

THE VIRTUES MONTH OF ZIL HIJJAH

By E ISLAM TEAM

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IMPORTANCE OF FIRST TEN DAYS OF ZIL-HIJJAH

The first ten days of Zul Hijjah are among the most magnificent days in Islamic calendar. The Messenger of Allah, Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam said: *"There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days."*(Hadith -Bukhari)

Almighty Allah Ta'ala says, *(By the dawn; by the ten nights)* (Quran-Al-Fajr 89: 1-2). Ibn `Abbas, ibn az-Zubayr, Mujahid and others of the earlier and later generations are of the opinion that this refers to the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. Ibn Kathir said: "This is the correct opinion." (*Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, 8/413)

The Messenger of Allah, Sallallaahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, has said, *"One fast during these days is equal to the fasting of one complete year, and the worship of one night during this period is equal to the worship of "Lailatul-Qadr".*(Hadith-Tirmizi)

Every Muslim should avail oneself of this wonderful opportunity by performing as much Ibadah (acts of worship) as he or she can during this period.

THE TAKBEERAAT OF TASHREEQ

It is Wajib (incumbent) for every adult Muslim male to recite the Takbeeraat of Tashreeq after every Fardh Salaat-performed with Jamaat or individually from the Fajr of the 9th of Zul-Hijjah to the Asr of the 13th of Zul Hijjah. The Takbeeraat should be recited once only.

The words of the Takbeeraat of Tashreeq are as follows:

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

Transliteration: Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar laa ilaha illallahu wallahu akbar. Allahu Akbar walillaahil hamd.

Translation: "Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest. There is no deity besides Allah and Allah is the Greatest. Allah is the Greatest and all praises belong to Him Alone."

NB. Men should recite this Takbeer audibly whilst females should do so softly.

FASTING ON THE DAY OF ARAFAH (9 ZIL HIJJAH)

It was reported from Abu Qutaadah that the Messenger of Allah(peace be upon him) was asked about **fasting on the Day of 'Arafah** (9 Zil Hijjah). He said, **"It atones for the sins of the previous year and of the coming year."** (Hadith-Muslim)

QURBANI / UDHIYYA

Hazrat Zaid bin Arqam (R.A.) reports that the Companions of Rasulullah (Sallalaho alihe wassallam) asked him:

" Oh Prohpet of Allah (pbuh), what is this sacrifice?" He said: "It is the way of your forefather Ibrahim(AS) ." They asked: "**What (reward) is for us therein?**" He replied: "**There is a reward for every hair** (i.e. the reward for meat and useful parts of the animal's body will be very lofty in merit, but there will also be a great reward for the parts which are useless and thrown away such as the hair)." They asked: "For the wool, Ya Rasulullah?" He replied: "**There is one reward for every strand of wool.**"
(Hadith:Ahmed, Ibn Majah)