



Darul Arqam Educational Trust

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The Days of *Arafah*, *Eid* & *Tashriq*

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الحمد لله والصلاة والسلام على رسول الله وعلى آله وصحبه ومن اهتدى بهداه

The Best Day of the Year

The magnificent ten days of *Dhu'l-Hijjah* are almost over and we are approaching their climax, which is the Day of *Arafah* (9th *Dhu'l-Hijjah*). On this day there is an immense outpouring of divine mercy and bounty and it is considered by many scholars to be the best day of the year.

The Prophet ﷺ said there is no day in which *Allah* saves more people from the fire than the Day of *Arafah*.¹ It has also been narrated that anyone who has an atom's weight of faith in their heart will be forgiven by *Allah* on this day, whether or not they actually stand at *Arafah*.²

The Messenger of *Allah* ﷺ taught those not on *Hajj* to fast on this day with the promise that this would wipe away the wrongdoings of the previous year and the wrongdoings of the year to come.³ What is meant by the wrongdoings of the coming year being wiped out? The scholars mention that it is either protection from falling into them in the coming year or that if we fall into them we are forgiven. The wrongdoings mentioned are "minor" sins between a person and *Allah*, not cases where one person has wronged another. This is an immense gift from *Allah* to the *Ummah* of His Beloved ﷺ.

We should also turn to *Allah* to ask for forgiveness and for our needs to be answered, especially in the afternoon of this day. In doing so we imitate the people standing at *Arafah*, to whom forgiveness is guaranteed, and we ask *Allah* to give to us what He is giving to them. As the Prophet ﷺ said: "The one who imitates a people is one of them."⁴

We should apportion some time to recitation of the *Qur'an* (especially *Surat al-Ikhlās*), invoking prayers upon the Prophet ﷺ, and other forms of remembrance, particularly *tahlil*, or proclaiming the oneness of *Allah*. The Prophet ﷺ said: "The best *du`a* is the *du`a* of the Day of *Arafah*. The best thing which I and the Prophets before me have said is:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَ لَهُ الْحَمْدُ وَ هُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

¹ Narrated by Muslim, al-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah

² Narrated by Abu Daud

³ Narrated by Muslim, Ahmad, Abu Daud and al-Nasa'i

⁴ Narrated by Abu Daud and Ahmad

[“There is no god but *Allah*, alone, He has no partners. To Him belongs the dominion and all praise and He has power over all things.”⁵]



Sayyiduna `Ali رضي الله عنه narrates that the supplication that the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم made most on the Day of *Arafah* was:

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ كَأَلَّذِي نَقُولُ وَخَيْرًا مِمَّا نَقُولُ اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ
وَمَمَاتِي وَإِلَيْكَ مَأْبِي وَلَكَ رَبُّ تُرَاثِي اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ عَذَابِ الْقَبْرِ وَوَسْوَسَةِ
الصَّدْرِ وَشَتَاتِ الْأَمْرِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا تَهْبُ بِهِ الرِّيحُ

[“O *Allah* to You belongs all praise, as we praise You and better than that. O *Allah* my prayer, worship, life and death are for You, and to You is my return. Everything I possess, my Lord, returns to You. O *Allah* I seek refuge in You from the punishment of the grave, the whispering of the devil and from my affairs being in disarray. O *Allah* I seek refuge in You from the evil which the wind carries”⁶]

If it is possible to gather with a group of people at this time then the reward is greater and the chance of acceptance is higher. This was the way of Sayyiduna `Abdullah Ibn `Abbas رضي الله عنه and other companions and it is a tradition in Tarim where hundreds gather in an open square after *Asr* to remember *Allah* and make *du`a* until *Maghrib*.

Eid Takbirs and the Night Before Eid

The Messenger of *Allah* صلى الله عليه وسلم taught us to fill these blessed days and nights with the remembrance of *Allah* generally and specifically with the takbir in which we express *Allah*'s greatness and transcendence. He صلى الله عليه وسلم said : “Beautify your *Eid* days with the *takbir*.”⁷ It is recommended to make the *takbir* after every prayer (*fard* or *nafl*) from *Fajr* on the Day of *Arafat* (9th *Dhu'l-Hijjah*) until *Asr* on the 13th, the final day of the three Days of *Tashriq*. This year the Day of `Arafat in Saudi Arabia is on Saturday, *Eid* is on Sunday and the final day of the Days of *Tashriq* is Wednesday.

We should also fill the night before *Eid* with *takbir* from *Maghrib* up until the *Eid* prayer. On the night of *Eid* only the *takbir* is not limited to being read after the prayer, but rather it should be read at all times in our houses and mosques and in the streets (without causing disturbance). We should

⁵ Narrated by al-Tirmidhi

⁶ Narrated by al-Tirmidhi

⁷ Narrated by al-Tabarani

read it with our hearts filled with the greatness of *Allah* so that we are not merely repeating words without experiencing their meaning.

It is a *sunna* to give life to the night before *Eid*, meaning spending whatever time we are able in worship and remembrance such that the night comes alive. The least we should do is to pray *Maghrib*, *Isha* and *Fajr* in congregation. The mosques of *Tarim* fill in the second half of the night with people reading the *Qur'an* in groups, praying and making *takbir* together at intervals. At the end of the night everyone comes together for a *khatm* and *du`a*.

It is mentioned in the *hadith* that if someone gives life to the nights before the two *Eids Allah* will give life to his heart on the day when hearts die.⁸ What is primarily meant is safety on the Day of Judgement but even in this life the majority of people's hearts are dead, starved of the remembrance of *Allah* and heedless of the return to Him. Remembering *Allah* on nights such as these, however, when most people are busy with other things, will give life and tranquillity to our hearts.

There are different forms of the *takbir*. Here is one of them:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ , لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ , اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كَبِيرًا
وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ كَثِيرًا وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا .

(three times)

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ لَا نَعْبُدُ إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْكَافِرُونَ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ صَدَقَ وَعْدُهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَأَعَزَّ جُنْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

[“*Allah* is most great, there is no god but Him, all praise belongs to Him. There is no god but Him and we worship none but Him in complete sincerity even if the disbelievers dislike it. There is no god but Him alone. He fulfilled His promise, gave victory to His slave, made mighty His forces and He alone destroyed the Confederates. *Allah* is most great, there is no god but Him, all praise belongs to Him.”]

The scholars say that whenever it is recommended to remember *Allah* it is also recommended to mention His Messenger ﷺ. Had it not been for him there would be no *`Arafat* or *Eid* or *Takbir*. For this reason we should add, in honour of our Messenger, his Companions, wives and progeny:

⁸ Narrated by Ibn Majah

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وعلى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وعلى أَصْحَابِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وعلى أَنْصَارِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وعلى أَزْوَاجِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وعلى ذُرِّيَّةِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ
وسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا

Sunnahs of Eid al-Adha

We should do what we are able to implement the other *sunnahs* of the *Eid*. Among them are taking a bath whether or not one is attending the *Eid* prayer and wearing one's best clothes and best perfume. The Messenger of *Allah* ﷺ had special garments that he would only wear on *Eid*. He would not eat or drink anything until after the *Eid* prayer and the first thing he ate was liver from the animal he had sacrificed. It is recommended to walk to the prayer, taking a longer route on the way there and returning by a different route. One should shake hands with one's brethren and congratulate them on the *Eid*. One should be especially generous to one's family, display one's happiness on the occasion and try to visit one's relatives and friends.

The Days of Tashriq

The three days following *Eid al-Adha* are the Days of *Tashriq* (the 11th, 12th and 13th of *Dhu'l-Hijjah*). These days are mentioned by *Allah* when He says: **Remember Allah during the Appointed Days.**⁹ The Messenger of *Allah* ﷺ described them as days of eating and drinking and remembrance of *Allah*.¹⁰ Fasting is thus forbidden on *Eid* and the Days of *Tashriq*. Just as we tried to draw close to *Allah* by fasting before *Eid*, we now draw close to Him by enjoying that which He has bestowed us with. All that the slave must do is obey the order of his Lord, knowing that therein is His pleasure and safety from following his own caprice.

⁹ *Al-Baqarah* 2.203

¹⁰ Narrated by Muslim, Ahmad and al-Nasa'i