

Ten Days Ten Opportunities

Making the Most of Dhul Hijjah

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Virtues of the Ten Days

Why should I care?

Sacred time and occasion

ذَلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعَظِّمْ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا
مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ

Thus it is, and
whosoever honors the
Sha'a'ir of Allah, then it
is truly from the Taqwa
of the hearts (Alhajj, 32)

Allah's pleasure is so close, don't miss it

- وَعَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: «مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهِنَّ 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»
- Ibn ‘Abbas reported God's Messenger as saying, “There are no days in which a good deed is more pleasing to God than these ten days.” On being asked whether not even jihad in God’s path were as pleasing, he replied, “Not even jihad in God’s path, except when a man goes out in person with his property and loses both life and property.” Bukhari transmitted it.

What a precious opportunity

-
- وَالْفَجْرِ ١
 - By the dawn,
 - وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ٢
 - and the ten nights,
 - وَالشَّفْعِ وَالْوَتْرِ ٣
 - and the even and the odd,
 - وَاللَّيْلِ إِذَا يَسْرِ ٤
 - and the night when it passes
 - هَلْ فِي ذَلِكَ قَسَمٌ لِذِي حِجْرٍ ٥
 - Is all this 'not' a sufficient oath for those who have sense?



What better season to strive for the Hereafter than these days—when Allah declared them sacred and multiplies the rewards of every righteous deed?



The part that matters

What is our action plan?

Start with Isteghfir

وعن الأغر المزني رضي الله عنه أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "إنه ليغان على قلبي،
(رواه مسلم) وإني لأستغفر الله في اليوم مائة مرة"

Al-Agharr Al-Muzani (May Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Sometimes I perceive a veil over my heart, and I supplicate Allah for forgiveness a hundred times in a day." [Muslim].



Isteghfار is the beginning of all goods

قُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا ۝ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا ۝ وَيُمْدِدْكُمْ بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا ۝

I said (to them): Ask forgiveness from your Lord, verily, He is Oft-Forgiving (10) He will send rain to you Midrar (11) And give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers (Nooh, 12)

Do it in any form, but do it consistently



Avoid Sins

- Don't disobey Allah in any way
- Guard your senses
- Guard your tongues
- Guard your heart
- Don't hurt others



Avoid Distraction

- Lose your phone. Yes, your phone!!!
- Boycott social media
- Time yourself when shopping and stick to a simple list
- Cook healthier and a little less
- Get rid of any other distractions. Live on less!

Dhikr

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- Ibn Umar (RA) reported that Rasoolullah ﷺ said: “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.” (Ahmad- Sahih)
 - • Tahleel (saying Laa ilaaha ill-Allah (There is no god but Allah))
 - • Takbeer (saying Allahu akbar (Allah is most great)),
 - • Tahmeed (saying al-hamdu Lillah (praise be to Allah)),

The Companions View

- وَحَدَّثَنِي عَنْ مَالِكٍ، عَنْ زِيَادِ بْنِ أَبِي زِيَادٍ، أَنَّهُ قَالَ قَالَ أَبُو الدَّرْدَاءِ أَلَا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِخَيْرٍ، أَعْمَالِكُمْ وَأَرْفَعَهَا فِي دَرَجَاتِكُمْ وَأَرْكَأَهَا عِنْدَ مَلِيكِكُمْ وَخَيْرٌ لَكُمْ مِنْ إِعْطَاءِ الذَّهَبِ وَالْوَرِقِ وَخَيْرٌ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْ تَلْقَوْا عَدُوَّكُمْ فَتَضْرِبُوا أَعْنَاقَهُمْ وَيَضْرِبُوا أَعْنَاقَكُمْ قَالُوا بَلَى . قَالَ ذَكَرُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى . قَالَ زِيَادُ بْنُ أَبِي زِيَادٍ وَقَالَ أَبُو عَبْدِ الرَّحْمَنِ مُعَاذُ بْنُ جَبَلٍ مَا عَمِلَ ابْنُ آدَمَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ أَنْجَى لَهُ مِنْ عَذَابِ اللَّهِ مِنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ .
- Yahya related to me from Malik that Ziyad ibn Abi Ziyad said that Abu'd-Darda had said, "Shall I not tell you the best of your deeds, and those that give you the highest rank, and those that are the purest with your King, and are better for you than giving gold and silver, and better for you than meeting your enemy and striking their necks?" They said, "Of course." He said, "Remembrance (dhikr) of Allah ta ala."



Dhikr is remembering Allah

- Remember me and I will remember you!
- By tongue: put Allah in your conversation in anyway
- By your body
- By using his blessings to seek his pleasure
- By obedience and he will make good deeds easy for us



What to do?

Worshiping acts

- Obligatory prayers: the most beloved thing which my slave comes nearer to me is what I have ordered him to do,
 - Nawafel 12 rukat
 - Tahjud and Dua
 - Make hajj every day
- Fasting
- Reading Quran

Nawafil

- وعنہا قالت: كان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم يصلي في بيتي قبل الظهر أربعاً، ثم يخرج فيصلّي بالناس، ثم يدخل فيصلّي ركعتين، وكان يصلي بالناس المغرب ثم يدخل بيتي فيصلّي ركعتين، ويصلي بالناس العشاء، ويدخل بيتي، فيصلّي ركعتين. ()
- 'Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: Whenever the Prophet (ﷺ) stayed in my house, he would perform four Rak'ah (supererogatory prayer) before Zuhr prayer. Then he would go out and lead Salat. He (ﷺ) would then come back and perform two Rak'ah (supererogatory prayer). He would lead the Maghrib prayer and come back and perform two Rak'ah (supererogatory prayer). When he (ﷺ) had led the 'Isha' prayer, he would enter the house and perform two Rak'ah (supererogatory prayer). [Muslim]

The Best Prayer after Obligatory Ones

- وَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - { أَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الْفَرِيضَةِ صَلَاةُ اللَّيْلِ } أَخْرَجَهُ مُسْلِمٌ . 1
- Narrated Abu Hurairah (RA): Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: "The most excellent prayer after that which is obligatory is the (voluntary) late night prayer."
[Reported by Muslim].

The Nights, Every Single One of Them

- وعن جابر رضي الله عنه قال: سمعت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم ، يقول: "إن في الليل لساعة، لا يوافقها رجل مسلم يسأل الله تعالى خيراً من أمر الدنيا والآخرة، إلا أعطاه إياه، وذلك كل ليلة"
- Jabir (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saying, "Every night there is a special time during which whatever a Muslim asks Allah of any good relating to this life or the Hereafter, it will be granted to him; and this moment comes every night." [Muslim].



Anything Else?

- Good for parents
- Charity
- Maintain good character: Just like the one performing hajj, stay away from arguments and disputes
- You can reach the reward of someone who is fasting during the day and praying during the night by having good manners
- Make Udhia: If you have some to spare then give



Last advice

Stay sincere and
Show Allah the best you can do