Dawhul Ardh
The Spreading of the Earth (Earth Day)
Extracted from the Book Iqbal al-A'mal

It has been mentioned in the books of supplication and traditions that the 25th of Dhul Qa'dah (December 28th of this year) is the day of Dawhul Ardh (also known as Earth Day). According to some traditions, this event is on the 29th of Dhul Qa'dah (December 29th of this year) – however, keeping both of these dates in mind, we highlight the importance of this day, some of the events that had transpired in history and what actions we should perform on this blessed day that Allah has granted to us.

What is the importance of this day?

1. It is said that the Sacred Ka'bah was sent down to Earth on this day and this is also when Allah spread out ALL the land on the Earth under the Ka'bah. According to the same narration, this is also the day when Prophet Adam was sent to Earth after he and his wife, Hawwah ate from the tree in the ‘Earthly Paradise’.

The Qur'an refers to the Ka'bah as being the first house of worship for mankind on this Earth in the following verse:

"Surely the very first house that was placed for mankind (as a place of worship) was the one in Bakkah (Makkah) the Blessed and (a source of) guidance for all the worlds." (3:96)

2. This day is also the birthday of two great Prophets, Prophet Ibrahim al-Khalil al-Rahman known as the Father of Monotheism as it is from him that the great Prophets came that make up the Jews, Christians and Muslims of today. It is this great Prophet that the Qur'an refers to as an “Ummah” or Nation.

In addition, the Prophet that the Christians revere, 'Isa ibn Mariam was born on this blessed day. Not only is he Ruhullah or the Spirit of Allah, but he was made a Prophet when he was still in the cradle and he indeed spoke to the people in defense of his mother and the baseless accusations that were leveled against her:

He said: “I am indeed a servant of Allah: He has given me revelation and made me a Prophet and He has made me Blessed wheresoever I be and has enjoined on me Prayer and Charity as long as I live (He) has made me kind to my mother and not overbearing or miserable So Peace is on me the day I was born the day that I die and the Day that I shall be raised up to life (again). Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth about which they (vainly) dispute.” (19:30-34)

Benefits of keeping this Day as a Day of Worship

a. If a person fasts on this day, it would act as a Kaffarah (Penitence) for his sins of seventy (70) years.

b. In another tradition, if a person fasts on this day, it would be equivalent to fasting 60 months!

c. According to another tradition narrated in Thawab al-A'mal compiled by Shaykh Sadaq, this is also the day that al-Qa'im will make his glorious advent.

d. Imam 'Ali ibn Abi Talib has stated that to fast on the 25th of Dhul Qa'dah and stay up the night in 'Ibadah it is equivalent to the worship of 100 years as if the person had fasted those 100 years straight and had stayed up in worship all of the nights. He then mentioned that if there is a group of Muslims who
gather together and perform the Dhikr of their Lord, they will not separate from one another before they are given what they ask for (from Allah).

It is also on this night that 1,000,000 mercies are sent down by Allah ﷺ.

e. According to a tradition from the Prophet ﷺ, whoever fasts on this day (25th of Dhul Qa‘dah), everything that is between the Heavens and the Earth will ask repentance for him from Allah ﷺ.

What should be performed on this day?

1. The following du‘a should be read on this day:

أَلْلَهُمَّ دَاحِيَّ الْكَعِبَةِ وَفَاقِقَ الْحَيَةَ وَصَارِفَ الْوَرَبَةَ وَكَأَشَّفَ كُلٍّ كَرِيبًا أَسَلُكَ فِي هُذَا الْيَوْمِ مِنْ أَيَامَكَ الَّتِي أُعْطِمْتُ حَتَّى، وَأَقْدُمْتُ سَبِيلَهَا وَجُعِلْنِي عَنْ الدِّينِيْنِ وَدِينَةً، وَإِلَيْكَ ذُرِّيَّةً وَبِرُحْمَتِكَ الْوُسْبِعَةَ.

“O Allah, (Who) spread the Ka‘bah; splitter of the grain of corn; the One who mitigates hardships; the One who alleviates sorrows - I ask You today, one of Your days which you have belonging to You which on account of their privileges, and availability of Your unrestricted mercy (in them), have been declared important, given preference over (other days), and exclusively specified for the believers,

أَنْ تُصَلِّيَ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ عَبْدِكَ الْمُتَعِجِّبٍ فِي المَيِائَةِ الْقَرِيبِ يَوْمَ التَّلَاقِ، فَأَقِمْ كُلٍّ رَنْقٍ، وَدَاعِ إِلَى كُلٍّ حَقٍّ، وَعَلَى أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ الأَطْهَارِ الْهَيَادُ الْمُنَانِ دِعَاءَ الْجَنَّةِ وَوَلَدَةَ الْجَنَّةِ وَالْيَأَرِ.”

To send blessings on Muhammad: Your high-minded, great-hearted and generous servant (whom we will) meet, very soon, on the promised Day of Judgement; (who) opened that which was kept locked and shut; and invited to truth in every walk of life; an on his Ahlu’l Bayt: the pure guides; giving light to people to sustain harmony and unity; having the authority to admit into Paradise or send to Hell.

وَأَعْطِنَا فِي يَوْمِهِمُ هَذَا مِنْ عَطَائِكَ الْمُخْرُوْنَ غَيْرَ مَقْطُوعٍ وَلَا مَمْنُوعٍ، تَجْمَعُ لَنَا بِالْيَوْمِ وَحُسْنَ الْأَوْبَيْنَةِ، يَا خَيْرُ مَدْعُوٍّ، وَأَكْرَمُ مَرْجَوٍّ، يَا كَفِّي يَا وَقِيْمُ يَا مِنْ لِفْطِهِ خَفْيِ أَطْفُ لِي بُلُطِفْكَ وَأَسْعَدْنِي بِعَفْوِكَ، وَأَيْدِينِي بِنَصْرِكَ، وَلَا تَنَسَى كَرِيمٌ ذَكْرَكَ بِأَمْرٍكَ وَحَفْظَةَ سَرِكَ وَاحْفَظْنِي مِنْ شَوَابِ الْدُّهُرِ إِلَى يَوْمُ الْحَشْرِ وَالْبَشْرِ.

Give me today, from Your repository of grants, neither restricted nor denied (to the needy), and let us collect ourselves and turn to repentance and recovery in good time, O He who is called as the most favorite in exclusion to (all) others, and (who is) more generous (than others) in the matter of fulfilling hopes, O He who gives enough, O He who keeps His words, O He who treats with kindness and benevolence without making a show of it. Be kind and friendly towards me, make me happy with Your favours, lend me Your helping hand, do not leave me out unmentioned from Your reward giving list, for the sake of those who carry out Your commands and take care of Your most confidential policies, and keep me safe from the fraud and deceit of materialist vicissitudes, till the day You shall raise the dead for the final judgment.
Then, O Allah let me reach the cistern (center) of Your Prophet, Muhammad, blessing of Allah be on him and on his family, and quench my thirst there, thoroughly, in plenty, gliding the wholesome water pleasantly down the throat, never to be thirsty again, never to be kept away from it once I am there, never to be driven off, and let it be my most reliable preparation, quite sufficient for the questioning session on the day when witnesses will be brought.

O Allah curse the oppressors from beginning to the end, who stirred up trouble and took possession of that which rightly belonged to Your trustworthy representatives.

O Allah keep me in mind in the long hours of agony when I take quarters in between the layers of the earth, the preoccupied forgetful put me out of their head and think no more of me, and (I ask You to) settle me in the ever luxuriant land, and lodge me in a lovable comforting house, in the midst and company of Your close friends and people who have been selected and chosen for Your neighborhood, make my meeting with You a blissful occasion. Keep me alive adhering to good in my day to day life here, free from waywardness and indecent indulgence, before the appointed time comes to an end.

And let Your close confidants be present beside me at the time when my soul departs, body disintegrates, activity ceases to operate, and my appointed time comes to an end.

O Allah keep me in mind in the long hours of agony.
O Allah send blessings on him and on all his forefathers, and let us be his companions and familiar friends, bring us back to life so that he takes us in his service, so far as we prove ourselves his staunch supporters during his tenure.

O Allah let Thy Angels form a protective right around him, give him the responsibility to turn the tables on (Thy enemies) as has been decided in the night of Qadr, till Thou gets satisfied and Thy religion is re-established through him, blooming in full growth afresh on his hands, promote his cause by making it the pure truth, and let the falsehood disappear totally discredited.

O Allah send Your trustworthy representatives at once so that wrongs done to them may be redeemed through their “Qi‘im” (living representative may be given his rightful opportunity to appear, appoint him to give currency to Thy religion and to establish law and order by marking out the boundaries to end the domination of Thy enemies.

O Allah make us reach his days of renaissance and follow his leadership, and see with our own eyes his (golden) era, send blessings on him and favour us by conveying his message of goodwill to us, peace be on him and Allah’s mercy and blessing be on him.”

2. A two rak‘at Ṣalāt should also be performed in this manner:
   - Sūrah al-Fātīhah (1) once followed by Sūrah al-Shams (91) and Sūrah al-Dhuhā (93) five times each – this is the same for both Rak‘at.

Once the Ṣalāt is finished, the following should be said once:

لا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العليم العظيم

“There is no power or strength save with Allāh, the Most High, the Greatest.”

The following du‘ā should then be read once:

يا ملئ الفترات أحقني عترتي وسأجيب الدعوت أجب دعوتي. يا سامع الأصوات إسمع صوتي وأرحمي ونجاور عن سيئتي وما عندي يا ذا الجلال والإكرام.

“O He who tolerates lapses, bear with my false steps, O He who responds to supplications, answer to my prayers. O He who pays attention to (all) voices, hear my cry, and have mercy on me, overlook my wrongdoings and opposition, O Owner of might and majesty.”

O Allah let Thy Angels form a protective right around him, give him the responsibility to turn the tables on (Thy enemies) as has been decided in the night of Qadr, till Thou gets satisfied and Thy religion is re-established through him, blooming in full growth afresh on his hands, promote his cause by making it the pure truth, and let the falsehood disappear totally discredited.