

The Day of Arafah, Eid al-Adha and the Days of Tashreeq

The Best Day of the Year

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said the best of days is the day of 'Arafah. (*Ibn Hibban*) He also said, there is no day in which Allah saves more people from the fire than the Day of Arafah. (Muslim, al-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah). 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. (Abu Daud)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) taught those not on Hajj to fast on this day with the promise that this would wipe away the sins of the previous year and the sins of the year to come. (Muslim, Ahmad, Abu Daud and al-Nasa'i) What is meant by the sins 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 (peace and blessings be upon him).

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 said: "The one who imitates a people is one of them." (Abu Daud and Ahmad)

We should apportion some time to recitation of the Qur'an (especially *Surat al-Ikhlās*), invoking prayers upon the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), and other forms of remembrance, particularly *tahlil* (saying *Laa ilaaha illa Allah*) proclaiming the oneness of Allah. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) 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

Laa ilaaha illallaahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu, laahul mulku walahul hamdu, wa hua `alaa kulli shai-`in qadeer. ["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."] (at-Tirmidhi)

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 and other companions.

Eid Takbirs and the Night Before Eid

It is a sunnah to give life to the night before Eid, meaning spending whatever time we are able in worship and remembrance of Allah such that the night comes alive. The least we should do is to pray Maghrib, Isha and Fajr in congregation.

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. (Ibn Majah) 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 tranquility to our hearts.

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

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ. وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ. وَعَلَى أَصْحَابِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ. وَعَلَى أَنْصَارِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ. وَعَلَى أَزْوَاجِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ. وَعَلَى ذُرِّيَّةِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ. وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا

Or any other types of Durud and Salawaat upon the Prophet.

Recommended acts of Eid al-Adha

- ☑ Praying Fajr in Jamaah in the masjid
- ☑ Cleaning one's teeth with a siwak
- ☑ Taking a bath
- ☑ wearing one's best clothes and best perfume.
- ☑ not to eat or drink anything until after the Eid prayer
- ☑ Reciting Takbeer aloud on the way to Eid Prayer
- ☑ walking to the prayer
- ☑ returning from the prayer by a different route
- ☑ Shaking hands with one's brethren and congratulate them
- ☑ visiting one's relatives and friends.

Significance of Qurbani:

There is very great merit in qurbâni. Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wa sallam said: "During the days of qurbâni, Allah Ta'âla does not like any act more than qurbâni. In the days of qurbâni, the act of qurbâni is better than all other acts of piety. At the time of sacrificing the animal, this noble act is accepted by Allah Ta'âla before the blood of the animal can reach the ground. Therefore, make qurbâni happily and open-heartedly."

Rasulullah (Sallallahu-alayhi-wasallam) said, 'That person who has the means of performing Qurbani but does not do so should not even come near the Musalla (Place of Eid Salaat).

Rasulullah sallallahu alayhi wa sallam also said: "For every hair that is on the sacrificial animal, one reward is recorded for the person making the qurbâni."

SubhanAllah! Can there be a reward greater than this, that a person receives hundreds and thousands of rewards for just one single qurbâni!

Takbeer at-Tashriq

It is wajib (necessary) to recite takbir at-Tashreeq after every (fard) prayer from Fajr on the Day of Arafat (9th Dhu'l-Hijja) until Asr on the 13th, the final day of the three Days of Tashriq. This year the Day of 'Arafat is on Saturday, Eid is on Sunday and the final day of the Days of Tashriq is Wednesday. Women will have to recite this takbeer as well in a soft voice.

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

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ , لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ , وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ
(*Allahu akbar Allahu akbar, Laa ilaaha illallahu wallahu akbar Allahu akbar, walillaahil hamd.*)

[Allah is most great, there is no god but Him, all praise belongs to Him.]

The three days following Eid al-Adha are the Days of *Tashreeq*. These days are mentioned by Allah when He says: **Remember Allah during the Appointed Days**. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) described them as days of eating and drinking and remembrance of Allah. (Muslim)

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