

Importance of First Ten Days of Zilhijja in Islam

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah (Zil-Hijj) are among the most sacred and spiritually powerful days in Islam. Their importance is firmly established in both the Qur'an and the Sunnah, and they offer a unique opportunity for immense reward.



Importance of the First 10 Days of Dhul-Hijjah

1. Allah Swears by These Days (Qur'an)

Allah says:

وَالْفَجْرِ
وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ

“By the dawn; and by the ten nights...(Surah Al-Fajr 89:1–2)

Tafseer:

- Scholars like Ibn Kathir and Ibn Abbas explain that the “ten nights” refer to the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah.
- When Allah takes an oath by something, it signifies its عظمت (great importance).

2. Best Days for Righteous Deeds (Hadith)

The Prophet ﷺ said:

“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days.(Bukhari, Hadith 969)

The companions asked:

“Not even Jihad in the سبيل of Allah?”

He ﷺ replied:

“Not even Jihad, except a man who goes out with his life and wealth and returns with nothing.”



This shows that any good deed in these days surpasses even great acts done at other times.

3. Combination of Major Acts of Worship

As explained by scholars like Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali, these days uniquely combine all major عبادات:

- Salah (prayer)
- Sawm (fasting)

- Sadaqah (charity)
- Hajj (pilgrimage)

No other time of the year gathers all these acts together.

4. The Day of Arafah (9th Dhul-Hijjah)

The Prophet ﷺ said:

“Fasting the Day of Arafah expiates the sins of the previous year and the coming year.” (Muslim, Hadith 1162)

Also:

“There is no day on which Allah frees more people from the Fire than the Day of Arafah.” (Muslim)

5. Completion of Religion (Qur'an)

Allah says:

“This day I have perfected for you your religion...” (Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:3)

- This ayah was revealed on the Day of Arafah during the Farewell Hajj of the Prophet ﷺ.
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6. Days of Dhikr (Remembrance)

Allah says:

“...and mention the name of Allah on known days...” (Surah Al-Hajj 22:28)

- Scholars like Ibn Abbas interpret “known days” as the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah.
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What Ibadat to Do in These 10 Days

Here is a practical عبادات plan based on Qur'an and Sunnah:

1. Increase Dhikr (Most Emphasized)

The Prophet ﷺ said:

“So increase in them your declaration of Tawheed (Tahleel), Takbeer, and Tahmeed.” (Ahmad)

Recitations:

- Takbeer: Allahu Akbar
- Tahmeed: Alhamdulillah
- Tahleel: La ilaha illa Allah



Recite frequently at home, masjid, and even quietly in daily life.

2. Fasting (Especially Day of Arafah)

- Fast as many of the 9 days as possible.
- Strong Sunnah for:
- Day of Arafah (9th)

Note: The Prophet ﷺ used to fast these days (Abu Dawood).

3. Salah (Obligatory + Nafil)

- Guard the 5 daily prayers.

- Increase:
 - Tahajjud
 - Sunnah prayers
 - Ishraq / Duha
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4. Charity (Sadaqah)

- Give daily, even small amounts.
 - The reward is multiplied.
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5. Qur'an Recitation

- Set a daily portion (e.g., 1 Juz or more).
 - Reflect on meanings (Tafseer).
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6. Qurbani (Sacrifice)

- Done on 10th Dhul-Hijjah (Eid al-Adha).
 - Sunnah of Prophet Ibrahim and the Prophet ﷺ.
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7. Sincere Tawbah (Repentance)

- Ask forgiveness abundantly:
 - Astaghfirullah
 - Make heartfelt dua
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8. Maintain Family Ties

- Visit relatives, call them, forgive others.
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9. Avoid Sins

- Especially protect:
 - Tongue
 - Eyes
 - معاملات (dealings)
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10. For Those Doing Qurbani

The Prophet ﷺ said:

“When the ten days begin and one of you intends to sacrifice, let him not cut his hair or nails...(Muslim)



Summary

The first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah are:

- The best days of the year
- Loved by Allah for all righteous deeds
- Contain Day of Arafah and Eid al-Adha
- A rare chance for عظمى reward and forgiveness