

Virtues and Deeds of the First Ten Days of *Dhul Hijjah*

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, “**By the Daybreak, by the Ten Nights.**” I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

The Almighty Allah has blessed the Nation of His Prophet Muhammad with certain times of the year as occasions to multiply their rewards, forgive their sins, and raise their grades. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Verily your Lord has breaths of His Mercy in the days of your time—so expose yourselves to them. Perhaps one of you may get such breath of mercy after which he may not suffer any misery.”

Among these blessed occasions are the first ten days of the month of *Dhul Hijjah*, as there are many texts that set great virtues for these days. The Almighty Allah made an oath with these days, saying, “**By the Daybreak, by the Ten Nights.**” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “There are no days during which the righteous action is so pleasing to Allah than these

days (i.e., the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah). He was asked: "O Messenger of Allah, not even Jihad in the Cause of Allah?" He (PBUH) replied, "Not even Jihad in the Cause of Allah, except in case one goes forth with his life and his property and does not return with either of it." Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also said, "There are no days in which righteous deeds are greater and more beloved to Allah than those ten days. So, praise and glorify Allah much in them." In another Hadith, the Prophet also said, "The best days of the year are the [first] ten days [of Dhul-Hijjah]."

A true sane person is the one who makes use of these virtuous days to please Allah, the Almighty. Among the deeds that are peculiar to these days is the performance of Hajj. The Almighty Allah said, "**Pilgrimage to the House is a duty owed to Allah by people who are able to undertake it.**" Pilgrims are entitled to get honor, forgiveness and pleasure from the Almighty Allah, as they are His guests and the visitors of His House. If they ask Him for something, He will answer them, and if they supplicated Him, He would fulfill their needs. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Performers of Hajj and Umrah are the gusts of Allah; If they made supplication to Him, He will answer them; and If they asked Him for forgiveness, He will forgive them." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Whoever performs Hajj and does not have sexual relations with his wife, and does not do evil or sins, then he will return (after Hajj free from all sins) as if he were born anew."

Among the deeds to be performed during the ten days of Dhul Hijjah is: slaughtering a sacrificial animal for the sake of Allah, as this is the Sunnah of our Prophet (PBUH) and an act of commemorating Prophet Abraham (PBUH). The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The son of Adam does not do any deed on the Day of Sacrifice that is dearer to Allah than shedding blood [of a slaughtered animal]. It will come on the Day of Resurrection with its horns and cloven hoofs and hair. Its blood is accepted by Allah before it reaches the ground. So be content when you do it.”

In truth, offering sacrificial animals is a form of social solidarity that maintains affection, mercy and cohesion among the members of the society through feeding the poor and protecting them from begging on that day. The Almighty Allah said describing pious people, “**They give food to the poor, the orphan, and the captive, though they love it themselves.**” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “O people, promote the greetings, feed (the poor and needy) and perform Prayer when others are asleep so that you will enter Paradise safely.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “The best ones amongst you are those who feed the poor.” In another Hadith, the Prophet (PBUH) said, “The acts most pleasing to Allah are: to please a Muslim, relieve his troubles, feed him to satisfy hunger, or pay his debts.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah's Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Good deeds in these virtuous days extend to include making *Dhikr*, reciting the Qur'an, glorifying Allah and praising Him, and other righteous deeds, as the Prophet (PBUH) said, "The doors to goodness are plenty, including glorification of Allah, praising Him, saying "Allah is Great," and "there is no god but Allah," enjoining good, forbidding evil, removing harm from the road, conveying the message to deaf, guiding the blind, helping people with their needs, exerting your utmost with those in dire need, and giving aid to the weak as much as you can; all of these are acts of charity for yourself."

The concept of good deeds in the ten days of *Dhul Hijjah* also expands to include acts related to this world life which carry benefit for people such as building hospitals, schools, paving roads, caring for the orphans, feeding the poor, fulfilling people's needs, and everything that benefits people in matters of their religion and world life.

How much we need to recognize the virtue of these days, appreciate their value, and thank Allah that He allowed us to witness them.

O Allah, help us in remembering You, in giving You thanks, and worshiping You well!

We ask Allah to protect our country Egypt, and all other countries of the worlds!