

THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF ZULHIJJAH
28 ZULKAEDAH 1442H / JULY 9, 2021

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ
وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of *Zulhijjah* (the 10th month of the Islamic calendar) is right around the corner. The significance of this month is not limited to the fact that it is the month of *Hajj* (the pilgrimage in the City of Mecca), or the month in which war is forbidden, or the celebration of *Eid al-Adha*, rather, there are many advantages

that Allah the Almighty gives to Muslims in this month. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 89 (*Surah Al-Fajr*), verses (*ayat*) 1-2:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَالْفَجْرِ ۝ ۱ ۝ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ۝ ۲ ۝

Which means: “*By the Daybreak, by the Ten Nights.*”

According to most narrations in the book of *tafseer*(exegesis), Ten Nights in this verse refers to the first 10 days in the month of *Zulhijjah*. This is in line with the *Hadith* mentioned by the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) which was narrated by Imam Bukhari which means: “*There are no days during which the righteous action is so pleasing to Allah than these days (i.e., the first ten days of Zulhijjah).*” He was asked: “*O Messenger of Allah, not even Jihad in the Cause of Allah?*” He replied, “*Not even Jihad in the Cause of Allah, except in case one goes forth with his life and his property and does not return with either.*”

In the Book of *Fathul Bari*, al-Hafiz Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani said, “*The reason for the significance of the first ten days of Zulhijjah is because of the combination of all the main acts of worship in them- namely prayer, fasting, zakat and hajj- which do not occur at other times.*”

Therefore, let us try our best to perform as many acts of worship as possible on the upcoming significant first 10 days of *Zulhijjah*. Among them is by increasing remembrance of Allah. As stated in the collection of *Hadith (Musnad)* of Imam Ahmad, the Prophet (PBUH) said:

فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهِنَّ مِنَ التَّهْلِيلِ وَالتَّكْبِيرِ وَالتَّحْمِيدِ

Which means: ... remember Allah with reciting a lot of *tahlil*, *takbir* and *tahmid* in these days (*tahlil* is to say there is no deity but Allah; *takbir* is to say Allah is the greatest; *tahmid* is to praise Allah)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In addition, Muslims are also encouraged to fast on the day of *Arafah* (the 9th day of the month of *Zulhijjah*). It is mentioned in the book of *Hadith* by Sahih Muslim,

... وَسُئِلَ عَنْ صَوْمِ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ؟ فَقَالَ: يُكَفِّرُ السَّنَةَ الْمَاضِيَةَ وَالْبَاقِيَةَ

Which means: "The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was asked about fasting on the day of *Arafah*. He said, "It is an expiation for the sins of the preceding year and the current year."

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ. وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيمِ. وَتَقَبَّلَ اللهُ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا
وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاَسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ