

‘ARAFAH: THE DAY IN WHICH ALLAH COMPLETED HIS FAVOUR.

Prepared by Abul Abbaas Naveed.

In the name of Allāh, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy.

A day preferred over all other days; a day in which sins are forgiven and supplications are answered; a day in which Allāh descends from His throne and says to the angels, ‘what do these people desire and seek?’¹

It is befitting therefore that we, as Muslims, know about this day and appreciate its virtue.

Corresponding to the 9th of Dhul Ḥijjah, wherein our brothers and sisters who have departed to perform Ḥajj stand together, ‘Arafah remains the core and essence of Ḥajj.

It is the day in which Allāh descends to the nearest heaven, ‘boasting to the inhabitants of the Heavens (i.e. the angels) about the people of ‘Arafah, ‘look at My worshippers. They have come from far and near, with hair dishevelled and faces covered with dust, to seek My mercy...’²

Virtues of the Day of ‘Arafah

1. Allāh perfected His religion on this day, and completed His favour upon us.

{This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islām as your religion}

[05:03]

‘Umar (radīaAllāhu ‘anhu) said regarding the above Āyah, ‘we know the day and place in which [this Āyah] was revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. It was when he was standing in ‘Arafah on a Friday.’³

2. Allāh took an oath by this day.

He said,

¹ Narrated by ‘Āisha; Collected by Muslim.

² Narrated by Jābir; Collected by Ibn Khuzaymah.

³ Narrated by ‘Umar; Collected by al-Bukhārī & Muslim.

{By the witnessing day, and by the witnessed day} [85:03]

Abu Hurayrah (radīaAllāhu ‘anhu) narrates that the Prophet ﷺ said, ‘{the “witnessed day} is the Day of ‘Arafah.’⁴

In the Qur’ān, whenever Allāh takes an oath by something from his creation, it is to highlight its greatness.

3. It is the best day and the most beloved day to Allāh in the year.

This is due to the Hadith of the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said, ‘there is no day better in the sight of Allāh than the Day of `Arafah.’⁵

4. Allāh frees more people from the hell fire than any other day.

The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘Allāh frees more people from the Hellfire on the Day of `Arafah than on any other day, and Allāh draws closer this day and proudly says to the angels, ‘What do these people want and seek?’⁶

5. It is a day held dear to every prophet.

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said, ‘the best supplication is that of the day of ‘Arafah, and the best thing that I and other Prophets before me said, is:

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

'Lā ilāha ill-Allāhu, waḥdahū lā sharīka lahū. Lahu-l-mulk wa lahu-l-ḥamd wa hu wa 'alā kulli shayin qadīr.⁷

This means: *“there is no deity worthy of worship except Allāh, He is alone and has no partners; For Him is the kingdom, and for Him is all praise; and He has complete ability over all things.”*

⁴ Narrated by Abu Hurayrah; Collected by Aḥmad.

⁵ Narrated by Jābir; Collected by Ibn Khuzaymah.

⁶ Narrated by ‘Āisha; Collected by Muslim.

⁷ Narrated by ‘Abdullah Ibn ‘Āmr; Collected by at-Tirmidhī.

Legislated actions for those not performing Hajj.

To attain the reward of this blessed day, and thereby follow the example of the Prophets who came before, one should:

- a. Fast the day of Arafah: The Prophet ﷺ said, ‘fasting the day of `Arafah expiates the sins of two years: the past one and the coming one.’⁸

Every person amongst us in need of such mercy and forgiveness. An easy action, merely fasting a day, and yet such a great reward of 2 years of sins forgiven. With this in mind, we should fast on this day, and encourage friends and family to fast, so that our sins may be forgiven, and we may be favoured amongst the righteous servants of Allāh.

- b. Supplicate to Allāh: Du’a is from the most beloved actions to Allah, and certain types of Du’a are more virtuous, and Du’a performed on certain days are more beloved to Allah than other days. The prophet ﷺ said, ‘the best of supplications is the supplication on the Day of ‘Arafah.’⁹

- c. Make Dhikr by praising and glorifying Allāh: He encouraged us upon making Dhikr in these blessed days,

{...and make mention of the name of Allāh on known [i.e., specific] days} [22:28]

The {known specific days} are the ten days of Dhul Ḥijjah, and the day of ‘Arafah is the 9th of Dhul Ḥijjah.

Ibn ‘Umar states, ‘we were with the Prophet on the Day of ‘Arafah. Some of us would glorify Allāh (by saying “Allāhu Akbar”) whilst others would praise Allāh (by saying “Lā ilāha illā Allāh”).

Final thoughts.

⁸ Narrated by Abu Qatādah; Collected by Muslim.

⁹ Narrated by ‘Abdullah Ibn ‘Āmr; Collected by at-Tirmidhī.

Through the above, the benefits, blessings and favours of the pilgrim are shared and Allāh draws near; His Generosity and Kindness overflowing, as He boasts to His angels:

*“He says ‘My slaves have come to me so lovingly,
and indeed I am, to them most Kind and Merciful,
Bear witness, I have forgiven their sins,
blessed them and granted them their hopes.”*

[Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyyah]

We ask Allāh, the Kind and Generous, to forgive our sins and shortcomings on this blessed day.

We ask Him to make us from the successful in this life and the Hereafter.

May peace, blessings and salutations be upon the best of creation, Prophet Muhammad, and his companions and followers.

Written by,

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