

The Takbirs of Tashrīq

In order to mark one of the best days of the Islamic calendar, Allāh and His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him) have ordained a certain type of *dhikr* to be recited after every *fard salāh*. This *dhikr* is called the *takbirs* of *tashrīq*:

الله اكبر الله اكبر لا اله الا الله و الله اكبر الله اكبر و لله الحمد

It is *wājib* to perform them once (thrice is preferred) after each *fard* prayer offered in congregation (*jamā'at*) and in solitude. There should be no prolonged gap between the conclusion of the *salāh* and the *takbirs*.

1. What is *Tashrīq*?

Literally, it means to dry out in the sun. The Arabs would put their meat out in the sun to dry. In Islam, it refers to the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth of Dhūl-Hajj.

2. When do the *Takbirs* start and finish?

All scholars agree that the *takbirs* commence after *fajr* on the Day of Arafā, which is the ninth of Dhūl-Hajj.

There are two main opinions regarding when they cease:

- It finishes after *asr* on the Day of *Nahr*, meaning the tenth. Based on this there are eight *takbirs* in total. This is according to Imām Abū Hanīfa, as proven from Ibn Mas'ūd (may Allāh be pleased with him) and cited from Hasan al-Basrī.
- Imām Abū Yūsuf and Imām Muhammad state that it finishes after *asr* on the last day of *tashrīq* (which is the thirteenth). Based on this, there are twenty-three *takbirs* in total. Sayyiduna Alī, Ibn Abbās, Ibn Umar, Zayd ibn Thābit and Abū Bakr (may Allāh be pleased with them) all adhere to this opinion and this is the preferred Fatwa for the *ahnāf*.

The scholars add that though this is done after *fard* prayers, it can be done after the eid prayer too (which is *wājib* and not *fard*).

3. Why?

There is a beautiful story behind the *takbirs* of *tashrīq*. When Sayyidunā Jibrīl (peace be upon him) was sent to rescue Sayyidunā Ismā'īl (peace be upon him), he feared he was too late and so he proclaimed

الله اكبر الله اكبر

When Sayyidunā Ibrāhīm (peace be upon him) saw him coming, he reacted by saying

لا اله الا الله و الله اكبر

Sayyidunā Ismā'īl (peace be upon him) saw that he had been replaced with a sheep and so he proclaimed

الله اكبر و لله الحمد