

Grace of Arafa Day, and the sacrifice.

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6 Thul-Hejjah 1431 h

12 November 2010 ac

In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

Dear faithful,

We live those days, those virtuous days of Allah; the best days of all as far as Allah is concerned. Allah made it such that a deed during those days is unlike a deed done on other days. The messenger ppbu said: **{No other deed is more loved to Allah than a good deed done during those ten days}**. They said: Not even striving through fighting in the line of Allah (or Jihad). He said: **{Not even Jihad through fighting in the line of Allah, except for a man who went out with his soul and his money and none of that came back}**. The messenger ppbu also said: **{No other days are greater with Allah (may He be praised) or no deeds are more loved to Allah than the deeds done during those ten days. Do plenty of God praising, glorifying and thanking}**.

Grace of the ten days and the day of Arafa:

It was during these ten days that Allah brought down upon the messenger ppbu His verse: **{Today I have completed your religion for you, and I have complemented my mercy upon you and I have with contentment accepted for you Islam as a faith}**. A Jew heard this verse and he said: if this verse was received by us we would have made the day a celebrated day or feast. Ebn Abbas said: “the day this verse came down was in fact two feasts (or two Eids). It was a Friday and it was the day of Arafah”.

The messenger ppbu said: **{the fasting of the day of Arafa in my expectation that Allah will clear sins for the year before it and the year which follows it}**. Day of Arafah is the day that the enemy of Allah Ebleese (Satan) would not be seen smaller or more insignificant, and more despicable and most disgusted and more raged than he is on this day. That is because of all the blessings and mercies and goodness he sees. And it is because all the forgiveness of the major sins by Allah.

The messenger ppbu said: **{there is no other day that Allah spares and sets free more slaves from the doom of fire as He does on the day of Arafah. Allah comes closer and boasts with His slaves to angels; and He says: what do you think they want?}** What a great and honorable scene when all those attending Hajj stand on that mountain lifting their hands in repentance and in humbleness and humiliation asking for forgiveness. And who is it that forgives sins other than Allah? Slaves of Allah, glorify this day, and take opportunity of time on this day by doing good deeds and doing a plenty of remembering and fasting and reciting of Quran.

Day of Eid (Feast day)

After the day of Arafah, next comes the day of sacrifice. It is another great day with Allah. Some scholars even think it is a greater day than the day of Arafah. The messenger ppbu said: **{the greatest day with Allah is the day of sacrifice then the day of settling in Mena during Hajj}**. Really; regardless which of the days is the greater; they are both two great and holy days. They fall amongst honorable days only fully appreciated by God fearing people; and only the unlucky ones who would miss out on the grace of those days. The messenger ppbu said: **{Day of Arafa, and day of sacrifice, and the days of Tashreeq-days are our feast for us the people of Islam, and they are days of feasting with food and drink}**.

The messenger's practice of Sacrifice

Dear brothers and sisters in faith, one of the greatest rituals of Eid is the slaughter of the sacrifice in order to get closer to Allah through the shedding of its blood. Allah says: **{and pray to your God and slaughter}**. The sacrifice is part of the Islamic faith by an agreement of all Muslims. The slaughtering of donated sacrifices is part of the rituals in our faith. It was the costume of our father prophet Abraham and also of our prophet Muhammed ppbu. It is a requiem to be done on the time required from every living Muslim who is a mature individual on behalf of himself and on behalf of the people in his family. He may share its reward with whomever he wishes; living and dead. One man may sacrifice just one lamb on his and his family's behalf regardless of how many are in his family, and regardless of the different levels of relationships. Abu Ayooob said: we used to sacrifice one lamb for the

entire family, and now people started boasting about it and it is turning into a kind of show off.

Requirements of the sacrifice:

The sacrifice has a number of necessary conditions, they are:

- 1) It has to be one of the following classes of animals: lambs, cows or camels.
- 2) Must be of a mature age, in its second year or older.
- 3) Must not have any deficiencies like a visible disease or illness, or a visible limb, or a bad-eye (one-eyed), or sever weakness, and any similar or worst conditions than that. Remember that Allah is good and only accepts what is good.
- 4) The sacrifice must be owned by the one who is making the sacrifice or permission is granted by the owner. One can not make a sacrifice if the animal was stolen or forcibly taken etc.
- 5) Sacrifice by slaughter must happen on the time allowed. That is after the Eid prayer (10th day of the month of Thul-Hejja) and before sun down of the 13th day of the month of Thul-Hejja.

Remember that the sacrifice was the custom of your prophet, and it is a means of getting closer to your God. Do your sacrifice willingly, and sense the closeness to Allah, and make your intentions purely to Allah, and expect the reward from Allah. Stay away from boasting, and showing off, and do not seek selfishness.