

The First 10 Days of Zul Hijjah

T'a'limi Board (KZN)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Aamaal-e-Saalihah (Good Deeds) most beloved to Allah

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهَا أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرَةِ قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَلَا الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ؟ قَالَ وَلَا الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا رَجُلٌ خَرَجَ بِنَفْسِهِ وَمَالِهِ فَلَمْ يَرْجِعْ مِنْ ذَلِكَ بِشَيْءٍ. رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ

Hadhrat Ibn Abbaas رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulallah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said; "There are no days wherein good deeds are more beloved to Allah Ta'ala than on these ten days [of Zul Hijjah]. [The Sahaabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ] enquired, 'O Rasulallah, not even Jihaad in the path of Allah.' He صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied, 'Not even Jihaad in the path of Allah except for that person who went out with his life and his wealth and did not return.'" [Tirmizi #757]

Fasting and staying awake at night in Ibaadah

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُتَعَبَّدَ لَهُ فِيهَا مِنْ عَشْرِ ذِي الْحِجَّةِ يَعِدُّ صِيَامُ كُلِّ يَوْمٍ مِنْهَا بِصِيَامِ سَنَةٍ وَقِيَامُ كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْهَا بِقِيَامِ لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ. رَوَاهُ التِّرْمِذِيُّ

Hadhrat Abu Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulallah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said; "There are no days wherein Allah Ta'ala loves that He be worshipped, more than the first ten days of Zul Hijjah. Fasting on one day (in these ten days) equals to the fasting of one year and staying

awake at night [in ibaadah] equals to staying awake in Ibaadah on the night of Qadar." [Tirmizi # 758]

From this Hadith we understand the importance of dedicating our time and effort during these days in the ibaadah (worship) of Allah Ta'ala. Who has the ability of fasting for so many years? If a Muslim makes an effort to fast on these mubaarak (blessed) days, he will receive the reward of fasting for so many years.

We try our best to find Laylatul Qadar in the last ten days of the mubaarak month of Ramadhaan. People all over the world sit in I'tikaaf with the hope of finding this Mubaarak night. At the end of Ramadhaan discussions ensue as to which night of Ramadhaan they felt was Laylatul Qadar. However, the exact night of Laylatul Qadar is known only to Allah Ta'ala. In the above mentioned Hadith, Rasulallah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ is clearly telling us that Ibaadah done on these ten nights equals to the Ibaadah performed on Laylatul Qadar. How unfortunate will we be if we do not take advantage of this golden opportunity and gain great sawaab. May Allah Ta'ala bless us with the *Taufeeq* (ability) of spending our time profitably in these ten days. Aameen.

Zikr of Tasbeeh, Tahmeed, Takbeer and Tahleel

Rasulallah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ has encouraged us in these days to recite Tasbeeh (Subhanallah), Tahmeed (Alhamdulillah), Tahleel (Laa-ilaha illallah) and Takbeer (Allahu Akbar) in abundance.¹

¹ At Targheeb wat Tarheeb # 1782

In these ten days one should, as far as possible, keep the zikr of the third kalimah on his tongue. Recite this zikr as much as possible. Whilst walking, working, driving, lying down, etc. keep on reciting this kalimah. You will be rewarded immensely for this.

Clipping of nails and trimming of hair

عَنْ أُمِّ سَلَمَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: إِذَا دَخَلَتِ الْعَشْرُ وَأَرَادَ أَحَدُكُمْ أَنْ يَصْحِيَ فَلَا يَمَسَّ مِنْ شَعْرِهِ وَبَشْرِهِ شَيْئًا. رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ

Hadhrat Umm-e-Salamah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا reports that Rasulullah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “When the ten days [of Zul Hijjah] commence and any of you intend to make Qurbaani, then he should not remove his hair or trim his nails.” [Muslim: # 1977]

To practice on this Hadith, one should clip his nails and remove his hair before the crescent of Zul Hijjah is sighted. Thereafter, for the ten days of Zul Hijjah, he should neither trim his hair nor clip his nails until he has completed performing his Qurbaani. This act according to the Fuqahaa has been declared as Mustahab.

Fasting on the 9th (Day of Arafah)

عَنْ أَبِي قَتَادَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ صِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ إِنِّي أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ وَالَّتِي بَعْدَهُ وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمَ عَرَفَةَ عُفِرَ لَهُ سَنَةٌ أَمَامَهُ وَسَنَةٌ بَعْدَهُ

Hadhrat Abu Qatadah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ narrates that Rasulullah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “One who fasts on the day of Arafah, I have hope in Allah Ta’ala that He will forgive his sins of the previous year as well as his sins of the next year.”

[Tirmizi # 749]

In this Hadith Rasulullah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ mentions the virtue of fasting on the 9th of Zul Hijjah. If anyone is unable to fast on the first 8 days of Zul Hijjah, he should at least try to fast on the 9th of Zul Hijjah and have all his sins forgiven. How merciful is Allah Ta’ala! A person fasts for one day and Allah Ta’ala, The Most Kind, The Most Merciful, forgives all his sins for the past year as well as the coming year.

One Day Equals to a 1000 Days

Hadhrat Anas رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ has mentioned that the Sahaabah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ would say that each of the first ten days of Zul Hijjah is equal to one thousand days in virtue, while the 9th (day of Arafah) is equal to ten thousand days in virtue.

Staying awake on the night of Eid

Hadhrat Shaikhul Hadeeth, Moulana Muhammad Zakariyyah (rahmatullahi alayh) has mentioned the following Hadith in his famous book Fazaail-e-Ramadhaan,

عَنْ عُبَادَةَ بْنِ الصَّامِتِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: مَنْ أَحْيَا لَيْلَةَ الْفِطْرِ وَالْأَضْحَى، لَمْ يَمُتْ قَلْبُهُ يَوْمَ تَمُوتُ الْقُلُوبُ

Rasulullah صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “Whoever remains awake for Ibaadah on the nights before both the Eids, his heart shall not die on that day when hearts shall die.”

[At Targheeb wat Tarheeb # 1655 & 1657]

This night too should be appreciated. Most of us enjoy our sleep on this night, whereas this night too is a night that should be spent in Ibaadah. “His heart shall not die” means that at the time when evil will overpower all, his heart shall stay alive (guarded against evil). It may also refer to the time when the Soor (trumpet) shall be blown to announce the day of Qiyaamah on that day he will not become unconscious.