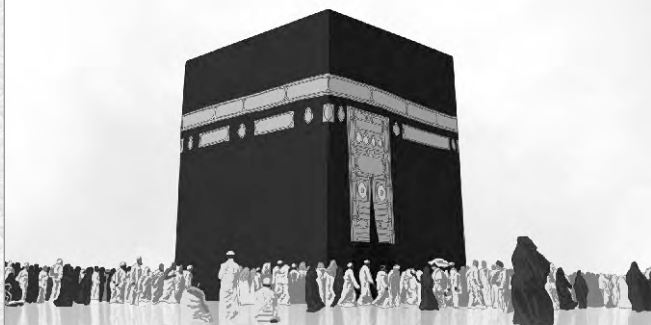
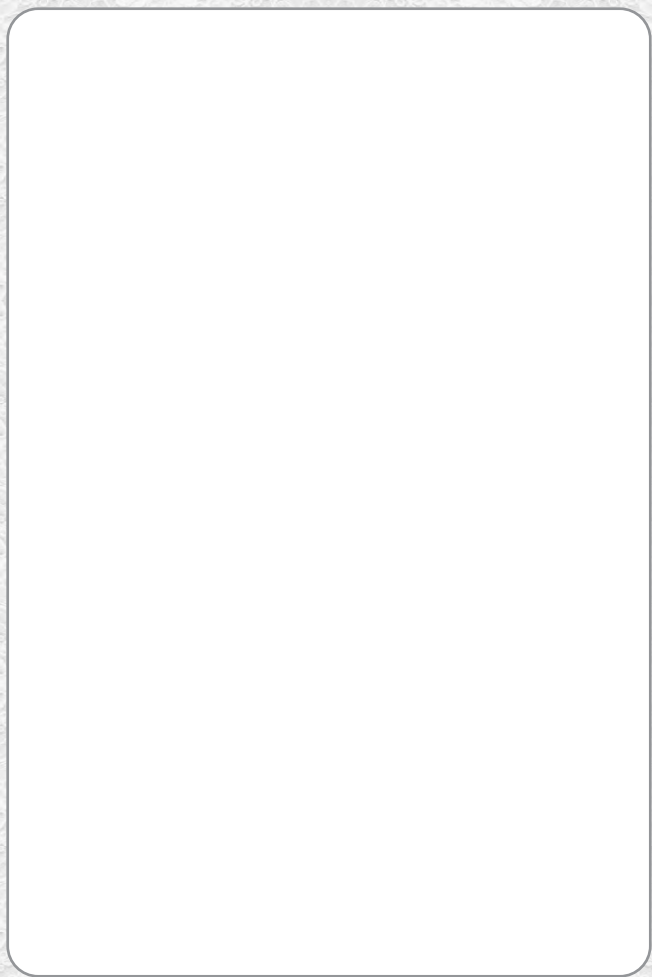


a
Guide to
Hajj, Umrah & Ziyaarah



Jamiatul Ulama
south africa

a
Guide **to**
Hajj, Umrah & Ziyaarah



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Kind, the Most Merciful

INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah and may His choicest salutations continue to descend upon our Master and Leader Muhammad ﷺ who has said: "Whoever performs Hajj and does not commit obscenity or transgression, returns (free from sin) as the day his mother gave birth to him." (*Bukhari*)

You are about to undertake the most memorable journey of your life! Hajj is a journey of love that requires physical preparedness, intellectual awareness and presence of heart. It is a journey that will cleanse you from the grime of sin and wrongdoing, insha-Allah. 'Amr Ibn Al-'Aas ؓ narrated: "When Islam entered my heart, I went to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and said: "Give me your hand so that I may pledge allegiance to you." Rasulullah ﷺ spread his hand, but I withdrew mine. Rasulullah ﷺ enquired: "What is wrong, O 'Amr?" I said, "I want to make a condition." "And what is that?" he said. "That Allah will forgive me (for my past sins)." Rasulullah ﷺ said: "Do you not know that Islam wipes out whatever (action) came before it, and that Hijrah (migration) wipes out whatever (action) came before it and that Hajj wipes out whatever (action) came before it!" (*Muslim*)

Sincerity:

The first requirement for undertaking this journey is sincerity of purpose. Nabi ﷺ has said that a time will come when: "Kings and rulers will perform Hajj for the sake of pleasurable holidays, the wealthy for the sake of business, and the poor for

the sake of begging, while the learned will perform Hajj for the sake of show.” *(Ithaaf)*

Halaal Income:

It is equally important to ensure that you perform Hajj with Halaal income. Nabi ﷺ has said: “When a pilgrim proceeds for Hajj with money acquired by lawful means and says: “Labbaik...” a caller from the heavens (an angel) calls to him: “Welcome to you and may you be happy, your provisions are Halaal, your transport is paid for by Halaal and your Hajj shall be righteous and accepted by Allah.” If he proceeds for Hajj with unlawful earnings and says “Labbaik...” a caller from the heaven (an angel) says: “No welcome to you and no happiness to you, your provisions are unlawful and so is your earnings, and your Hajj is rejected.” *(Tabrani)*

Forgiveness:

It is also important to seek forgiveness and make peace with your fellow men. Nabi ﷺ once enquired: “Do you know who is a bankrupt person?” The Sahabah ؓ replied: “One who has no money or possessions.” Nabi ﷺ said: “A bankrupt individual is he who shall come on the Day of Qiyaamah with many Salaah, Fasts, etc. However, he had abused someone, seized the possessions of another, or caused harm to people. On the Day of Qiyaamah they will claim his good deeds until he has no more. When he no longer can compensate for his wrong with his good deeds he will be burdened with their sins...” *(Mishkaat)*

Physical Preparedness:

Hajj involves a lot of walking. If you are not fit or if you do not walk daily, it may be a good idea to begin walking daily long

before you depart. You must be physically healthy to be able to fully concentrate on your worship. "A strong believer is better and more loved by Allah than a weak believer, although there is good in both..." (*Mishkaat*)

Spiritual Preparedness:

Your journey of Hajj starts long before your departure date. You should make a habit of making Zikr and Tilaawah (reciting Qur'aan) daily. Spend some time in solitude and reflect upon what this journey really means to you. A man once visited Junaid Baghdadi ؒ after performing Hajj. Junaid Baghdad ؒ said to him, "From the time you left your home, did you also leave behind all wrong actions?" "No," replied the man. "Then you never really left at all. At every stop you made on the way, did you also advance another stage in the path to Allah?" "No," came the reply. "Then you did not really make the journey. When you put on your Ihraam at the Miqaat, did you discard the attributes of selfhood as you took off your ordinary clothes?" "No." "Then you did not really put on Ihraam. When you performed Tawaaf of the Ka'bah, did you witness the beauty of Allah in the abode of purification?" "No, I did not," said the man. "Then you did not really do Tawaaf. When you did Sa'ee between Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah did you reach the rank of safa (purity) and muruwah (virtue)?" "No." "Then you did not really do Sa'ee. When you went out to Mina did your muna (desires) cease?" "No, they did not." "Then you never really went to Mina. When you stood on 'Arafah did you experience even a single moment of ma'rifah (direct recognition) of Allah?" "No." "Then you did not really stand on 'Arafah. When you stayed the night at Muzdalifah did you renounce your love of this world?" "No, I did not." "Then you did not really stay at Muzdalifah. When you stoned the

Jamaraat, did you cast away from yourself everything that stands between you and your Lord?" "No." "Then you did not really do the stoning. When you made your sacrifice, did you offer up your lower self to Allah?" "No." "Then you did not really make a sacrifice and the truth is that you have not properly performed Hajj at all. Return and do the Hajj again in the manner I have described so that you may finally truly attain to the Maqaam (status) of Ibraheem."

May Allah grant you the good fortune to undertake this memorable journey with the spirit of a lover leaving home to find his Beloved.

Etiquettes when leaving home:

1. Perform Two Raka'ah 'Salaatus Safar'.
2. Read Ayatul Kursi as you leave your home.
3. Bid farewell to your children, relatives etc. by reading the following du'aa:

أَسْتَوْدِعُكُمْ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا يَضِيعُ وَدَائِعُهُ

"I give you all in the trust of Allah whose trusts are never destroyed."

Thereafter read:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ أَنْ أَضِلَّ أَوْ أُضَلَّ أَوْ أَزِلَّ أَوْ أُزَلَ

أَوْ أَظْلِمَ أَوْ أُظْلِمَ أَوْ أَجْهَلَ أَوْ يُجْهَلَ عَلَيَّ ،

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ الصَّاحِبُ فِي السَّفَرِ وَالْخَلِيفَةُ فِي الْأَهْلِ ،

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُذُّكَ مِنَ الضَّيْقَةِ فِي السَّفَرِ وَكَآبَةِ الْمُنْقَلَبِ ،

اللَّهُمَّ اقْبِضْ لَنَا الْأَرْضَ وَهَوِّنْ عَلَيْنَا السَّفَرَ

"O Allah! I beseech Your protection from going astray or being led astray; directing to error, or falling into error; or doing injustice (to others) or injustice done to me; or acting foolishly or to be fooled. O Allah! You are our Companion in our travels and our successor in our families. O Allah! I beseech Your protection from the misfortunes of travels and sadness of adversities. O Allah! Contract the earth and facilitate our journey."

MADINAH

Imagine yourself stepping on the same land where Rasulullah ﷺ walked... imagine going through the valleys and mountains where he received Divine revelation. Imaam Ghazaali رحمه الله says: "When you first set your eyes on Madinah be aware that this is the city which Allah had chosen for His Messenger ﷺ and to which he fled for safety. This is the city where Allah revealed to him the obligatory duties of a Muslim. He set forth the Sunnah of his Deen and this is the place from where he fought against the enemies. This is the place where his Deen became victorious and this is the place where he strove until death overtook him. He lies buried here and so does his two successors. This is where, at every step, one finds the spot where his feet once trod." 'Ali رضي الله عنه said: "Whoever laid a single glance upon Rasulullah ﷺ was awestruck; whoever looked upon him repeatedly was drowned in his love and said in praise: "I have neither seen anything so breathtaking before nor will I see the like again."

Make the following specific intentions when visiting Madinah:

- *"O Allah! I proceed to Madinah to seek the intercession of Nabi ﷺ who said: "He who visits my grave,*

my intercession becomes binding on him.” (Dar Qutni)

- *“O Allah! I proceeded to Madinah to be blessed with the companionship of my Master Nabi ﷺ who said: “He who visits me after my demise is like one who visited me during my lifetime.” (Tabrani)*
- *“O Allah! I came to Madinah to seek the neighborhood of Nabi ﷺ the Day of Qiyaamah. Nabi ﷺ said: “Whoever undertakes a journey specifically to visit my grave, will be my neighbour on the Day of Qiyaamah.”*

Etiquettes of visiting Madinah:

1. Recite Durood abundantly before entering Madinah.
2. When you see the buildings of Madinah say:
“O Allah! This is the Haram of Your Nabi ﷺ, make it a protection for me from the fire of Hell and safety from chastisement and harmful reckoning.”
3. Perform ghusl, wear your best clothes, apply perfume, etc.
4. Proceed to the Masjid reciting Durood and Salaam.
5. Men should preferably enter from Baab Jibra’eel, while women should preferably enter from Baabun Nisaa.
6. Enter with the right foot. Perform Two Raka’ah Tahiyatul Masjid at Rawdhatul Jannah, if possible.
7. Thereafter, fall into sajdah and thank Allah.
8. Proceed very humbly to the grand presence of Nabi ﷺ.
9. Stand in front of the copper gate with the three peepholes; the large hole is in line with the blessed face of Nabi ﷺ and the two smaller holes indicate where Abu Bakr ؓ and ‘Umar ؓ are buried.

Read the following du‘aa in front of the large peephole:

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ الرَّحْمَةِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا شَفِيعَ الْأُمَّةِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا سَيِّدَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَيْرَ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ
 الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ ،
 يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ،
 وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ بَلَغْتَ الرِّسَالَةَ
 وَأَدَّيْتَ الْأَمَانَةَ وَنَصَحْتَ الْأُمَّةَ وَكَشَفْتَ الْغُمَّةَ ،
 فَجَزَاكَ اللَّهُ خَيْرًا ، جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ عَنَّا أَفْضَلَ
 مَا جَازَى نَبِيًّا عَنْ أُمَّتِهِ
 اللَّهُمَّ اعْطِ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا الْوَسِيلَةَ وَالْفَضِيلَةَ
 وَالدَّرَجَةَ الرَّفِيعَةَ وَابْعَثْهُ مَقَامًا مَحْمُودًا الَّذِي
 وَعَدْتَهُ إِنَّكَ لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ وَإِنْزِلْهُ الْمَنْزِلَ الْمُقَرَّبَ عِنْدَكَ
 إِنَّكَ سُبْحَانَكَ ذُو الْفَضْلِ الْعَظِيمِ

"Peace be upon you, O Beloved of Allah! Peace be upon you, O Messenger of Mercy! Peace be upon you, O Intercessor of the Ummah! Peace be upon you, O Seal of Prophets! Peace be upon you, O Leader of the Prophets! Peace be upon you, O Noblest of Allah's creation. Peace and Allah's mercy and blessings be upon you, O Prophet! O Messenger of Allah! I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but Allah, who is Alone and has no partner; and I bear witness that you are His servant and His Messenger. I bear witness that you have delivered the message, and (faithfully) discharged the obligation with which you were entrusted and you admonished the people, and relieved them of their sorrows. Therefore, may Allah confer on you the best of rewards. May He reward you on our behalf, a reward far abounding in excellence than any reward granted to a prophet on behalf of his people. O Allah! Grant our chief, Your servant and messenger Muhammad ﷺ waseelah (i.e. the means of imploring on behalf of his Ummah), excellence and exalted dignity. Raise him to Maqaam Mahmood (the 'Station of Praise and Glory') which You promised him. Verily, You do not break Your promise; and station him in the closest proximity to Thee. Verily, You art the Glorified, Giver of great favours."

Thereafter, make du'aa and ask Allah through the medium (waseelah) of Nabi ﷺ in the following manner:

يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَسْأَلُكَ الشَّفَاعَةَ وَآتَوْسَلُ بِكَ إِلَى اللَّهِ
فِي أَنْ أَمُوتَ مُسْلِمًا عَلَى مِلَّتِكَ وَسُنَّتِكَ

"O Messenger of Allah! I beg for your intercession and I entreat Allah through your medium to (let me) die as a Muslim upon you religion and your tradition."

If anyone has asked you to present his/her Salaams, then do

so by saying:

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مِنْ ...

If many people have requested you to convey Salaams to Rasulullah ﷺ and you cannot remember their names, then say this Salaam on behalf of everyone:

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مِنْ جَمِيعٍ
مَنْ أَوْصَانِي بِالسَّلَامِ عَلَيْكَ

Now, move two steps sideways to the right to face the grave of Abu Bakr ؓ and recite salutations to Abu Bakr ؓ :

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَلِيفَةَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ وَثَانِيَهُ فِي الْغَارِ وَرَفِيقَهُ فِي
الْأَسْفَارِ وَأَمِينَهُ عَلَى الْأَسْرَارِ أَبَا بَكْرٍ الصِّدِّيقِ جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ عَنْ أُمَّةٍ
مُحَمَّدٍ خَيْرًا

"Peace be upon you, O Deputy of the Messenger of Allah, and his second (companion) in the cave; his companion in his travels; the trustee of his secrets, Abu Bakr Siddiq ؓ. May Allah reward you best on behalf of the followers of Muhammad ﷺ."

Recite salutations to Umar ؓ :

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا أَمِيرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عُمَرَ الْفَارُوقَ الَّذِي أَعَزَّ اللَّهُ بِهِ الْإِسْلَامَ
إِمَامَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مَرْضِيًّا حَيًّا وَمَيِّتًا جَزَاكَ اللَّهُ عَنْ أُمَّةٍ مُحَمَّدٍ خَيْرًا

"Peace be upon you, O Commander of the Faithful, Umar Farooq, by whom Allah strengthened Islam; leader of the Muslims, with whom Allah was pleased in life and in death. May Allah reward you the best on behalf of the followers of Muhammad ﷺ."

Pillars in Masjid Nabawi:

Mullah 'Ali Qari ؒ writes: "The pillars of the Masjid, which are of special virtue and blessed, should be visited by the visitor to Madinah. There the visitor should keep himself busy with voluntary (nafl) prayers and du'aa. This applies especially to the original portion of the Masjid which was used during the time of Rasulullah ﷺ. The pillars in this area are blessed." According to Imaam Bukhari ؒ writes: "The companions of Rasulullah ﷺ offered many prayers at these pillars." There are eight pillars of significance:

1. Ustuwaanah Mukhallaq:

This pillar is also called Ustuwaanah Hannanah - the weeping pillar. A date palm grew here which Nabi ﷺ used as a support when delivering the khutbah. A special mimbar was later built for Nabi ﷺ. When Nabi ﷺ first used the mimbar the tree began wailing to such an extent that the entire Masjid echoed with its cry, even those in the Masjid began weeping. Nabi ﷺ placed his hand on it and consoled it until it stopped crying. When Hasan Basri ؒ reported this incident, he cried bitterly and said: "O people! This tree longed so much for Nabi ﷺ. Do you not have a greater right to long for him and love him even more? Imaam Maalik ؒ says: "Of all the places, the one I prefer most for my Salaah in the Masjid of Rasulullah ﷺ is this one." One of the du'aas you make at this spot is: *"O Allah! This inanimate object felt deprived of the companionship of Nabi ﷺ. Soften my heart, grant me the love of Nabi ﷺ, bless me with the yearning to follow his pure teachings and fill my heart with true appreciation for being his follower."*

2. Ustuwaanah 'A'ishah ؒ:

This pillar is also called the Ustuwaanah Muhaajireen, because

the Muhaajireen (migrants) generally sat near this spot. 'A'ishah ؓ reports that Rasulullah ﷺ said: "In this Masjid there is one such spot that if people knew the true blessed nature of it, they would flock towards it in such large numbers that they would have to cast lots to pray there." People asked her to point out the exact spot but she refused to do so. Later upon the insistence of 'Abdullah ibn Zubair ؓ, she pointed out this spot. Hence, it is also called Ustuwaanah 'A'ishah ؓ. One of the du'aas you should make at this point is: *"O Allah! Grant me the desire and the appetite for good actions. Grant me the inclination to do righteous deeds. Bless me with the desire to emulate the pious and to outdo others in doing good."*

3. Ustuwaanah Taubah:

This pillar is also known as Ustuwaanah Abu Lubaabah. When the Muslims besieged the Jews because of their continued treachery, the Jews called for Abu Lubaabah ؓ in order to find out what Nabi ﷺ intended to do with them. When he reached them they all began wailing and crying. He was affected by their weeping that he indicated towards his throat, suggesting that they would be killed. He became so grieved for this lapse that he could not rest. He came to the Masjid, tied himself to the trunk of a date tree saying: "As long as my repentance is not accepted by Allah, I shall not untie myself." When Rasulullah ﷺ heard this he said: "If he had come to me I would have begged forgiveness on his behalf. Now that he had acted on his own, how can I untie him until such a time that his repentance has been accepted?" He remained tied up for several days except for Salaah and for the call of nature. He remained without food or drink, as a result of which his sight and hearing were affected. Eventually one morning, while Rasulullah ﷺ was in Tahajjud Salaah in the house of Umm Salamah ؓ he received

the good news that the repentance of Abu Lubaabah ؓ had been accepted. The Sahaabah ؓ conveyed the news to him and wanted to untie him. He however refused saying: "As long as Nabi ﷺ does not untie me with his blessed hands, I shall not allow anyone else to do so." Rasulallah ﷺ eventually untied him. One of the du'aas that you should make at this point is: *"O Allah! Grant me the dislike and displeasure of committing sin. Grant me the ability to repent after committing sin and forgive me for my wrong in the same way as you forgave Abu Lubaabah ؓ."*

4. Ustuwaanah Sareer:

Sareer means 'a sleeping place'. It is reported that Rasulallah ﷺ used to make I'tikaaf at this place. A platform made of wood was placed here for him to sleep on. One of the du'aas you should make at this point is: *"O Allah! Grant me the desire to search for Your love. Grant me the good fortune of reflecting, contemplating and meditating over Your greatness."*

5. Ustuwaanah 'Ali ؓ:

This pillar is also known as Ustuwaanah Hars. Hars means 'to watch or to protect'. This was the place where some of the Sahaabah ؓ stood guarding Rasulallah ﷺ. 'Ali ؓ generally served as his guard and doorkeeper. One of the du'aas you should make at this spot is: *"O Allah! Grant me the ability to defend Your Deen and the ability to defend the integrity of Nabi ﷺ. Grant me the opportunity to serve Your Deen."*

6. Ustuwaanah Wufood:

Wufood means 'delegations'. Whenever deputations arrived to meet Rasulallah ﷺ they were seated here. One of the du'aas you should make at this place is: *"O Allah! Grant me the ability*

to return from Madinah as an ambassador of Your Deen. Grant me the ability to propagate Your Deen in the same way as the delegations did after departing from this place.”

7. Ustuwaanah Tahajjud:

This was the place where a carpet was spread for Rasulullah ﷺ to perform Tahajjud prayers. One of the du'aas you should make at this place is: *“O Allah! Grant me the ability to be regular in my Salaah, grant me the ability to perform Tahajjud Salaah regularly, and make Salaah the coolness of my eyes.”*

8. Ustuwaanah Jibra'il:

This was the usual place where Jibra'il عليه السلام entered to visit Rasulullah ﷺ. Today it cannot be seen as it lies inside the room of Rasulullah ﷺ.

Conduct in Madinah:

1. Set targets: Try to complete at least one full recitation of the Qur'aan whilst in Madinah.
2. Recite a minimum of 200 Durood after each Salaah: A minimum of 1000 Durood a day.
3. If you are able, then give Sadaqah (charity) before you visit the Rawdhah of Nabi ﷺ.
4. No matter what the circumstances, do not miss Salaah with Jama'ah (congregation). In any other place, if you perform Salaah for 40 days with the Imaam with the first Takbeer, Allah guarantees you two things: freedom from the fire of hell, freedom from hypocrisy. In Madinah, this is reduced to only 40 Salaah.
5. Make a conscious attempt never to complain about the people of Madinah.

MAKKAH

You are on your way to the most blessed city on earth. Allah has distinguished it from all other places and made it sacred from the day He created the heavens and the earth. Makkah is the land where Rasulullah ﷺ was born and where his prophethood commenced. It is where he first received revelation. A single prayer in the Sacred Masjid is equivalent to a hundred thousand prayers in any other masjid. Nabi ﷺ proclaimed his love of Makkah and its lofty status in the sight of Allah when he addressed it saying: "I swear by Allah! You are the best of the lands of Allah and you are the most beloved land to Allah." (*Tirmizi & Ahmad*) You are going to the source of all land. Nabi ﷺ has said: "The earth was rolled out from Makkah. Allah stretched (the earth) from underneath it. Thus, it is called the mother of all cities." (*Bukhari*) You are going to the resting place of great Ambiyaa ﷺ. Nabi ﷺ has said: "Around the Ka'bah lies the graves of three hundred prophets." (*Muslim & Bayhaqi*) Every good deed performed in Makkah is multiplied, "There is no city on earth through which Allah multiplies one good deed by a hundred thousand times except in Makkah." (*Bukhari*) "Whosoever offers a Salaah therein, the Salaah is enhanced a hundred thousand fold over." (*Muslim*) "Whosoever gives one dirham therein in charity, Allah writes for him the reward of having spent a hundred thousand dirhams in charity." (*Tirmizi*)

Ihraam:

Ihraam is a symbolic state of innocence and purity. Ihraam shows that we are all equal, thus all pilgrims dress the same way, so as to eliminate cultural, ethnic and social class differences. Dress often signifies a person's nationality, race,

social position, etc. Pilgrims learn that the distinctions made by appearances are superficial and that underneath these distinctions of nationality, race and social position, we all share a far more important thing, our humanity. Whatever your position in the world is, before Allah you must come as a beggar and destitute, as in outward appearance so too in the depths of your heart.

Donning the Ihraam:

1. Before leaving Madinah or entering into the state of Ihraam, remove unwanted hair from below the armpits, etc.
2. Clip the nails.
3. Make ghusl.
4. Wear the Ihraam.
5. For Males: No underwear, jersey, headgear, shoes, or socks are permitted to be worn. Footwear must be such that they do not cover the upper bone (metatarsals) of the foot i.e. the shoelace area.
6. For Females: Dress as normal, except that no cloth should touch the face.
7. Perform Two Raka'ah Salaatul Ihraam (with a headgear)
 - Preferably, recite Surah Kaafiroon in the first raka'ah, and
 - Recite Surah Ikhlâas in the second raka'ah.
8. Remove the headgear and make the following intention:
"O Allah! I intend performing Umrah, so make it easy for me and accept the Umrah from me."
9. Read the Talbiyah - Men should read it audibly, while women should read it softly:

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ
وَالتَّعَمَّةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

"Here I am, O Allah! Here I am! Here I am! There is none who is Your partner. Here I am! Surely, All Praise, all favours and all authority belong to You. You have no partner."

Utter the Talbiyah consciously with both hope and fear! It is reported that when Ali Zainul Aabideen  would don the Ihraam, his face would become pale, his body would shake and tremble so much so that he could not utter the Talbiyah. When asked about his sudden uneasiness he would say: "I fear greatly that in reply to my Labbaik, a caller may cry out: "Laa Labbaik!" - (Your presence here is not accepted!)."

If a woman is experiencing haidh (menstruation) or nifaas (post natal bleeding) she will:

1. Make an intention to perform Hajj or Umrah.
2. Recite the Talbiyah.
3. When she is clean, she will perform ghusl, then complete her Tawaaf and Umrah.

Prohibitions whilst in Ihraam:

1. The use of perfume or scented soap.
2. Cutting or plucking the hair or nails.
3. Covering the head - for males.
4. Covering the face - for females.
5. Intercourse.
6. Engaging in obscene and idle talk.

General guidelines regarding Ihraam:

1. It is permissible to kill harmful animals or insects, such as scorpions, bugs, mosquitoes, etc. whilst in Ihraam.
2. It is permissible to use a belt to tie the Ihraam.
3. It is makrooh (undesirable) to comb the hair or the beard as

hair tends to fall off as a result.

4. A wet dream does not effect the Ihraam. Should a wet dream occur, one should make ghusl and if necessary, change the Ihraam.

Keep your tongue moist with the Talbiyah. Recite the Talbiyah as much as you can. Nabi ﷺ has said: "When a Muslim chants the Talbiyah, every stone, tree and land to his left and right chant the Talbiyah, it resonates until the cry reaches the ends of the earth." (Tirmizi)

UMRAH

1. Read the following before entering Makkah:
"O Allah! Surely this is Your sacred place and the sacred place of Your Prophet ﷺ. Forbid the fire upon my flesh, blood, bones and skin. O Allah! Grant me protection from Your wrath on the Day of Qiyaamah." Read the Talbiyah abundantly.
2. Read the following du'aa as you enter the Masjidul Haram:
اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ وَ سَهِّلْ عَلَيْنَا أَبْوَابَ رِزْقِكَ
"O Allah! Open upon us the doors of Thy Mercy and facilitate for us the doors of Thy sustenance."
3. Thereafter, recite durood and upon sighting the Ka'bah say three times:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

Thereafter read:

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ السَّلَامُ وَمِنْكَ السَّلَامُ فَحَيِّنا رَبَّنَا بِالسَّلَامِ
اللَّهُمَّ زِدْ بَيْتَكَ هَذَا تَعْظِيمًا وَ تَشْرِيفًا وَ تَكْرِيمًا وَ مَهَابَةً
وَ زِدْ مَنْ حَجَّهُ أَوْ اعْتَمَرَ تَشْرِيفًا وَ تَكْرِيمًا وَ تَعْظِيمًا وَ بَرًّا

“O Allah! Thou art peace and from Thee cometh peace, so keep us alive in peace, O our Lord! O Lord! Increase this House of Yours in dignity, honour, nobleness and sacredness and increase those who perform the Hajj or Umrah in honour, nobleness and righteousness.”

Relish the sight of the Ka’bah! Merely looking at the Ka’bah is an act of worship. You are now standing before the very House of Allah. Make du’aa profusely, as this is an occasion when du’aa is readily accepted. Say:

“O Allah! Just as You have blessed me with the sight of Your House in this world, bless me in the Hereafter with the honour of Your blessed countenance. O Allah! Glory be to You! You have blessed me with the sight of Your House, I come here as a beggar. I stand here in the hope that You will accept me as Your guest and treat me with Your forgiveness, mercy guidance and blessings. O Allah! Accept all my du’aas that I make from this point onwards.”

Method of Tawaaf:

1. Males should cover the left shoulder with one end of the Ihraam and pass the other end under the right shoulder, thus exposing the right arm and shoulder.
2. Proceed to the Hajr Aswad (the Black Stone). Stand with face and chest in line with Hajr Aswad.
3. Make intention:
“O Allah! I intend performing the Tawaaf of Your sacred house hence ease it for me, and accept it from me. Seven circuits for Allah - who is mighty and dignified.”
4. Raise your hands as in Salaah and say: *“Allahu Akbar.”*
5. Kiss the Hajr Aswad if possible, otherwise stretch your arms with the palms facing the stone and kiss your

palms. Ibn Abbas ؓ says: "The Blackstone descended from Paradise, whiter than milk in colour. The sins of Man caused it to become black." If a stone had turned black on account of the sins of man, what is the condition of my heart?

6. Start moving towards your right. For the first three circuits, males should walk at a brisk pace with chest out. Make du'aa and read the third kalimah.
7. If possible, touch the Rukn Yamaani at every circuit. Nabi ﷺ said: *"Seventy angels are stationed at Rukn Yamaani. When anyone says: "O Allah! Grant me pardon and safety from danger and sin in this world and in the Hereafter. Our Sustainer! Grant us the best of this world and the best in the hereafter and save us from the punishment of Hell."* They say: *"Aameen."* (Ibn Majah) If you are unable to touch the Rukn Yamaani, move on without raising your hands.
8. Kiss or raise your hands every time you pass the Hajr Aswad.
9. Do not look at the Ka'bah while performing Tawaaf, nor turn your chest towards it.
10. Remember that wudhu is necessary for Tawaaf.
11. If Salaah commences while you are performing Tawaaf, complete the circuit if possible. However, if you are not able to do so, join the Salaah, thereafter continue from where you stopped.
12. After the seventh circuit, proceed to the Multazam and make du'aa. The Multazam is the area between the door of the Ka'bah and the Hajr Aswad. Nabi ﷺ has said: *"The Multazam is a place where du'aas are accepted. Whenever a person makes du'aa (at it) Allah accepts his prayer."*
13. Thereafter, go behind the Maqaam Ibrahim and perform Two Raka'ah Salaah - Waajibul Tawaaf after covering your

shoulder. If you cannot find place behind the Maqaam Ibrahim, perform the Salaah anywhere in the Masjid Haraam. It is Mustahab (preferred) to recite Surah Kaafiroon and Surah Ikhlaas in this Salaah.

14. Go to the well of Zam Zam. Drink to your hearts content. Nabi ﷺ has said: "Zam Zam is for whatever intent it is drunk." (Ibn Majah) Make du'aa for all your needs before drinking Zam Zam. Say: *"O Allah! Grant me beneficial knowledge, abundant sustenance and a cure from all ills. O Allah! Grant my spouse and I the conviction and compatibility that You had granted Ibrahim and Hajirah ؑ. Cast Your protective hand over our children as You had over Ismail ؑ."*
15. Try and kiss the Hajr Aswad or do it symbolically. It is Makrooh to kiss any other part of the Ka'bah besides the Hajr Aswad. Proceed to Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah. Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah are two hills close to the Ka'bah. This is a commemoration of a mother's sacrifice for her son. In accordance with the command of Allah, Nabi Ibrahim ؑ left his wife Hajirah ؑ and his suckling child, Ismail ؑ, in the barren uninhabited sand dunes of the Arabian Desert. In her quest for water, she ascended Mount Safaa to scan the area in the hope of finding water. She came down and then ran up Mount Marwah. She ran to and fro between the two hills seven times, braving the scorching desert sun. Eventually, she heard a voice - it was the Jibra'eel ؑ. The angel struck the earth with his heel and water gushed out. Nabi ﷺ said: "If she (Hajirah ؑ) had left the water (to flow naturally without trying to contain it), it would have been flowing on the surface of the earth." (Bukhari) When we walk between Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah, we pay tribute to our mother Hajirah ؑ. We

recall her faith and compassion. We accordingly walk away from our own helplessness to the mercy of Allah. We walk away from His wrath to His mercy.

16. Climb Mount Safaa, face the Qiblah, raise your hands with the palms facing the heavens and read: “*Allahu Akbar*” and “*Laa illaaha illallaah*” loudly and Durood softly. Thereafter, make the following du‘aa:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ يُحْيِي
وَيُمِيتُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ أَنْجَزَ وَعْدَهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْأَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ

“There is none worthy of worship but Allah alone. He is free from associates. For Him alone is sovereignty and to Him alone all praise is due. He brings to life and causes to die. And He is All-Powerful over everything. There is none worthy of worship but He alone. He fulfilled His promise, and He came to the aid of His slave (Muhammad ﷺ) and defeated the allies all Alone.”

Move towards Mount Marwah. Between Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah read the following:

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ وَارْحَمْ أَنْتَ الْأَعَزُّ الْأَكْرَمُ

- “O my Lord! Forgive (us) and shower Thy Mercy (upon us). Thou art the most excelled in might and the most generous.”*
17. About 70 meters away from Mount Safaa, there are green lights overhead. Men should jog slowly between these lights. On reaching Mount Marwah face the Qiblah and do the same as was done at Mount Safaa. This is one complete circuit.

18. Complete seven circuits in this manner until the last circuit

terminates at Mount Marwah.

19. Perform Two Raka'ah Nafil Salaah.

20. Shave or cut the hair. It is best for men to shave their heads.

Umrah comprises of the following actions:

1. Tawaaf of the Ka'bah.
2. Du'aa at Multazam.
3. Two Raka'ah Wajib Salaah.
4. Drinking Zam Zam Water.
5. Istilaam - kissing the Hajr Aswad.
6. Sa'ee between Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah.
7. Two Raka'ah Nafil Salaah.
8. Shaving or cutting the hair.

Note:

1. Wudhu is not necessary for Sa'ee.
2. Exposing the right shoulder should only be done in those Tawaafs which are followed by Sa'ee.
3. On the 29th Dhul Qa'dah remove unwanted hair, clip the nails, etc. It is sunnah not to shave, cut hair, nails etc. for those who are performing Qurbani (slaughtering the sacrificial animal).

THE FIVE DAYS OF HAJJ

8th Dhul Hijjah: 1st Day of Hajj

1. If possible don the Ihraam after Salaatul Tahajjud. Perform Two Raka'ah Salaatul Ihraam and remove the headgear.
2. Make intention for Hajj: *"O Allah! I intend to perform Hajj, so make it easy for me and accept it from me."*
3. Recite the Talbiyah.
4. Leave for Mina after sunrise. At Mina you will perform five

Salaah: Zuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha and Fajr.

5. Sleep over the night at Mina.
 6. Spend your time in Salaah, Tilaawah, du'aa and zikr.
 7. Go out of your way to serve your fellow pilgrims and ensure that you are tolerant and forbearing. The Qur'an states: *"...let there be no obscenity, wickedness nor dispute in the Hajj."* Nabi ﷺ has said: "Whoever performs Hajj for the sake of pleasing Allah and utters no word of evil, nor commits an evil deed, shall return from it as free from sin as the day his mother gave birth to him." (Bukhari & Muslim)
- The most virtuous Hajj is "...to feed others and to extend the Salaam (greeting) excessively..." (Kanzul Ummaal)
- These are the days when we need to learn to prefer others above ourselves, to display our brotherhood and to be engrossed in worshiping Allah.

9th Dhul Hijjah: 2nd Day of Hajj

From the Fajr of the 9th to after Asr of the 13th (23 Salaahs) recite the Takbeer Tashreek after each Salaah.

After Fajr Salaah proceed to 'Arafah. This is the climax of your journey. "There is no day on which Allah frees servants of His from Fire more than (those freed on) the Day of 'Arafah. And, verily, He draws near and then proudly speaks about them (i.e. the pilgrims) before the angels, saying, "What do these people seek?" (Muslim) 'Abdullah ibn Al-Mubarak رحمه الله related, "I went to Sufyan ibn 'Uyaynah رحمه الله as the Day of 'Arafah was approaching. He was resting on his knees, with his hands raised to the heaven, and his cheeks and beard moistened with tears. He looked back and saw me, so I asked him, "Among the people who have gathered here for Hajj, who is in the worst state?" He replied, "He who thinks that Allah will not forgive him." The

Day of 'Arafah is the day in which the mercy of Allah descends, but what do we mean by mercy? Abu Hurayrah ؓ narrated that the Rasulullah ﷺ said: "Allah has divided mercy into one hundred parts, He kept ninety-nine parts with Him and sent down one part to the earth. Due to that one single part, His creatures are merciful to each other, so that even the mare lifts up its hoof away from its baby animal, lest it should trample on it." (Bukhari) 'Umar ibn Al-Khattaab ؓ said: "Captives were brought to Nabi ﷺ after a battle. Among them was a woman desperately searching for something. When she laid her eyes on a baby she immediately picked it up, clutched it to her breast and started feeding it. Thereupon, Rasulullah ﷺ asked: "Do you think this woman would throw her baby into a fire?" We said: "Never! By Allah! She would never allow this to happen." Nabi ﷺ then said: "Allah is more merciful to His slaves than this woman is to her baby." (Muslim) Ibn Al-Qayyim ؒ mentioned that Rasulullah ﷺ was described in his du'aa as having his hands in the same position that a needy person would have when asking for food i.e. outstretched and together whilst raising them up.

Hakim ibn Hizaam ؓ used to stand in 'Arafah bringing one hundred camels and one hundred slaves (he was only obliged to slaughter one seventh of a camel). He would then start freeing the slaves for the sake of Allah. The people would then start crying loudly with du'aa saying: "O Allah! Your slave freed his slaves, and we too are Your slaves, so free us (from the Hellfire)."

Al-Fudhayl ؓ saw the supplications of people and their weeping on the night of 'Arafah and asked the crowds: "If these people went to a man and asked him for a Daaniq (a very small

amount of money), would he refuse?" The people said: "No." He said, "Allah's forgiveness is even easier to obtain than that."

Spend your time in earnest prayer, supplicate with humbleness, repentance and regret; cry over your sins and shortcomings. It is useful to take along with you an authentic du'aa book, a tasbeeh and the Qur'aan. Devote your time between du'aa, recitation of the Qur'aan and zikr.

1. Wuqoof - The compulsory period for being in 'Arafah begins immediately after Zawaal.
2. Perform Zuhr and 'Asr as normal.
3. Spend your time making du'aa - keep the hands raised in du'aa whilst facing the Qiblah. If possible, stand and make du'aa.
4. Remain in 'Arafah up to sunset.
5. Proceed to Muzdalifah without performing Maghrib Salaah.
"When you surge downward from 'Arafah, remember Allah at Al-Mash'ar Al-Haraam. Remember Him who has given you guidance. Before this you were certainly in error."
(2:198) Al-Mash'ar Al-Haraam is Muzdalifah, as clearly indicated by Rasulullah ﷺ. Keep yourself engrossed in zikr, and recite frequently, *"All praise is due to Allah, Who has guided us to this, we would surely not have found guidance if Allah had not guided us."* The name of Allah and Talbiyah should be continuously repeated throughout the way.
6. Perform Maghrib and 'Esha as follows:
 - The intention for Maghrib Salaah should not be made as "qadhaa". Thereafter,
 - Adhaan and Iqaamah for Maghrib should be called and then three Raka'ah Fardh of Maghrib should be performed,
 - Iqaamah for Esha should be called and then four Raka'ah

- Fardh of Esha should be performed,
- Thereafter, the sunnah Salaah of Maghrib and Esha should be performed.

Spend the night in 'ibaadah (worship), zikr and istighfaar (seeking forgiveness) and du'aa. You may recite the following du'aa, *"O Allah, Your forgiveness is far more encompassing than my sins, and I have more hope in Your mercy than my good deeds."* This is your night of solitude with your Creator. It is a unique night spent in the open, just as a lover wanders away into the wilderness seeking his beloved. Collect about 70 pebbles, clean them and keep them safely.

10th Dhul Hijjah - 3rd Day of Hajj

1. Perform Fajr Salaah at Muzdalifah. A siren or cannon usually will indicate the Salaah time.
2. Make wuqoof facing the Qiblah with hands raised and making du'aa. Those who follow the Shafi'i Math-hab may leave Muzdalifah after midnight.
3. Although this is the 'Eid day, there is no 'Eid Salaah for Hujjaj.
4. Proceed to Mina reading Talbiyah and durood.
5. On reaching Mina, the first thing to do is to pelt the Jamarah Al-Aqabah (Big Shaytaan) which is Waajib (compulsory) to do on this very day. Rami literally means 'pelting of stones or pebbles'. This Rami is observed as a reminder of how Shaytaan tried to dissuade Ibrahim عليه السلام from sacrificing Ismail عليه السلام. At that time Ibrahim عليه السلام repelled Shaytaan by throwing pebbles at him.
6. It is Mustahab (preferable) to collect the pebbles at Muzdalifah; yet collecting them from anywhere else is also permissible. However, pebbles should not be collected

from the vicinity of the Jamaraat, as the pebbles lying near Jamaraat are reprobated in the eyes of Allah. It is also undesirable to perform Rami with big stones.

7. The preferred time for the Rami to be performed at Jamarah Al-Aqabah on the 10th Dhul Hijjah is from sunrise till noon. It is also permissible to carry it out from noon to sunset, however after sunset it is Makrooh. This however excludes the old, the aged and ailing persons as well as women. If women do not find it convenient before sunset, they may perform Rami after sunset.

Stop reading the Talbiyah prior to beginning the Rami. Read: *"(I throw this pebble) in order to debase the Shaytaan and to please the most Gracious Allah. O Allah! Render my Hajj approved, accept my effort and forgive my sins."* Recite *"Bismillah Allahu Akbar"* after pelting each pebble, as well as recite: *"O Allah! Make this Hajj an accepted Hajj, and one in which all sins are forgiven."*

8. Proceed to the slaughterhouse. Slaughter a goat, sheep or 1/7 share of a camel. The time for this is anytime from the 10th until before sunset on the 12th.
9. Shave or cut your hair. It is essential to maintain the sequence of pelting, slaughter and shaving the hair. After shaving the hair you are now out of the state of Ihraam. All previous prohibitions no longer apply except intercourse which is still not permissible until the completion of Hajj.
10. Leave for Makkah to perform Tawaaf Az-Ziyaarah. You are now out of Ihraam, hence Sa'ee will be performed in ordinary clothes and there is no need for shaving the hair. Tawaaf Az-Ziyaarah can be performed at any time on the 10th, 11th or 12th of Dhul Hijjah.

11. Return to Mina after completing Tawaaf Az-Ziyaarah.

11th Day of Dhul Hijjah: 4th Day of Hajj

1. After Zawaal on the 11th, pelt all three Jamaraat, starting from the small, then the middle and then the big Jamarah.
2. Make du'aa after pelting the small and medium Jamarah, but not after pelting the big Jamarah.
3. The time for pelting is between Zawaal and Maghrib.
4. Women may pelt after Maghrib.

12th Day of Dhul Hijjah: 5th Day of Hajj

1. Pelt as on the previous day.
2. The 13th day is optional. If you wish to depart on the 12th then leave before sunset.
3. Perform Tawaaful Widaa' prior to departure from Makkah.

Faraa-idh (compulsory acts) of Hajj

1. Wuqoof in 'Arafah
2. Ihraam
3. Tawaaf Ziyaarah

Waajibaat (necessary acts) of Hajj

1. Wuqoof in Muzdalifah.
2. Pelting the Jamaraat.
3. Slaughtering an animal.
4. Shaving the hair.
5. Maintaining the sequence of pelting, slaughtering and shaving.
6. Sa 'ee after Tawaaf Az-Ziyaarah.
7. Tawaaful Widaa'.

VIRTUES OF MAKKAH

1. "Anyone who completes the recitation of the full Qur'aan once therein, Allah records for him the reward of a hundred thousand recitations." (*Baihaqi & Ibn Majah*)
2. "Whosoever glorifies Allah once therein, for him is recorded the reward of having glorified Allah hundred thousand times elsewhere. Every good deed which a servant carries out in the Haram is equivalent to a hundred thousand deeds done elsewhere." (*Nasa'i*)
3. "It is not known of any other city from which Allah will, on the Day of Qiyaamah, resurrect as many Ambiyaa, Allah-fearing souls, pious people, truthful ones, martyrs, religious people, 'Ulama, jurists, sages, ascetics, devotees, pilgrims, chosen ones and mystics, both males and females, as in Makkah. Verily they will be resurrected in a state wherein they will be safe from Allah's punishment." (*Bukhari & Muslim*)
5. Rasullullah ﷺ stated: "The space between the Ruknul Yamaani and the Hajr Aswad is a garden from the gardens of Jannah." (*Muslim & Tirmizi*)
6. Rasullullah ﷺ stated: "A person who passed away while performing the Hajj or Umrah will not be questioned (in the grave) nor will any reckoning be taken from him (on the Day of Qiyaamah). He will be told: "Enter Jannah in peace with those who have attained salvation." (*Bayhaqi*)
7. "The Salaah offered in Musjid Al-Haraam is increased by a hundred thousand Salaah. For verily one obtains one hundred and fifty million (150 000 000) rewards for a Salaah offered therein." (*Bukhari & Muslim*)
8. "Anyone who falls ill in Makkah for one day, Allah renders his body and his flesh forbidden from the fire of

Jahannam.” *(Bukhari)*

9. “Anyone who falls ill in Makkah for one day, Allah records for that person the reward of having done good deeds equivalent to sixty years of worship in any other place.” *(Muwatta)*
10. “Anyone who endures the heat of Makkah with patience for an hour of the day, Allah will distance that person from the fire of Jahannam by a distance of a journey of five hundred years and bring him closer to Jannah by a distance of a journey of two hundred years. Indeed Makkah and Madinah eject any impurities within them like flames eject rust from iron. Understand carefully! Difficulties and calamities are abounded in Makkah right from its inception. Great stages are realized by enduring these difficulties.” *(Muslim)*
11. “Anyone who endures any difficulty experienced in Makkah (with patience), I will intercede and bear witness for him on the Day of Qiyaamah.” *(Ibn Majah)*
12. “The best valley on the face of this earth is the valley of Ibrahim ؑ.” *(Bukhari & Tirmizi)*
13. “The best well on the face of this earth is the well of Zam Zam.” *(Muslim)*
14. “Verily anyone who touches the Hajr Aswad is cleansed of his sins just as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him.” *(Ahmad)*
15. “There is no city in the world in which one finds an object, which when touched by any human being, cleanses him of his sins and leaves him in the same state as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him, except in Makkah.” *(Muwatta)*
16. “Anyone who offers Salaah behind the Maqaam Ibraahim has attained safety.” *(Bukhari & Nasa’i)*

17. "The most beloved spot to Allah is the area between the Maqam Ibrahim and the Multazam." (Tirmizi & Abu Dawud)

Advice for pilgrims

Allah says: *"O mankind! Fear your Lord and be dutiful to Him! Verily, the quake of the Hour (of Judgment) is a terrible thing. The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her suckling baby, and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in a drunken state, yet they will not be in a drunken state, but severe will be the torment of Allah."* (Al-Hajj 22:1-2)

Pilgrims to the House of Allah! Congratulations on your arrival to the Sacred House of Allah. Congratulations on your commencement of Hajj rites. Blessed are those who perform their Hajj seeking Allah's pleasure.

May all of you be blessed. May Allah shower on you His favour. May He tell you on 'Arafah day: "Go, your sins have been forgiven."

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "He who performed Hajj and he did not engage in sexual activities nor engage in obscenities will return as (sinless) as the day his mother bore him." (Bukhari & Muslim) This is a great blessing that brings joy to the hearts of believers and for which they undergo great difficulties.

Dear pilgrims! You come here sincerely to answer the call of your Lord whose echo never breaks through years. Allah says, *"And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from*

every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (to perform Hajj).” (Al-Hajj 22:27)

You have come to this Ancient House built by two noble Prophets: Ibrahim عليه السلام and Ismail عليه السلام. It was Ibrahim عليه السلام who declared Islamic Monotheism and shunned polytheism until he was thrown in the fire from which Allah saved him. As for Ismail عليه السلام, he had surrendered to the will of his Lord and submitted himself for slaughter. So Allah saved him and elevated his position. These are two noble Prophets who gave their lives to Allah.

Therefore, this great edifice: the Ka’bah is the epitome of Tawheed and submission to Allah in abiding by His commandments and prohibitions. This is the path to victory treaded by the Prophets عليهم السلام and their followers. Allah says: *“So shun the abomination (worshipping) of idol, and shun lying speech (false statements); worshipping none but Allah, not associating partners (in worship) unto Him.” (Al-Hajj 22:30-31)*

Fellow Muslims! Hajj is not mere performance of some rituals and visiting places. It is a school, a history, memories and a pure act of worship that confers on the pilgrim the light of faith and the fruits of worship. When the pilgrim walks between Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah and trots in the valley, he remembers his helplessness and his need of Allah. He also realizes that his need for his Lord is like the need of Hajirah عليها السلام, the mother of Ismail عليه السلام, in that difficult situation when she was passionately running up and down between the two mountains seeking Allah’s relief.

The pilgrim also remembers that anybody who obeys Allah as

Ibrahim عليه السلام had done, Allah will not abandon him and his family and He will not reject his supplications.

Dear Pilgrim! Since Allah has honoured you and made it easy for you to perform this Hajj, endeavour to perform the rites of Hajj completely as an implementation of Allah's commandment, *"And perform properly the Hajj and Umrah for Allah."* (Al-Baqarah 2:196) And in line with the commandment of Rasulullah ﷺ, *"Take your Hajj rites from me."* All necessary and obligatory rites of Hajj must therefore be performed perfectly. Also, you should ask questions about acts of worship before you start them, for many a pilgrim worships Allah in ignorance. He neither knows nor asks. This situation weakens his Hajj rites. If he had asked before he acted, he would have been spared of troubles. Negligence in performing Hajj rites renders the Hajj flawed. So fear Allah and perform your Hajj and Umrah properly.

Proper performance of Hajj necessitates shunning things that could tarnish it like argument, engaging in obscenities and behaving arrogantly towards fellow Muslims. All these things must be abstained from in order to have the Hajj accepted and to have sins forgiven. Allah says: *"The Hajj (pilgrimage) is (in) the well-known (lunar year) months (i.e. the 10th month, the 11th month and the first ten days of the 12th month of the Islamic calendar, i.e. two months and ten days). So whosoever intends to perform Hajj therein (by assuming Ihraam), then he should not have sexual relations (with his wife), nor commit sin, nor dispute unjustly during the Hajj. And whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best provision is At-Taqwaa (piety, righteousness). So fear Me, O men of understanding!"* (Al-

Baqarah 2:197)

Dear brethren! The pilgrim should also abstain from things that contradict his goals. He should not call upon others besides Allah and he should not proclaim anything but Islamic monotheism and the Sunnah.

No Muslim who believes in Allah and the Last Day should harm or frighten a fellow Muslim. He should also not turn the pilgrims away from the Sunnah. Allah says: *“And whoever inclines to do evil actions therein or to do wrong, We shall cause him to taste from a painful torment.”* (Al-Hajj 22:25)

Brethren in Islam! Hajj teaches patience, perseverance, forgiveness, tolerance, generosity and kindness. It also encourages giving guidance to the ignorant, calling to righteousness and benefiting the Muslims. All acts of righteousness are ordained for the worship of Allah as they are meant for refinement and purification of the souls from impurities and imperfections, and for liberating the minds from lusts.

During Hajj, you realize that worldly luxuries which you regard as essential are not really essential, and that they are things you can do without. You also realize that people's boasting of worldly materials is meaningless because; during Hajj you see people equal as they will be on the Day of Resurrection. This scene will make you change your perception of life and lead you into giving the life of this world its due without exaggeration or negligence. The Muslims' congregation on this day is evidence that their unity is possible by the grace of Allah.

Dear Muslims! Remembrance of Allah is a conspicuous sign of Hajj. Tawheed is the proclamation of Hajj. *"I respond to Your call, O Allah! I respond to Your call. I respond to Your call, You have no associate, I respond. Yours is the praise, favour and dominion. You have no associate."*

Rasulullah ﷺ said, "Circumambulation of the House, trotting between Mount Safaa and Mount Marwah and throwing the pebbles (at Jamaraat) are all ordained for the remembrance of Allah." (Tirmizi) If the verses of Hajj are properly reflected upon, one will realise that they are linked to the remembrance of Allah. For instance, Allah says, *"And remember Allah during the appointed Days."* (Al-Baqarah 2:203)

Allah also says, *"Then when you leave 'Arafah, remember Allah (by glorifying His Praises) at the Mash'aril Haraam."* (Al-Baqarah 2:198) Allah also says, *"So when you have accomplished your Hajj rites, remember Allah as you remember your forefathers or with a far more remembrance."* (Al-Baqarah 2:200)

Dear pilgrims, remember Allah much and glorify Him, He will elevate your ranks and forgive your sins.

Hajj is making Talbiyah, glorifying Allah, remembering Him and invoking Him. The successful is the one who beseeches his Lord submissively and shows his helplessness to Him without wasting his time in useless things.

There are certain places at which Rasulullah ﷺ made much supplication. A Muslim must endeavour to emulate him: the Day of 'Arafah especially just before sunset, after Fajr prayer at

Muzdalifah until just before sunrise, after throwing Jamrah al-'Aqabah, and after throwing the pebbles at middle Jamrah on the 11th, 12th, 13th of Dhul Hijjah. Rasulallah ﷺ also used to pray on the mountains of Safaa and Marwah.

Rasulallah ﷺ would appear to people and tell them, "Take your Hajj rites from me." He would teach the ignorant and answer the questioner. This is the Prophetic guidance for students of knowledge so that they can guide people to the straight path.

Dear brethren! Hajj is an opportunity for the scholars to teach hundreds of thousands of Muslims what is useful for them in their religion. Let those who want success adhere to the saying of Rasulallah ﷺ, "Religion is very easy and whoever overburdens himself in his religion will not be able to continue in that way. So you should not be extreme, but try to be near to perfection and receive the good tidings that you will be rewarded. Strengthen yourself by worshipping Allah in the mornings and in the nights." (*Bukhari*)

Brethren in faith! One of the greatest goals of Islam is to make the Muslims united. In Al-Khayf, Mina, Rasulallah ﷺ said, "May Allah bless a person who heard my word and conveyed it (to others). There are many carriers of knowledge who are not knowledgeable for there are many who carry knowledge to those who have more understanding. There are three things that the believer must bear in heart: performing acts of worship purely for Allah alone, sincerely wishing the Muslim rulers well and adhering to the community of the Muslims." (*Ibn Majah*)

On the plain of 'Arafah, in the arena of forgiveness, hearts submit to Allah and eyes shed tears in fear of Him. The sins will then be forgiven and degrees will be elevated. On that day, Allah will boast with the pilgrims before the eyes of the angels and He will say, "See My slaves. They came to me dust-covered and dishevelled from every deep and distant place. I make you witnesses that I have forgiven them."

Fellow Muslims! Fear Allah in all that you do. Purify your deeds for Allah alone and follow the Sunnah and the correct guidance. Abstain from things that could render your Hajj incomplete or invalid. Perform your Hajj in peace and tranquillity. Be compassionate with your fellow pilgrims, especially in crowded places like during Tawaaf, throwing the pebbles or at the gates of the Sacred Mosque.

[Shaykh Saalih Aal Taalib]



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