

Topic phrase: "The philosophy of Qurbani and Hajj in Islam and its impact on society"

I. Introduction

Qurbani and Hajj, cornerstone rituals in Islam, offer a glimpse into the religion's core values. One can explore their philosophies, from Qurbani's symbolic representation of sacrifice to Hajj's emphasis on unity and equality. By examining these practices, it is easy to uncover their lasting impact on Muslim societies, fostering community, bridging social divide, and promoting compassion.

II. The philosophy of Qurban and Hajj in Islam

- Qurbani: A symbolic Act of submission and compassion

Day: _____

(i) Unwavering devotion

Date: _____

- Observed during Eid al-Adha, Qurban commemorates Prophet Abraham's unwavering devotion to God.

(ii) Submission to the divine will

- Faced with the ultimate test of sacrificing his son, Ishmael, Abraham demonstrated his complete submission to the divine will. However, Allah intervened, replacing Ishmael with a ram.

(iii) Act of obedience to Allah

Qurbani embodies this act of obedience and highlights the importance of surrendering one's desires to Allah's command.

As mentioned in Surah Al-Hajj, Verse 34:

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

(iv)

Believer's willingness to relinquish worldly attachments

Date: _____

Beyond the historical narrative, Qurban carries profound philosophical significance. The sacrifice represents the believer's willingness to relinquish worldly attachments, prioritizing God's will above all else. The act of sharing the meat with the less fortunate underscores the Islamic principle of social responsibility and compassion. Distributing a portion of the Qurban meat ensures the well-being of those in need, fostering a sense of community and solidarity.

• Hajj: A Journey of Unity and Transformation

(i) Signifying the universality of faith and erasure of social hierarchies

Hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca,

stands as a mandatory obligation for all Muslims with the physical and financial capacity to undertake it. Stripped of worldly possessions and distinctions, pilgrims don identical white garments, signifying the universality of faith and the erasure of social hierarchies.

(ii) **The unity of Allah and the oneness of humanity**

Together, Muslims perform a series of rituals, each imbued with symbolic meaning. Circumambulation of the Kaaba, a cubical structure believed to be built by Abraham and Ishmael, represents the unity of God and the oneness of humanity.

(iii) **Showcasing perseverance and Resilience**

The act of running between the hills of Safa and Marwa commemorates Hagar's desperate search for water for her

son Ishmael, showcasing perseverance and resilience. Standing on the plains of Arafat signifies the Day of Judgement, promoting introspection and spiritual renewal.

(iv) Unwavering commitment to resist evil and adhere to the righteous path

The culmination of Hajj involves throwing stones at three pillars representing temptations by the devil. This act symbolizes the believer's unwavering commitment to resist evil and adhere to the righteous path.

(v) Signifying a new beginning and spiritual birth

The final act involves shaving one's head or beard, signifying a new beginning and spiritual rebirth. Returning from Hajj, pilgrims are bestowed with the title of ~~Hajj~~ "Hajj", a mark of distinction.

and a reminder of their transformed state,

• Surah Al-Hajj (The Pilgrimage),

Verse: 27

Emphasizes the Kaaba's significance as a unifying symbol for Muslims and highlights Hajj as a unifying ritual for believers.

III. Implications of Qurbani and Hajj on society

Qurbani and Hajj leave an indelible mark on Muslim societies, shaping social structures and fostering a sense of shared identity.

(a) Strengthening community Bonds

Qurbani fosters a spirit of togetherness. Families and communities often pool resources to share the cost of the sacrifice, emphasizing cooperation and collective action.

Its importance is mentioned as in Sahih Muslim.

"O people, Allah has enjoined Hajj upon you, so do Hajj."
(Muslim)

(b) Bridging social divides

Hajj, by stripping away external markers of wealth and status, emphasizes the inherent equality of all believers before Allah. Hajjis from all walks of life stand ~~the~~ shoulder to shoulder, united in their devotion. Prophet Muhammad said,
(PBUH)

"All of the mankind is from Adam and Eve, and Allah has favored the Arabs over the non-Arabs and the Quraysh over the Arabs.... There is no superiority of an Arab over a non-Arab, or a non-Arab over an Arab, or a red (skinned) person over a black (skinned) person and vice versa, except in piety."

Day: _____

(c) Promoting compassion and charity

Qur'anic's core principle of sharing ensures that those less fortunate benefit from the ~~act~~ sacrifice. This act of charity alleviates hunger and fosters a sense of social responsibility.

(d) Moral and spiritual Renewal

Both Qurbani and Hajj serve as opportunities for self reflection and spiritual growth. The act of sacrifice reminds believers of the importance of prioritizing God's will above worldly desires.

(e) Self control and patience

The struggle which the pilgrims have to do while performing Hajj creates a sense of self control and patience. For example, owing to heatwaves, the Hajj of this year was full of hardships.

IV. Conclusion

To conclude, Qurbani and Hajj are the most important worships which are the source of multiple social implications. The philosophy of Qurbani lies in following elements: devotion to Allah and relinquishment of worldly desires. Similarly, the Hajj leads to unity and transformation. There are multiple impacts on society as a whole like strengthening community bonds, bridging social divides, promoting compassion and charity, and moral and spiritual renewal. In simple words, Qurbani and Hajj brings a person close to Allah, and renovates the society.