

Q Write a comprehensive note on Hajj (the Pilgrimage) and its spiritual moral and social impacts. CSS - 2019 : Q no 6

Introduction

Hajj is one of the obligatory worships and the last pillar of Islam performed every year on 10th of Dhul Hajj. Muslims from every corner of the world gather at a single center for completing ritual mandatory for Hajj. It is not only a religious practice but also a way of gaining worldly and spiritual benefits. When in the scorching heat of Arabia and in the mountainous plane of Arafat believer submit themselves before God strengthens their belief that there is no one but He. Despite stanic traps one sacrifice his inner to satisfy the ALCAH. Muslim belong to different ethnicities, races, language bear the burden of journey and live in close harmony with their Muslim brothers. They adopt humility and modesty and yearn for blessing and satisfaction from God. Either in worldly or in spiritual during Pilgrimage God's blessing bestowed upon the Muslims.

"Nothing but the heaven is the reward of an approved Pilgrimage"
Holy Prophet

Spiritual impacts

Submission before God

Pilgrimage is an ultimate form of submission to God. A follower, after traveling thousands of miles, present himself

before God for his own contentment. It is the only submissiveness by doing so one considers ~~himself~~ oneself superior. On the other side his perpetual struggle in prerequisites of pilgrimage bring him closer to ALLAH. This the worship which acclaims that all Power belong to almighty and He is the only sustainer and giver of every thing. So pilgrimage is absolute submission before God.

”هَيْهَا أَنَا يَا رَبِّ
”Here I am, O ALLAH, here I am”

Strengthen of belief

As pilgrimage is one of the basic worships, it strengthens the belief of a Muslim. whoever visit the house of God feel that from millions of Muslim around the world, God has chosen him to be His guest. when a pilgrim is done with practices of Hajj his faith turn more firm in ALLAH that despite difficult circumstances ALLAH has helped him in performing all activities perfectly. If the belief of a person is shaken either before or after Hajj, there is possibility of approval of his worship is in ambiguity. In this way, true performance of Hajj consolidate faith of a believer.

”O people, verily ALLAH is pure and He does not accept anything else but pure.”
Holy Prophet

Protection of faith

Performance of Hajj complete all obligatory worships of Islam. A firm believer while performing pilgrimage keep this in account that not to indulge in vices.

This resolution inculcate fear of God and piety in Muslims and protect his faith. It has been ordered from God not to harm or bother anyone while pilgrimage day. After spending day in obedience to God, he return changed altogether and his attitude towards other turns modest. Thus Hajj also solidify one's belief in ALLAH.

شهادة ان لا اله الا هو - Al-Imran 3:18

"God bear witness that there is no god but He."

Sense of self-sacrifice

Hajj is all about self-sacrifice in the way of ALLAH. A believer put himself in constant struggle of days just to get His blessing. If a soldier with a gun and other munition is seen, it can easily trace that he is engaged in war or is ready to go. In the same manner a Muslim with two piece of cloth shows his humble sacrifice in the will of ALLAH. He give up his power and surrender against ALLAH. That is the reason animal sacrifice is also performed in the actions of Hajj as it is all linked with sacrifices.

"Hasten to perform Hajj, for who knows about the future" - Holy prophet

Moral impacts

Negation of self-righteous rigidity

Hajj is pure form of denial of self-righteous. When a Muslim visits House of ALLAH, he repeatedly recites "Here I am, O ALLAH here I am" that means he capitulates all his self in the way of ALLAH. Indeed, all power belongs to ALLAH. Muslim ^{from} all over the world, just for the pleasure of ALLAH, come and ask forgiveness because He is the alone who grants and forgives. Pilgrimages during pilgrim days set aside their egos and try to accumulate as much blessing as they can.

Faatiir - 35:28 انما يخشى الله من عباده العلماء

"Only those fear ALLAH, from among His servants, who have knowledge."

Suppression the lust of materialism

It is clearly ordained that Hajj is obligatory on those ^{only} who can afford this journey. In this regard, a well-to-do person spends money in the way to Makkah. This wealth which is used in performing Hajj denounces the desire of materialism. All the worldly ^{things} that any one possesses are the blessings of ALLAH, so it should be the priority of a Muslim. Hajj is the trial of both physical and financial capacity, if it is performed wholeheartedly, it eradicates the lust of materialism.

"The lust of this world is the mother of all evils" - Holy prophet

Reminder of the satanic trap

Devil is always remain in seek to mislead the believer. It is one of the reminder to Muslim that not to leave the path of righteousness. Visit to Mina reminds the Muslim how Hazrat Ibrahim threw pebble at devil. In the souvenir of that moment, Muslims in Ramy throw stones at the structure of devil. Believer have been provided with guidance in every phase of life. Thus a firm believer never deviates from this trajectory and never put himself on a path from which God has forbidden. In this way Hajj is a reminder for Muslims to keep them far away from satanic trap.

Faatir - 35:6 ان الشيطان لكم عدو فاتخذوه عدوا
"Indeed, satan is an enemy to you; so take him as an enemy."

Defending of faith with firm resolve

Completion of Hajj complete the obligatory worships in Islam. Although it is only compulsory for wealthy person, people having no resources are exempted from this. So the believe and desire of journey to pilgrimage is the foundation of resolve of faith. When a believer put himself in constant struggle for the accomplishment of Hajj, it mean he has adorned faith in God and His divine religion. So Hajj refresh the faith of a follower in Islam.

Al-Imran-3:19 ان الدين عند الله الاسلام
"Certainly, the religion in the sight of ALLAH is Islam."

Social impacts

Unified by central purpose

Islam promotes unification of Muslim ummah and Hajj fulfil this very concept. Muslims belong to different regions, language, ethnicities come to perform Hajj at same time, same place and stand side by side to everyone. Islam reject any kind of nationalism. The common purpose is God's pleasure. Believers repeatedly recite ALLAH is great, this slogan eradicate the sense of superiority rather all Muslims are brother and equal. They bear all hardship of pilgrimage together in equal manner which further soften their heart. *Fateha: ٤٠* اِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَايَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
"It is you we worship and you we ask for help"

Equality among Muslim nation

When a believer goes to perform Hajj, he returns sin free. The first impact is felt that modesty and humbleness is seen in a pilgrim attitude. He treats everyone equally. From the beginning of the journey, he meet up with Muslim around the globe with the different creed, it inculcate in him awareness of equality. No Muslim is greater than other in term of biases the only superiority measures is the piety. True believer always remain pious promote equality.

Al-Imran-3:103 وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا

"And hold firmly together to the rope of ALLAH and do not be divide."

Establishment of Peace

Islam is the deen of peace. When million of Muslims gather to perform Hajj, it is highly possible that uproar may break out. It has never been observed pilgrimage were seen involved in fighting or any indiscipline activities. These people despite vices and weakness of other compromise and try to maintain peace. They try to get as much blessings as they can and maintain decorum of the house of God. In the same way atmosphere of peace and brotherhood prevail when they return to native land. So Hajj also contribute in bringing peace.

"Verily, the best of the people to ALLAH are those who begin the greeting of peace" - Holy prophet

Fostering Humility

After having done with pilgrimage man found humbleness in him. He knows that ALL power belong to ALLAH so he has no capability to do anything except which ordend by ALLAH. His heart melt, his voice down and his all action alinged with the will of ALLAH.

A true believer treats every one equally. While performing Hajj he bear sacrifices and after that he starts understanding that his actions may hurt anyone so he abstain from such immoral actions.

ولا تتمشقن في الارض مبرا Ban Israel - 17:37

"And do not walk upon the earth exultantly"

Conclusion

Every worship has its own importance in Islam, but Hajj touches every aspect of all worships. From man's first step towards house of God till his return he changes altogether. Humbleness, modesty, negation of materialism, fear of God, strengthening of faith are traits which are seen in an approved pilgrimage. All his action aligned with the will of ALLAH. Submission, surrender, obedience in the right way as guided by Holy Prophet becomes the purpose of life. He finds himself accountable in everything and tries to align his every action as per Islam. In this way Hajj has a vast impact in a believer's life.