu
lā sharika lahu, lahu'l-
mulku wa lahu'l-hamdu wa
huwa `ala kulli shayin qadir**

**"There is no deity save
Allah alone. He has no
partners. To Him belongs
the dominion and all praise
and He has power over all
things." (Narrated by al-
Tirmidhi)**

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Actions that Carry the Reward of Hajj

Nothing of course can equal actually performing the Hajj and worshipping Allah in those blessed places. Allah knows that many people long to make Hajj every year but are unable to do so. Out of His generosity, He made the reward for certain actions similar to the reward of a supererogatory Hajj.

Remembering Allah from Fajr until Ishraq. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Whoever prays Subh (Fajr) in congregation and then sits in the place where he prayed remembering Allah until the sun rises and then prays two rakats has the reward of a complete Hajj and `Umrah." He repeated "complete" three times *(Narrated by Tirmidhi)*,

Attending a gathering of knowledge. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "The one who goes out to the mosque wanting only to learn good or teach it has the reward of a complete hajj." *(Narrated by al-Tabarani)*

Going to the mosque for the congregational prayer. The Prophet ﷺ said: "Whoever performs ablution in his house and then goes out to perform the obligatory prayer in the mosque has a reward similar to the reward of a Hajj pilgrim. Whoever goes out to perform the mid-morning prayer (Duha) has a reward similar to the reward of the one performing `Umrah." *(Narrated by Abu Daud)*

Performing the Friday Prayer. Sa`id Ibn al-Musayyib said performing the Friday Prayer is "more beloved to me than a supererogatory hajj."

Performing the Eid Prayer. One of the Companions said: "Going out to pray Eid al-Fitr is equal to performing `Umrah and going out to pray Eid al-Adha is equal to performing hajj."

Fulfilling the needs of your brother or sister. Hasan al-Basri said: "Going to fulfill the need of your brother is better for you than performing hajj after hajj."

Being good to your parents. The Prophet ﷺ commanded one of the Companions to be good to his mother. If you do so, he said: "You are a Hajj pilgrim, a person performing `Umrah and someone striving for the sake of Allah (mujahid)."

Performing obligatory actions. The slave can only draw near to Allah by performing supererogatory actions after first having performed that which is obligatory. This includes purifying one's heart from forbidden attributes and guarding one's tongue and limbs from committing forbidden actions. All of this is much harder on the lower self than many supererogatory acts of worship.

It is mentioned in the hadith that if someone gives life to the nights before the two Eids, Allah will give life to his heart on the day when hearts die (Narrated by Ibn Majah).

The three days following Eid al-Adhā are the Days of Tashrīq (the 11th, 12th and 13th of Dhul Hijjah).

These days are mentioned by Allah when He says: **Remember Allah during the Appointed Days.** *(Al-Baqarah, 2:203)*. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ described them as days of eating and drinking and remembrance of Allah *(Narrated by Muslim, Ahmad and al-Nasāʾī)*. Fasting is thus forbidden on Eīd and the Days of Tashrīq.

The Takbir al-Tashriq is a necessary (wajib) invocation that is said once, out loud, immediately after performing each obligatory (fard) prayer starting from the Fajr prayer on the day of `Arafah (9th of Dhul Hijjah) up to the Asr prayer five days later (13th of Dhul Hijjah). This equals 23 prayers: 5 on the 9th-12th, which equal 20, and 3 on the 13th. This includes the Friday congregational prayer if it falls within these days.

**'Allahu Akbar. Allahu Akbar.
La ilaha illa Llah.
Wa Llahu Akbar. Allah Akbar.
Wa liLlahil-Hamd.'**