

## **In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful**

All thanks be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, peace and prayer be upon the most honorable of all messengers, Muhammad.

Allah May **He** be Exalted creates what **He** wishes and **He** chooses whom He pleases. **He** created the heavens and chose the seventh out of them. **He** created the gardens and selected the Ferdose. **He** created all angels and selected Gabriel, Michael and Israel. **He** created people and selected the believers. From the believers **He** selected the prophets and messengers. From the messengers **He** selected the ones with the firm will or determination. And from those **He** selected the two to call colleagues, and of those two **He** selected Mohammed (ppbu). **He** created all earth and **He** selected Mekkah. He created time and days. Of all the months **He** selected Ramadan. Of all of the days **He** selected Friday as the best day. Of all the nights **He** selected the night of the Qadr. Of all the hours **He** selected the Friday hour. And as a group of days, **He** selected the first ten days in the month of Thel-Hejjah.

A Muslim lives with blessings in his deed and his time. The greatest blessing in the deed is obedience. Allah says: ((Allah writes good deed and sins. This who comes up with a good deed he will have ten times of what it is worth)). It is said ((Allah writes good and bad deeds. Who ever go intending to do a good deed but he doesn't get round to doing it, Allah will write it with him/her as a full done good deed. And who ever goes intending to do a good deed and he does actually do it, Allah will write it with him as up to ten times worth of that deed, or up to 700 times worth or even more times worth. Yet, this who goes intending to do a bad deed (or a sin) but he doesn't do it or backs off, Allah will write it with him as a full good deed. And this who goes intending to do a bad deed (or a sin) and he does actually do it, Allah will write it with him as one bad deed. With Allah, no one will really be destroyed except one with a mind set to self destruction))

Obedience to Allah in itself is a blessing when words are spoken or when deeds are done. A word spoken in obedience is worth ten good deeds. Obedience to Allah by deed is a blessing as in the worship acts. A prayer is rewarded as ten prayers, fasting for the month of Ramadan is like fasting ten months. Charity is rewarded as 700 times its worth. And a good pilgrimage (Hajj) has no reward but Paradise.

The first ten days in the month of 'Thel-Hejjah have great status with Allah. Allah loves them and values them greatly. They are blessed, with great rewards, and with great many good deeds, and with fewer sins, and with multiple acts of obedience. Their advantages are too many to count.

Allah used them when **He** made an oath when in the Surah Al-Fajr **He** says: {and the ten nights}. Allah only makes an oath using great creations of His, like the heavens, the earth, the sun, moon, stars and the wind. Oath is made with great time-related terms such as dawn, 3asr {عصر}, forenoon, the night and the day, the 'Ten. His creations can creatures like us can make an oath using only Allah's name.

One of the virtues of those ten days is that Allah had it tied with other great and important periods of times like Fajr of the time when life goes back to the semi-dead bodies; and light after darkness. The Shaf3 and Watr at night. The Fajr is the time associated with times when angles are gathered; close to the time when Allah descends closer, round the last third part of the night. It is also the time that differentiates the believers from the hypocrites.

Another virtue of the first ten days of 'Thel-Hejjah is that in those days Allah did complete his blessings when the Quran descent came to an end. A Jewish Rabbi once said to the Khalifa Omar: "you have an ayah in your book, if it was brought down to us we would have made the day it came down a day of celebration", and he quoted the third Aya of the suraht Alma-edah: {Today I have for you, fulfilled your religion. And finalised my blessing on to you. And I have accepted Islam to be a religion for you }. Omar said: "I know when and where this Aya was revealed; it was on the day of Arafa on a Friday".

The first ten days of theel-hejjah have more virtues. All worship can take place during those days. One can pray, give charity, make fasting and do Hajj. Hajj can only be performed in those ten days and in no others. Making prayers (duaa), praising and rejoicing Allah.

The prophet peace and prayer be upon him said: {There are no other days during which a good deed is more loved to Allah than on those days} meaning the first ten days of 'Thel-Hejjah. They asked "Not even the Jihad in line of Allah?" He said: {Not even a jihad in the line of Allah, except for when a person goes out for jihad with his life and all his money and came back with non of that}

One of the greatest virtues of the first Ten of Thel-Hejja is that it contains the day of Arafah. It is a day with much blessings and forgiveness. The prophet (ppbu) said {The best duaa is the duaa on the day of Arafah}. It is the day that Satan is so humiliated and reduced. It is called the great day of Hajj. And the prophet (ppbu) said {Pilgrimage Hajj is Arafah}. And for the non-hajj, fasting that day cleanses sins for two years; the previous year and the next year.

Another virtue of the first ten days of Thel-Hejja is having the tenth day as the day of the sacrifice. A person in Hajj will stone the devil, shave the hair, sacrifice the lamb, make the Tawaf walk round the Ka'ba, do the walk between Safa and Marwa hills, perform the Eid-prayer, meet with other fellow Muslims in great congregations. And Muslims congratulating each other.

Dear Muslims, make the most of those ten blessed days. Start by repenting to Allah. That is return to Allah in what is visible and what is hidden.

Some of the poor in Madinah complained to the prophet (ppbu) about their fellow rich. They said those with the money are claiming all the rewards from Allah and the higher places in paradise and the ever lasting comfort and well being. They said they pray as we do and they fast as we do. But better than we, they have money they make charity and we do not, and they go to do Hajj and we do not. The prophet (ppbu) said {shall I let you know of something if you do it then you will catch up with those who went ahead of you (meaning to do Hajj), and you will be ahead of those who are with you. And no one will get to be like you will except someone who does the same}. They said: "Yes". He said: {Praise Allah 33 times سبحان الله, and thank Allah 33 times الحمد لله, and magnify Allah 33 times الله أكبر}.

Read a lot of the Quran, do a lot of the voluntary prayers (nawafel). Give charity a plenty. Make fasting even the entire first 9 days. In those ten days refrain from cutting or trimming your hair and finger nails until the day of the sacrifice.