

FRIDAY SERMON

15 May 2026

delivered by Imam Zafrullah Domun

The birth of the new moon of Zul Hijja this year is expected at 20h00 UT tomorrow night, that is on 16th May. In Mauritian Time it is on Sunday 17th May at 00h01. Weather permitting the moon might be visible in Mauritius on Sunday evening. If that is the case Eidul Adha will be celebrated this year in Mauritius on Wednesday 27th May. If the moon is not visible on 17th May, Eidul Adha will be celebrated in Mauritius on Thursday 28th May. However, in all likelihood the day of Arafat (*yawme Arafat*) will be on Tuesday 26th May incha Allah. By this Monday we will incha Allah know for sure the exact dates.

Last year 1,673,230 pilgrims performed Hajj according to official figures from Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT). Out of these **Foreign Pilgrims:** 1,506,576 (approx. 90%) **Domestic Pilgrims:** 166,654 (citizens/residents) **Gender Breakdown:** 877,841 men and 795,389 women. The vast majority (1,435,017) arrived by air, followed by land (66,465) and sea (5,094). Most probably there will be more or less the same number for this year as well. The highest recorded number of Hajjis (pilgrims) in a single Hajj season is **3,161,573**, which was recorded in **2012 (1433 AH)**.

The Saudi Government has invested heavily in improving the infrastructure for pilgrims this year. They have significantly upgraded the focus on safety, heat mitigation, and seamless digital experiences, according to preparations finalized by May 2026. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has invested in modernized transport, digital services, and upgraded residential areas to manage millions of visitors. Among the new facilities this year are (1) A new, advanced two-level facility has been built in Arafat to increase capacity, provide shading, and offer amenities, reducing heat exposure. (2) Development of permanent buildings in Mina to enhance long-term residential capacity, including 62 new buildings for 15,000 pilgrims. Most probably they will add more in the coming years. In addition, in order to mitigate heat, they have installed misting fans, shading, and increased green spaces (10,000 trees) in Arafat and Mina to manage high temperatures. They have also installed 74 new escalators in Mina to ease congestion and facilitate movement, particularly for elderly pilgrims. If you are interested you may check them on the net.

We will now talk a bit about the first ten days of Zul Hijja according to what has been reported in the hadiths so that we all might be aware how to spend our days in the coming ten days.

Narrated Ibn `Abbas:

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these (first ten days of Dhul Hijja)." Then some companions of the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Not even Jihad?" He replied, "Not even Jihad, except that of a man who does it by putting himself and his property in danger (for Allah's sake) and does not return with any of those things." (Bukhari)

The Holy Prophet (saw) said:

“There are no days that are greater before Allah or in which good deeds are more beloved to Him, than these ten days, so recite a great deal of *Tahleel* (La ilaha illAllah), *Takbeer* (Allahu Akbar) and *Tahmeed* (Alhamdulillah) during them.” [Hadith | Ahmad]

Umm Salama, the wife of Allah's Apostle (ﷺ), reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) to have said:

“He who has a sacrificial animal with him whom (he intends) to offer as sacrifice, and he enters the month of Zull-Hijja, he should not get his hair cut or nails trimmed until he has sacrificed the animal.” Sahih Muslim.

So, all those who intend to participate in Qurbani should bear this in mind.

In another Ibn Masood (ra) reported that the Messenger of Allah (salAllahu alayhi wa salam) said, “I met Ibrahim (alayhis salam) on the Night of Ascension and he said to me: Oh Muhammad! Convey my greetings to your Ummah, and tell them that Jannah has a vast plain of pure soil and sweet water and is set as a plain leveled land. The plants grow there by uttering: SubhanAllah wal hamdulillah wa la ilaha ilallah wAllahu Akbar (Allah is free from imperfection, praise be to Allah, there is no true god except Allah, and Allah is Greatest).” [At-Tirmidhi].

So, in the light of these hadiths, we understand that although we cannot go to perform Hajj, we should not just sit idle. These days of Zull Hijja are a golden opportunity to strive to do some good deeds with the hope that these deeds may be accepted by Allah. We all know that we should do our best to follow all the injunctions of the Holy Quran and refrain from all prohibitions in the Holy Quran in our daily life. Hence, we should be among those who know what the Holy Quran demands of us by regularly reading the Holy Book and make all necessary efforts to remember all its commandments and prohibitions. This should be our constant preoccupation throughout our life. But since the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) has said that good deeds are mostly appreciated in the sight of Allah

during these days we should strive to perform them as best as we can in the coming days besides other days of the year. The following verses of the Holy Quran gives us some idea of what kind of Muslims should we strive to be . Allah says in the Holy Quran:

ط إِنَّ اللَّهَ اشْتَرَى مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَمْوَالَهُمْ بِأَنْ لَهُمُ الْجَنَّةُ
يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَيَقْتُلُونَ وَيُقْتَلُونَ وَعَدًا عَلَيْهِمْ حَقًّا فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ وَالْقُرْآنِ وَمَنْ أَوْفَى بِعَهْدِهِ مِنَ اللَّهِ فَاسْتَبْشِرُوا
ا بِنَبِيِّكُمْ الَّذِي بَايَعْتُمْ بِهِ وَذَلِكَ هُوَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

Surely, Allah has purchased of the believers their persons and their property [*] in return for the Garden they shall have; they fight in the cause of Allah, and they slay and are slain — a promise *that He has made* incumbent on Himself in the Torah, and the Gospel, and the Qur'an. And who is more faithful to His Promise than Allah? Rejoice, then, in your bargain which you have made with Him; and that it is which is the supreme triumph.

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِمَا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِمَا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِمَا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِمَا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ (١١٢)

They are the ones who turn to God in repentance, who worship Him, who praise Him, who go about in the land serving Him, who bow down to God, who prostrate themselves in prayer, who enjoin good and forbid evil, and who watch the limits set by Allah. And give glad tidings to those who believe. (9:111-12)

إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَانِتِينَ وَالْقَانِتَاتِ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالصَّادِقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ وَالْخَاشِعِينَ وَالْخَاشِعَاتِ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَاتِ وَالصَّائِمِينَ وَالصَّائِمَاتِ وَالْحَافِظِينَ فُرُوجَهُمْ وَالْحَافِظَاتِ وَالذَّاكِرِينَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّاكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

“Surely, men who submit themselves to God and women who submit themselves to Him, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast in their faith and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity, and men who remember Allah much and women who remember Him — Allah has prepared for all of them forgiveness and a great reward.” (33:36)

Since it is recommended and praiseworthy to make the Zikr that have been previously announced I would like to share with you some extracts of Hazrat Masih Maood(as) about what he said about some of these Zikrs. We will start today with *Alhamdo Lillahe*. He said:

“In the language of the Noble Quran, Allah is that Perfect Being Who is rightfully adored, combining in Himself all perfect attributes, and free from every defect, the One without associate and the Source of all beneficence; for, Allah, the Exalted, has, in His Holy word,

the Noble Quran, made His name Allah comprehensive of all His other names and attributes and has not accorded that status to any other name. Therefore, the name Allah has primacy over all the other names of which it is comprehensive. Since it is the aggregate of all names and attributes, it combines in itself all the Perfect qualities.

The meaning of *Alhamdu lillahe* then is that every type of praise, whether relating to external aspects or internal realities, whether relating to inherent excellences or as manifested in natural phenomena, is due exclusively to Allah. No other shares in it. Whatever true praise or perfect excellence the wisdom of the wise can imagine or the minds of thinkers can contemplate belong to Allah the Supreme. There is no excellence of which sane reason can contemplate the possibility but which Allah lacks. In other words, reason is not able to conceive of any excellence which is not comprehended among Divine attributes. He has all the excellences that any one can imagine and He is Perfect in His Being, in His attributes and qualities, in every respect and is totally free from every defect and shortcoming (Baraheen Ahmadiyyah, Vol. IV, pp. 364- 365, Footnote 11).

Hamd is praise which is offered in appreciation of commendable action of one worthy of praise: it also means lauding one who has done a favour of his own volition and according to his own choice. The true reality of *hamd* is the due only of the Being Who is the source of all grace and light and exercises beneficence deliberately and not in ignorance or under compulsion. All this is found only in Allah, the All-Knowing, the All-Seeing. Indeed He is the true Benefactor and from Him proceed all benefits from beginning to end, and for Him is all glorification, in this world and in the hereafter and all praise that is bestowed on others reverts to Him.

The word *hamd*, used in this verse by the Lord of Glory, is the stem and is used both in the active and the passive sense, that is, it is used both for the subject and the object and it signifies that Allah receives perfect praise and also bestows it.

This interpretation derives support from the fact that Allah has followed up the word *hamd* with the mention of attributes that entail this meaning in the view of the discerning. In the word *hamd*, Allah, the Holy, has signified the qualities that subsist in His Eternal Light. In defining *hamd*, He has treated it as a veiled reality that uncovers its face on the recitation of the attributes Rahman and Rahim; for Rahman signifies that *hamd* is used in the active sense and Rahim signifies that it is used in the passive sense, as is not hidden from those who possess knowledge.” (Karamatus Sadiqeen, pp. 64-65).

We will stop here for today. May Allah grant each one of us the capacity and the opportunity to fill our days and nights with good deeds during the coming days of Zull Hijja. May the ceremonies of the Hajj be accomplished in peace and security. May Allah accept what the Muslims are offering in Hajj and around the world. May Allah extinguish the fires of war that are being lit by the enemies of islam. *Ameen*.