The Day of Arafah, mercy, dua and return

Arafah is the heart of Hajj and a day of immense mercy for Muslims everywhere. It calls us to fasting, dua and humble return.

CENTREPIECE Surah al-Ma'idah 5:3, Sahih Muslim 1348

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. A great verse was revealed at Arafah

Umar ibn al-Khattab explained that the verse declaring the religion perfected was revealed while the Prophet (peace be upon him) stood at Arafah on a Friday (Bukhari 45). The day carries the memory of completion and gratitude.

Source: Quran 5:3, Bukhari 45

2. It is a day of extraordinary freedom from the Fire

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said there is no day on which Allah frees more servants from the Fire than the Day of Arafah (Muslim 1348). That promise should produce humble asking, not confidence in our own record.

Source: Muslim 1348

3. Those at home also have a path of worship

For people not performing Hajj, fasting Arafah is described as expiating sins of the previous and coming year (Muslim 1162). Those unable to fast can still fill the day with prayer, repentance, Quran and dua.

Source: Muslim 1162

SECOND KHUTBAH

Do not let discussion of reward turn into certainty about individual acceptance. Encourage people to approach the day with need, make peace with others and ask Allah for the whole ummah.

Suggested closing: O Allah, include us among those You forgive and free on the Day of Arafah. Accept the Hajj of the pilgrims and answer the sincere prayers of Your servants everywhere.

ONE ACTION FOR THIS WEEK

Prepare your fast where applicable, reduce avoidable commitments and write a dua list that includes faith, family, the oppressed and the next life.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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