

DHUL HIJJAH



Dhu al-Hijjah ([Arabic](#): ذُو الْحِجَّة, *Dū al-Ḥijjah*, , is the twelfth and final month in the [Islamic calendar](#). It is a very sacred month in the Islamic calendar, one in which the [Haji](#) ([Pilgrimage](#)) takes place as well as the [Festival of the Sacrifice](#).

"Dhu al-Hijjah" literally means "**Possessor of the Pilgrimage**" or "The Month of the Pilgrimage". During this month, Muslim pilgrims from all around the world congregate at Mecca to visit the Kaaba. The Hajj is performed on the eighth, ninth and the tenth of this month.

The best nights are the last 10 nights of Ramadan and the best days are the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah.

Ibn' Abbas says about the Aayah, "Remember Allah during the well-known days," that it refers to the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. [This is related by al-Bukhari]

Allah swears an oath by them, and swearing an oath by something is indicative of its importance and great benefit. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning) "By the dawn; by the 10 nights" [al-Fajr 89:1-2]. Ibn Abbaas, Ibn al-Zubayr, Mujaahid and others of the earlier and later generations said that this refers to the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. Ibn Katheer said: "This is the correct opinion." [Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 8/413]

Praise be to Allah Who has created Time and has made some times better than others, some months and days and nights better than others, when rewards are multiplied many times, as a mercy towards His slaves. This encourages them to do more righteous deeds and makes them more eager to worship Him, so that the Muslims renew their efforts to gain a greater share of reward, prepare himself for death and supply himself in readiness for the Day of Judgement.

This season of worship brings many benefits, such as the opportunity to correct one's faults and make up for any shortcomings or anything that one might have missed. Every one of these special occasions involves some kind of worship through which the slaves may draw closer to Allah, and some kind of blessings through which Allah bestows His favors and mercy upon whomsoever He will. The happy person is the one who makes the most of these special months, days and hours and draws nearer to his Lord during these times through acts of worship; he will most likely be touched by the blessings of Allah and will feel the joy of knowing that he is safe from the flames of Hell. [Ibn Rajab, al-Lataaif, p.8]

Ibn'Abbas reports that the Messenger of Allah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these days [meaning the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah]." The companions asked, "O Messenger of Allah, not even jihad in the way of Allah?" He said, "Not even jihad, except for the man who puts his life and wealth in danger [for Allah's sake] and returns with neither of them."

Ahmad and at-Tabarani record from Ibn'Umar that the Messenger of Allah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) said, "There is no day more honorable in Allah's sight and no acts more beloved therein to Allah than those in these ten days. So say tahlil (There is no deity worthy of worship but Allah : Laa ilaaha illallaah), takbir (Allah is the greatest Allaahu Akbar) and tahmid (All praise is due to Allaah : alhumdulillaah) a lot [on those days]." [Reported by Ahmad, 7/224; Ahmad Shaakir stated it is saheeh]

Abu Hurairah relates that the Messenger of Allah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) said, "There are no days more loved to Allah for you to worship Him therein than the ten days of Dhul Hijja. Fasting any day during it is equivalent to fasting one year and to offer salat al-tahajjud (late-night prayer) during one of its nights is like performing the late night prayer on the night of power. [i.e., Lailatul Qadr]." [This is related by at-Tirmidhi, Ibn Majah, and al-Baihaqi]

Ibn' Umar narrated that at Mina, the Messenger of Allah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) said, "Do you know what is the day today?" The people replied, "Allah and His Messenger know it better." He said, "It is the forbidden (sacred) day. And do you know what town is this?" They replied, "Allah and His Messenger know it better." He said, "This is the forbidden (sacred) town (Mecca). And do you know which month is this?" The people replied, "Allah and His Apostle know it better." He said, "This is the forbidden

(sacred) month." The Messenger added, "No doubt, Allah made your blood, your properties, and your honor sacred to one another like the sanctity of this day of yours in this month of yours in this town of yours."

Narrated Ibn' Umar: On the Day of Nahr (10th of Dhul-Hijja), the Messenger (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) stood in between the Jamrat during his Hajj which he performed (as in the previous Hadith) and said, "This is the greatest Day (i.e. 10th of Dhul-Hijjah)." The Messenger (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) started saying repeatedly, "O Allah! Be Witness (I have conveyed Your Message)." He then bade the people farewell. The people said, "(This is Hajjat-al-Wada)." [Bukhari 2.798]

Fasting Day of Arafat

Abu Qatadah reported that the Messenger of Allaah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) said, "Fasting on the day of 'Arafah is an expiation for two years, the year preceding it and the year following it. Fasting the day of 'Ashurah is an expiation for the year preceding it."

Hafsah reported, "There are five things that the Messenger (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) never abandoned: fasting the day of 'Ashurah, fasting the [first] 10 [days of Dhul-Hijjah], fasting 3 days of every month and praying two rak'ah before the dawn prayer." [This is related by Ahmad and an-Nasa'i]

'Uqbah ibn'Amr reported that the Messenger of Allah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) said, "The day of 'Arafah, the day of sacrifice, and the days of tashreeq are 'ids for us--the people of Islam--and they are days of eating and drinking." [This is related by "the five," except for Ibn Majah. At-Tirmidhi grades it sahih]

Abu Hurairah stated, "The Messenger of Allah (sallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam) forbade fasting on the day of 'Arafah for one who is actually at 'Arafah." [This is related by Ahmad, Abu Dawud, an-Nasa'i, and Ibn Majah]

At-Tirmidhi comments: "The scholars prefer that the day of 'Arafah be fasted unless one is actually at 'Arafah."

There is no day on which Allah frees more people from the Fire than the Day of Arafah. As narrated by Aisha (R.A.), Prophet Mohammad (S.A.W) said:

"There is no day when God sets free more servants from Hell than the Day of Arafat." He draws near, then praises them to the angels, saying: "What do these want?" (Sahih Muslim 1348)

Supplication of a Fasting person will not be rejected as Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W.) said

“There are three whose supplication is not rejected: The fasting person when he breaks his fast, the just leader, and the supplication of the oppressed person; Allah raises it up above the clouds and opens the gates of heaven to it. And the Lord says: ‘By My might, I shall surely aid you, even if it should be after a while.’” (Tirmidhi: 3598)

Takbeer

It is Sunnah to say Takbeer ("Allaahu akbar"), Tahmeed ("Al-hamdu Lillaah"), Tahleel ("La ilaha ill-Allaah") and Tasbeeh ("Subhaan Allaah") during the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, and to say it loudly in the mosque, the home, the street and every place where it is permitted to remember Allah and mention His name out loud, as an act of worship and as a proclamation of the greatness of Allah, may He be exalted. Men should recite these phrases out loud, and women should recite them quietly.

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning)

"That they might witness things that are of benefit to them (i.e., reward of Hajj in the Hereafter, and also some worldly gain from trade, etc.), and mention the name of Allah on appointed days, over the beast of cattle that He has provided for them (for sacrifice)..." [al-Hajj 22:28]

The majority of scholars agree that the "appointed days" are the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, because of the words of Ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him and his father), "The appointed days are the first ten days (of Dhul-Hijjah)."

The Takbeer may include the words "Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, la ilaaha ill-Allaah; wa Allaahu akbar wa Lillaahil- hamd (Allaah is Most Great, Allaah is Most Great, there is no deity worthy of worship but Allaah; Allaah is Most Great and to Allaah be praise)," as well as other phrases.

Takbeer at this time is an aspect of the Sunnah that has been forgotten, especially during the early part of this period, so much so that one hardly ever hears Takbeer, except from a few people. This Takbeer should be pronounced loudly, in order to revive the Sunnah and as a reminder to the negligent. There is sound evidence that Ibn Umar and Abu Hurairah (may

Allah be pleased with them) used to go out in the marketplace during the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah, reciting Takbeer, and the people would recite Takbeer when they heard them. The idea behind reminding the people to recite Takbeer is that each one should recite it individually, not in unison, as there is no basis in Sharee'ah for doing this.

As we enter the first 10 days of this blessed month, our hearts and prayers are with those undertaking the holy pilgrimage of Hajj during these days. While many of us are unable to make the blessed journey this year, there are still many ways for us to reap the blessings of this month.

Here are some tips so we can all make the most of during blessed 10 days and night days of Dhul Hijjah:

1. Read the Quran:

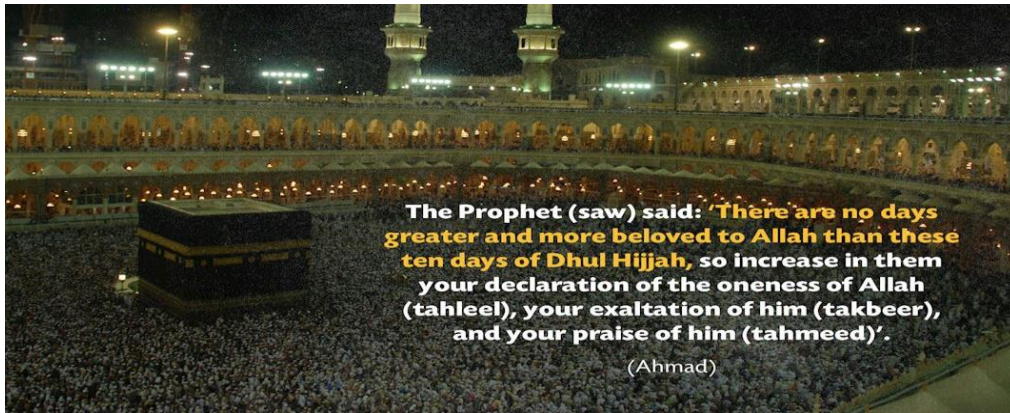
Reading the Qur'an is a good deed and Allah (swt) especially loves the good deeds done in these days. Read as much as you can, even if it is a few verses each day. It is one of the best acts of worship we can perform to draw closer to Allah and seek his pleasure. **The Prophet (saw) said, 'Whoever reads a letter from the Book of Allah, he will have a reward. And that reward will be multiplied by ten. I am not saying that "Alif, Laam, Meem" is a letter, rather I am saying that "Alif" is a letter, "laam" is a letter and "meem" is a letter'. [Tirmidhi]**

Subhan Allah, imagine the rewards you will earn from reading each letter during these blessed days when Allah has promised to multiply your reward!

2. Increase in Nawaafil Prayers

There are a number of extra prayers you can observe during the day to increase your worship and good deeds.

3. Make lots of dhikr



Our Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “There are no days that are greater before Allah or in which good deeds are more beloved to Him, than these ten days, so recite a great deal of tahleel, takbeer and tahmeed during them.” [Ahmad]:

These words should be recited abundantly in the masajid, homes, streets and in every place where it is permissible to remember and glorify Allāh for He says “That they may witness things that are of benefit to them (reward of Hajj in the Hereafter and also some worldly gain from trade), and mention the Name of Allāh on appointed days (the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah), over the beast of cattle that He has provided for them (for sacrifice)”

Tasbeeh: Subhaan-Allah (Glory be to God)

Tahmeed: Al-hamdu Lillah (All praises be to God)

Tahleel: Laa ilaha ill-Allah (There is no god but Allah)

Reciting the Takbeeraat-e-Tashreeq from the 9th to the 13th of Dhul Hijjah:

Abu Hurairah said that the “days well-known” are the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah while the “prescribed number of days” are the **Days of Tashriq (9th to 13th of Dhul-Hijjah)** and these are days of eating and drinking. It means that you cannot fast on Eid-ul-Adha and following three days i-e 11th, 12th and 13th of Dhul-Hijjah. During days of Tashriq, Ibn-Omar and Abu-

Hurairah used to go to the marketplace reciting Takbir (Allahu Akbar) and people followed their example.

During the days of Tashriq, it is necessary for every Muslim (male or female, whether praying in congregation or alone) to say the following Takbir (Takbirs of Tashriq) immediately after each obligatory (fard) prayer from the Fajr Prayer on the 9th of Dhul Hijjah to the Asr Prayer on the 13th of Dhul Hijjah. Thus, these takbirs last 5 days, and 23 prayers.

Allāhu Akbar, Allāhu Akbar, Laa ilaaha illallahu Wallahu Akbar, Allāhu Akbar, Wa lillahir Hamd.

Translation: “Allāh is the greatest, Allāh is the greatest. There is no deity besides Allāh and Allāh is the greatest. Allāh is the greatest and all praises are for Allāh only.”

Note: Men can recite the above after every fardh salaah from Fajr of the 9th of Dhul Hijjah until Asr of the 13th of Dhul Hijjah audibly. Women should recite it si So, remember and glorify Allāh no matter what you are doing: This is particularly easy as one can remember Allāh anywhere and at any time whether it is during work or any daily activity.silently.

Avoid doing the takbeerat in unison, the Sunnah is for everyone to do it individually.

4. Istighfaar

Use these blessed days to seek forgiveness for all our wrongdoings. Hajj is the ultimate act of worship we can perform as Muslims to seek forgiveness from Allah and expiate our sins, but most of us are lucky if we can go even once in our lifetime. That is why Dhul-Hijjah is the perfect gift from Allah, allowing us to repent and seek forgiveness for our sins even if we are not on pilgrimage.

Repentance brings us closer to Allah and cleanses our souls. Allah says:

‘Seek forgiveness of your Lord and repent to Him, [and] He will let you enjoy a good provision for a specified term and give every doer of favour his favour’.
[The Noble Qur’an, 11:3]

5. Fasting

It is Sunnah for the Muslim to fast on the first nine days of Dhul-Hijjah, because fasting is one of the best of deeds. **In a hadith Qudsi, Allah says: “All the deeds of the son of Adam are for him, except fasting, which is for Me and I shall reward for it.” [Bukhari, 1805]**

If you are unable to fast for the whole nine days, try to fast on just the Day of ‘Arafah, the 9th of Dhul-Hijjah. Just as Laylat al-Qadr is the most blessed night of the year, ‘Arafah is the most blessed day of the year. **The Prophet (saw) said, ‘There is no day on which Allah frees more people from the Fire than on the day of ‘Arafah’.** (Muslim)

Like Laylat al-Qadr, we should spend this day seeking forgiveness and availing ourselves of Allah’s incredible mercy. On this day, non-pilgrims have the opportunity to extinguish the sins of two years by fasting! The Prophet said: “Fasting the day of ‘Arafah expiates the sins of two years: the past one and the coming one.” [Muslim]

6. Give Sadaqah

Give in charity in these blessed days, as much as you can. **Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, ‘When a person dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: Sadaqah Jariyah, knowledge from which benefit is gained, or a righteous child who prays for him’.** [Muslim]

Our beloved Prophet (saw) told us that giving water is the best form of Sadaqah. By building a well in the name of your loved one you will be gifting a source of life to a whole community and increasing your loved one’s record of good deeds for the Day of Judgement.

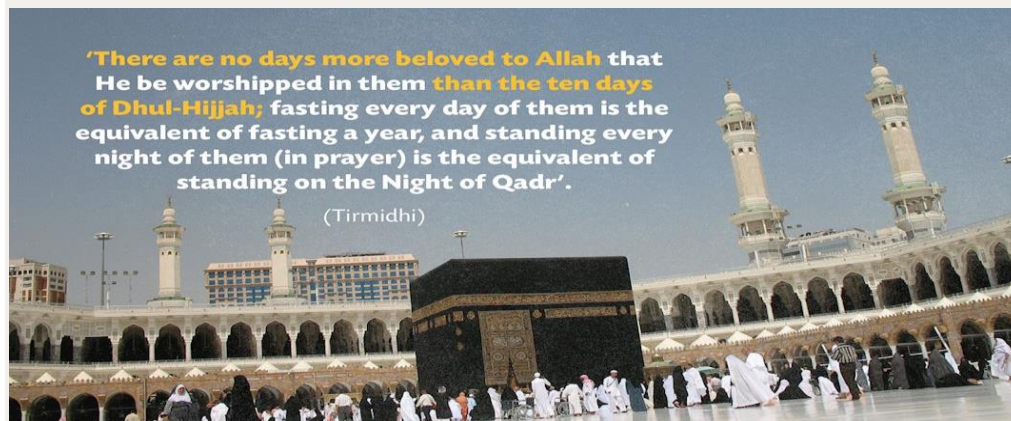
Many of us maximise our Sadaqah during the last ten nights of Ramadan, but the first ten days of Dhul-Hijjah are just as valuable and present the perfect opportunity to earn extra rewards for simple good deeds!

Hasan al-Basri (rh) said, 'Going to fulfil the need of your brother is better for you than performing Hajj after Hajj'.

Helping our brothers and sisters in need is one of the acts most beloved to Allah and we have the perfect tool to help you maximise your rewards over the blessed days of Dhul-Hijjah

7 Pray Tahajjud

It's been two months since the last ten nights of Ramadan, and many of us are missing the 'spiritual high' of seeking out Laylat al-Qadr through our nightly worship. But did you know that praying at night for the first ten nights of Dhul-Hijjah is equivalent to praying on Laylat al-Qadr?



8 Celebrating Eid-ul-Adha and Sacrificing Animals (10th of Dhul Hijjah)

The month of Dhul Hijjah, apart from the month of Hajj, is also called the month of the sacrifice, due to the large number of sacrificial animals slaughtered during the month.

Muslims celebrate [Eid-ul-Adha](#) on 10th of Dhil Hijjah. Eid-ul-Adha is the celebration of sacrifice and remember the spirit of Prophet Abraham (A.S.) as how he was willing to sacrifice the person he loved the most, because it was Allah's command, which he had to obey no matter what.

It was narrated from Abu Huraira (R.A.) that the Messenger of Allah (S.A.W.) said:

“Whoever can afford to offer a sacrifice but does not do so, let him not approach our place of prayer.” (Ibn Majah: 3123)

The Hadith narrates that whoever does not offer a sacrifice in spite of being capable of doing so, does not have the right to participate in the joys of the Muslims. It does not mean that he is not required to perform the Eid prayer, but it is to warn him to avoid abandoning the sacrifice.

Sacrifice (Qurbani) can only be performed after the Eid-ul-Adha prayers from the 10th of Dhul Hijjah to the 12th of Dhul Hijjah.

It is necessary for the one who intends to offer the sacrifice that he/she does not remove any hair, nail or skin from the sunset on last day of Dhul Qadah until the sacrifice is done on the Eid day. The same is evident from following Hadith:

It was narrated from Umm Salamah (R.A.) that the Prophet said:

"Whoever sees the new crescent of Dhul Hijjah and wants to offer a sacrifice, let him not remove any of his hair or nails until he has offered the sacrifice." (Sunnan An-Nisai: 4366)

Abu Talhah (ra) reported, **‘The Prophet (saw) sacrificed for the one who could not sacrifice from his Ummah, one who bore witness to the Oneness of Allah and [his] Prophethood’. [Tabarani and Ahmad]**

During Eid, the Prophet (saw) would offer an additional sacrifice on behalf of someone in his Ummah that could not afford to. **Allah says, ‘There has come to you a Messenger of Allah from among yourselves, who is distressed by the losses you sustain, who is ardently desirous of your welfare and is tender and merciful to those that believe’. [The Noble Qur’an, 9:128]**

SubhanAllah, this generous act of our beloved Messenger of Allah is an incredible example of His mercy to His Ummah that Allah refers to in the above ayah, to sacrifice for his Ummah and cover them till the Day of Judgement.

You too can follow this beautiful Sunnah and give an extra Qurbani to maximise your reward during Dhul-Hijjah. Not only will you be reviving a forgotten Sunnah, but you will be also doubling your impact by feeding even more families a rare meal with meat during the days of Eid-al-Adha.

10 Preserve ties of kinship

Maintaining the ties of kinship is from the best of deeds due to the saying The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): “Whoever would like his provision to be increased and his lifespan to be extended, let him maintain the ties of kinship.” [Bukhari]

And finally as Eid approaches, don't forget to give your Qurbani. The Apostle of Allah said: “When you see the new moon of Dhu'l-Hijjah, if any one of you wants to offer a sacrifice, then he should stop cutting his hair and nails until he has offered his sacrifice.” In another report he said: “He should not remove (literally, touch) anything from his hair or skin.” (Reported by Muslim)

This authentic hadith indicates that the one who wants to offer animal sacrifice must stop cutting his hair and nails and removing anything from his skin, from the beginning of the month of Dhul-Hajj until he or she has offered his sacrifice on the allowable days.

Thank Allah for His Blessings:

One of the biggest forms of worshiping Allah is to thank Him, deeply, sincerely and continuously. After all, it is Allah who blessed you with all that you have. So thank Him for the blessing of Islam, the blessing of life and every blessing you possess. Thank Him for the opportunity to experience these ten days. Ask Him for His mercy, forgiveness and guidance.

There is much to be gained in these coming days. So make the most of this perfect opportunity offered by these invaluable and irreplaceable ten days. Hasten to do good deeds and appreciate this blessing and make the most of it.

May Allah bless all Muslims with His blessings, have mercy on us and respond our every dua, forgive all our sins, multiply our good deeds, grant us and our



family with good health, happiness at every step of our life and allocate a place for us in Jannah

Special Days

- The first 9 days of Dhu al-Hijjah for fasting
- The first 10 nights of Dhu al-Hijjah for standing (Qiyaam) in [Tahajjud](#)
- The 8th, 9th and 10th of Dhu al-Hijjah as the days of Hajj
- The 9th of Dhu al-Hijjah as the Day of Arafah
- [Takbirut Tashreeq](#) is observed from the 9 Dhu al-Hijjah till 13 Dhu al-Hijjah
- The 10th of Dhu al-Hijjah as the Night of Eid
- [Eid al-Adha](#) (Festival of the Sacrifice) begins on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah and ends on sunset of the 13th Dhu al-Hijjah
- 18th Dul al-Hijjah

NO HAIR OR NAIL CUTTING

Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said:

"WHOEVER HAS AN ANIMAL  TO
SACRIFICE, WHEN THE CRESCENT
 OF DHUL HIJJAH APPEARS, HE
SHOULD NOT GET HIS HAIR CUT OR
NAILS TRIMMED, UNTIL HE HAS
OFFERED HIS SACRIFICE."

[Muslim 5121]

عشرة ذوالحجّه

Things To Do

Ṣalah

- ✓ Offer Ṣalah at the earliest time
- ✓ Offer prayers with humility & submissiveness
- ✓ Recite a different Sūrah in each Rak'at
- ✓ Perform the voluntary *Ishraq* and *Duha* prayers
- ✓ Prolong recitation in *Tahajjud* prayers
- ✓ Men should offer the prayers in congregation

Fasting

- ✓ Fast on 9th Dhul Hijjah
- ✓ Keep more voluntary fasts
- ✓ Fast on Mondays and Thursdays
- ✓ Make up missed fasts

It is hoped that fasting the Day of 'Arafah (9th Dhul Hijjah) will be an expiation for (sins of) the previous year and coming year.

(Sahih Muslim)

Qur'an

- ✓ Frequently recite the Qur'an
- ✓ Listen to various reciters
- ✓ Memorize some more Sūrahs
- ✓ Revise the parts memorized
- ✓ Read or listen to the translation and *tafsir*
- ✓ Reflect on the meaning
- ✓ Convey the message of the Qur'an to others

Dhikr & Du'a

- ✓ Remember to do more *Tahleel, Takbir & Tahmid*
- ✓ Read the morning and evening *adhkar*
- ✓ Excessively seek forgiveness & remember Allah
- ✓ Send peace & blessings upon the Prophet ﷺ
- ✓ Supplicate in the times of acceptance, especially on the Day of 'Arafah
- ✓ Memorize more supplications & *Adhkar*

Charity

- ✓ Pay special attention to giving Zakāt
- ✓ Give in charity what is excess
- ✓ Give in the way of Allah some most beloved possession
- ✓ Spend on parents, wife, children, relatives and friends

Social Welfare 'Eid & Sacrifice

- ✓ Join and maintain close ties with relatives
- ✓ Look after the well-being of neighbours
- ✓ Reach out to the needy
- ✓ Put your share in teaching and conveying Dīn
- ✓ Volunteer in community welfare programs

- ✓ Do not trim nails and hair until animal sacrifice
- ✓ Follow all Sunan of 'Eid day
- ✓ Go for 'Eid prayers with enthusiasm
- ✓ Visit and greet relatives and friends
- ✓ Offer sacrifice with a sincere intention
- ✓ Eat the sacrificial meat and feed others

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Do not neglect any opportunity to do good
- ✓ Avoid all useless actions and words
- ✓ Avoid sins
- ✓ Read good books
- ✓ Distribute beneficial reading and audio materials

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

Allah does not love any deed more than He loves a deed done in these ten days."