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Q.No:06: Write a comprehensive note on Hajj (the pilgrimage) system of Islam and its spiritual, moral, and social impacts.

1 Introduction

"يا ايها الناس قد فرض عليكم الحج فحجوا"

"O people! Hajj has been made incumbent on you, therefore Hajj"

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Hajj is a fifth pillar of Islam, which is mandatory religious duty for Muslims who are capable physically and financially. It is performed in the month of Dhul-Hajj. It has spiritual, moral, and social impact.

2 Meaning and concepts of Hajj

a) literal meaning: In Arabic, Hajj means "a resolve"

To resolve to some magnificent duty.

The meaning of the verb of Hajj is

"to circle, to go around."

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b) In Islamic Jurisprudence:

It means "to set out for the Kaabah".
It referred to as "pilgrimage."

c) According to Shariah:

Hajj means the act of visiting the sacred House of Allah at a specific time, with specific intentions, and performing prescribed acts of worship.

3 Importance of Hajj in Quran and Hadith

a) Importance of Hajj in the Quran

"Allah has made the Kaaba, the sacred house, the center for permanent stability of mankind." (Al-Maidah, 5: 97)

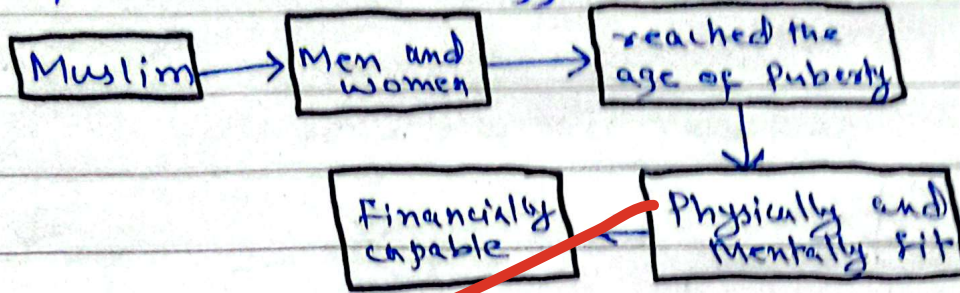
try to add the arabic of quranic ayats.

b) Importance of Hajj in Sunnah

"Nothing but the Heaven is the reward of an approved pilgrimage."
(Sahih Muslim)

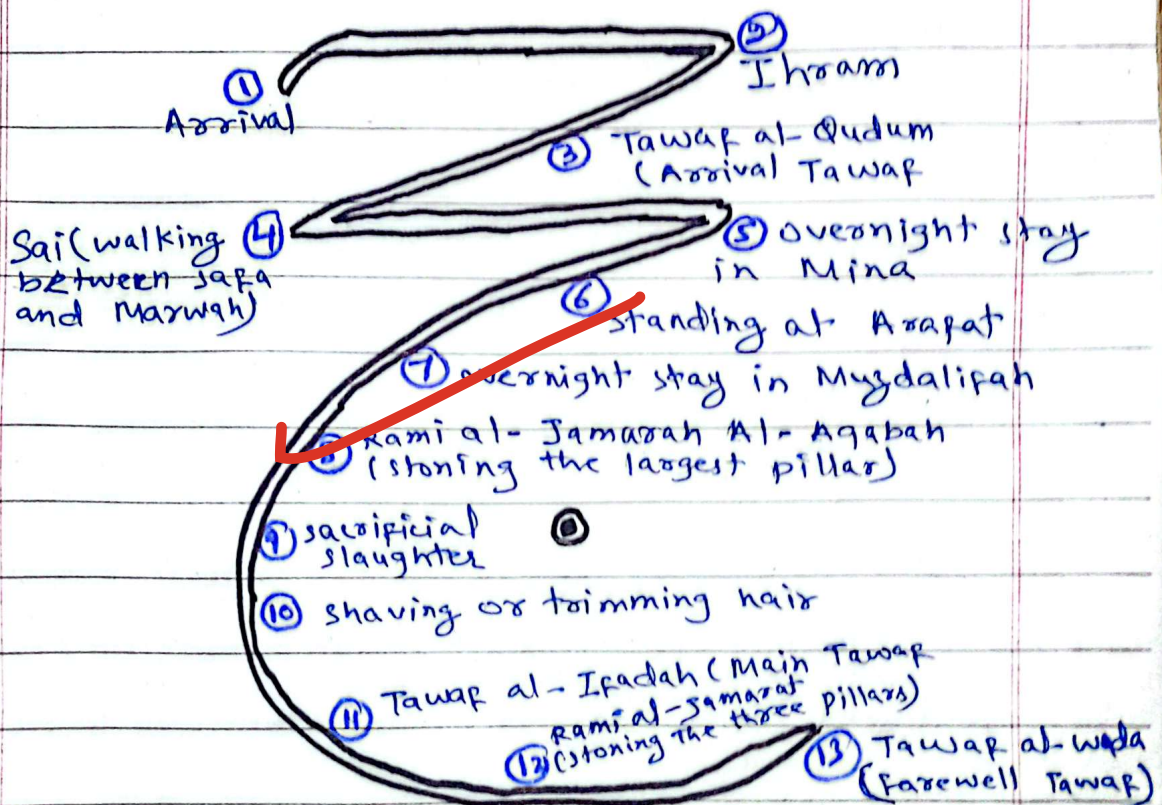
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4 Upon whom Hajj is compulsory



"Pilgrimage there to is a duty men owe to Allah - those who can afford the journey" (Adl-Imraan, 3:97)

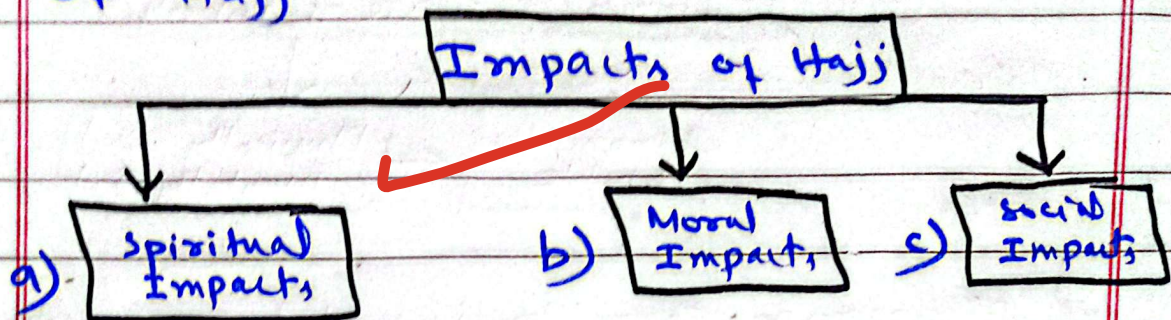
5 The step of the Hajj Journey



The pilgrimage is a five days activity that occurs from 8th to 12th of Dhu al-Hajj.

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6 Spiritual, moral, and social impacts of Hajj



a) Spiritual Impacts of Hajj :

- i) Purification of sins
- ii) Strengthens belief
- iii) Closer to Allah

i) Hajj purifies the sins of believers
When a believer performs Hajj, his past sins become cleaned and it renews believer's soul.

Whoever performs Hajj ~~and does not~~ ~~commit any~~ ~~obscenity~~ or transgression will return as free from sins as the day his mother gave birth to him!
(Sahih Bukhari and Muslim)

ii) Hajj strengthens the belief of believers and protect them from

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doing disbelief

Hajj fortifies the belief of people and stops them from doing disbelief.

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

iii) Hajj makes a believer closer to Allah

When a believer performs the Hajj, he becomes closer to Allah. The reason is that Hajj is a complete worship and signifies total submission before Allah.

"Hajj is a migration of the soul from worldly attachment to divine closeness" (Imam al-Ghazali, Ihya ulum al-Din)

b Moral Impacts of Hajj

i) Patience and self-control

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ii) Pilgrimage and commitment to a superior ^{Moral}

iii) Spirit of sacrifice and Generosity

iv) Respect and cooperation

v) Discipline and time management

i) Hajj strengthens believer's
patience and self control

Hajj trains believer's
character through self control and
patience. It is a moral training
camp where the tongue and heart
are disciplined.

"There is to be lewdness, nor
wickedness, nor disputing during
Hajj" (Al-Baqarah, 2:197)

iii) Hajj encourages the spirit of
sacrifice and generosity in the
name of Allah

Sacrifice of animal during
Hajj is a obligatory. This sacrifice

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produces generosity in believers and reflects readiness to give up what is dear for Allah's sake.

"It is neither meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is piety from you that reaches Him" (Al-Hajj, 22:37)

iv) Hajj promotes respect and cooperation among believers during performing rituals

Hajj teaches pilgrims to be patient, give way, and help others. The huge crowd during Hajj creates cooperation and respect among pilgrims.

"A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hands other Muslims are safe" (Bukhari)

v) Hajj makes believers time punctual and ^{teaches to} maintain discipline among believers

Hajj is performed on specific date and time. In which, believers have to maintain sequences of ritual ~~otherwise~~

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which teaches them discipline and time punctuality.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Baz stated that "Hajj teaches Muslim to respect divine Law and order in life"

C Social Impacts of Hajj

- i) Unity of the Ummah
- ii) Promotion of Peace and Brotherhood
- iii) Bridging sectarian and cultural Divides
- iv) Equality and effective organization

i) Hajj unites the whole Ummah

During Hajj, Muslims from different regions come and gather at a place called Makkah. They perform Hajj. This unites the whole Ummah.

Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi called Hajj an annual international conference of Muslims which unite them.

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ii) Hajj promotes peace and Brotherhood in the society

Believers from different regions together at Makkah and understand each other that promotes peace and brotherhood in the society.

Maulana Maududi in Tafhīm-ul-Quran writes: "The Haram is a symbol of peace where human enmities dissolve under the banner of Tauheed."

iii) Hajj bridges sectarian and cultural divides among believers

Muslims during Hajj, are belonged to different sects of Islam. They also associated with different cultural throughout the world. Hajj bridges sectarian and cultural divides among believers.

Hajj unites muslim beyond political, racial and linguistic differences.

(Dr. Hamidullah, Introduction to Islam)

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iv) Hajj promotes equality and effective organization in the society

During Hajj, all Muslims from different corner of the world together and perform Hajj. They all are equal and make effective organization of ritual performed during Hajj.

When people see wearing Ihram with them, this increases feeling of equality.

7 Conclusion

Hajj is a 5th pillar of Islam. its literal meaning is "a resolve". Quran and sunnah have emphasized the important of Hajj. Hajj have many impacts. These include purification of sins, patience and self control, and unity of ummah.

good attempt!!!