

ASSIGNMENT ON "FASTING AND HAJJ"

◆ FASTING - SOUM / ROZA

INTRODUCTION:-

Fasting in the month of Ramadan is the fourth pillar of Islam. It is the practice of abstaining from eating food, drinking liquid, smoking, inoculations, injections and having intercourse from the break of dawn until sunset. The month of Ramadan is an invitation to get rid of the evils. Fasting is obligatory upon every muslim and it is a controlled practice.

It teaches us patience, promotes equality and builds sense of trust in Allah.

Allah has enjoined upon the muslims to fast in order to strengthen our faith, piety and God consciousness.

1- FASTING INVOLVES :-

- Avoiding that, which Allah has forbidden.
- Practising patience throughout the day.
- To bring our desires under control.
- Competing in generosity through charity.
- Demonstrating cooperation and mutual compassion.

“ O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint ”

AL-Baqarah: Verse 183

2- FASTING - INVITATION TO SHED EVIL WAYS :-

Fasting in the month of Ramadan is in fact an annual invitation to delinquents to shed evil ways and to put on garb of humility.

3. FUNDAMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR FASTING.

Fasting is made obligatory upon every muslim but with the condition that he must be fit physically for it. A sick person, one who is travelling, and old person are free from this obligation. The sick and the traveler have to complete the period on other days. And the very old must feed a poor for each day of the fasts of Ramadan.

“ And for those who can not afford it there is ransom, the feeding of a man in need ”

Surah Al-Baqara : Verse 184.

4. INOCULATION OF DETERMINATION AND SENSE OF TRUST IN ALLAH.

Fasting in man inoculates a great degree of determination and trust in Allah.

There is a tradition related by Abu Hazim, that the apostle of Allah once said,

“ In Paradise there is a gate named ar-Rayyan through which on the day of Reckoning those who fast will enter, and through which none but they will enter. ”

5-TRUE SENSE OF FAITH - CULTIVATES PATIENCE AND FOSTERS A SENSE OF EQUALITY.

Ramadan is a month of patience. The objective of fast is to attain righteousness, patience in adversity and steadfastness in deprivation. Fasting place everybody, the rich and the poor, the high and the low on the same pedestal.

“ He who abstains from food and drink during the period of fasting but does not strive to abstain and safeguard himself against moral lapses, starves to no purpose ”

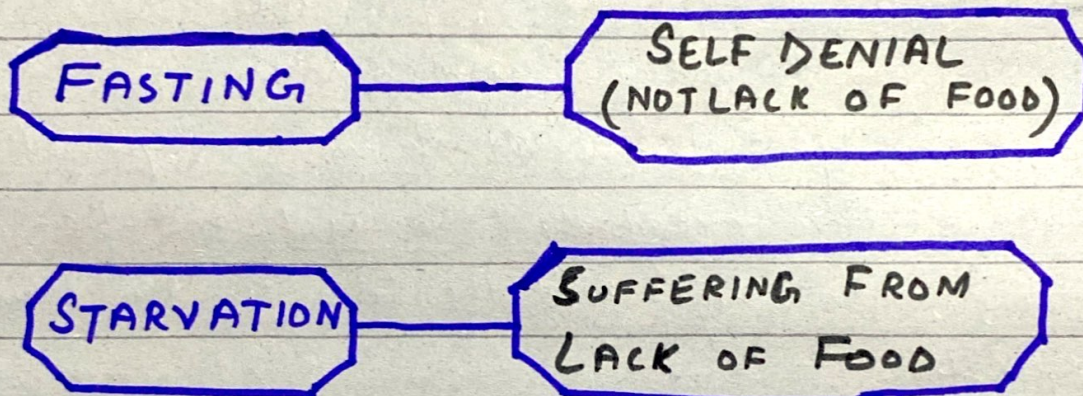
Prophet Muhammad (P.R.U.H).

6-RAMADAN - A CHOICE FOR FASTING

The Holy Quran was revealed in the month of Ramadan. The first revelation came to the Prophet during Ramadan, when he was in the cave of Hira. The month

which witnessed his greatest spiritual experience was thus considered to be the most suitable month for the spiritual discipline of the Muslim community which was to be effected through fasting.

7. FASTING IS NOT STARVATION.



Between the breaking of one fast and the start of the next, people are free to eat and drink.

IMPACTS OF FASTING :-

• SOCIAL IMPACTS.

Increasing Sympathy for the Poor.

To experience the feeling of others. Thus you can sympathize with the poor, help them and be grateful to Allah.

for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

Unity and Community Building.

Fasting fosters a sense of unity. People often gather for Iftar meals, where they share food and engage in meaningful conversations. This strengthens social bonds among Muslims.

• MORAL IMPACTS :-

Self-Discipline and Humility.

Fasting requires abstaining from food, drink and other physical desires from dawn until sunset. This practice cultivates self-discipline, the ability to control one's impulses and desires. It promotes virtuous behaviour.

• SPIRITUAL IMPACTS

Closemen to Allah Almighty.

Fasting brings closer to Allah Almighty with reasonable practices of good activities.

Purification of Soul.

It helps in the purification of soul. He abstains from all evil thoughts, actions and sayings.

Affection towards Allah Almighty.

Fasting exposes how affectionate the muslims are towards their creator, obeying His orders.

CONCLUSION

The whole purpose of fasting is to promote righteousness as it develops sense of patience and equality. It imparts loftiness to a man's character and personality.

HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE)

INTRODUCTION 1-

Hajj or the pilgrimage to Makkah is fourth basic ibadat. The literal meaning of hajj is to make up one's mind to visit a Holy place. It is obligatory on every adult man or woman. Those who can't afford are exempted from it. Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Ismael built a small house for the worship of Allah. Allah rewarded them by calling it His own House and making it the centre towards which all must face when saying prayers. While performing hajj, muslims perform hajj rituals. When we undertake the pilgrimage we are required to suppress our passions, refrain from bloodshed and be pure in word and deed.

★ THE IMPORTANCE OF PILGRIMAGE

Hajj is one of the greatest religious duties. Every muslim is duty-bound to perform the pilgrimage once in his lifetime.

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

◆ CONSTRUCTION OF KA'BAH

Ka'bah was constructed by Hazrat Ibrahim
and his son Hazrat Ismael.

"And when Ibrahim and Ismael were
raising the foundations of the House"
(2:127).

Both the construction of Ka'bah and the
selection of its site were decreed by
Allah. When its construction was completed,
they were ordered to proclaim that a
pilgrimage unto it was a duty.

"And proclaim unto mankind the
pilgrimage"
(22:27).

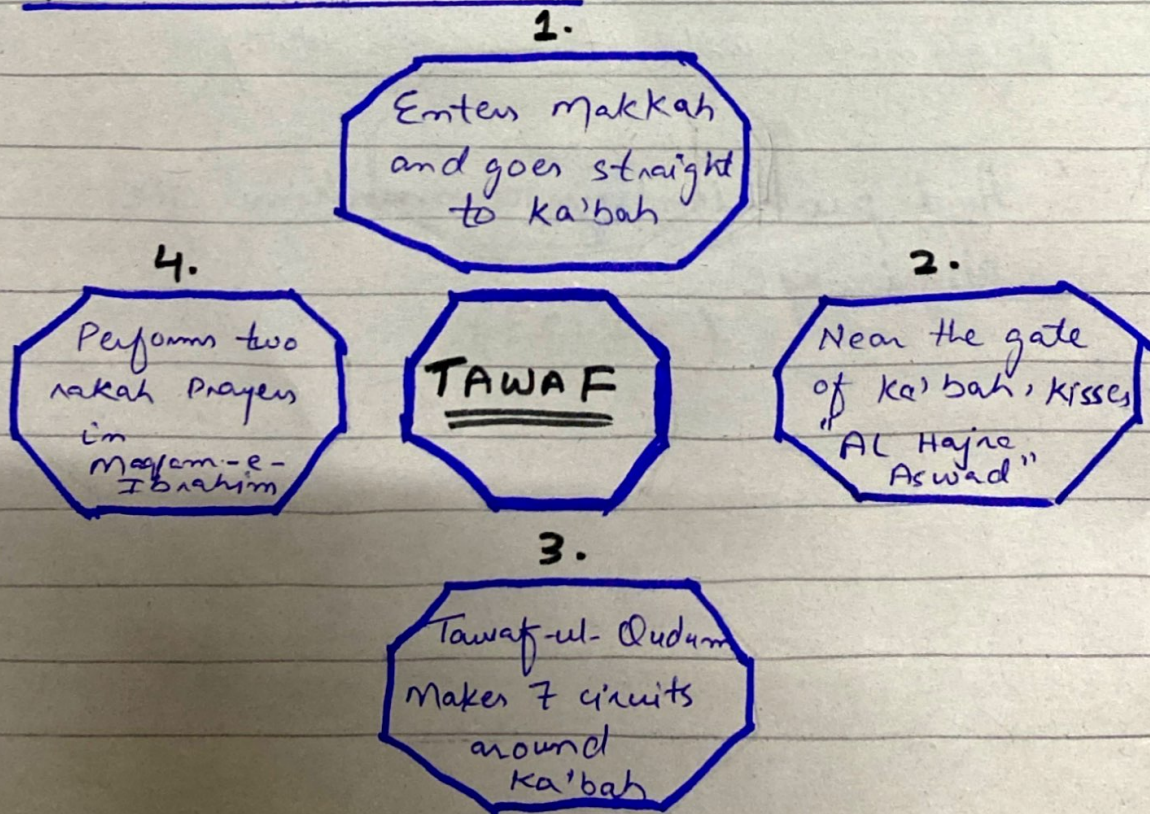
RITUALS OF THE PILGRIMAGE

IHRAM

When a muslim sets out on pilgrimage, he makes a declaration of his intentions near Makka. In technical terms it is called Ihram. Pilgrims perform two rakah prayer and makes formal declaration of his intentions and recites

“ Labbaika! Allahumma! Labbaika! Labbaika!
La shauka laka! Labbaika! Innal
Hamda wam Naimata laka, wal Mulka
La shauka laka! ”

PERFORM TAWAF



PERFORM SAEY

Safa $\xleftrightarrow{7 \text{ times}}$ Marva

Pilgrims perform Saey between the hills of Safa and Marva. Upon 7th day the pilgrims gather in the mosque of Ka'bah and listen to the sermon of their leader.

DEPARTURE TO MINA

On 8th day the pilgrims proceed to Mina and stay there till the next morning.

DAY AT ARAFAT

On the 9th day the pilgrims proceed towards Arafat and gather on the slopes of Mount Arafat known as Jabal-ul-Rahmah. Pilgrims spend the day at Arafat.

MUZDALIFAH

After sunset in Arafat, pilgrims proceed to Muzalifah where they spend the night and collect pebbles.

DEVIL STONING AT MINA

Pilgrims set out for Mina and throw pebbles at three pillars in Mina

ANIMAL SACRIFICE.

Pilgrims sacrifice some cattle a sheep, or a goat, or a cow, or a camel, according to the means of pilgrims

HAIR TRIM AND REMOVE PILGRIMS AHRAM.

After the sacrifice pilgrims get their heads shaved and come out of the state of Ihram.

RETURN TO KA'BAH FOR TAWAF AND SAEY.

Once again they perform Tawaf and saey.

RETURN TO MINA

They again proceed to Mina and throw pebbles on the three pillars.

FAREWELL TAWAF.

After throwing pebbles, they come back to ~~Makke~~ Ka'bah and perform farewell Tawaf (Tawaf - al - wida).

+ COMPREHENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE PILGRIMAGE

1. Pilgrimage is full of remembrance of Allah
2. Pilgrimage is poor-due as it is obligatory for every pilgrim that he should feed the poor with the flesh of the animal he sacrifices.
3. It imparts a singular lesson in faith and morality.
4. It imparts faith in the Unity of Allah. A look at Ka'bah strengthens the Unitarian faith of a Muslim.
5. It is also the reminder of the traps. The devil standing at ~~an~~ Mince bring single minded devotion to Ibrahim in the way of Allah.

CONCLUSION:-

Makka is the centre towards which the muslims must converge once a year, meet and discuss topics of common interest and in general create in themselves faith - that all muslims are equal irrespective of their ~~sa~~ geographical or cultural origin. Thus the pilgrimage unites the muslims of the world into one international fraternity.