

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OPENING DAYS OF DHU’L ḤAJJ

When Allāh takes an oath with a place, object or person, then the purpose is to show the sanctity and religious significance of it.

In the Holy Qur’ān, Allāh Almighty says:

By the dawn! And the ten nights
(89:1-2).

وَالْفَجْرِ وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ.

According to Ibn ‘Abbās and many other Companions (may Allāh be pleased with them all), the ‘*ten nights*’ here refer to the opening days of Dhu’l Ḥajj.¹ This therefore indicates that these days hold utmost importance in our religion.

The blessed *ahādīth* of the best of all creations, Sayyidunā Muhammad ﷺ reflect this very fact. Ibn ‘Abbās (may Allāh be pleased with him) reports that the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

‘There are no deeds better in the sight of Allāh than good deeds done in the first ten days of Dhu’l Ḥajj.’ It was asked: ‘Not even Jihād for the sake of Allāh?’ He replied: ‘Not even Jihād for the sake of Allāh, unless a man goes out with his life and wealth with him and does not come back with anything’ (*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*).

ما من أيام العمل الصالح فيها أحب إلي الله عز وجل من هذه الأيام - يعني أيام عشر ذي الحجة - قالوا يا رسول الله ولا الجهاد في سبيل الله؟ قال ولا الجهاد في سبيل الله إلا رجل خرج بنفسه وماله ثم لم يرجع من ذلك بشيء

1 *Tafsīr al-Qurtubī* (20:27).

Abū Hurayra (may Allāh be pleased with him) reports:

‘There are no days more beloved to Allāh for you to worship Him therein than the first ten days of Dhu’l Ḥajj. Fasting any day during it is equivalent to fasting one year and to offer late-night prayers during one of its night is like standing in prayer on the Night of Power’ (<i>Sunan al- Tirmidhī</i>).	ما من أيام أحب إلي الله أن يُتَعَبَّدَ له فيها من عشر ذي الحج يعدل صيام كل يوم منها بصيام سنة و قيام كل ليلة منها بقيام ليلة القدر
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As the Qur’ān inform us, *Layla al-Qadr* is ‘better than a thousand months’ (97:3). One night of worship in the first ten nights of the Dhu’l Ḥajj holds the same rank. The reward of fasting for an entire year can be attained by fasting in these blessed days. Please note fasting on Eid (the tenth, eleventh and twelfth) is strictly forbidden in Sharī’ah.

The most elated of all saints, Shaykh ‘Abd al-Qādir Jilānī (d. 561 AH/1166 CE) writes in *Sufficient Provision for Seekers of the Path of Truth*:

‘It has been said that Allāh will bestow ten charismatic gifts (*karāmah*) upon anyone who treats these ten days with all due honour and respect, namely:

- Blessed grace (*baraka*) in his earthly life
- Increase in his property and wealth
- Safekeeping for his dependents
- The forgiveness of his sins
- The multiplication of his good deeds
- The easing of his agonies (*sakarāt*) at the time of death
- The illumination of his grave

- The favourable weighing of the Scales (*mīzān*) on the Day of Resurrection
- Salvation from the descending layers (*darakāt*) of Hell
- Promotion to the ascending levels (*darajāt*) of Paradise.’

May Allāh enable us all to take full spiritual benefit of these blessed days, *āmin*.

ATHER HUSSAIN

