

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

It is unfortunate that once again we find ourselves in a situation where the local committee decides the date of Eidul Adha, which will put us one day ahead of the Saudis. The committee that decides the days of Hajj in Saudi Arabia is known as The High Judicial Court (HJC). After confirmed sighting of the moon on Tuesday 22nd August, they have announced that Eid Ul Adha will be celebrated on Friday 1st September 2017. The Saudis have a calendar known as the *Um al Qura* Calendar. *Um al Qura* means “the mother of towns”, words that have been used for Mecca in the Holy Quran. The verse is:

وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ مَبْرُكٌ مُصَدِّقٌ
 الَّذِي بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ وَلِتُنذِرَ أُمَّ الْقُرَىٰ
 وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْآخِرَةِ
 يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَهُمْ عَلَىٰ صَلَاتِهِمْ
 يُحَافِظُونَ ﴿٩٣﴾

“And this is a Book which We have revealed, full of blessings, to fulfil that which preceded it, and to enable thee to warn **the Mother** of **towns** and those around her. And those who believe in **the** Hereafter believe therein and they keep a watch over their Prayer.” (6:93)

Saudi Arabia's *Um al-Qura* calendar marks Eid al-Adha 2017 on September 1, but the official date is announced by the High Judicial Court (HJC) after the moon sighting. The Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, which begins two days before Eid al-Adha, is also confirmed then.

The HJC had called for moon sighting on August 21, but since the moon was not sighted, it called for moon sighting again on the evening of August 22. On August 22, the High Judicial Court confirmed the sighting of the moon and officially announced September 1 as the first day of Eid.

Muslim communities in Europe, the United States and Canada follow Saudi Arabia's Eid announcement, as announced by the European Council for Fatwa and Research, the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), and the *Fiqh* Council of North America. In fact, knowing quite well the problems associated with the sighting of the moon the International Hijri Calendar Unity Congress held in Istanbul in May 2016, members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation voted in favour of adopting a unified lunar calendar. Unfortunately, here in Mauritius we still have one way of thinking and there is no evolution in time. I wonder what is the day of Arafat when we ignore what the Saudis have decided in this matter. Anyhow so will it be and Eidul Adha will be celebrated here in Darul Rahma on Saturday 2nd September at 9:30 AM.

As I said last week, the Holy Prophet (saw) has taught us that during these blessed first ten days of the month of Zil Hajj, we should try to do as much good deeds as we can because they are quite pleasing to Allah and He accepts them. Since the Holy Prophet (saw) mentioned the remembrance of Allah as one of the good deeds we should concentrate upon, I will share some hadiths with you accordingly.

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet said:

“Allah says, “I treat My servant as he hopes that I would treat him. I am with him whenever he remembers Me: if he thinks of Me, I think of him; if he mentions Me in company, I mention him in an even better company. if he draws near to Me a hand’s span, I draw near to him an arm’s

length; if he draws near to Me an arm's length, I draw closer by a distance of two outstretched arms nearer to him; and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Abu Musa *Al-Ash`ari* (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet said:

“The similitude of someone who remembers his Lord and someone who does not is like that of the living and the dead.” (Al-Bukhari)

Hence we should do our best to be among those who are living rather than amongst those who are dead. Allah wants us to remember Him and He has imposed upon us prayer for His remembrance. He says “*Aqemis salaata le zikri*” meaning “offer prayer for My Remembrance.” So, we should examine ourselves and check our prayers and see how much we remember Allah in them or we remember other things in them. There is no doubt that there are many causes for distraction when we pray. However, it is our duty to make our mind concentrate on Allah. We do this best when we know what we are saying in our prayers. Hence the need to be aware of each of the words that we pronounce in our prayers.

In another hadith, we read:

Abdullah ibn Busr (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that one of the Prophet's Companions said, “O Messenger of Allah. I am overwhelmed by the so many injunctions of Islam. So, tell me something to which I may hold fast.”

The Prophet replied, “**Keep your tongue wet with the remembrance of Allah.**” (At Tirmidhi)

It is something quite simple to do but how many people do choose to do so. We need to reflect on that instead of just speaking whatever comes in our mind.

In another hadith, we read: Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) also reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

He who says, ‘*Subhan-Allahi wa bihamdih*’ (Glory and praise be to Allah) one hundred times a day, his sins will be obliterated even if they are equal to the extent of the foam of the sea. (Al-Bukhari and Muslim). Similarly, we have another hadith as follows:

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet said:

“There are two statements that are light on the tongue, heavy on the scales, and beloved to the Most Merciful:

Subahana Allahi wa bihamdihi Subhana Allahi Al-`Azeem

(Glory and praise be to Allah, Glorified is Allah, the Most Great.)” (Al-Bukhari)

We have an incident in the life of the Promised Messiah where the spiritual and physical powers of these words are illustrated. He speaks about this incident as follows:

“Once I fell seriously ill, so much so that on three separate occasions my relatives, perceiving that my last moment had arrived, recited *surah Ya Sin* to me as is customary among Muslims. On the third occasion, while the *surah* was being recited, I saw that some of my relatives—who have since passed away—were sobbing out of control behind the walls. I was suffering from a species of severe colic and was purging blood every few minutes. I continued in this condition for sixteen days. Another person who was suffering from a

similar disorder died on the eighth day, though he had not suffered as severely as I was suffering. When the sixteenth day arrived, everybody despaired of my life and *surah Ya Sin* was recited to me the third time. All my relatives believed that I would be in my grave before sunset. Then it so happened that as God had in the past taught His Prophets prayers for deliverance from misfortunes. He also taught me through revelation a prayer as follows:

يَسْتَعِينُ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ غَافِلٍ وَأَلْهَىٰ كُلًّا سَبِيلًا
وَاللَّهُ الْكَبِيرُ ۝ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَىٰ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

Allah the Almighty revealed upon my heart to put my hand in river water which should have some sand with it and to recite this prayer and to wipe my chest and my back, hands, and face with the water and that in this manner I would be healed. Accordingly, river water with sand was sent for hastily and I started doing as I had been directed. The whole of my body had seemed to be on fire which was so painful that I felt death would be preferable to that condition and would be a deliverance from torment, but when I started doing as I had been directed, I call God—in Whose hand is my life—to witness that every time I recited these blessed words and wiped my body with the river water I felt the fire departing from my body and coolness and comfort taking its place. The water in the vessel had not yet been exhausted when I felt that my illness had departed from me completely and after sixteen days, I slept in health and comfort. Next morning, I received the revelation:

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِشِفَاءٍ مِّثْلِهِ

“That is [Arabic] If you are in doubt concerning the Sign, which We have shown you through this restoration of health, then cite a cure like this one.” [Tiryaqul-Qulub, pp. 36–37, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 15, pp. 208–209]

We have another incident where the importance of these words is shown. The second caliph said:

“On one occasion when the Promised Messiah (as) was very ill, he got up during the latter part of the night for *Tahajjud* Prayer and fell down in a faint and he was not able to offer his *Tahajjud*. On this he received a revelation: [Urdu] In such a condition you may repeat the same while laying down, that is

ایسی حالت میں تہجد کی بجائے لیٹے لیٹے ہی (یعنی سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ)
پڑھ لیا کرو۔

[Arabic] [*Holy is Allah and worthy of all praise. Holy is Allah, the Great.*][Dhikr-e-Ilahi, p. 113, by Hadrat Khalifatul Masih IIra]

Again, very simple words and yet how rewarding!

I have told you about these incidents so that you might also use these words whenever you find yourselves in difficult circumstances. Now we come back to the hadiths.

In another hadith, again we read: Zaid ibn Haditha narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

Whosoever says:

‘Astaghfirullah al-`Azeem al-ladhi la ilaha illa howa Al-Hayy al-Qayyum wa atubu illayh

(I ask forgiveness of Allah, the Magnificent, and there is no deity but Him, the Living, the Sustainer of existence, and I turn to Him in repentance,) his sins will be forgiven even if he should have run away

from the battlefield (while he was engaged in fighting for the Cause of Allah, which is a grave sin in Islam). (Abu Dawud)

Anas ibn Malik narrated that the Prophet said:

“Whoever prays Fajr Prayer in congregation, and then sits and remembers Allah until the sun rises, then (after a while) prays two *rakaats*, he will gain a reward equal to that of making of perfect Hajj and `Umrah. [The Prophet repeated the word “perfect” thrice.] (At-Tirmidhi).

Here is a way especially for those who are unable to go for Hajj for whatever circumstance to do an act which is equivalent.

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet said:

He who repeats after every prayer:

***Subhan Allah* (Glory be to Allah) thirty-three times,**

***Al-hamdu lillah* (praise be to Allah) thirty-three times,**

***Allahu Akbar* (Allah is Greatest) thirty-three times;**

and completes the hundred with:

La ilaha illallahu, wahdahu la sharika lahu, la hul-mulku wa la hul-hamdu, wa Huwa `ala kulli shai'in qadir

(There is no true god except Allah. He is One and He has no partner. His is the sovereignty and His is the praise, and He is Omnipotent) will have all his sins pardoned even if they may be as large as the foam on the surface of the sea.” (Muslim)

Abu Ayyub Al-Ansari (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

He who utters ten times:

La ilaha illallahu, wahdahu la sharika lahu, lahulmulku wa la hulhamdu, wa Huwa `ala kulli sha'in qadir

(There is no true god except Allah. He is One and He has no partner. His is the sovereignty and His is the praise, and He is Omnipotent), he will have a reward equal to that for freeing four slaves from the progeny of Prophet Ismail. (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

Most probably no Muslim will be able to read all these every day. But it is good to know about them and whenever we have some time we should repeat them and see their effects upon us. May Allah help each one amongst us to be among those who remember Him much and may we all be among the thankful.