

First Ten of Dhul-Hijjah

By Ali Alseddiqi رحمه الله

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are very important and virtuous days, as evidenced in the Quran and Sunnah. Amongst these ten days is the day of 'Arafah, and the last day of these ten is Eid Al-Adha itself, the second Eid in Islam. The Fiqh of these ten days, and overall knowledge pertaining to them, will be discussed here Insha'Allah.

Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan mentions that there are actually 3 sets of 10 days, which are considered important in Islam. They are the first ten of Dhul-Hijjah, the topic of this essay, as well as the first ten of Muharram, and the last ten of Ramadan.

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are very virtuous days. These are ten days that Allah himself swears by in the Quran, in Surat Al-Fajr, where he says:

وَالْفَجْرِ (1)
وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ (2)

**By the Fajr, (1)
And the Ten Nights, (2)**

Ibn Kathir رحمه الله, in his Tafsir for these two Ayat, writes the following (English Translation):

The ten nights refers to the (first) ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. This was said by Ibn `Abbas, Ibn Zubayr, Mujahid and others among the Salaf and the latter generations. It has been confirmed in Sahih Al-Bukhari from Ibn `Abbas that the Prophet ﷺ said,

«مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ الصَّالِحُ أَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ فِيهِمْ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأَيَّامِ»

There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these days. Meaning the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. They said, "Not even fighting Jihad in the way of Allah?" He ﷺ replied,

«وَلَا الْجِهَادُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ، إِلَّا رَجُلًا خَرَجَ بِنَفْسِهِ وَمَالِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَرْجِعْ مِنْ ذَلِكَ بِشَيْءٍ»

Not even Jihad in the way of Allah; except for a man who goes out (for Jihad) with his self and his wealth, and he does not return with any of that.

The Translation of his Tafsir ends here.

Sheikh Ibn Uthaymeen رحمه الله said, "the student of knowledge should spread awareness amongst the people of the virtue of these ten days, because the people are heedless regarding it, and of its virtue are ignorant, so they are in need of reminder, understanding, and knowledge." As said in a recorded lecture, and as stated by Abdulaziz Haqqan.

Ibn Uthaymeen also said, "During these (ten) days, increase in righteous deeds, increase in recitation of the Quran, increase in Dhikr, increase in Charity, and fast it days, for indeed there are no days in which good deeds are done that are more beloved to Allah than in these ten days." This is also from a recorded lecture.

Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan tells us (in the video referenced below) that it is highly recommended to fast the first 9 days of these 10, but excluding the 10th day since that is Eid Al-Adha, and we are not permitted to fast that day.

He also said that his Sheikhs said that fasting on the day of 'Arafah is highly recommended, and fasting on this day is emphasized more greatly than other days.

During the time of writing this in 2024, 'Arafah has been declared to be on the 15th of June, and Al-Adha is on the 16th of June, according to the announcement of the Supreme Court of Saudi Arabia, as stated by FatwaOnline.

Mohammed ﷺ, as reported by Muslim¹, also taught us that fasting on 'Arafah expiates the sins of the previous year and the next year. Another similar Hadith is also reported by Muslim, and these are both referenced by Ibn Hajr in Bulugh Al-Maram.

Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan also says that the Scholars say (based on a Hadith by Mohammed ﷺ) that it is highly recommended to offer a sacrifice, such as that of the sheep on Eid for example.

In terms of virtuous deeds, there are many that are recommended to be done during these ten days. I have already mentioned the saying of Ibn Uthaymeen, which is also referenced by Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan, where the recitation (and reading) of the Quran, Dhikr, Charity, and Fasting are all recommended acts. These are recommended and very easy to do. Regarding the Quran, this is quite straightforward. Simply read. Regarding Dhikr, I will discuss it below Insha'Allah. Regarding Charity, I suggest studying the Fiqh of Charity, as many things are considered Charity in Islam. There is no shortage of poor to support, and no shortage of ways to reach these poor, via platforms like gofundme, or Charity Organizations like in Kuwait. Fasting is also quite self-explanatory.

Regarding Dhikr (plural is Adhkar), what is highly recommended is Tahlil, Tahmeed, and Takbir². There is also Tasbih. These are saying (transliterated), La Ilaha ila Allah, Alhamdulillah, Allah Akbar, and Subhan Allah, respectively.

Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan also said that the best supplication (Dua) is on the day of 'Arafah. Thus it is advisable to generously make Dua on this day.

¹ Muslim 1162 according to Sunnah.com

² Reported in Musnad Ahmed according to Abdulaziz Haqqan.

Regarding the virtue of these Ten of Dhul-Hijjah compared to the other sets of 10, Ibn Taymiyyah explains it as follows.

Ibn Taymiyyah says that the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah are better than the last 10 days of Ramadan. This refers to the actual daytime of the 10 of Dhul-Hijjah being superior to the last 10 days of Ramadan. However, Ibn Taymiyyah also says that the last 10 nights of Ramadan, referring to the actual nighttime of these days, are superior to the 10 nights of the ten of Dhul-Hijjah.

So in summary, the last 10 nights of Ramadan are better than the 10 nights of Dhul-Hijjah, whilst the last 10 days of Ramadan are lower than the first 10 of Dhul-Hijjah.

This is as stated by Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan.

For Additional Reading, seek lectures regarding this, and books of Fiqh. In this file, I have provided a small booklet that goes into slightly more depth than I do regarding this topic of the Ten of Dhul-Hijjah.

It can be accessed alternatively at:

<https://darpdfs.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Precious-Gems-from-the-Salaf-the-Khalaf-Dhul-Hijjah-The-Day-of-%E2%80%98Arafah.pdf>

Bibliography

Ustadh Abdulaziz Haqqan's lecture on the first ten of Dhul-Hijjah:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/r2QooDjowhc?si=898TlcEZx2zQ8OUz>

Sheikh Mohammed Hisham (teacher of Abdulaziz Haqqan) is excellent according to the Legendary Sheikh Saleh As-Suhaymi:

<https://youtu.be/TnlxSMEFPvU?si=vel4emXWpVLICkC3>

Clips from referenced Ibn Uthaymeen lectures:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C74ZFi0okfT/?igsh=MTI4bWpvZnZIZGxpaQ==>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C73zxjVo2qg/?igsh=MWM2dHJkMGE1MzM3Zg==>