

# VIRTUES OF THE SACRED MONTH OF DHUL HIJJAH

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## PREFACE

The following information has been excerpted from *Al-Ghunya li-Taalibi Tareeq al-Haqq* by Hazrat Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be pleased with him); translated from the Arabic by Haaji Muhtar Holland into Sufficient Provision for Seekers of the Path of Truth. (Al-Baz Publishing, Inc., Florida, 1997) – Volume 3, pages 166 - 258.

Shaykh Abdul Qadir Jilani (may Allah be pleased with him) is one of the greatest scholars and Saints of the Islamic tradition, and the fountainhead of the Qadri Spiritual Order. He was born in the Iranian district of Gilan, south of the Caspian Sea, in 470 Hijri (1077 CE). Having lived a life of extreme piety, sacrifice, service, and devotion to Allah Almighty and His Messenger ﷺ, he passed onto the Realm of Divine Beatitude on the 11th of Rabi-uth-Thani, 561 Hijri (1166 CE). He rests in the city of Baghdad, Iraq. His blessed mausoleum is a place of pious visitation from devotees around the world.

The intent of this brief document is to bring to the attention of our readers the great spiritual benefits of these blessed nights and days, and to encourage them to derive these benefits by practicing the prescribed acts of worship.



In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful  
Prayers and Peace upon His Noble Messenger ﷺ

## INTRODUCTION

Dhul Hijjah is the 12<sup>th</sup> and last month of the Islamic lunar calendar. It is one of the four sacred months, the other three being Muharram, Rajab & Dhul Qa'dah. Dhul Hijjah's significance is enormous as related in the Holy Quran, and the sayings of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and His Noble Companions (may Allah be pleased with them all).

Allah, Almighty and Glorious is He, says in the Holy Quran:

***"And by oath of ten nights."***

[Al-Fajr 89:2]

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father), the great Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and illustrious exegete of the Holy Quran explained that the expression "and ten nights [*wa layaalin 'ashr*]" refers to the ten special nights at the beginning of the month of Dhul Hijjah.

Hazrat Abu Saeed al-Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him), another great Companion of the Holy Prophet ﷺ reported that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

***"The chieftain [sayyid] of the months is the month of Ramadan, and the mightiest of them in sanctity [hurma] is Dhul-Hijjah."***

According to Hazrat Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that:

***"Of all the days, there are none in which Allah, Exalted is He, more dearly loves to have worshipful service performed for His sake, other than the Ten Days of Dhul Hijjah. To devote just one of the them to fasting is equivalent to fasting for one whole year, and keeping vigil on one of these nights is like keeping vigil for one whole year."***



## RITUAL PRAYER TO BE RECITED DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF DHUL HIJJAH

Hazrat Ali (may Allah ennoble his face) reported that the Holy Prophet ﷺ once said:

*“When the Ten [Days and Nights] of Dhul-Hijja come around, you must devote yourselves strenuously to worshipful obedience, for they are the days upon which Allah, Exalted is He, has bestowed His special favor, and He has made the sanctity of their nighttime equivalent to the sanctity of their daytime. So if a worshipper prays during any night of the Ten Nights, performing four cycles of ritual prayer [raka’at] in the last third [of the night], and including the following recitations from the Holy Quran in each cycle:*

- *Surah Al-Fatiha [1:1-7] once*
- *Surah Al-Falaq [113:1-5] & Surah An-Naas[114:1-6] once each*
- *Surah Al-Ikhlaas [112:1-4] 3 times and*
- *Ayat Al-Kursi [2:255] 3 times*

*and if he raises his hands, as soon as he has completed this ritual prayer and says:*

*Subhaana Dhil-’Izzati wal-Jabaroot. Subhaana Dhil-Qudrati wal-Malakoot. Subhaanal-Hayyil-ladhee laa yamoot. Laa ilaaha illa Huwa yuhyee wa yumeetu wa Huwa Hayyun laa yamoot. Subhaanal-laahi Rabbil-’ibaadi wal-bilaad. Al-hamdu lil-laahi katheeran wa tayyiban wa mubaarakan ‘alaa kulli haal. Allahu Akbaru kabeera Rabbanaa jalla Jalaaluhu wa Qudratuhu bi-kulli makaan.*

*and if he then pleads for whatever he wishes, he will be entitled to the same reward as someone who perform the Pilgrimage to the Sacred House of Allah, visits the tomb of the Prophet ﷺ and strives in the cause of Allah. Whatever he asks of Allah, He will surely grant him his request.*

*If he performs that same ritual prayer during every night of the Ten Nights, Allah, Exalted is He, will grant him lawful access to the Highest Paradise [al-Firdaws al-A’laa] and He will erase every bad deed from his record. ‘Now set about your work from a new beginning,’ he will be told.*

*If it happens to be the Day of ‘Arafa, and he devotes the daytime thereof to fasting and night thereof to ritual prayer, and he pronounces this invocation and he offers many a humble entreaty in the presence of Allah, Exalted is He, Allah will say: ‘O My angels, bear witness that I have granted him forgiveness, and that I have equated him with the Pilgrim of the House of Allah [al- Haajj ilaa Baitillah].’ The angels will be delighted to learn what Allah, Exalted is He, has bestowed upon that believing servant, as a reward for his ritual prayer and his invocation.”*



## MERITS OF HAJJ

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) said:

We were in the company of Allah's Messenger ﷺ, when a group of people arrived from Yemen. They said: "May our mothers and fathers be our ransom! Will you tell us about the special merits of the Pilgrimage [Hajj]?" He ﷺ said:

*"Yes! If any mans sets out from his home, as a Pilgrim or a Visitant, whenever he lifts a foot, or sets a foot down on the ground, sins are scattered from his feet, just as leaves are scattered from the trees. Then, when he reaches the city of Medina, shakes my hand, and salutes me with the greeting of peace [salaam], the angels will likewise salute him with the greeting of peace. Then when he reaches Dhul Haleefa (the miqat or meeting point for Pilgrims approaching Mecca from the direction of Medina), and performs the major ritual ablution, Allah will purify him of his sins. When he puts on two new pieces of clothing, Allah will renew his good deeds for him...."* (Please refer to the source text for the entire Hadeeth, which is quite extensive.)

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## THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF DHUL HIJJAH

Hazrat Ibn Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) said that he heard Allah's Messenger ﷺ say:

*"Allah, Exalted is He, inspects His servants on the Day of 'Arafa, and if there is an atom's weight of faith [imaan] in the heart of any one of them, He grants them forgiveness without fail."*

## FASTING ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF DHUL HIJJAH

Hazrat Qatada (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

*"Fasting on the Day of 'Arafa counts as atonement [kaffara] of two years: the year that has passed, and the year that lies ahead."*

## RITUAL PRAYER TO BE RECITED ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OF DHUL HIJJAH

Hazrat Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

*“If someone performs four voluntary cycles of ritual prayer, on the Day of ‘Arafa, between the Dhuhr and ‘Asr reciting in each cycle Surah Al-Faatiha one time, and Surah Al-Ikhlaas 50 times, one million good deeds will be recorded in his credit column. For every letter in the Quran, he will be promoted by one level in the Garden of Paradise, the distance between each level and the next being a journey of fifty years...”* (Please refer to the source text for the remaining benefits of performing this prayer.)

Also, in another traditional report, Hazrat Abdullah ibn Masud (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said:

*“If someone performs two voluntary cycles of ritual prayer on the Day of ‘Arafa, reciting in each cycle:*

- *Surah Al-Faatiha 3 times, each beginning with the Basmala (Bismillaahir-rahmaanir-raheem) and ending with Aameen,*
- *Surah Al-Kaafiroon [109:1-6] 3 times, and*
- *Surah Al-Ikhlaas once, beginning each time with the Basmala,*

*Allah (Exalted is He) will surely say [to the angels]: ‘Bear witness that I have granted him forgiveness for his sins.’”*

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## THE RITUAL PRAYER OF THE NIGHT OF SACRIFICE

In the ritual prayer of the Night of Sacrifice (i.e. the night preceding the day of Eid), the worshipper must perform two cycles of prayer, reciting in each cycle:

- Surah Al-Faatiha 15 times, and
- Surah Al-Ikhlaas 15 times, and
- Surah Al-Falaq 15 times, and
- Surah An-Naas 15 times

After concluding the prayer he should:

- recite Ayat-ul-Kursi 3 times
- seek forgiveness of Allah 15 times, and then:
- appeal for whatever he wishes from the good of this world and the Hereafter.

## THE DAY OF EID

When the believer sets out to attend the Festival prayer, following a particular route, he is recommended to return home by a different route. This advice is based on the report of Hazrat Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) who said that the Holy Prophet ﷺ took one road [to the congregational prayer] on the Day of the Festival, and used a different road on His way back home.

## UDHIYYA (QURBANI)

The animal sacrifice (udhiyya / qurbani) is a customary practice (Sunnah) in the Hanbali, Maliki, and Shafi madhhabs, the omission of which is not recommended for anyone who is capable of performing it. In the Hanafi it is strictly necessary (wajib) (technically same as Fard in terms of implementation).



## DUA

We pray that Allah, Most Glorified and Exalted is He, by the waseela (connection) of His Beloved Prophet (Prayers and Peace be upon Him) accepts the Hajj of all those who had the good fortune to go this year and may He grant the opportunity to those who desire the journey in future years. May He forgive our faults and accept our worship and make us true servants of His Noble Friends (Awliya Kiram). Aameen.

