



FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ALLAH'S REMEMBRANCE

DHUL-HIJJAH 1445

SEASONS OF GOODNESS

Allah the Creator of time, has determined that not all time with Him is the same. He tells us about the months in Surah at-Tawbah that they number twelve, four from which are sacred.

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرُمٌ

Indeed, the number of months ordained by Allah is twelve—in Allah's Record since the day He created the heavens and the earth—of which four are sacred. [At-Tawbah Verse 36]

They are as the Messenger (saw) taught us; Dhul Qidah, Dhul Hijja and Muharam [being consecutive] and Rajab on its own. Scholars have stated how good deeds are multiplied during these seasons of goodness. We are already in the month of Dhul Qi'dah which is one of the Ashur al-Hurm [sacred months] and next come the blessed month of Hajj.

Allah swears by many aspects of time, Al-Duha, Al-Asr, Al-Layl, Al-Falaq, are but a few examples. This denotes how important time is. Similarly In Surah al-Fajr Allah says:

وَالْفَجْرِ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرِ

By Fajr and the by the Ten nights.
[Al-Fajr Verses 1-2]

Scholars of Tafseer have described these 10 as referring to the 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah, within them are the great days of Hajj. With the Day of Arafah being the greatest of all days of the year. We will look at these day in more detail in this series,

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THESE 10 DAYS.

In recognition of Allah's Majesty in setting out these blessed days for us, we should in turn, dedicate ourselves to worshiping Him more ardently therein. Plan your days

1. Search for sincerity and ask Allah for His assistance in worshipping Him to the best of your ability

Say: اللهم أعني على ذكرك وشكرك وحسن عبادتك

'Allahumma a'inni 'ala dhikrika wa shukrika, wa husni 'ibadatika,' (O Allah, help me remember You, expressing gratitude to You and worship You in the best manner). *

2. Intend and plan your acts of worship. Schedule time off and plan each day.
3. Look to what worked well last year and build on it setting a new personal best.

May Allah allow us to reach the day of Arafah and see the plains of Araafat and accepts our actions.

*Mu'adh (bin Jabal) (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) held my hand and said, "O Mu'adh, By Allah, I love you and advise you not to miss supplicating after every Salat (prayer) saying: 'Allahumma a'inni 'ala dhikrika wa shukrika, wa husni 'ibadatika,' (O Allah, help me remember You, expressing gratitude to You and worship You in the best manner)" [Abu Dawud and An- Nasa'i].

THE GREATEST DAYS OF THE YEAR

THE BLESSED DAYS OF DHUL-HIJJAH
ARE ALMOST UPON US.

روى ابن عباس رضي الله عنهم قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم :
« مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أَعْلَمُ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهَا أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ » يَعْنِي أَيَّامَ الْعَشْرِ
أَخْرَجَهُ أَبُو دَاؤُد

Ibn Abaas (ra) narrated that the Prophet (saw) said, ‘There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than in these (ten) days. [Abu Dawud]

These are the best days to offer righteous deeds in the entire year, Scholars have cited, that the nights of the last 10 in Ramadan are superior to all other nights, but the days of Dhul-Hijjah are the most superior days.

Allah liberates from the Hellfire on the day of Arafah more than any other day. It is the single most important day of the year .

The Prophet used to fast on the Day of Arafah and he considered it to be an expiation for 2 years of sins. It is the pinnacle of the month and the best of these 10 days.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Sins are multiplied as are good deeds, avoid sins even minor ones that you don't pay much attention to, Don't waste these glorious days!

3 TARGETS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR 10 DAYS

As for the good deeds you target do the following

- 1) target a variety of good you can do. This will help stave off boredom and monotony.
- 2) Try and consciously increase your worships in recognition of these great days. Set yourself targets,
- 3) Try and do a complete a reading of the Quran!
- 4) Fast all 9 days or as many days as you can.

Be sure to start your days with the following remembrance 100 times.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ
وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

The Propher (saw) said “Whoever recites this one hundred times a day will have the reward of freeing ten slaves. One hundred Hasanaat (rewards) will be written for him and one hundred sins will be washed away. He will be shielded from the Shaytan until the evening. No one will be able to present anything better than this except for someone who has recited more than this”. Al-Bukhari 4/95

- 5) Be dutiful to your parents and enter happiness in their hearts and those of your relatives.
- 6) Give in charity.
- 7) Get up for night prayers,
- 8) Do more Istigfaar.
- 9) Show Allah that you are magnifying that which He magnified.

RECONNECTING WITH ALLAH THROUGH FASTING IN DHUL-HIJJAH

These seasons are opportunities Allah has given us to return to Him and reinvigorate our commitment to Him and His worship. Fasting for the first 9 days reminds us of the fast of Ramadan and the incredible impact on raising our Eman it has. If one is unable to than the day of Arafah can be fasted on its own.

Fasting as a continuous act of obedience has an incredible effect on ones soul, a complete fast means staying away from more than just food and drink, your ears, eyes, tongue and all other limbs also should fast.

It is an act that Allah said is for Him Alone whilst all others are for the son of Adam and Allah will reward abundantly for it.

Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying:
Allah, the Majestic and the Exalted, said: Every act of the son of Adam is for him except fasting. It is done for My sake, and I will give a reward for it. By Allah in Whose Hand is the life of Muhammad, the breath of the observer of fast is sweeter to Allah than the fragrance of musk.

(The Sabirun (those who endure patiently) mentioned in the following verse refer to the fasting a the scholars mention.

إِنَّمَا يُؤْفَى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

Only those who endure patiently will be given their reward without limit.”

Az-Zummar Verse 10

WAYS TO MAKE YOUR FASTS COUNT

- 1) Ensure you stay away not only from food and drink but also from frivolity, lower your gaze and protect your eyes and ears from engaging in sin.
- 2) Fast happily, be mindful and present, speak to Allah in the day, say “it is for you Allah, no one else knows I am fasting but you”. Don’t complain about hunger,
- 3) Make Istighfaar for shortcoming or give in charity and expect a reward from Allah.
- 4) Be thankful for each fast you complete by saying “Alhamdulillah”.

OUR WAY THE WAY OF THE PROPHETS

The Hajj reminds us that our tradition goes beyond our own beloved Prophet. Allah says in Surah Hajj

وَجَاهُوا فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ هُوَ أَجْتَبَكُمْ وَمَا جَعَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ
مِنْ حَرَجٍ مِّلَّةً أَبِيكُمْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ هُوَ سَمِّكُمُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ

And strive hard in (the way of) Allah, (such) a striving a is due to Him; He has chosen you and has not laid upon you an hardship in religion; the faith of your father Ibrahim; He named you Muslims [Hajj verse 78]

It reminds us that it is the way of our prophet and our father Ibrahim we are upon. Hajj was ordained by Allah to Ibrahim (as) who was told to call (Adthaan) for it.

وَأَذِنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجَّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجَّ عَمِيقٍ

Call 'all' people to the pilgrimage. They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel from every distant path,

[Surah Hajj 27]

So much of the 10 days of Dhul hijjah and the Hajj are connected to Ibrahim (as) and his family.

- Ibrahim (as) and Hajar
- Ibrahim(as) and Ismail (as) and the building of the Ka'abah
- Ibrahim's (as) Call to mankind for Hajj
- Ibrahim and the sacrificing of his son.

LEARN ABOUT OUR PROPHETIC AND ISLAMIC HERITAGE

- 1) Read the tafsir of the various stories of al-Khaleel Ibrahim (as)
- 2) Read the description of our own Prophet who informed us that he looked most similar to Ibrahim (as)
- 3) Learn about the history of the Ka'bah and its building
- 4) Learn about each of the rites of Hajj and where they originated from

THE GREAT SACRIFICE

As mentioned in our last post, so much of the 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah and the Hajj are connected to Ibrahim (as) and his family. However one incident with his son Ismail has become the most symbolic acts that we perform, recognising the great sacrifice that our farther Ibrahim was willing to make in obedience to Allah.

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ الْسَّعْيَ قَالَ يَبْنَيَ إِنِّي أَرَى فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانْظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَى
قَالَ يَأْبَتِ أَفْعُلُ مَا تُؤْمِرُ سَاجِدًا إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ
فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَ وَتَلَّهُ لِلْجَنِينِ وَنَدِينَهُ أَنْ يَأْبَرَاهِيمُ قَدْ صَدَقَتِ الْرُّءْءِيَاً
نَجَزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ الْبَلْوَاءُ ● الْمُبِينُ وَفَدِينَهُ يَذْبَحُ عَظِيمٌ

As-Saafaat Verse 102-107

Then when the boy reached the age to work with him, Abraham said, "O my dear son! I have seen in a dream that I must sacrifice you. So tell me what you think." He replied, "O my dear father! Do as you are commanded. Allah willing, you will find me steadfast." Then when they submitted to Allah's Will, and Abraham laid him on the side of his forehead for sacrifice, We called out to him, "O Abraham! You have already fulfilled the vision." Indeed, this is how We reward the good-doers. That was truly a revealing test. And We ransomed his son with a great sacrifice,

Ibrahim and the story with his beloved son Ismail (as) and the sacrifice is the reason why we sacrifice on Eid ul-Adha which is where its name comes from.

أَنَسَ بْنُ مَالِكَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ: (ضَحَّى النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ بَكْبَشِينِ أَمْلَحَيْنِ أَقْرَنَيْنِ)
ذَبَحَهُمَا بِيَدِهِ ● وَسَمَّى وَكَبَرَ ● وَوَضَعَ رِجْلَهُ عَلَى صِفَاحِهِما

Anas narrated:

The Prophet ﷺ offered as sacrifices, two horned rams, black and white in color. He slaughtered them with his own hands and mentioned Allah's Name over them and said Takbir and put his foot on their sides. Sahih Muslim

For those offering sacrifice let them not shave their hair or trim their nails.

عَنْ أَمْ سَلَمَةَ أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: «مَنْ كَانَ لَهُ ذِبْحٌ فَإِذَا أَهَلَّ هَلَالُ ذِي الْحِجَةِ
فَلَا يَأْخُذُنَّ مِنْ شَعْرِهِ ● وَلَا مِنْ أَظْفَارِهِ شَيْئًا حَتَّى يُضْحَى

Umm Salama reported God's Messenger as saying, "When the ten days* come and one of you intends to make sacrifice, he must not touch any of its hair or skin." Sahih Muslim

MAKE A SACRIFICE BEYOND THE UDHIYAH

In the spirit of sacrificing for Allah in this month, ask yourself what are you willing to sacrifice for Allah? Will you give up some sins you've long wanted to abandon?

ESTABLISHING THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH

The Hajj serves as a remembrance of Allah Almighty and he has established it for that purpose. Aishah, the Mother of the Believers narrated:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: Going round the House (the Ka'bah), running between as-Safa and lapidation of the pillars are meant for the remembrance of Allah. [Abu Dawud]

Likewise Allah commanded us in the Quran

وَأَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَعْدُودَاتٍ ﴿٢٣﴾

And remember Allâh during the appointed Days.
Al-Baqarah 203

AND REMEMBER ALLAH DURING 'THESE' APPOINTED DAYS.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) commanded us to recite a lot of Tasbeeh ("Subhan-Allaah"), Tahmeed ("Al-hamdu Lillaah") and Takbeer ("Allaahu akbar") during this time.

'Abdullaah ibn 'Umar (may Allaah be pleased with him and his father) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "There are no days greater in the sight of Allaah and in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him than these ten days, so during this time recite a great deal of Tahleel ("La ilaaha ill-Allaah"), Takbeer ("Allahu Akbar") and Tahmeed ("Alhamdulillah")."

These are the 3 Days of Tashreeq. We know that on those days we after each congregational prayer say the Takbeer and The Tahleel and The Tahmeed. However we are encouraged to do that throughout the 10 days, The great companions Ibn Umar and Abu Hurairah use to raise their voices with it, in the streets and the market places and others would follow suit.

THE MOST SUPERIOR DAY

The Day of 'Arafah is the most blessed day of the year. The Prophet (saw) said, 'There is no day on which Allah frees more people from the Fire than on the day of 'Arafah'. (Muslim)

روى أبو قتادة رضي الله تعالى عنه أن النبي صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم قال: «صِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ وَالسَّنَةَ الَّتِي بَعْدَهُ» أخرجه مسلم

Abu Qatadah narrated that :

the Prophet said: "Fast the Day of Arafah, for indeed I anticipate that Allah will forgive (the sins) of the year after it, and the year before it."

Fasting on this day should not be passed up. The expiation of 2 years of sins for one day signifies the greatness of this day to Allah. It should be the highlight of our calendar and the peak of our worship. Do not regret do your utmost to make the most of these opportunity, treat it as your last you never know it could be your last.

وقد ورد عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم أيضاً قوله: "خير الدعاء يوم عرفة" وخير ما قلت أنا والنبيون "من قبل: لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له له الملك وله الحمد وهو على كل شيء قادر".

The Prophet ﷺ said:

The best invocation is that of the Day of Arafat, and the best that anyone can say is what I and the Prophets before me have said: Lā 'ilāha 'illallāhu wāḥdahu lā sharīka lahu, lahul-mulku wa lahul-hamdu wa huwa 'alā kulli shay'in qadīr. None has the right to be worshipped but Allah Alone, Who has no partner. His is the dominion and His is the praise, and He is Able to do all things.

At-Tirmidhi

Always remember that Allah knows what you seek to ask of Him before you ask. Turn to Him with that which he taught us to say through his Prophet. It is the best of all supplications on this, the best of all days.

MAKE THE MOST OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY

- 1) Prioritise saying Lā 'ilāha 'illallāhu wāḥdahu lā sharīka lahu, lahul-mulku wa lahul-hamdu wa huwa 'alā kulli shay'in qadīr.
- 2) Alternate between different supplications, du'a and sending salah and salaam upon our beloved prophet (saw)
- 3) Be sure to spend every minute in some form of Ibadah
- 4) Remember the standing of the Day of Judgement
- 5) Feel the sense of competing with hundreds of millions of Muslims across the world who are all beseeching Allah on this day especially those on the plains of Arafaat

THE JOYOUS DAY OF EID

Whilst the 10 days are the most important, as is the norm in our religion after intensive worship comes the joy of Eid after Ramadan we have Eid al-Fitr and after the Days of Hajj we have Eid al-Adha.

إِنَّ أَعْظَمَ الْأَيَّامِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى يَوْمُ النَّحْرِ، ثُمَّ يَوْمُ الْقِرْبَاءِ

Abdallah b. Qurt reported the Prophet as saying that the greatest day in God's sight is the day of sacrifice and next the day of resting, (Yaum al-Qarr, the 11th of Dhul Hijja)

REJOICE ON THIS DAY TO THE MAX!

- 1) It is a day of reward from Allah after our exertions to please Him. We wear our best clothes and on this Eid eat once we return from the Eid Salah. We see our family and enter happiness into the hearts of those near and dear to us.
- 2) Free yourself up during these days, if you need take time off work, make it memorable for your children!

DAYS OF EATING AND DRINKING

ALLAH COMMANDED US IN THE QURAN IN SURAH AL-BAQARAH

وَأَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْدُودَاتٍ ﴿٢٣﴾

And remember Allâh during the appointed Days.
Al-Baqarah 203

These are the 3 Days of Tashreeq. These are the appointed Day Allah wants to be remembered in. These are great days of enjoyment too.

يُوْمُ عَرْفَةٍ • وَيُوْمُ النَّحْرِ وَأَيَّامَ التَّشْرِيقِ • عِيدَنَا أَهْلُ إِلَيْسَامٍ • وَهِيَ أَيَّامٌ أَكِلُّ وُشَرِّبُ
It was narrated from Uqbah bin Amir that the Messenger of Allah said:

"The day of Arafat and the day of sacrifice and the day of At-Tashreeq are our Eid, the people of Islam, and they are days of eating and drinking." Sunan an-Nasa'i

In another report : 'remembrance of Allah was mentioned too.

TO DO'S ON THE DAYS OF TASHREEQ

1) The Takbiraat of Eid that are specific in this period start after the Fajr prayer on day of Arafaat and continue through Eid and until the Asr of the 3rd day of Tashreeq. These days are for the establishment of the remembrance of Allah:

إِنَّمَا جُعِلَ رَمْيُ الْجِمَارِ وَالسَّعْيُ بَيْنَ الصَّفَّا وَالْمَرْوَةِ لِإِقَامَةِ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ

'A'isha reported the Prophet as saying, "Throwing pebbles at the jamras and running between as-Safa and al-Marwa were appointed only for the remembrance of God."

2) Enjoy eating and drinking with your families and relatives.

