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- **Note:**

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### Lessons on Hajj: (From Hadis summary)

- **Lesson on Hajj: 1**

- **Lesson on Hajj: 2**

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Introduction:
Hajj is the 5th pillar of Islam. Like every other pillar, Hajj is such a worship that prepares the servant of Allah to surrender to Allah’s call. Even though this pillar is obligatory on Muslims, once in their lifetime, if one has ability, yet it involves large sacrifice for the sake of Allah. Unless a Muslim has strong back up from practising other pillars and habits built up from other pillars, then he or she will find the sacrifice of Hajj is too much to take.

Hajj requires some of the following:

a. **Strong Imaan**: Only strong Imaan can motivate Muslims to take risk for hard travelling to perform the Hajj. Imaan (Islamic faith) is the 1st pillar of Islam. If a Muslim is strong in the 1st pillar, then later on it helps him or her to dedicate everything for the Hajj.

b. **Habit to respond to the call of Allah**: Salah is the 2nd pillar of Islam and everyday it calls Muslims to join the prayers. If a Muslim is regular in Salah, then he or she builds up a habit to respond to Allah’s call daily. Later on, when they are called for performing Hajj, despite it is a hard call, they can respond to it with full enthusiasm.

c. **Habit of spending in Allah’s cause**: Zakah is the 3rd pillar of Islam. It trains Muslims to spend in the path of Allah. Hajj requires lot of spending. Those who spend for Allah as Zakah, find Hajj spending easier as an act to respond to the call of Allah.

d. **Habit of sacrifice for Allah’s sake**: Salah, fasting and charity train Muslims to sacrifice their time, energy and money for the pleasure of Allah. Hajj is a very demanding worship which requires huge sacrifice. Those who are used to sacrificing in other pillars, find easier to sacrifice for Hajj, to respond to the call of Allah Almighty.

e. **Huge self-control**: Fasting is a training for self-control. In Hajj self-control is absolutely necessary in terms of sexuality, anger, or any sinful activities. Those who practice self-control in Fasting, find easier in self-control in the Hajj.

Hajj is like a combo of all other pillars of Islam. Hajj is the true manifestation of true belief, true Salah, true Zakah, true fasting etc. It prepares Allah’s servants to respond to HIS obedience in every step of life. That’s why Hajj is called the best worship.

Hajj is not just a ritual. It has huge lessons for Muslims and for all mankind. How Hajj gives lessons, why it is not a ritual only, or what we have to learn from it and so on requires explanations. This book is that little effort to explain some of the lessons about Hajj. So I shall try to include explanations about Hajj in this small book to stimulate the understanding. I can’t do it unless Allah grant me ability. May Allah grant me the beneficial knowledge required to write this book and may Allah accept my little service for HIM! May Allah also reward those who are helping me in many ways for this noble work, Ameen!

Farid Ahmed

Christchurch, New Zealand
Chapter One: What is Hajj?

Definition of Hajj:
Hajj is an Arabic word. Allah has mentioned it in the Holy Quran many times. One of those, as an example, *(Quran 2.197)*:

“For Hajj, the months are well known.”

Meaning of the word Hajj: It means Resolution or making up mind.

Meaning of Hajj in Islamic Shariah: Making up mind, to visit Allah’s House in Makkah, for the sake of Allah, to do some prescribed duties, according to the teachings of Holy prophet (s.a.w).

Why is it named Hajj? The reason is, Muslims from all over the world gather in the centre, which is Allah’s house in Makkah, to visit and to perform some duties for the pleasure of Allah.

Hajj also means, a worship of Allah which requires to gather around Allah’s house in Makkah to perform some duties.

So the summary of the meaning of the Hajj is as following:

- It is a visit only to respond to the call of Allah.
- It is a visit to Holy House in Makkah because Allah called for the visit.
- It is about making the mind, or making a firm intention to visit Allah’s House to perform some duties.
- It is a worship of Allah
- It is very rewarding

Differences between normal visit and hajj visit:
Hajj is not a normal visit or normal travel. Hajj is totally different than that. Some main differences between Hajj and normal visits are as follows:

- **Aim:** In normal travelling the aim is to have fun and enjoy. But in Hajj the aim is to visit Allah’s house to please Allah as a worship.
- **The method:** In normal visit, people visit as they like for their own pleasure. But in Hajj it must be done according to the prescribed method of Allah. Allah’s messenger has taught that method. So one must follow that method for Hajj.
- **Strict conditions:** In normal travel people relax and enjoy. But in Hajj husband and wife are not allowed to have any love affairs between them. Besides, one is not allowed to do any fight, quarrel, abusive actions as well as any sinful actions. Any actions that disobey Allah is called sinful action.
- **Dress:** In normal travelling people wear nice dress but for Hajj for male in particular they must wear simple white cloth without sewing in it.
**Celebration:** In normal travelling there are various activities to celebrate the visit for having fun and enjoyment. But in Hajj it is strictly hard work and worship and celebrating the Glory of Allah.

**Accommodation:** In normal travelling travellers choose comfortable accommodation they can afford. Especially the rich people will have luxury suite. But in Hajj rich or poor all must stay in the field of A’rafah under the Sun, in tent in Mina. Their visiting in Hajj is not intended to make them luxurious but to teach them to sacrifice the comfort for the sake of Allah.

**Penalty:** In normal travel people don’t have to pay penalty if they do little extra fun but in Hajj if they miss any Wajib duty then they must sacrifice animal as penalty (Kaffara).

**Reward:** In normal travel there is no provision to receive rewards from Allah or to become sinless. But in Hajj the rewards in this life and in next life from Allah is endless.

**Hajj is the 5th pillar of Islam:**
Islam is like a whole house that has every necessary thing in it. Islam in that sense, has every necessary code for the life as a whole. That’s why Islam is called the “Complete code of life”. Allah made Islam complete with codes or guidance because:

- **Allah’s universal rule:** Allah’s universal rule is, HE creates and HE guides. HIS universal rule is to create, to provide, to look after, to guide and to judge at the end for reward or punishment. Therefore, HE gives a complete guide, so that HIS judgment will be fair and no one can complain that he or she did not receive complete guidance.

- **Allah is complete:** Allah is complete with everything and with every quality. HIS knowledge about his creation is complete. That’s why when HE guides mankind, HE gives them complete guidance for their best. HE gave Islam as guidance and HE made Islam as a complete guidance.

- **Totality:** As Allah gives complete guidance, Allah also demands from HIS servants the total loyalty. Total submission is the condition from Allah to receive total guidance and to receive total rewards in Paradise.

Again, Islam is like a complete house. For any complete house it requires some main pillars. So the whole house can stand on solid pillars and the solid pillars can provide support to the complete house.

Islam also have 5 main pillars. The reason is that each pillar will encourage, motivate, prepare, and train each Muslim, towards the complete guidance of Islam. For example, if you have a high goal, you take few regular steps to make your achievement easier. Similarly, to become a complete obedient servant of Allah is a very high goal. 5 pillars are prescribed for the servants to get used to the habits, mentality and so on that requires to achieve that high goal.

If a Muslim is not performing main pillars of Islam, then he or she cannot be truly a complete servant of Allah. That’s why understanding and learning about the 5 pillars of Islam is a primary duty to each Muslim. Then again, they must not stop learning after knowing only the 5 pillars. After mastering the knowledge and practice of 5 pillars, they must extend their knowledge and practice to every aspect of Islam to become complete Muslims.
5 pillars of Islam are:

1. Declaring that Allah is one and only GOD and Muhammmad (s.a.w) is Allah’s servant and HIS messenger
2. Performing 5 times prayers daily
3. Giving Zakah (Charity on wealthy)
4. Fasting in the Month of Ramadan
5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to the Sacred House in Makkah)

Therefore, Hajj is the 5th pillar of Islam. It is mentioned in a Hadis below:

_Hazrat Abdullah ibn Omar (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “Islam is standing on 5 pillars. Declaring that there are no other gods but Allah and Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is Allah’s servant and Messenger, Establishing Salah, giving charity, performing Hajj and fasting in the month of Ramadan.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

Wisdom behind placing Hajj as 5th Pillar of Islam:
There is wisdom about the serial numbering in Islamic pillars. In pillars we can see the following 3 things:

1. Act of worship,
2. For all or for some Muslims,
3. The frequency of doing the worship.

Now let us look at each pillar of Islam, in terms of the above 3 factors:

1. **Imaan**: Islamic faith. It is the:
   
a. Main worship is believing, saying and acting,
   b. It is required for all Muslims,
   c. The frequency of having it is in 24 hours a day, all the time.

   So we can see that, Imaan is the main worship, compulsory on all Muslims and frequency is 24 hours a day. Therefore, Faith is placed as the first pillar of Islam.

2. **Salah**: Salah is 5 times prayers. It is the:
   
a. Physical-emotional-mental worship with Faith (Imaan the 1st pillar in him/her),
   b. Required by almost every Muslim, [Women in menses is forgiven]
   c. Frequency of doing it is 5 times daily.

   Therefore, we see that Salah is compulsory 5 times in 24 hours, lesser frequent than Islamic faith. Islamic faith frequency is 24 hours a day. So, Salah is placed as 2nd pillar of Islam.

3. **Charity**: Another act of worship. It is the:
   
a. Financial worship to purify hearts and wealth,
   b. It is not obligatory for all Muslims, only those have more wealth than basic needs,
   c. Frequency is only once a year.
It is a worship with less frequency than Salah. Salah is daily but charity is once a year. Besides, it is obligatory on extra wealth after one’s basic needs. So it is lesser compulsory on Muslims than Imaan or Salah. Therefore, Zakah is placed on 3rd pillar of Islam.

4. **Fasting:** Another act of main worship. It is:
   a. A physical, mental, emotional worship to learn self-control,
   b. Compulsory on the able one,
   c. Frequency is one month in a year,

   Fasting is lesser frequent than Zakah. Zakah on produce could be few seasons in a year but fasting month is only once a year. Fasting comes with alternative options of paying Fidya if someone is too sick or too old. Fasting is easier than giving money away. So it comes as 4th pillar of Islam.

5. **Hajj:** Pilgrimage to the Holy place in Makkah is:
   a. It is a physical, mental, emotional, financial worship,
   b. Not compulsory on every Muslim, only for the one who can afford,
   c. Least frequent, only once in lifetime.

   So, Hajj is lesser frequent than Fasting. Hajj is compulsory only once in whole life. It is also lesser in terms of compulsion on Muslims. It is compulsory on those only who have the means to make the journey. Therefore, it is placed 5th in terms of pillars of Islam.

So Hajj is the 5th pillar of Islam. The wisdom behind placing it in 5th is with the consideration of who has to do it and how frequent has to do it and so on. Allah knows best.

**Hajj as a complete worship:**
What is a complete worship? A complete worship means, it has all the teachings in other 4 pillars and beyond. Let us take a close look on Hajj to see what I am trying to mean:

**Hajj and 1st pillar:** The 1st pillar of Islam is Imaan which is to believe in Allah, HIS angels, HIS holy books, HIS holy messengers, the next life and Qadr (fate). Without a strong faith in the 1st pillar one cannot go through all the hardship in Hajj. Strong believers happily take the sacrifice for Hajj because they strongly believe in Allah’s commands in the Holy Quran about Hajj, or believing in the teaching about the hajj by Allah’s messenger, or believing the punishment in next life if he or she does not perform Hajj despite ability.

So we can say that Hajj is the manifestation of stronger Imaan and the materialization of worship from stronger Imaan. This is one of the reasons why Hajj is a complete worship to Allah.

**Hajj and 2nd pillar:** The 2nd pillar of Islam is Salah. It requires a Muslim to pray 5 times. In Hajj a Muslim pray 5 times Salah as well but praying in Baitullah is million times more rewarding than praying in his or her nearby Mosque at home.
Also teaching of Salah is to responding to the call of Allah to the Mosque near to a Muslim but in Hajj the response is greater because a Muslim responds to Allah’s call to travel so far by spending money and energy etc.

Salah is a practice to connect with Allah but in Hajj a servant comes closest to Allah in the Day of Arafah. In that Day Allah forgives HIS servants more lavishly.

So we can say that Hajj is a greater practice of what Muslims practice daily in Salah. Or we can say that Hajj has the teachings of Salah in it as well. This is another reason to say that Hajj is a complete worship to Allah.

**Hajj and 3rd pillar:** 3rd pillar of Islam is charity which means spending from extra savings above a threshold of a basic needs. 3rd pillar trains a spending mentality in a Muslim in the path of Allah. It also reminds believers that all they have is actually gift from Allah and they should not feel stingy spending from Allah’s gifts in the way of Allah.

In Hajj one need to spend as well. Without spending mentality one cannot spend so much money for Hajj. In fact, the cost of hajj is not cheap at all. It requires quite a lot of spending.

So we can say that Hajj has the spirit of 3rd pillar in it but in a greater degree. Therefore, this is another reason to say that the Hajj is a complete worship to Allah.

**Hajj and 4th pillar:** The 4th pillar of Islam is fasting in the month of Ramadan. Fasting teaches self-control. For example, husband and wife must practice self-control during the day (not in the night) during their fast. But in Hajj that self-control extends to day and night for few days of hajj in a higher degree. In that self-control husband and wife are not allowed to talk or look or use gesture for sexuality.

In fasting Believers avoid fight, abuse, back-biting etc but in Hajj that goes even further like avoiding any kinds of sinful actions (Fosooq) and fight, quarrel, argument (Jidaal), and avoiding hunting, picking up lost goods etc during Ihram period.

In fasting believers go without food, drink etc. In Hajj that sacrifice is even harder like sleeping in tent, wearing death cloth (for male), walking in the dust, standing under the sun heat, standing in long queue for toilet and so on. It is a greater form of sacrifice than fasting.

Therefore, we can say that Hajj has the practice of the teachings of fasting in it and even it is in a higher degree. So that is another reason to say that the Hajj is a complete worship to Allah.

In all types of worship to Allah, some worship has more physical efforts, some has more financial efforts and some has more mental emotional efforts to put into it. But in Hajj one can see the presence of everything. Such as:

**Physical efforts:** In Hajj going through long journey, going through huge crowd, going through heat in the hot weather, going through hard work etc. are present more than any other worship. Many people become sick and some people even cannot survive. Some die due to overheat, or over crowd, or from sickness and so on. Hajj is definitely a hard physical work.
Financial efforts: Hajj requires lots of money. It also requires to leave enough expenses for those who depends on the pilgrim. Day by day the expenses are becoming higher and higher. For some Muslims from certain country requires whole life savings. Yet Muslims spend their life savings for the pleasure of Allah. That is a big financial dedication.

Mental emotional efforts: For Hajj one needs to be mentally very strong to initiate the journey. It is a risky journey in which one may not even survive. Only strong faith with strong mind one can take the risk. Some people even in their old age dare to make the journey for hajj. My late father was an example. He was very old yet he had a strong mind. With Allah’s help he was perfectly healthy in his team whereas the rest of the young people became sick during their Hajj.

Hajj has emotional toll as well. Leaving the family behind with a feeling that he or she may not see them again is an emotional effort. It is hard but the servants of Allah take the toll to please Allah for Paradise. The other part of the emotion is “The love for Allah”. The love for Allah in Hajj becomes dominant. That’s why a servant of Allah gets ready to sacrifice everything for it.

So Hajj is a complete worship to Allah because it covers physical, financial and mental-emotional efforts. That’s why the reward for a proper Hajj (That Allah accepts) is extremely high as well.

*Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said in a Hadis narrated by Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a): “The reward for accepted Hajj is nothing but paradise.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]*

Hajj is a compulsory worship for the able ones:

Allah is very Merciful on HIS servants. HE did not make Hajj compulsory on every Muslim. Allah knows HIS servant’s ability, affordability, safety etc. Among Muslims there are all sorts of people:

- Some are poor
- Some are sick
- Some are disabled
- Some are not sane
- Some simply can’t afford etc.

Allah’s universal rule is “not to place any burden on HIS servants that they cannot carry.” That’s why about Hajj Allah’s rule is logical and simple. The one who can afford must do Hajj and the other who can’t afford are free from that compulsion. If one is sick and unable but have the money, can send someone to do the Hajj on his or her behalf. It is that simple.

Allah made that compulsion through the following verse in the Holy Quran, (3.97): “Pilgrimage to the House of Allah (In Makkah) is a duty that men owe to Allah – Those who can afford the journey. But if anyone deny faith (Doing it), Allah does not need help from any of HIS creatures.”
In a hadis narrated by Hazrat ibn Omar (r.a), a man came to holy Prophet (s.a.w) and asked, “O messenger of Allah! What makes Hajj compulsory? He (s.a.w) said: “Means for travelling and the transport.” [Tirmidi. Ibn Maazah]

So the rule is simple and fair. It is compulsory on those who can afford and not compulsory on those who cannot afford.

When to perform the hajj?
Suppose one has ability to perform Hajj, then our question is when exactly he or she should perform the hajj. Should they do it in any of the following ways?

- Young age?
- In old age?
- Before marriage?
- After marriage?
- Before wedding of his/her children
- After wedding of his/her children?
- Or any other time?

In some Muslim countries, some Muslims may consider these factors as important. For example, some may believe that Hajj should be done after wedding of all the dependent children. Or some may believe that it should be done in old age when mind is more settled. Sometimes you may hear someone saying, “I am too young to do the Hajj.” Or one may say, “I have not got married yet.”

The above issues are irrelevant to the question when one should do the Hajj. The condition for Hajj is “Financial ability and transportation.” So if someone has enough money to eat, feed, clothe and other necessary official costs along with transportation cost (Airline ticket) then Hajj is compulsory on him or her in that moment. Then the person should try to perform obligatory Hajj as soon as possible.

Waiting to get married, or delaying to be old and so on has no basis in the Quran or in hadis. Instead, Holy prophet (s.a.w) advised Muslims to hurry in Hajj once it becomes obligatory (Fard) on them. Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “Whoever has intended for hajj (once it is Fard on him or her), let him (her) hurry to accomplish it.” [Abu Dawood. Daremy]

If they don’t hurry performing their duty, then so many things may happen to them before performing their obligatory Hajj, such as:

- They may die
- They may face accidents
- They may face legal disruptions
- The condition of travelling may become unsafe
- They may lose their money
- Some other cost may increase
- Something bad may happen
- They might lose the chance of performing their Hajj etc.
The worst is, that if they lose the chance due to their delay from negligence or wrong belief, then they will be accountable for that to Allah Almighty. Therefore, Hajj is obligatory once a Muslim has affordability and Hajj has to be done as soon as possible without delay as soon as one can afford.

**Can I afford to perform Hajj?**

Hajj is compulsory on Muslims who can afford for the journey. Most often, lots of Muslims have physical and mental ability to perform the Hajj but they cannot afford the financial side of it. This brief article is about that financial affordability for Hajj.

**Hajj and Finance and Allah’s Mercy:** Allah could have made Hajj compulsory for rich people once every year. Or Allah could have made Hajj compulsory for even poor people to make their journey on foot. But Allah did not, because Allah is Merciful on HIS servants. HE made 5 times Salah compulsory daily for the rich and poor but HE made Hajj compulsory only once in life and again that is only for Muslims who can afford.

_Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “O People! Allah has made Hajj compulsory on you (so you should perform Hajj those who can afford).”_ In that time Hazrat Aqra ibn Haabis (r.a) stood up and said: “O Messenger of Allah! Is hajj Fard every year?”

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “If I had said yes, then it would have become compulsory (every year), and you would not perform it and you would not be able to perform it. Hajj is once (in life). Whoever does more than once, then the extra ones are voluntary Hajj.” [Ahmed. Nasaee. Daremy]

**Can I afford to perform Hajj?** This is a simple question every Muslim should ask himself or herself soon after maturity. The sooner one is mindful about this great worship, the easier it would be to afford for it. Every parent begins thinking about the child’s future soon after the birth of the child which is a good habit. But do we give same importance about the worship of Hajj? Do we fear Allah enough to give importance about HIS worship in Hajj? If we do, then Allah will make a way for us. _Allah says in the Holy Quran, 65:2-3_

“**And for those who fear Allah, HE (always) prepares a way out and HE provides for him by (means that) he could never imagine.”**

**Afford and effort:** Without active effort one can never afford anything. Most of the time, proper effort helps people to achieve most of the things they want to achieve. For example, if someone want to find money for study, needs certain effort to be successful. Sitting and doing nothing does not give anything. Similarly, for Hajj one should wait for affordability rather one should make active effort to gain the money or means for it. That effort will also be a worship and on right effort Allah will bless on it.

So once in life, Hajj does not cost too much, does it? Most Muslims can afford to do Hajj if they truly make proper effort for it. Especially people living in welfare countries can afford it easily, if they really make well-planned effort. There are some tips in the following about how can they make effort to afford the finance for performing Hajj only once in life:
a. **Make Hajj a priority**: They must decide that Hajj should be the number one priority in their hobby list. Often people spend money on their hobbies such as travelling, tour, visiting birth places, buying nice things, expensive honeymoon etc. If they place Hajj in the top of priority list, then most people can afford to perform Hajj.

b. **Make a plan**: Every Muslim should make a plan for Hajj without delay. Making plan is the important step because it is a solid step for making up your mind. In your plan include the year, income, savings etc and work according to your plan. That will be an active effort for the sake of Allah and the effort itself will be rewarding.

c. **Start saving from now**: No matter how little you save, start saving some money for your Hajj. Make this saving a regular habit. Even people on welfare benefit can save few dollars every week if they are determined about it. Once you have a habit of saving then you will see the change in you. Your habit will make you to save more and more. One day you will discover that you can afford the Hajj journey.

d. **Budget the spending**: You need to make a thrifty budget every week to avoid extra spending to be able to fulfil your saving target. Find ways of shopping that costs you less. For example, instead of buying lunch from outside, you can buy bread and make your own lunch. You will save huge that way. Or instead of dining out, cook your own meal which is healthy as well as very cheap.

e. **Cut down unnecessary spending**: For example, smoking cost is un-necessary. Even if you support your family, cut down the support that makes your family extravagant. Support on basic health, education, food, accommodation etc and not on the extra money if they spend on un-necessary things like expensive gifts, buying too many clothes, or hiring expensive private transport etc.

I have lived in poor country as well as well-off country. With my experience I have noticed that so many Muslims can afford the Hajj if they truly make effort for it. I know they can if they follow the above suggestions. But so many Muslims are placing hajj in the bottom of their priority list. They are spending money into other less important priorities for which they are failing to do their Hajj sooner or in due time.

We must remember, Allah is testing us with our time, life and wealth. Allah is testing us whether we put HIS worship as number one priority or not. Allah knows whether we can afford for Hajj or not. Allah knows whether we are making sincere effort for the Hajj or not. If we do, yet cannot afford for genuine reasons then Allah will forgive us but if we use “Can’t afford” as an excuse, then Allah will question us on the Day of Judgment. Therefore, before Allah question us, we should question ourselves sincerely, “Can I really afford to perform the Hajj?”

**Hajj, affordability and begging:**

Allah made Hajj compulsory worship on those who can afford. In the Holy Quran Allah specified this fact as following, (3.97):

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“Pilgrimage to the House of Allah (In Makkah) is a duty that men owe to Allah – Those who can afford the journey. But if anyone deny faith (doing it), Allah does not need help from any of HIS creatures.”

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So the condition for Hajj is affordability. If one can afford they must do the Hajj as soon as possible without delay. But if one cannot afford, then Hajj is not compulsory on him or her. How much money is considered affordability?

If a Muslim has the following:

- Enough jewellery to cover the cost of journey for the hajj,
- Enough money saved in the bank to cover the cost of journey,
- Enough land to sell a part to cover the cost of journey,
- Enough money in running business that some sale of shares will cover the cost of Hajj etc.

“Enough money” means after deducting the necessary costs such as:

a. One must calculate the cost of dependant ones, while he or she is in Hajj journey and after that cost, if he or she has enough money for Hajj, then Hajj is Fard on that Muslim,

b. If one sells a part of land for hajj and then has to beg for living, then he or she should not sell it for hajj. If lands are such that it is extra after fulfilling the basics needs, then one can sell the part of land for Hajj. If someone has land as such (More than basic needs) then Hajj is Fard on him or her.

c. The same with the business. If part of business sale does not hamper his or her basic needs, then selling that part of business is necessary, because hajj is Fard on him or on her.

Despite one’s affordability, if one denies to perform the hajj, then he or she should listen to Allah’s warning: (3.97):

“Pilgrimage to the House of Allah (In Makkah) is a duty that men owe to Allah – Those who can afford the journey. But if anyone deny faith (Performing Hajj), Allah does not need help from any of HIS creatures.”

Allah is not in need for Muslim’s money or Hajj. It is Muslims who need Hajj desperately to be saved from Allah’s punishment and to be rewarded paradise by Allah. Therefore, every Muslim must be keen to do the hajj as soon as he/she can afford.

Now the question is, should anyone beg for money to do the Hajj? Let us find the answer through a Hadis.

_Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) said: People of Yemen used to perform Hajj without bringing the cost with them. They used to say, ‘We are the ones who rely on Allah’; but when they used to arrive in Makkah, they used to beg. Then Allah revealed the following verse in the Quran, (2.197)

“And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is right conduct (Taqwa).” [Bukhari]

So the answer to the question we find is, begging for Hajj cost is not allowed. In Islam begging is prohibited anyway. Muslims may beg for Hajj in different ways, and they should avoid it. Some ways of begging for example:
Begging in the name of “help”: If they ask relatives “Please help me, I want to do Hajj” that is one kind of begging. They can’t afford therefore hajj is not Fard on them. Therefore, they should not ask others to help for Hajj. BUT WITHOUT ASKING IF A RELATIVE GIVES THE COST FOR HAJJ AS GIFT, THEN THAT IS NOT BEGGING AND IT IS OK TO TAKE THE GIFT.

Actual begging: A beggar can beg lot of money but that money is not allowed to do the Hajj because Allah has prohibited to beg for Hajj. In the verse above 2.197 Allah said that the best provision is Taqwa which is not begging, not stealing etc.

Hajj is an act of worship to Allah. Any worship with prohibited income is not accepted by Allah. Therefore, a Muslim must be careful about which money he or she is using for Hajj. At the end of the day, if Hajj is not accepted, then what is the point of working hard for unfair means and working hard for doing the Hajj, if it brings Allah’s wrath rather than HIS pleasure?

Hajj is a response to Allah’s call:

Hajj is not a normal journey. Journey for Hajj is really special. For this journey Allah called People. On behalf of Allah HIS messenger Muhammad (s.a.w) called mankind so long ago. From mankind, true Muslims take this journey to respond to that call of Allah.

Let us look at the call of Allah through HIS messenger for Hajj Journey. It is stated in the holy Quran (22.27):

“And proclaim (the duties of hajj) among men: They will come to you on foot and on every kind of camel, (turned) lean because of travels through deep and distant mountain roads (Far and hard journey).”

In this call, Allah has mentioned that HIS true believers will respond to the call. They will travel from all over the world from near or far. They will travel from far way. They will cross difficult paths, expensive fare, and tiring long distance to come for hajj to respond to the call of Allah.

Once they arrive in Hajj, the first thing they say, “Labbaika, Allahumma labbaik”. It means, I am present, O Allah! I am present. In other words, O Allah! You called me through your Holy Messenger, and here I am to respond to your Noble Call. Like in school, teacher does the roll call and we say, “I am present.”

Tafsir Ibn Kasir has explained the verse of the Quran above (22.27):

Allah asked HIS Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) to call (To announce) mankind for Hajj. It is narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “O Allah! How my voice will reach to all mankind?”

In answer Allah said: “Your responsibility is to call only. And reaching the voice to all is MY responsibility.”

So Holy prophet (s.a.w) stood on Maqam-e-Ibrahim, or On Safa Mountain or on Abu Qubais Mountain and called: “O people! Your Lord has made HIS house. So you perform Hajj of that House!”

Then all mountains reduced in heights and Holy Prophet’s sound echoed all over the world. Even the one who was in father’s back (Yet unborn) and the one in mother’s womb could hear
it. Each stone, tree and the ones for whom Hajj was determined replied with Labbaik (I am present). [Ibn Kasir, Tafsir for 22.27]

That call was made for all the people until the dooms day. For thousands of years, some people have been responding to that call and this responding will continue for very long time (Allah knows exactly for how long). Allah’s call is very important to HIS servants and that’s why HIS true servants feel very emotional about it. As a result, they make every effort to reach there to say Labbaika Allahumma labbaik. I am present! O Allah! I am present (to YOUR service)!

Hajj: A divine reforming program

Some may think that Hajj is just a ritual. That is far from the truth. Every divine program from All-Wise Allah is full of wisdom and full of benefits for the mankind as well as for all the creations of Allah. So Hajj is prescribed to reform the person, society and the world in a righteous way. Insha Allah! I shall try to explain this in this essay.

How Hajj reforms?

Hajj is to change the person from within and to change the world in a peaceful way. I shall describe some points below to explain it Insha Allah:

a. Reforming Muslim minds: Hajj reforms Muslim’s mind towards responding to Allah’s call in every step of life. No matter how hard it is, Muslims got to surrender to the obedience to Allah. That is the main training of Hajj. Like the example of Ibrahim (a.s) in the Holy Quran: 2.131

“Listen! His Lord said to him: ‘Surrender (your will to ME)’. He (Ibrahim) said: ‘I surrender (my will) to the Lord and Cherisher of the Universe.’

b. Reforming Muslim culture: Hajj itself a Muslim culture. It happens every year and it engages Muslims for few months in the activities of Hajj in their communities. Every year some Muslims will go to Hajj, families will share in the planning-preparation for Hajj, every year Muslims say “good bye” to someone or “welcome” to or from Hajj. Besides, Hajj season brings Eid Ul Adha celebration and the culture of sacrificial practice in the societies. Hajj inspires Muslims to stick to the Islamic culture only. They adhere to Islamic culture and avoid any culture that contradicts the teachings of Islam. They are different than people who used to say, (Quran 2.170):

“When it is said to them: ‘Follow what Allah has revealed:’ they say: ‘No! We shall follow the ways of our fathers.’ What! Even though their fathers did not have the wisdom and guidance?’

c. Reforming Muslim behaviour: In Hajj a Muslim is required to practice self-control for longer period than Fasting. In the days of Hajj, a Muslim must practice best manners such as: avoiding sexual behaviour with wife, avoiding any sinful actions, and avoiding any harmful manner like quarrels or fights and so on. Holy Quran describes, 2.197:

“If anyone undertakes that Hajj duty, let there be no sexual behaviour, no sinful behaviour, nor quarrelsome behaviour during the Hajj.”
d. Reforming Muslim’s earning and spending: Hajj also reforms Muslims economy. In Hajj the requirement is that Muslims must spend money that was earned in a Halal way. With Haram money, Hajj is not accepted. That enforces the fact that Muslims are not allowed to earn or to spend money in Haram way. Haram way means, the way Allah has prohibited. For example, extravagance is Haram in Islam and one must not take Hajj as an extravagant journey. Quran describes about extravagance, 17.26-27:

“But do not waste (your wealth) like a wasteful person. Surely, wasters are brothers of the Satan.”

e. Reforming Muslims perception to life: Hajj reminds Muslims that life can be really short and they may die any time for which they must be prepared for. Once a Muslim prepares for Hajj, it’s like he or she is preparing for death. Muslims say good-bye to their known ones as if they may not return alive. They seek forgiveness from others and they pay if there is any due. Then they wear dress (For men) of two pieces of white clothes and proceed to Hajj like a death procession. Millions of pilgrims wear the same death dress and their mind truly go out of the excessive love for this life. Holy Quran reminds us about that certain death, 3.185:

“Every soul shall have a taste of death: And only on the Day of Judgment you shall be paid your full due wages (for what you have earned). Only he who is saved far from the Fire and admitted to the Paradise will have attained the success: BECAUSE the life of this world is only goods and passing objects (based upon) deception.”

f. Reforming Muslim Ummah: Hajj also reforms Muslims in terms of “Muslim nation.” Millions of Muslims come to Hajj from all over the world, with different languages, with different nationality, from different cultures, from different races, from rich and poor, from high educated or low educated, from high jobs or low jobs and so on. But they come to the centre with one aim and they follow one method. In their Hajj rules, they abandon their own wishes, cultures, methods and they follow only one rule from One Allah. With that all the races, all the languages, all the national pride gets shattered and remains only one identity and that is they all are surrendered to the rules of One Allah. Or they take the one identity that they are nothing but Muslims. Hajj reminds them practically what Holy Quran reminds, 49: 10:

“The believers are a single brotherhood. So make reconciliation (offering peace and agreement) between your two (contending) brothers: And fear Allah, that you may receive (HIS) Mercy.”

g. Reforming the mankind to be united in peace: Hajj is a world conference where no abuse is allowed, no indecent activities are allowed, no stealing-robbing allowed, no quarrel or fight allowed. That area is made peaceful, secured and millions of Muslims follow the peaceful process in Hajj. With this, Hajj sends a clear message to the mankind that if mankind together follows their creator’s code like in Hajj, then they can enjoy happiness in this life as millions of Muslims enjoy peace in Hajj, because they follow only one code in there and that is Allah’s code. Allah created mankind to live in peace as Quran describes, 49: 13:
“O mankind! WE have created you from a single (pair) of male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you know one another (not that you may hate each other). Surely, the most honourable of you, in the sight of Allah is (he, who is) the most righteous of you. Verily, Allah is All Knowing and is Well-Aware (of all things).”

In this message, Allah calls mankind for unity in peace. Then Allah prescribed Hajj to show how practically mankind can enjoy unity and peace if they surrender to their One Creator.

Moreover, Hajj is to reform Muslim’s attitude to be peaceful by surrendering to Allah’s code as they do in Hajj. So they should learn to be peaceful towards their families, neighbours, other Muslims and to other human as they act peacefully in Hajj.

In conclusion, Hajj is a reforming program to change Muslim’s personal, social, economic, cultural, national and international life to surrender to Allah completely, to earn peace in both lives. If the reform begins from Muslims rightly, then the entire mankind will get the message from them rightly. But if Muslims misunderstand the purpose of Hajj, the reforming plan of Hajj, and if they take Hajj just as a ritual, then the entire mankind will get the wrong message of Hajj from them. That’s what is indicated in the following verse regarding the Hajj in the Holy Quran, (3:97):

“Hajj is a duty that men owe to Allah-those who can afford the journey; but if any deny, Allah does not need help from any of HIS creatures.”
Chapter Two: Beauty of Hajj.

Hajj manifest surrendering to Allah fully:

Allah created humans to be HIS ambassadors on this earth. As ambassadors they will follow HIS guidance and they will invite and enjoin each other to follow HIS guidance. That is Allah’s noble plan behind the creation of humans. Through this plan also Allah will test humans who is willing to be HIS ambassador and who is not.

Suppose a Government (Govt.) appoints an ambassador to represent the Govt. in a certain country. In that appointment the ambassador has some duties towards the Govt. Such as:

a. Ambassador must accept the Govt. as his/her authority,
b. Ambassador must be loyal to the authority,
c. Ambassador must be following the policies of the Govt.
d. Ambassador must not follow his/her own desires disobeying Govt.
e. Ambassador is accountable for breaking any rules given by Govt.

If an ambassador follows the above rules, then we can say that the ambassador is fully loyal to the Govt. That total loyalty is called total surrendering. Like that, Allah wants Muslims to surrender to HIM fully. Allah has commanded it in the Holy Quran, (2.208):

“O you who believe! Enter into Islam fully; and do not follow the footsteps of the Satan; he is your open enemy.”

Hajj is the manifestation of that total surrendering to Allah. Or in other words, Hajj is the training to become a fully surrendered servant to Allah. How Hajj does train a Muslim to become fully surrendered to Allah?

Let us look at some aspects of surrendering that Hajj manifest in Muslims below:

Loyalty to Allah: Muslims take the difficult Hajj journey only to please Allah. Muslim do Hajj to follow Allah’s command. Therefore, Hajj manifest Muslim’s surrendering to the will of Allah.

Loyalty to the policy of Allah: Muslims perform Hajj according to Allah’s prescription. They follow the method that Allah’s Messenger taught them. They do not follow their own method instead in every inch of Hajj they follow divine method. That is also a manifestation of them being surrendered to Allah.

Loyalty when summoned: Muslims perform Hajj because they were summoned by their Lord Allah through HIS messenger. That’s why when they arrive for Hajj they say, “I am present! O Allah! I am present!” Responding to the call of Allah is also a strong manifestation of their fully surrendering to Allah in Hajj.

Loyalty in giving up desires: Muslim give up their comfort, luxury etc in Hajj. They wear death like dress (for male in particular), avoid intimacy between husbands and wives, avoid using scent, avoid shaving, avoid sleep in luxury suites rather they sleep in tents, avoid air conditioning, they stay under the sun on Arafah day etc. That is another strong manifestation of their self-sacrificing for the sake of Allah because of their fully surrendering to Allah through their Hajj.
**Loyalty in giving up life:** Muslims know that Hajj journey can take their lives. Many die in there. Many Muslims sincerely wish to die in that journey because of the pleasure that they would die in the path of Allah. Muslims are so loyal to Allah that they wish to give their lives for HIS pleasure. That is another strong manifestation of their full surrendering to Allah through their hajj.

**Loyalty in giving up wealth:** For Hajj one must spend quite a lot of money. This spending is giving up money for the loyalty of Allah. That is another strong indication of surrendering fully to Allah from a Muslim through hajj.

When a Muslim does give up all of the above for Allah in the Hajj, then it truly manifests, that Muslim has totally surrendered his or her self, wealth etc for the loyalty of Allah. Muslims should be prepared to dedicate themselves to the cause of Allah anytime when HE calls them. Muslim means the one who surrenders fully to the will of Allah. Hajj manifest that surrendering. Muslims must understand the lesson of Hajj and should extend this lesson in every step of life to become complete Muslim.

**Hajj is a pure travelling:**
Hajj is not a travelling to indulge wrong things. In this life travelling is a common thing. People make their travel for many different reasons such as:

- For business,
- For leisure,
- For sighting new things,
- For researching about wonderful things,
- For having fun,
- For relaxation,
- For sports,
- For other reasons etc.

In those tour or travelling often many bad things are included such as:

- Intention for material gains,
- Alcoholism for drinking,
- Gambling for gain or lose,
- Singing and dancing for entertainment,
- Prostitution facility for enjoyment and so on.

Hajj is not such a travel. Hajj is a purest form of travelling. In it no prohibited or immoral activities are allowed. Every year millions of people gather for Hajj and due to its purity the gathering is safe from wrong doings. Alhamdulillah! In Hajj, every kind of sinful actions are prohibited. Hajj only reminds pilgrims about good things, about pure life style, about their Lord WHO is Pure from any wrong doing. Hajj reminds them about the Day of Judgment where they will face accountability for their actions in this world.

To keep the Hajj pure from sins Allah has forbidden many things for the pilgrims in Hajj. Such as, *(Quran 2.197):*
“If anyone undertakes Hajj duty, let there be no sign of offense, no wickedness, nor disputes during the Pilgrimage (Hajj). And whatever good you do, Allah knows it.”

Even Allah prohibited ill gotten money to be used for the Hajj, to keep the Hajj totally pure from contamination of sins. Allah commanded in the Quran, (2.197):

“And take a provision (the money with you) for the journey, but the best provision is Taqwa (Lawful money and lawful conduct without begging, stealing, or robbing etc.). So fear ME, O! You, who are wise.”

Therefore, in Hajj, there is no provision of indulging impure sinful things. In Hajj is present the strict self-control, the strict code or moral practice, the strict code of righteous intention and so on. Subhanallah! Allah is the Purest and HE prescribed Hajj for Muslim a “Pure Journey and Practice” only due to HIS pleasure.

**Hajj is the best gathering in this world:**
Gathering is common in this world. People gather for lots of reasons. Such as:

- People gather for worshipping idols,
- People gather for economic reasons,
- People gather for political reasons,
- People gather for protest against a Government,
- People gather for marriage celebrations,
- People gather for social occasions,
- People gather for shopping in markets,
- People gather for entertaining programs,
- People gather for celebrations and so on.

Among all these gatherings in this world, Hajj gathering is the best gathering. Why? Some reasons are given below:

a. **Best aim:** The aim of Hajj gathering is very noble. In it no agenda to defeat one another, or to attack one another, or to disadvantage one another, or having to do anything for selfish desires or nationalistic interest and so on. In this world, in gatherings, there is grouping, there is motive to gain something, there is efforts to get some benefits, there is competition to excel from one another, there is often slander-backbiting-mean political motives, there is often conspiracy plans against one another, there is often money making motive, there is often indecency-shamelessness or immoral activities and so on.

But in Hajj gathering the aim is pure. The aim is to gather for the pleasure of Allah. Because Hajj gathering is only for the sake of Allah. As Allah made the aim of Hajj very clear in the Holy Quran, (2.196):

“And complete the Hajj or Umrah in the service of Allah.”

Therefore, in Hajj gathering the aim is not for the name or fame or any material competition for gain etc. Due to the best aim, Hajj is the best gathering in this world.
b. **Best method:** The method in Hajj gathering is very pure as well. The method is prescribed by the Ruler of the universe (Allah) and demonstrated by HIS Holy Messenger (s.a.w). In this gathering there is no room for greed, indiscent actions, fights, competition to gain more than others, abuse, stealing, racism, class system, hatred, destruction, conspiracy and so on.

The method is pure and the best. Millions of pilgrims come and gather without national pride, without social discrimination, without preference to one over another, without any allowing any sinful actions, without allowing any violence but peace and peace, without allowing anyone to put anyone down but respect and respect and so on.

In the method Allah has prohibited any sexuality (Rafas) including talks, gestures, affairs about it, to keep the method completely pure from physical needs. In the method Allah has forbidden any kind of sinful actions (Fosooq) including greed, hatred, racism, conspiracy, grouping to divide unity, cursing, abusing, hurting others, even hurting a fly or a mosquito, even hurting an animal for hunting, disrespecting other’s property like lost property and so on. In the method Allah has completely prohibited any fight, any violence, even any secret plan for causing harm to others physically, emotionally or mentally.

In Hajj method, Allah has made it pure, sinless, and peaceful method which is totally different than any other worldly gatherings. It is so beautiful with the blessings of Allah. Allah has commanded the 3 main things must be avoided in the performance of hajj and they are: (2.197):

> “If anyone undertakes the Hajj, let there be no sign of sexuality, no sinful actions, nor fights during the Hajj.”

Considering the best method in Hajj, the Hajj is the best gathering in this world.

c. **Best outcome:** In this world the organisers plan the likely outcome from a gathering they organise. For example, from a soccer gathering, organisers would expect outcome of more popularity of soccer, more income for the organisers, more memberships in the clubs, more business for the advertising companies, and more business from soccer stars and so on.

Likewise, each gathering expects some outcomes. In those outcomes there is mix up of greed, gain, pain of loss, anger from disappointment, grouping to get more advantage, competition to defeat one another, hurt if lost and overjoyed if won, if loss some drink alcohol too much out of grief causing self-harm, and for others also drink alcohol for winning also causing self-harm and so on. These are the likely outcomes from any worldly gathering in this world.

But what about the outcome from Hajj? The outcome from Hajj is totally different. Allah did not organize Hajj gathering for any reasons that human usually aim for. Allah is beyond needs; HE does not need to gain anything from HIS servants. HE does not need to increase income from Hajj gatherings. HE does not need any gain from Hajj
gatherings like human need from worldly gatherings. So from the outcome point of view, on Allah’s side, the hajj is a gathering free from any bad outcome.

Now, from human point of view, the outcome from the Hajj gathering is best as well. The outcome of hajj is righteousness in pilgrims, the cleansing from sins, the forgiveness for their shortcomings, the increase in their moral characters, the increase in their piety (Taqwa), the positive change in their natures and so on. Let us just look at a hadis that indicates about the outcome of Hajj for the pilgrims: *Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:*

“Whoever has performed Hajj for the pleasure of Allah only, and has not talked anything indecent (sexual) or has not done anything sinful, he (she) would return from Hajj (as sinless) as like the day his mother had given birth to him (her).” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

So the outcome of the Hajj is so beneficial for the peace and happiness for the mankind. Mankind suffer from problems mainly because of the immorality in them. Other world gatherings do not always target the outcome like pure faith, righteous character according to pure faith etc.

Only Hajj is a gathering that expects the outcome of pure faith and moral character based on pure faith and the result of it is delivering righteous citizens all over the world to spread peace and happiness all over the world. What a wonderful outcome! What a noble outcome! That’s why from the outcome point of view, Hajj is the best gathering in this world.

d. **Best reward:** Hajj is for Allah and only Allah has the power to give best rewards in this life and in next life. In other gatherings people gather mainly for two different types of rewards such as:

- **Material rewards in this world:** For a gathering in the market people expect monitory profits as a reward. If they do not receive monitory reward they consider themselves as failure. So, some gatherings are for material rewards only and they do not expect any spiritual rewards from their gatherings. As a result, the outcome of those gatherings in terms of material gain could be positive or could be negative. But in terms of Spiritual gains, from those gatherings is nothing but zero.

- **Spiritual rewards:** For some gatherings are organised for spiritual rewards, for example, religious gatherings. But the spiritual gain for some goes only up to this life and it does not extend up to the next life. For example, if some people gather to worship an idol then the outcome only goes to some positive feelings gained from it but the reward doesn’t extend to the next life in getting Paradise. Because Paradise is not owned by the Idols and idols or statues have no power to give anything solid as rewards. So the reward in the long run for those gatherings is also nothing but zero.

Now, come about Hajj gathering. It is done for Allah, prescribed by Allah, and the method of celebrating that gathering is also prescribed by Allah and demonstrated by Allah’s
messenger. Besides, Allah controls HIS creation’s life and death, the reckoning in the Day of Judgment and their ultimate ending either in Hell Fire or in Paradise. So Allah has fixed the best reward for proper Hajj, and that is sinless peace of mind for pilgrims in this life, and the ultimate happy place Paradise in next life. Let us look at a reward for hajj in next life from a Hadis:

*Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “The reward for an accepted hajj by Allah is nothing but Paradise.”* [Muttafaqun A’laih]

So the reward for Hajj gathering is the best rewards both in this life and in next life. Therefore, Hajj gathering is the best gathering in this world.

e. **Biggest gathering:** This is a fact that Hajj is the biggest gathering in this planet. Muslims from all over the world love to come to Hajj. Billions of Muslims all over the world dream to get there at least once in life. So many Muslims want to go more than once to the hajj gathering. They have means to do that.

But due to avoiding the overcongrowing, the Hajj organisers place a quota system on countries to send only a limited number to hajj each year. If there was no quota system, then the number of pilgrims would have been 60-70 million roughly each year. Even the limited number allowed to perform Hajj each year is close to or over 4 million Muslims. What a great number!

Why a great number of Muslims want to do Hajj? Why their hearts are attracted to the House of Allah in Makkah? Why every year so many Muslims get emotional to visit there? It is because of the supplication of Ibrahim (a.s). Holy prophet Ibrahim (a.s) made supplication to Allah after building the Holy House in Makkah to attract other people’s hearts towards that Holy House. Allah accepted that supplication and poured love for the Holy House for Hajj in the hearts of true believers. [*According to Tafsir ibn Kasir explanation of 2:125*]

Holy prophet Ibrahim (a.s) made supplication which Allah has quoted in the Holy Quran, (14:37):

“(O Allah!) Fill the hearts of some from among men with love towards it.”

Allah made HIS Holy House like a most powerful magnet to pull believers hearts towards it. As a result, Allah’s house is always visited by Muslims 24 hours a day for thousands of years. You would not find any other holy place in this earth as alive and busy in day or night as Holy House of Allah in Makkah.

Therefore, Hajj gathering is the greatest gathering and the best gathering in this world without any doubt.

**Hajj is a world Muslim conference:**

In this world people organise conferences for various reasons. The main reasons for any conferences are summarised below:

- To remind the aim and objectives of the organizations to the members,
- To educate more about their ideology to the members,
To unite the members and leaders,
To encourage, or motivate the leaders and members to continue their mission,
To achieve the high spirit,
To plan for the better, and
To spread the message all over through the selected representatives in the conference and so on.

Now look at the Hajj. It is also an ideal conference for world Muslims. World Muslims believe in the same ideology which is worshipping one Allah without giving any partners to HIM. It is like, Allah made a centre for Monotheism in Makkah for the world Muslims. Whoever will surrender to the will of Allah will become an automatic member of this main centre. To become a member of Allah’s house in Makkah, there is no fee, no membership form or anything. As long as anyone accept Allah without any partners, gains the privilege to become a member of Hajj Conference.

Then once he or she becomes a member, gains the right to attend in there for Hajj as a conference. In Hajj, members perform duties to remind themselves about monotheism, about worshipping one Allah. Every actions or duties they do in there educates them more about oneness of Allah. In that hajj conference, millions of Muslims (As conference members) sing Allah’s oneness. For example, they say, “Labbaika laa shareeka lak - I am present! Allah! YOU have no partners.”

Then from that Hajj conference, they get filled up with high spirit of Imaan. They become highly motivated like re-charged battery with full power to become best Muslims. They feel much closed to Allah in Hajj conference. Their Imaan level goes very high. Their love for Allah goes to a pick level. They get motivation to be righteous, to be a best surrendered servant of Allah in their lives.

Then they come back with that high spirit to spread it around. Other Muslims come to welcome them from their areas. Other Muslims feel encouraged to talk to them. They ask the pilgrim to make supplication for them because a successful pilgrim comes back as sinless as a new born baby. Other people get information about the Hajj conference. Many of them drop tears out of love for Allah and Hajj when they hear description from the returned pilgrims. The wind of righteousness blows around. The sense of righteousness is spread like this to all over the world.

So truly, if we consider the above mentioned aspects of Hajj, then it is correct to say that the Hajj is the best righteous world Muslim conference in this world. This is a conference:

- Happens every year,
- It happens at the same venue,
- It takes place for the same aim and objectives,
- It gives the same message every time,
- This conference is all about surrendering to Allah fully and glorifying Allah only,
- This conference is made safe by Allah (Not allowed to kill, hunt, fight, steal etc),
- This conference is a world Muslims conference because Muslims come from all over the world,
This conference unites the world Muslim under the one slogan “Labbaika Allahumma labbaik—I am present O Allah I am present!” and Through this conference, the message of Monotheism spreads all over the world etc.

Now let us look at a verse in the Holy Quran. In this verse Allah describes HIS holy house in Makkah as a safe, centre for gathering or conference. *(Quran 2.125)*:

“And (remember) when WE made the House (Ka’bah) a Place of assembly for men and a place of safety.”

Allah made it a “Masaabah” for people. Masaabah means coming back again and again to gather or to visit or to perform Hajj duties. House of Allah in Makkah is a place of world assembly for Muslims. A place to gather. It is a centre for Monotheism for the world. That’s why Muslims from all over the world gather here as a world Muslims conference every year.

**Hajj unites world Muslims:**
It is Allah’s Mercy again on Muslims. Allah prescribed Hajj on world Muslims to maintain unity throughout the life. For Hajj, Muslim countries have to communicate, cooperate in working together to materialise the Hajj duties. It is such a cause, a divine cause that brings Muslims together.

For unity countries are working hard in many ways. For unity among nations there are many organizations working, spending so much time, spending so much money and efforts. But is it giving any unity as expected. Rather mankind is diving themselves in the name of nationality, culture, race and regions. They can’t achieve effective unity due to the national or regional interests. Race, class, language come in, to determine who would get the preference on what. As a result, mankind is dividing further and further without achieving much unity.

Unity among Muslims also not possible on the basis of money. Unity comes through the unity of hearts. Unity of hearts comes only through the surrendering the hearts to one single point. In Islam that single point of unity is Allah. When billions of Muslims all over the world surrender their hearts to one Allah, then unity comes among them.

Hajj is a worship that unites Muslims all over the world. Hajj is not only for Arab Muslims who are living around Makkah. Hajj is for all the Muslims. Hajj is only for Allah, not for the name or fame or national or regional interest and so on. Hajj is the response to the call of Allah with one single aim, with one single method and with one single target for the Paradise. Therefore, when millions of Muslims come to Hajj for one reason then their hearts unite to a single aim and that single aim brings unity among world Muslims.

Hajj is in every year. So every year the connection among Muslims is going on. Every year in Hajj, the world Muslims are praying for the rest of the Muslims in this word. Every year the message for unity is spreading to Muslims all over the world. That united spirit, united efforts, united worship, united cooperation is keeping Muslim unity alive every year.

Without divine program like Hajj, there is no other ways are effective to achieve such wide spread feeling of unity, brotherhood or sisterhood. I am not saying that there is no misunderstanding among Muslims. Misunderstanding is obvious because Satan is working
continuously to divide Muslims to cause fights. But what I am saying is, Hajj is a major contributor towards the unity among Muslims. It is working in the believer’s mind to be united for the sake of Allah.

When Allah unites hearts together then only the real unity comes. Otherwise unity achieved on the basis of racism, nationalism, regional interests are very short lived and with little shake up that kind of unity collapses easily. But unity based on faith in one Allah is a solid unity because its aim is noble, its aim is above selfish interests and its aim is blessed by Allah. When Allah blesses on hearts to unite, then nothing can stop it.

Hajj is such a worship that unite Muslims all over the world. Allah is so kind on Muslims by ordaining Hajj in every year which will bring Muslims to one centre with one aim to achieve unity in faith and to be saved from destructions, fights, killing and ruining one another. Hajj sends that unity message every year through millions of pilgrims all over the world.

In the Holy Quran Allah reminds the believers about how HE united the hearts of the true believers, not with money or wealth but through divine faith! (Quran 3.103):

“Allah is so kind on Muslims by ordaining Hajj in every year which will bring Muslims to one centre with one aim to achieve unity in faith and to be saved from destructions, fights, killing and ruining one another. Hajj sends that unity message every year through millions of pilgrims all over the world. In the Holy Quran Allah reminds the believers about how HE united the hearts of the true believers, not with money or wealth but through divine faith! (Quran 3.103):

“And hold fast, all of you together by the Rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and do not be divided among yourselves (being Muslims);

And remember with thanks Allah’s favour on you; for you were enemies and HE joined your hearts together in love, so that by HIS Grace you became brethren;”

Allah says further in the Holy Quran (8:63):

“And HE has placed unity between their (believer’s) hearts: Even if you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have produced that unity (and love); but Allah has united them, surely, HE is Supreme in Strength, All Wise.”

Hajj re-animates world Muslims:
Imagine! How important the role of the heart in a human body. As long as the heart survives the rest of the body survives. If the heart is dead, then nothing can stop the body from rotting. Why is that? It is because the heart pumps the blood from it to all other organs in a human body. That way the heart animates the body. Then again the heart collects all the blood from all organ back to it. Why? So that the heart can purify the blood and send it to all over the body to re-animate it.

Holy Ka’ba, the centre of Hajj is also like a heart for all the Muslims. Allah made this centre, so world Muslims can gather in it to be empowered with spiritual elevation, to be charged with high degree of Imaan. Then, after that charging they can spread back to all over the world to re-animate the world Muslims. Alhamdulillah! What a great centre for motivation the Hajj gathering is!

If we notice closely, about 6 months of the year, the spirit of hajj season goes around the world Muslims. From after the Month of Ramadan Muslims from outside the Makkah begin their preparations for Hajj. They inform their families, relatives, friends, local communities and so on. They pay of all the debts, they seek forgiveness from others, and they begin feeling
High degree of Imaan in them. Their families and relatives and communities are also influenced from it positively towards Imaan.

That begins the assisting to one another through visiting, through inviting, through organising Dua program, through giving charity and so on. All these things are like reviving the dead hearts into live hearts in terms of Imaan.

This process of re-animation of Imaan continues until the pilgrims leave homes. Friends and families feel it in hearts when they say goodbye to the pilgrims. Many of them cry, shed tears with live emotion, with acute love for the pilgrims and the pilgrimage for the love of Allah in their hearts.

Then their feeling is continuously alive or animated until the pilgrims come back. Once they welcome the pilgrims back their hearts re-animates to the pick again. When pilgrims come back, people gather around them to listen to their spiritual experiences, to know everything in Hajj so eagerly with hearts and souls. With that their hearts are re-animated more. In this process the message of Taqwa, the Faith in one Allah, the love for Allah and HIS messenger goes around all over the world through pilgrims to re-animate Muslims hearts in this world.

This re-animation process does not stop after one year. This process continues every year. Alhamduilillah! For last many thousands of years Allah has prescribed this Hajj and thus Hajj is playing a very important part to keep Muslims heart with Imaan alive. Every year of hajj is like a re-animation season for world Muslims.

This re-animation of pilgrims and the others are a great reward from Allah Almighty. Holy Quran indicates in that in a verse (Quran 22.27-28):

“And proclaim (the duties of hajj) among men: They will come to you on foot and on every kind of camel (Transport).............That they may see the rewards for themselves and celebrate the Name of Allah.”

Therefore, Hajj is a worship, a great mercy from Allah that revive Muslims Faith around the world every year.

Hajj trains Muslims to dedicate to Allah:

Hajj is a training. It trains Muslims to dedicate to Allah fully. In this dedication includes the following training in Hajj:

a. **Strong commitment**: Hajj trains Muslims to be fully committed to serve Allah’s code in life. Hajj is a difficult journey but due to strong commitment from Allah’s servants they can perform Hajj. Strong commitment helps them to overcome all the obstacles to make the noble journey. Once a Muslim is committed and try hard then Allah makes it easy for them.

Strong commitment is a fundamental need to be a strong Muslim. Allah loves strong Muslims more than weak Muslims. When a Muslim commit fully to serve Allah in any actions in life, Allah makes his or her path smooth. Allah reveals it in the holy Quran, (92:5-7):
“So, who gives (in charity) and fears (Allah), and (in all sincerity) accepts (and commits) and follows the best—WE will indeed make smooth for him the path to happiness.”

Therefore, Hajj is a worship that teach Muslims to commit for the risky, hard journey. If they follow the same strong commitment in their daily duties as Muslims, then success will embrace them without any shadow of doubt.

b. Wholehearted efforts: For Hajj they need effort with heart and soul. With half-hearted effort one will be disheartened about the hard journey. Hesitation, self-doubt and half-heartedness prevents a Muslim from the hard journey. Unless his or her heart is full of Allah’s obedience, and the heart is full of Allah’s love, and the heart is full of wish for the paradise, a Muslim cannot dedicate health, wealth and so on for the difficult Hajj journey.

Because Hajj journey is not a journey for just pleasure or fun, it is a righteous journey which requires disciplines in mind and heart. For many that discipline is very hard task. Without wholehearted effort no one can achieve this discipline. Hajj trains Muslims for that discipline.

In general, following Allah’s code require that sincere whole hearted effort. Without it a Muslim struggles every day in following Allah’s code. Obeying Allah is hard for those who do not have wholehearted effort behind the obedience. Allah wants Muslims to be wholehearted and sincere in obeying HIM. (Al-Quran 98:5):

“And they have been commanded no more than this: To worship Allah, offering HIM sincere devotion, being true (in faith).”

Therefore, Hajj is a worship that teaches Muslims to make wholehearted effort to succeed in obeying Allah in day to day life.

c. Giving up everything: Hajj trains Muslims to give up everything for the sake of Allah. For Hajj, Muslims give up money, sexuality with spouses, comfortable stay, entertainment with sinful events, all sinful actions, families or friends, and even they prepare to give up their lives in their journey. Hajj is a training to give up most beloved things in the path of Allah. Without the mentality to give up, a Muslim cannot take the difficult Hajj journey.

Hajj is a training for Muslims to give up things for the real owner of things (For Allah). If they train themselves with that properly, then they can give up their self or money or comfort or every selfish desires for the pleasure of Allah. To be a true Muslim one must learn that and one must do that.

In general, Allah commands Muslims to give up their self or wealth for Allah to be qualified for the Paradise. Allah says about it in the Holy Quran, (61.10):

“O you who believe! Shall I guide you to a business that will save you from painful penalty, that you believe in Allah and HIS messenger, and that you strive very hard (to your best) in the Cause of Allah, with your property and your persons: That will be best for you, if you only knew!”
Therefore, Hajj is a worship that trains Muslims to give up their property and persons in the path of Allah in their day to day life to the obedience of Allah.

d. **Surrendering to Allah**: Hajj trains Muslims to surrender to Allah with everything. It trains Muslims to surrender their sexual desires to follow Allah’s commands. It trains Muslims to surrender their wrong desires to avoid sinful actions to follow Allah’s commands. It trains Muslims to surrender their desires for comfort to follow Allah’s commands. It trains Muslims to surrender their stinginess to spend lot of money to follow Allah’s commands and so on.

To become a true Muslim one must surrender his or desires to Allah, his or her wealth to the will of Allah, his or her comfort to the will of Allah, his or her life to the will of Allah. So a true Muslim is the one who surrenders his or her mind, emotion, desires, wishes, likes and dislikes, his or her choices and hobbies, his or her life and everything to the will of Allah. Hajj is such a worship that requires surrendering to Allah with everything one has in this life.

In general, for every Muslims the fundamental requirement is that they have to surrender to the will of Allah fully. Allah calls Muslims to do that in the Holy Quran, (2:208):

> “O you who believe! Enter into Islam fully; and follow not the footsteps of the Satan; for he is to you an avowed enemy.”

Therefore, Hajj is a worship that trains Muslims to surrender everything to the will of Allah, to become a complete Muslims for which Allah demands for.

**Hajj is a source for motivation:**

Every nation celebrates some special occasions to motivate its people. Political parties call for yearly council to motivate its members. Communities celebrate some days to motivate its members. International communities celebrate some special days to motivate people. For example, national days, cultural celebrations, peace day, food day or could be anything.

Islam has many activities daily or weekly, or yearly basis to motivate Muslims into the worship of Allah. For example:

- Salah daily to motivate Muslims into the worship of Allah,
- Jumma Salah in Friday gathering, to motivate Muslims for the rest of the week,
- Fasting month once a year, to motivate Muslims to be true servant of Allah for the rest of the year,
- Similarly, Hajj takes place every year, to motivate Muslims for serving Allah for the rest of the life.

In Hajj, the difference is about the scope of motivation. For Salah the motional scope is for locality only. Fasting motivation scope is national. Allah made Hajj worship as the motivation for the whole world.

Islam addresses quite clearly that Mankind is created by one GOD, and mankind should follow the guidance of that one GOD. In worshipping one GOD Islam calls for world unity not division. In that call, Muslims respond positively. So all the Muslims in this world, from east to the west
believe in one Allah and follow one Allah’s guidance. Hajj is there to unite them internationally. Hajj is there to:

- Bring them together every year,
- Show their presence for the same target,
- Revive their unity every year,
- Re-animate Muslims all over the world,
- Unite them in and around the House of Allah,
- Motivate them to be united,
- Motivate them to act as one big Muslim family in this world,
- Motivate them to assist, encourage one another to serve Allah all over the earth,
- To motivate them to cooperate each other among Muslim countries for progress,
- Motivate them to remove any trace of racism and nationalism among them,
- Motivate them to enjoy the spiritual joy during Hajj season through being in Hajj or sharing with Eid and Qurbani all over the world etc.

Hajj is a powerful motivation for Muslims. Its spirit centred in the House of Allah but the rays of that spirit reaches every remote corner in this world. Every year someone is going to Hajj from every place from this world. It is a world event. It is a regular event. It is a fixed event. It does not need any campaigning, any announcements, any postering or any media advertisements. Allah has fixed this event for every year and HIS servants are taking preparation to do the Hajj every year. This is Allah’s arrangement! The biggest arrangement in this world every year. Allahu Akbar!

Just imagine, the following:

- How many millions Muslims go for Hajj each year all over the world?
- How much money the Hajj is generating?
- How many hundreds of thousands of people are involved in business, training, visa, air ticket, customs, security, in all over managements for the Hajj each year?
- How many places in this earth, Muslims are coming from for hajj?
- How many more are involved as friends, families, or community members in helping, seeing off and receiving motivation directly or indirectly from those pilgrims?

Allahu Akbar! Allah is great! And HIS plan is great! HIS Hajj prescription is big too. His Hajj is a continuous yearly motivation for Muslims all over the world. There are no such gatherings available in this world in that large scale, in that frequency and in that degree of holiness. Allahu Akbar!

Allah made the Holy House and its surrounding a place for peace and security. Whoever goes in there feels it and then they come back to share and spread that feeling to motivate other Muslims towards it. Allah says about the Holy place in the Quran, (14:35):

“And (remember) Ibrahim said: ‘O my Lord! Make this city, one with peace and security: and save me and my sons from praying to idols.”
**Hajj is a centre for Da’wa:**

One may ask a simple question about hajj. The question is, why did Allah prescribe hajj for Muslims? What is the main purpose of it?

The answer for this question, goes along with the answer of the question that why did Allah create mankind? Allah created mankind to worship HIM and Allah prescribed Hajj to help Muslims in worshipping HIM.

To teach a community you need a centre for teaching. To teach a nation, you need a national head quarter for teaching. But to teach the whole world you need a head quarter for the entire world. House of Allah in Makkah is that head quarter and Muslims gather in that head quarter every year to practice worshipping Allah with their health and wealth and even with their lives.

Allah says in the Quran about that centre for world Muslims, (22.26):

“**And (remember) when WE gave the site to Ibrahim for the (sacred) House, (saying): “Do not associate anything (in worship) with ME.”**

In this verse we see few clear messages:

- Allah gave the cite for the Sacred House as a centre,
- Allah gave the purpose of the centre and that is to worship one Allah,
- Allah gave condition that in this centre giving partners to Allah is not allowed,
- Therefore, Allah made the centre for Tawhid (Centre for Allah’s oneness),
- Then Allah asked Ibrahim (a.s) to call Muslims to come to the centre of monotheism,
- So that the pilgrims can take the message of monotheism back to their locality etc.

This is a process of Da’wa. Hajj is therefore, a gathering to take oath for worshipping one Allah and then to pass that message as Da’wa to all over the world. That way, every year, the centre will be busy with the worshippers of one Allah and then they will take the message of Tawhid everywhere.

Muslims should use Hajj for effective Da’wa. If 4 million Muslims visit Holy Ka’ba only in Hajj season and then if they go back to their locality and give Da’wa for tawhid the following ways, then Islam will spread further:

- Each pilgrim can make strong intention to dedicate the rest of the life for Da’wa to others about Allah,
- Each one can go back and practice Islam to motivate others, which is also Da’wa,
- Each one can take initiative to continue learning Islam and teaching Islam to their locality. That is also a Da’wa,
- The old and new pilgrims all can work together as a Da’wa team in their locality to encourage Muslims towards Salah, justice, fairness, human rights, halal and harams etc which is also very effective Da’wa,
- The old and new pilgrims can together set up systems to advise, assist and help other Muslims for Halal business, Halal income and so on. That is also a Da’wa.
- All pilgrims in locality can join together in advising for the righteous things and to forbid the wrong things in their locality which also part of effective Da’wa.
In summary, Allah (s.w.t) gave a centre for Tawhid for world Muslims and they should use this centre for the Da’wa of Tawhid to the mankind. Muslims must think that way.
Chapter Three: Some benefits of Hajj.

**Hajj and Paradise:**

Hajj is compulsory on Muslims only for once in life time. The Mercy of Allah in it that it is not every day, or every week, or every month, or every year but only once in life. Besides, this compulsion only applies on those Muslims who can afford it. So we can see how easy Allah made the Hajj rules for Muslims.

Then, a well off Muslim needs to make sincere sacrifice to perform the Hajj once in Life. It is like just one shot to the target. If that shot is a best shot, then what is he or she will get in return? The return is more than the normal equation. The result or the reward for best performance in Hajj is Allah’s abundant Mercy.

What is that Mercy? Let us find the answer from a Hadis. *Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:*

“**The reward of the accepted Hajj is nothing but paradise**” [*Muttafaqun A’laih*]

What is accepted Hajj? I have included an essay in chapter eight on the conditions for accepted hajj. I recommend the readers to read that for details. But here I would say briefly. An accepted Hajj means:

- The Hajj Allah has accepted,
- The Hajj that Allah is pleased with,
- The Hajj was done by a Pilgrim properly,
- The Hajj in which the pilgrim followed the teaching of Allah’s messenger,
- The Hajj that was properly done for the sake of Allah and
- The Hajj has changed the Muslim from sinner to righteous and so on.

So when a Hajj done properly and Allah accepts it then it is called Hajjul Mabroor “Accepted Hajj by Allah”. Only Hajjul Mabroor qualifies for the excellent reward from Merciful Allah. That reward is nothing but Paradise. Allahu Akbar! What an excellent reward! How Merciful Allah is for HIS sincere dedicated servants in Hajj!

The lesson from this reward issue is:

a. All Hajj are not accepted,
b. Some are accepted and,
c. Some Hajj are not accepted.
d. Muslims must not take Hajj for granted,
e. They must learn about what makes their Hajj not accepted so they can avoid those actions,
f. They must learn what makes a Hajj accepted by Allah so that they can do those things in Hajj.

Again, Muslims must remember that “Accepted Hajj and grant of Paradise for it” is conditional. So they have to fulfil those conditions to be able to perform their Hajj properly. May Allah grant every Muslim right knowledge and the right effort in their Hajj in order to be
accepted by Allah! Also may Allah forgive the Muslim’s shortcomings in their Hajj and accept their Hajj and grant all of them Paradise! Ameen!

Hajj and removal of sins:
What is sin? Sin is the actions that disobey Allah. So whatever people do or say or think or feel, if those actions are prohibited by Allah, then doing it is called sin. For some sin one must directly seek Allah’s forgiveness, repent sincerely to Allah and not doing it again.

For other sin is, violating Allah’s given rights of Allah’s creation. Such as violating human rights that Allah fixed, violating parent’s rights, or violating spouse’s rights and so on. For those sin one must apologise and seek forgiveness both from Allah’s creations as well as from Allah.

Hajj teaches Muslims to prepare themselves for it. Well before Hajj they should repent to Allah, they should mend their wrong ways, they should pay any dues to fellow human, they should fix any injustice they had done to other human, they should apologise to Allah and to other human and seek forgiveness for the wrongdoing etc. Then they should travel for Hajj with sinless mind and actions, with Halal money.

Then in Hajj, they should avoid all the sinful actions as well as whatever actions Allah prohibited for them to attain a pure sinless state. Besides, In Hajj they should learn to reform themselves and they should learn to surrender to Allah completely, and they should perform the Hajj duties properly with begging to Allah for forgiveness of their sins. Then for them Allah will turn with Great Mercy.

Again that Mercy of Allah has no equation. It is beyond Muslims deeds in comparison of what they get from Allah. Allah forgives all their sins. Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said in a Hadis, narrated by Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a):

“Whoever has done Hajj only for the pleasure of Allah, and in Hajj did not do any sexual activities and did not do any sinful activities, he (She) will return from Hajj as sinless as like the new born (sinless) baby.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

The lessons we can learn from the above Hadis are:

a. Forgiveness of sins in Hajj is not for granted,
b. Forgiveness of sins in Hajj is conditional,
c. Forgiveness of sins in Hajj has the primary condition that it must be done for the pleasure of Allah alone. In Hajj the intention for name or fame or selfish desires, or joining partners with Allah, will not qualify for the forgiveness of sins,
d. Forgiveness of sins will be granted if a Muslim fully follows the rules and the methods of Hajj properly etc.

So Muslims must not take the forgiveness of Hajj for granted. They must learn what factors ruin the grant of forgiveness and what factors increase the chance of Allah’s forgiveness.
Moreover, they must endeavour to perform their Hajj as properly as possible and they must beg to Allah in Hajj to accept their Hajj and to forgive them.

May Allah forgive all Muslims who go to Hajj with pure intentions and with proper efforts! Ameen!

**Hajj and blessings in wealth:**

Wealth is from Allah. Sometimes people work hard yet sustenance comes to them with difficulty. Or they fail in their projects and lose more than gaining. Or they earn but some calamity happens and they lose their money or wealth. What is the main cause for that? The main reason for that is the absence of Allah’s blessings in their wealth.

But in other times, people gain more with little efforts and they say “It’s my lucky day!” or they earn a little but it truly brings comfort and lack of anxiety in them, or with a little they survive very well without calamities. What is the reasons behind that? The main reason behind that is Allah’s blessings. When Allah blesses on something then it brings comfort, it brings satisfaction, it brings the feeling of comfort, and it reduces anxiety and worry or the calamity etc.

Therefore, whatever wealth Muslim have should be blessed by Allah if they want comfort, happiness and the rewards in next life. To be qualified for that blessings from Allah Muslims must earn, spend their wealth in the ways Allah commanded for them.

One of those prescription for blessing is to do Hajj and Umra (Explanation of Umra in chapter eight). *Hazrat Ibn Mas’ud (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:*

> “Perform Hajj and Umra one with another. Because it removes poverty and sins as bellows removes dirt from gold or silver.” [Tirmidi. Nasaeed]

So the above Hadis clearly teaches few facts about the rewards of Hajj as following:

a. The reward for Hajj is not only limited for the next life,

b. The reward for Hajj also in this life like removal of poverty,

c. The reward of removal poverty is due to Allah’s blessings,

d. If a Muslim spend for Hajj and Umra, then Allah also increases their sustenance etc.

Therefore, Muslims should not worry too much if they spend money for Hajj and Umrah, that they would they be poor! If they can afford for Hajj, then they should not delay with the fear of poverty. If they spend for Allah, then Insha Allah! Allah will increase HIS blessings (Barakah) on their income. As a result, the poverty will be removed from them. What an excellent deal!

**Hajj and mental strength:**

Hajj trains Muslims to be strong mentally. Hajj is a hard and risky worship. It requires sacrifice in terms of money, health even life. A Muslim with strong mind can take the journey. Muslims with weak mind cannot fulfil this duty.

The total submission to Allah in everyday life is also a hard work. So many elements in life, try to distract a true Muslim from his or her focus. These distractive things try to weaken the mind. Mind is like the bull’s eye. If one can hit the eye, can weaken the beast. Similarly, if a mind of Muslim weakens, then his or her death of Imaan begins.
That’s why Islamic submission journey begins from the mind. If the mind submits to Allah, then the rest of the body follows it. After that if the mind is strong in submission, then nothing can resist the person from obeying Allah in daily life. With a strong mind, submission to Allah is like a patient dying without oxygen.

Therefore, a strong mind is a fundamental need for a true believer, for a true Muslim. Hajj is one of the practice to develop a strong mind. Or the Hajj is a test to check whether a Muslim has strong mind or not. In Islam weak mind has no value because weak mind cannot stand still when it is tested with trials and tribulations. A Muslim need a strong mind to steadfast, to stand straight in the obedience of Allah.

With a strong mind Muslim qualify for Paradise because with it they can cross the rough road to reach to the destination in their life journey. Holy Quran describes about it, (41: 30):

“Verily, in the case of those who say: ‘Our Lord is Allah,’ and further, (they) stand straight and steadfast, the angels will descend upon them (from time to time and suggest) ‘You do not fear! And do not feel sad! But receive to the glad tidings of the Paradise, about which you were promised.”

It is beyond doubt, to be steadfast one must have a strong mind with unshaken determination and with a “Can do” attitude. So the trials and tribulations cannot blow away the Faith and conviction to Faith in a Muslim.

Hajj is such a worship that helps Muslims to be strong in mind, to rely on Allah, to sacrifice dear things for the love for Allah and for the love for the Paradise. Muslims should think about these benefits of the Hajj, the endless benefits of the Hajj. Allah is All Wise and in every worship HE prescribed for Muslims, has huge wisdom behind it. If we try to understand those, then the taste in worship will increase without doubt Insha Allah!

**Hajj and good economy:**

Hajj is not primarily intended for money but for the pleasure of Allah. But if it is done for the pleasure of Allah, then automatically comes all other necessary and beneficial things for Muslims and for all the mankind as well.

Economy is a basic need for human. Allah has created human with that need. When human gives priority in worshipping Allah unselfishly, then from it comes out pure economy. Worships of Allah is designed to free people from greed, selfishness etc in terms of wealth, finance or economy. Local or word economy is often polluted with greed and selfishness or unfairness. Worship to Allah removes greed and implants generosity and fairness in economy. That’s why in Islam every worship, actions, dealings have to be done for the sake of Allah so that pollution will be removed by fairness commanded by Allah for the fear of Allah’s punishment.

Hajj generates a great cycle of economy. It stimulates money to be distributed all over the world. When Muslims take initiatives for Hajj, it generates income for local Governments, Passport office, Shopping centres, transport companies, different travel agencies, different forms of organizations involved in Hajj process, Airlines, Airports with tax provisions and so
Everyone, every communities and every country is directly or indirectly benefitting from the Hajj as it is the biggest yearly world gathering.

Hajj generates income for so many hundreds of thousands of families all over the world. Hajj stimulates money to be distributed among people, without keeping the money in their bank accounts to benefit only few people. Islam is for everyone’s benefit because Islam is from the creator of everyone. Islam wants everyone to be better off not just some people. The economy generated by Hajj is the proof of that. Hajj helps to circulate the money to many levels.

Hajj also teaches Muslim world to generate economy with Islamic principle and that principle is, Allah’s worship in economy is the first and the money is second. That makes sure the fairness, generosity in business, for the fear of Allah’s punishment for corruption and unfairness in wealth distributions.

Hajj does not teach Muslims to be stoic, to give up necessary wealth and comfortable life. It only encourages Muslims to be legitimate in their income and expenditure. Allah (s.a.w) points out the earning in terms of Hajj in the Holy Quran, (2:198):

“It is no sin for you to seek the bounty of your Lord (during Hajj).”

So Hajj generates a good economy and if Muslims are inspired by Hajj for good and righteous ways of economy then it is best for them in this life and in next life.

**Hajj and self-control:**

Hajj has another great benefit and that is self-control. This self-control means controlling one’s desires from sinful actions. How is it done? It is done through surrendering oneself to the will of Allah and then guide oneself according to the command of Allah. That self-control makes one pious and moral and fit to receive Allah’s forgiveness and Mercy. That self-control helps one to achieve Paradise by the Grace of Allah Merciful.

Fasting is also there for learning self-control. But Hajj is a more intensive program for learning self-control. Pilgrims practice the self-control to subdue their desires and temptations by following Allah’s order for few days in Hajj. This intensive program includes self-control in all levels such as:

- Self-control in mind,
- Self-control in emotion,
- Self-control in physical needs,
- Self-control in earning,
- Self-control in spending,
- Self-control in manners,
- Self-control in dealings etc.

Hajj is designed to purify believers from sinful thoughts, emotions or physical wants. It is also a practice of self-control in areas of giving others rights, and maintaining money in the righteous manner. If a Muslim can adopt all self-control that Hajj teaches, then he or she can be a true righteous person. Allah loves those who are righteous. In the sight of Allah, the most honourable are those who are most righteous.
Therefore, Muslims must learn self-control from Hajj. All the prohibition in Hajj during Ihram is for the training of self-control. These prohibitions are for Muslim’s benefits. For example, prohibition as following are for the self-control practice for the Muslims: *Al-Quran 2: 197*

“If anyone undertakes that Hajj duties, should avoid all sexual actions, all sinful actions and all sorts of quarrels.”

Alhamdulillah! After Hajj a pilgrim feels stronger in Imaan and in self-control. They should then work hard to maintain it for the benefit of receiving Allah’s love or for the benefit of to be honourable in the Sight of Allah.

**Hajj and humility:**

Muslims come to Hajj from all sorts of professions. Some are very rich, some are with very high status, some are from wealthy country and some are from less wealthy country. But in Hajj gathering no one of them display the following:

- His or her profession,
- His or her title,
- His or her country flag,
- His or her amount of money,
- His or her vanity,
- His or her family status,
- His or her pride etc.

Instead they all:

- Wear simple clothes,
- Do not display beauty,
- Do not display their race,
- Do not display their degree,
- Do not display their achievement in this world etc.

In other words, they all gather in a most humble manner. They all blend into one identity and that is that they are all most humble servants of Allah.

Hajj teaches that humility or Muslims must learn that humility from the pure hajj practice. They should wash away their vanity, ego, family pride, pride for social status, competition with pride and so on. Because these false pride is the cause for their unhappiness, disharmony, disunity, chaos and destructions. They should feel as humble servant of Allah as they perform Hajj in a humble manner.

A person who does Hajj is called Haji. In Hajj, a haji is a humble servant of Allah with uncombed hair and smelly body. A Haji does Hajj without pride, extravagant dress or posh transport. A haji washes away all the pride in Hajj and appear as a truly humble servant of Allah.

*In a Hadis narrated by Hazrat ibn Omar (r.a) that a man asked holy prophet (s.a.w), “O Messenger of Allah! Who is a Haji?”* Holy prophet (s.a.w) said:

“A person with (Due to Ihram in Hajj) uncombed hair and smelly body (Is a Haji with humility).” *[Ibn Maazah. Shorhe Sunnah]*
Therefore, Hajj teaches humility to Haji’s. Humility is a part of Imaan. Arrogance and vanity deprives people from Paradise. Allah loves humble servants. So Muslim Haji must learn humility from Hajj and maintain that humility throughout the life to receive Allah’s mercy and paradise.

**Hajj and Brotherhood:**

Muslims are brothers and sisters. They are like too many beads in a garland. Holy Ka’ba is their heart, is their centre, is their point of inspiration, and is their point of unity to obey One GOD. That unites their heart through divine faith. That faith unites them as one nation despite their different language, colour, race and nationality.

Unity in Muslim is a fundamental teaching of Islam. Unity among Muslim is not a choice given by Allah but it is a compulsion on them. Muslims must feel like united, try to be united and endeavour re-conciliation if there is a slight sign of disunity. Allah says about Muslim unity in the Holy Quran, (49.10):

“The believers are a single brotherhood. So make reconciliation between your two brothers: And fear Allah, that you may receive (HIS) Mercy.”

Hajj is a perfect example of Muslim brotherhood. Muslims come to Hajj from all over the world from different background but with one identity. That identity is that they are brothers and sisters. For that brotherly spirit, millions of Muslims get along in a second, one gives another rights straight away, and one feels loved by another without doubt and so on. Why does it happen like a magic? It happens because of the spirit of Muslim brotherhood and sisterhood.

So Hajj reminds every year to the millions of Muslims that they are one single family, they are Muslim brothers and sisters. This reminder goes on and on every year so that Muslims do not forget. All of them try to be in Paradise. Their motto to be a paradise family.

Therefore, Hajj is very beneficial for Muslims. It teaches them the following things:

- That they must not fight,
- That they should only compete each other in righteousness,
- That they should not compete each other with enmity, hatred to become disunited,
- That Allah wants them to be united,
- That Allah made them one single family,
- So if they disrespect Allah’s wish then they will receive Allah’s Wrath and Punishment.

May Allah guide world Muslims to follow the teaching of brotherhood as Muslims from Hajj, Ameen!

**Hajj and anti-racism:**

Racism is a disease spread all over the world. Satan instigates people to feel nasty against other human. Racism is one of those norm to feel nasty about others. Racism is a feeling that makes one feel his/her race superior and other race inferior. This feeling is the root of many more evils such as:

- Due to racism one race dishonour another race,
• Due to racism one race gives preference to one race to other races,
• Due to it one race justifies unfair actions against another race,
• Due to racism one race treats another very badly or unfairly,
• Due to racism some racists are extremists and they are violent to other races,
• Racism removes love between races,
• Racism removes respect between different races,
• Racism promotes abuse, torture, violation of human rights and so on.
• Racism incites hatred between people and ignites fights and destructions,
• Racism destroys harmony and peace among people etc.

Islam condemns racism. Islam does not give preference to a race on another race based on language, colour or nationality. Islam is the name of peace and Islam teaches peace by removing the racism. Islam only encourages people to compete with righteousness, because the more righteous they are the more peace there will be. For example, forgiveness is part of the righteousness. The more people will compete forgiving one another is better for the peace and security for them.

Holy Quran smashed the racism for forever. Allah says in the Holy Quran, (49: 13):

“O Mankind! WE have created you from a single (pair) of male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another (Not to be racist but to complement). Surely, the most honourable of you, in the Sight of Allah is (He who is) the most righteous of you.”

In this verse above, Allah made clear that mankind is one family, originated from the same parents. So how can they be racist against their own blood? How can they be nasty against own family member? People do this out of ignorance.

Hajj smashes that racism when it embraces all colours, all languages, and all nations into one and into the submission of One Allah. What a beautiful phenomenon!

So Muslims should practice the anti-racism spirit and they should spread it to all other human beings embracing them as member of the great one human family. Muslim should learn and practice the teaching from Hajj to treat each other with respect.

**Hajj and world Muslim’s problems:**

In this world selfish desires, Satan and some wicked people are continuously trying to divide Muslims, to create misunderstanding among Muslims, to create fights among Muslims. Sometimes this division is tried in the name of sects, or in the name of Aqeedah, or in the name of nationality and so on.

Hajj is playing a great role in minimizing the division. Hajj is helping Satan’s plans to be weakened. Hajj is providing fuel of inspiration for Muslims unity, Hajj is encouraging Muslims to forgive one another to reduce disunity, Hajj is uniting families-communities when they say goodbye to their members going to hajj and so on.

Hajj is like a sticky glue that unites millions of Muslims in the same platform singing the name of same Allah. Hajj is that venue where Muslims do not fight with little difference rather they unite themselves in the main issues for example:
• They believe in one Allah and that is the main point of unity,
• They believe in next life, and that is another main point of unity,
• They believe in Holy Quran as divine guidance and that is also a main point of unity,
• They believe in Holy Prophet (s.a.w) as their role model which is also a main point of unity,
• They all follow the same Ka’ba and that is also a main point of unity,
• They pray 5 times and that is also a main point of unity etc.

So Hajj teaches Muslims to focus on main issues and to find reasons to be united and not to be disunited. If Muslim world can focus the training of unity in main issues through the practical lessons from Hajj, then they will progress rapidly such as:

• They can increase co-operation between one another,
• They can increase inter-Muslim business and progress,
• They can fight the poverty in Muslims countries together,
• They can establish Islamic sharia banks to benefit Muslims and non-Muslims all,
• They can unitedly enjoin good and forbid evil in this earth,
• They can together bring lights to the poor people in this world,
• They can assist one another to righteousness and the whole world can follow them etc.

If we think more about the benefit of Hajj, it blows our mind away finding that how much benefits Allah has put in it for Muslims and for mankind.

Allah has made the Holy House a centre of blessing and benefits for all Muslims as well as for the entire mankind. We just need to study about those beneficial lessons of Hajj and we should practice them in Muslim world to solve problems to achieve benefits in this life and in next life. Holy Quran hints that in a verse, (3: 96):

“Verily, the first House (of worship) appointed for men was that (one) at Makkah: Full of blessing, and of guidance for all beings.”
Chapter Four: History of Hajj.

Allah appointed the first House for Hajj:

Allah revealed in the Holy Quran about the first Holy House as following: (3: 96-97)

“Verily, the first House of (worship) appointed for men was that (one) at Bakkah (Makkah): Full of blessing, and of guidance for all beings. In it are clear Signs; the station of Ibrahim; whoever enters it attains security; Hajj is a duty that men awe to Allah-those who can afford the journey;”

Hazrat Abu Jar (r.a) asked: O messenger of Allah! At first which Mosque was built? He (s.a.w) said: “Masjid e Haram”. Then Abu Jar asked again: Then which Masjid? He (s.a.w) answered: “Masjid e Baitul Muqaddas.”........Then Abu Jar asked again: After that which Masjid? He (s.a.w) said: “Wherever the time for Salah comes will pray in there. All the lands are Masjid.” [Ahmed. Bukhari. Muslim. Ibn Kasir explanation for 3:96]

Hazrat Ali (r.a) said: There were many houses before but the one was in Makkah was the first house especially for the worshipping of Allah. It was the first House with Allah’s blessing, security and with Maqam e Ibrahim. [Ibn Kasir, explanation for 3:96]

Why the city was called Bakkah? Some reasons are as below:

- It is the famous name for Makkah.
- In that city tyrant’s shoulder’s used to break and honourable people’s head used to bow down,
- In this city people used to be crowded,
- In this city people get mixed up even often women pray in front row and men pray in rows behind etc. [Ibn Kasir, explanation of 3:96]

In this House, there are special signs available and one of those are Maqam e Ibrahim. Maqam e Ibrahim is a stone on which Ibrahim (a.s) stood to build the high walls of the sacred House more than 4000 years ago. So that if anyone from people of the Holy Book truly want to follow Ibrahim (a.s), can see the proof that he was a Muslim and Muslims are truly following him.

Another special sign in that sacred House is, that Allah made it secured since it was built. Allah made prohibited to shed blood in that area or to fight or to harm one another in that respected, safe and secured area. Even in the age of ignorance, people used to respect it as secured place. Even they did not take revenge in this place from the killer of their own father. In this place not only human is safe and secured, but it is made secured for others as well. For example:

- In there hunting is not allowed,
- In there chasing the hunt is not allowed,
- In there scaring animal is not allowed,
- In there cutting trees is not allowed,
- In there cutting grass is not allowed [Ibn Kasir explanation 3:96]
People used to fight, rob, and kill outside the secured area but not inside the secured area. It is a miracle that Allah made it sacred and people since then are keeping it sacred, secured and peaceful. Allah reminds mankind about it in the Holy Quran, (29:67):

“Then, do they not see that WE have made a secured sacred place (at Makkah), and that men are being snatched away from all around them?”

It is that House Allah made Hajj (visiting) compulsory for believers (Quran 3:97).

Allah chose prophet Ibrahim to build that House:
Ibrahim (a.s) is very well known prophet of Allah in this world. Muslims, Jews and Christians all know him and respect him. But truly only Muslims are following him. Ibrahim (a.s) built the sacred House in Makkah and started the Hajj by the command of Allah. Yet Jews and Christians do not visit this house. Only Muslims do because Muslims follow the original true teachings of Ibrahim (a.s) and the same original teachings of all other messengers of Allah.

Allah chose Ibrahim (a.s) to lead the mankind in the teaching of Tawhid (monotheism). His life was extra-ordinary. In building Holy House and in Hajj duties his history and his family history is vivid. We shall see that in each duty of Hajj, all the way through the discussion of some duties in this book.

Before choosing Ibrahim, Allah tested him through so many tests. He was pushed out from his own family in Iraq for his faith in one Allah yet he took it happily for Allah’s sake. He was thrown into the fire in Iraq by the tyrant Government yet it did not shake his faith in one Allah and Allah saved him. He left his motherland and was inviting people to worship one Allah around Arab areas.

Then in old age Allah gave him a son named Ishmael and then Allah asked him to drop his wife and baby son in a hill in a non-populated area in Makkah, without food, drink, house and security. Allah provided water, food and drink for them miraculously. Through his family was establish the new city, the mother of all city and that city is called Makkah.

Later on Allah asked him to sacrifice his own son for the sake of Allah, when the son was around 6-8 years old. He did that but Allah saved his son from it and replaced his son by a ram. That’s how Allah tested Ibrahim (a.s) again and again to promote and prepare him to be the role model leader of monotheism. When he passed all the tests, Allah chose him as the leading role model for Tawhid and to be the founder of Holy House in Makkah for Hajj, to continue the Hajj in all ages until the doomsday. Allah reveals in the Holy Quran, (2: 124):

“And (remember) when, Ibrahim was tried by his Lord with Certain Commands; those he fulfilled. HE (his Lord) said: I will make you an Imam (guide or example) to the nations.”

Allah chose Ibrahim (a.s) and his older son Ismael (a.s) to be the honourable founders of the Historical House of Allah in Makkah, around which millions of Muslims gather for Hajj every year. Allah reveals it in the Holy Quran, (2:127):
“And (remember) when Ibrahim and Ismael raised the foundation of the House-----.”

Miraculous water spring for baby Ismael:
Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s) brought out his wife Hazera and baby son Ismael according to Allah’s order to a hill, where Baitullah (House of Allah) was built later. It was desert land, no people used to live in there. The hill was full of Jungle.

Ibrahim (a.s) left his wife and baby with few dates and little water. Wife Hazera asked him seeing him going, “O Allah’s friend! Where are you going, leaving us in scary desert area, where we have no friends or companions?” Ibrahim (a.s) did not answer. Then again Hazera asked: “O beloved one of Allah! With whose protection are you leaving us here?” Ibrahim (a.s) answered: “With the protection of Allah.” Then Hazrat Hazera asked: “O friend of Allah! Is it an order on you from Allah?” Then Ibrahim (a.s) said: “Yes! It is an order on me from Allah.” Hearing the answer Hazrat Hazera (r.a) said: “Ok then! You go! Allah will never destroy us. We rely on HIM and HE is our source of protection.” Hazrat Hazera sat alone holding her beloved baby. [Tafsir Ibn Kasir explanation of 2:127]

After going out of the sight of Hazrat Hazera (r.a), Ibrahim (a.s) made supplication to Allah for food and drink for his family. Then he left them with Allah. Few dates and water finished soon. She was too hungry and thirsty but her baby Ismael was in serious condition without water or milk. She began to search for water desperately. She climbed mount Safa then mount Marwa looking for water but without luck.

Then she followed a sound from Angel Gabriel (a.s) beside where the Zamzam well situated. Angel asked her: Who are you? She answered: I am Hazera. Mother of Ibrahim’s son Ismael. Angel asked again: With whom Ibrahim (a.s) left you in this un-inhabited Jungle? She said: With Allah. Angel said: In that case Allah is enough. Then Hazrat Hazera (r.a) said: O unseen person! I have heard your sound but will it help me anyway?

Hazrat Jibrael (a.s) rubbed the land with his heel and soon came out water like a spring. Hazrat Hazera filled up her water container quickly. She then quickly made soil wall around the water to make sure water did not run like a river. She made it like a well. That well is Zamzam well. Millions of pilgrims drink the blessed water from that well every year.

Holy prophet (s.a.w) said: May Allah be kind on Ismael’s mother! If she did not put wall around, then the spring could have turn into a river. [Tafsir Ibn Kasir, explanation of 2:127]

Then she drank from it and made her baby Ismael drink from that as well. Then she milked her baby as well. Angel also told her: ‘You be sure! Allah will not destroy you! Allah will appoint this baby and his father to build a sacred House here.’

This is the brief story of how miraculously Allah provided water for the Ibrahim’s family in a place, where there was no sign of water and if Allah did not save them, they would have died. But Allah saved them to build a history for the mankind to learn lesson from it.

Allah guided how to build the house:
Father Ibrahim came from Syria to join his son Ismael in Makkah and said to his son: “O Ismael! There is an order on me from Allah.” Ismael said: “Perform that order that you are commanded by Allah, my Dad!” Ibrahim (a.s) said: “But you have to be with me in it my
son!” The son said: “Labbaik O Father!” Ibrahim (a.s) said: “In this place we have to build a House of Allah.” The son said: “Very well O father!” [Tafsir Ibn Kasir, explanation of 2:127]

Allah guided HIS messenger in miraculous ways in building the Holy House. For example:

- **Boundary of the house:** Allah sent cloud over Ibrahim (a.s) and a sound instructed him saying: O Ibrahim! As much the shade of the cloud is spread, that much land you take for the boundary of the Holy House. [Tafsir Ibn Kasir, explanation of 2:127]

- **The black stone in the corner:** Son Ismael went to look for a good stone as his father instructed him. He brought a good stone but he found that his father already placed a stone in there. The son asked: ‘Father! Who brought this stone?’ Ibrahim (a.s) said: Angel Jibrael (a.s) has brought it from the heaven as Allah ordered him.’ [Tafsir Ibn Kasir, explanation of 2:127]

So the House was built according to Allah’s plan. Allah guided his messenger Ibrahim (a.s) to do the job. Everything went by Allah’s plan. Allah wanted it so that Hajj would begin for the world Muslims. So that place would be full of benefits and virtues.

Therefore, it makes a very important issue clear and that issue is: Holy Ka’ba or Hajj was not an invention of any human. Makkah was not a discovery by men like many city or country. Makkah, Holy House and Hajj all were Allah’s special plan and Allah guided HIS messenger all the way through. Therefore, the whole process was divine, Holy and a materialization of Allah’s order. That’s why Holy Ka’ba and Hajj has been maintained as Holy for the blessings of Allah Almighty.

**Some supplications of Prophet Ibrahim that came true:**

Ibrahim (a.s) was a messenger of Allah. He supplicated before and during building Holy House and Allah accepted his supplications. Let us see few supplications from him that has been quoted in the Holy Quran.

1. **Supplication for food and drink and company:** He left his wife and baby son alone in the Jungle surrounded by desert land where no food or drink was available. He prayed to Allah as following, (Quran 14:36):

   “O our Lord! I have made some of my children to live in the valley without (any) cultivation, to be near YOUR sacred House (Ka’bah); so that, our Lord, they may establish regular Prayer: So fill the hearts of some from among men with love towards them, and feed them with fruits: so that they may offer thanks (to YOU).”

   Due to his supplication, the immediate provision was Zamzam water. Then Allah brought some families from Yemen to live with his family as a community. Those families were business people. Allah provided for them good sustenance. Meat from hunting, fruits from trade, water from Zamzam well etc.

   In the long run still now, in Makkah city even though full of Stoney Mountains, they are well fed with good economy, due to the supplication of Ibrahim (a.s).

2. **Supplication for his family:** When he was putting foundation of Holy Ka’bah with his son, he supplicated for him and for his family to be good Muslims. Allah accepted that
supplication as well. His son Ismael (a.s) was chosen as messenger of Allah by Allah. The supplication is as following in the Holy Quran, (2:127-128):

“And (remember) when Ibrahim and Ismael raised the foundation of the House (with this prayer): ‘Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us; Truly, YOU are the All Hearing, the All Knowing.’

“Our Lord! Make of us Muslims, bowing to YOUR (will); And of our children a Muslim people, bowing to YOUR (will);’”

Allah accepted his supplications. His older son Ismael (a.s) was made a prophet, his younger son Ishaq (Isaak) was made a prophet, his grandson Yaqoub (Jacob a.s) was made a prophet, his grand grandson Yusuf (Joseph a.s) was made a prophet and that tradition continued until the last prophet Muhammad (s.a.w).

3. Supplication for the last prophet: When he was building the Holy House with his son Ismael, he prayed for particularly a prophet from that city, from that community, in their language, to come and complete his mission, his da’wa for Islam, for Allah. That specific prayer also came true. Allah made his older son Ismael (a.s) a prophet and from the family of Ismael (a.s) Allah sent Muhammad (s.a.w) as a messenger from his progeny, from Makkah city with the language of people in Makkah.

The supplication is quoted in the Holy Quran, (2:129):

“Our Lord! Send among them a messenger of their own, who shall rehearse YOUR Signs to them and instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom, (cleanse) and provide relief for them; Truly, For YOU are the Almighty, the All Wise.”

_Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “I am the result of the supplication of my father (spiritual role model of Tawhid-Monotheism) Ibrahim (a.s), the good news given by Hazrat I’sa (Jesus a.s), and the true dream of my mother.” [Cited in Tafsir ibn Kasir, explanation of 2:129]

4. Supplication for making the city safe and secured: He prayed to Allah to make the city as “baladan aamenah” a city with peace and security. Allah accepted his supplication and made the city peaceful and secured. Allah made an area which include Holy House and some surrounding as “Harem” secured. In this area killing, blood shedding, robbing, fighting etc are not allowed. Even in the age of ignorance people used to respect the harem and everyone used to enjoy peace and security in that area.

Even now, the one enters into the harem area is safe. The supplication was as following, (Al Quran 14: 35):

“And (remember) Ibrahim said: ‘O my Lord! Make this city (Makkah), one with Peace and security.”

5. Supplication to be saved from idol worshipping: In the same supplication as above for safety, Ibrahim (a.s) included supplication for saving him and his children from idol worshipping. He was against idol worshipping all along in his life. He experienced how
people in his birth place, Idol worshipping has misguided the nation including his dear father and other family members.

With this supplication, the lesson is that righteous Muslims must make supplication to Allah for the guidance of their family members along with their efforts to educate their children. Because without Allah’s help, no efforts can be successful.

The supplication was as below, quoted in the Holy Quran, (14: 35-36):

“And Ibrahim said: ‘O my Lord! Make this city, one with Peace and Security; and save me and my sons from praying to Idols.

O my Lord! They (Idols) have truly led many among mankind astray:’

Allah accepted this dua too. Allah made his children prophets who would teach mankind that idol worshipping was wrong. May Allah bless on Ibrahim (a.s) and his progeny, Ameen!

Ibrahim (a.s) prayed to Allah to teach the duties of Hajj:

The foundation was placed and the wall had been built to make the Holy House. Ibrahim (a.s) and his son (Ismail) both were making supplication to Allah. What a style! What an etiquette! No other way of celebrating, no other way of enjoyment for the great accomplishment! But to pray to Allah to accept their deed and to grant more righteous things for attaining everlasting happiness in Paradise!

Ibrahim (a.s) was leading the dua when he said, (Al-Quran 2:128):

“(Our Lord!) And show us our places for the celebration of (due) rights (of Hajj), and turn to us (in Mercy); Verily, YOU are the One WHO Accepts repentance, the Most Merciful.”

Tafsir Ibn Kasir includes the following facts in the explanation of 2:128:

Ibrahim (a.s) prayed o Allah to teach him the duties of Hajj. After completion of the building Ka’bah, Angel Jibrael (a.s) came and took Ibrahim (a.s) to Safa and Marwa mountains and said to him: “These are Allah’s Signs.”

Then angel took him towards the place called Mina. There was Satan standing beside a tree in the place called U’qbah. Angel asked him to throw a pebble on Satan saying Allahu Akbar. Satan then ran away from that place and stood beside Jamra-e-U’qbah. In there he also threw pebble on Satan. This series of throwing pebbles on Satan made him (Satan) hopeless. In another narration, he threw pebbles on Satan 3 times. Satan wanted to do few confusing things in the process of Hajj duties but he failed totally.

From there, angel Jibrael took him to a place called “Mash-aril-haram. Then took him to the field of A’rafah. (Jibrael showed him how to perform Hajj duties) and asked Ibrahim (a.s) 3 times, “Tell me! Have you understood?” he said: “Yes! I did.”

Ibrahim (a.s) prayed for attracting Muslim’s hearts to Hajj:

Ibrahim (a.s) built the centre of Monotheism, learnt how to do Hajj from Angel Jibrael (a.s). That history is very valuable. Why? Because that history proves that Hajj was not a human
invention. In this world there are many types of gatherings that came from human ideas. But Hajj gathering is different.

Hajj is Allah’s creation. Allah taught HIS messenger Ibrahim (a.s) through HIS Honourable angel Jibrael (a.s). So every duty is performed in Hajj has been ordered by Allah Almighty. Therefore, in Hajj duties there is so much blessings of Allah. Why that wouldn’t be? Hajj actions are Allah’s choice, Allah loves it and that’s why Allah rewards for it very highly. Alhamdulilah!

Look at again! Allah then inspired HIS messenger to supplicate the proper supplication. The supplication that was really necessary. The supplication was quoted in the Holy Quran, (14:37):

“(Our Lord!) Fill the hearts from some from among men with love towards them.”

Why this supplication was necessary? It was necessary because Ibrahim (a.s) as a human had no power to attract men with love to come and perform Hajj duties. Only Allah has the power to change people’s hearts. Only Allah has the power to send love in the hearts to be attracted to Hajj. That’s why it was necessary for Ibrahim (a.s) to supplicate to Allah, to the controller of the hearts to put love in people’s hearts for Hajj.

Allah accepted that supplication and that’s why all these times people came to Hajj running. It is as if some very super powerful magnet is pulling their hearts towards the Hajj despite difficulties. Look at these days, how many millions of people want to go for Hajj but the authority has to control the number for safety. The place would not have been that busy if it was not Allah’s work. Allahu Akbar!

Notice again, in his dua, Ibrahim (a.s) kept it specific. He did not make dua for general mankind but he prayed, “Some of from among men”. With that he specified the group of men who will be Muslims. That’s why Muslim’s hearts are connected to the Ka’bah. Every day for their prayer they face the Ka’bah from all over the world.

For that supplication, a true Muslim Loves Holy Ka’bah and loves to do Hajj even though he or she cannot afford. The attraction in the heart is always present for every true Muslim.

Due to Allah’s will, Hajj is a very busy celebration. This celebration includes all the Muslims in this world directly or indirectly in the Hajj season.

Ibrahim and Ismael (a.s) as caretaker of the Ka’bah:

The Holy House was built and the invitation for Hajj was made. People started visiting the House of Allah. Allah made Ibrahim and Ismael (a.s) responsible to take care of the House in their times.

That House needed managing in two main aspects:

1. **Keeping it clean from wrong faith:** Holy Ka’bah was built with a specific purpose. The main purpose was to teach, practice and invite for the worship of One Allah. So Ibrahim and Ismael (a.s) was responsible to make sure that the Holy House was free from idol worshipping, free from sinful activities, free from any disbelief and so on. Their duty was to maintain the Holy Place according to the guidance of Allah.
This is the same aspect in managing any Mosque in this world. The Mosque is the place to worship Allah, not to worship one’s desires, name or fame, nor to worship any culture or anything else. Mosque must be maintained as it is prescribed by Allah and showed practically by Allah’s messenger (s.a.w).

2. **Keeping it clean from dirt:** The other aspect is to keep Holy Ka’bah clean and pure from impurities, dirt, smell etc. When many people visit it, pray in there, make Tawaf (circling) in there, obviously it requires cleaning, tidiness etc.

This is the same rule for any Mosque in the world. It needs cleaning. Allah is clean, angels are clean and Allah’s servants need cleaning for attending in prayer to Allah. So Muslims must keep the worship place very clean.

So being caretaker of Holy Ka’ba they were responsible for both spiritual and physical cleansing. We find their responsibility is mentioned in the Holy Quran, (2:125):

“And (remember) when WE made the House (Ka’bah) a place of assembly for men and a place of safety; and you take the House of Ibrahim as a place of prayer;

And WE took the promise from Ibrahim and Ismael, that they should cleanse (and purify) MY House for those who circle it around, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves (in there in prayer.)”

From this story, we also learn that looking after Allah’s House is an honourable Job in the Sight of Allah. That’s why Allah made HIS Holy Messenger responsible to do that job. Therefore, keeping Mosque clean and looking after it, is a very rewarding job indeed!

**Gradual loss of true duties in Hajj:**

After Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s), his older son Ismael (a.s) was in-charge for Hajj. Allah made him a prophet too. Ismael (a.s) was performing the Hajj duties in proper way as his father. Then he taught his progeny to follow the right Hajj duties,

But after long time, (Allah knows exactly how long) people were misguided by Satan through innovation. Gradually they changed the pure form of Hajj duties and they added new things to corrupt the Hajj method. Some of the new things they invented are mentioned below:

- **Polytheism:** They borrowed polytheism from other nations. They began idol worshipping instead of worshipping one Allah.
- **Idol worshipping:** They made huge number of idols namely Lat, Manat, Hubal, Yagus, Uija, Asaf, and Naila and so on. They were worshipping those idols. They placed many idols in and around the Holy House for worshipping them.
- **Worshipping heavenly bodies:** They began worshipping the Moon, stars etc.
- **Worshipping dead:** They used to worship Ghost, Spirit, Dead soul of previous people etc.
- **Worshipping stones:** If they did not find any idol of their own tribe then they used to worship coloured stones while on journey.
- **Worshipping handmade idols:** If they did not find stone, then they used to make idol out of soil and water mixture and they used to sprinkle milk on it. Then they used to worship that handmade idol.
- **Worshipping their priests**: They made their priest like gods and used to follow whatever their priests advised them. It became a business for the priests.
- **Worshipping ego**: They used to organize fair once a year in Makkah. In the fair they used to read poems praising the glory of their tribe men to boast their ego and status all over the Arabs and nearby areas. They also used to slaughter camels after camel to compete between tribes to spread their names all over. Their Hajj duty was full of self-praises instead of praising Allah.
- **Worshipping cultures**: They used to organise dance, music, indiscient activities with drinking, adultery and so on.
- **Worshipping naked**: They used to circle around the Holy Ka’ba naked and used to say that they wanted to meet Allah in the state of nakedness as they were given birth by their mothers etc.
- **Clapping, whistling during Tawaf**: They used to clap and whistle during Tawaf. They invented that to make it a fun.
- **Wrong Talbia**: In there Talbia they added lines to join their gods with Allah. They used to say, “I am present o Allah I am present! YOU have no partners except who is your partners. YOU are his (partner god’s) owner and the owner of his belongings.”
- **Wrong Sacrifice**: They used to paint the blood of slaughtered animal on Ka’bah walls and they used to leave Qurbani meat at the Ka’bah door. They used to believe that, that blood and meat of Qurbani reaches to Allah.
- **They used to change honourable months**: 4 months in a year was honourable months in which fighting was prohibited. But they used to shift those months around according to their suitability.
- **Begging in Hajj**: They started another bad practice which was begging for Hajj or begging in Hajj. They used to say that they were relying on Allah yet they used to beg once they came to Hajj.
- **Dumb Hajj**: They invented dumb Hajj in which they were not allowed to speak.

These are some examples how they invented so many wrong practices in the duties of Hajj. They totally changed the practice of worshipping one Allah for which it was built by their forefather Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s).

So gradually their ignorance went to the pick which lasted around 2000 years before the last prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) came. Then the time came for last prophet to come as a result of the supplication made by Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s). In that supplication he prayed to Allah to send a messenger from Makkah, with same language, to rectify the wrong-doings in and around the Holy Ka’ba. That dua was as following, (2:129):

“Our Lord! Send among them a messenger of their own, who shall rehearse YOUR Signs to them and instruct them in Scripture and Wisdom, (cleanse) and provide relief for them; Truly, For YOU are the Almighty, the All Wise.”

Finally, Allah sent HIS last prophet in Makkah with Arabic language and sent the proper teachings of Hajj to re-establish true Hajj practice, according to Allah’s true guidance. He (s.a.w) did that. Allahuumma Salli A’laih, Allahumma baarik A’laih. *[The theme of this essay is from the book “Significance of Hajj, written by Sayed Abul A’la Moududi.]*
Holy prophet (s.a.w) came to rectify the wrong:
The time of sending the last prophet came. Allah sent a messenger in the progeny of Ibrahim (a.s). The messenger was from the family tree of Hazrat Ismael (a.s) who was the older son of Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s), and who assisted his father in building Holy Ka’ba, and who was made a prophet as well. That last Messenger of Allah is Muhammad (s.a.w). Allah sent the last prophet to rectify the wrongdoings in Hajj and to restart the Ibrahimi Hajj.

There are some similarities between Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s) and Hazrat Muhammad (s.a.w). Some of those similarities are as following:

- **Idol worshiping family:** Ibrahim (a.s) was born in the idol worshipping family and Muhammad (s.a.w) was also born in idol worshipping family.
- **Priest family:** The family of Ibrahim (a.s) was a priest family with high respect and power in that society. Similarly, Muhammad (s.a.w) was born in priest family as well. His (s.a.w) family was very honourable for being the custodian of the Holy Ka’bah and Hajj.
- **Torture from family:** The family of Ibrahim (a.s) assisted others to torture and kill him in order to stop the mission of establishing worship to one Allah. The same way the family of Muhammad (s.a.w) cooperated with others to torture him, to torture his followers and even to kill him.
- **Peaceful revolution from within:** Ibrahim (a.s) protested idol worshipping peacefully and shook their nation with logic and Signs. Muhammad (s.a.w) took it even further. He (s.a.w) also protested the idol worshipping peacefully with logic and Signs and eventually he was successful to establish the pure Hajj method that was taught by Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s). In 21 years he (s.a.w) became successful in the mission by the Help of Allah.
- **Establishing the worship in Ka’ba for one Allah:** Ibrahim (a.s) built Holy Ka’ba with Allah’s commands to establish it as a main centre for Monotheism in this world. After few thousand years when people removed the true worship of Allah in the centre, Muhammad (s.a.w) re-established the true worship of Allah in the centre again and he (s.a.w) called the believers in this world to come to the centre and to perform Hajj for Allah according to the teachings of Allah’s messenger. He (s.a.w) called as Ibrahim (a.s) called thousand years ago: *(Quran 3:97):*

> “Hajj to Holy Ka’bah is a duty that men (Muslims) owe to Allah-those who can afford the journey.”

**Resistance from Idol worshippers:**
Holy prophet (s.a.w) began his invitation to worship one Allah from Makkah with his community at first. When he (s.a.w) was preaching, his family and community were leading people in Makkah. They were very honourable in the eyes of others around Makkah because they were looking after Hajj celebration every year. As a result, they had honour, power, wealth, good business opportunities etc.

When Holy Prophet (s.a.w) invited them to give up worshipping idols, in that time they had 360 idols around Holy Ka’ba. They were in love with idol worshipping, very used to idol worshipping, very dedicated to idol worshipping, and they were very used to the idol
worshipping culture. So when they realised, if Holy Prophet’s mission was successful then their customs and tradition would die.

Besides, their Hajj system became a big avenue for business, earning name and fame even thought it was wrong. So their survival as leaders, being in power, and maintaining their control were totally depended on to defend their wrong ways and to destroy the new mission of Muhammad (s.a.w). That’s why they took the mission of Tawhid (Monotheism) as a great threat for their system and the whole community and their leaders took firm stand against the Da’wa of Allah.

They initially thought that mocking, criticising and occasional threat or punishment would be enough to scare Holy Prophet (s.a.w) and his mission but it did not do any good to them. Young people from their families slowly accepted the Da’wa to worship One Allah. Then idol worshipper leaders began torturing, abusing, punishing as many ways as possible to eliminate Holy Prophet (s.a.w) and his followers.

As a result, so many new Muslims were tortured, got out of businesses, kicked out of houses, were under embargo for 3 years and were forced to survive on leaves from trees and so on. They killed many Muslims. They plotted conspiracy after conspiracy. Muslims began to migrate here and there to escape from idol worshipper’s cruelty.

Finally, they plotted to kill Holy Prophet (s.a.w) but Allah saved him and guided him to migrate to Madina. In there, by the grace of Allah, people came to Islam and established an Islamic society in there. But idol worshippers forced their wars on them to eliminate Islam and Muslims. They forced wars after wars until they had no more energy to fight.

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) came to perform Umrah Hajj all the way from Madina towards Makkah in 6th Hijri (8th Migration year) with 1400 hundred followers. They came only for the Umrah Hajj without any weapons to fight. The universal rule was that if anyone came to Hajj with proper dress, Qurbani animal and no weapons to fight, then they should be allowed to perform Hajj. But Quraish leaders broke the universal law and resisted Holy Prophet (s.a.w) with companions in a place called Hudaibiya.

Their illegal resistance was their desperate move to block true Islamic Hajj that Ibrahim (a.s) established. Holy prophet (s.a.w) took peaceful approach without any fight despite being wronged. He (s.a.w) made a peace treaty with them and went away back to Madina without performing Umrah Hajj. But not much later, they broke the treaty and it was time to have Ka’bah back for performing Hajj correctly and to use the Ka’ba as a centre for worshipping one Allah.

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) came to Makkah with tens of thousands of companions in 8th Hijri and idol worshippers just collapsed. They lost all their force, power and energy to fight for wrong reasons any more. Allah made them failure all together and Ka’bah since then, came totally without war, under the control of Monotheism again.

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Mas’ud (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) entered into Makkah, there were 360 idles around the Holy Ka’ba. Holy Prophet (s.a.w) was hitting those idols with his stick and was saying the verse of the Holy Quran (17:81):

“Truth has come through and lies are dead: Surely, lies are bound to die.”
Proper Ibrahimi Hajj started again:
Hajj began again properly. Hajj with innovations, which lasted around 2000 years ended. Here I shall just touch briefly some of the main changes in Hajj after the days of ignorance below:

- **In Allah’s method:** Allah ordained in the Holy Quran to perform Hajj exactly as Allah guided through Holy Prophet (s.a.w), *(Quran 2.198):*
  
  “And celebrate HIS Praises (Worship, Hajj duties) as HE has directed you, even though before this you went astray.”

- **Prohibited all wrong activities:** Allah prohibited all adultery, sexual actions, indecency, alcoholism, cheating, fight and quarrels and so on, *(Quran 2:197):*
  
  “If anyone undertakes Hajj duties, not allowed sexual activities, sinful actions or fights during Hajj.”

- **Stopping fair for pride:** Allah prohibited their fair for feeding, poem reading to promote each tribe’s name and fame and all those wrong activities were replaced by Praises of Allah, not anyone’s family, father, tribe or nation, *(Quran 2:200):*
  
  “So when you have finished your duties of Hajj, celebrate the Praises of Allah, as you used to celebrate the praises of your fathers, yes, with much more (feelings), heart and soul.”

- **Showing off and wasting food was prohibited:** Before they used to slaughter camels after camels to compete between tribes and they used to show off to impress the pilgrims about their father’s name and fame. They use to waste meat, food because they were desperate for the name only. All these were stopped, *(Quran 7:31):*
  
  “Eat and drink, but do not waste by excess: Allah does not like the wasters.”

- **Animal sacrifice only in the name of Allah:** They used to sacrifice animals in the name of idols. That was prohibited and only in the name of Allah animal sacrifice was allowed in Hajj, *(Quran 22:36):*
  
  “Then pronounce the Name of Allah over them as they line up (for sacrifice): Then when they are down on their sides (after the slaughter), you eat there from and feed those who live in contentment (But who do not beg) and those who beg with due humility. Thus we have made animals at your command, so that you may be thankful.”

- **No longer blood and meat on Ka’bah:** They used to paint blood of sacrificed animals on Ka’bah walls and meat on the Ka’bah door. That was made prohibited, *(Quran 22:37):*
  
  “It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah: It is your devotion (To Allah) that reaches HIM.”

- **Naked circling was stopped:** Before they used to make Tawaf naked but it was made haram, *(Quran 7:31-32):*
  
  “O children of Adam! Put on your beautiful clothing at every time and place of prayer........say: ‘Who has forbidden the beautiful (gifts like dress) of Allah, which HE has made for HIS servants, and clean and pure things HE provided for living?”

- **No more changes in Haram months were allowed:** They used to change honourable months for their own suitability for fighting. That was made prohibited too, *(Quran 9:37):*
“Surely, the delaying (of the sacred months) adds to the disbelief: The disbelievers are led to wrong by it: because they make it a lawful (month) one year, and a forbidden (month) another year, in order to adjust (against) the number of month forbidden by Allah and make such forbidden ones lawful.”

- **Begging in Hajj was prohibited:** They used to go to Hajj empty handed and beg from people once they were there. Allah made that Haram as well, *(Quran 2:197)*: 

  “And take a provision (with you) for the Journey, but the best of provision is right conduct. So fear ME, O! You, who are wise.”

- **Talbia was rectified:** In Talbia they used to join partners with Allah which was extremely wrong and sinful blasphemy against Allah in HIS Holy House. Holy Prophet (s.a.w) taught the correct Talbia as following:


  “I am present O Allah I am present to YOUR service. YOU have no partners; I am present to YOU. All the Praises and blessings are for YOU and the sovereignty is YOURS. YOU have no partners.”

**Holy Prophet’s last Hajj:**

In 6th Hijri Holy Prophet (s.a.w) and his 1400 hundreds companions were sent back without being allowed to perform Umrah Hajj (What is Umrah Hajj is coming later in this book). Holy Prophet (s.a.w) went away that year and returned to Makkah in 7th Hijri, to perform the missed Umrah Hajj (Qada hajj). In 8th Hijri in the Fasting Month Ka’ba came under his control. He (s.a.w) appointed Hazrat Attaab ibn Aseed (r.a) as governor of Makkah.

In 8th Hijri Holy Prophet (s.a.w) appointed the same Governor as Ameerul Hajj (Leader for Hajj affair). By next year, in 9th Hijri, Holy Prophet (s.a.w) sent Hazrat Abu Bakr (r.a) from Madina as Ameerul Hajj. In 10th Hijri Holy Prophet (s.a.w) performed Hajj for himself.

That Hajj for Holy Prophet (s.a.w) was his first and the last Hajj in his life. Over hundred thousand Muslims joined him in that Hajj. In that Hajj he (s.a.w) gave some final message to his followers. Because that Hajj was his last Hajj, that Hajj is also called Hujjatul Widaa’ (the goodbye Hajj).

His (s.a.w) Hajj is recorded in a long Hadis narrated by Hazrat Jabir ibn Abdullah (r.a). I shall just mention the first bit in below:

*Hazrat Jabir ibn Abdullah (r.a) said:* Holy Prophet (s.a.w) spent 9 years in Madina. In those 9 years he (s.a.w) did not perform Hajj (Main Hajj not Umrah). Then in 10th Hijri the announcement was made that in that year Holy Prophet (s.a.w) would go to Hajj. So many people came into Madina (to join him). Then we set our journey for Hajj.......(until the end).” *(Muslim)*

In that Hajj Holy Prophet (s.a.w) showed his followers how to perform the Hajj according to the prescribed method of Allah. Alhamdulillah! His (s.a.w) teachings are recorded in Hadises. So the Muslims in later time would not be unaware about how to perform Hajj properly. His (s.a.w) teaching is alive for last 1400 years and it will be alive as long as this world exists.
Millions of Muslims all over the world are teaching and learning about the proper method of Hajj from Holy Prophet’s Hajj. Moreover, millions of Muslims are performing Hajj every year and once they perform Hajj, they never forget the method of it. They pass their extra-ordinary experience to others. That’s how the teaching of Hajj is keep going with the help of Allah Almighty.

So, this is the brief history of Hajj in this chapter about how it started, how it went on, how it was corrupted and then, how it was corrected by the last prophet Muhammad (s.a.w). May Allah bless and mercy on HIS prophet and his followers, Ameen!
Chapter Five: Some lessons from Hajj.

Why to learn lessons?

Hajj is a divine prescription of worship. It is from Allah All Wise. It is to teach Muslims how to lead their life. Every duty or action in Hajj is full of lessons. Muslims need thinking about the wisdom behind each action in Hajj. Their thinking will help them with some of the following:

- How vast benefits are in each action prescribed by Allah!
- How vast teachings are in actions prescribed by Allah!
- How each action guides them to be fully surrender to Allah!
- How each action trains them to develop right attitudes towards life and its objective!
- How each action prepares them to be Allah’s true servants to gain Paradise etc!

Therefore, we need more discussions, more analysis, more research about Hajj and its duties:

- To learn,
- To feed our Faith,
- To nourish our Imaan,
- To strengthen our Imaan,
- To practice righteously and
- To motivate ourselves to serve Allah all the time.

Keeping those points in mind, I decided to give some examples of lessons to be learnt from Hajj actions. So that, these examples can motivate us to think more and to learn more for our own benefits Insha Allah!

Lesson from Ihram and death dress:

Ihram is a Fard (compulsory) action in Hajj. What is Ihram then? Ihram means making something Haram for you. With Ihram the pilgrims make few things prohibited (haram) for them such as, Intimacy with wives, haircut, nail cut, using scent etc. Because they make few things Haram for them, that’s why it is called Ihram. Ihram also means making intention for Hajj with Talbia (With Labbaika).

Lesson from Ihram:

Once a Haji make intention for Hajj, he or she makes few things prohibited on him or on her. Even though, those things are Halal in normal day to day life but for Ihram they avoid such things. They avoid those things to obey the commands of Allah. Once a Haji makes Ihram, he or she is called “Muhrim.” For Muhrim few things that are normally allowed become prohibited. Let us look at a hadis as following:

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Umar (r.a) narrated that a person asked Holy Prophet (s.a.w): What dress a Muhrim should wear?

_He (s.a.w) said: No normal dress, no turban, no trouser, no hat, no socks unless one has no sandal-”_ [Bukhari and Muslim]
Due to Hajj, no Muslims complain about these prohibitions. Why do not they? The answer is that they do not question about Ihram rules because they have learnt to surrender to Allah without questioning and fussing. This is the main lesson in Ihram rules.

Now, Muslims should widen this attitude to every actions in their life to be a full Muslim. Like Ihram rules, if they follow Allah’s codes in their daily life without fuss or questions or complaint, then they have really understood the training of Ihram in Hajj. Then, they have truly got the lesson from Ihram in Hajj.

**Lesson about dressing like a dead person:**

Ihram dress for men is simple. 2 pieces of white clothes without any sewing, to be wrapped around their upper and lower part of the body. Why is it? Is it just a fashion? Or is it just a tradition? Or is it for training the Muslim’s mind for greater things?

Well! Dressing like a dead person is to train Muslim minds for greater things such as:

- To remind them about the reality of life that they must die one day,
- To remind them that one day they must go back to Allah through death,
- To train them to dress humbly,
- To remind them that their funeral dress will be the same and simple like Ihram dress, without extravagance, it should remind them to dress humbly in this life,
- To train them about that Allah loves righteous dress not otherwise,
- To train them to remember death, so they won’t be too attached to this life only and so on.

Ihram and dressing in Hajj is totally unique in Hajj. In no journey or celebration one can see these extra-ordinary methods. What does it give lessons to Muslims? Again the lesson is: **Muslims must wear the righteous dress in life and they should remember that one day they will be buried with righteous dress like the dress in Ihram.**

**Lesson from Tawaf: Circling around Ka’bah:**

In Hajj Muslims must circle around the Ka’bah. This circling is called Tawaf. One may wonder why this Tawaf was prescribed in Hajj. Allah knows the best answer. It is worth asking this question for deepening our understanding.

The question here is that what can we learn from Tawaf? Some of the lessons we can learn as below:

- **Centre:** Everything has a centre. In our body heart is the centre. The blood goes in and out of the heart as centre. Any object has a centre. This earth circling around a centre. The stars, galaxies and so on are circling around the centre. Holy Ka’ba is also a centre. The Holy House is a symbol of centre. Then what is the centre for everything? The centre for everything is Allah!

So the first lesson from Tawaf is to realise that Allah is the centre of everything. Our life is rounding around Allah whether we want it or not. So, as Muslims we should also dedicate our life circling around Allah’s obedience as we circle around the Ka’ba to obey Allah.
Allah calls believers for total devotion to the obedience to Allah in the Holy Quran, (6: 163):

“Say, my Salah and my sacrifice, and my life and my death, all dedicated to the Lord of the Universe.”

- **Times and motion vs eternity:** In Tawaf the House in the centre stand still but the people around it comes and goes. It teaches the eternity of Allah and the temporariness of Human and every creations of Allah. It teaches Muslims not to be too dedicated about their temporary testing period in this life rather they must round around their entire life to the obedience of eternal Lord, the Allah Almighty.

Allah confirms it in the Holy Quran, (55:26-27)

“All that is on earth will perish: But will remain (alive forever), the Face of your Lord, Full of Majesty, Bounty and Honour.”

Therefore, Tawaf means a lot in Muslim’s life. Tawaf is not just a meaningless circling around for fun. But it is there to imprint the right feelings and attitudes in Muslims about Allah. Muslim means total surrendering to Allah and Tawaf is the symbol of rounding Muslims life around, in the obedience of Allah with total surrendering.

**Lesson from Talbia:**

What is Talbia? Talbia is the supplication (Dua) recited by Haji during Ihram period. Hazrat Abdullah ibn Umar (r.a) said that he heard Holy Prophet (s.a.w) saying (In Hajj):

Labbaika Allahumma Labbaik; Labbaika Iaa shareeka laka labbaik; Innal Hamda wanni’mata laka wal-Mulk; Laa shareeka lak. (I am present to YOU O Allah! I am present to YOUR service; YOU have no partners. I am present in YOUR service. All the praises, all blessings and sovereignty is YOURS; YOU have no partners.) [Muttafaqun A’laih].

What is the lesson can we learn from this Talbia? Some of them are as following:

- **Responding to the call of Allah:** More than 4000 years ago Ibrahim (a.s) called Muslims to go to Hajj for Allah and since then, when true believers attend in there, they respond to that call saying as if, “O Allah! YOU called and I am present to YOUR service. I will do now whatever you want me to do. I shall avoid now whatever YOU prohibit for me to do.”

- **Surrendering everything:** In this response one surrenders his wishes, desires, choices, culture, father’s ways and so on. The same way a Muslim should lead his or her life. A Muslim must surrender all the selfish desires, choices, greed, wants and must follow only Allah’s commands.

- **Learn to respond to Allah’s daily call:** Allah calls Muslims for 5 times Salah daily. Muslims must respond to that if they truly understand the spirit and the teachings of Labbaik. In the Holy Quran more than 80 times Allah has called, “O you who believe!” and gave advice. Muslims must respond to those call of Allah as well.

So Talbia should be a part of Muslim’s life. Every day Muslim should learn to say, O Allah! I am present to serve YOU in every actions in my life. Look at the teaching of Talbia in the life
of Ibrahim (a.s). When Allah called him to leave his country for da’wa he responded to that. When Allah called him to build HIS house he responded to that. When Allah called him to leave his wife and baby in Makkah in an inhabited land, he did respond that as well. When Allah asked him to sacrifice his beloved son, he did respond to that call without any hesitation.

These are the practicality of Talbia in Muslims’ life. That’s why from Hajj Muslims must take necessary lessons. If they take Hajj and duties as rituals, then it will be their great loss. Allah does not lose anything.

Lesson from kissing the black stone:
Black stone is placed in a corner of Ka’bah. Pilgrims try to kiss it directly or if they can touch it with hand they kiss that hand, or if they can touch it with stick then they kiss on the stick. What is the lesson in it?

First of all, one may ask, is kissing a stone like worshipping that stone? The answer is no! To understand bit more look at the following reasons:

- **It is not considered a god:** Muslim do not believe this stone as god or part of god. On the other hand, stone worshippers believe a certain stone as their god. Muslims believe that Allah is One God and HE has no partners. So the main reasons for kissing the black stone is not to kiss a god.

- **Not worship:** A stone worshipper believes a certain stone is god therefore he or she worships that stone asking help from it. Whereas Muslims do not believe black stone is god. So they do not worship the black stone. So kissing black stone by Muslims is not for the reason for worshipping it.

- **Not for any gain from it:** A stone worshipper believes that the stone has some power to help him or to harm him. Muslims do not believe the same about the black stone. We find that teaching from the comment of Hazrat Omar (r.a) in the following Hadis:

  **Hazrat A’bis ibn Rabia’h (r.a) said:** I have seen Hazrat Omar (r.a) kissing the black stone and heard him saying: “I know for sure that, you are such a stone which can not cause any gain or loss, if I did not see Holy Prophet (s.a.w) kissing you then I would not kiss you at all.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

Now, let us find out the main reasons for kissing the black stone. There are two main reasons I can think of but the actual reasons Allah knows best. Two main reasons I can think of are in below:

1. **Love of the things from Paradise:** The kissing is purely to show that Muslims love for a stone that was sent from paradise. **Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:** “When Hazru Aswad (Black stone) was sent from the Paradise, it was whiter than milk. Then sins of Adam children made it black.” [Ahmed. Tirmidi]

2. **Obedience of Holy Prophet (s.a.w):** The kissing of black stone has another reason and that reason is to obey Holy Prophet (s.a.w) without question. Often we may not know the main reason because Allah did not reveal it through revelation but as Muslims we must follow the teaching of Allah’s messenger to obey Allah. As it is nicely explained in the hadis below:
Hazrat A'bis ibn Rabia'h (r.a) said: I have seen Hazrat Omar (r.a) kissing the black stone and heard him saying, “I know for sure that, you are such a stone which can not cause any gain or loss, if I did not see Holy Prophet (s.a.w) kissing you then I would not kiss you at all.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

So the lessons from kissing the black stone are:

- **Love everything from Paradise:** Do every good thing to be in Paradise.
- **Love what Allah loves:** Allah loves things and asks HIS messenger to love it. We should love the same.
- **Love what Holy Prophet (s.a.w) loves:** He (s.a.w) loved kissing the black stone and we do the same. Similarly, we should love doing whatever Holy prophet (s.a.w) did and we should avoid whatever Holy Prophet (s.a.w) avoided.

**Lesson from running between Safa and Marwa:**

Running between Safa and Marwa is called Sa’ee. A haji has to run 7 times. To understand some lessons from it we should go back to the history of it briefly. Hazrat Hazera (r.a), wife of Ibrahim (a.s) was desperate to find water to save her baby’s life. Baby Ismael was weak and serious without both water and mother’s milk.

In that desperate time, she decided to look for water. She climbed on the Safa Mountain at first praying and seeking for the water. She was hoping that she would find any water spot but she did not find any. Then she climbed down to the valley and climbed again on the other side of the Mountain named Marwa. In this way, she made 7 round. Then Angel Jibrael (a.s) hit the ground with heel and water came out. Pilgrims are still drinking from the water spring called Zamzam well.

Now, in her running what are the significant lessons do we see? Some of them are as following:

- **Positive attitude:** She did not give up hope. Hope motivated her to try hard.
- **Hope in Allah:** She had strong hope in Allah. That was her main strength.
- **Hard effort:** She did not sit down doing nothing. She did her best. She tried her outmost.
- **Supplication:** She not only tried but with trying, she also made supplication to Allah for help.
- **Her dua was answered at last:** Her faith in Allah, reliability on Allah, outmost effort, supplication all was the right course of actions. Allah mercifully solved her problem.

In Hajj, the running between Safa and Marwa is according to Hazrat Hazera’s tradition. So in Sa’ee pilgrims must learn from her doings that Allah loved it so much and recommended to keep it alive in the duties of hajj. So what lessons the Sa’ee gives us? Some of them as following:

- **Be hopeful all the time.** Do not give up in life difficulties.
- **Have hope in Allah.** Allah is with you and HE will rescue you.
- **Always do your best.** To be successful in this life and in next life, you need to work very hard.
With effort ask Allah’s help. Remember! Never think that your effort alone is enough for success. No! For success you need Allah’s help with your hard work. That’s why you need to make supplication to Allah all the time along with your hard work.

These positive attitudes are necessary in worship, in good deeds, in facing challenges and to be successful in best things in this life and in achieving Paradise in next life. Muslims pilgrims should take positive lessons from Sa’ee.

Lesson from gathering in the A’rafa field:
Gathering in the field of A’rafa in Hajj is a compulsion. Millions of Muslims comes in A’rafa with uncombed hairs, with dusty faces, with simple clothes and with praises of Allah in their lips. It is an amazing scene. There are no fights, no quarrels, not competition to be famous, no comparisons of high or low status, no race as an issue, but with only one focus that all Muslims in there are Allah’s humble servants.

That gathering in A’rafa brings Muslims very close to Allah’s Mercy and Forgiveness. We find that fact from a Hadis stated below:

Hazrat Ayesha (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:

“There is not a day than the day of A’rafah in which Allah relieve more servants from the Fire of Hell. HE comes very close to them and expresses HIS pride for HIS servants with Angels, and HE says, “Tell ME what they want? (I will give them what they want from ME).

[Muslim]

SO, what are the lessons we can learn from the Gathering in A’rafa? Some lessons are as following:

- Gathering on the Day of Judgment: It reminds Muslims that they have to gather before Allah on the Day of Judgment in a larger scale like the gathering in A’rafa. On that Day Allah will gather the entire mankind for reckoning.
- To be ready for the Day of Judgment: The Day of Judgment will be the point of no return. No worships, no repents or no seeking forgiveness will be allowed on the Day of gathering in next life. But the Hajj gathering on the day of Arafah, is a chance for Muslims to repent, to be corrected and to receive forgiveness from Allah. So, Arafah gathering encourages Muslims to seek forgiveness desperately, to be saved on the gathering in the Day of Judgment.
- Best safety: In Hajj gathering Muslims supplicate to Allah to be saved from all the sufferings in this life and in next life. It gives them the lesson that Allah is the best source of safety for Muslims.
- Muslim unity: Millions of Muslims gather as one united family in the gathering of A’rafa. It teaches them that, in A’rafa gathering they enjoy peace and security through unity in Faith and unity in the loyalty to Allah. If they follow the same faith and loyalty of Allah at home or in this world, then Muslims will be united and they will progress peacefully and happily.
- Fear of the Day of Judgment: Hajj gathering in A’rafa reminds Muslims about the Day of Judgment. If they can hold on to that fear and avoid sins, then Allah will save
them from the troubles on the Day of Judgment and Allah will admit them into Paradise Insha Allah!

Lesson from stoning (Throwing pebbles) on pillars:
What is the story behind this stoning or throwing pebbles on the pillars? According to a narration, Hazrat Adam (a.s) arrived in Mina, then Satan came near him. He threw stone on Satan and Satan ran away. Like this Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s) came to sacrifice his son (Ismael) in Mina, Satan arrived in there to discourage him from sacrificing. He also threw stone on Satan and Satan ran away.

So later on the exact place, where they stoned the Satan was built pillars to identify the place. These pillars are called “Jamrah”. There are 3 Jamrah as following:

- Jamrah Ulaa: From Makkah side it is the first pillar near Masjid Khaiief.
- Jamrah Usta: The 2nd one.
- Jamrah Aqabah or Jamaratul Qubra: (Returning from A’rafah stoning begins from this one)

Some people think it is actually stone that is thrown. Actually it is not stone. It is pebbles. Stones are bigger in size and pebbles are very small size of stones. So one must remember, one should not throw a stone on pillars to avoid any injury.

Also, some people may misunderstand that the pebbles are thrown to Satan. No! Not to Satan, it is just a symbol for lessons. Some lessons are as following:

- Following Sunnah: To follow prophets’ Sunnah it is done by Muslims. Adam (a.s), Ibrahim (a.s) are Allah’s messengers therefore Muslim follow their teachings.
- Humiliating Satan: Muslims humiliate Satan. Satan was defeated in there by Allah’s messengers. Allah humiliated Satan in Hajj area. So he could not confuse with anything in the Harem area. So throwing pebbles is a symbol of humiliating Satan.
- Showing the enmity: Satan and mankind are enemy to one another. Satan vowed to Allah to misguide mankind and Allah vowed to forgive those who want forgiveness from Allah. Satan is an open enemy. So Muslims have to treat their enemy as enemy. Therefore, the stoning in Hajj is a symbol of showing enmity with Satan.
- Satan is eventually defeated: It also shows that Satan has no power over Allah’s sincere servants. When Allah’s sincere servants fear Allah and avoid sinful actions then Satan automatically takes the defeat. Allah helps HIS true servants and Allah saves HIS servant from the harm of Satan.

So, what lesson we can learn from throwing stones on Jamrah? The main lesson is to treat Satan as enemy in our day to day life. We must not sit inactive against Satan’s efforts to misguide us. We should be pro-active so that Satan cannot misguide us. Satan never gets retired in misguiding people, so we should not be retired in our duties to Allah as well. We should feel disgust against Satan and Satanic activities. Throwing pebbles is a strong expression of disgust towards Satan. We should never take defeat to the tricks of Satan rather we should defeat him with the help of Allah. 

\textit{A’uju billaahi minash shaitaanir rajeem (I seek refuge with Allah from the bad inspiration of cursed Satan).}
If we can maintain this disgust all the time against Satan, then we can be active in our prayers, in remembering Allah, in learning Quran, in learning Islam, in learning all Satanic tricks he plays against human. This disgust can keep us alert for our best form of Imaan and righteous actions. Allah (s.w.t) advised believers to treat Satan as enemy in the Holy Quran, (35:6):

“Surely, Satan is an enemy to you: So treat him like an enemy. He only calls to his followers, so that they may (also) be companions of the blazing Fire.”

Lesson from sacrificing animals:

Sacrificing animals in the name of Allah is called Qurbani. Hazrat Zayed ibn Arkam (r.a) narrated that, one-day, Holy Prophet (s.a.w) was asked by companions, O Messenger of Allah! What is this Qurbani?

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) answered: Qurban is the tradition (Sunnah) of your father (Of the teachings for monotheism) Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s).

They asked again, what reward in Qurbani o messenger of Allah? Holy prophet (s.a.w) said: There is reward for each hair of the sacrificed animal. [Ahmed. Ibn Maazah]

Allah tested Ibrahim (a.s) to see whether he surrendered to Allah fully or not. To test that Allah asked him to sacrifice his own beloved son Ismael (a.s). When Ibrahim (a.s) was going to slaughter his own son, Allah called him to stop. Allah was pleased on him and on his son and replaced his son with a Ram. Since then Qurbani became a tradition to sacrifice an animal as a symbol of sacrificing oneself totally for the sake of Allah.

So what can we learn from Qurbani? We can learn so many lessons but here I shall mention only a couple:

- **In the name of Allah:** We learn to do everything in the name of Allah. Some people sacrifice animals in the name of idols, ghosts or any other gods. But in Islam Qurbani teaches Muslims that only Qurbani in the name of Allah is accepted by Allah.
- **Accepting Allah as the owner:** Sacrificing animals for the sake of Allah is an acceptance that Allah owns all these animals.
- **Thanking Allah:** Sacrificing in the name of Allah is a thanks giving to Allah with HIS given provision. It reminds Muslims that all animals, food etc are given by Allah and owned by Allah. So only Allah deserves thanks.
- **Following prophet’s traditions:** Allah sent prophets and messengers to teach us the right methods prescribed by Allah. So Qurbani teaches Muslims to follow Prophet’s traditions.
- **Sacrificing disobedience of Allah:** Animal is a symbol but the actual command was to sacrifice own son. Allah tested Ibrahim (a.s) whether his beloved son made him disobey Allah or not. But Ibrahim (a.s) proved that obedience of Allah was more important to him than any other beloved things.

The same things Muslims must learn from Qurbani. Qurbani is not just a ritual but it is to give important lesson to Muslims. If Muslims can sacrifice disobedience of Allah, if they can sacrifice their selfish desires for the obedience of Allah or if they can sacrifice their life, wealth and everything for the love of Allah, then they have actually
understood the message or the lesson of Qurbani. Allah commands that to the Muslims in the Holy Quran, (6:163):

“Say: my Salah, my sacrifice, my life and my death all are dedicated in the obedience to Allah, the Lord of the universe.”

Lesson from Holy Prophet’s sermon in goodbye Hajj:
Holy Prophet (s.a.w) delivered a brief sermon, but full of lessons, in the Hujjatul Widaa (goodbye Hajj). His (s.a.w) every word is full of lessons for the Muslims as well as for the whole mankind. I shall point out only briefly to keep the size of the essay short.

His short yet valuable speech (Sermon) is recorded in Hadises. One of those Hadis is recorded in Sahih Muslim and the Hadis is narrated by Hazrat Jabir ibn Abdullah (r.a) as following in brief:

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) pointed out in his sermon, the following points (in brief):

- Your life and wealth is honourable to each other,
- All bad deeds from the days of ignorance is cancelled, the blood revenge of ignorance age is cancelled and I am cancelling the blood revenge of Ibn Rabia ibn Haris (From my tribe),
- The complex interest from the days of ignorance is cancelled and I am cancelling the complex interest of my uncle Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib,
- You must fear Allah about your wives providing their due rights,
- The wives must maintain their purity in the absence of their husbands as well,
- I am leaving the Book of Allah with you, if you hold on it, you won’t be misguided,
- When you will be questioned by Allah about me, what would you say? Then in response the audience said: We shall witness that you have passed Allah’s message to us, you have performed your duties, and you have wanted best for us. Then he (s.a.w) pointed his finger towards heaven and said 3 times, “O Allah! YOU be witness”

Now from the above sermon we can extract the few lessons as following:

1. **Cancellation of hatred and harm:** He (s.a.w) made killing, robbing etc prohibited. Before him (s.a.w) in ignorance age, people were harming and hating one another and they were after revenge, bloodshed and had no peace and harmony. In his (s.a.w) historical sermon he (s.a.w) blocked the deeds that bring unhappiness. This policy of respecting other’s life and belongings is a mercy for not only Muslims but for the entire mankind.

2. **Cancellation of economic slavery:** Complex interest system was making few people rich and others poor. He (s.a.w) brought a fair economy on the basis of profit and loss sharing in his (s.a.w) historical sermon. This fair economic policy is not only beneficial for Muslims but beneficial for entire mankind.

3. **Advice and pioneering in action:** He (s.a.w) did not just cancel the wrong tradition rather he (s.a.w) acted upon it at first as a pioneer. It shows that what he said he did and he (s.a.w) was an example of what he preached. That’s why he (s.a.w) is the best model of moral character for entire mankind.
4. **Rights of family members**: Happiness for a society got to start from family because family is the main unit in the society. Happiness in families comes when both husband and wife respect each other’s right by discharging their duties. Happiness comes if both are with best moral character and Holy Prophet (s.a.w) addressed that key point for the spouses. Again rights and responsibilities between spouses is not only beneficial for Muslims but for the entire mankind.

5. **Book of guidance**: He (s.a.w) pointed out the solution for all problems. If all the Muslims follow the teaching of the Quran then they can enjoy unity, harmony, progress and happiness in this life and this guidance will guide them to Paradise in next life. But if they choose to solve their problems outside the Quranic guidance, then they will suffer from uncountable disharmonies and unhappiness.

6. **Feedback**: Even though he (s.a.w) was a messenger of Allah, free from sins and guided by Allah, yet he (s.a.w) taught to seek feedback. Husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, teachers, students, leaders or followers, all should practice taking feedback. Feedback increases confidence, removes misunderstanding, allows to learn and correct before being questioned by Allah on the Day of Judgment in HIS Court.

7. **Humility and love**: In his (s.a.w) sermon you can feel the humility and love. His (s.a.w) followers present in there (More than 100 thousands) witnessed about his dutifulness and caring message.

Muhammad (s.a.w) was sent as a messenger of Allah for the entire mankind. That’s why in his message one can find policies to benefit people, not just a group but for all. His message has universality.

May Allah bless on HIS beloved messenger, Ameen! May Allah help us to follow lessons from HIS messenger Muhammad (s.a.w), Ameen!
Chapter Six: Some terms used in Hajj.

Hajj:
Hajj is, pilgrimage to Makkah for the sake of Allah to do certain duties. It is Fard once in life for those who can afford the journey. Some aspects of Hajj are as following:

- Hajj intention has to be made during Hajj season. The season is about 2 and half months which is Shawal, Julqada and up to 10th of Julhijj.
- Hajj has to be done during Hajj days and that is from 8th Julhijj to 13th Julhijj.
- Hajj in compulsory once in life for those who can afford but a Muslim can perform Hajj more than once. Extra ones will be voluntary Hajj.
- Hajj has duties in different places such as in Ka’ba area for Tawaf, In between Safa and Marwa, Mina town, A’rafah field, Muzdalifa area and so on.
- Hajj has extra duties than Umrah such as Staying in A’rafah, staying in Muzdalifa, staying in Mina, stoning on Jamrah, Qurbani etc.
- If a Muslim does not perform Hajj despite ability will commit grievous sin etc.

Ifrad Hajj:
Doing only Hajj in Hajj time, without Umrah Hajj with it, is called Ifrad Hajj. In this type of Hajj, Qurbani is not necessary. The Haji who performs Ifrad hajj is called Mufrid. In this Hajj pilgrims need one Ihram (One intention) from the beginning to the end.

Tamattu Hajj:
In Hajj Month performing Umrah at first, then having a break and then performing Hajj is called Tamattu Hajj. In Tamattu Hajj 2 Ihram (Intention with Labbaika and dress for Ihram) necessary. At first one will make Ihram for Umrah Hajj. After finishing Umrah Hajj the pilgrim will break the Ihram and will become normal, away from Ihram obligations such as sleeping with spouse.

Then the pilgrim will wait until the start of Hajj. He or she will make 2nd Ihram for main Hajj and complete all the Hajj duties. The person who does Tamattu hajj is called Mutammatti. In this Hajj Qurbani is necessary.

Qiran Hajj:
This Hajj is done in one Ihram both Umrah and Hajj. It is the hardest form of Hajj because in it, after Umrah no break of Ihram. It means not free from Ihram obligation. So with one Ihram, one would do the Umrah Hajj at first and then without breaking the Ihram would continue main Hajj duties until it ends.

Whoever does this Hajj is called Qaren. It is the hardest option of Hajj.

Umrah Hajj:
Umrah Hajj is bit different than main Hajj. Some differences are as following:

a. Umrah Hajj is not Fard according to Imam Abu Hanifa (Rah.A). He says, it is Sunnah but if someone makes intention for it or begins doing it, then to complete it becomes a
Fard (Compulsion). The exception is, Imam Shafi says that it is also Fard on those who can afford and he depends on the evidence in the Quran where Allah says in 2:196 “And complete the Hajj and Umrah in the service of Allah.” Allah knows best.

b. Umrah duties are lesser than Hajj duties. Such as, it does not include duties in A’rafah, Muzdalifa or in Mina etc.
c. For Umrah, the places are limited too such as Ka’bah, Mount Sāfa and Marwāh, etc.
d. Umrah can be done any time. The timing is not fixed as Hajj.
e. Umrah can be done with Hajj.
f. Umrah does not include Qurbani etc.

Meekat:
Meekat is the boundary for making Ihram. For outsiders (Not from Makkah) they must make Ihram (Ihram and Labbaika) from the selected places. Whenever they will cross those boundaries whether in land transport, or in ship or airlines they must make Ihram on those Meekat.

But for those who come from within these boundaries, they must make Ihram from their own house. These boundaries are fixed by the teachings of Holy Prophet (s.a.w). We find it in a Hadis below:

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) said that holy prophet (s.a.w) had determined Meekat for;

- **Julhulaifa**: For people from Madina,
- **Juhfa**: For the Syria side pilgrims,
- **Qarnul Manaajil**: For the pilgrims from Nazd side,
- **Yalamlam**: For the pilgrims coming from Yemen side.

Pilgrims from all over the world will come through one of those border and they have to use those Meekat for Ihram as they come in.

But those who comes from inside these boundaries should make their Ihram in their own houses. Even Makkan pilgrims will make Ihram from Makkah.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

Ihram:
Ihram is making intention either for Hajj or for Umrah and for both intention and saying Talbia (Labbaika Allahumma Labbaik). Ihram is the first Fard action (compulsory action) in Hajj. The significance of Fard action is, because it is a compulsory action, if any one misses it, then Hajj won’t be accepted. That’s why in Hajj or Umrah a Haji must not miss any Fard actions.

That also reminds Muslim Haji that they must learn about the rules of Hajj before they set their journey, to make sure that they are not missing any compulsory actions or anything else necessary.

Once a Haji makes Ihram is called Muhrim. Muhrim is prohibited to do quite a few things during his or her Ihram period, such as sleeping with spouse, cutting nail or hair, cutting grass in that Hajj area or hunting and so on. [Mishqat]


Talbia:
Talbia is a dua (Supplication) or a kind of responsive words to the Highness of Allah. It is a part of Ihram and it has to be said by pilgrims’ lots and lots. The Talbia is as following taught by Holy Prophet (s.a.w).

_Hazrat Abdullah ibn Umar (r.a) said_, I heard Holy prophet (s.a.w) with uncombed hair saying: Labbaika Allahumma Labbaik, Labbaika laa shareeka laka Labbaik. Innal Hamda wani’mata laka wal-Mulk. Laa shareeka lak.

(I am present O Allah! I am present to YOUR service O Allah! YOU have no partners. Surely, all the Praises and blessing are YOURS and the total sovereignty is YOURS. YOU have no partners.) [Muttafaqun A’laih]

Tawaf:
Tawaf means circling around something. In Islamic Sharia’ah it means, circling around the Holy Ka’bah in a certain manner.

Beginning from the corner of Black stone going around the Ka’bah and coming back to the black stone is called one “Showth.” Such 7 Showth makes one Tawaf. To make a Tawaf, pilgrims have to go around Ka’ba 7 times.

For outsider pilgrims, they need to make 3 Tawaf all together in their Hajj as following:

1. **Tawaaful Qudum:** When they enter into Makkah from journey, they make this Tawaf. This Tawaf is Sunnah.

2. **Tawaaful Ifaadah:** 2nd time in 10th of Julhijj, they come from Mina to do this Tawaf. It is also called Tawwfuj-Jiaraah. THIS TAWAF IS FARD duty of the Hajj.

3. **Tawaaful wedah:** It is called Good Bye Tawaf at last to end the Hajj. This Tawaf is Wajib. Very essential. [Mishqat]

Romol:
In Tawaf brisk walking, or walking bit fast is called Romol. Romol is done in the 3 circling around Ka’bah (Showth). In last 4 circling it is not necessary.

Holy prophet (s.a.w) did Romol. **Hazrat Ibn Abbas (s.a.w) said that Holy prophet (s.a.w) and his companions did Romol in the first 3 circling of Tawaf. [Abu Dawood]**

Sa’ee:
Sa’ee is going between the two mountains of Safa and Marwah as Hazrat Hazera (r.a) did for searching the water for her thirsty son. This is with walking and running (for men) which is 7 times all together.

How Holy prophet (s.a.w) did Sa’ee is narrated in following long Hadis, narrated by Hazrat Jabir ibn Abdullah (r.a). I shall only cite few key points:

“**He (s.a.w) started from Mount Safa side, climbed the top of the Safa mountain, did supplication then came down and ran towards the Marwa Mountain and then climbed it gently to the top and made supplication.**” [Muslim]

That’s how making 7 run is necessary. First 4 round is Fard and 2nd 3 rounds are Wajib.
Uqufu A’rafaḥ:
Staying in the field of A’rafaḥ is called Uqufu A’rafaḥ. It is also one of the Fard action in Hajj. The rule is, if a Haji stays in A’rafaḥ even for a second between after mid-day of 9th Julhijj till before Fojor of 10th Julhijj, then this Fard duty will be done and accepted. But staying in A’rafaḥ from after mid-day of 9th Julhijj until sunset is Sunnah.
A’rafaḥ is the name of a vast field. It stands between Makkah and Muzdalifa. In this field, servants of Allah do special worship to get closer to Allah and Allah also forgives HIS servants in A’rafaḥ field lavishly.
Hazrat A’mor ibn Shu’aib has narrated through his father from his grandfather that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:

“The best supplications of all supplications is the supplication the in the Day of A’rafaḥ. And whatever Zikr (Remembering Allah with HIS praises) I did and other prophets before me did, among those Zikr, the best Zikr is: Laa Ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu Lahul mulku walalahul hamdu wa hua a’laa kulli shaien qadeer.”
(There is no gods but Allah, HE has no partners, for HIM all the praises and Sovereignty, and HE is Almighty over all things) [Tirmidi]

Zamra:
Zamra is the pillars build to identify the place where Adam (a.s), Ibrahim (a.s) threw stones on Satan to drive him away. Satan came to confuse or discourage their duties. But with stoning he became failure and ran away. These spots are kept alive as a signs. So that with Allah’s help believers can defeat Satan in their life duties.
There are 3 Jamra as following:
1. Zamratul ulaa: From Makkah the first one.
3. Zamratul Qubra: The biggest one found coming from A’rafaḥ to Mina.
Why Pilgrims throw pebbles on those pillars? The answer we find from a hadis below:
Hazrat Ayesha (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “Throwing pebbles (at Zamra) and Sa’ee between Safa and Marwa are to establish the Zikr of Allah.” [Tirmidi. Daremy]

What does Zikr mean here? The meaning of Zikr here is, doing a duty to obey Allah without questioning. Whether we understand or not, as Muslims we are required to follow Allah’s commands and to follow HIS messenger’s teachings. Pilgrims exactly do that in throwing stones. Allah asked them to feel disgust towards Satan as he is their enemy, so they throw pebbles as an expression of disgust. (Allah knows best).

Hady:
This word indicates to animals for Qurbani and these animals are sent to in the Harem of Makkah for sacrifice as part of their Hajj.
In the age of idol worshipping, before the last prophet (s.a.w), they also used to send animals to Makkah for Qurbani. To prevent from lost or theft or robbed, they used to put two kinds of marks on Qurbani animals:

1. **Scratch on top behind neck**: They used to put a scratch mark on the top part of animal behind the neck and before the back.
2. **Shoes-garland**: They also used to hang shoes garland on the animal neck. So every one used to respect Qurbani animals for Hajj.

Even, this rule is prescribed in the Holy Quran, (5:2):

“O you who believe! Do not change the holiness of the (sacred) Symbols of Allah, nor of the Sacred Month of Ramadan, nor of the animals (Hady) brought for sacrifice, nor of the garlands (for such animals), …”

**Halq:**
Shaving head for pilgrims or shortening hair of the pilgrims is called Halq. It is also part of the hajj. It is Wajib. Wajib is like semi compulsory so it has to be done. If one misses it then penalty will apply for the acceptance of Hajj.

In both Umrah and Hajj, Halq is essential. The difference is:

- **In Umrah**: It has to be done after Sa’ee between Safa and Marwa, in Marwa.
- **In Hajj**: It has to be done in Mina after Qurbani in 10th of Julhijj.
- **In Umrah and Hajj**: If a Haji does Umrah first then breaks the Ihram to wait for the Hajj for next Ihram again, then shortening hair is better to keep some hair for shaving after the hajj.

For female, shortening of hair is the necessity, not shaving.

*Hazrat Abdullah ibn Umar (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) and some of his companions, some shaved their hair and some shortened their hair. [Muttafaqun A’laih]*

**Ahsar:**
Ahsar means to be prevented from Hajj. For example, Holy Prophet (s.a.w) was prevented from Umrah hajj in 6th Hijri by Quraish. People can be prevented by many reasons such as:

- From sickness,
- Airplane troubles,
- Transport troubles,
- Enemies,
- Wars,
- Visa troubles etc.

The rule is, if some pilgrims, after making Ihram is prevented from doing the hajj, then they should:

- Do sacrifice the Qurbani animal,
- Shave the hair,
- Break the Ihram,
• And do Qada (make up) of the Hajj later. [Mishqat]

Allah says in the holy Quran, (2:196):

“And complete the Hajj or Umrah in the service of Allah. But if you are prevented (from completing it), send an offering for sacrifice, what you may find (afford).”
Chapter Seven: Preparation for Hajj

Why preparation?

Hajj is not a fun trip that one can go as he or she wishes. Hajj has totally different objective. What is that objective? Why one would like to go for Hajj? The objectives of Hajj are mainly three:

1. **To respond to Allah’s call:** A Muslim must obey Allah. When Allah calls him/her, must respond. Therefore, Allah calls for Hajj, a Muslim must obey Allah’s command. So a Muslim goes for Hajj to obey Allah or to respond to the call of Allah.

2. **To receive forgiveness:** A Muslim obeys Allah with the belief that Allah will forgive, reward and grant Paradise for him or her. So a Muslim performs Hajj for receiving Allah’s forgiveness, blessings and mercy.

3. **To mend ways of life:** Hajj trains a Muslim how to fully surrender his/her mind, emotion, desires to the will of Allah. It also trains Muslims to dedicate their life and wealth for the sake of Allah as well. The objective for this is to mend their life from wrong ways to direct their lives in Allah’s ways.

Now keeping those factors above in mind, if we ask the question to ourselves, “Why do we need preparation for Hajj?” then the reasoning for this question will be easier to understand.

The reasons for preparation are:

- To make sure responding to Allah’s call in a right and proper way,
- To make sure no mistakes is taking place in responding to Allah’s call,
- To make sure that the best preparation will achieve forgiveness from Allah,
- To make sure mending ways begins before Hajj and it continues after the Hajj as well etc.

Therefore, Hajj is a spiritual journey for Allah. It is special and it requires special preparations as well. I have included a chapter on preparation to give some examples for Muslims to widen the thinking about Hajj for more benefits.

Repent as preparation:

Before Hajj one must change the bad ways of life. One must do the self-assessment seriously to identify all the wrong doing in him or in her. Self-assessment is a very good thing. It is like judging oneself in a most respectful manner. When other people judge us we feel hurt. But when we judge ourselves we do not feel humiliated. Every Muslims should have a judgmental fair mind to judge own doings.

The benefits of self-judgment are huge, such as:

- It makes one wiser,
- It makes one learn how to self-check own shortcomings,
- It removes arrogance and makes one humble. Arrogant mind never think that he/she might have done something wrong. That mentality prevents him/her from self-checking,
- It saves from humiliations. Before other tells off one can mend,
- It allows one to see own wrong-doing, own sins,
• It allows to feel remorse for own wrong doing,
• It motivates to seek Allah’s forgiveness,
• It allows to seek forgiveness before too late, before death,
• It motivates one to repent to Allah and be clean from sins through Allah’s forgiveness etc.

So before Hajj, especially a Muslim should repent to Allah for all the sins. In repent one should include:

1. Identify sinful actions in him/her,
2. Admit to Allah for those sins,
3. Feel true remorse for those sins (Disobedience to Allah),
4. Apologise to Allah for all the wrongs, and apologise to the person(s) you victimised,
5. Promise to Allah that you won’t do it again,
6. Take U-turn from the wrong-doing, change your direction to righteous deeds,
7. And beg Allah to forgive you etc.

Repenting for bad deeds is a good start towards mending, changing directions and towards becoming a full surrendered servant to Allah. Hajj wants you to be good like that, so you need to start preparing yourself as a good Muslim before Hajj.

If you do not prepare before hajj, then you will go to Hajj with a sinful mind and you won’t be able to benefit from Hajj much. For example, to get good vegetables you need to prepare the soil first. Prepared soil will allow the vegetable to grow well. Otherwise in hard, unprepared soil Vege will struggle.

Our heart needs preparation and the best preparation is to remove sins from it. Once sins are removed, it is clean and clean heart resonates with the mercy of Allah, forgiveness of Allah, love of Allah well. But dirty heart with sin does not resonate well and it loses the benefits of Hajj.

Allah accepts repentance from those who give up sins and repent soon, Allah says in the Holy Quran (4.17):

“Allah accepts only the repentance of those who do evil in ignorance and foolishness and repent soon afterward; to them will Allah turn in Mercy: For Allah is full of knowledge and wisdom.”

Seek forgiveness from others:

Before going to Hajj, Muslims should change their life to better. In their life they deal with family, friends, neighbours, work mates, community members and so on. They might hurt others intentionally or unintentionally in their dealings. They might have been dishonest with someone. They might have outstanding quarrels with neighbours, with family members and so on.

If they are at fault, then that is a great problem. Because violating Allah’s creation’s rights is a big sin. On the Day of Judgment, the victims may seek compensations and the compensation would be giving away own good deeds to the victims. With worships, Allah forgives smaller sins but deliberate sins by violating other’s right usually Allah does not interfere with. So one
must not be careless about his or her wrong actions on other human. It is best to get forgiven by others to be in the safest side.

To understand this notion, we should remind ourselves with a Hadis.

_Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: **Do you know who is poor?** Companions said, among us that person is poor who has no money or wealth. Then Holy prophet (s.a.w) said: **On the Day of Judgment such person will the poorest among my follower, who would come with Salah, Fasting and Charity (etc) from this life, and with it some have scolded others, has done scandal mongering against others, or has grabbed others property wrongly, or has killed someone and has beaten someone (etc.).**

**So his/her good deeds will be given to the victims (as compensation), if his/her good deeds finish before giving all the compensations to victims, then the wrong-doer must take sins from the victims. Then he/she will be thrown into the Hell Fire.” [Muslim]**

So from this Hadis it becomes clear about human rights on Muslims. Any breach will have serious consequences on the Day of Judgement. So if a Muslim truly wants to be clean from sins through Hajj, then must seek forgiveness from people too before going to the Hajj.

This way, Hajj also can change the person, a person who becomes sensitive about other’s rights, sensitive about Allah’s rights, sensitive about most particularly Muslim’s rights, sensitive about parents’ rights, sensitive about spouse’s rights and so on.

A Muslim has to be changed in thought, in manner, in character through Hajj. Otherwise if a Muslim does Hajj yet does not give up bad habits, wrong doing, then that is an indication Hajj has not made him/her sinless due to his or her insincere effort in Hajj. Allah knows best.

**Discharge other’s rights:**

According to above Hadis, Allah won’t interfere with human rights unless the victim forgives it or the victim gets compensation and so on. So if a Muslim perform Hajj properly, he or she gets forgiven the sins related to rights between the servant and Allah. But for the human rights the servant is still at risk. That’s why a pilgrim must focus on human rights issue and sort it out before going to Hajj. That would be a best preparation for Hajj as well.

There are so many ways people violate others rights such as:

- Not giving the respect the elder deserve,
- Not giving the love the younger deserve,
- Not avoiding abuse to wife,
- Not keeping trust people put in you,
- Not giving up corruption like cheat others,
- Not giving up taking bribes from others,
- Eating up poor’s or orphan’s property,
- Occupying neighbours lands wrongly,
- Cheating family members or others,
- Killing or murdering others,
- Stealing or robbing other’s property and so on.
Pay off the lenders:
One of the human rights is to be paid back from the borrowers. In life people borrow money if necessary. Sometimes people borrow for business to increase money and at other times people borrow to survive due to the shortage of money. Here we are discussing about money borrowed not due to poverty. Because Hajj is not compulsory on a Muslim who is poor and cannot afford to do Hajj with his own money.

Hajj is a life journey. Many Muslims wish to die in the journey because this journey is purely for the pleasure of Allah. Dying in the journey for Allah is very rewarding. Muslims are keen for the reward, for the Paradise more than their temporary life. Hajj is also a risky journey. One may not return.

Therefore, before a risky life journey, one must make sure he or she paid off any awing. If not at least has to arrange to pay off if something happens to his/her. The idea is, before going to Hajj, a Muslim can try enough to be as clean as possible from worldly duties. The reasons are for this is:

- To have a peace of mind: So a Muslim can have peace of mind throughout the Hajj without any worries.
- To focus fully: No money tension, borrowing obligations will distract a Muslim from the total focussing in the Hajj duties.
- To be free from awing others rights: If death comes he or she will not leave awing behind to answer Allah for that or to be liable to pay compensation by deeds on the Day of Judgment and so on.
- To keep family out of liability: For his debt he should not keep his family liable to make sure that his family does not suffer the least for his burden.

So a Muslim should free himself from worry, liability, from any sins before going to Hajj. Making him or her clean from all potential bad consequences is a best way of preparing oneself for Hajj.

Take Halal income:
Halal income is very essential for an accepted Hajj. Like the example of a robber who robs bank to give charity has no value in the Sight of Allah. Similarly, doing Hajj with ill-gotten money has no value in the Sight of Allah. Hajj is a worship to Allah. Allah is The Pure and HE likes purity from HIS servants in worship such as:

- Pure in intention: Hajj is only for Allah.
- Pure in Tawhid: Hajj must be for Allah without joining any partners to HIM.
- Pure in mind: Hajj must be done without sinful thinking, conspiracy, plot, criminal intent and so on.
- Pure in manner: Hajj must be done without quarrel, arguing, fight and so on.
- Pure in deeds: Hajj has to be pure from sinful deeds.
- Pure in body and cloth: Clean cloth and body is compulsory for any worship.
- Pure income: The money spent for worship also has to be earned in Halal way.
In other words, without Halal money, Hajj is not accepted. We can find hadis about it as following:

_Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:_

“Allah is The Pure; He only accepts the pure thing. Allah commanded the same as HE commanded HIS messengers, ‘O messenger! Eat from Halal sustenance that I have given’.

Then Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: A person is travelling far to further (Like Hajj, or any other travel for good reasons and usually supplications of a traveller is accepted), his hair is untidy, and body is dusty. In that condition that person raises both hands towards heaven and calls “O Lord! O Lord!!’ But his food is Haram, cloth is Haram (Earned in Haram ways) and he eats Haram as well. How can the supplication (Dua) of that person be accepted?” [Muslim]

**Leave money for dependant ones:**

One must not leave behind wife and children or any other dependant ones hungry and suffering. As an earning member, you are responsible to provide for your dependant ones. You must make sure that:

- They are safe in your absence,
- They are well fed in your absence,
- They have life as usual with normal expenses in your absence,
- They are not starving in your absence,
- They are not abused for the vulnerable situation you left them with economically,
- They are being provided and so on.

Spending for the dependant ones for the sake of Allah is also charity. It is also a responsibility. There are many references from the Holy Quran about that responsibility. Just one example for a Husband’s responsibility towards his wife in below, (Quran 4.34):

> “Men are the protectors and maintainers of women because Allah has given the one more (strength) than the other, and because they support them from their means.”

Therefore, before going to Hajj, pilgrims should make sure that they have left provisions for their dependant ones. That way they will deliver their responsibility as well as will earn charity rewards and they will have peace of mind as well.

**Avoid extravagance:**

Muslims should not make Hajj event as an event of extravagance. They should not waste money without necessity. Such as:

- Buying gifts for many family and relatives,
- Making expensive trips to see relatives,
- Spending so much to be seen, to show off,
- Organising un-necessary expensive feast before or after going to hajj etc.

In general, Islam does not allow extravagance in anything. Moreover, if the extravagance is involved in worship like Hajj, then it is greatly sinful. Allah prohibited wasting money in the Holy Quran, (17:26-27):
“Do not waste (your wealth) like a wasteful person. Surely wasters are brothers of the Satan; and the evil one (Satan) is ungrateful to his Lord.”

Therefore, wasting money for the event of Hajj is:

- Against Allah’s permission,
- Following Satanic inspiration,
- Being ungrateful to Allah etc.

So Muslims should be very careful about their spending for Hajj. They should not make it as a show, as a competition with others to show ego and ability. They rather should be humble, Allah fearing. They should fear that Allah will question them about their earning and spending. Therefore, they should be moderate in their spending for Hajj preparation.

Never intend for name or fame:

The preparation for Hajj can be really pious and rewarding or it can be sinful and punishable. It may go in either way depending on the intention of the pilgrim.

If a Muslim intends for Hajj truly to please Allah, then it is rewarding. But if a Muslim intend for Hajj for other intentions except pleasing Allah, then that will not be rewarding at all. Some bad intentions are as following:

- **Intention of earning a title like Al-hajj:** Some people are crazy for earning titles. They love to be called Al-Hajj by others.
- **Intention to earn social status:** Some culture respects the Haji so much. After the Hajj, they are promoted to a high social status and some people may do Hajj for earning a status.
- **Intention to be popular politically:** Some may intend for Hajj to be popular in the electorate. They may think, being a Haji voter will vote for them. Therefore, some may perform Hajj for that reason.
- **Intention to cheat others:** Some may intend to cheat others by becoming a Haji. For example, in business or as a broker if they have a Haji title, then ordinary Muslims may trust them more and will do business with them more and they can use the Hajj card to cheat them after all.
- **Intention to beg:** Some may intend to go to Hajj for begging.
- **Intention to steal:** Some may go there as part of organised group to steal and make money and so on.

So there could be many other reason for doing Hajj, except the reason of pleasing Allah. If the intention is not ONLY PLEASING Allah, then Hajj will not be accepted and Allah will not grant any reward for it. Because Allah has made the reward for Hajj conditional. The first condition is that it must be done for the pleasure of Allah only. As it is stated in a Hadis:

_Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said in a Hadis, narrated by Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a): “Whoever has done Hajj only for the pleasure of Allah, and in Hajj did not do any sexual activities and did not do any sinful activities, he (She) will return from Hajj as sinless as like the new born (sinless) baby.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]_
Look after your health:
Take care of your health before Hajj. Hajj is a very physical worship as well. You need to be fit. Without good health you won’t enjoy the journey nor the prayers. For performing all the rituals, you need good health. So keeping best health should be taken as a part of best preparation. Have rest, good food and relaxed preparation. You need to watch the following:

- You are eating healthy foods,
- You are eating Halal Foods,
- You are drinking healthy drinks,
- You are drinking Halal drinks,
- You are sleeping in time,
- You are avoiding last minute stress,
- Remember! Your health is an amaanah on you so look after your amaanah for the sake of Allah.

Learn about Hajj well ahead:
Do not leave the learning about Hajj for the last minutes. Some pilgrims waste time in lesser important traditional activities and leave their learning part for the last hours. Then they find it hard to grasp and become confused about lots of things. Whereas, learning Hajj rules is the most important thing because if one makes mistakes then the acceptance of Hajj will be in question. So one must learn about Hajj duties, their rules, long before the Hajj season to understand everything very well. Such as:

- Compulsory actions in Hajj,
- What makes a Hajj invalid?
- What penalty for missing Wajib actions?
- What activities are Haram during Hajj?
- What activities reduces the reward for Hajj?
- What activities are innovations in Hajj?
- What are the conditions for accepted Hajj and so on?

Practice to uplift your Imaan:
Practicing worship is a habit. It does not come overnight. Never think that you will go to Hajj and overnight you will develop mentality to worship properly. You need to build up your habit long before Hajj. Prepare yourself for this habit. You must enjoy the worship in Hajj, the salaah, the Talbia, the Tasbih and so on you need practice to enjoy. You need to feel love in your worship. So start ahead some regular practice of worship such as:

- Pray 5 times Salah in Mosque in Jama’ah,
- Be regular in Tahajjood prayer,
- Recite Holy Quran daily,
- Make Tauba daily,
- Make dua daily especially long dua at Tahajjood,
- Give charity even a little regularly,
- Practice to talk nice with everyone,
• Treat everyone with kindness especially your household, wife, parents, and neighbours and so on,
• Engage yourself in the work of Allah like serving Mosque, Islamic activities and so on long before going to Hajj.

Take your journey as your last chance:
Prepare yourself for Hajj as best and as pure as you can. Consider this is your last journey. Consider this is your last chance to be clean from sins. Consider after this Hajj you will not be in this life any longer. Consider your last chance to go to the paradise. Consider how desperate you are for receiving Allah’s mercy, blessings and forgiveness.

How you will prepare yourself depends on:

a. What you are thinking about it?
b. How strong your belief is on your thinking?
c. How determined you are to follow your thinking etc?

If you think desperately to be cleaned from sins from the Hajj and if you believe in your thoughts, then definitely your preparation will be meticulous, organized and sinless.

Muslims are those who surrender their thoughts, feelings and actions to the will of Allah. So when they prepare for their Hajj, they consider everything to make sure that their preparations are in the way of surrendering to Allah.

Besides, when they believe that this Hajj could be their first and last chance then they take their Hajj seriously from the preparation to the finishing.

Every Muslim should be well organized, well thoughtful and well prepared for getting all the benefits of Hajj. May Allah grant all the Muslims to be prepared for Hajj in the best possible way and to perform the Hajj in the best possible way as well! May Allah grant all of our Hajj, Ameen!
Chapter Eight: How to perform Hajj?

Conditions for accepted Hajj:

Just imagine! A Muslim performed Hajj, did all the hard work, sacrificed money and so on but at the end, Allah did not accept that Hajj! How painful is that? How much loser is that Pilgrim? Would you like to be one of those losers? Definitely you would not. Because your aim is to get all the rewards from Allah for the Hajj. That’s why you would want your Hajj to be perfect in order to be accepted by Allah. This essay is to offer some tips on that Insha-Allah!

Why condition for acceptance? Allah does not accept just anything unless it is done in the way that HE and HIS messenger taught. Allah makes the law for guidance and for the reward. Allah put the conditions for the servants in their worships for HIM. If they fulfil those conditions, then Allah accepts their worship. For example, if you join a university, you follow the condition placed by the university authority to pass the exam for the award. Allah is the LORD of the University of the Entire Universe, if any servant wants awards from HIM, must follow HIS conditions.

Simple condition from Allah: To accept Hajj or any other act of worship, Allah has put one simple condition. That condition is righteousness (At-Taqwa). Allah says is the Holy Quran, (5. 33):

“Surely, Allah does accept from those who are righteous (Muttaqeen).”

Simply Allah will accept Hajj with Taqwa and HE will not accept Hajj without Taqwa. Therefore, for doing Hajj one needs money, health, and safety to do it, permission to travel and so on but for acceptance of Hajj to Allah, one definitely needs Taqwa.

Understanding Hajj with Taqwa: As we found out from the Holy Quran that Taqwa is the most important condition for the acceptance of Hajj or any other worships. That guides us to realize that in regards to accepted Hajj for us, our most important job is to understand properly about Hajj with Taqwa. Now, can we afford not to understand it? Or can we afford to ignore it? Or can we afford to be busy with un-necessary traditional formalities of Hajj leaving ourselves in the dark about the most important condition for Hajj that Allah wants from us?

Common sense dictates that we must learn more about Taqwa in Hajj. Let us then ask the next question, “What makes a Hajj righteous or with Taqwa?” To answer this question, I would like to give few examples of actions that makes a Hajj with Taqwa in below:

- **Fear of Allah in the pilgrim:** A Haji has to have fear of Allah in heart. This fear prevents him/her doing anything sinful in Hajj and motivates him/her to do everything right for the love of Allah.

- **Self-control in the pilgrim:** A Haji has to have self-control in performing Hajj duties. This self-control will prevent him/her from disobeying Allah. This self-control also will prevent him/her from following selfish desires or wants, from following wrong culture and tradition in Hajj.

- **Free from shirk (Joining partners with Allah):** In Hajj, a Haji must avoid any words, dua, actions that is shirk. For example, if someone prays to Holy Prophet (s.a.w) instead of Allah then that is shirk. Allah doesn’t accept any worship that has element of shirk in it. For example, if someone does Hajj for showing off, that is also a shirk (Hidden shirk).
- **Must do repent:** A haji must repent for all the sins done in this life. Moreover, a Haji must promise to give up the sinful actions. If he/she holds the belief that old sins will be as usual after the Hajj as well, then it is not repent rather it is defiance. Allah does not accept worship from defiant servants. Allah accepts worship from Muttaqeen and Muttaqeen are Allah fearing servants who fear the disobedience of Allah.

- **Provision of Taqwa:** A Haji must take provision of Taqwa with him/her for Hajj. Provision of Taqwa means Halal Income and not the Haram income from the fear of Allah’s punishment. During Hajj, for Taqwa a haji would not beg, steal, rob or cheat. Taqwa makes a Haji sincere, honest, humble, and righteous and so on in terms of Hajj provision.

- **Correct intention:** The intention must be correct. Any intention except “For Allah” is a wrong intention. Allah does not accept any worship that is not done absolutely for HIS sake. So if anyone perform Hajj for the name and fame, then the intention is not within Taqwa. He/she will get what is intended for, but will not receive acceptance of the Hajj for rewards from Allah.

- **Must learn Hajj rules:** A Haji must learn rules and etiquettes well before going to the Hajj. Lots of rules in Hajj takes time for sinking in. Some pilgrims rely on a small booklet which is not good enough. One is doing Fard Hajj once in life and that person should make effort to grasp the best knowledge for Hajj possible. Allah (s.w.t) has given whole life, all opportunity to learn to perform Fard Hajj only once in life. Yet if a Haji makes very little effort for learning and makes mistakes in Hajj duties, then that is not a sign of Taqwa at all.

- **Be with pious pilgrims:** For the acceptance of hajj, one has to stick to the pious pilgrims. Because pious pilgrims are sincere in their actions, they know what to do and what not to do in performing Hajj. Pious pilgrims do not waste their time in gossiping, in photo taking, in fun etc. They follow proper procedure in performing their Hajj. Being with pious pilgrims is a positive motivation as well. On the other hands, being with non-pious pilgrims may demotivate in hard work, continuous Tasbih and so on resulting loss.

- **Refrain from making others suffer:** A Haji must make sure, in performing Hajj, is not causing suffering to other pilgrims. If for his/her carelessness or pushing another Pilgrim dies, then he/she is performing Hajj as well as murdering a Muslim. So one must be extremely careful about own performance. One must not endeavour to earn rewards as well as sins. If every Haji is careful about his/her own actions, then the biggest gathering of Hajj will be comfortable for everyone.

- **Following all the rules:** A haji must follow all the rules in Hajj. Most particularly must follow Halal and Haram rules. Also must follow Fard, Wajib actions because without those Hajj is not completed.

- **Following the teaching of Holy Prophet (s.a.w):** Not following his (s.a.w) teaching means
• Innovating methods from others. Hajj is taught by Allah’s messenger on behalf of Allah and Hajj must be performed according to the teaching of Allah’s messenger. Or else that Hajj will not be accepted by Allah.

In conclusion: A runner in Olympic aims for the gold medal as an outcome. What a pilgrim aims for in Hajj as an outcome? Definitely, a pilgrim aims for acceptance of Hajj to Allah as an outcome. For that best outcome, every Muslim in Hajj must make all efforts to perform it with Taqwa, with righteousness. In other words, an accepted Hajj must turn a Muslim to be a Muttaqi, to be Allah fearing, to be righteous, to be dedicated in Allah’s service in every step of life and to be surrendered to Allah completely. When a Muslim develops fear and love for Allah in heart, and out of fear avoids disobedience of Allah, and out of love dedicate fully in to the obedience of Allah with everything he/she has, that makes him or her a Muttaqi. Allah loves that Muttaqi and accepts worship from that Muttaqi and reward that Muttaqi lavishly. Finally, the reward for Hajj is conditional. The condition is that the Hajj has to be accepted by Allah. That’s what we find in the Hadis:

*Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “The reward of the accepted Hajj is nothing but paradise”* [Muttafaqun A’laih]

Main duties in Umrah Hajj:
Umrah Hajj is little bit different than Hajj. The duties in Umrah Hajj is lesser than Main Hajj. The main duties of Umrah hajj are as following:

• **Ihram**: Intention has to be for Umrah hajj from Meekat,
• **Tawaf**: Circling around the Ka’bah 7 rounds,
• **2 Rakah Salah**: facing Ka’bah from behind Maqam-e-Ibrahim,
• **Sa’ee**: between Mount Safa and Marwa 7 rounds,
• **Cutting hair**: Shaving hair for male Haji or shortening hair if after the break he/she is doing Hajj. For female, no shaving but little cut from the tip of hair.

How to perform Umrah Hajj?
Now let us go through little bit more in details about how to do the Umrah Hajj. Some of the duties will be similar to Hajj. So I would like the readers to picture the duties in mind slowly. Once the bigger duties are sunk in mind then the other smaller duties will be easier to grasp.

The following description should help Insha Allah about how to perform Umrah Haji:

1. **Ihram**: Make intention for Umrah by saying Labbaika Umrah. The other duties include:
   • Make intention when transport begins to move, (Follow the guide)
   • Wear Ihram dress. For male 2 pieces of unsawed white clothes and for female any dress
   • Wear sandal (Sunnah)
   • Recite Talbia as more as possible
   • Stop Talbia when you begin Tawaf.
2. **Tawaf**: Start Tawaf from Black stone:
   • **7 round makes 1 Tawaf**: First 4 round is Fard, if missed have to do again. 2nd 3 round is Wajib, if missed has to do Sacrifice for correction.
Say any dua but Holy prophet (s.a.w) recited especially the Quranic dua in between Rukni Yaminee and Hazru Aswad, “Rabbanaa aatina fid dunya hasanah wa fil aakhirati hasanah. Waqinaa a’jaabannar.” [Our Lord! Grant us all the best things in this life and all the best things in next life and save us from the punishment of the Hell.]

Do Ijtiba: It is Sunnah. Take the cloth for upper body from under the right arm

Do Romol: It is Sunnah. In first 3 rounds walk little faster than normal (Not in last 4 rounds),

Kissing black stone: It is Sunnah. If you can touch then kiss the hand, or if you can touch with a stick, can kiss the stick. No touch means no kissing. One should not take risk touching the stone by putting oneself and others prone to accident.

3. 2 Rakah Salah: After completing Tawaf go towards Maqam-e-Ibrahim and recite the Quranic verse, (2.125) “Ittakhajoo mim-maqaami Ibraheema Musallah” [And take the House of Ibrahim as a place of prayer.]

- Face Ka’bah standing behind the Maqam-e-Ibrahim,
- In first Rakah recite Sura Fatiha then Sura Al-Kaafiroon
- In 2nd Rakah Sura Fatiha then Sura Al-Ikhlas.

4. Do Sa’ee: Sa’ee is running between Safa and Marwa mountains.

- When arrive near Safa recite the Quranic verse, (2.158) “Innas-safaa wal-marwata min sha’aaerillaah.” [Surely, Safa and Marwa are among the Symbols of Allah]
- Begin round from Safa side,
- When at the top, look toward Ka’bah and recite, “Laa ilaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu, Lahul mulku walahul hamdu wa hua a’laa kulli shaien qadeer”
- Make other dua.
- Come down from Safa, between green light Male should run but for female normal walking
- Go up in Marwa and do the same as on Safa top---------That makes 1 round
- Continue until 7 round which will end in Marwa.

5. Cut hair: Shave if you are only doing Umrah. But cut short if you are doing Hajj after few days so you can shave the head after the Hajj.

That is the end of Umrah Hajj. Umrah duties are lesser than Hajj duties.

Some differences for women in Hajj:
Most of the duties are like men but there are few differences in female hajj. We can list some of them in below for easy following:

- Dress in Ihram: For female sewn dress and jewellery is allowed.
- Their head: Must be covered.
- Uncovered face but in front of male best to cover,
- Will recite Talbia with lower voice,
- Won’t do Romol (quick walking) during Tawaf.
• Won’t run between Safa and Marwa but will walk normal.
• Won’t shave the head, few inch of hair from the top of hair is ok.
• Won’t try to kiss black stone in crowded period.
• In Menses or bleeding from childbirth will perform every other Hajj duty, except Tawaf and Sa’ee. Once she is pure from those, will perform Tawaf and Sa’ee without delay.

Types of Hajj:
Hajj are 3 kinds as following:

Ifrad: The Hajj without Umrah with it is called Ifrad hajj.

Kiran Hajj: In this type of Hajj, with one Ihram Umrah and Hajj both has to be performed. At first Umrah is done and then without breaking the Ihram, one has to continue the Hajj duties until the end.

Tamattu hajj: In Hajj months with first Ihram Umrah is done and then break the Ihram. Then wait (without going back home) for the 8th Julhijj for the start of Hajj and make new Ihram to complete the Hajj duties.

For the outsiders of Makkah, Tamattu or Kiran Hajj is best because in one visit, in the same season they can perform both Umrah and Hajj.

Fard and Wajib actions in Hajj:
What is Fard actions and what is Wajib actions? The brief about them is given below:

Fard Actions:
In Islamic ruling some actions are compulsory. These actions must be done. Missing all of them or one of them means the worship is cancelled. It has to be done again. No penalty can correct it. So in simple term Fard action is “Must do” action”.

In Hajj there are some Fard actions. One must not miss them. One should be very careful in performing the Fard actions because these actions are the main pillars in Hajj. They must not be missed. There are 3 Fard actions in Hajj. About 4th* and 5th* has difference in opinion. They are:

1. Ihram from Meekat: Making intention from the appointed boundary is a must do action. [Mishqat]
2. Uqufu A’rafah: Staying in the field of A’rafah in 9th Julhijj. It is on 9th Julhijj. The time is from after Mid-day until before Fojor, at least one moment staying will serve the Fard. But staying in A’rafah from after Mid-day till sunset is Sunnah and more rewarding.
3. Tawaf-e-Jiarah: In 10th Julhijj coming from Mina, this Tawaf has to be done. For outsiders 3 Tawaf: First one is on arrival that is Sunnah, second one is Tawaf-e-Jiarah on 10th Julhijj which is Fard, and the third one is Tawaaful Widaa (Good bye Tawaf at last) in either 12th or 13th Julhijj which is Wajib. [Mishqat]
4. **Sa’ee**: *Running between Mount Safa and Marwa. Some scholars’ opinion it is Fard action as well. (Ahle Hadis).

5. **Halq**: *Shaving hair is Fard according to Shafee school of thought.

**Wajib actions:**

Wajib actions are close to Fard actions but essential to be done. If one misses a Wajib action can correct it by offering a sacrifice as a penalty. So pilgrims should be very careful about Wajib actions.

In Hajj, main Wajib actions are 6 but about 2 of them *difference in opinion. They are as below:

1. **Sa’ee**: * Some say it is Fard and other say it is Wajib.
2. **Staying in Muzdalifa**: After leaving A’rafah field, staying in Muzdalifa at night.
3. **Romi**: Pebble throwing in some places in Mina on 10th, 11th, 12th but 13th day is optional.
4. **Qurbani**: In Kiran and Tamattu Hajj.
5. **Halq**: *Shaving hair or cutting hair short. **Note:** Shafi School of thoughts considers it Fard action.
6. **Tawaaful Widaa**: Good bye Tawaf for outsiders. [*Taken from Fiqh book “Moqsudul Mu’mineen” by Moulana Shah Moniruzzaman*]

Besides, some more will be mentioned in appropriate places Insha Allah.

**Hajj days and duties: A brief chart:**

Hajj has certain duties in certain days. For a first time pilgrim, it may seem quite a lot to remember. But it is not that hard. The best thing is to memorise the days and main actions (Events) in brief. Discuss about it with your close one about days and duties. Ask each other questions such as:

1. What day is the first day?
2. What are the duties in the first day?
3. What are the sequence of duties in first day etc.?

This way, keep sharing until the last day. Through talking, asking, answering you will be amazed how easily everything sinks in your mind. Once the basic chart of Days and duties sink in your mind, then you can go about more details.

I am including a chart of days and duties in following:

**Day one duties:**

- Day one is 8th Julhijj,
- Ihram,
- Tawaaful Qudum for outsiders (Sunnah),
- Stay in Mina from Juhor to Fojor,
- Pray in Mina 5 Salah Juhor, Asor, Magrib, Isha and Fojor (Qasor Salah).

**Day two duties:**
Day two

- Day two is 9th Julhijj,
- Leave Mina for A’rafah after sunrise,
- Arrive in A’rafah before Juhor Salah,
- Juhor and Asor prayer in A’rafah (Qasor),
- Until Magrib do as much prayer, supplication, recitation etc as possible,
- After Sunset leave A’rafah for Muzdalifa,
- Pray Magrib and Isha on arrival of Muzdalifa (Qasor),
- Have rest (Sunnah),
- Pray Fojor in early hour,
- Then make supplication facing Ka’bah.

Day three duties:

- Day three is 10th of Julhijj,
- Leave Muzdalifa in 10th morning for Mina,
- Throwing pebbles in Jamra,
- Then stop Talbia and begin Takbir,
- Do Qurbani,
- Halq (Shaving hair or shortening hair for female),
- Shower and change dress (Ihram partially lifted),
- Go to Ka’bah and do Tawaaful Ifada, Sa’ee (Now full Ihram ends),
- Go back to Mina before Sunset.

Day four duties:

- Day four is 11th Julhijj,
- Throwing 7 pebbles in each Jamra of 3 Jamra,
- Stay in Mina.

Day five and duties:

- Day five is 12th Julhijj,
- Throwing 7 pebbles in each Jamra of 3 Jamra,
- Stay in Mina but if one wants to finish Hajj in fifth day then,
- Go to Ka’ba for Good bye Tawaf (Wajib Tawaf exception for ladies with Menses or bleeding after childbirth).

Day six and duties:

- Day six is 13th Julhijj,
- Optional to stay until 13th,
- If stayed, Throwing 7 pebbles in each Jamra of 3 Jamra,
- Leave for Ka’bah for Tawaaful Widaa,
- THAT ENDS THE HAJJ.
How to perform Hajj?
Performing Hajj has more duties involved than performing Umrah. In Hajj the duties are performed from 8th Julhijj till 12th Julhijj and 13th Julhijj. 13th Julhijj is optional. If one can extend to 13th is better for him or her.

So here is another run down with little bit more in details.

1st day 8th of Julhijj:
- Make ihram. Make intention saying Labbaika Hajjan.
- If just arrived from outside perform Tawaaful Qudum.
- Go to Mina before Juhor and stay the day and night until next sunrise.
- In Mina perform 5 times Salah such as Juhor, Asor, Magrib, Isha and Fojor.
- THAT ENDS YOUR FIRST DAY DUTY.

2nd day 9th Julhijj:
- 2nd day is also called the Day of A’rafah.
- Leave Mina for arriving in A’rafah field before Juhor Salah.
- Perform Juhor and Asor together, with one Azan and two Iqamah. Both Salah are Qasor Salah (2 Rakah instead of 4 Rakah).
- Listen to the sermon.
- Spend your rest of the time until Sunset in worships like Salah, Dua, Zikr, Reciting etc as much as possible. This day is the best day for remembering Allah.
- Leave the A’rafah field after Sunset for Muzdalifa.
- On arrival of Muzdalifa perform Magrib and Isha together with one Azan and two Iqamah. Magrib is not Qasor (3 Rakah) but Isha is Qasor (2 Rakah instead of 4 Rakah).
- Have rest at the night.
- Pray Fojor in early period then make dua facing Ka’bah.

3rd day 10th of Julhijj:
- Continue Talbia
- Leave Muzdalifa for Mina.
- On the way throw 7 pebbles on Jamaratul Qubra. For the first pebble say, “Bismillahi Allahu Akbar,” and then for the next 6 just say, “Allahu Akbar.”
- Pebbles must be small. Throwing shoes, big stones etc not allowed.
- Do Qurbani (Sacrificing animal). [You may arrange with professionals to do it for you).
- Shave your head. For female a little hair cut from tip of the hair.
- Have shower and change dress. Your Ihram is now partially over. You are allowed to remove Ihram dress and have shower. But you are not yet allowed for spouse.
- Go to Ka’bah for Tawaaful Ifaadah. This Tawaf is Fard. How to do Tawaf? Just follow the method we mentioned above for Umrah.
- Then do Sa’ee between Safa and Marwa.
- NOW YOU ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF IHRAM. Now you are allowed for spouse as well.
• Go back to Mina before Sunset. If late penalty is Qurbani (Sacrificing animal).

**4th day 11th of Julhijj:**

• You are in Mina.
• Stay in Mina for the day and night.
• Throw pebbles on 3 Jamra. In each Jamra 7 pebbles. After throwing on each Jamra make supplication.

**5th day 12th of Julhijj:**

• You are still in Mina.
• Throw pebbles like 4th day and make supplications afterwards.
• If you want to leave Mina today, leave Mina before Magrib towards Ka’bah for Last Tawaf (Good bye Tawaf for outsiders).
• But if you want to stay in Mina can stay. Staying for another day is best.

**6th day 13th Julhijj:**

• If stayed, you are still in Mina today.
• Finish your pebble throwing like 4th and 5th day.
• Leave Mina before sunset.
• Go for final Tawaf (Good bye Tawaf) if you are an outsider. **Note:** In last Tawaf Romol and Ijtiba is not required.
• Exception for female in Menses or in bleeding after childbirth. They can skip the Tawaaful Widaa.
• ALL DONE.

**How to perform different types of Hajj?**

Now, let us put every Hajj duty in simpler form. For example, as following:

• **Umrah Hajj:** The description is given in above.
• **Tamattu Hajj:** At first do Umrah Hajj as above. Then break Ihram and wait. Then on 8th again make Ihram and follow the above method written on “How to perform hajj?”
• **Kiran hajj:** Do Umrah first and then without breaking Ihram continue Hajj duties starting from 8th Julhijj.
• **Ifrad Hajj:** Without any Umrah and Qurbani. Do all other duties start from 8th Julhijj until 12th or 13th.
Chapter Nine: Rewards in Hajj duties

Note:
I have discussed few benefits of hajj in chapter three. Hajj has enormous benefits. Here I am not going to repeat the same. In this chapter, I shall discuss some of the benefits of the particular duties of hajj Insha Allah. The aim is to motivate ourselves with good news, good rewards of some duties. Allah is very Merciful and that Mercy is represented in the rewards mentioned particularly in hadises.

The beneficial black stone:
Some may wonder why it is called black stone. Where is the origin of that black stone? Why that stone is placed in there? What is its job and so on? We shall look for answer from three hadises:

Black stone was white:
*Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “When Hazru Aswad (Black stone) was sent down from the Paradise, it was whiter than milk. Later the sins of Adam’s children turned it to black.”* [Ahmed. Tirmidi]

So from the Hadis we find the following answers about black stone:
- It is really a stone,
- The origin of it is in paradise,
- This stone was sent by Allah’s order,
- Angel Jibrael (a.s) brought it down to Ibrahim (a.s),
- Ibrahim (a.s) placed it according to divine instruction,
- The job of this stone is to suck the pilgrim’s sins,
- So this stone is to serve Allah’s servants with Allah’s commands,
- This stone is also a servant of Allah,
- Pilgrims do not worship this stone but
- Pilgrims follow Allah’s commands and Holy prophet’s teachings to love the stone from paradise etc.

Black stone was in Paradise:
*Hazrat Ibn Omar (r.a) Narrated that he heard from Holy prophet (s.a.w): “Hazru Aswad and Maqami Ibrahim (stone) both are two precious stones (Yaqoot) from all the precious stones in Paradise. Allah removed their brightness. If their brightness was not removed, then they would have brightened everything from the east to the west of this world.”* [Tirmidi]

In Hajj, Allah has kept many miraculous things. Hajj has so many miraculous stories involved in it. All these true stories are the special Signs of Allah. If anyone wants to know about Allah and HIS Power, then he or she will find many Signs of Allah in Hajj. Everything in it, every duty in it, is a great Sign of Allah. Black stone is one of them. Allah has Power to give or remove light and brightness from a precious stone. Just like Allah can give or remove smile from a human through life and death. Allahu Akbar!
**Blackstone as witness on the Day of Judgment:**

Another miracle of Allah about the black stone is, that on the Day of Judgment Allah will make it see and speak. It will be given tongue to speak. Allah will ask it to give witness about those who have kissed it with Faith in Allah.

*Hazrat Ibn Abbas (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said about the black stone: “By Allah! On the Day of Judgment Allah will raise it, it will have two eyes by which it will see, and it will have a tongue by which it will speak, and it will give witness for those who have kissed it with the faith in Allah.” [Tirmidi. Ibn Maazah. Daremy]*

**Rewards from Tawaf:**

Tawaf means circling around the Holy Ka’bah. Allah made the Tawaf a very important part of the Hajj. Allah wants Muslim pilgrims to go around it praising Allah. Ibrahim and Ismael (a.s) were given the job at first to maintain the Ka’bah for those who would come to do Tawaf and so on. Holy Quran confirms it, (2.125):

“And WE took the promise from Ibrahim and Ismael, that they should cleanse MY House for those who circle it around (Tawaf), or use it as retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves.”

For Tawaf Allah rewards Muslim pilgrims. One of the rewards is as in the following Hadis:

*(Tabe’yee) Ubaid Ibn Umair narrated about Hazrat Abdullah ibn Omar (r.a) that Ibn Omar (r.a) said: “I heard holy prophet (s.a.w) said that whoever shall make 7 round around the Ka’bah will receive same reward as freeing a slave. Allah will forgive one sin from each step for the Tawaf. And for each step Allah will reward a good deed.” [Tirmidi].*

**More rewards from Tawaf:**

During Tawaf one should avoid unnecessary talks. Tawaf is around Allah’s mercy and a pilgrim should focus to earn that Mercy as much as possible. So the pilgrim can earn more rewards.

*Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said: “If a pilgrim has completed 7 round around the Ka’bah and has not spoken any other talks except ‘Subhaanallaahi walhamdulillaahi walaa ilaaha illallahu wallahu Akbar walaa haula walaa quwwata illaa billaahil a’liyyil a’jeem.’ Then his 10 sins will be deleted, 10 good deeds will be added, and 10 higher statuses will be increased.” [Ibn Maazah]*

**Meaning of the dua:** Allah is Pure, and all the praise for Allah, and there are no other gods but Allah, and Allah is the Greatest, and there is no other power (shelter) except Allah.

**Dua between Rukni Yaminee and Black stone:**

Rukni Yaminee is the name of a corner of Ka’ba. In Tawaf this corner and the corner of black stone (Hazru Aswad) are side by side. In between these two corners Holy Prophet (s.a.w) made the following dua.

*Hazrat Abdullah ibn Saieb (r.a) said that he saw Holy Prophet (s.a.w) making the following dua in the middle place between Hazru Aswad and Rukni Yaminee, “Rabbanaa aatina fiddunya hasanah wafil aakhirati hasanah waqinaa a’jaaban-naar.” (Our Lord! Grant us all the best things in this world and all the best things in next life and save us from the punishment of the Hell Fire.).*
What happens when a pilgrim makes this dua sincerely? One of those things is, Angels join in this dua.

_Hazrat Abu Huraira (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:_ “There are 70 angels appointed near Rukn Yamine. When a pilgrim says, “Rabbanaa aatina fiddunya hasanah wafil aakhirati hasanah waqinaa a’jaaban-naar.” Then the 70 angels say, “Ameen! Allah accept it.” [Ibn Maazah]

Allah accepts the dua of angels because they are pure from sins. So when angels join in the dua of pilgrims, then Allah accepts the dua in there.

_Day of A’rafah:_
Day of A’rafah is 9th of Julhijj. In this day all pilgrims gather in a vast field. The large gathering for Allah reminds the Gathering on the Day of Judgment. This day has huge significance and huge rewards as well.

_Day for freeing from Hell Fire:_
This Day Allah forgives so many servants and set them free from Hell Fire. Allah forgives their punishment and replaces it with HIS Mercy and the grant of Paradise for those whom Hajj is accepted.

_Hazrat Ayesha (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:_ “There is no other day than the day of A’rafah in which Allah frees HIS servants from the Hell Fire. HE comes too close to the servants and expresses to the angels about how much proud HE is about HIS servants and HE asks the angels, ‘Tell ME what they want? (I will give them).’” [Muslim]

_The best dua is the dua in A’rafah:_
Muslims make dua every day to Allah. But one of the best day and place for dua is the dua in the field of A’rafah. Because Allah comes very close to HIS servants with HIS mercy and forgiveness.

_Hazrat Ibn Shuaib narrated from his father through his grandfather that holy prophet (s.a.w) said:_ Among all the dua, the best dua is the dua on the day of A’rafah and the best of Zikr from all the Zikr, I and previous prophets have done is: “Laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu Lahul mulku walaluhul hamdu wa hua a’laa kulli shaien qadeer.” [Tirmidi]

_Satan is humiliated on the Day of A’rafah:_
In this day Satan is humiliated the most. Satan celebrates if he can misguide a person to take that person towards hell fire with him. But Satan feels humiliated when he sees that Allah is forgiving HIS servants to take them into Paradise.

_Hazrat Talha ibn Obaidullah ibn kareej (r.a) narrated that holy prophet (s.a.w) said:_ “Satan is never seen so much humiliated, so much contempt, so much lowly and so much angry except on the Day of A’rafah. Because he sees, Mercy is coming on Allah’s servants, servant’s big sins are being forgiven, as what he saw on the day of Badr battle. Someone asked, what was seen on the day of Badr o messenger of Allah! He (s.a.w) answered: On Badr day Satan saw Angels Jibrael (a.s) was making row with angels.” [Malik as Mursal]
Great day for forgiveness:

Usually Friday (Jumma day) is the best day every week. But once a year for forgiveness, the day of A’rafah is the best day. Allah forgives HIS servants lavishly on the Day of A’rafah.

*Hazrat Zaber (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) said:* “When Day of A’rafah arrives, Allah comes down to the lowest heaven and expresses to the angels about how proud HE is with Pilgrims. Allah says, “Look at MY servants! They have come with untidy hairs, with dust all over their bodies, towards ME with supplications, from far to further. I am keeping you MY witness and declaring that I am forgiving them. Then angels say, “O our Lord! Such person is called a big sinner and such man and woman too.” Allah says, “I forgive them too!”* [Sharhus Sunnah]

Satan’s regret:

Satan was driven away from Allah’s Mercy due to his defiance. Every time he sees Allah’s Mercy on Muslims he regrets seriously.

*Hazrat Abbas ibn Mirdas (r.a) narrated that Holy Prophet (s.a.w) made supplication to Allah for the forgiveness of Pilgrims in the afternoon on the Day of A’rafah. The answer was given from Allah, ‘I forgive all the sins except doing wrong on others; I shall capture the wrong-doers on behalf of the victims.’*

Holy Prophet (s.a.w) prayed then, ‘O Allah! If YOU want, YOU can grant paradise for the wronged ones and YOU can pardon the wrong doers for it.’ But that day no answer was given.

Then Holy Prophet (s.a.w) made the same supplication in dawn in Muzdalifa, then it was given for what he (s.a.w) was supplicating for. For this he (s.a.w) smiled.

Seeing holy prophet’s smile Hazrat Abu Bakr and Omar (r.a) said, ‘O messenger of Allah! Let our parents be dedicated for you! Why did you smile such a time when you never smile like this? May Allah keep you in happiness all the time!’

Holy prophet (s.a.w) said: ‘when Allah’s enemy Satan came to know that Allah accepted my dua and has forgiven my followers (Pilgrims), then Satan picked up soil and began hitting his head with the soil and said, ‘Alas! My bad luck!’

Satan’s restlessness (from regrets) made me smile.” [Ibn Maazah].

Conclusion:

Alhamdulillah! All the praises and thanks to Allah! HE allowed me with HIS Mercy, to finish this small book on, “Hajj: A response to the call of Allah!”

Hajj is an inspiration for world Muslims, to practice monotheism, and to worship one Allah. Allah asked Ibrahim (a.s) to build the House in Makkah, as the main centre for Monotheism. Then Hajj was prescribed to maintain the momentum for this practice. If we look at few examples in Hajj, we can clearly see that how Hajj reminds Muslims, or trains Muslim minds,
or inspires Muslim hearts and souls toward the worship of one Allah. Those examples will show that Holy Ka’bah and Hajj is an inspiration for Tawhid (Worshipping for one Allah only).

Some examples are given below:

- **Hajj for Allah**: Allah commands in Quran (2.196) “And complete the Hajj and Umrah in the service of Allah.” Hajj for Allah is the practice of Tawhid, worshipping one Allah without joining any gods with HIM.
- **Dua in Ihram**: With intention every Haji, millions of them say, “Labbaika Allahumma Labbaika” “I am present in YOUR service o Allah! I am present.” That is a slogan for Hajj and that slogan is for Tawhid, for the oneness of Allah.
- **2 Rakah Salah after Tawaf**: In first Rakah after Sura Fatiha, to recite Sura Al-Kaafiroon. Then in 2nd Rakah after Sura Fatiha, to recite Surah Al-Ikhlas. Both Sura Kaafiroon and Ikhlas are the chapters of Tawhid, chapters about the oneness of Allah.
- **Dua in Safa and Marwa**: The dua is “Laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lahu Lahul mulku walahul hamdu wa hua a’laa kulli shaien qadeer” [There are no gods but Allah, HE is the one without any partners, All Praises and sovereignty is belonging to HIM, and HE is Almighty]. This dua also a testifying on Allah’s oneness.
- **Dua in a corner of Ka’ba**: The dua is from the Quran, “Rabbanaa aatina fid-dunya hasanah, wafil aakhirati hasanah, waqinaa a’jaaban-naar.” [Our Lord! Grant us all the best things in this life and all the best things in next life, and save us from the Hell-Fire]. This dua is a testimony that ONLY ALLAH grants Paradise or Hell Fire, no other gods are associated with HIM in HIS dominion.
- **Dua in throwing pebbles**: The dua is “Bismillahi Allahu Akbar” [In the name of Allah, Allah is the greatest]. Again, it means that every creation is weaker, even Satan but only Allah is the greatest, All-powerful to protect or to destroy.

Some of the examples above shows, Hajj trains and reminds Muslims extensively about the oneness of Allah. The lesson is, that oneness of Allah should be reflected in all affairs of Muslim’s life. It means, Muslims must learn the lesson from Hajj to obey only Allah’s commands in their every step of life. But if they scream of Allah’s oneness in Hajj and after finishing it they follow their own desires, traditions, human ideas contrary to Allah’s codes, then the teachings of hajj will not reflect in them at all.

Hajj inspires the whole world for both Muslims and non-Muslims. The world watches Muslim’s gathering, their love for Allah, their dedication to Allah, their sacrifice for the love for Allah, their unity for the sake of Allah and so on. Both Muslims and non-Muslims get inspired. Every human has something to learn from the divine prescription of hajj. Muslims particularly, those who come for hajj, gets the biggest boost in inspiration, but other Muslims all over the world share the inspiration by celebrating Eid with animal sacrifice, by extending love and care for fellow Muslims and fellow Humans etc.

Once again, the name of the book I chose was, “Hajj: A response to the call of Allah!” I tried to explain how Hajj is a response to the call of Allah. Most importantly, Hajj supposed to train Muslim Pilgrims to respond to the call of Allah every day! Such as:

- Every day Allah is calling Muslims for 5 times Salah? Are Muslims responding to Allah’s 5 times call every day?
• Every day Allah is listening to Muslims dua (calls), are they listening to Allah’s calls?
• In the Holy Quran Allah calls Muslims over 80 times advising them to do something and to avoid something. Are Muslims reading about those calls from Allah? Or are they responding to those calls by following Allah’s advices?
• For every second Allah calls Muslims to obey HIS commands. Do Muslims respond to Allah’s call by obeying Allah’s code in every moment?
• Allah calls Muslims to surrender to HIM completely. Do Muslims surrender to the will of Allah completely or do they respond to this surrendering only partly?
• Allah calls Muslims to follow the teachings of HIS Holy Messenger (s.a.w) in personal life, in business dealings, in family life, in social life, in earning or in spending. Do Muslims respond to the call of Allah in those things every day?

These are the practical test in Muslims life every day. Allah tests them whether they respond to Allah’s call every day as they respond to Allah’s call in Hajj. For Hajj, they say, “Labbaika Allahumma Labbaik. O Allah! I am present in YOUR service.” Allah is testing Muslims if they say the same thing in their daily lives when Allah calls them.

If Muslims respond to Allah’s calls daily, then they are holding the spirit of Hajj in their life. If not, then Labbaika slogan in Hajj is just a leap service either with understanding or without understanding.

So as Muslims, we need soul searching about the teachings of the Hajj and what Muslims are doing in day to day life. Muslims must question, “Is the teachings of hajj reflected on us? If not, then where things are going wrong?”

My whole intention for writing this book was, to explain hajj as a positive inspiration to learn and to be motivated for a total change for surrendering ourselves to Allah in every aspect of our life. The aim is to take Hajj as a peaceful inner revolution to be righteous, to be the best charactereed, and to be the best citizens, to be the best neighbours, to be the best human as well as to be the best servant of Allah for achieving all the goodness in this life and in next life. My aim of writing was to explain that Hajj is not a ritual but a complete motivational training for Muslims.

I hope I have tried my best in achieving my goal. I admit I have shortcomings and I hope Allah will choose HIS other knowledgeable servants, to explain about Hajj better Insha Allah. May Allah forgive my shortcomings! May Allah guide me in the right thinking and right writing! May Allah bless all my brothers and sisters who are working hard to pass Allah’s message to others! Ameen!
Lessons on Hajj: (From Hadis summary)

Prepared by Farid Ahmed

Note: I have decided to add these lessons with this book. It will give a short yet comprehensive understanding about the Hajj Insha Allah! Full Hadises shall increase the volume of the book but summary of Hadises should keep the volume small for the quick grasping of the message for the busy readers. Off course! Later on, one may extend the knowledge further.

Lesson on Hajj: 1

1. **What is Hajj in Islam?**
   Ans: Intention to visit Allah’s House in (Makkah) with IHRAM to perform some duties- is called Hajj. *[Mishqat]*

2. **What is Ihram?**
   Ans: It means: Making intention for Hajj or Umrah with “Labbaika Allahumma+” [Mishqat]

3. **What are the main duties in Hajj?**
   Ans: (a) **Tawaf**: Circling around Ka’ba (b) **Sa’ee**: Running between Safa and Marwa (c) **Waqfe A’rafah**: Staying in A’rafah (d) Staying in Muzdalifa night or part of night (e) **Halq or Qassr**: Shaving hair or trimming hair (f) **Staying in Mina**: 2 or 3 days after 10th Julhijj (g) **Ramyul Zemar**: Throwing stone. [Mishqat]

4. **What is Umra?**
   Ans: It means: visiting Baitullah (Ka’ba) to perform few duties. In Umrah, duties are lesser than Hajj. For example, in Umrah one doesn’t stay in A’rafah. Umra can be done anytime but Hajj is in certain month of the year. [Mishqat]

5. **Is Hajj Fard (compulsory)?**
   Ans: It is the 5th pillar of Islam. Hajj is Fard on Muslims who can afford. Allah commands in the Quran 3.97: “Hajj is a duty that men owe to Allah-those who can afford the journey”

6. **Is Umrah compulsory?**
   Ans: Allah commands in the Quran 2.196 “And complete the Hajj or Umrah in the service of Allah.”

7. According to this verse Imam Malik and Imam Shaafee took the meaning that Umrah is Fard but Imam Abu Hanifa says that Umrah is Sunnah (But if one starts it, then completing is Fard). His decision is based on a Hadis in Tirmidi where Prophet (S.A.W) was asked whether Umrah was Fard and he (S.A.W) replied “No, but it is better if you do it” [Mishqat]

8. **When did Hajj become Fard?**
   Ans: In Medina. Makkah was freed in 8th Hijrah and Hajj as now began since 8th Hijrah [Mishqat]

9. **How many times holy prophet performed Hajj in his life?**
   Ans: Once. In 10th Hijrah Hajj. [Muttafaqun A’laih]

10. **How many kind of Hajj?**
    Ans: 3 kinds:
        **Ifrad**: In Hajj month just doing Hajj without Umrah is called Hajj-e-Ifrad. The performer is called Mufrid.
        **Tamattu**: In Hajj month first Umrah then doing hajj is called Hajje-Tamattu. The performer is called Mutammatti.
**Qiran:** Performing Hajj and Umrah at one Ihram without a break is called Hajje-Qiran. The performer is called Qaren. This is the hardest one in one Ihram and it is most rewarding if one can do. *[Mishqat]*

11. **What kind of worship Hajj is?**
   Ans: It is a mental, physical and financial worship. *[Mishqat]*
Lesson on Hajj: 2

1. **Who must perform Hajj?**
   Ans: The conditions that make Hajj compulsory are:
   - To be Muslim
   - To be mentally sane not sick [Daremy]
   - To be physically fit not sick [Daremy]
   - To be matured [Muslim]
   - To be financially capable [Daremy]
   - To have security of travel route [Daremy]
   - To be accompanied (A woman) by her husband or a Mahrams [Muttafaqun A’laih]

2. **What is the brief of 5 days Hajj?**
   Ans: 1st day: 8th Julhijj:
   With Ihram make Tawaf-e-Qudum [This Tawaf is Sunnah]
   Proceed to Mina and in Mina perform Johor, Asor, Magrib, Isha and Fojor in next morning
   2nd day: 9th Julhijj:
   After sunrise proceed to ‘Arafah and remain there until sunset
   But after sun set proceed to Muzdalifa for Magrib and Isha and night stay
   3rd day: 10th Julhijj:
   Perform Fojor in Muzdalifa and proceed to Mina before sunrise
   Perform Ramee of Jamartal Aqabah (Stoning big pillar)
   Stop Talbia and begin Takbir
   Perform Sacrifice (Qurbani animal)
   Shave or trim hair-------shower---normal dress
   Perform Tawaf around Ka’ba and Sa’ee (Tawaf-e-ifada) [This Tawaf is Fard]
   Back to Mina
   4th day: 11th Julhijj:
   Daily 3 lots of 7 Rami (Stoning)
   Spend night in Mina
   5th day: 12th Julhijj:
   Daily 3 lots of 7 Rami (Stoning)
   May stay another night and leave Mina on 13th Julhijj or leave Mina today
   For Tawaf-e-Bida [This Tawaf is Wajib for outsiders, not for Meccan] - Sa’ee [Ta’leemul Haq]

3. **What are Fard actions in Hajj?**
   Ans: Four actions are Fard
   - Ihram from Meekat [Mishqat: Hadis 2402 Muttafaqun A’laih]
   - Staying in ‘Arafah [Mishqat: Hadis 2440-Muslim]
   - Tawaf-e-Ifada [Mishqat: Hadis 2442-Muttafaq A’laih]
   - Sa’ee [Same as b]
Lesson on Hajj: 3

1. **What are Wajib actions in Hajj?**
   Ans: 7 of them:
   - Ihram in Meekat
   - In ‘Arafah until sunset
   - In Muzdalifa night or part of night
   - Rami (throwing stones)
   - Hair cut
   - Staying in Mina
   - Tawaf-e-Widaa’ [Mishqat]

2. **What duties in performing Umrah?**
   Ans: 6 duties
   - Ihram from Meekat
   - Tawaf 7 round, 3 round quicker 4 round normal walking
   - 2 Rakah Salaah keeping Maqam-e-Ibraheem and Ka’ba in front
   - Drinking Zamzam water
   - Sa’ee 7 times
   - Shaving/trimming hair [Ta’leemul Haq]

3. **What are the meanings of following terms?**
   Ans: As following:
   - **Meekat:** Boundary for Ihram
   - **Ihram:** Dress for the hajj or Umrah with intention
   - **Tawaf:** Circling around Ka’ba
   - **Sa’ee:** Running between Safa and Marwa 7 times
   - **Rami:** Throwing pebbles
   - **Romol:** Brisk walking in 1st 3 rounds [Mishqat]

4. **What are the differences between men and women in Hajj duties?**
   Ans: Few differences are:
   - **Dress for Ihram:** Men 2 pieces of cloth without sewing but women with sewing + ornaments ok
   - **Head:** Men must uncover but women covered head and face uncovered
   - **Talbia:** Men loudly but women not loudly
   - **Romol:** Men brisk walking but women normal walking
   - **Sequence:** Men must do one after another duty but women in case of Haed or Nifas every duty except Tawaf and Sa’ee. [To be done after clean up]
   - **Sa’ee:** Men to run a bit but women normal walking
   - **Hair:** Men shave hair but women little trimming
   - **Black stone:** Men to try to kiss if possible but women no try if too crowded etc. [Ta’leemul Haq]

5. **What to say in Talbia?**
   Ans: Saying “Labbaika+” is called Talbia. It is below:
   - Labbaika Allahumma Labbaik (I am present in Your Service O Lord)
   - Labbaika laa shareeka laka labbaik (I am present in Your service, YOU have no partner)
   - Innal Hamda wan-ni’mata laka wal-Mulk (All praises, blessings and sovereignty are Yours)
   - Laa shareeka lak (You have no partners) [Muttafaqun A’laih]
Lesson on Hajj: 4

1. **What is Takbir?**
   Ans: Saying the following is Takbir:
   - Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar (Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest)
   - Laa ilaaha illallaah (There is no gods but Allah)
   - Wallahu Akbar Allahu Akbar (And Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest)
   - Walillahil Hamd (And all the praises are for Him) [Mishqat]

2. **How many times Hajj is Fard for a Muslim who can afford?**
   Ans: Hadis: Only once in life is Fard. [Muslim]

3. **What is the reward for Hajj?**
   Ans: Hadis: (a) whoever performs Hajj for the pleasure of Allah, and in it does not speak or do anything sinful, will return from Hajj as sinless baby. [Muttafaqun A’laih].
   - (b) Hadis: Reward for accepted Hajj (By Allah) is nothing but Paradise. [Muttafaqun A’laih]
   - (c) Hadis: Allah accepts their dua and Allah forgives their sins [Ibn Maazah]

4. **What is the reward for Umrah?**
   Ans: Hadis: between one Umrah to another all sins are forgiven [Muttafaqun A’laih] Umrah in Ramadan month is same rewarding as Hajj [Muttafaqun A’laih] **Note:** Even though same reward but it does not replace Fard Hajj. If Hajj is Fard on anyone, must do it.
   Hajj and Umrah together removes poverty and sins [Tirmidi. Nasaa’e]

5. **Who will receive rewards for Hajj of underage children?**
   Ans: Hadis: Whoever will do the hajj duties for the child will receive reward. [Muslim]

6. **Is hajj Fard on someone who can’t travel due to too old or disabled?**
   Ans: Yes, Fard; if the old/disable person has money to take someone with him/her [Imam Shafi, Imam Abu Yusuf and Imam Muhammad]
   - Not Fard; if one can’t travel because Allah says in Quran “Who can afford (Mentally, physically or financially” [Imam Abu Hanifa]

7. **Can other do Hajj (Badl) for another person?**
   Ans: Hadis: Yes, if someone can’t travel but pays money for another to do it//or if a relative died and intended for Hajj then another person can perform Hajj on that person’s behalf. [According to Hadis in Muttafaqun A’laih]

8. **Is hajj Fard on a woman if she does not have any Mahram (One she can’t marry) to go with her?**
   Ans: Not Fard on her if she doesn’t have any Mahram to go with her [Imam Abu Hanifa and Imam Ahmed according to Hadis in Muttafaqun A’laih]

9. **What is the Meekat (Boundary) to make Ihram for Hajj or Umrah?**
   Ans: (a) For Medina people Meekat is Zul Hulaifa
   - (b) For Sham (Syria) people Meekat is Zuhfa
   - (c) For Nazd people Meekat is Karnul-Manazil
   - (d) For Yemen people Meekat is Yalamlam
   - (e) For all outsiders any of these places will be Meekat
   - (f) For insiders of these boundaries Ihram form their house [Muttafaqun A’laih]

10. **What is the punishment if one doesn’t perform Hajj despite affordability?**
    Ans: He/she is not full Muslim, not in Islam fully [Abu Dawood]
Lesson on Hajj: 5

1. **What should we ask a pilgrim (Hajji) to do for us?**
   Ans: Hadis: When they come back from Hajj, before they enter into their home, **(a)** Offer Salam **(b)** Shake hands **(c)** Ask to seek forgiveness to Allah for you--------
   because a Haji is a forgiven person free from sins. [Ahmed]

2. **What if one dies on the way to Hajj or Umrah?**
   Ans: Hadis: Will receive rewards for Hajj or Umrah. [Bayhaki Shua’bul Imaan]

3. **What is Ihram?**
   Ans: Ihram means to make something Haram (Prohibited) for example: Physical intimacy in Husband and wife, cutting nail or hair, using scent etc. are prohibited.
   That’s why it is called Ihram. Ihram starts with intention for Hajj or Umrah and saying Talbia. [Mishqat]

4. **Is Salaah necessary before ihram?**
   Ans: Hadis: 2 Rakah salaah is Sunnah [Muslim], but if one makes Ihram after Fard Salaah then no need for 2 Rakah salaah [Mishqat]

5. **What Talbia Idol worshippers in Mecca used to say?**
   Ans: Hadis:  Labbaika laa shareeka laka illaa shareekan hua laka tamlikuho o wamaa malak. (O Lord! I am present, YOU have no partners except whoever is Your partner, You are his owner, and You own whatever he owns) [Muslim]

6. **What is Hujjatul Widaa’?**
   Ans: Widaa’ mean saying Goodbye. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said Good bye to all in that Hajj. That’s why that Hajj is called Hujjatul Widaa’. [Mishqat]

7. **What were some of the main points of Prophet’s sermon in Hujjatul Widaa’?**
   Ans: Some main points were:
   Your life and wealth must be safe to one another [Can’t kill, cheat, humiliate etc.]
   Revenge killing in ignorance age is stopped from now
   Usury is made prohibited
   Fear Allah about your women’s rights on you
   I am leaving Allah’s book with you, if you hold onto it will never go astray [Mishqat Hadis 2440, Muslim]

8. **What is the first duty on the arrival in Mecca?**
   Ans: Baitullah Tawaf, then 2 Rakah salaah of Tawaf facing Maqam-e-Ibraheem, then Sa’ee between Safa and Marwa [Muttafaqun A’la’ih] **Note:** This first Tawaf is Sunnah for Hajj, but Wajib for Umrah [Mishqat foot note Hadis 2448]

9. **Is Sa’ee Wajib or Fard?**
   Ans: Imam Shafi -----Fard, Imam Abu Hanifa-----Wajib [Mishqat, Sharah-Hadis 2450]

10. **Did Holy Prophet touch or kiss black stone?**
    Ans: Hadis: Yes, and said Allahu Akbar [Bukhari]

11. **What women should do in case of menses?**
    Ans: Hadis: Do other things except Tawaf + Sa’ee, once clean then do [Muttafaqun A’la’ih]

12. **Did Idol Worshipper wear clothes in their Tawaf?**
    Ans: Hadis: No [Muttafaqun A’la’ih]. **Note:** They used to think clothes were sinful in Tawaf

13. **Are we allowed to talk during Tawaf?**
    Ans: Hadis: Yes, only necessary good talks [Tirmidi, Nasaa’e]
Lesson on Hajj: 6

1. Why the stone is black?
   Ans: Hadis: It is called Hazr-e-Aswad. It came from Paradise and was white like milk. Later Sins of Adam children made it black. [Ahmed. Tirmidi]

2. Will Hazr-e-Aswad be raised in the Day of Judgment?
   Ans: Hadis: Yes, with 2 eyes, tongue and will witness for those who kissed it with Islamic faith [Tirmidi. Ibn Maazah. Daremy]

3. What dua Prophet (S.A.W) did in between Hazr-e-Aswad and Rukne-Yamaani?
   Ans: Hadis: Rabbanaa aatina fid-dunya hasanah, wafil aakhirati hasanah, waqinaa ‘a’jaabannar [Abu Dawood] 70 angels in there say “Ameen” for the supplicant [Ibn Maazah]

4. Romol (Quick walking) for how many round in Tawaf?
   Ans: Hadis: In first 3 rounds [Abu Dawood]

5. What is Ijtiba?
   Ans: Hadis: Putting the shawl under right armpit and dropping the two ends of it on left shoulder without tying up is called Ijtiba. Holy prophet (S.A.W) did wear it [Tirmidi. Ibn Maazah. Abu Dawood] Note: It is Sunnah in Tawaf-e-Qudum. [Mishqat]

6. Why do we kiss Hazr-e-Aswad?
   Ans: Allah knows best; companions did not ask holy prophet (S.A.W) about it. May be one reason is that it is from Paradise and we should love everything from Paradise and kiss it with love [Mishqat]

7. What did Hazrat Omar (R.A) said to the black stone?
   Ans: Hadis: He said: I know for sure, you are a stone that has no power to benefit or harm, If I didn’t see Holy Prophet kissed you then I would not have kissed you either. [Muttafaqun A’laiah]

8. What is ‘Arafah?
   Ans: Name of a field, near Muzdalifa. It is in between 2 hills, at north “Zabal-e-Rahmah” and at north east “Zabal-e- ‘Arafah.” It is said that Adam and Eve met in that field after coming out from Paradise [Mishqat].

9. How important to stay in ‘Arafah?
   Ans: It is Fard to stay some time in 9th Julhijj. But staying there until sunset is Sunnah [Mishqat] Note: Another opinion is staying until sun down is Wajib

10. What to say when going to ‘Arafah?
    Ans: Hadis: Talbia or Takbir [Muttafaqun A’laiah] Hanafi: Takbir Wajib for non-pilgrims from 9th Fojor to 13th Asor. It is Sunnah to say Talbia until stoning on 10th Julhijja and then after Takbir [Mishqat]

11. Where pilgrims do Qurbani?
    Ans: Hadis: In Mina [Muslim]

12. Why ‘Arafah is a blessed day?
    Ans: Hadis: In the day of ‘Arafah Allah sets free most people from the Hell and accepts dua [Muslim]

13. Why Satan feels most humiliated in the Day of ‘Arafah?
    Ans: Hadis: Satan can see that Allah’s mercy is dropping on Allah’s servants [Malik as Mursal]
Lesson on Hajj: 7

1. Which Salah did holy prophet pray in Muzdalifa after arriving in from ‘Arafah?
   Ans: Hadis: Magrib and Isha with 2 Iqamah. Did not pray any Nafil in between [Bukhari]

2. From which place holy prophet advised to collect pebbles from?
   Ans: Hadis: From “Mihas-sir” a place in Mina. [Muslim] Note: Whether 7 pebbles or 70 has difference in opinion [Mishqat]

3. How to pray in ‘Arafah?
   Ans: Hadis: Johor and Asor together (Qasor 2 Rakah) [Bukhari]

4. What is Zamra?
   Ans: Zamra is pillar on which pilgrims throw stones at. It is said that Ibraheem (A.S) threw stones on Satan to drive him away. Those spots have been used to build pillars as a symbol of Satan and stoning is to humiliate him. [Mishqat]

5. How many Zamra all together?
   Ans: 3. From Mecca side the first one is “Zamra-e-ulaa” near Khaief Mosque, then “Zamra-e-usta” and then the biggest one is “Zamratul Aqaba”. [Mishqat]

6. What did holy prophet (S.A.W) say during stoning?
   Ans: Hadis: Allahu Akbar. [Muttafaqun A’laih]

7. How big the stone/pebbles should be?
   Ans: Hadis: Like “Hasal Khajfe” the size is like dates seed [Muslim]

8. How many pebbles He (S.A.W) threw on Zamratul Aqaba?
   Ans: Hadis: 7. One at a time [Muttafaqun A’laih]

9. What is “hadyi”?  
   Ans: Animal to sacrifice in Hajj. Hadyi is mentioned in the Quran 5.2

10. Is Qurbani allowed to do on behalf of other person in Hajj?
   Ans: Hadis: Yes. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) did on behalf of Ayesha (R.A) [Muslim]

11. How many persons can share a cattle or camel for Qurbani?
    Ans: Hadis: maximum 7 persons [Muslim]

12. Can we pay meat/skin to the butcher for working on Qurbani animal?
    Ans: Hadis: No. Butcher should be paid separately [Muttafaqun A’laih]. Skin should be donated [Mishqat]

13. What should we do with Qurbani meat?
    Ans: (a) Eat some (b) Give away some (c) save some for later [Muttafaqun A’laih]

14. What is Halq?
    Ans: Shaving or trimming hair in Hajj or Umrah. It is Wajib. [Mishqat]

15. When to shave or trim after hajj or Umrah?
    Ans: For Hajj: After Qurbani in Mina. For Umrah: After Sa’ee in Marwah. (For men) In Hajj shaving head is better than trimming but for Tamattu Hajji after Umrah trimming is best so that after hajj they will have some hair to shave. [Mishqat]
Lesson on Hajj: 8

1. **How did holy Prophet (S.A.W) shave his head in Hajj?**
   Ans: Hadis: Right side of head at first and then left side [Muttafaqun A’laih]

2. **Are women allowed to shave head?**

3. **What is Tarteeb in Hajj?**
   Ans: The sequence of Fard duties or Wajib duties, one after another. For example:
   - **Fard duties:** Ihram — ‘Arafah—Tawaf Ifada etc.
   - **Wajib duties:** Throwing pebbles, Qurbani, head shaving etc. [Mishqat: Tarteeb of Hajj]

4. **What holy prophet advised to his companions about missed Tarteeb?**
   Ans: Few examples in below according to Hadis:
   - One shaved head before Qurbani. He (S.A.W) said: “No sin and do it now”. [Muttafaqun A’laih]
   - Another did Qurbani before throwing pebbles. He (S.A.W) said: “No sin and do it now.” [Muttafaqun A’laih]
   - One threw stones after dark. He (S.W.A) said: No sin [Bukhari]
   - One did Sa’ee before Tawaf: He (S.A.W) said: No sin [Abu Dawood]

5. **What is Aiyyame tashreeq?**
   Ans: 11th, 12th and 13th Julhijj. It means “Days of drying meat”. In those days they used to dry meat in the sun for 3 days [Mishqat]

6. **What did Prophet (S.A.W) said in his Hajj sermon about Muslims rights on each other?**
   Ans: Hadis: “Your life, wealth and honor is pure to one another as this day in this month in this city is pure” [Muttafaqun A’laih]

7. **What is the Sunnah method for throwing pebbles?**
   Ans: Hadis: In first Zamra: Throw 7 stones. With each stone-throwing say Allahu Akbar. Then do a supplication facing Ka’ba
   In 2nd Zamra-e-usta: do the same as in the 1st one
   In 3rd Zamra-e-Aqaba: Throw 7 stones with Allahu Akbar each time but leave without supplication [Bukhari]

8. **Is Tawaf-e-Widaa’ important for outsiders?**
   Ans: Hadis: Yes. Holy prophet (S.A.W) said: None of you should go back to your country until last meeting (Tawaf-e-Widaa’) with Baitullah. But ladies in menses are excused from it [Muttafaqun A’laih]

9. **What did Prophet (S.A.W) said in his sermon in Hajj about Satanic deeds?**
   Ans: Hadis: He (S.A.W) said: Satan has become hopeless about idol worshipping in this city, but Satan will be happy with you when you will follow him through your actions. [Ibn Maazah. Tirmidi]

10. **Is brisk walking (Romol) necessary in Tawaf-e-Ifada?**
    Ans: Hadis: No. Holy prophet (s.a.w) didn’t do it [Abu Dawood. Ibn Maazah]

11. **What is Muhrim?**
    Ans: The person in Ihram is called Muhrim.
Lesson on Hajj: 9

1. **What a Muhrim is not allowed to wear (During Ihram)?**
   Ans: **Hadis:** (a) Normal dress (b) Head binding (Pagri) (c) Trouser (d) Hat (e) socks unless someone has no shoes (f) Socks or shoes must cut the top back side of feet to keep open (g) colored cloth with Zafran [Bukhari & Muslim]. **For female:** No burkha or hand gloves [Bukhari]

2. **Is Muhrim allowed to use scent?**
   Ans: Hadis: No [Muttafaqun A’la’ih]

3. **What is the rule for Muhrim about marriage?**
   Ans: Hadis: Muhrim must not marry, or propose to marry or organize other’s marriage [Muslim]

4. **Can a Muhrim wash head?**
   Ans: Hadis: Yes, can [Muttafaqun A’la’ih]

5. **Is cupping allowed for Muhrim?**
   Ans: Hadis: Yes. Holy prophet (s.a.w) did it. [Muttafaqun A’la’ih]

6. **What dress for women Muhrim?**
   Ans: Hadis: No Burkha, Hand gloves or Zafran colored clothes. But all other dress ok [Abu Dawood] **Note:** For men cloth must be without sewing but for women sewing dress is allowed.

7. **What Ayesha (R.A) used to do as Muhrim when other men were passing?**
   Ans: Hadis: Pulling scarf down to cover face [Abu Dawood]

8. **Can a Muhrim use oil?**
   Ans: Hadis: Yes, if the oil has no scent [Tirmidi]

9. **Can Muhrim hunt animals?**
   Ans: No animal on the land but fish in water hunting is Halal. [Quran 5.96]

10. **What kind of animal is allowed to kill by Muhrim?**
    Ans: Hadis: (a) Mouse (b) Crow (c) Kite (d) Poisonous insects (e) Wild dogs (f) Snake [Muttafaqun A’la’ih]. They can kill wild dangerous animals [Abu Dawood. Tirmidi]

11. **Can Muhrim eat meat that is hunted by others?**

12. **What is the Kaffara if a Muhrim mistakenly kill animal?**

13. **What is Ihsaar?**
    Ans: Hadis: To be prevented from going or completing Hajj or Umrah due to enemy, sickness, accidents, natural disaster etc. [Quran 2.196] [Bukhari/Tirmidi/Abu Dawood/Nasaa’e/Ibn Maazah]

14. **What to do if there is Ihsaar?**
    Ans: Hadis: If Ihsaar happen during Ihram do Qurbani, shave or trim hair and make Qada (Do make up Hajj or Umrah) later [Bukhari]
Lesson on Hajj: 10

1. How many days one must stay in Mina?
   Ans: Hadis: Normally 3 days 11th, 12th, 13th. These 3 days are called Aiyyam-e-Tashreek. But if anyone wants to leave after 2 days there is no sins in doing it. [Tirmidi/Abu Dawood/ Nasaa’e/ Ibn Maazah]

2. What is “Harm”?
   Ans: Around Ka’ba a certain area Allah made honorable area. It is called “harm”. The boundaries are signed with pillars. [Mishqat]

3. What kinds of things are prohibited to do in the “harm” area?
   Ans: Hadis: In there some actions are prohibited such as: Fighting, killing, war, cutting trees-grass, killing mosquitoes, hunting animals etc. It is made honorable until Qiamah [Muttafaqun A’laih]

4. What will happen to the army who will go to destroy the Ka’ba?
   Ans: Hadis: They will arrive in a field and the land will swallow them [Muttafaqun A’laih]

5. Who will destroy Ka’ba near to the last days?
   Ans: Hadis: An Abyssinian man and he will be with thin tibia in legs [Muttafaqun A’laih]

6. How did holy Prophet (s.a.w) see the man who would destroy Ka’ba?
   Ans: Hadis: He (s.a.w) saw in his vision [Bukhari]

7. How honorable Medina Is?
   Ans: Hadis: Holy prophet (s.a.w) said: I am making Medina honorable (Harm), no tree cutting or animal hunting or no fighting-war is allowed [Muslim]

8. What is the worst if anyone starts wrong tradition in Medina in the name of Islam?
   Ans: Hadis: Curse from Allah, angels and all people. Their Fard or Nafil worship won’t be accepted. [Muttafaqun A’laih]

9. How diseased environment in Medina changed?
   Ans: Hadis: Medina was prone to fever environment. Holy Prophet (s.a.w) prayed to Allah to transfer the disease from Medina to Zuhfa and Allah accepted it. [Muttafaqun A’laih]

10. What was the name of Medina before?
    Ans: Hadis: Yasrib (meaning Reprimand), Prophet (s.a.w) changed the name into Medina (Great city) [Muttafaqun A’laih]. Allah named Medina “Taba” (Meaning Pure) [Muslim]

11. Why Dajjal and Epidemic can’t enter into Medina?
    Ans: Hadis: Because angels are in the gates of Medina guarding it [Muttafaqun A’laih]

12. How all bad peoples from Medina will join Dajjal?
    Ans: Hadis: Medina will have 3 earth quakes and scared hypocrites and non-believers will go out of Medina and Dajjal will get them [Muttafaqun A’laih]

13. How rewarding is to visit the Grave of Holy Prophet (s.a.w)?
    Ans: Hadis: As if he or she had visited holy prophet (s.a.w) when he was alive. [Bayhaki]