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Write a Comprehensive note on Hajj system of Islam and its spiritual, moral, and social impacts. (2019)

### Introduction:

The Hajj is an annual pilgrimage to Makkah, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a mandatory religious duty for all able-bodied Muslims who can make their journey at least once in their lifetime. It is a demonstration of the solidarity of the Muslim people and their submission to God. It's a five days duty that occurs from the 8th to 12th of Dhu al Hajj. Ihram is the name given to the special state in which pilgrims wear two white sheets of seamless cloths and abstain from certain actions.

"Pilgrimage is one of the pillars of Islam. Its foundations are: the performance of an act of worship which takes place once in a lifetime, the fulfillment of a divine command, the completion of Islam and the perfection of religion".

(Abu Hamid al-Ghazali)

## Meaning and concept of Hajj:

Literally in Arabic Hajj means "a resolve" - that is "to resolve to some magnificent duty". The meaning of verb Hajj is "to circle, to go around". Also it means "to intend a journey". In Islamic jurisprudence it means, to set out for the Kabah. As a technical term in Shariah Hajj is the name of those acts which are performed after entering into the state of Ihram with the Niyah (intention) of Hajj. They comprise Tawaf (necessary duties), Tawaf (circumambulation of Kabah), Wuquf (stay) at Arafat and some Wajibaat (obligatory actions) which are performed in a given order at appointed times.

## Importance of Hajj in Quran and Hadith

Hajj is a chance to wipe clean the slate of one's mistakes and shortcomings of the past  
Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"One who comes this house for Hajj and avoids all lewdness and sins, he returns as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him."  
(Bukhari & Muslim)

Every believer that embarks upon this sacred pilgrimage is a guest from Allah and it is one of the methods to attain Allah's pleasure. Prophet (PBUH) said:

"Pilgrims and those performing Umrah are Allah's guests; their prayers are answered and their supplications for forgiveness are granted."  
(Al-Hadith)

Allah mentions the significance of Kaba'ah in Quran in these words:

جعل الله الكعبة البيت الحرام قياماً للناس  
(Al-Maidah 5:97)

"Allah has made the Kaba'ah the sacred house, the center for permanent stability of mankind."

Quran further says about the importance of Hajj:

و اذن في الناس بالهج ياتوك رجالا  
وعلى كل ضامر ياتين من كل  
فج عسيق ٥

(Al-Hajj : 27)

"And proclaim to the people the Hajj; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass."

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"When a man dies and he has not performed the Hajj (pilgrimage), let him die, God willing, as a Jew or, God willing, as a Christian."

(Muslim)

"As opposed to this one who performs Hajj has his place in paradise."

As Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

الهم الصبر ليس له جزاء الا الجنة .

(Muslim)

"Nothing but the heaven is the reward of an approved pilgrimage."

The Prophet said:

يا ايها الناس قد فرض عليكم الحج فحجرو!

"O People! Hajj has been made

incumbent on you, therefore perform Hajj."

## Upon Whom Hajj is mandatory?

Hajj is obligatory on every muslim, man and woman, who has reached the age of puberty; is of sound mind and physically fit, and who who can afford to undertake a journey to Makkah.

وَلِلّٰهِ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ الْيُسْرَىٰ-

(Aal-Imran 3:97)

"Pilgrimage there to is a duty men owe to Allah - those who can afford the journey."

Islam requires pilgrimage to take sufficient provision with them in order that they may perform the pilgrimage with full concentration having peace of mind.

Allah says in Quran:

"And take a provision with you for the journey."

(Al-Baqarah 2:197)

## Impacts of Hajj:

### (i) Spiritual impacts:

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

#### (a) Strengthens one's belief:

Hajj is a worship that strengthens one's belief and protect him from disbelief as the Prophet (PBUH) said:

"There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days."

One who performs Hajj gets Allah's pleasure and Allah grants him the right path and strengthens his belief.

#### (b) Remembrance of Death and total surrender brings inner peace:

When the pilgrim puts Ihram, he is reminded of the shroud in which he will be wrapped after death.

This prompts oneself to leave all the sins and disobedience and surrender both verbally and intentionally.

and says

ليتك اللهم ليك  
ليتك لا شريك لك ليك  
ان الحمد والمنة لك والملك  
لا شريك لك.

"I have come to fulfill your call,  
O Allah. I have come to fulfill your  
call. You have no partner. I have  
come to fulfill your call. Indeed,  
all praise, favours, and all powers  
are yours. You have no partner."

This surrender consoles one's  
soul and bring eternal peace.

(ii) Moral impacts:

(a) Pilgrimage and commitment  
to superior morality:

The Quranic issue explanation of  
this issue is decisive. Allah says:

"The pilgrimage is in the well  
known months, whoever is minded to  
perform the pilgrimage therein (let  
him remember that) - there is to be  
no lewdness, no abuse nor angry  
conversation on the pilgrimage."

(Al-Baqarah 2:197)

Pilgrimage bound man to be lenient and humble and tolerate everything if he utters anything bad or commits anything against it. It will defect his pilgrimage.

(iii) Pilgrimage teaches self sacrifice.

Hajj combines both physical restrictions and financial expenditures in way of it. This serves to combat man's love of money and seek of comfort. He has to protect himself from avarice to perform Hajj.

Quran says:

"And whosoever is saved from his own avarice such are they who are successful". (Al-Hashar 59:9)

(iii) Promotes the idea of <sup>with</sup> difficulty comes ease:

One of the many rituals of Hajj are walking between the hills of Safa and Marwa, fasting and sacrificing, leaving comfort and worldly matters behind. And then after fulfillment of the obligation one meets his family and remembers that after all the difficulties



there is ease. As Quran states:

(Ash-sharh ib) - ان مع العسر يسرا

Indeed, ~~after~~ <sup>with</sup> difficulty there is ease.

This brings patience in man and he considers every hardship as blessing.

### (ii) Social impacts :

(a) Pilgrimage and Islamic brotherhood:

The Muslims learn the practical meaning of statement about Muslim that they are a single community or like a body. God also affirms in Quran:

Lo! -this your religion is one religion (Al-Anbiya 21:9) <sup>on</sup>

Man observes all the Muslims are brought together by the desire of the fulfillment of command of their religion. The mass of this single community, despite the number and differences of languages and ethnic origins, moves quite smoothly. Together

following the rites, they share unity and brotherhood.

### (b) Pilgrimage and equality:

All the Muslims in one dress:

Ihram, following same routine in organized way at designated places, pay their submission to Allah. This shows that all are equal in front of Allah, irrespective who they are. All are brothers and equal, no matter they are black or white, Arab or non Arab and to which country they belong. Nobody can remove anyone from these sacred places.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

"Whosoever first comes to this city and settles at a place, that place is his".

So it's illegal to charge rent for that place and one can't sell that place too.

### (c) Greatest movement for establishment of peace:

Islam has made it compulsory to maintain the peace on the

leading to Ka'aba in the month of Hajj and Umrah. Islam has given to the world such an inviolable territory that it constitutes a city of peace till Doomsday in which even hunting and shooting of animal is prohibited, where even the cutting of grass is not allowed, where <sup>not</sup> even a thorn can be pulled, nor can a fallen article be touched, let alone killing a human. So it represents an ideal city and ideal voyage where peace is the center.

As Maulana Abu al ~~Mu~~ Mawdudi says that when one reaches in the holy place, he finds the atmosphere filled with pity and goodness - he visits places which bear witness to the glory of Islam and all this leaves incredible impression on mind, which he carries to his last breath.

### Conclusion:

Hajj is among obligatory worships of Islam which is mandatory on an adult muslim to be performed once in

life, if he can bear the expense. It is a central aspect of Islamic faith and culture and it has significant impacts on human life. It facilitates one's spiritual life and also it affects morality. Along with this, social ~~life~~ <sup>impact</sup> are its basic experiences. Hajj restores one's innocence as he is a newborn. Therefore, this obligatory worship attains God's pleasure and reward the performer with paradise.

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