

Merits of First 10 Days of Dhul-Hijjah

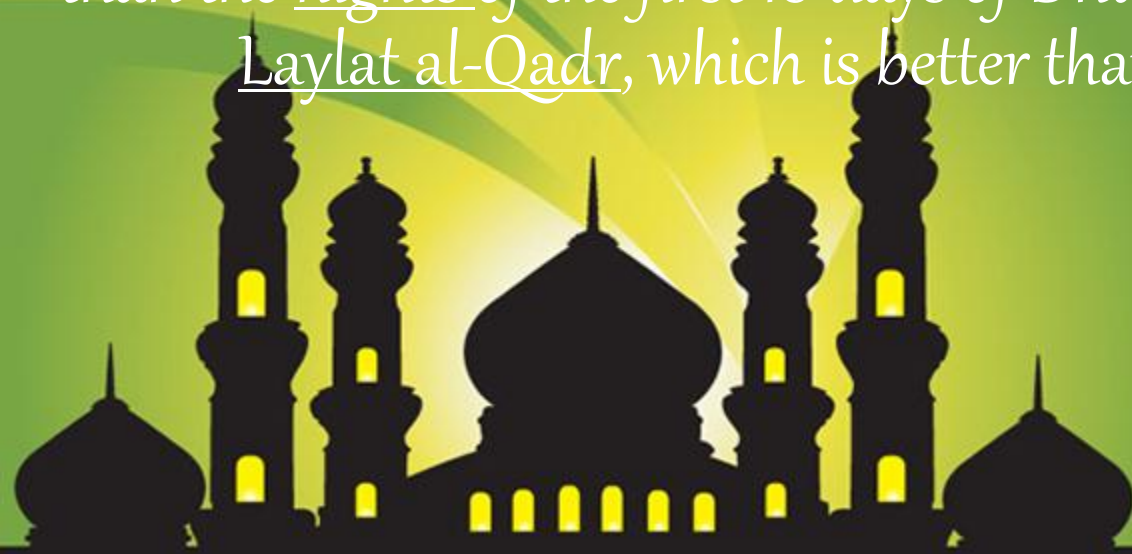
فضل أيام عشر ذي الحجة



Introduction

Among the special seasons of worship are the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, which Allah has preferred over all other days of the year. Ibn 'Abbas reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said: *"There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days."*

So it's clear that these 10 days are better than any others, including the last 10 days of Ramadan [but the last 10 nights of Ramadan are better than the nights of the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah, because they include Laylat al-Qadr, which is better than a thousand months.]



Virtues of the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah

1. Allah swears an oath by them; swearing an oath by something is indicative of its importance and great benefit. Almighty Allah says: [*By the dawn; by the ten nights.*] (Al-Fajr 89:1-2). Many distinguished scholars are of the opinion that this refers to the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah.



2. The Prophet (PBUH) testified that these are the best days. Abdullah ibn `Umar reported that the Prophet (PBUH) said: "*There are no days greater in the sight of Allah and in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him than these ten days, so during this time recite a great deal of *Tahlil* (saying: 'there is no god but Allah'), *Takbir* (Allahu Akbar) and *Tahmid* (showing gratitude to Allah).*"

(Reported by Imam Ahmad)



3. These ten days include the Day of Arafah, the greatest day of the entire year on which Allah perfected His Deen (religion). Fasting on this day will expiate for the sins of two years; one before and one after. According to some scholars, the comparison of this day to other days of the year is like the comparison of Laylat al-Qadr to all other nights.



4. These days also include the Day of Sacrifice, the 2nd greatest day of both Hajj and the entire year (after the day of Arafah); this day of sacrifice combines all Hajj acts of worship in a way unlike any other day (e.g., offering qurbani, rami-el-jamarat, tawaf, etc.)



Suggested actions:

What should a Muslim do
during the first 10 days of
Dhul-Hijjah?



1- Fasting: The Prophet (PBUH) urged us to do good deeds during this time, and fasting is one of the best of deeds. Hunaydah Ibn Khalid reported that: "The Prophet (PBUH) used to fast on the ninth of Dhul-Hijjah, on the day of 'Ashurah, on three days of each month, and on the first two Mondays and Thursdays of each month." A Muslim is also urged to fast as many of the remaining days, in addition to the day of Arafah. [Note: it's prohibited to fast on the Eid day as well as the following days of Tashreeq.]



2- Takbir & Zikr: It is Sunnah to say *takbir*, *tahmid*, *tahlil*, and *tasbih* during the days of Dhul-Hijjah, and to say it out loud in mosques, at home, on the street and in every place where it's permitted to remember Allah Almighty, as an act of worship and as a proclamation of His greatness. (Note: when in public, men are advised to recite these phrases out loud and women to recite them quietly.) There is sound evidence that Ibn 'Umar and Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with them both) used to go out to the marketplace during the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, reciting *takbir*, while people reciting after them.



3- *Performing Hajj and Umrah:* One of the best deeds one can do during these ten days is to perform Hajj. The Prophet (PBUH) said: "*An accepted Hajj brings no less of a reward than Paradise.*"



4- *Doing more of good deeds in general:* This is because good deeds are beloved by Allah and they earn one a great reward. Whoever is not able to offer Hajj should occupy himself at this blessed time with acts of worship, offering Prayers, reading the Qur'an, remembering Allah, making supplications, giving to charity, showing dutifulness to parents, maintaining ties of kinship, enjoining good and forbidding evil, in addition to any other good deeds and acts of worship.



5- Sacrifice/Qurbani: One of the good deeds that will bring a person closer to Allah during these 10 days is offering a sacrifice. The prophet (PBUH) indicated that the act of sacrifice is the best action that a Muslim does on the day of Eid (more about the sacrifice is to follow.)



6- Sincere repentance: One of the most important things to do during these days is to repent sincerely to Allah and to give up all kinds of acts of disobedience and sin.



Offering Udhyiah (Qurbani/Sacrifice) On Eid Ul-Adha



What is an Udhyiah?

Udhiyah refers to the animal (camel, cattle or sheep) offered as a sacrifice, and it as an act of worship dedicated solely to gain the Pleasure of Allah *Subhanahu Wa ta'ala*.



What is the importance of Udhiah?

Through Udhiah we remember the Oneness of our Creator and His Blessings upon us; we revive a great sunnah of the prophet (S); and we also reflect on the obedience of our father Ibrahim to his Lord. In the act of Udhiah there is much goodness and blessings; so one must pay attention to its great importance. Allah (S) says:

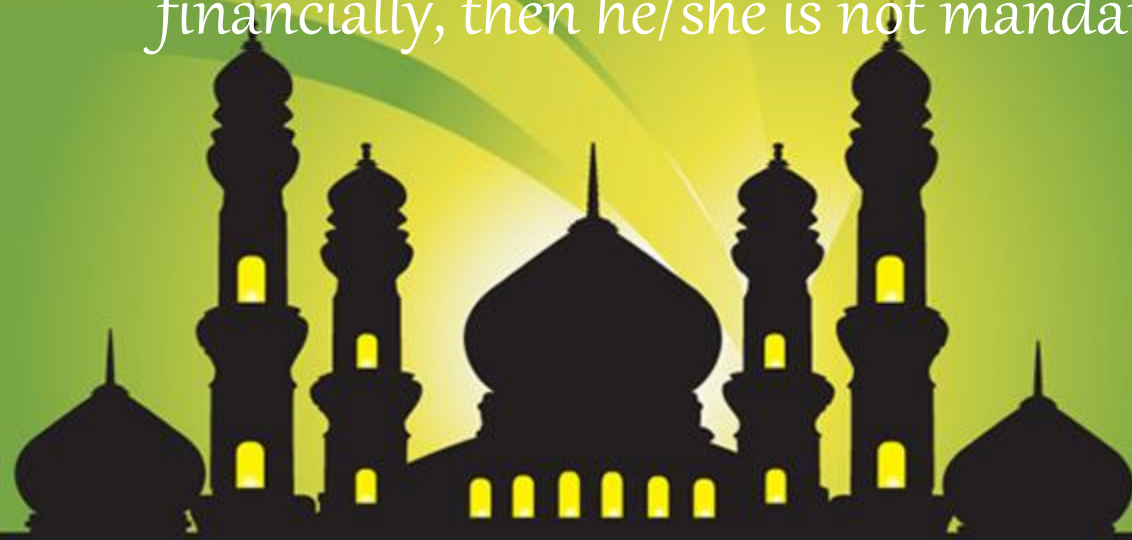
“Therefore turn in prayer to your Lord and sacrifice (to Him only)”

(Al-Kawthar: 2).



What is the Islamic ruling regarding the Udhyiah?

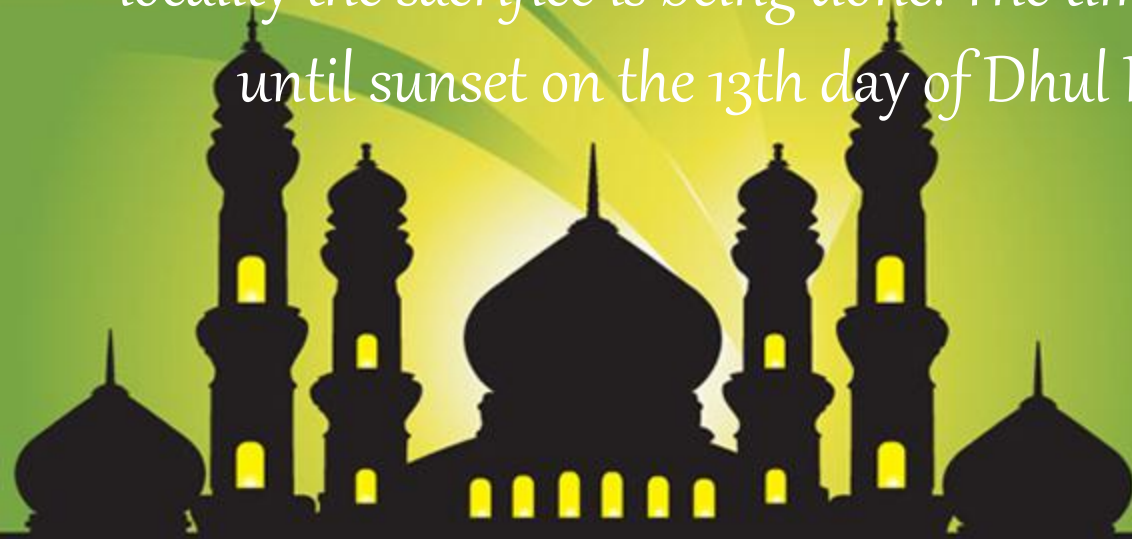
1. “Offering Udhiyah during Eid Al-Adha is regarded as *Wajib* (mandatory) according to Imam Abu Hanifah and a as *Sunnah Mu'akkadah* (emphasized & important Sunnah) according to other three jurists (Malik, Shafi'i & Ibn Hanbal).
2. The ruling mentioned above is applicable to those people who have the *Nissab* (payable amount) of Zakah. So if someone is unable financially, then he/she is not mandated to perform the Udhiya.



Conditions of an Udhyiah (to be accepted by Allah S.W.)

1. The time for offering a sacrifice begins AFTER Eid Al-Adha prayer. The Prophet (PBUH) indicated that *whosoever offered a sacrifice before Eid prayer, he just slaughtered an animal for meat; but whosoever made sacrifice after Eid Al-Adha prayer, he or she has offered a sacrifice.*

Therefore it's important for those that rely on someone to perform their udhiyah to make sure the sacrifice is not done before Eid prayer in the locality the sacrifice is being done. The time of sacrifice remains in effect until sunset on the 13th day of Dhul Hijjah (i.e. 4th day of Eid.)



2. One sacrifice is sufficient for one household (family).

3. The types of animals that can be slaughtered are (goats, sheep, cows and camels). One goat, lamb or sheep is on behalf of one household, while seven households can share in offering one cow or one camel.

4. The animal should have reached the required age, which is six months for a lamb, one year for a goat, two years for a cow, and five years for a camel.



5. The animal should be free of any faults, because the Prophet (PBUH) said: “There are four that will not do for sacrifice: a one-eyed animal whose defect is obvious, a sick animal whose sickness is obvious, a lame animal whose limp is obvious and an emaciated animal that has no marrow in its bones.” There are milder defects that do not disqualify an animal, but it is makruh (disliked) to sacrifice such animals, such as an animal with a horn or ear missing, or an animal with slits in its ears, etc. Uddhiyah is an act of worship to Allah, and Allah is Good and accepts only that which is good.



6. It is forbidden to sell the sacrifice. If an animal has been selected for sacrifice, it is not permissible to sell it or trade it, except in exchange for one that is better.



7. The meat of the Udhiyah should be divided in 3 equal portions: one for oneself and family, one for friends and relatives (friends do not have to be poor), and one for the poor and needy. The division does not have to be very accurate, but the more that is given to charity, the greater the reward will be. Even if someone is unable/unwilling to distribute the meat to the needy, he should still offer a sacrifice for that the reward of sacrificing is too great to be missed.



8. The Udhiyah can be performed in another country on behalf of those who have the intention to sacrifice. One can arrange this through a charitable organization, e.g.; Islamic Relief (www.irw.org).



Miscellaneous items



1. It is mustahabb or preferable for one who has made a sacrifice not to eat anything on that day before he eats from it, if this is possible, because of the Hadith, “**Let every man eat from his sacrifice.**”

2. It is better for a person to do the sacrifice himself, but if he does not, it is mustahabb (preferable) for him to be present when the sacrifice is offered.



3. The scholars agreed that it's not permissible to sell anything from the Udhiyah's meat, fat or skin.
4. The butcher should not be given anything of it by way of payment, but can be given parts of it as a gift.
5. It is also permissible to give some of the meat to a non-Muslim if he is poor, a relative, a neighbor, or as a type of daw'wah.



Important Dates

1436 Hijri

2015 Gregorian

(Dates are based on the calendar
being observed in Makkah)

Day	Sep. 2015	Dhul- Hijjah	What to do...
Tuesday	15	1	Ibadah & Good deeds (Thikr, Sadaqa, fasting, etc.)
Wed.	16	2	Ibadah & Good deeds
Thurs.	17	3	Ibadah & Good deeds
Friday	18	4	Ibadah & Good deeds
Saturday	19	5	Ibadah & Good deeds
Sunday	20	6	Ibadah & Good deeds
Monday	21	7	Ibadah & Good deeds
Tuesday	22	8	Ibadah & Good deeds
Wed.	23	9	Day of Arafa - Fasting & intense Ibadah <u>Note:</u> Day of Arafa compared to other days of the year is like Laiylatul AlQadr compared to other nights.
Thurs.	24	10	Eid Day -- Celebration, takbeer & Qurbani (no fasting)
Friday	25	11	1 st day of Tashreeq -- Celebration, takbeer & Qurbani (no fasting)
Saturday	26	12	2 nd day of Tashreeq -- Celebration, takbeer & Qurbani (no fasting)
Sunday	27	13	3 rd day of Tashreeq (ends at Maghreb/sunset) Celebration, takbeer & Qurbani (no fasting)



*May Allah accept all of our good deeds, and grant us
mercy, blessings, and success!*



Prepared by Dr. Abdulbaset Abdulla.
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