

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

# INTRODUCTION

Literally, the word hajj means 'to intend a journey'. It is a form of worship that is obligatory once in a lifetime on the Muslims who can afford to travel to Makkah in the month of Zilhajj Zil Hijjah and perform specific rituals from 8-13<sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah. It is a form of physical and financial worship. It is only obligatory when one has the financial means and the traveling routes to Makkah are safe. It is a journey towards Allah which requires Muslims to consciously dominate over their egos and seek the Divine will. Whoever performs Hajj for Allah's will becomes free from all kinds of sins just like a new born baby. Hajj has multifaceted impacts on the spiritual, moral, and social well-being of the society as a whole. These include purification of sins, spiritual elevation, cultivation of a sense of selflessness and humility. It also fosters a strong sense of brotherhood among the Muslims as the Muslim from all over the world gather together for this holy purpose. Hence, it leads towards establishing harmony and peace in the Muslim society.

# THE HAJJ

## LITERAL MEANING

The literal meaning of the word hajj is 'to intend a journey.'

## TERMINOLOGICAL MEANING

It is an act of worship obligatory only once in a lifetime only on those who can afford to travel to Makkah in the month of Zil Hijjah and perform specific rituals from 8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah.

# SIGNIFICANCE OF HAJJ

## AS REVEALED IN QURAN

Allah says in the Holy Quran,

"It is obligatory on people to perform Hajj of the House - on everyone who has the ability to manage his way to it."

(Aal-e-Imran)

## INSIGHTS FROM PROPHET (SAW)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) described Hajj as one of the best deeds in the following words:

Prophet (SAW) was asked "Which is the best deed?" He said, "To believe in Allah and His Apostle." He was then asked, "Which is the next?" He said, "To participate in Jihad in Allah's cause." He was then asked, "Which is the next?" He said, "To perform Hajj Mabrur."

(Sahih Bukhari)

## RITUALS OF HAJJ

State of Ihram (8 <sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah)	Arriving at Mina
Day of Arafah (9 <sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah)	Muzdalifa stay (under the night sky)
Rami al-Jamarat (10 <sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah)	Qurbani
Tawaf al-Ifadah (12 <sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah)	Halq or Taysir
Tawaf al-Wida	

# SPIRITUAL IMPACTS

## 1. PURIFICATION AND SEEKING PARDON

The pilgrimage to the House serves as a means for individuals to seek forgiveness from God for the past shortcomings and to purify themselves. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says,

"Whoever performs Hajj for Allah's pleasure and does not have sexual relations with his wife, and does not do evil or sins, then he will return as if he were just born."

(Sahih Bukhari)

## 2. LAPIDATION OF SATAN SYMBOLISES RESISTANCE TO TEMPTATIONS

Symbolically pelting stones at Satan, as done by Abraham (AS), signifies the resolve to resist diabolic temptations and affirm one's love to Allah.

## 3. TEACHES SACRIFICE FOR ALLAH

Hajj is a financial as well as physical worship. The Muslims have to spend a handsome amount of money in order to reach Makkah

and perform Hajj. It also requires enduring a lot of physical hardship. The acts and rituals teach the Muslims how to sacrifice their money and health for Allah.

#### 4. REMEMBERANCE OF DEATH

The simplicity in the state of Ihram strips away all the worldly distinctions of wealth, status, and class. The venues like Kaba, Arafat, and Muzdalifah evoke reflections on morality and Day of Judgement. The acts like Tawaf and Ramy al-Jamarat symbolizes the soul's journey, the rejection of sin, and struggle against evil. Collectively, these rituals focus the pilgrim's mind on the inevitability of death.

## MORAL IMPACTS

### 1. CULTIVATION OF SELFLESSNESS AND HUMILITY

Wearing simple attire in the days of Hajj symbolises purity and equality. It fosters a profound sense of selflessness. The communal experience make the pilgrims forget themselves and focus on collective worship and needs of others. This practice cultivates humility in the pilgrims.

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MATERNAL LOVE

The act of running between Safa and Marwah pays homage to Hajar's desperate search for water for her son Ismail, symbolising maternal love and sacrifice. This ritual commemorates her unwavering faith and resilience.

# SOCIAL IMPACTS

## 1. WORLD BROTHERHOOD AND FRATERAL EQUALITY

During Hajj, Muslims camp together, perform rituals, and share common experiences irrespective of race, language, or class. This fosters a strong sense of brotherhood among the Muslim community.

## 2. TRAINING IN DISCIPLINE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The pilgrimage, more than the daily prayers, trains believers in discipline through organised marches, halts, and communal activities.

## 3. PROCLAMATION OF HUMANITY'S CHARTER IN ISLAM

The sermon delivered by Prophet (SAW) from the Hill of Mercy during his Hajj reaffirmed the key principles of Islam. Every year the sermon delivered in the Arafat commemorates the Prophet (SAW)'s last message.

#### 4. CULTURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE HUB OF HAJJ

Hajj provides a platform for various cultural and administrative activities, including poetry recitation, oratory, and trade. Caliph Umar (RA) utilised Hajj for judicial proceedings and public consultations.

## CONCLUSION

Hajj is a profound demonstration of faith and devotion in Islam. Spiritually, it purifies the pilgrim's soul and elevates his connection with Allah. It teaches Muslims how to sacrifice in the way of Allah and focuses on the inevitability of death. Morally, it cultivates a sense of selflessness and humility and acknowledges the maternal love. Socially, it helps in fostering the Muslim fraternal bond which leads towards establishing Peace and harmony in the Muslim world.