



Life With Allah
Connecting to The Creator

Dhul Hijjah



The Day of 'Arafah:

The Ultimate Day of Mercy

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Day of 'Arafah:

The Ultimate Day of Mercy



Life With Allah

الحياة مع الله

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The Day of ‘Arafah (9th of Dhul Hijjah) is the greatest day of ḥajj. It is the day on which sins are forgiven, souls are released from the Hell-fire, and du‘ās are readily accepted. This day is also special because it was the day Allah ﷻ bestowed upon our Ummah’s greatest gift: He **perfected the religion of Islam** and completed His favour upon us.

‘Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb ؓ narrated: ‘Once a Jew said to me: “O leader of the believers! There is a verse in your (Holy) Book which you all read; had it been revealed to us Jews, we would have taken that day (on which it was revealed) as a day of celebration.” ‘Umar ؓ asked him: “Which verse?” The Jew replied:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتَمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ
لَكُمْ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

“Today I have perfected your religion for you, completed My blessing upon you, and chosen Islam as your religion.” (5:3)

‘Umar ؓ replied: “No doubt, we know the day and the place when this verse was revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. It was Friday and the Prophet ﷺ was standing at ‘Arafah (i.e. the Day of ḥajj).” (Bukhārī)

Fasting

When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was asked about the fast of the Day of 'Arafah, he said: **"It wipes away the (sins) of the past year and upcoming year"** (Muslim).

If you have been unable to fast for the first eight days of Dhul Hijjah, ensure not to miss out on the amazing reward of fasting on this special day.

Freedom from Hell-fire

The Prophet ﷺ said: "There is no day in which Allah sets free more slaves from Hell-fire than the Day of 'Arafah. Indeed, **He draws near, and He then boasts about them to the angels** and says: 'What do these (slaves of mine) want?'" (Muslim)

On this day, Allah ﷻ frees a huge number of His servants from the Hell-fire. This is Shayṭān's worst day in the year. In just a few hours, years of Shayṭān's efforts to mislead man come to naught. What enrages him even more is that not only does Allah free the pilgrims from the Hell-fire, but He frees the non-pilgrims too.

“ Allah frees from the Fire even those who are not physically in 'Arafāt, therefore the next day is 'Eid and a celebration for the pilgrims and non-pilgrims alike.”
- Ibn Rajab

'Abdullāh b. al-Mubārak approached Sufyān al-Thawrī on the evening of 'Arafah. Sufyān al-Thawrī was sitting on his

knees and weeping bitterly. ‘Abdullāh b. al-Mubārak ﷺ asked him: “Who is in the worst situation amongst these masses?” He replied: “The one who thinks that Allah will not forgive him.”

Ḥakīm b. Ḥizām ﷺ would stand in ‘Arafah with 100 camels and 100 slaves. He would then free the slaves for the sake of Allah. The people would then start crying loudly, saying: “O Allah! Your slave freed his slaves, and we too are Your slaves, so free us (from the Hellfire).”



The Day of Du‘ā

The best action on this great day is du‘ā'. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: “**The best du‘ā' is the du‘ā' of the Day of 'Arafah.** The best of what I and the Prophets before me have said is:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ، وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

“There is no god worthy of worship but Allah. He is Alone and He has no partner whatsoever. To Him Alone belong all sovereignty and all praise. He is over all things All-Powerful”
(Tirmidhī).

We see an astounding spectacle of du‘ā' in the Farewell Hajj of our beloved Prophet ﷺ. After years of struggle in conveying the message of his Lord, the whole of the Arabian Peninsula comes under his control and finally accepts his message. Yet, gathered on the plains of 'Arafah, at his highest point of victory, we do not witness parades or displays of pomp.

Rather we witness nothing but **humility** and **turning to Allah in desperate need.**

Despite being over sixty years of age, undertaking a long journey from Madinah to Makkah, and being responsible for huge crowds, none of it comes in the way of worshipping His Beloved ﷺ.

He delivers a moving and powerful sermon, and then leads

his Companions ﷺ in prayer, combining Ṣuḥr and ‘Aṣr. Everyone is looking at him. He moves towards the Mountain of Mercy, faces the qiblah and thereafter occupies himself in earnest du‘ā’ until Maghrib. He spends approximately **six hours in continuous du‘ā’**. He is so focused on making du‘ā’ that even when the rein of his camel falls down, he grasps it with only one hand, and leaves his other hand raised towards the sky.

How strong was his connection with His Lord!

It is incredible to think that a man, to whom Allah had already given glad tidings of forgiveness, raises his blessed arms to the sky, and cries out:

*“O Allah, You hear my speech...I am the **desperate and needy one**, the one who is seeking Your help and protection, **fearful and scared**, one who confesses and acknowledges his sins. I beg You – the begging of a destitute; I humbly implore You – the **imploing of a humiliated sinner**. I invoke You – the invoking of the fearful afflicted person, whose neck is bowed down before You, whose eyes have overflowed with tears for You, whose body is humbled before You, and who has **completely lowered Himself** to You...” (Ṭabarānī).*

Experience the Sweetness of Du‘ā

The secret of making du‘ā’ is to display an utter need of Allah, expressing utmost humility, desperation and dependence. Go to Allah as a humble beggar, lengthen your du‘ā’ and have firm conviction that Allah will accept it. Persist and beg Allah in your du‘ā’. Keep asking and do not tire of repeating the same du‘ā’. Do not lose hope in your du‘ā’ being accepted. Allah may be delaying the fulfilment of your request, as He loves to hear your voice and your sincere pleas. He may delay the fulfilment of your du‘ās for reasons unknown to you at this moment, but which contain much good for you in the future.


Cut yourself off from the world and its distractions on this special day, and let your soul ascend up to the heavens. Experience the sweetness of intimately conversing with Allah ﷻ, humbling yourself to Him and crying to Him. Turn to Him with sincerity and beg Him to forgive you.

“ If you are able to seclude yourself (in worship) towards the latter part of the Day of ‘Arafah, then do so!
– ‘Aṭā’ ﷻ

Try to precede your du‘ā’ with a good deed (e.g. by giving charity or visiting the sick). Go to Allah as a humble beggar, lengthen your du‘ā’ and have firm conviction that Allah will accept it.

As this day comes only once a year, we should switch off our

phones, take the day off from work (if possible), and spend as much time as we can in du‘ā’. If we find it difficult to make du‘ā’ for such a long duration, we can alternate between making our own du‘ā’, reading from a du‘ā’ book, listening to a du‘ā’; or switching to another act of worship (e.g. recitation of the Qur‘ān), and coming back to making du‘ā’.

“ Sufyān b. ‘Uyaynah  was fortunate to perform ḥajj 70 times. Each year in ‘Arafah, he would longingly and lovingly plead to Allah: “O Allah! Do not let this be the last time with you (in ‘Arafah)!” In the year which he passed away, he did not supplicate with this du‘ā’. When he was asked about this, he said: “I felt shy of Allah, the Exalted.”



I struggle to make du‘ā’ for more than 5 minutes

If you have ever felt like this, you may find the following tips useful:

Spend a long-time praising Allah at the start of your du‘ā’ and during it.

Send abundant salutations on our beloved Messenger ﷺ .

Ask Allah with the du‘ās from the Qur‘ān and Sunnah. Have a book/print-out ready. (See the book ‘I Am Near’/‘Dhikr & Dua’ App by LWA, for a collection of du‘ās).

Write down a list of du‘ās beforehand.

Keep repeating certain du‘ās. e.g. Don’t just ask Allah for Paradise once. Keep asking Him, and keep coming back to it.

Make du‘ā’ for people by their names. Abu al-Dardā’ ؓ said, “Indeed I make du‘ā’ for thirty of my brothers whilst I am in sujūd, with their names and their fathers’ names.”

Make du‘ā’ for the Ummah.

Learn the deeper meanings of and reflect on the Qur‘ānic and Prophetic du‘ās to learn how to make du‘ā’.

Uphold the etiquettes of du‘ā’.

Action items for the Day of 'Arafah

Set apart this day for the worship of Allah ﷻ. Ensure all your Eid preparations are done beforehand, leaving the day free for worship. Do not waste this day in elaborate Eid preparations and miss out on one of the most important days in the entire year.

In addition to the obligatory and voluntary good deeds, the following are specific actions for the Day of 'Arafah:

1

Fast on this day.

2

After each farḍ ṣalāh, recite the takbīrāt of tashrīq:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

3

Keep repeating with reflection:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ ، وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ ،
وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

There is no god worthy of worship but Allah. He is Alone and He has no partner whatsoever. To Him Alone belong all sovereignty and all praise. He is over all things All Powerful” (Tirmidhī).

4

Make lots of du‘ā’, particularly between ‘Aṣr and Maghrib.

5

Seek forgiveness and protection from Hell-fire.

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Journey to Allah in the Days of Dhul Hijjah

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