



First
10 Days
of Dhul-Hijjah

The 10 days of Dhul Hijjah

Prophet Sallallaahu 3Alayhi wa sallam said:

"There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allaah than these ten days."

The people asked, "Not even jihaad for the sake of Allaah?"

He said, "Not even jihaad for the sake of Allaah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause, and came back with noth-ing."

(Reported by al-Bukhaari, 2/457)

لِيَاكُ الْمَهْمَلِيَّاتِ الْحُرُوْفُ الْغَضَبَةُ الْفَاءُ الْمَلِكُ لِشَرِيكَ

Transcribed from a lecture by Shaykh Muhammad Hussain Ya3qoob,
 “how to benefit from Blessed day of Dhul-Hijjah”.

Making The Most Of The Blessed Days Of Dhul-Hijjah

"By the ten nights." [Al- Fajr, v:2]

The "ten nights" which Allaah [subhaana wa ta"alaa] is swearing by here, are the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah. [1] Allaah [subhaana wa ta"alaa] swears an oath by them, and swearing an oath by something is indicative of its importance and great benefit.

Ibn „Abbas [radi Allaahu „anhu] narrated that Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] said: "There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allaah than these ten days".

He was asked: "Not even jihaad for the sake of Allaah?" He said: "Not even jihaad for the sake of Allaah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause, and came back with nothing." [2]

So, my sisters [and brothers] take note of the following:

Have the intention to spread this important information.

It is a great chance to collect uncountable hasanaat [rewards].

It is a great chance to renew your relation with Allaah [subhaana wa ta"alaa].

Prepare now so you can start from the first night/day of the month [i.e. as soon as Dhul-Hijjah is announced]. You don't want to miss a moment of the best days in the sight of Allaah [subhaana wa ta"alaa].

Since the Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] referred to the 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah as: "...no days better than these days in the sight of Allaah." [3], the scholars have said that these are better than Ramadan. [4]

Therefore, be very vigilant and don't waste these precious moments. Ask Allaah to help you to benefit from this period of His special Grace.

Ask yourself these questions [non-rhetorical]:

Did you intend to benefit from these days?

What have you done to prepare for these 10 days?

Did you prepare a program?

What is your plan of action?

Here is a brief guide to help you to prepare for the best days of the year

Read the Quu'aan:

Plan to complete the reading of the Qur'aan within this period.

If you read three juz (parts) a day, it can be accomplished. It is not difficult. Ask Allaah to make it easy for you. We know reciting one letter is equal to ten hasanaat [rewards]. If you read three juzz" everyday, it translates to thousands of millions of hasanaat.

Subhaan-Allaah!!

And this calculation is just based on the 1=10 ratio. These are special days of His Grace. Therefore, don't even think about how much Allaah can/will increase & add it for you. You cannot fathom it. He is Kareem. He knows that you have ikhlaas [sincerity]; He will not count it as 1=10. He could raise it to 1=700 or even more. And this is what you can earn every day of these special days.

Keep in mind that reciting the Qur'aan is a good deed and Allaah specially loves the good deeds done in these days: "And if He [subhaanahu wa ta'alaa] loves the good deeds, He will love the doer of those good deeds." [5] If Allaah loves someone, He will not punish them. Remember this concept so that the deeds you do come from your heart [don't be like a machine].

Honor the rights of the Qur'aan when reciting it.

Increase in Nawaafil Prayers:

Increase your supererogatory prayers.

Ask yourself these questions and make sure that your heart gives you sincere answers:

Do you have an aim?

Do you really want to be closer to Allaah?

Do you live with this craving?

Do you really love Allaah and seek His closeness?

If, you want this, then know that Allaah teaches you the means to gaining His qurb [closeness].

Allaah says: "Fall prostrate and draw near to Allaah!" [soorah Al-Ala, v:19]

This is the way! Prostrate in sujood to Him [subhaanahu wa ta'alaa] and you will be closer to Him. The Prophet [sall-Allaahu ,alayhi wa sallam] said: "The closest that a person is to his Lord is when he is prostrating, so say a great deal of du'aa then." [6]

He [sall-Allaahu ,alayhi wa sallam] is commanding us to make a lot of du'aa while in sujood. Are we obeying his order? Yes? We need to do more. For he [sall-Allaahu ,alayhi wa sallam] said to: "...make

lots of du"aa." Remember, the Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] loved us and he knew that we have a lot of needs from Allaah. This is why he taught us the way to get those needs fulfilled. Therefore, if you have needs, then you cannot leave sujood. Any sajdah without khushoo" [focus] & without du"aa [like your forehead is touching the ground and your mind is in the kitchen or the office] is a big khasaara [regretful loss].

Let us not be losers from now on bi-idhnillaah.

When the Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] instructed us to do a lot of sujood, it means to perform a lot of salaah [prayer]. "With each sajdah for Allaah, He will raise you a level with it. And cancel a sin with it." So, the more you increase in your sujood, the closer you are to being a winner.

Examples for increasing nawaafil salaah [voluntary prayers]:

a) Salaat Dhuha: Also known as al-Awwaabeen, may be offered as 2, 4, 6 or 8 rak"aat, prayed after the sun has risen and before the time for Dhuhr approaches. [7]

"Al-Awwaab" (باوائ) means one who is obedient, or one who turns to obedience. Bi-idhnillaah, we want to show Allaah that we are of those who are obedient.

b) 4 rak"aat before and 4 after Dhuhr: "Whoever regularly performs four rak"aat before Dhuhr and four after it, Allaah will forbid him to the Fire." [8]

c) 4 rak"aat before 'Asr: The Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] said: "May Allaah have mercy on those who pray four rak"aat before „Asr prayer." [9]

Bi-idhnillaah, you stand to gain the mercy of Allaah because of the du"aa of Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam].

Do you want the mercy of Allaah to reach you?

Don't leave these 4 rak"aat.

d) Tahhiyyatul masjid: Greet the masjid with two rak"aat: "If any one of you enters a masjid, he should pray two rak"aat before sitting." [10]

e) Salaat at-Tawbah: It could be any bad deed, any sin, you hear something bad [backbiting], you see something bad, you feel your heart constricted because of something you have done and you didn't mean it, etc, you can erase it immediately with your prayer of repentance. Make a good wudhoo" and offer two sincere rak"aat of repentance. Ask Allaah to forgive you. If it's from your heart, then know that Allaah will cancel your sin.

g) Qiyaam al-Layl: With this prayer, we hope that Allaah will illuminate our graves; will bestow noor on our faces; will cancel our bad deeds, bi-idhnillaah.

Pray at least two rak"aat. If you are able to follow the Sunnah, then pray all 11 rak"aat [including witr].

Remember that in these special days and nights, Allaah is sending His special mercy.

Do you think that this special mercy will reach everybody?

Do you think that it will reach the one who is in front of the TV watching a movie?

Or listening to music?

Or do you think it will reach the one who is making sujood, rukoo", tilaawah, making istighfaar, etc.?

We have to show Allaah that we want this special mercy. We need to make ourselves eligible for it.

Allâh [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] swears by the night [Soorah Fajr]. Therefore, take care of the nights.

Don't be among the losers. Write this in bold and make it your motivational factor for the special days:

"We won't be among the losers!

"

Remember: "Our Lord, may He be blessed and exalted, comes down to the lowest heaven every night

when the last third of the night is left, and He says: „Who will call upon Me, that I may answer him?

Who will ask of Me, that I may give him? Who will ask Me for forgiveness, that I may forgive him?." [11]

And, now that it is winter, we get really long nights. So it's a good chance to maximize our hasanaat.

Don't forget while you are praying qiyaam that Allaah [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] loves this deed.

Therefore, He [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] loves the doer of this deed also.

If we were lazy before, we will be active and good from now on bi-idhnillaaah. We will not be among the

losers. If these days and nights are a king who is distributing gifts of gold while announcing: "Come

take these gold nuggets", wAllaahi, you will find people standing in long queues and hordes to collect them.

Subhaan-'Allaah!! Allaah is sending [special] mercy during these days. He [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa]

is accepting supplications. He [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] is offering unimaginably wonderful blessings that we don't even know of.

So will we not work to get in those lines to gather Allaah's gifts?

Make lots of Dhikr:

Do a lot of dhikr, especially in these days.

"There are no days greater in the sight of Allaah..." [12]

So what did the Prophet [sall-Allaahu ,alayhi wa sallam] tell us to do in these days?

That, we need to make the dhikr of tahleel (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ), tahmeed (الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ) & takbeer (اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ).

[13] As soon as the announcement of Dhul-Hijjah is made, start your dhikr:

﴿ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ ﴾

"Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar, laa ilaaha ill-Allaah, Allaahu Akbar, Allaahu Akbar. Wa lillaahil-hamd."

Many people mistakenly believe that you chant this only on the day of Eed. But, it is meant to be recited from the beginning of Dhul-Hijjah.

Bukhaaree related that Ibn „Umar & Abu Hurayrah said that they used to go out in the streets making loud takbeer. They did not think that this was riyaah [showing off]. They were busy with declaring the signs of Allaah. This practice has now become a forgotten Sunnah.

Why do people feel shy to follow this Sunnah? These are the days of takbeer, tahleel & tahmeed with raised voices. Therefore revive this Sunnah by doing audible tasbeeh during all of the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.

For women, when you are in your homes, raise your voices. You will remind your children, husbands, brothers, etc. Make it like a habit so that you will find yourself doing dhikr automatically. While walking, reclining, working, eating, just keep doing dhikr.

Send a lot of blessings and salaam upon the Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] consistently. Just one hadeeth should be enough for the believer who loves [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam]. It is enough honor that when you send your salaam to Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] Allaah returns his soul to him in order to answer you: "There is no one who sends salaam upon me but Allaah will restore to me my soul so that I may return his salaam." [14]

Therefore, send your darood & salaam from your heart.

Feel that special honor in doing that deed.

Istighfaar:

All kinds of dhikr will make your relation with Allaah stronger and stronger. How many Muslims are there today? 1.5 billion? In one minute it is possible to gain 1.5 billion hasanaat.

Allaahu Akbar!!

How generous is Allah [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa].

No one will give you like Allaah [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] gives.

So how can you gain 1.5 million hasanât?

By making istighfaar [seeking forgiveness] for all Muslims. The Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] is reported to have said that when a person seeks forgiveness for all believers, Allaah will write for him a hasanaat for every one of those believers. [15]

Just say „Astaghfirullaah" for yourself and for all the believers, from your heart. Allaah [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] is forgiving & generous.

On the Day of Judgement, when you will see your book, you will find the record of your sins in it & you will feel regret. But, Subhaan-Allaah, you will find between these sins, Astaghfirullaah, Astaghfirullaah, Astaghfirullaah. Bi-idhnillaah. Allaah, the Kareem will cancel those sins that have istighfaar beside

them, around them, after them.

Indeed, rahamaat are falling down like rain. So try to be under those rahamaat. Look at it this way – there are seasons of mercy during which Allaah sends down abundant mercy [like during Ramadaan, like the days of Dhul-Hijjah, etc.]. Allaah is always generous because that is one of His [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] Attributes, but He says that He gives more during certain periods. Allaah is Raheem always, but He says He has more mercy during a certain period. These days are like those special-rate promotions or sale season. Therefore, don't leave or ignore this sale. Go and ask for more. Keep saying „astaghfirullaah“, „astaghfirullaah“, „astaghfirullaah“, keep insisting on it till Allaah forgives you.

Start from the beginning of Dhul-Hijjah.

“...nor will He punish them while they seek (Allaah"s) forgiveness.” [soorah Al-Anfaal, v:33]

We are informed that there is no punishment from [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] on the yastaghfiroon [i.e. those who seek forgiveness]. Allaah relieves all problems with istighfaar.

Those who are persistent in istighfaar in their lives, disasters and calamities will be repelled from them. Mercy is like a cloud on the head of the mustaghfiroon [those who consistently seek forgiveness].

How do we know this?

“Why seek you not the forgiveness of Allaah, that you may receive mercy?” [soorah An-Naml, v:46]

Allaah is telling us to make istighfaar to gain His mercy. Let your istighfaar ascend to Him and His mercy will descend upon you.

Fasting:

Fast as much as you can during these blessed days. If you can fast all of these days, then do so. Even in any regular day, Allaah has promised a great reward for the one who fasts: “Whoever fasts one day for the sake of Allaah, Allaah will keep his face seventy years distance away from the Fire because of it.” [16] So what about these special days for which it is said: “There is no deed more precious in the sight of Allaah, or greater in reward, than a good deed done during the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.”

Allaah loves the good deeds in these days. Allaah loves siyaam. Put these two beloved things together, you are the doer of the things Allaah loves. He [subhaanahu wa ta'aalaa] will Love you, bi-idhnillaah.

Any „ibaadah, be it salaah, dhikr, Qur’aan, that is done during some periods of time and with them, are also periods of non-action. Can you do any of them from Fajr till Maghrib continuously?

Which „ibaadah will you be able to do non-stop?

Siyaam!

From Fajr till Maghrib during the best days, you will be able to be in a continuous state of worship. So please my sisters [& brothers], grab this chance eagerly. Also don't forget you have if Allaah wills, at least one du'aa guaranteed with each siyaam – at the time of breaking the fast. So that is nine opportune moments during this period.

Regarding fasting on the day of „Arafah, the Prophet [sall-Allaahu „alayhi wa sallam] said: "Fasting the day of „Arafah, I hope, will expiate the sins of the year before it and the year to come..." [17]

So how does this happen?

Does this mean that we can fast on that day and for the rest of the year we can do whatever we want of bad deeds?

No! It implies that Allaah [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] will help us to abstain from sins. And, if you commit a sin by mistake, He [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] will cancel it due to His promise.

Charity:

Spending for the sake of Allaah!

Only Allaah knows how many trials & calamities have been pushed away from us, our family and loved ones as a result of our sadaqâh. Allâh knows how many times relief and ease has come to us due to the sadaqâh we gave.

Therefore, give in the way of Allâh, as much as you can.

Don't leave any raised hands return empty. Show Allaah that you love Him by spending from that which you love. Show Allaah [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] that all these things mean nothing besides gaining His ridha [pleasure].

Don't look and remind yourself of what you have already spent in the past. If Allaah wills, He [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] has accepted and written it for you. Now, think of how you can outdo that sadaqâh during these days. Spend from what you love and Allaah will love you.

Preserve the Ties of Kinship:

Preserve the ties of kinship for: "No one who severs the ties of kinship will enter Paradise." [18]

If it is difficult for you to call or meet every relative, then send them a message. But write with your heart and with the right intention. There is a man who connects with all of his near and far relatives. It is almost like a mission for him for the sake of Allaah. He [subhaanahu wa ta"aalaa] loves this „ibaadah. Even those who are far away, he calls and connects them to the rest of the family and brings them all together. And subhaan-Allaah, Allah has given him a lot of wealth and with such ease and has made his life easy, and as a result of his deeds.

The Prophet (sall-Allaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) promised this reward for the one who connects and maintains kinship: "Whoever would like his rizq [provision] to be increased and his life to be extended, should uphold the ties of kinship." [19]

These were just a few of the wonderful things we can do during the forthcoming best days of Dhul-Hijjah. Therefore, if we want Allaah's help with these deeds and our schedule for them, we need to do a lot of tawbah. The Salaf as-Salih used to say that they would feel prevented from qiyaam al-layl due to their sins. They knew that when they want to do ‘ibaadah and they are unable to do it, it is due sins.

So, what do we need to do?

A lot of istighfaar with tawbah, real Tawbah!

Ask Allaah for help.

Make the du'aa: "O Allaah, help me to remember You, to give You thanks, and to perform Your worship in the best manner." [20]

Transcription of a lecture "How to benefit from the blessed days of Dhul-Hijjah"
by Umm ‘Abdur-Rahmaan.

Original source Shaykh Muhammad Hussain Yaqoob's lecture.

References:

- [1] Ibn ‘Abbās, Ibn az-Zubayr, Mujāhid and others of the earlier and later generations said that this refers to the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. Ibn Kathīr said: "This is the correct opinion." [Tafsīr ibn Kathīr, 8/413]
[2] Al-Bukhārī, 2/457
[3] Ahmad, 7/224 – Ahmad Shākir stated that it is saḥīḥ
[4] The verses [Al-Fajr 89: 1-2] and various hadith indicate that these 10 days are better than all the other days of the year, with no exceptions, not even the last ten days of Ramaḍān. But the last ten nights of Ramaḍān are better, because they include Layl al-Qadr ["the Night of Power"], which is better than a thousand months. Thus the various reports may be reconciled. [See: Tafsīr ibn Kathīr, 5/412]
[5] Shaykh Muhammad bin Sālih al-‘Uthaymīn
[6] Muslim, 482
[7] Muslim, 1238
[8] At-Tirmidhī, 428 – classed as saḥīḥ by al-Albānī in Saḥīḥ al-Nasāī
[9] At-Tirmidhī, 395 – classed as hasan by al-Albānī in Saḥīḥ al-Jāmi 3493
[10] Al-Bukhārī & Muslim
[11] Al-Bukhārī, 1094 and Muslim, 758
[12] Ahmad, 7/224
[13] Tahīlī ["Lā ilāha ill-Allāh"], Tahmīd ["Alhamdulillah"] and Takbīr ["Allāhu Akbar"]. See: Ahmad, 7/224
[14] Abū Dāwūd, 2041 – classed as hasan by al-Albānī
[15] Classed as hasan by al-Albānī
[16] Muslim, 2/808
[17] Muslim, 1976
[18] Saḥīḥ Muslim
[19] Al-Bukhārī, 5986 and Muslim, 2557
[20] Saḥīḥ Abū Dāwūd, 1/284