

Hajj

Q No. (2019) Write a comprehensive note on Hajj (the pilgrimage) and its spiritual, moral and social impacts.

Introduction:

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ

"Oh Allah! I am present"

Hajj is pillar of Islam, it is an annual pilgrimage to Makkah and a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable of performing Hajj and can support their family during absence on for Hajj. On 8th Hijra it became obligatory on ^{all} men and women. Moreover, it has moral, spiritual and social impacts like it fosters Islamic brotherhood. It builds character in a society, it brings Muslims close to Allah and it is a movement to build peace in the world.

Meaning of Hajj

In Arabic, "Hajj" means a "resolve" to resolve some magnificent duty.

In Islamic jurisprudence it means "to set for the Kabah" referred as pilgrimage.

In Shariah, Hajj is the name of those acts which are performed after entering into the state of Ihram with Niyah intentions of Hajj.

3) History of Hajj

Kaba was built by Prophet Adam (A.S) However the traditions have it that Kaba was formerly built by Angels on order of Allah well before Prophet Adam (A.S). It was rebuilt by Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and his son Prophet Ismail (A.S) as it is stated in Holy Quran:

And when Ibrahim and Ismail are re-erected the foundations of the house. (they said) Our Lord accept the service from us, because you are the hearer knower (Al-Baqrah - 2:127)

In 605, again rebuilt by Quraysh when Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was 35 years old and took part in construction of Khana Kaba. In 610 AH/8 AH Prophet (ﷺ) led his followers from Medina to Makkah. Cleared the Kaba by destroying all the pagan idols and then reconstructed the building to Allah. In 632/10 AH, He (ﷺ) performed his only and last pilgrimage with a large number of followers, and instructed them on the rites of Hajj.

4) Importance of Hajj in the light of Holy Quran and Hadith

a) In the light of Holy Quran

"Allah has made the Kaaba, the sacred house, the centre

for permanent stability of mankind

(Al - Maidah 5:97)

Further more, in Surah Hajj Allah stated that

"And proclaim to the people that Hajj (Abrahamic), they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant part (22:27)

b) Importance of Hajj in the light of Hadith

"Nothing but the Heaven is reward of an approved pilgrimage (Muslim)

Hajj is a duty but Umrah is optional

(Abu Hurairah narrated Hadith)

5) Kinds of Hajj

a) Hajj al-Isra'it. It is simple Hajj, A pilgrim before passing through the Miqat (Place for assuming Ihram) enters into the state of Ihram with Niyyah (intention) of performing Hajj

b) Hajj al-Qiran: Qiran mean combine two things. A pilgrim who performs this kind of Hajj combines Hajj and Umrah. That he assumes Ihram with niyyah of performing both Hajj and Umrah.

c) Hajj al-Tamattu

6) Faraidh of Hajj:

- a) To assume Ihram
- b) To stay at Arafat (Wuquf at Arafat) on 9th Zul Hajj
- c) Tawaf on 10-12 Zul Hajj after shaving off head (Tawaf al Ziyarah)

7) Impacts of Hajj

Hajj has many positive effects on the character of individual pilgrim and on muslim society as a whole.

a) Spiritual impacts of Hajj

i) Total submission to Allah.

The Hajj is complete worship and signifies total submission before Allah. It is an effective ritual to get closer to God.

ii) Soul purification.

Hajj purifies the soul of an individual bringing purity, hope and renewal by strengthening individual faith.

iii) Strengthen ones belief in God

Hajj is a worship that strengthen ones belief and protect him from distraction as Holy Prophet (ﷺ) said

"when a man dies and he has not performed Hajj, let him die. God willing as jew, or God willing as a christian."

Elaborate arguments quite a bit

iv) Closer to Allah.

Another spiritual impact of Hajj is that it brings Muslims closer to Allah.

b) Moral Impacts of Hajj

i) Teaches self-sacrifice in the line of duty

The pilgrimage combines both the physical difficulties of performing a religious obligation with expenditure of money to that end. This serves to combat man's love of money and his inclination to seek comfort. If triumph over this makes up his mind to a state of total consecration (Ihram) and protects himself from avarice and as Allah has said in Quran:

"And those who are saved from their own avarice such are they who are successful."
(Al-Hashr)

ii) Character building

The essential moral impact of Hajj is that it builds character in a society.

iii) Pilgrimage and commitment to a superior morality

This becomes clear when we learn that the pilgrim is asked not to do anything which would deflect him from the path of his act of worship.

iv) Respect and love for Muslims.
Another, significant moral impact of Hajj is that it enhances respect and love among Muslims.

c) Social impact of Hajj:

a) Hajj develops awareness about Islamic history.

History plays a role in Muslims understanding as a subject of reflection and as a lesson to learn. Performing the Hajj contributes in developing this awareness in the Muslims.

b) Hajj fosters Islamic brotherhood:-

During Hajj, Muslims learn the practical meaning of the statement about Muslims that they are a single community. As Allah has said in Quran

"Lo! this your religion is one religion
(Al - Anbiya)

iii) Equality of All:

The Muslim also feels a sense of equality when he sees everyone dressed in two white cloths representing the state of Ihram, he realizes the truth of the fact that we all descend from Adam and that Adam was created from the dust of earth.

iv) Hajj is a movement to build world peace

Islam has made it compulsory that during 4 months (Zul Hajj, Zul Qad and Muharram and Rajab) fixed for Hajj and Umrah every effort should be made to maintain peace on all roads leading to Kaba that's why it is the greatest movement of a permanent nature to establish peace in the world.

8) Conclusions

Perform Hajj and visit to Makkah for Allah. (Al Quran)

In a nutshell, it is proven that Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam and it has spiritual, moral and social impacts on human life and society such as it brings Muslims close to Allah, it strengthens one's belief in God, it builds character in a society and it fosters brotherhood.

You need to elaborate the last part

Substantially low

Add more references

Add Quranic Verses and hadith