

Grace of first ten days and the sacrifice 3

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Dearly beloved,

We live through some blessed days. Days, with which Allah (all praise be to Him) Has made an oath. That is because of the great honour and tremendous grace they hold. For Allah can use, anything He wishes of whatever He creates for His oath. However, He only uses something with a great status for His oath. This is in order to get the slaves' attention to it. In this case, they are the first ten days of the month of Thel-Hejja. They are pre-defined days. The messenger ppbu said: {there are no days greater in Allah's sight, or deeds more loved to Allah than deeds done on those ten days}.

One advantage of those ten days is the fact that they include the day of Arafah. That is the ninth day. That day is this coming Wednesday. Listen to what the messenger ppbu said when he was asked about fasting the day of Arafa . That is for those who are not performing Hajj. For those that Allah Had not enabled to do Hajj worship this year. The messenger ppbu said: **{fasting the day of Arafa clears sins for the previous year and the following year}**. This is a tremendous grace from the Almighty. A Muslim should make sure to benefit from those blessed day. Because whosoever takes care of his life with Allah's obedience, then Allah will take care for his/her life after. Everyone shall find what he/she does in advance in this life, kept for him or her in multiple folds with Allah on the day after. On the other hand, whosoever wastes away his life then his life after shall be a waste too. Losing his first life and losing the next life is the tremendous loss.

What is the sacrifice?

Dearly beloved, the sacrifice is the animal that is slaughtered. It can be a camel, a cow or a lamb on Eid day or one of the days known as Tashreeq days for getting closer to God.

Allah says: **{We have granted you the Kawther river in Paradise. Pray to your God and slaughter. For this who despises you is the one whose trace (or blood line) will discontinue}** 108

Allah says: **{And the camels! We have appointed them among the ceremonies of Allah. Therein you have much good. }** 22:36. The messenger ppbu did practice the sacrifice and so did the Muslims after him, and they all have agreed and practiced that. Our scholars have differed on

the obligation of sacrifice. Some have stated that is an obligation, which must be practised by every capable Muslim. The majority of scholars see that the sacrifice is a confirmed *Sunnah* or practice of the prophet. Not practicing the sacrifice is despised or detested when one is capable to do so. It was reported that the messenger ppbu sacrificed two multi coloured, horned rams. He himself slaughtered them, while saying the name of Allah and saying takbeer. In another report, the messenger ppbu was reported saying: **{O Allah, this is for me and for whoever does not slaughter a sacrifice in my nation}**.

It was reported that the messenger ppbu once did the Eid prayer, did the Eid khutbah, then he came down from his *menber* (podium), he said: **{in the name of Allah, and Allah is the greatest (بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ), this slaughter is on my behalf, and on behalf of whosoever does not do the sacrifice of my nation}**.

Aesha also told us that the messenger ppbu ordered two rams for sacrifice, then he called on Aesah and said, get me the knife and sharpen it with a stone, then he slaughtered one of the rams while saying: {in the name of Allah, O Allah accept this from Muhammad, and the clan of Muhammad and the nation of Muhammad}.

A requirement of the sacrifice is that it has to be after Eid prayer. The messenger ppbu said: {This who slaughters before Eid prayer then he slaughters form himself. And whosoever slaughters after Eid prayer then he has followed our practice (*Sunnah*) and has done his offering complete}. It is not permitted for a Muslim to slaughter a sacrifice before Eid prayer.

It is also a requirement of the sacrifice that it must be good and free from imperfections. The messenger ppbu said: {there are four which should not be fit for a sacrifice: one-eyed animal, this with clear loss of an eye. And one with sickness that is clearly sick. And the limping with clearly visible ribs, and the one with a fractured or broken bone which does not have bone marrow to heal}. This hadeeth is enough to help a Muslim select a good sacrifice to donate to your God.

The messenger ppbu also said: {only slaughter mature sacrifices, unless if it gets hard for you to do so, so of the lam; slaughter a younger lamb}. A mature camel is that which completed five years of age and is in its sixth year. In cattle, a mature one is the one that is more than two years and is in its third. In sheep, a mature one is any lamb that is one year old and is in its second. If it is difficult to find such age of animal then it is permissible to slaughter a lamb that is as young as six months old.

Now, what is the wisdom or what are the lessons of the sacrifice? The wisdom is that Allah has decreed or permitted this in order to provide for the poor on the day of Eid and the days to follow (Tashreeq day). Allah says: {**You eat from it and feed the impoverished poor**}. It was also decreed in memory of Prophet Abraham. Allah has in His wisdom and His will that Prophet Abraham's sacrifice remains alive up to the day of resurrection within the descendants of Ismael among the nation of Muhammad ppbu.

You; whom Allah Has blessed you with money, and comfort in living in good and rightfully earned money (halal), do not deny yourself this goodness. Always remember that what you really own is what you give in this life of yours. In fact, that money that you save or keep and leave behind has never really belonged to you. It is an inheritance for those who survive you while the Almighty shall question you about it. So give in advance now for yourself. In addition, give in order to ease the difficulties for others so Allah will ease your difficulties in the day after. Do not forget your brothers in need, especially in Syria nowadays.

O people you are the poor who need Allah, and Allah is the Rich the extoller. If He so wishes He can get you to go and brings new creatures. And that is not hard to do for Allah