

VIRTUES OF DHUL-HIJJAH

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

All praise is due to Allah (swt), and may He send peace, blessings and salutations on His Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ

Allah (swt) has blessed certain times and certain places with virtues and great rewards over others. We know for example of the 4 holy months or the blessed month of Ramadan and last ten nights of Ramadan and so forth. The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah fall into this special blessed category. Why?

Qur'an

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah swears an oath in Surat al-Fajr, "*By Fajr, and by ten days.*" According to ibn 'Abbas, ibn al-Zubayr, Mujahid and countless scholars this refers to the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. When Allah (swt) swears an oath by something, it is an indication of its excellence, its virtue and its blessing.

Hadith

1. In addition, Imam Bukhari reports from ibn 'Abbas that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Deeds are not better in any days than they are in these days." and in another narration, Imam Tirmidhi reports "There are no days in which righteous deeds (al-'amal al-salih) are more beloved to Allah than these ten."
2. Ibn 'Umar reports that the Prophet ﷺ said concerning these days, "So fill them with Tahlil, Takbir, and Tahmid."
3. Fasting the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah is highly encouraged as the Prophet ﷺ said about fasting the Day of 'Arafah, "It is expiation of sins for the previous year and the coming year." It is important to note that fasting the tenth day is not permissible as it is the Day of Eid

As we see from both the Qur'an and Hadith, there is great virtue of righteous deeds done in these days. Any deed done in these days is greater in reward than if that same deed were to be done at any other time. *You may ask, what about the last ten nights of Ramadan?* Many scholars have concluded that the 10 best days of the year are the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah whereas the 10 best nights of the year are the last ten nights of Ramadan (and Allah knows best)

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

1 – Fasting

We should try to fast as many of the first nine days as possible as we know that this is one of the best deeds. “Allah (swt) says: ‘All the deeds of the son of Adam are for him, except fasting, which is for Me and I shall reward for it.’” (Bukhari).

Fasting the 9th day (Day of 'Arafah). Aside from the reward mentioned above of the expiation of sins. Let's look it from this perspective. Knowing these first ten days are the best days of the year and many scholars believe that the Day of 'Arafah is the best day of the year based on the hadith narrated by Jabir, on the authority of the Prophet ﷺ that he said: “The best of days is the Day of 'Arafah. Allah (swt) informs us in the Holy Qur'an "This day I have perfected your religion for you, completed my favor unto you, and I am pleased to have Islam as your religion". (5:3) - We know this day to be the day of 'Arafah as related by both Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim.

So if fasting is one of the best deeds and **Day of Arafat** is one of the best days, we should not miss the opportunity to combine these 2 great things together as was the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ.

2 – Prayers/Supplications

We should strive to increase our prayers, specifically the optional (nafila) prayers and the night prayers. Increase our supplications and sincerely ask for Allah. We know that there are certain times that prayers can be answered more than other times...how about in these blessed ten days that Allah swears by in the Holy Qur'an!

3 – Dhikr (Remembrance of Allah)

One of the names of the Qur'an is Dhikr. Increase our recitation, understanding and practice of the Qur'an. In addition remember Allah throughout the day by repeating the following forms of dhikr:

- Tasbih (saying Subhanallah – How far from any imperfection is Allah)
- Tahmid (saying Alhamdulillah – Thanking & praising Allah)
- Takbir (saying Allahu Akbar - Allah is the Greatest)
- Tahlil (saying La ilaha illa Allah – There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah)

4 – Udhiyah (sacrifice)

One of the righteous deeds that bring a person closer to Allah (swt) in these ten days is to slaughter the sacrifice. It is obligatory that every muslim adult (male and female) perform this act (based on the nisaab). The person who intends to do sacrifice does a mini Ihram by refraining from cutting or shaving any bodily hair or clipping nails.

5 – Give charity/Doing Good

These are the days of sacrifice. Sacrificing our time to volunteer, sacrifice our money in charity, sacrificing our blood to donate blood, etc. It is an opportunity to better ourselves through the focus and attention of these 10days. Every year we have our annual blood drive. Please email us at info@skcentre.com for more information.

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts in these 10 days and allow us to benefit the most and give us the understanding to better ourselves every day of the year! <Ameen>