

Please read about the importance of the 10 first days of Dhul-Hijjah which we are approaching.

Verily, the praise belongs to Allaah Most High, and may the blessings of Allaah and Peace be upon His Prophet Muhammad (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam), and his family and companions, all of them.

Al-Bukhaaree narrated from Ibn 'Abbaas (raa), that the Prophet (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam) said: "There are not any days in which righteous deeds done in them are more beloved to Allaah than these days, i.e. the ten days (of Dhul-Hijjah). They said: O, Messenger of Allaah, not even Jihaad in the path of Allaah? He said: Not even Jihaad in the path of Allaah Most High, except if a man goes out (for Jihaad) with his self and his wealth, then he doesn't return with anything from that."

Imaam Ahmad narrated from Ibn 'Umar (raa), from the Prophet Muhammad (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam) that he said: "There aren't any days greater, nor any days in which deeds done in them are more beloved to Allaah Most High, than these ten days (of Dhul-Hijjah). So, increase in them the saying of Tahleel (Laa-ilaaha-ill-Allaah), and Takbeer (Allaahu-Akbar) and Tahmeed (al-hamdu-lillaah)."

The Types of Deeds in These Ten Days:

First: The performance of Hajj and 'Umrah, and these are the best of deeds that may be done.

"Performance of 'Umrah is an expiation of the sins committed between it and the previous 'Umrah, and the reward of the Hajj which is accepted by Allaah Most High is nothing but Paradise." (Bukhaaree and Muslim).

Second: The fasting during these days as many of them as may be easy (for one to fast) - especially the Day of 'Arafah.

Abu Sa'eed al-Khudree (raa), who said that the Messenger of Allaah (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam) said: "No servant (of Allaah Most High) fasts one day in the way of Allaah, except that Allaah Most High removes his face from the fire because of it (the distance of travelling) seventy years." (Bukhaaree and Muslim).

Muslim narrated from Abu Qataadah that the Prophet (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam) said: "Fasting the Day of 'Arafah will be credited with Allaah by forgiving one's sins of the previous year and the following year."

Third: at-Takbeer (saying: Allaahu-Akbar) and adh-Dhikr (remembrance of Allaah Most High) in these (ten) days, because of the saying of Allaah in Soorah al-Hajj verse 28: "...And mention the name of Allaah on the appointed Days..."

This has been explained (by some) to mean the ten days (of Dhul-Hijjah), and the scholars consider it desirable to increase adh-Dhikr (remembrance of Allaah Most High) in these days, because of the Hadeeth of Ibn 'Umar (radhi-yallaahu 'anhumaa) narrated by Ahmad, which says in it: "...so increase in these days the Tahleel and Takbeer and Tahmeed".

Al-Bukhaaree mentioned about Ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurayrah (raa) that: "the two of them used to go out to the market place. During the ten days (of Dhul-Hijjah) saying 'Allaahu-Akbar', causing the people to also say it."

Ishaaq narrates from the scholars of the Taabi'een that in these ten days they used to say: Allaahu-Akbar, Allaahu-Akbar; Laa-ilaaha-ill-Allaah; Wallaahu-Akbar, Allaahu-Akbar; Wa-lillaahil-hamd.

It is a beloved act to raise the voice when saying the Takbeer in the markets, the houses, the streets, the masjids and other places, because of the saying of Allaah Most High in Soorah al-Hajj verse 37: "...that you may magnify Allaah for His Guidance to you..."

Fourth: at-Tawbah (repentance) and abstaining from disobedience and all types of sins, since forgiveness and mercy are the results of deeds.

Abu Hurayrah (radhi-yallaahu 'anhu), he said that the Prophet Muhammad (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam) said: "Verily Allaah has a sense of 'Ghayrah' (honor, prestige and anger over it's violation), and Allaah's sense of Ghayrah is provoked when a person does that which Allaah has made prohibited". (narrated by Bukhaaree and Muslim).

Fifth: Doing plenty of voluntary (Nafli) righteous deeds of worship like prayer, charity, Jihaad, reading the Qur'aan, commanding what is good and forbidding what is evil, and other deeds like this.

Sixth: It is legislated in these days to make at-Takbeer al-Mutlaq (unrestricted to specific times or form) at all times of night and day until the time of the `Eed Prayer.

Also, at-Takbeer al-Muqayyid (restricted to specific times and done in a particular manner) is legislated, and it is done after the (five) obligatory prayers which are performed in congregation. This begins from Dawn (Fajr) on the Day of 'Arafah (the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah) for those not performing Hajj, and from Noon (Dhur) on the Day of Sacrifice (10th of Dhul-Hijjah) for those performing Hajj (pilgrims); and it continues until 'Asr prayer on the last day of the days of Tashreeq (13th of Dhul-Hijjah).

Seventh: The slaughtering of a sacrificial animal (Adhiyyah) is also legislated for the Day of Sacrifice (10th) and the Days of Tashreeq (11th, 12th and 13th).

This is the Sunnah of our father Ibraheem ('alayhis-salaam) - from when Allaah Most High redeemed his son by the great sacrifice (of an animal in his place).

Eighth: Muslim and others narrated from Umm Salamah (raa) that the Prophet Muhammad (SallallahuAlaihiWasallam) said: "If you see the Hilaal (new moon) of Dhul-Hijjah, and any one of you wants to make a sacrifice, then he should not cut (anything) from his hair and his nails." and in one narration he said: "...then he should not take (cut) anything from his hair, nor from his nails, until he performs the sacrifice." Perhaps this is because of the similarity with the one who is bringing a sacrificial animal for slaughter (in Hajj). As Allaah Most High said: "...and do not shave your heads until the Hadee (sacrifice) reaches the place of sacrifice..."

Ninth: It is incumbent for the Muslim (who is not making Hajj) to make every effort to perform the `Eed Prayer wherever it is performed, and to be present for the Khutbah and benefit.

Tenth: After what has been mentioned, it is fitting that every Muslim, male and female, take advantage of these days by obeying Allaah Most High, remembering Him, thanking Him, fulfilling all the obligatory duties, and staying far away from the prohibited things. He must take full advantage of this season, and the open display of Allaah's gifts to attain the pleasure of his Lord.

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