

الحمد لله جعل الكعبة البيت الحرام قياماً للناس ربطاً فيها أعظم الأركان وجعلها مصدراً للأمن والأمان، وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له الملك الديان. وأشهد أن محمداً عبد الله ورسوله بعثه الله رحمةً وأماناً للناس والجان وعلى جميع الآل والصحب والتابعين لهم بإحسان أما بعد: فأصيكم

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عباد الله: تستقبل مئة هذه الأيام وفود الحجاج، في موكب مهيب، جاؤوا من كل فج عميق يلبنون نداء ربهم ويحيون أذان خليله عليه الصلاة والسلام: (وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ لِيَشْهَدُوا مَنَافِعَ لَهُمْ) جاءوا ليؤدوا خامس الأركان، طامعين في تكفير الخطايا وبلوغ الجنان، فما هذا البيت العتيق يا ترى؟ وكيف تم بناؤه؟ ومن الذي بناه؟ وما سر تعلق المسلمين به؟

Brothers and sisters in Islam, we are witnessing the best ten days out of the year, good deeds during these days are better than the last ten nights in Ramadan, better than any other time throughout the year, take advantage of them before they are gone. Allah swore by these ten days in the Quran and the Prophet told us that these days are the most beloved to Allah to do good deeds:

قال تعالى: { وَالْفَجْرِ * وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ } وقال ابن عباس في تفسيره قوله: هي ليالي العشر الأول من ذي الحجة

وعن جابر بن عبد الله رضي الله عنه، أن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: أفضل أيام الدنيا أيام العشر.

وفي جامع الترمذي وسنن أبي داود: وعنه أن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ فِيهِنَّ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ الْعَشْرِ، فَقَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! وَلَا الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ؟! فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: وَلَا الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، إِلَّا رَجُلٌ خَرَجَ بِنَفْسِهِ وَمَالِهِ فَلَمْ يَرْجِعْ مِنْ ذَلِكَ بِشَيْءٍ.

فإن الحج تلك الشعيرة العظيمة من شعائر ديننا العظيم، فرض فرضه الله على عباده إلى بيته العتيق مرة؛ في العمر لقوله عندما سئل عن الإسلام فقال ((أن تشهد ألا إله إلا الله وأن محمداً رسول الله، وتقيم الصلاة، وتؤتي الزكاة، وتصوم رمضان، وتحج البيت إذا استطعت إليه سبيلاً))، فمن أنكر فريضة الحج فقد كفر، ومن أقر بها وتركها تهاوناً فهو على خطر، فقد روي عن عمر بن الخطاب: (لقد هممت أن أبعث رجالاً إلى هذه الأمصار فينظروا من كان عنده جدة فلم يحج، فيضربوا عليهم الجزية ما هم بمسلمين ما هم بمسلمين)، وعنه: (من أطاق الحج فلم يحج، فسواء عليه يهوديا مات أو نصرانيا) وقال علي بن أبي طالب: (استكثروا من الطواف بهذا البيت، قبل أن يحال بينكم وبينه)

These days are the best days out of the year, because they contain within them one of the greatest rituals of our great and beautiful deen-the Hajj. Allah obligated the Hajj, the pilgrimage to

Makkah once in a lifetime upon all Muslims. Whoever negates that Hajj is an obligation upon every Muslim, then they have disbelieved in Allah and His Messenger. Whoever knows and understands that it is obligatory and abandons it, or is lazy or negligent in performing it once in a lifetime then it is feared that he may die a death of either a Jew or a Christian. So if you have the finances and the physical strength to make Hajj, don't hesitate in doing so, make sure to make it before you die and don't have an opportunity.

Making the pilgrimage to Makkah was an act of worship that many of the previous prophets and messengers performed, so when we do so we are keeping the tradition and pilgrimage of the righteous, pious, servants of Allah.

One of those great Prophets and Messengers who we want to learn about is Ibrahim (Alayhi As-Salām) who was the one ordered to reconstruct and raise the Kaaba in Makkah. The first prophet to build the Kaaba was Adam (Alayhi As-Salām) after the angels laid the foundation of the Kabah. After the Kaaba got destroyed by the great flood during the time of Nuh (Alayhi As-Salām), it was Ibrahim (Alayhi As-Salām) who was chosen to rebuild the first Masjid that ever existed on the face of the earth.

So Allah had order Ibrahim to travel to Makkah to rebuild the Kabah. Upon travelling to Makkah with his wife Hajar and his young son Isma'eel who was still breastfeeding. At that time Makkah was a barren desert and with no inhabitants. So once they arrived Ibrahim left his wife and his son some dates and water, then he immediately started travelling back to Palestine. Hajar started to run after him and say: where are you going Ibrahim, you've left us in this barren, dry, deserted valley with little food and drink. She kept repeating this, but Ibrahim didn't acknowledge her nor turn around to address her. She finally asked him: did Allah order you to do this? He immediately responded: yes, He did. Then Hajar said to herself: Then we will never be forsaken nor abandoned. Then when Ibrahim reached one of the mountains in Makkah he turned to the sky and made supplication to Allah for help and protection of his family:

رَبَّنَا إِنِّي أَسْكَنْتُ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرِ ذِي زَرْعٍ عِنْدَ بَيْتِكَ الْمُحَرَّمِ رَبَّنَا لِيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ فَاجْعَلْ أَفْنَدَةً

مَنْ النَّاسِ تَهْوَى إِلَيْهِمْ وَارْزُقْهُمْ مِّنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ [إبراهيم:37]

“O Our Lord! I have left/ my family in a barren valley, near Your Sacred House, our Lord, so that they may establish prayer. So make the hearts of ‘believing’ people incline towards them and provide them with sustenance, so perhaps they will be thankful”
Hajar continued to breastfeed young Isma’eel and drink from the water that Ibrahim had left them, until they ran out of water and dates. After some time her and her son became thirsty, and Hajar could not stand looking at her son not having enough water to drink. So she began running back and forth between Safa and Marwah mountain seven times looking for water, until out of nowhere an angel came and dug the well of Zamzam and water sprung up from the ground. Then he told Hajar: Don’t be afraid of being abandoned here, indeed your husband and your son are going to reconstruct it. Allah will never forsake you nor the people that will migrate to this area. At that time the foundation of the Ka’bah was on a small hill that would sometimes be affected by flooding on some sides of it. Since now there was water, some animals and birds would come to drink from the water. After some time some of the tribes noticed the birds flying around the area and started to head towards the direction of Makkah, and they would come and settle in that area to let their camels and livestock drink from the water there. So eventually the tribe of Jurham settled in the Area. Isma’eel was not grown and learned the Arabic language from them, then he eventually married from them. After some time Ibrahim came back and found that Isma’eel was now married. So Ibrahim asked Isma’eel’s wife how were things, and Isma’eel’s wife responded:

نَحْنُ بِشَرٍّ، نَحْنُ فِي ضَيْقٍ وَشِدَّةٍ

“We are doing terrible, miserable circumstances and difficulties”

Ibrahim said to her: If my son comes home, please convey to him my greetings and let him know I said to chain his doorstep. When Ishmael came, he seemed to have felt something unusual, so he asked his wife, 'Has anyone visited you?' She replied, 'Yes, an old man of so-and-so description came and asked me about you and I informed him, and he asked about our living

circumstances, and I told him that we were living in constant hardship and poverty.' On that Ishmael said, 'Did he advise you anything?' She replied, 'Yes, he told me to convey his salutation to you and to tell you to change the doorstep.' Ishmael said, 'It was my father, and he has ordered me to divorce you. Go back to your family.'

So, Ishmael divorced her and married another woman from amongst them (i.e. Jurhum). Then Ibrahim was away for some time and then returned back to Makkah and went to Ismael's house and again but did not find Ishmael. So he came to Ismael's wife and asked her about Ismael. She said, 'He has gone in search of our livelihood.' Abraham asked her, 'How are you getting by, how are your living conditions?' asking her about their sustenance and living circumstances. She replied, 'We are prosperous and well-off (i.e. we have everything in abundance).' Then she thanked Allah'. Ibrahim then asked her, 'What kind of food do you eat?' She said, 'Meat.' He said, 'What do you drink?' She said, 'Water.' He said, "O Allah! Bless their meat and water." added," Then Abraham said Ishmael's wife, (ﷺ) The Prophet "When your husband comes, give my regards to him and tell him that he should keep firm his doorstep.' When Ismael came back, he asked his wife, 'Did anyone call on you?' She replied, 'Yes, a good-looking old man came to me,' so she praised him and added. 'He asked about you, and I informed him, and he asked about our livelihood and I told him that we were in a good condition.' Ishmael asked her, 'Did he give you any piece of advice?' She said, 'Yes, he told me to give his regards to you and ordered that you should keep firm the threshold of your gate.' On that Ishmael said, 'It was my father, and you are the doorkeeper of my house. He has ordered me to keep you with me as my wife.' Then Ibrahim left again for some time and came back to Makkah. He saw Ishmael under a tree near the Zamzam water, sharpening his arrows. When he saw Ibrahim, he rose up to welcome him. Ibrahim said, 'O Ishmael! Allah has given me an order.' Ishmael said, 'Do what your Lord has ordered you to do.' Ibrahim asked, 'Will you help me?' Ishmael said, 'Of course I will help you.'

Ibrahim said, Allah has ordered me to build a house here,' pointing to a hillock higher than the land surrounding it."

"Then they raised the foundations of the House (i.e. the Ka`ba). Ismael brought the stones and Ibrahim was putting them in place, and when the walls became high, Ishmael brought this big stone and put it for Ibrahim who stood on it while placing the blocks of the Kabah, while Ismael was handing him the stones, and both of them were saying:

{رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ}

'O our Lord! Accept (this service) from us, Verily, You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.'

Then both of them went on building and going (ﷺ) The Prophet round the Ka`ba repeating this supplication.

In one narration it mentions that once they finished completing the building of the Ka`bah, except for the place of the Black Stone: that Ismae'el was looking for the last finishing stones to complete the building and upon that the angel Jibreel came to him and brought him the black stone. So once they finished re-constructing the Ka`bah the angel Jibreel came and showed them how to perform the Hajj and then told Ibrahim to call out to the people to announce the practice of performing Hajj as Allah says:

وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ - لِيَشْهَدُوا مَنَافِعَ لَهُمْ وَيَذْكُرُوا أَنَّمَا أَلَّاهُ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْلُومَاتٍ عَلَىٰ مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَاكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطِيعُوا أَمْرَ اللَّهِ وَالْإِنشَاءَ الْأَوَّلَىٰ
الْفَقِير - ثُمَّ لِيَقْضُوا تَفَثَهُمْ وَلْيُوفُوا نُذُورَهُمْ وَلْيَطَّوَّفُوا بِالْبَيْتِ الْعَتِيقِ

And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass –That they may witness benefits for themselves and mention the name of Allah on known days over what He has provided for them of [sacrificial] animals. So eat of them and feed the miserable and poor. Then let them end their untidiness and fulfill their vows and perform Tawaf around the ancient House”

So when Ibrahim (Alayhi As-Salām) was commanded by Allah to make this proclamation, he responded to Allah saying: that the place where he stood was an uninhabited desert with nobody to

hear the proclamation. So Allah (Subhānahu Wa Ta'Ala) then responded telling him that he was required only to make the proclamation and the responsibility for conveying it to the four corners of the world rested upon Allah Himself.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ: فِيمَا أوردنا من قِصَّةِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ الْآتِفَةِ عِبرٌ عَظِيمَةٌ، نَقْتَصِرُ عَلَى مَا تيسَّرَ مِنْهَا.

Servants of Allah within the story of Ibrahim are numerous benefits and lessons, we will mention a few:

1-Whenever Allah commands you to do something, do it immediately. We find this in numerous occasions within Ibrahim and Ismaa'eel's story: leaving his family in the deserted barren Makkah alone, with little to no food at all. Then the command to slaughter his son Isma'eel without hesitation, and this type of submission only happens with those who submit completely to Allah as Allah tells us:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَذْخُلُوا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً﴾

If we want to be good Muslims, then we need to respond to Allah's commands immediately, like Ibrahim did. Praying on time, paying zakat on time, fasting, making Hajj, etc...

2. We learn that when one submits completely to Allah and gives Allah's religion priority over everything else and loves Allah more than everything else in existence, then Allah will grant you all that you desire in this world and the next. We learned in this story how Ibrahim gave priority to Allah's commands over the safety, security, food and provisions of his family...He had certainty that when one is obedient to Allah, that Allah will provide for his family from ways unimaginable.

3. From the great lessons as well: Ibrahim not acknowledging his wife when she called out to him when he was leaving to fulfill Allah's commands. From this we learn that one should ignore all distractions if they are hindering one's path to be obedient to Allah...if one falls victim to distractions to being obedient to Allah, they could eventually lead to one's destruction.

4. From the lessons we can extract as well: is the true faith, certainty and trust in Allah that Hajar had. When she asked Ibrahim: did Allah order you to leave us here with little provisions and travel far away from us? Ibrahim responded: yes. Then Hajar

said: we will never be forsaken then. What a perfect example of trusting in Allah completely and sincerely that we have in our mother Hajar....If one puts there complete trust in Allah, it will suffice you, as Allah tells us:

﴿وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ﴾

Allah granted Hajar everything that she was thinking about and worried about in regards to her and her son Isma'eel. And made her remembrance to remain for eternity, out of honor for her and her trust in Allah, when the pilgrims run between Safa and Marwa mountain in Makkah during the Hajj.

5. Also from the lessons we can extract from the story of Ibrahim is the supplication of Ibrahim that he made for his family and children:

﴿رَبِّ إِنِّي أَسْكَنْتُ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرِ ذِي زَرْعٍ عِنْدَ بَيْتِكَ الْمُحَرَّمِ رَبَّنَا لِيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ فَجَعَلْ إِقَامَةَ الصَّلَاةِ فِي سَبَبِ إِسْكَانِهِ لَذُرِّيَّتِهِ عِنْدَ الْبَيْتِ الْمُحَرَّمِ

“O Allah I have settled my family in Makkah close to your sacred house to establish the prayer”, Ibrahim made the reason for him going to Makkah and settling there to worship Allah and establish the prayer...this should be the first thing that parents should teach their children, to establish the prayer in the houses of Allah...

ثُمَّ قَالَ ﷻ: ﴿فَأَجْعَلْ أَفْئِدَةً مِنَ النَّاسِ تَهْوِي إِلَيْهِمْ وَارْزُقْهُمْ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ﴾، وَيُسْتَفَادُ مِنْهُ أَنَّ مَنْ أَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ -كَمَا أَمَرَ اللَّهُ- أَقْبَلَ اللَّهُ بِقُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِلَيْهِ، وَرَزَقَهُ مِنْهُ رِزْقًا حَسَنًا...

“Make the hearts of the people turn towards them, and grant them provisions, so that they may be thankful” we learn from this part of Ibrahim’s supplication is that establishing the prayer as Allah wants us to, that Allah will incline the people towards that individual, and give them endless provisions...

فَاللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنَا مِنْ مُقِيمِي الصَّلَاةِ، وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّاتِنَا .. رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دَعَاءَ ...
ثُمَّ صَلُّوا