

THE MERITS OF ZULHIJJAH AND QURBAN

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ
اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

Let us fervently increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. Only by being righteous will we be blessed in this world and the hereafter by Allah the Almighty.

Dear brothers and sisters

We will be celebrating the blessed month of Zulhijjah in a few days. The merits of performing good deeds during this glorious month is promised by Allah the Almighty in chapter 89(surah al-Fajr) verses 1 and 2:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْفَجْرِ ۝
وَالْيَالِ عَشْرِ ۝

Which means: *By the dawn. And [by] ten nights.*

Islamic scholars say that what is meant by the special ten nights in this verse is the first ten days of Zulhijjah. This is further supported by a hadith narrated by Imam al-tirmizi:

مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهِنَّ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ

Which means: *There are no days on which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days.*

Furthermore, al-Hafiz Ibn Hajar al-'Asqolani explained that priority of the first ten days of Zulhijjah's is that the major worships we have been encouraged to do such as offering prayers, fasting, giving alms and pilgrimage, do not occur simultaneously in other months as compared to the month of Zulhijjah.

Dear brothers and sisters

We are instructed to perform the Hajj pilgrimage; which is the fifth pillar of Islam, in the month of Zulhijjah. The Prophet (pbuh) mentioned in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim about the advantages of performing pilgrimage

...وَالْحَجُّ الْمَبْرُورُ لَيْسَ لَهُ جَزَاءٌ إِلَّا الْجَنَّةُ.

Which means: *There is no reward for Hajj Mabruur except Paradise.*

Dear brothers and sisters

The Prophet (pbuh) encouraged us to increase our supplication by performing *tahlil, tahmid dan takbir* on these days as mentioned in the prophet's hadith and narrated by Imam Ahmad:

مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أَعْظَمُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ، وَلَا أَحَبُّ إِلَيْهِ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ فِيهِنَّ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ، فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهِنَّ مِنَ
التَّهْلِيلِ وَالتَّكْبِيرِ وَالتَّحْمِيدِ

Which means: *"There are no other days that are as great as these in the sight of Allah, the Most Sublime. Nor are there any deeds more beloved to Allah than those that are done in these ten days. So increase in tahlil (to say la illaha illallah), takbir (to say allahu akbar) and tahmid (to say alhumdulillah)."*

Muslims who are not performing the hajj pilgrimage are encouraged to fast during the day of Arafah and the time in which pilgrims perform wukuf in Arafah, which is on the ninth day of Zulhijjah. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim:

صِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ وَالسَّنَةَ الَّتِي بَعْدَهُ

Which means: *"Fasting on the Day of 'Arafah expiates the sins of the preceding year and the coming year."*

Slaughtering of animals as a sacrifice on the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th of Zulhijjah is also highly recommended. The advantages of performing this sacrificial ritual is stated by the Prophet (pbuh) in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi and Ibn Majah which means: *"The son of Adam does not perform any actions on the day of sacrifice which is more pleasing to Allah than the shedding of*

blood. The sacrificed animal shall come on the Day of Judgment with its horns, hair, and hooves. The sacrifice is accepted by Allah before the blood reaches the ground.”

Dear brothers and sisters

To conclude the sermon today, as servants of Allah the Almighty, we are commanded to sacrifice something in our lives to prove our obedience to the One True God. Let us offer a little of our time for worship, impart some of our money for charity and qurban and sacrifice the desires of our lust by doing all that Allah the Almighty prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits

Let us reflect upon what Allah the Almighty says in chapter 108 (surah al-Kawthar) verse:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ﴿١﴾ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرْ ﴿٢﴾ إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ﴿٣﴾

Which means: *Indeed, We have granted you, [O Muhammad], al-Kawthar. So pray to your Lord and sacrifice [to Him alone]. Indeed, your enemy is the one cut off.*

بَارِكْ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعِنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّيْ
وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ
وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.