

The merits of the First Ten Days of Dhul-Hijjah

The First Ten Days of *Dhul-Hijjah* are special days of worship and devotion to Allah (SWT). Allah, the Almighty, emphasized their importance, by saying, "By the dawn, and by the ten nights." (Qur'an 89: 1-2) According to Ibn `Abbas, Mujahid and many others, this refers to the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.

The Prophet (PBUH), "*There are no days in which righteous deeds are more loved by Allaah than these days, i.e. first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.*" Some of the companions asked: "Not even *Jihaad*?" The prophet ﷺ replied, "*Not even jihaad, except that of a man who went to (Jihaad) with all of his wealth and never returned.*" [Recorded by Al-Bukhaari and others]

It is recommendable to do get closer to Allah with righteous deeds during them especially Dhikr (remembrance of Allah) during these days. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "There are no days that are greater in the sight of Allah nor is righteous deeds more beloved to Allah during them than these ten days; therefore do a lot of *Takbeer* (saying Allahu Akbar), *Tahmeed* (saying Alhamdulillah) and *Tahleel* (saying la ilaha illa Allah during them." [Recorded by At-Tabarani]

Fasting the first nine days of Dhul-Hijjah is also recommendable and was observed by the Prophet (PBUH). Some of the wives of the Prophet (PBUH) narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) used to fast nine days of Dhul-Hijjah." [Recorded by An-Nasaa'i and Abu Dawood, and graded as authentic by Al-Albaani]

Fasting the 9th day of Dhul-Hijjah has a special merit. The prophet was asked about fasting on the day [of *Arafah*], and he replied, "*It wipes off the sins of the last year and this year.*" [Recorded by Muslim]

It is also highly recommended - some scholars consider it is *Waajib* - that whoever wanted to make sacrifice not to cut his hair or clip his nails when the new moon of Dhul-Hijjah is sighted. The prophet (PBUH): "*When the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah start and one of you has intended to offer a sacrifice, he should refrain from cutting his hair or clipping his nails.*" [Recorded by Ahmad and Muslim] This applies to the head of the household and not to the rest of the family.