

## SACRIFICE ON THE DAY OF *ARAFAH*

July 8, 2022 / 8 Zulhijjah 1443H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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 Day of *Arafah* is a day that is highly glorified in Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said as stated in Sunan Abu Daud:

يَوْمَ عَرَفَةَ وَيَوْمَ النَّحْرِ وَأَيَّامِ التَّشْرِيقِ عِيدُنَا أَهْلَ الْإِسْلَامِ وَهِيَ أَيَّامُ أَكْلِ وَشُرْبِ

**Which means:** “*The day of Arafah, the day of sacrifice, the days of tashriq are (the days of) our festival, O people of Islam. These are the days of eating and drinking.*”

According to Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali in the book, *Lataiful Ma'arif*, the day of *Arafah* is glorified because it was the day on which the last revelation was sent down to the Prophet (PBUH) - regarding the perfection of the religion of Islam. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 5 (*Surah Al-Ma'idah*) verse (*ayat*) 3:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا ۚ

**Which means:** “*...Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My blessing upon you, and I have chosen Islam as your religion ...*”

In a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim, Caliph Umar bin al-Khattab related that this verse was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH) on Friday when he was in *wuquf* (standing before God) on the grounds of *Arafah* during his farewell pilgrimage (*Hajj*).

The day of *Arafah* is on the 9th of *Zulhijjah* (the 12th month of the Islamic calendar). Among the practices that are encouraged on the day of *Arafah* is to pray to Allah the Almighty as stated in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

## خَيْرُ الدُّعَاءِ دُعَاءُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ

**Which means:** *“The best supplication is that on the day of ‘Arafah,…”*

For those who do not perform *Hajj* in that year, fasting is highly recommended on the day of *Arafah*. According to a narration in Sahih Muslim, when Qatadah asked about the benefits of fasting on the day of *Arafah*, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explained:

## يُكَفِّرُ السَّنَةَ الْمَاضِيَةَ وَالْبَاقِيَةَ

**Which means:** *“Fasting on the day of Arafah is an expiation for the preceding year and the following year.”*

The Day of *Arafah* is part of the first 10 days of *Zulhijjah* which are glorified, and Muslims are encouraged to increase their worship on these days. The Prophet (PBUH) said, as stated in Sahih Bukhari:

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

**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). So increase the remembrance of Allah on these days.*

Performing *Qurban* (animal sacrifice) is included in the acts of worship that is encouraged. *Qurban* is a symbol of piety. There are still a handful of us who are capable, have high income, wear expensive brands, but do not perform *Qurban*. The best *Qurban* is one that we personally slaughter, or directly witnessed its slaughter.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Among the issues that are frequently raised in our society is the difference of the day on which the 9th of *Zulhijjah* falls in our country compared with Saudi Arabia. It should be understood, that most acts of worship in Islam are subject to the time determined by Allah the Almighty. Allah has determined the beginning of *Zulhijjah* is based on the appearance of the new moon in our country, not according to the appearance of the new moon in other countries.

According to astronomers, observers further west of Malaysia, including those in Arab countries, will see a higher new moon compared to Malaysian observers because the new moon is older, and therefore the conditions for observing the new moon are met.

We fast, celebrate Eid and perform *Qurban* according to the appearance of the new moon in our country and not in other countries as mentioned by the Prophet (PBUH) as narrated by Imam Tirmizi:

الصَّوْمُ يَوْمَ تَصُومُونَ، وَالْفِطْرُ يَوْمَ تُفْطِرُونَ، وَالْأَضْحَى يَوْمَ  
تُضَحُّونَ

**Which means:** “Fasting begins when you start your fast, Al-Fitr is the day when you break your fast and Al-Adha is the day when you offer sacrifices.”

This *Hadith* explains that we fast during *Ramadhan* or celebrate *Eid Al-Fitr* and *Eid Al-Adha* or perform *Qurban* according to the decisions that have been set by the Muslim authorities of our country.

So on the issue of the day of *Arafah*, let us adhere to the date of the local Islamic calendar and not the one that is used in Mecca. Let us unite; hopefully, we will live in harmony according to Islamic law and will receive many blessings from Allah the Almighty.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ۝ فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَأَنْحَرِ ۝ إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ۝

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ  
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ

الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ  
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.