The first ten of Dhul Hijjah

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said no deeds done in any days are more beloved to Allah than deeds in these ten. Day of Arafah and how to use the days.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 969

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Better than the last ten of Ramadan in days

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: no deeds done in any days are more beloved to Allah than deeds done in these (the first ten of Dhul Hijjah). They asked: even jihad in the path of Allah? He said: even jihad in the path of Allah, except for a man who went out with his life and his wealth and returned with neither (Bukhari 969).

2. Day of Arafah

For those not on Hajj, fasting Arafah expiates the sins of the year before and the year to come (Muslim 1162). It is a single day that arrives once a year and is unmatched in reward for its size.

3. Takbeer

Increase the takbeer in these days: Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, la ilaha illa Allah, wa Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa lillahi al-hamd. Ibn ’Umar and Abu Hurayrah would go out to the market in these ten days saying the takbeer, and the people would say it with them (al-Bukhari, mu’allaq, Kitab al-’Idayn, before hadith 969).

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to the first ten of dhul hijjah.

Suggested closing: Allahumma taqabbal minna, O Allah, accept from us.

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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