

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْفَجْرِ ۝١ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ۝٢ وَالشَّفْعِ وَالْوَتْرِ ۝٣ وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسْرِ ۝٤ هَلْ فِي ذَلِكَ قَسَمٌ لِّذِي حِجْرٍ ۝٥

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أَعْظَمَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ، وَلَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنَ الْعَمَلِ فِيهِنَّ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ، فَأَكْثَرُوا فِيهِنَّ مِنَ التَّهْلِيلِ، وَالتَّكْبِيرِ، وَالتَّحْمِيدِ.

Honourable Muslims!

This week, as of the evening of Sunday, 17 May, we will have entered the month of Dhul Hijjah, which contains the days most beloved to the Lord of the worlds.

Dhul Hijjah is a blessed month in which the worship of Hajj is performed and Eid al-Adha takes place. It is a month of great virtue. As the twelfth month of the lunar calendar, it contains special days filled with worship and mercy.

In the Qur'an, our Almighty Lord says: **“By the dawn, and by the ten nights, and by the even and the odd, and by the night as it passes away. Is there not in that an oath for people of understanding?”** (Surah al-Fajr, 1–5)

Our Prophet ﷺ drew attention to the virtue of these days and said: **“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah.”** (Tirmidhi, Sawm 52)

Dear brothers and sisters,

Some nights of Dhul Hijjah are great blessings in terms of virtue and glad tidings. These blessed days and nights offer us unique opportunities to draw closer to our Lord and deepen our servanthood. The days of Tarwiyah and Arafah, and the night of Eid al-Adha, hold a special value for believing hearts.

Our Prophet ﷺ pointed to the value of these nights and said: **“Paradise becomes due for the one who keeps four important nights alive in worship: the night of Tarwiyah, the night of Arafah, the night of Eid al-Adha, and the night of Eid al-Fitr.”** (al-Jami al-Saghir)

Dear believers,

Among these virtuous days, there is one day that is greater and more precious than the others. That day is the Day of Arafah, the ninth day of Dhul Hijjah.

Our Prophet ﷺ said about the virtue of the Day of Arafah: **“Fasting on the Day of Arafah is an expiation for the sins of the previous year and the coming year.”** (Muslim, Siyam 196)

So let us make the most of these precious days of Dhul Hijjah through fasting, repentance, seeking forgiveness, dhikr, and worship. Let us purify our souls and turn our hearts toward Allah. Let us benefit from the blessings of

these days, each one filled with mercy, and these nights, each one filled with forgiveness.

Dear believers,

Among the most important acts of worship that give Dhul Hijjah its value are Hajj and qurban. Hajj is a great journey of servanthood that strengthens the consciousness of being one ummah. Qurban, meanwhile, is a sign of drawing closer to Allah, surrendering to him, and taqwa.

Qurban is not merely the slaughtering of an animal. It is one of the most beautiful expressions of sharing, helping one another, and brotherhood. The loyalty of Ibrahim, alayhis salam, and the surrender of Ismail, alayhis salam, remind us of the deep meaning at the heart of this worship. In this sense, qurban is an important act of worship through which the believer shows his devotion and sacrifice for his Lord.

I ask my Lord to make the Hajj of our brothers and sisters who have gone for Hajj accepted, and to make the qurban of the believers accepted in His exalted presence.

I end my khutbah with this hadith of our Prophet ﷺ: **“The son of Adam does not do any deed on the Day of Sacrifice that is dearer to Allah than shedding blood. It will come on the Day of Resurrection with its horns and cloven hoofs and hair. Its blood is accepted by Allah before it reaches the ground. So be content when you do it.”** (Sunan Ibn Majah 3126)