

Q What is the philosophy of worships in Islam? Explain the individual and social impacts of Hajj with arguments?

Introduction:

Islam is a religion of peace and dignity. Worship in Islam means to love Allah, show humility and humbleness, follow his commands and surrender. There are many types of worships but six are obligatory which includes; Shahadah, prayer, fasting, Zakaat, hajj and jihad. Each of them have distinct philosophies and purposes. Moreover, Hajj is a physical as well as financial form of worship. Hajj symbolizes spiritual elevation of the soul, patience and tolerance. It is a symbol of unity, means of socialization and a remembrance of the day of judgement.

Philosophy of Worship in Islam

According to Shariah, worship means to follow the commandments of Allah and his messenger. There are six obligatory prayers that serve different purposes in the life of a muslim. Each prayer or worship contributes distinctively in their lives. According to Maulana Moudoodi, worship is a combination of 3 things that are to follow the commandments of Allah, fulfilling human rights and transparency in commercial dealings.

Philosophy of Prayer

Salaat refers to prayer in Islam. It is the second pillar of Islam that was obligated in the Makkī era. Salaat/Prayer means to humbly beg or ask for something. It is a means of communication between a man and his creator.

According to the holy Quran, the philosophy of prayer is to prohibit immorality of character and wrong doing.

'Indeed prayer prohibits immorality of character and wrong doing.'

Philosophy of Saum

Saum means to refrain from something. It was obligated in 2 AH in Madina. Muslims fast for the month of Ramadan from dawn till dusk. The idea of fasting reflects the strengthening of a person's willpower and his ability to self-control, by resisting the most powerful and natural instinctive demands of eating and drinking.

Philosophy of Zakaat

The meaning of Zakaat is to purify. Zakaat purifies a person's wealth and his belongings. It was obligated in 2 AH. Zakaat is a form of financial purification as it gives the idea that an Islamic state is a welfare state hence, it must look after its citizens. The holy

Quran further states, 'And perform the prayers, and give alms (Zakaat)' (Al-Baqarah)

Philosophy of Jihad:

Jihad means to 'struggle'. It is a way of defending from the evil and war against one's soul from being corrupted, standing for the truth and striving for the peaceful propagation of Islam. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) said, 'the greatest Jihad is to fight against your ill desires'

Philosophy of Hajj

The literal meaning of the word 'Hajj' is to intend to a journey. Hajj is a financial and physical worship. Hajj gives an Islamic teaching of equality and universal brotherhood. Eid-ul-Adha which is celebrated after Hajj and animals are sacrificed is a symbolic recall to fully trust the commandments of Allah, accept his power and wisdom.

Individual Impacts of Hajj

* Spiritual Elevation

Performing Hajj is a symbol of spiritual uplift of a person's physical and emotional capabilities. Throughout the pilgrimage, a muslim reinforces his trust and belief in Allah and his power to forgive.

Cleaning from Sins

When a muslim performs the pilgrimage he stays away from sins for a period of 40 days due to which he forms a habit of refraining from the evil acts. The Holy Prophet (C.A.W) said, "whoever performs hajj for Allah and does not do evil or sins then he will return as if he were born anew".

High Reward

Hajj is one of the highest ranked ibaadah in Islam. People who perform hajj are usually considered as guests of Allah and high rewards will be gifted to them not only in the hereafter but in the world too.

Teaches how to sacrifice

Hajj is a spiritual journey of submission and devotion in the way of God. It teaches man how to sacrifice his desires for the name of Allah. The financial and the physical sacrifice of the pilgrims symbolize that there is no power above Allah.

Patience and Tolerance

Hundreds and thousands of pilgrims, performing a pilgrimage in the scorching heat or terrible winters, teaches a person how to remain patient and tolerating towards their fellow

beings.

Time-management

Hajj also teaches the pilgrims to manage their time and be punctual about the ibadaah and activities of the pilgrimage. Traveling the journey with a huge crowd, a pilgrim learns time-management skills.

Remembrance of death

A huge number of people wearing white attire and walking towards the way of Allah replicate the scenarios of the day of judgement where every human will be equal and returned back to Allah.

Social Impacts of Hajj

Display of brotherhood

The occasion of Hajj can serve as the place where Muslims from all parts of the world gather and display brotherhood and unity. They can show the world that they are one and bow before one Allah.

A means of socializing

In earlier days Hajj was a means of socializing for the Muslims. Muslims from all over the world can gather at one place and

beings and socialize which creates respect and love for the muslims of other nations as well.

Establishing peace and harmony among muslims

Dajj is a place where head of the states can join and give the message of peace and harmony among all muslim leaders. This can also limit the difference between the middle and the elite class.

Collective Submission to God

When muslims from different parts of the world submit to the will of God and carry out the 5-10 days of activities together. It gives the message to the world that the muslims are one nation and they bow before the same Lord.

Conclusion:

Hajj is the 5th pillar of Islam which teaches a man to submit to the will of Allah, guide him spiritually, teaches patience and tolerance and establishes peace and harmony among muslims.