

Virtues of the first 10 days of Zil-hijjah

The first ten days of Zil-hijjah are among the most magnificent days in Islamic calendar. Every Muslim should avail of this wonderful opportunity by performing during this period as much Iba'dah (acts of worship) to Allah as he or she can.

- (1) Hazrat Abdullah ibne Abbas (radiullahu anhu) narrates that the holy prophet sallalhu alihi wassalam said that there are no blessed days in which the performance of good deeds is more beloved to Allah taala than the first ten days of Zil-hijja (Bukhari) (Ibn Majah).
- (2) Narrated Ibn Abbas (RA): The Prophet said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Zil-hijja)." Then some companions of the Prophet said, "Not even Jihad?" He replied, "Not even Jihad, except that of a man who does it by putting himself and his property in danger (for Allah's sake) and does not return with any of those things." (Reported by Tirmidhi)
- (3) Aboo Hurayrah radiyallahu anhu related that Rasoolullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam said, "On no days is the worship of Allah desired more than in the (first) ten days of Zul-hijjah. The fast of each of these days is equal to the fast of a whole year, and the worship of each of these nights is equal to the worship of Laylatul Qadr." (Tirmidhi)
- (4) Abdullah Ibne 'Umar radiyallahu anhu related that Rasoolullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam said, "No days are as weighty with Allah and so liked by Him for good deeds than the first ten days of Zul-hijjah. So on these days increasingly read Subhānallah, Lā ilāha illallāh, Alhamdulillah and Allahu Akbar." (Musnad Ahmad)
- (5) The holy prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) use to fast during these ten days (Reported by Abu Dawood).

Fasting on the day of Arafah

Abu Qatadah (may Allah be pleased with him) is reported to have said that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "Fasting on the day of `Arafah is an expiation (of sins) for two years, the year preceding it and the year following it (reported by Muslim)

Takbir-ut-tashriq

Beginning from the Fajr of the 9th Zul-hijjah up to the 'Asr prayer of the 13th, it is obligatory on each Muslim to recite the Takbir of Tashriq after every fard prayer in the following words.

“Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illallahu, Wallahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa lillahilhamd”

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَ لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

The following acts are sunnah on the day of Eid-ul-adha:

1. To wake up early in the morning
2. To clean one's teeth with a miswak or brush
3. To take a bath
4. To put on one's best available clothes
5. To use perfume
6. Not to eat before the Eid prayer (on Eidul Adha)
7. To eat something sweet on Eidul Fitr, in odd numbers, for example, dates
8. To recite the Takbir of Tashriq in a loud voice while going to the Eid prayer
9. To use a different route on returning to that used when going to the masjid

The Sunnah of Ibraahem alayhi salaam - the Qurbaani.

This is to be performed on 10th, 11th or 12th Zul-hijjah. One may sacrifice a thousand animals on days other than these, but it will never be regarded or considered a Qurbaani.

Here, a believer is taught a great lesson that an action or a place or a time does not hold any virtue in itself; but rather it is Allah's command and order that changes the status, level and grade of things. Regarding Qurbaani, the Prophet sallallahu alayhi wasallam said:

"There is nothing dearer to Allah during the days of Qurbaani than the sacrificing of animals. The sacrificed animal shall come on the Day of Judgement with its horn, hair, and hooves (to be weighed). The sacrifice is accepted by Allah before the blood reaches the ground, therefore sacrifice with an open and happy heart" (Tirmidhi V1 pp275), (Ibne Maajah V1 pp226).