

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONTH OF ZULHIJAH

23 MAY 2025 / 25 ZULQAEDAH 1446H

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

أَشْهَدُ 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 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* is the 12th month in the Islamic *Hijri* calendar and it is one of the sacred months full of blessings. In this month, Muslims from all over the world perform the Hajj pilgrimage which is one of the pillars of Islam. It is also a month in which Muslims are advised to increase their acts of worship and prayer, and to improve their relationship with Allah the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 9 (*Surah At-Tawbah*) Verse (ayat) 36:

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرُمٌ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ

Which means: “Allah decrees that there are twelve months- ordained in Allah’s Book on the Day when He created the heavens and earth- four months of which are sacred: this is the correct calculation. Do not wrong your souls in these months-...”

This verse explains that there are four months in a year in which fighting and shedding blood is forbidden. The month of *Zulhijjah* is among these forbidden months. There are four main features in the month of *Zulhijjah* that every Muslim needs to pay attention to: the first ten days of *Zulhijjah*, the Day of *Arafah*, the Day of *Eid Al-Adha* and the days of *tashriq* (the 11th, 12th and 13th of *Zulhijjah*).

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first ten days of the month of *Zulhijjah* are among the most sacred days in Islam. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam At-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah:

مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ مِنَ أَيَّامِ الدُّنْيَا أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُتَعَبَّدَ لَهُ فِيهَا مِنْ أَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ، يَغْدِلُ صِيَامُ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ مِنْهَا بِصِيَامِ سَنَةٍ وَقِيَامُ كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْهَا بِقِيَامِ لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ

Which means: “There are no days on which Allah likes better to be worshipped than the ten days of *Zulhijjah*. Fasting observed on each of these days is equivalent to a year’s fasting, and prayer during each of these nights is equivalent to prayer during *Lailat al-qadr*. ”

During the first ten days of the month of *Zulhijjah*, Muslims are encouraged to increase their acts of worship, especially by increasing their *takbir*, *tahmid*, and

tahlil. In addition, doing good deeds such as giving charity, fasting, and reading the Quran are practices that are highly encouraged by Allah the Almighty.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In addition to the first ten days of *Zulhijjah*, the Day of *Arafah* which falls on the 9th of *Zulhijjah* is also a holy day. On this day, Muslims who perform the Hajj pilgrimage gather at the *Arafah* Plain to pray, remember, and supplicate to Allah the Almighty. Muslims who are not performing Hajj are advised to fast on the Day of *Arafah*, because fasting on that day can erase the sins of the past year and the coming year. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim:

Which means: “*Fasting on the Day of ‘Arafah, I hope from Allah, expiates for the sins of the year before and the year after.*”

Therefore, it is recommended for someone who is able to fast on the day of *Arafah* to do so. Meanwhile, people who are performing Hajj are not recommended to fast on the day of *Arafah* to ensure they have sufficient energy to do *wuquf* on that day.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the month of *Zulhijjah*, we celebrate *Eid Al-Adha*, which is one of the two main celebrations in Islam. On that day, Muslims are encouraged to slaughter a sacrificial animal as a symbol of sacrifice and obedience to Allah the Almighty. This sacrifice reminds us of the story of Prophet Ibrahim (may Allah be pleased with him) who was willing to sacrifice his son, Prophet Ismail (may Allah be pleased with

him), simply because of obedience and faith in Allah the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 108 (*Surah Al-Kawthar*) Verses (ayat) 1 to 3:

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ (١) فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ (٢) إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ (٣)

Which means: “*We have truly given abundance to you [Prophet]— so pray to your Lord and make your sacrifice to Him alone— it is the one who hates you who has been cut off.*”

The most recommended worship to be carried out on *Eid Al-Adha* is to slaughter a sacrificial animal. This is because it (the sacrificial animal) will arrive in the afterlife as it was in this world without any defects and every part of the animal will carry a reward. In addition, it will also be the mount for the person who sacrificed it when crossing *sirat*, the bridge crossing over hell.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In conclusion, the month of *Zulhijjah* is a month full of blessings and a great opportunity for us to draw closer to Allah the Almighty. Let us increase our acts of worship, charity, prayer, and good deeds in this holy month, especially in the first ten days. Do not waste the opportunity because we do not know when another opportunity like this will come. For those who are not performing Hajj, fast on the Day of *Arafah* and slaughter sacrificial animals on *Eid Al-Adha* or the days of *tashriq*.

May we all be given the strength and guidance to make the most of the upcoming month of *Zulhijjah*. Pray that Allah the Almighty will accept all our deeds and grant us His blessings and pleasure.

وَالْفَجْرِ (١) وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ (٢) وَالشَّفْعِ وَالْوَتْرِ (٣)

Which means: “*By the Daybreak, by the Ten Nights, by the even and the odd,*” (Quran 89:1-3)

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ 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.