

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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The Virtues of the Day of Arafah and Sunnah of Slaughtering a Sacrificial Animal

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“There is no blame upon you to seek some bounty from your Lord. When you surge down from Arafat remember Allah at the sacred place. Remember Him: He has guided you. Before that, you were astray. Then, Surge down where the rest of the people do, and ask forgiveness of Allah: He is most forgiving and merciful.”** 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 first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are full of divine rewards and blessings, and virtuous days. However, the greatest of these days is the Day of Arafah, on which Allah, the Almighty, has completed His blessings and perfected the religion to this nation. The Almighty Allah said, **“Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My blessing upon you, and chosen as your religion Islam.”**

The Day of Arafah is the “Witnessed” day, and the greatest day of Pilgrimage, regarding which Allah, the Almighty, said, “**By the promised Day. By the Witness and that which is witnessed.**” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “The promised day is the day of Resurrection; the day which is witnessed is the day of ‘Arafa; and the witness is Friday.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “The pilgrimage is ‘Arafa.” The gathering of people on the day of Arafah reminds us of a greater scene, namely, the gathering of people on the Day of Judgement before the Almighty Allah, “**The Day when no soul will be able to do anything for another; on that Day, command will belong to Allah.**”

In addition, the day of the Arafah is the season of remembrance of the Name of Allah and a time for answering supplications, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, “The best invocation is that of the Day of Arafat, and the best of what I and the Prophets before me have said, is: *La 'ilaha 'illallahu, wahdahu la sharika lahu, lahul-mulku wa lahul-hamdu, wa huwa 'ala kulli shay'in qadir.* (There is no god but Allah, alone, without a partner, His is the dominion and His is the praise, and He is Able to do all things.”

It is the day of forgiveness of sins and emancipation from the Hellfire. The Prophet (PBUH) said, “When it is the day of ‘Arafa, Allah praises them [the pilgrims] to the angels saying, “Look at my servants who have come to me dishevelled, dusty and [standing] in the sun, coming from every deep valley. I call you to witness that I have forgiven them.” The

Prophet (PBUH) also said, "There is no day when Allah sets free more servants from Hell than the Day of 'Arafa."

It is out of the great generosity and favour of Allah on the Day of Arafah that He never deprives anyone from the blessings of that Day. As, He, the Almighty, grants His mercy and forgiveness to the pilgrims in His Sacred House, He also allows this gates of mercy for all His creatures. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "I seek from Allah that fasting on the day of 'Arafa may forgive (the sins) of the year after it, and the year before it."

It is strongly recommended on the day Arafah to adhere to good morals and keep away from vices, as our Prophet (PBUH) "This is a day on which, if a person controls his ears, eyes and tongue [from evils], will get his sins forgiven." Indeed, what is the value of worship if one's morals are lacking?! The Prophet (PBUH) said, "There are people who fast and get nothing from their fast except hunger, and there are those who pray and get nothing from their prayer but a sleepless night."

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:

One of the most important acts of worship that is emphatically recommended during the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah is to seek the reward from Allah (Glory be to Him) by slaughtering a sacrificial animal in commemoration of the incident of Prophet Ibrahim and his son Isma‘il (peace be upon them). Allah said, “Pray to your Lord and make your sacrifice to Him.” Allah also said, “It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah but your piety. He has subjected them to you in this way so that you may glorify Allah for having guided you. Give good news to those who do good.” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “A human does no action from the actions on the day of *Nahr* more beloved to Allah than spilling blood (of sacrificial animals). On the Day of Judgement, it will appear with its horns, and hair, and hooves, and indeed the blood will be accepted by Allah from where it is received before it even falls upon earth, so let your heart delight in it.”

Sacrifice has a noble social purpose, through pleasing one's family, relatives, the poor and the needy, which achieves the solidarity and compassion promoted by our pure religion. ‘Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: Messenger of Allah (PBUH) had slaughtered a sheep and distributed major portions of its meat. Then he (PBUH) asked, “Is there anything left?” She replied, “Nothing, except the shoulder.” Thereupon he said, “All of it is left except its shoulder.” In addition, we have to make the ritual of sacrifice a manifestation of the greatness of Islam, and an aspect of its cleanliness and civilization.

There is no doubt that sacrificial instruments achieve these noble goals by distributing sacrifices to their eligible beneficiaries wherever they are, preserving the environment, and benefiting from every part of the sacrifice without waste or loss.

O Lord, accept our good deeds, and guide us to all that You love and is pleased with!