

## QUESTION FROM PAST PAPER 2019.-

Q6:- Write a comprehensive note on Hajj (the pilgrimage) and its spiritual, moral and social impacts.

Ans- HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE):-

### ⇒ INTRODUCTION:-

As a unique religion, the worships of Islam are also unique and easy to be performed and get rewarded. There are two <sup>main</sup> types of worships in Islam: Obligatory and Optional. Hajj is one of <sup>the</sup> obligatory and worship and one of the five pillars of Islam. As an obligatory worship, it is <sup>therefore</sup> the important for every Muslim to perform it <sup>at least</sup> once during their lifetime. In Quran, Allah says,

وَالْحَجُّ الْمَشْرُقِ وَالْعُمْرَةُ لِلَّهِ

And complete the Hajj and Umrah for Allah.

(Surah-Al-Baqra (2): 196)

Hajj is <sup>the most</sup> that spiritual event a Muslim experiences because during Hajj he performs/observes rituals in the most sacred places in the Islamic world. It is the highly rewarded worship in Islam just like other worships or basic pillars of Islam. It is <sup>even</sup> the combination of all other pillars of Islam. Holy Prophet (PBUH) once said about the reward of Hajj:

"Nothing but the Heaven is the reward of an approved Hajj." Sahih Muslim

Haji is not an individual worship. It is the worship that is performed by people from different areas of the world by gathering at one place. Therefore, it has both individual (moral and spiritual) and social level impacts.

## ⇒ MEANING AND DEFINITION OF HAJJ:-

### ⇒ MEANING:-

- LITERAL MEANING:- Hajj is an Arabic word which literally means "to intend a journey."
- CONTEXTUAL MEANING:- In contextual terms, Hajj means pilgrimage to Kaaba. Kaaba is the holy place present in Mecca and is considered the house of Allah.

### ⇒ DEFINITION:-

According to Oxford Dictionary, Hajj is defined as:  
"the greatest Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, which takes place in the last month of the year and which all Muslims are expected to make at least once during their life-time if they afford to do so."

## ⇒ TYPES OF HAJJ:-

There are three types of Hajj. Although these all are important and one can perform any of the type but the most preferred one by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) is 'Tamattu'. The three types of Hajj are as follows:

### 1. QFRAD:-

A type of Hajj in which a Hajji (one who ~~is~~ intends to perform Hajj) declares an intention of Hajj only. In this type of Hajj, only Hajj rituals are performed and the sacrifice of an animal on Youm-ul-Nahr is not mandatory.

## 2. QIRAN:-

In this type of Hajj, Haji declared the intention of both Hajj and Umrah together in which he performs only Hajj rituals because the rituals of Umrah got merge with their Hajj counterparts. The sacrifice of an animal in this type of Hajj is mandatory.

## 3. TAMATTU:-

In this type of Hajj, Haji declared the intention of Umrah in phase I and then Hajj in phase II i.e., he will perform both Umrah and Hajj separately. The rituals are also performed separately with a small break in between both. The sacrifice of an animal is mandatory.

## ⇒ UPON WHOM HAJJ IS COMPULSORY?

Hajj is obligatory upon every Muslim man and woman <sup>if</sup> when: they reach the age of puberty, have a sane mind and <sup>are</sup> physically fit, and can afford the journey to Mecca.

## ⇒ HISTORY OF HAJJ:-

On Muslims, Hajj became obligatory on 9<sup>th</sup> AH, but the history of Ka'abah dates back to the time of Hazrat Ibrahim (As) when he was ordered by Allah to built a home of Allah and ask people to visit this home. Its da history falls at the time of Hazrat Adam (As) as well, when he built the Ka'aba for the first time on the Earth. It is <sup>also</sup> said that Ka'aba was built first by Angels <sup>first</sup> before Adam (As). So, Ka'aba is the place with a beautiful Islamic history.

# ⇒ IMPACTS OF HAJJ:-

Hajj has benefits or positive impacts on both individual and collective life. On individual life, Hajj has both spiritual and moral impacts that purifies the soul of an individual while building its character too.

Following are the spiritual, moral and social impacts of Hajj:

## A- SPIRITUAL IMPACTS:-

### 1. DETACHMENT FROM MATERIALISM:-

Hajj is the w/physical and financial worship. When an individual intends to do Hajj, he has to go on a journey to Mecca leaving behind his own life and comfort zone.

This creates the detachment from worldly things. Moreover, during Hajj while performing sacrifice, he gave his money and the meat of sacrificed animal to needy.

In Quran, Allah says,

لَنْ يَأْتِيَ اللَّهَ لَحْمُهَا وَلَا دُمُوعُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَأْتِيهِ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ

Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety of from you.

(Surah-Al-Hajj (22): 37)

From this verse, it is clear that we will be rewarded with our piety. <sup>our</sup> will for sacrifice for/in the way of Allah.

### 2. OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION TO ALLAH:-

In order to perform Hajj, individual bear all the hardships during journey towards Mecca and during rituals of Hajj due to his obedience and submission to Allah. About the people of pilgrimage, Allah in Quran says,

يَأْتُونَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ  
They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel;  
they will come from every distant pass.  
(Surah-Al-Hajj (22): 27)

### 3. CLEANING OF HEART AND SOUL:-

After performing Hajj, an individual got rewarded with the cleaning of heart and soul. During Hajj, he came across various blessings of Allah that purifies his heart and soul. In addition, he got rid of his sins as well that give him spiritual satisfaction. Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Whoever performs Hajj and does not commit any obscenity or transgression will return (free from sin) <sup>on</sup> the day his mother bore him." Sahih al-Bukhari

### 4. PO SEEKING PLEASURE OF ALLAH:-

The only purpose of a person who intends to do Hajj is to seek the pleasure of Allah, because Hajj is not only the pilgrimage of body but the pilgrimage of soul too as said by Idris Tawfiq (a British author and Islamic scholar):

"Hajj is not only the pilgrimage of the body; it is also the pilgrimage of soul. It is the journey to God."

### B. MORAL IMPACTS:-

Along with spiritual impact, Hajj has moral impacts on individual life as well, which are as follows:

## 1. HAJJ INDICATES HUMILITY AND SIMPLICITY:-

Hajj is the worship that inculcates humility and simplicity. While performing Hajj with people from different countries, one remains humble with each other and the cloth/dress that a man wears is a simple cloth called Ihram.

## 2. HAJJ PROMOTES TOLERANCE AND BROTHERHOOD:-

Hajj promotes tolerance in an individual to tolerate the harsh weather of Saudi Arabia and the behaviour of people around him. Hajj also promotes brotherhood among Hajjis. Brotherhood is one of the important aspects of Islamic society. In his last sermon, Prophet (PBUH) said:

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve; an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab."

HAJJ PROMOTES

## 3. FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION:-

When a person intends to do Hajj, it is important for <sup>him</sup> who to not <sup>keep</sup> anything bad in his heart about anyone. So, it is obligatory for him to ask for forgiveness and <sup>also</sup> forgive before going to Hajj. In this way Hajj promotes forgiveness and reconciliation among people.

## 4. SOCIAL IMPACTS:-

Hajj has far reached social impacts which are as follows:

### 1. UNITES THE MUSLIM UMMAH:-

Hajj is the only worship in which, people from

different countries gather together to worship their lord, making a one Ummah.

"Hajj is a manifestation of unity and equality. People, regardless of their status, or wealth, gather at one place in a state of humility and submission to Allah."  
(Imam Ibn Kathir (RA)).

## 2. CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HAJJIS:-

As different people from different countries/places with different cultures gathers together at one place for a certain period of time, they exchange their cultural values with each other. Due to living together, they understand each others values and problems.

## 3. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT:-

While performing all the rituals of Hajj together, they all help each other and hence increasing mutual assistance and support.

## 4. COMMEMORATION OF PROPHET IBRAHIM (AS)'S DEVOTION:-

The rituals of Hajj are actually the past events of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and his family. The main purposes of Hajj is the commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim (AS)'s devotion to his lord and to inculcate this devotion and submission among the Hajjis.

## ⇒ CONCLUSION:-

As the fifth pillar of Islam and an obligatory worship, Hajj is a complete form of worship including its rituals which commemorates the devotion and piety of Hazrat Ibrahīm (AS) and his family and impacts

on individual and society. Hajj will not only remove sins from an individual but will also build his character that how to live in a society and how to behave. Hajj not only focus on individual worship, but <sup>also</sup> will strengthen the bonds between people of different countries that are performing Hajj together. This whole discussion could be concluded with a quote of Michael Wolfe (an American author and filmmaker):

"Hajj is the biggest, most beautiful gathering of people on Earth."