



باسمہ تعالیٰ

## Lessons of Hajj

### Obligation:

At this present moment, hundreds of thousands of the lovers of Allah Ta'ala are either making their way, or have already made their way, to the house of their beloved. Hajj is such an obligation, that Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) mentioned:

عن علي رضي الله عنه قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : « من ملك زاداً وراحلةً تبلغه إلى بيت الله ولم يحج ، فلا عليه أن يموت يهودياً أو نصرانياً ، وذلك أن الله يقول في كتابه : *وَلِلَّهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا* » . ( « سنن الترمذي » ١ / ١٦٧ )

*'Ali (radhiyallahu 'anhu) narrates that Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said: "Whoever possess the provisions (for the journey) and the means of transport to bring him to the House of Allah Ta'ala, yet he does not perform hajj, then there is no difference in him dying as a Jew or as a Christian." To substantiate this, Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) recited the verse: "Hajj of the Baitullah is a duty man owes to Allah Ta'ala upon those who can afford the journey".*

This hadeeth shows us the importance of hajj and the great warning for omitting it without a valid reason. Hence, those of us that have the means and have not yet fulfilled this great obligation, should follow the necessary procedures, so that we can carry out this important pillar of Islam as soon as possible.

### Many Lessons:

Being an important pillar of Islam and a great act of worship, its benefits are not confined to those undertaking this sacred journey, rather there are many lessons to be learnt from hajj, which apply to those remaining behind as well. If we look at every aspect of this blessed journey, it is filled with lessons and points for us to reflect on.

### Remembering Death:

From the time one leaves his home for the airport, a vivid illustration of his life after death begins:

1. The loved ones that see him off at the airport remind him of when his soul departs from this world to the next. Boarding the aircraft resembles him being carried on the shoulders of men on the bier. The further the plane goes from the airport, the clearer the image becomes in his mind of leaving his loved ones behind.
2. When he approaches the meeqaat and dons the ihraam, the kafan his corpse will wear flashes through his mind.
3. Upon arrival in a foreign country, it awakens him to his transition to the Hereafter where nothing will seem familiar.
4. At the customs, he is made to give a full account of whatever he has brought; in some cases, his bags are even searched. The angels will interrogate him in a stricter manner on the Day of Resurrection.
5. When he comes to the haram of Makkah Mukarramah, he sees crowds of people distinct from one another behind their respective guides. This will be the scene on the Day of Qiyaamah, when large crowds will be behind their respective Ambiyaa ('alaihimus salaam).

Remembering death is extremely beneficial for abandoning sins and reforming oneself. Therefore, Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) has commanded us to continuously remember death.

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم : « أكثروا ذكر هادم اللذات » يعني الموت . ( « سنن الترمذي » ٢ / ٥٧ )

### Tauheed:

From the time the Haaji ties his ihraam, he recites the talbiyah, which is the special zikr of the person in ihraam and is supposed to be recited as much as possible. This talbiyah is actually an expression of tauheed. Thus, the Haaji is made to proclaim tauheed and the oneness of Allah Ta'ala again and again saying:

لبيك اللهم لبيك ، لبيك لا شريك لك لبيك ، إن الحمد والنعمة لك والملك ، لا شريك لك

*"I am present O Allah I am present, I am present You have no partner I am present, all praise and every bounty belongs to You alone and Kingship belongs to You, You have no partner whatsoever."*

We need to develop this tauheed deep down in our hearts and keep strengthening it, so that we do not have even the slightest bit of shirk. Shirk does not only refer to ascribing partners to Allah Ta'ala, rather, doing things for show has also been termed as a form of shirk in the hadeeth.

### **Love and Submission:**

Perhaps, the most glaring lessons of hajj, are that of 'love and submission'. At every step of his journey, the Haaji leaves his logic and reasoning and submits to the Prophetic teachings on the manner of performing hajj, together with displaying a great degree of love for his Creator.

1. The simple garb of mahabbat which he adopts, no matter how wealthy he may be, expresses his willingness to leave his choice of clothing for what Allah Ta'ala has chosen for him. This is a lesson which needs to be implemented in every facet of our life.
2. As he gets closer to Makkah Mukarramah, his yearning and love increases to enter the Divine presence. At the first glance of the Ka'bah, he is filled with love and his eyes cannot believe the sight that is before it.
3. He then goes around the house of his Beloved seven times, expressing his deep love for Him, without questioning why seven circuits. In the first three rounds, he walks briskly in emulation of Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), when he did so in order to impress upon the mushrikeen that the Muslims were not weak. The Haaji does not question why must he do the same when the element of fear no longer exists?
4. He then makes istilaam of the Hajr Aswad, whereas it is a mere stone that can neither harm nor benefit. Why does he do this? Just, because Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) did it.

عن زيد بن أسلم عن أبيه قال : رأيت عمر بن الخطاب رضي الله عنه قبل الحجر وقال : لولا أني رأيت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قبلك ما قبّلتك . ( « صحيح البخاري » ٢١٨/١ )

5. Next, the Haaji walks between Safa and Marwah, increasing his speed between the two green lights. All this is done in emulation of Sayyidah Haajar ('alaihas salaam), when she was searching for water for her thirsty child. The Haaji does not reason that I am not searching for water, so why should I tire myself in this manner?
6. When the 8<sup>th</sup> of Zul Hijjah arrives, the Haaji leaves the blessed precincts of the Ka'bah and goes to the tented village of Mina, then to the desert of 'Arafah and next to the empty plains of Muzdalifah. He goes to these places at a certain time for only a specific duration. These places are existent throughout the year, but they are only significant during times. Why? Because it is the command of the Beloved.
7. On the auspicious day of 'Arafah, he does not perform his maghrib in its prescribed time, rather he delays it and combines it with his 'esha in Muzdalifah. Although, he may have never missed a single salaah during his entire life, on this auspicious day, he leaves his logic and emotions aside and abides by the instruction of his Beloved.
8. Then in Mina, he pelts stones on a lifeless wall.

In all of the above, the Haaji merely submits to the command of Allah Ta'ala and the teachings of Rasulallah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) without applying his own logic and reasoning. A great lesson indeed!

### **Unity:**

Hujjaaj who hail from an array of countries, from diverse backgrounds, identify with different ethnicities and speak different languages – all traverse to the Holy lands with a singular purpose; to fulfil the obligation of Allah Ta'ala upon them. Whether rich or poor, black or white, educated or uneducated, Arabic speaking or otherwise, all these differences will not matter and will not even be noticed once the Haajees don their ihraam and now stand on the plains of Mina, 'Arafah and Muzdalifah. At this point, every single individual is dressed identically, in two simple pieces of white cloth, and is fulfilling the exact same rites of hajj. Here there is no 'First Class', 'Business Class' and 'Economy Class'. Instead, everybody stands side by side and cries to Allah Ta'ala to forgive him and fulfil his needs. Among the greatest lessons depicted at this point of the Haaji's journey is undoubtedly the lesson of unity, the lesson that under the veneer, polish and exterior, we are all Muslim brothers and together form one Ummah.

This lesson of unity, should not be such that it merely makes an annual appearance. Rather, the importance of unity needs to be realized by all around the globe and become an objective and goal which we all strive to achieve. Creating unity between Muslims, whilst keeping within the limits of Deen, is not just an effort which will result in an improved, more prosperous society. Rather, it is an injunction of Deen which will earn one very great reward.