

BENEFITS OF FIRST 10 DAYS OF ZULHIJJAH

01 July 2022 | 01 Zulhijjah 1443H

الْحَمْدُ 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 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 increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we receive forgiveness by Him in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Muslims are so blessed that Allah the Almighty bestows double the reward of our deeds for certain days in a year. Today, 1 July 2022 corresponds to 1 Zulhijjah 1443 Hijrah. Thus, it is the first day of the month of Zulhijjah; a month that has its own special features, especially the first ten days of this month.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

مَا الْعَمَلُ فِي أَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ أَفْضَلَ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ فِي هَذِهِ . قَالُوا وَلَا الْجِهَادُ
قَالَ وَلَا الْجِهَادُ، إِلَّا رَجُلٌ خَرَجَ يُخَاطِرُ بِنَفْسِهِ وَمَالِهِ فَلَمْ يَرْجِعْ

بِشَيْءٍ .

Which means: “No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Zulhijjah).” Then, some companions of the Prophet said, “Not even Jihad?” He replied, “Not even Jihad, except that of a man who risks himself and his property (for Allah's sake) and does not bring anything back.”

This hadith gives the impression that pious deeds performed in the first ten days of the month of Zulhijjah is a matter that greatly pleases Allah the Almighty. It is better than the reward of jihad unless one is martyred.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 89 (surah al-Fajr) verse 1-2:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْفَجْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ﴿٢﴾

Which means: “By the dawn, and the ten nights.”

In this verse, Allah the Almighty makes an oath by the time of dawn and the tenth night. According to Ibn Kathir's Tafsir, what is meant by 'the ten nights' is the first ten days of the month of Zulhijjah. Allah the Almighty also says in chapter 22 (surah al-Hajj) verse 28:

وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْلُومَاتٍ

Which means: “*And pronounce the Name of Allah on appointed days.*”

According to the majority of muslim scholars, the ‘certain days’ are the first ten days of the month of Zulhijjah. Thus, we are encouraged to do a lot of zikir or mention the name of Allah the Almighty on these days.

Dear brothers and sisters,

When the hadiths of the prophet (pbuh) are examined, it is found that he filled the first ten days of Zulhijjah with recitation of zikir, voluntary fasting and night prayers (*qiamullail*). We are also encouraged to recite the Qur'an and increase recitations of the tasbih, takbir, tahmid and tahlil. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad which means:

“There are no days greater in the sight of Allah and in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him than these ten days, so during this time recite a great deal of Tahlil (La Ilaha Illallah), Takbir (Allahu Akbar) and Tahmid (Alhamdulillah).”

For those who will perform sacrificial rituals (qurban), they are voluntarily required not to cut their nails, pluck and shave their hair or body hair starting from 1 Zulhijjah.

Dear brothers and sisters

Let us enliven the mosques or suraus near our residences or workplaces at all prayer times and also stay away from all sinful acts such as attending immoral parties and wasting our free time by doing unbeneficial things. Let us fill our time with worship. May we be greatly rewarded. Let us all observe the fast of Arafah on 9 Zulhijjah which promises enormous advantages. When asked about fasting during Arafah, the Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim:

يُكَفِّرُ السَّنَةَ الْمَاضِيَةَ وَالْبَاقِيَةَ

Which means: *“It will expiate the sins of the previous and upcoming years.”*

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 3 (surah Ali Imran) verse 133:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَسَارِعُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ
أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿١٣٣﴾

Which means: “*And hasten towards forgiveness from your Lord and a Paradise as vast as the heavens and the earth, prepared for those mindful of Allah.*”

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنْ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.