

## The Significance of the 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah

Allah has blessed the nation of Muhammad (sws) with opportunities to reap rewards and blessings every day of the year. The last ten nights of Ramadan are among the most blessed nights of the year.

Similarly, the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah carry special status during the blessed month of Hajj. Just like the last ten nights of Ramadan are the best ten nights out of the year, these first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are the best days of the year and the most beloved to Allah as they combine acts of worship in a way unlike any other time.

The Prophet (sws) said, *“There is no deed that is better in the sight of Allah or more greatly rewarded than a good deed done in the (first) ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.”* It was asked, *“Not even Jihad for the sake of Allah?”* The Prophet (sws) replied, *“Not even Jihad for the sake of Allah, unless a man goes out himself for Jihad taking his wealth with him and does not come back with anything.”* [Bukhari]

So, the questions we should be asking ourselves are, “How do we make the most of this season of blessings?” and “What deeds can I perform to attain His pleasure?” Here’s how:

### 1. Perform Hajj

Hajj is one of the best deeds that one can do during these ten days. However for those of us who were not invited to His House this year, there are still many more ways to earn the pleasure of Allah.

### 2. Fasting, especially on the ‘Day of Arafah

The Prophet (sws) said: *“Anyone who fasts for one day for Allah’s pleasure, Allah will keep his face away from the (Hell) fire for seventy years.”* [Bukhari, Muslim]

The Prophet (sws) used to fast on the ninth day of Dhul-Hijjah and he said: *“Fasting the Day of ‘Arafah is an expiation for (all the sins of) the previous year and expiation for (all the sins of) the coming year.”* [Muslim]

### 3. Perform Dhikr and Takbeer

The Prophet (sws) said: *“There are no days in which good deeds are greater or more beloved to Allah than on these ten days, so recite much Tahleel (saying Laa ilaaha ill-Allah), Takbeer (saying Allahu Akbar) and Tahmeed (saying Alhamdu Lillaah).”* [Ahmad]

Takbeer at this time is a Sunnah that has mostly been forgotten, especially during the first few days. So say it in the masjid, in your home, on the street and every place where it is permitted to remember Allah. The Prophet (sws) said: *“Whoever revives an aspect of my Sunnah that is*

*forgotten after my death, he will have a reward equivalent to that of the people who follow him, without it detracting in the least from their reward.” [Tirmidhi]*

#### **4. Stand the Night in Prayer**

Seeking Allah’s forgiveness and humbling ourselves in front of Him in supplication and prayers during the latter part of the night is an act of worship that is very beloved to Allah.

Allah Almighty calls out to His servants in the latter part of the night: *“Is there anyone to invoke Me, so that I may respond to his invocation? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?”* [Bukhaari, Muslim]

We should seize this opportunity and beg Him for His divine generosity and mercy. We should ask Him as our Prophet (sws) taught us *“Our Lord, bless us with the best of this world and the best of hereafter and save us from the fire of Hell.”*

#### **5. Make Sincere Repentance**

Allah loves those who repent to Him in complete submission. The act of sincere repentance to Allah with intention to never return to His disobedience and sin is very dear to Him. Be regretful of your sins and disobedience and resolve to never return to sin and to firmly adhere to the path, which Allah loves.

Allah says, *“But as for him who repented, believed and did righteous deeds, then he will be among those who are successful.”* [Al-Qasas 28:67]

#### **6. Return to the Quran**

It is time to dust off your copy of the Quran. Establish a beautiful new relationship with the book of Allah starting in these ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. Recite its verses and you will reap its blessings. Understand its message. Implement the commandments of this book in your life. This will ultimately lead to guidance and success in this life and the Hereafter.

#### **7. Increase in doing all good deeds**

Every act that is done with sincerity for the pleasure of Allah will bring you closer to Him. *“So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it; and whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom, shall see it.”* [Al-Zalzalah 99:7-8]

#### **8. Sacrifice an animal and distribute the meat**

Ibn Umar said: *“The Prophet (sws) lived in Madinah for ten years and every year he slaughtered an animal.”* [Ahmad]

## 9. Attend Eid prayers

Attending Eid prayers is from the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet (S). We should be keen on practicing this Sunnah and performing it according to the teachings of our Prophet (S).

## 10. Thank Allah

One of the biggest forms of worshiping Allah is to thank Him, deeply, sincerely and continuously. After all, it is He who blessed you with all that you have. Thank Him for the opportunity to experience these ten days. Ask Him for His mercy, forgiveness and guidance.

Alhamdulillah, there is much to be gained in these coming days. So make the most of this perfect opportunity offered by these invaluable and irreplaceable ten days. Hasten to do good deeds and appreciate this blessing and make the most of it.

*“And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (death).”*

[Al-Hijr 15:99]