

Ten Days of Dhul-Hijjah First Sermon

All Praise be to Allah, Who has honoured and ennobled us with the Ten Days of Dhul-Hijjah, and Who has made worship therein superior and more preferred than all other times. I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah Alone, Who has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah. O Allah, send blessings, salutations and benedictions upon him, his family, all of his Companions and those who follow them in benevolence until the Day of Judgment.

As to what follows: I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah (i.e. reverential consciousness and self-restraining fear of Allah). Allah Almighty says:

(وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ)

[Q2:197] [... And take provisions (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is *Taqwa* (reverential consciousness and self-restraining fear of Allah). So fear Me and be conscious of Me, O People of Intellect]

O Believers: Allah Most High swears by the Ten Days of Dhul-Hijjah, because of their high and elevated status and their great and immense nobility, saying: (وَالْفَجْرِ* وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ)

[Qur'an 89:1-2] [(I swear) by the Break of Dawn, and by the Ten Nights]

They are the best days of this worldly life.

The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him)

said: «أَفْضَلُ أَيَّامِ الدُّنْيَا أَيَّامُ الْعَشْرِ»

(The best days of this world are the Ten Days) (Narrated by al-Bazzar)

The Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) urged us to take advantage of these Blessed Days by performing lots of good deeds

and righteous works, saying: «مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهِنَّ أَحَبُّ»

إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ»

("There are no days in which righteous deeds are more pleasing and beloved to Allah than these ten days.") (Narrated by al-Tirmidhi)

The Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) and the learned scholars after them would put a lot of effort and hard work into these days: through abundant and frequent performance of the following acts of worship: reciting the Holy Qur'an, remembering Allah and invoking His Greatness, offering voluntary prayer, doing voluntary fast, giving voluntary charity and supplicating to Allah Almighty; all as a way of enacting and upholding the spirit of Allah's Statement:

(وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَعْلُومَاتٍ)

[Qur'an 22:28] (and in order to mention and commemorate the Name of Allah during the appointed days)

'Abdullah, son of 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with both of them) says: "that is, during the Ten Days"; and all as a way of following and emulating the Guidance of the Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him), who said: «مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أَعْظَمَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ وَلَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ»

مِنَ الْعَمَلِ فِيهِنَّ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ، فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهِنَّ مِنْ

التَّهْلِيلِ، وَالتَّكْبِيرِ وَالتَّحْمِيدِ»

["There are no days that are greater before Allah nor in which good deeds are more pleasing and beloved to Him, than these Ten Days, so engage abundantly during them in tahlil (saying: la 'ilaha illallah), takbir (saying: Allahu Akbar) and tahmid (saying: Al-Hamdu lillah)"] (Narrated by Ahmad) We ask Allah Most High to enable us, through His Enabling Grace, to take advantage of these Ten Days and make the most of them, and to record for us therein a great reward.

I say these words of mine while I seek Allah's Forgiveness for you and me, so seek His Forgiveness, for He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Second Sermon

All Praise be to Allah Alone and Peace and Blessings be upon him after whom there is not Prophet, and upon his Family, Companions and those who follow his guidance. Furthermore, I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah.

O Believers: A believer is always keen to take advantage of these Ten Days of Dhul-Hijjah through performing righteous works and making productive use of them through offering sacrifices and performing deeds that bring him close to Allah. Thus, he starts his day by offering Dawn prayer in congregation, sitting down engaged in remembrance of his Lord, supplicating to his Creator in prayer, by taking utmost care to offer his prayers on time and in their prescribed times, by performing lots of voluntary acts of devotion, by fasting how much he is able to, by spending in charity, and by constantly remembering Allah during the rest of the time. A man once said: O Messenger of Allah, tell me about something that I should adhere and hold fast to. The Messenger of Allah (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said:

«لَا يَزَالُ لِسَانُكَ رَطْبًا مِنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ»

("Let your tongue not cease to be moist with the Remembrance of Allah.")

(Narrated by al-Tirmidhi and Ibn Majah)

Having said this, request Allah to send peace, blessings and salutations upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad. O Allah send peace, blessings and salutations upon him, his Family and all of his Companions.

O Allah: continue to bestow on the UAE Your Blessings and Bounties forever more, and spread happiness amongst its people.

O Allah: Grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his Deputy, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that is good.

O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. O Allah: We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace.

O Allah: Have mercy on the honorable and loyal martyrs of our nation and increase their reward.

O Allah have mercy on the Muslim men and Muslim women, those of them who are living and those of them who have passed on. O Allah remove from us and the entire world this pandemic and heal those who have been inflicted with this disease and every other disease, O Answerer of Prayers.

O Servants of Allah: Remember Allah, the Supremely Magnificent and He will remember you, and stand up and establish the prayer.