



أَحَبُّ الْأَيَّامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ

THE MOST BELOVED DAYS TO ALLAH

All praises are due to Allah. Anything good is from Allah and any mistakes are from ourselves and the shaitan. May Allah forgive us.

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
لَا حُوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

أَحَبُّ الْأَيَّامِ إِلَى اللَّهِ

THE MOST BELOVED DAYS TO ALLAH TEN DAYS OF DHUL HIJJAH

29 JUNE 2022 | 30 DHUL QU'DA 1443 | HAJJ SPECIAL

INTRODUCTION

- We are waiting for the ten days of Dhul Hijjah and we find the preparation for each year is special and customized.
- Notice how Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) taught us the Name of Al 'Aleem – The All-Knower before entering the Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah. And it shows before coming to anything, we do not know, but only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows.

- If we feel we already know about the Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah and we already know what we need to do because we have the list from the last year, then we will not benefit, we will not witness scenes, we will not unlock treasures.
- The Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah is to witness to the greatest testimony which is (اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ). And we cannot witness to it if we feel we know.
- The trial of knowledge can stop us from sacrificing our desires. And only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows what is our desire. Only He knows what we need to overcome, what we need to do, what we need to leave behind and what we need to take with us. We do not know, but only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows.
- The journey of the first Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah is not like the journey of the last Ten Nights of Ramadan.

- Here it is at the start of the month, for Ramadan it is the end of the month. It is an end for our desires and a new start for us.
- No one is worthy of attachment or praise because Allahu Akbar – Allah is the Greatest.

WE ARE ALL MISGUIDED, HUNGRY AND NAKED UNLESS ALLAH GUIDES US, FEEDS US AND CLOTHES US

يَا عِبَادِي كُلُّكُمْ ضَالٌّ إِلَّا مَنْ هَدَيْتُهُ فَاسْتَهْدُونِي أَهْدِكُمْ يَا عِبَادِي
 كُلُّكُمْ جَائِعٌ إِلَّا مَنْ أَطْعَمْتُهُ فَاسْتَطِعْمُونِي أَطْعِمْكُمْ يَا عِبَادِي كُلُّكُمْ
 عَارٍ إِلَّا مَنْ كَسَوْتُهُ فَاسْتَكْسُونِي أَكْسُوكُمْ

My servants, all of you are liable to err except one whom I guide on the right path, so seek right guidance from Me so that I should direct you to the right path. O My servants, all of you are hungry (needy) except one whom I feed, so beg food from Me, so that I may give that to you. O My servants, all of you are naked (need clothes) except one

whom I provide garments, so beg clothes from Me, so that I should clothe you.¹

- This hadith shows we are nothing and this is the best state to feel we do not know, we are empty, we have no belongings, but Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows, He guides us and He takes care of us.
- In these days, we want to see that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Al 'Aziz Al Hakeem (The All-Mighty The All-Wise), Rabb Al 'Alameen (Lord of the Worlds), Al Hayy Al Qayoom (The Ever-Living, The Self-Sustaining Master), Al 'Aliy Al Adheem (The Most High, The Most Great), Al Awwal Al Akhir Adh Dhahir Al Batin (The First, The Last, The Apparent, The Hidden), Dhul Jalaali wal Ikraam (Owner of Majesty and Honor). And we want to see that He is

¹ Sahih Muslim 2577

Al Ahad As Samad (The One, The Most Solid) who is not born to anyone and no one is born from Him, and there is no one like Him.

- We want to witness to the greatest testimony – to (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ). We want to witness to the greatest thing in life which is to be a slave of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We do not want anything in our mind to block us from enjoying this time.

THE MOST BELOVED DAYS TO ALLAH

- We are now welcoming the most beloved days to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and any deeds done in this time are more beloved to Him. So it is all about love and feelings for Him; it is not about timetables.
- The accepted hajj is not only about fulfilling rituals and doing things according to schedule. It is about coming across delays, it is about someone comes

and pushes our buttons, it is about accepting what decree comes to us so that we learn. It is not about knowing everything.

- We never want to be someone like a machine who is empty. Dhul Hijjah comes in a time when everyone is busy in their life, and when it comes, it is not about how strong or brave we may be. It is to see how much we love Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and how much we make Him Akbar (Greatest) in our life. He is greater than anything we think is great in our life.
- This is a time when we are in the middle of desires, tasks, problems and trials. And from this, we want to make Allahu Akbar.
- Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The All-Knower to know what we magnify in our mind. Anything we make big in our life, we make tawaf for it, we make sa'ee for it,

we sleep for it and we even “stone” others for it, subhan Allah.

- We are a human and we need to work with feelings because what inspires us are feelings. What makes us end a page and start a new chapter? It is the feelings.
- We see how Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) loves His creation, He values them though they are His slaves. So we should magnify Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th day of Dhul Hijjah, and on 9th day of Dhul Hijjah, we renew our contract for whatever we are doing for Him. Whether it is the prayer, fasting, acquiring knowledge or calling others to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), whatever He opened for us, it is the time to renew our contract, so we should accept the nurturing from Him.

SURAH AL 'ARAAF 172

وَإِذْ أَخَذَ رَبُّكَ مِنْ بَنِي آدَمَ مِنْ ظُهُورِهِمْ وَأَشْهَدَهُمْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ
 أَلَسْتُ بِرَبِّكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَىٰ شَهِدْنَا أَنْ تَقُولُوا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّا كُنَّا عَنْ
 هَذَا غَافِلِينَ

And [mention] when your Lord took from the children of Adam - from their loins - their descendants and made them testify of themselves, [saying to them], "Am I not your Lord?" They said, "Yes, we have testified." [This] - lest you should say on the day of Resurrection, "Indeed, we were of this unaware."

- All that takes place in the year and all that has taken place in our life from the time we are born, then we accept it. Where we lived, where we went to school, where and what we worked, who we married, and so forth are all nurturing for us, but the "fast track" of nurturing is when He opened the gates of knowledge.

SURAH AZ ZUMAR 9

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو

الْأَلْبَابِ

Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, "Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding.

- The Day of 'Arafah is the day when Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) forgives the sins of all those who go to hajj, and for those who did not go to hajj. It is to remember how Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) nurtured them and took care of them that year.
- The Day of 'Arafah is also called (عید) “eid” because it comes and is repeated again. So when

the Day of 'Arafah comes, it is the day of renewing that contract.

◦ May Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) make us from the مخبteen) which means someone who does not know, has no ability, but is in a state of complete submission to his Lord.

MUKHBITEEN – UTMOST SUBMISSION

SURAH HUD 23

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَأَخْبَتُوا إِلَى رَبِّهِمْ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ
الْجَنَّةِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

Indeed, they who have believed and done righteous deeds and humbled themselves to their Lord - those are the companions of Paradise; they will abide eternally therein.

◦ They will not say, “this is my opinion, why did this happen” because there is no time for this in hajj, there is no time for arguing because it is just a few

days. But overcoming this will change us 360 degrees, just as those who return from hajj, they return as newborns.

- Sometimes people want a “makeover” in their life, so they go to a weight camp, and they return as being “ten or twenty years younger”, but returning from hajj is to return as a newborn. And this is the best makeover we can have which is to be someone simple, cute, who does not argue, and the smallest things make us happy. If we get upset, we are quick to overcome it. Everyone attends to us and the baby just wants milk from its mother. The baby does not even know who will carry them, but they accept. It is all to go back to the fitra (our natural disposition).
- But with life, our fitra starts to get covered, so we become quick to get irritated, we become sensitive, unaccepting, inflexible, greedy and

wanting more. The more we are far away from the fitra, the more we become “unnatural”.

◦ The transformation of the 9th of Dhul Hijjah and the renewal of the contract is with:

BEST DUA ON THE DAY OF 'ARAFAH

عَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ شُعَيْبٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ جَدِّهِ، أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ " خَيْرُ الدُّعَاءِ دُعَاءُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ وَخَيْرُ مَا قُلْتُ أَنَا وَالنَّبِيُّونَ مِنْ قَبْلِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ "

Amr bin Shu'aib narrated from his father, from his grandfather, that the Prophet (صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم) said: “The best of supplication is the supplication of the Day of Arafah. and the best of what I and the Prophet before me have said is:

(La Ilaha Illallah, Wahdahu La Sharika Lahu, Lahul-Mulku Wa Lahul-Hamdu, Wa Huwa Ala Kulli Shai'in Qadir). ’

None has the right to be worshipped but Allah, Alone, without partner, to Him belongs all that

exists, and to Him belongs the Praise, and He is able to do all things.²

◦ In the last ten nights of Ramadan, we make constant dua for Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) to pardon us, though we do not know when the Night of Decree will take place. But for the Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah, we know when is the Day of ‘Arafah and each day of Dhul Hijjah is like taking a step up the stairs. And we need that training with the takbeerat:

TAKBEERAT – PROCLAIMING THE GREATNESS OF ALLAH

الله أكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

الله أكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلَلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, Allahu akbar , Laa
ilaaha ill-Allaah

² - Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3585

Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, wa Lillaah il-hamد
 Allah is Most Great , Allah is Most Great, Allah is
 Most Great , There is no god but Allah
 Allah is Most Great Allah is Most Great and to Allah
 is all praise

- The more we say it, the more it becomes a part of us until we reach ‘Arafah, and the word ‘arafah means something recognized and known.
- Someone might say, “I cannot do something”, but some can pray, some can fast, some can help others, some give charity, some forgive in these ten days, so we should do whatever we know and is opened for us. And something we can all do is remember Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).
- So after hajj, we will always remember Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), think of Him and remember Him wherever we may be.

- Remembering Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is not only with our tongue, but with our heart. We never want to be negligent or heedless, and when we remember Him with our heart, we will be satisfied and at peace.

SURAH AR RA'AD 28

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُ قُلُوبُهُمْ إِلَّا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُ الْقُلُوبُ

Those who believed (in the Oneness of Allah - Islamic Monotheism), and whose hearts find rest in the remembrance of Allah: verily, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest.

- We can be restless and all over the place before these days. And then different whispers and worries come about, but then we reach a point we no longer want to indulge in it because now is the time when many “files” can change. It is the end of the year, and as if an “audit” takes place,

handovers take place, exchanges and renewals take place.

- When we are so deep into helping others, it can be so “operational” and then we become fussy if things are delayed. The “operation” part of something, even if it is good deeds, no longer makes us soft or smiling.
- The hajj comes in a time when there are many things going on around us, and any deed is beloved to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). And this is out of His mercy because He knows we can be so rigid with “plans and timetables”, so He kept it open. Any good deed is beloved to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) in these days. Unlike in Ramadan when it specifically mentions fasting Ramadan, praying the night prayer and establishing the Night of Decree.

DEEDS IN THE TEN DAYS OF DHUL HIJJAH ARE MOST BELOVED TO ALLAH

وعن ابن عباس رضي الله عنهمما قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "ما من أيام العمل الصالح فيها أحب إلى الله من هذه الأيام" يعني أيام العشر

(Ibn 'Abbas (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, "There are no days during which the righteous action is more beloved to Allah than these days (i.e., the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah)."³

- So now we are not talking about multiplication of rewards, but we are talking about it being the most beloved to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). And this changes our calculation of how we want to be with Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

³ Riyahd As Saliheen Al- Bukhari - Book 9, Hadith 1249

- When we renew our contract on the Day of 'Arafah, only He knows what nurturing we need. He is our Rabb so He will take care of us in the best way to return back to our fitra.
- We can get used with life and in the end it is to believe that Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is Ar Rabb. We need to be someone who is flexible even while doing our rituals.
- We need to be someone who only magnifies Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). We do not magnify ourselves, people, problems, evil, the shaitan, our sins or desires. We do not want to be that fussy slave.
- When a mother has fussy children, what does she do? She disciplines them and rewards them if they do good.
- The mukhbiteen are those who submit to the blessings, decrees and commands of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى)

وتعالى). An example of submitting to the blessings is when we are told before leaving the house, “take a bottle of water with you”, and we say, “no I’m in a hurry”. And we leave and we find ourselves in need of that bottle of wish; we wish we had listened.

- Even if there is a command we know, we still submit to it. And when a decree comes, we submit to it, because we do not know how much good will come. Then it becomes easier to “slaughter our desire” and stone our one enemy common to all of us, which is the shaitan.
- So when we are truly mukhbiteen and are in total submission we will say:

NO HAS THE RIGHT TO BE WORSHIPPED
EXCEPT ALLAH

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ

شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ"

(*La Ilaha Illallah, Wahdahu La Sharika Lahu, Lahul-Mulku Wa Lahul-Hamdu, Wa Huwa Ala Kulli Shai'in Qadir*). '

None has the right to be worshipped but Allah, Alone, without partner, to Him belongs all that exists, and to Him belongs the Praise, and He is able to do all things.⁴

- Then we will be a newborn and it will be easy to "slaughter our desire", and "stone our enemy" for three days. And then we can eat and drink with ease.
- The hajj is to stop counting and worrying because Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) is The Greatest, so we attach to

⁴ - *Jami` at-Tirmidhi* 3585

Him out of magnification. And when we magnify Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), it will elevate us in the right way, and we praise Him and He will increase us.

◦ So anything we do in the Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah, we need to believe it is more beloved to Allah (سبحانه وتعالى). As for those going to hajj, then they will perform the rituals but while remembering Allah (سبحانه وتعالى), they will say:

I AM AT YOUR SERVICE O ALLAH

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ، لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ، إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ
لَكَ وَالْمُلْكُ، لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

Labbayk-Allāhumma labbayk, labbayka lā sharīka
laka labbayk, inna 'l-ḥamda, wanni`mata, laka wa
'l-mulk, lā sharīka lak.

I am here at Your service, O Allah, I am here at Your service. I am here at Your service, You have no partner, I am here at Your service. Surely the praise,

and blessings are Yours, and the dominion. You have no partner.⁵

- And even if we are not going to hajj, attending the study circles is the reward of hajj.

REWARD OF HAJ FOR ATTENDING THE STUDY CIRCLES

أَن رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: ((مَنْ غَدَ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ لَا يُرِيدُ إِلَّا أَنْ يَتَعَلَّمَ خَيْرًا أَوْ يُعْلَمَ كَانَ لَهُ كَأْجَرُ حَاجَ تَامًا حَجَّتْهُ))

The Messenger of Allah (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

"Whoever goes to the mosque wanting to learn good or teaching it then he will have the reward of hajj, a complete hajj."⁶

THE NAFS AT REST

- We want to be someone who is at rest. We all want a new dawn, we all want a new us. We want to

⁵ Muslim 2/841

⁶ Sahih At Targheeb 86, Authenticated by Al Albani as Hasan Sahih

return to our Rabb, entering with His righteous slaves and His paradise.

SURAH AL FAJR 27 TO 30

27

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَةُ

[To the righteous it will be said], "O reassured soul,

28

اِرْجِعِي إِلَى رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَةً

Return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing [to Him],

29

فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي

And enter among My [righteous] servants

30

وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي

And enter My Paradise."

○ The most tranquil time is the fajr time and in the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah, if we only magnify Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not something else, then we will

be at peace. We do not want to “repeat the year” because we did not magnify Allah (سبحانه وتعالى).

- In these ten days, there is the nafs and the shaitan that we need to overcome, and that is by pushing everything and magnifying Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) by repeating the takbeer and working on our heart and feelings.
- Then we can truly sacrifice our desire and be a new person with new openings in our life. We want a better person every year; we do not want to remain the same.
- When we come out of Ramadan, we should come out as muttaqeen (those who do not follow their desires), as when we come out of the ten days of Dhul Hijjah we want to come out as a nafs at rest, entering with the special slaves of Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and entering His paradise.

PLEASED WITH ALLAH AS OUR RABB

رَضِيْتُ بِاللّٰهِ رَبِّاً وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِيْنًا وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ نَبِيًّاً.

Raḍītu billāhi Rabba, wa bil-Islāmi dīna, wa bi-Muḥammadin (ṣallallāhu `alayhi wa sallama) nabiyya.

I am pleased with Allah as my Lord, with Islam as my religion, and with Muhammad (ﷺ) as my Prophet.⁷

DIVINE NURTURING LESSONS

- The Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah is to witness to the greatest testimony which is (اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ). And we cannot witness to it if we feel we know.
- The trial of knowledge can stop us from sacrificing our desires. And only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows what is our desire. Only He knows what we need to

⁷ At-Tirmidhi 5/465

overcome, what we need to do, what we need to leave behind and what we need to take with us. We do not know, but only Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) knows.

- He is greater than anything we think is great in our life.
- The most tranquil time is the fajr time and in the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah, if we only magnify Allah (سبحانه وتعالى) and not something else, then we will be at peace.

MAY ALLAH MAKE US AMONG THOSE WHO MAGNIFY HIM, ARE PLEASED WITH HIM AND BECOME THE NAFS AT REST. AMEEN.

REFERENCES

1. 1- تفسير الشيخ السعدي - TAFSEER SHEIKH AS SA'ADY



RELATED RESOURCES

1. 1. TEN DAYS OF DHUL HIJJAH
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