

TAKBĪRS of TASHRĪQ

In order to mark one of the best days of the Islamic calendar, Allah ﷻ and His Messenger ﷺ have ordained a certain type of *dhikr* to be recited after every *farḍ ṣalāh*. This *dhikr* is called the *takbīrs* of *tashrīq*:

THE TAKBĪRS

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَ لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

It is *wājib* to perform them once (thrice is preferred) after each *farḍ* prayer offered in congregation (*jamā'ah*) and in solitude. There should be no prolonged gap between the conclusion of the *ṣalāh* and the *takbīrs*.

WHAT IS TASHRĪQ?

Literally, it means 'to dry out in the sun.' The Arabs would put their meat out in the sun to dry. In Islam, it refers to the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth of Dhū'l Hajj.

WHEN DO THE TAKBĪRS START AND FINISH?

All scholars agree that the *takbīrs* commence after *fajr* on the Day of 'Arafa, which is the ninth of Dhū'l Hajj.

There are two main opinions regarding when they cease:

- It finishes after 'aṣr on the Day of *Nahr*, meaning the tenth. Based on this, there are eight *takbīrs* in total. This is according to Imām Abū Ḥanīfa, as proven from Ibn Mas'ūd (may Allāh be pleased with him) and cited from Hasan al-Basrī.
- Imām Abū Yūsuf and Imām Muhammad state that it finishes after 'aṣr on the last day of *tashrīq* (which is the thirteenth). Based on this, there are twenty-three *takbīrs* in total. Our master's 'Alī, Ibn 'Abbās, Ibn 'Umar, Zayd ibn Thābit and Abū Bakr رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ all adhere to this opinion and this is the preferred ruling for the Ḥanafīs.

The scholars add that though this is done after *farḍ* prayers, it can be done after the eid prayer too (which is *wājib* and not *farḍ*).

WHY?

There is a beautiful story behind the *takbīrs* of *tashrīq*. When our master Jibrīl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ was sent to rescue our master Ismā'īl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ, he feared he was too late and so he proclaimed:

الله اكبر الله اكبر

Allah is the Greatest, Allah is the Greatest!

When our master Ibrāhīm عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ saw him coming, he reacted by saying:

لا اله الا الله و الله اكبر

There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and Allah is the Greatest!

Our master Ismā'īl عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ saw that he had been replaced with a sheep and so he proclaimed:

الله اكبر والله الحمد

Allah is the Greatest! And for Him is praise!

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