

THE
Best
of Days

DHUL HIJJAH

GUIDEBOOK



charity

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A Sacred Month

“Indeed, the number of months ordained by Allah is twelve - in Allah’s Record since the day He created the heavens and the earth - of which four are sacred...”

Quran, 9:36

These are:

Dhul-Qa’dah

Dhul-Hijjah

Muharram

Rajab

During these sacred months the reward of doing good deeds is multiplied and the punishment of wrongdoings is increased. We are therefore encouraged to amplify our good deeds in these months and be extra careful with our sins.

Days Beloved to Allah

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said,

“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than in these days (i.e. the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah)”.

They said,

‘Not even fighting for the sake of Allah?’ He ﷺ said, “Not even fighting for the sake of Allah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause and came back with neither”.

Abu Dawud

The first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are often referred to as the best ten days of the year. These ten days include the Day of Arafah in which Allah perfected His Religion as well as the Day of Sacrifice, which is considered to be the greatest day of the entire year and the greatest day of Hajj – a day which combines acts of worship in a way unlike any other day.

The Best of Deeds

Among the righteous deeds that we
should strive to do during the first ten
days of Dhul-Hijjah are:

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Hajj

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said,

“The reward for a hajj mabroor (accepted hajj) is nothing but Paradise.”

Bukhari

One of the greatest deeds that can be performed during these 10 days is Hajj to the Sacred House of Allah.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

“Whoever performs hajj and does not commit any obscenity or transgression will return (free from sins) as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him.”

Bukhari

For those of us not able to perform the Hajj pilgrimage this year, there are so many other acts of worship that we can try to observe to gain the pleasure of Allah. These include:

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Fasting

Almighty Allah 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

It is recommended to fast on the first nine days of Dhul Hijjah as:

“The Prophet ﷺ used to fast on the first nine days of Dhul-Hijjah and the day of Ashura, and three days each month, the first Monday of the month and two Thursdays.”

Abu Dawud

If you find it difficult to fast all nine days, be sure to at least try to fast on the 9th day which is the blessed Day of Arafah.

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Increase Dhikr

“There are no days that are greater before Allah or in which good deeds are more beloved to Him, than these ten days, so recite a great deal of tahleel, takbeer and tahmeed during them.”

Ahmed

TAHLEEL	<i>‘La ilaha ill-Allah’</i>	There is no God but Allah
TAKBEER	<i>‘Allahu akbar’</i>	Allah is the Greatest
TAHMEED	<i>‘Al-hamdulillah’</i>	All praise belongs to Allah

REMEMBER: Recite Takbeer Tashreeq after every fardh prayer from Fajr of the 9th til Asr of the 13th of Dhul Hijjah:

‘Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, laa ilaaha ill-Allah, Allahu akbar, wa lillaahil-hamd.’

(Allah is Most Great, Allah is Most Great, there is no God but Allah; Allah is Most Great and to Allah be praise.)

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Offer Qurbani

“It is not their meat, nor their blood, that reaches Allah, It is their piety that reaches Allah.”

Surah al-Hajj: 37

The Qurbani (also known as Udhiyya) is the sacrifice of a livestock animal during Eid ul-Adha. It is the sunnah of Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and a means of getting closer to Allah.

By offering a Qurbani, we are able to bring joy to those less fortunate and allow vulnerable communities across the world to enjoy Eid without worrying about how and what they will feed their families. For many, this is the only time they will be able to eat meat in the entire year.

REMEMBER: The one who wants to offer a sacrifice must stop cutting their hair and nails and removing anything from their skin, from the beginning of the ten days until after the sacrifice has been performed as the Prophet ﷺ said:

"When you see the new moon of Dhul-Hijjah, if any one of you wants to offer a sacrifice, then he should stop cutting his hair and nails until he has offered his sacrifice."

Muslim

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Give Charity

A man came to the Prophet ﷺ and said: “O Messenger of Allah which sadaqah is the one that gives the greatest amount of reward from Allah? The Prophet ﷺ said,

“That you give in charity whilst you are in good health and you are feeling miserly and you want to covet that wealth that you possess, and you fear poverty for yourself and that you hope for riches.”

Bukhari

Giving charity is from the most excellent and the most virtuous of all the acts of worship. For indeed, just as there is worship of the limbs when we stand in prayer, and when we withhold from food when we fast, then these are acts of worship with one's body. Likewise there is worship with one's wealth which is in giving charity.

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Recite Qur'an

“Whoever reads a letter from the Book of Allah, he will have a reward. And that reward will be multiplied by ten. I am not saying that “Alif, Laam, Meem” is a letter, rather I am saying that “Alif” is a letter, “laam” is a letter and “meem” is a letter.”

Tirmidhi

If one letter of the Qur'an is equivalent to ten good deeds then imagine how much reward there is for reading each letter during these blessed ten days!

Abu Darda' reported Allah's Apostle ﷺ as saying:

“Is any one of you incapable of reciting a third of the Qur'an in a night?” They (the Companions) asked: “How could one recite a third of the Qur'an (in a night)?” Upon this he (the Prophet ﷺ) said: “He is Allah, One' (Surah Ikhlaas) is equivalent to a third of the Qur'an.”

Muslim

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Practise Exemplary Character

“Nothing will be heavier on the Day of Resurrection in the scale of the believer than good manners. Allah hates one who utters foul or coarse language.”

Tirmidhi

We should strive to be the best in character during these blessed days and nights and continue to do so for the rest of the year. We should speak good words and observe acts of kindness and avoid arguing, swearing, backbiting and gossiping.

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Respect and Honour Our Parents

Islam teaches us that of the most beloved deeds to Allah, having respect for one's parents is second only to that of prayer and is greater than that of fighting in His cause.

It is narrated on the authority of Abdullah bin Masood رضي الله عنه, who observed:

“I asked Allah’s Messenger ﷺ which deed was the best.” He (the Prophet ﷺ) replied: ‘The Prayer at its appointed hour.’ I (again) asked: “Then what?” He replied: ‘Kindness to the parents.’ I (again) asked: “Then what?” He replied: ‘Earnest struggle (Jihad) in the cause of Allah.’ I refrained from asking any more questions for fear of annoying him.

Muslim

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Increase Voluntary Prayers

Some voluntary prayers to practise making a regular habit are:

12 Units of Sunnah

Daily along with the fardh prayers

Salatul Duhaa

After fajr and before midday

Tahiyyatul Wudhu

After performing wudhu (ablution)

Salatul Tahajjud

Between Isha and Fajr

THE BEST OF DEEDS

Make Lots of Dua & Istighfar

Almighty Allah says in the Qur'an, "When my servants ask you concerning me, (tell them) I am indeed close (to them). I listen to the prayer of every suppliant when he calls on me."

Surah Baqarah:186

We should busy ourselves in dua and seeking Allah's forgiveness during these ten blessed days and nights, particularly on the night and day of Arafat which is the 9th of Dhul Hijjah. Duas are also readily accepted during fasting and fasting the Day of Arafat expiates the sins of two years!

The Day of Arafah

The Prophet ﷺ said: “There is no day on which Allah frees people from the Fire more so than on the day of Arafah. He comes close to those (people standing on Arafah), and then He reveals before His Angels saying, ‘What are these people seeking?’”

(Muslim)

The Prophet ﷺ also said:

“Fasting the day of `Arafah expiates the sins of two years: the past one and the coming one.”

(Muslim)

Indeed, it would be a wasted opportunity if we did not spend the Day of Arafah trying to be one of those people whom Allah draws near to and forgives.

Eid ul Adha

The following acts are Sunnah on the day of Eid ul Adha:

- ① *To wake up early in the morning.*
- ② *To clean one's teeth with a miswak and have a shower.*
- ③ *To put on one's best available clothes and perfume.*
- ④ *To not eat before the Eid prayer.*
- ⑤ *To recite the Takbir of Tashreeq while going to Eid prayer.*
- ⑥ *To take a different route home and greet as many people as possible.*
- ⑦ *For women to attend the Eid prayer even if they are not praying.*
- ⑧ *To offer one's Qurbani and share it with family, friends and the needy.*

The Story of Sacrifice

“And when they had both submitted and he put him down upon his forehead, We called to him, ‘O Ibrahim, you have fulfilled the vision’. Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. Indeed, this was the clear trial and We ransomed him with a great sacrifice.”

(Qur'an 37:103-107)

Allah revealed in a dream to Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to sacrifice his son, Prophet Isma'il عليه السلام. Ibrahim told Ismail about the dream, and they both agreed to submit to the will of Allah and set off to Mina for the sacrifice. As they went, the devil attempted to persuade Ibrahim to disobey Allah and not to sacrifice his beloved son. But Ibrahim stayed true to Allah, and drove the devil away.

Ismail lay prostrate with his forehead touching the ground, while his father laid a sharp knife upon his neck. At this moment, Allah called down: “O Ibrahim! You have done my bidding and now you will be rewarded!” and instead of killing his son, Allah stopped him and gave him a ram to sacrifice instead.



MAKE YOUR **sacrifice** FOR PALESTINE

By donating your Qurbani through iF Charity, you are not only fulfilling a sacred obligation but also delivering vital aid to those who need it most. We are on the ground in Gaza, ensuring that your sacrifice reaches displaced and vulnerable families during the blessed days of Dhul Hijjah.

Qurbani for Palestine

Deliver your Qurbani directly to Palestinian families, offering them nutritious meat during Eid. This will be delivered as Tinned Meat: In areas without electricity, tinned meat ensures your Qurbani lasts for months, providing ongoing nourishment.

£115

Fresh Meat 2KG

Give families the gift of fresh, quality meat at a time when it is nearly impossible for them to access.

£115

Eid Gifts

Bring a smile to a child's face with clothes, toys, and sweets this Eid.

£115

Medical Aid

Help cover emergency medical expenses for families devastated by the crisis.

£115

Financial Aid

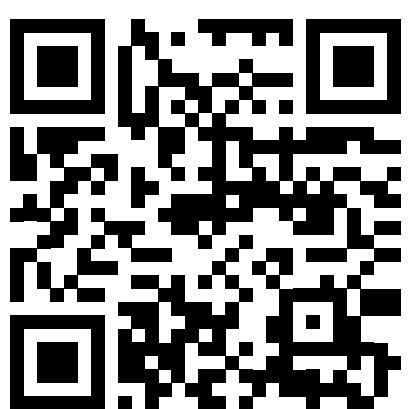
Help provide financial relief for families devastated by the crisis.

£115

Delivering Qurbani in The Current War

Due to the ongoing siege and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, traditional local Qurbani—costing over £800—is no longer practical or sustainable. Our teams on the ground have found tinned meat to be a more effective solution. It's non-perishable, requires little to no cooking, and is more likely to be approved for entry into Gaza. With over a million people displaced and cooking facilities destroyed or unavailable, tinned meat ensures safe, long-lasting, and nutritious food delivery in a region where spoilage and food insecurity are major concerns.

Read more about our Qurbani distribution at:
ifcharity.org.uk/campaign/qurbani2025



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