

Good deeds on the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah

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In the name of Allaah and peace and blessings of Allaah be upon the Prophet Mohammad (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam).

No doubt, the special seasons of good deeds are an opportunity to maximize deeds and utilize this time as a faith-recharging zone by Allaah's Permission and Help.

The good deeds done in the first ten days are more beloved, purer to Allaah, better in virtues and more rewarding. And for all these four attributes we have authentic evidence.

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، عَنِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَنَّهُ قَالَ " مَا الْعَمَلُ فِي أَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ [أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ] أَفْضَلَ مِنْ الْعَمَلِ فِي هَذِهِ ". قَالُوا وَلَا الْجِهَادُ قَالَ " وَلَا الْجِهَادُ، إِلَّا رَجُلٌ خَرَجَ يُخَاطِرُ بِنَفْسِهِ وَمَالِهِ فَلَمْ يَرْجِعْ بِشَيْءٍ " .
On the authority of Ibn `Abbas: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Dhul Hijja)." Then some companions of the Prophet (ﷺ) 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." [Bukhari]

ما من عمل أركى عند الله عز وجل ، ولا أعظم أجراً من خير) "يعمله في عشر الأضحى"

No deed is purer to Allah, and more rewarding in goodness than [the deeds] done in the ten days of Al-Adha.

الدَّارِمِيُّ // قَالَ : وَكَانَ سَعِيدُ بْنُ جُبَيْرٍ إِذَا دَخَلَ أَيَّامَ الْعَشْرِ اجْتَهَدَ اجْتِهَادًا شَدِيدًا حَتَّى مَا يَكَادُ يَقْدِرُ عَلَيْهِ

In the version of Sunan ad-Darimee it is reported that Said ibn jubayr [a successor] used to become very active during the ten days until he almost became unable to do more out of tiredness.

It is important to emphasize the following points:

- These deeds include all the deeds of day and night.
- These deeds include obligatory and optional. (for example: all the daily 5 times prayer is obligatory and is beloved to Allaah. But the 5

times prayer during the 1st ten days of dhul hijjah are more beloved to Allaah than 5 times prayer on any other days...

- These deeds of course exclude any deed that is not prescribed in the sunnah. Example: Qiyam al layl in jama'ah during these nights, i'tikaaf on these days and nights, gathering in the masjid on the night of 'Arafah, visiting graves on the day of arafah and Eid etc... qiyam al layl in jama'ah on these days....

We must also remember, unless there is evidence, we can't specify a certain deed for these days and legislate them. So in general, what is allowed on any day is allowed in these ten days.

There is specific evidence for specific actions that are legislated for some of these ten days and some of these legislated deeds are only for specific days at specific times! The following are all from the authentic sunnah:

- **Hajj and Umrah:** As for hajj, only during specific days of dhul hijjah, as for umrah, it can be done on any other days...
- **Fasting:** It is reported that the Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) used to fast the 9 days of Dhul Hijjah. However, the most important day to fast is the day of 'Arafah, 9th of Dhul Hijjah. Fasting the day of 'Arafah will expiate the sins of the past and the next year [from the report of Sahih Muslim]. The fasting of 'Arafah is only prescribed for the non-Hajjis.

We must keep in mind that if we are doing optional fasting, then Saturday is a day of prohibition for optional fasting. As for Friday, there is a specific rule. If this fasting of Friday is a habitual one, we don't couple it with a day before or after. But if it is not a habitual day of fasting, then we must couple either with Thursday or with Saturday (in which case it will be an obligatory fasting)

- **Unrestricted takbeer at all time without specification:** This is based upon the authentic report from the practice of Ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurayrah, they used to go to the market in the first ten days and would recite the takbeer and the people would make takbeer with
- **Special takbeer after every obligatory prayer starting from the Fajr of Day of Arafah to 'Asr of the 13th of Dhul Hijjah:** On the Authority of Shaqeeq, 'Alee (Ibn Abee Taalib) used to make takbeer after salat al fajr on the day of Arafah to Salat Al-Asr of the last day of Tashreeq and would make takbeer after 'Asr. [Ibn Abee Shaybah and Bayhaqi, Sheikh Albani graded the chain as good] Similar practice

has been authentically recorded from Ibn Mas'ud and Ibn 'Abbas [see Irwa 654].

- **Eid Day Takbeer:** This takbeer starts from the time we leave home and ends with the Imam coming to lead the prayer [similar to the day of Eid Al-Fitr]. All the takbeerat (of different occasions) shouldn't be made in unison. Appointing a person and chanting with him in a chorus is a bid'ah/innovation that scholars of the past and present have pointed out.
- **Praying the Eid Prayer**
- **Listening to the Eid khutbah**
- **Giving charity after Khutbah (Specially by women):** After the general Eid Khutbah, the Prophet (Sallalallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) used to reach out to the women and address them specifically and would encourage them to give charity by saying " تَصَدَّقُوا تَصَدَّقُوا تَصَدَّقُوا " "Give charity, give charity, give charity" [Sahih Muslim, Hadith Abu Sa'eed Al-Khudriy]
- **Distribution of this charity to the poor people:** Ibn 'Abbas reported that this money was distributed to the faqeer. [Saheeh Sunan Abee Dawud]
- **Slaughtering Udhiya:** This is one of the unique 'ebaadah during the occasion of this 'Eid. Eating from this meat, sharing and feeding others is from the sunnah of the Messenger of Allaah (Sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam).
- **Sending animal to mecca as gift to be slaughtered there**
- **Refraining from cutting the nails and hair for the ones who have an animal for udhiya.** This is applicable for all the members of the household. [we have a separate handout for this topic]

Of course, in general any other deeds that are usually allowed on any normal days, we should try to perform those deeds as much as possible during these blessed days.

May Allaah give us the tawfeeq to do more for His sake and May Allaah forgive us, our parents, our families, forefathers and our progeny until the day of Judgment. Ameen