

AL- HAJJ (PILGRIMAGE)

1. Discuss Al-hajj

- i. Islamically means: the visit to the ka`aba at Mecca for performing pilgrimage at least once in a life time.
- ii. It is obligatory for every Muslim, male or female, who is able to perform it.
- iii. It is the fifth pillar of Islam performed in the month of Dhul-Hajj from 8th to 12th.

2. Discuss the history of the pilgrimage (hajj)

- i. The history of pilgrimage goes back to the time of prophet Ibrahim.
- ii. Ibrahim used to stay at Palestine with his wife Sarah.
- iii. Sarah suggested to Ibrahim to marry Hajar (her house maid).
- iv. Hajar became pregnant and delivered a baby boy named Ismail.
- v. Sarah felt jealousy with Hajar and her baby.
- vi. Allah commanded Ibrahim to take the child and the mother to the barren desert and leave them there.
- vii. While, there food and water were consumed. Hajar started to run between the two hills safa and marwah looking for water.

3. Discuss the Kaaba and features surrounding it

i. Kaaba

The ka`aba: is a cube- shaped stone at Mecca; it is centrally situated in the courtyard of Masjid al- Haram (the sacred mosque). The four walls of al- ka`aba are covered by black cloth.

ii. Hajarul al- aswad (the black stone)

is built up in one of the corners of the ka`aba. The pilgrims kiss it when commencing the circumambulation of the ka`aba in conformity the practice of the prophet (saw).

iii. Maqam Ibrahim (the station of Ibrahim):

is at the opposite of the ka`aba door, there is a block stone on which the prophet Ibrahim stood when he built ka`aba. The block was near the wall

of ka`aba, but has recently been moved a few meters away from it to give facility to the pilgrims for making ritual circuits around the ka`aba. It is Sunnah to pray two rakkah at this place.

iv. Spring of Zam Zam:

It is near the station of Ibrahim. The spring of ZamZam is still active, and its water is slightly salty and satisfies the appetite of food for pilgrims. The water also has the medicinal properties.

v. Hills of safa and Marwa:

they are on eastern side of the ka`aba.

4. State other importance of kaaba to the Muslims

- i. It's a symbol of Muslims unity
- ii. It is the first house of divine worship built on the earth
- iii. Tawafa of ka`aba is the rite of Hajj and Umrah
- iv. It is the direction where all Muslims face while praying
- v. One`s supplication are sure to be answered when offered at the ka`aba
- vi. It is the centre of Islamic studies
- vii. Shading of blood in and around the ka`aba is prohibited

5. Discuss the Ihram

- i. is especial garment consisting of two portions. One portion for the lower party of the body. The other portion covers the upper part of the body i.e. the back and the shoulders but the head remains bare. Both portion must be unsown sheets and white in colour. There is no specific Ihram for women; they should put on clean, plain clothing; wearing long-sleeved garment which reach the ankles and covering the hairs.
- ii. The pilgrim may wear sandals or shoes which do not cover the back of the feet
- iii. Before putting on Ihram dress, the pilgrim must take bath and perform a two rakah prayer and recite Talbiyah and postpone the cares of the body for a few days in order to concentrate on the cares of the soul.

- iv. While in Ihram loose and argumentative talk is forbidden (Q: 2:197).
Improper acts and even certain ordinary legal acts become forbidden e.g. cutting of nails, using of perfume, sexual intercourse, hunting or killing animals, cutting or uprooting a green vegetation, to comb or grooming the hair.
- v. Ihram equalises men in the sight of all, i.e. no distinction of background, race, wealth or nationality.
- vi. Once the Hajj is over, pilgrims can remove their Ihrams and put on ordinary dress.

6. Define Miqat:

This is a fixed place for which one is not allowed to cross when going for Hajj or Umrah without putting on Ihram.

7. Discuss the Tawaf (circumambulation):

- i. it is performing circuits around the Kaaba, which are seven in number.
- ii. The first Tawaf made on arrival to the Kaaba is called Tawaf- al-Qudum, while the last one before departure is called Tawaf al-Wada. Between these the one made on the day of sacrifices is called Tawaf al-Ziyara (Tawaf al-Ifada).
- iii. Tawaf begins at the Hajar al-Aswad. The ka`aba always has to be on your left side, while circumambulating around.
- iv. After circumambulation a pilgrim face the ka`aba and offer two rakah prayer.

8. Discuss Sa`y:

- i. This is the brisk walk, starting from the hill of Safa towards the hill of Marwa (about 400 metres away) and then back and so on until seven times.
- ii. On start of sa`y the pilgrim faces the ka`aba and declare his intention of making the Sa`y.
- iii. While performing the Sa`y he recites the prayers affirming his faith in Allah and ask for forgiveness and blessing.

- iv. On completion one offer supplication and cuts his hair (women cut a little). This signify that one has thrown off the burden of the sin and is ready to begin new life.

9. Define the following terms

i. Mina, Muzdalifah and Arafah:

These are three pilgrimage –sites or station for the pilgrims

ii. Jamarat:

There are three pillars at Mina at which the pilgrims throw pebbles to each of them seven times as symbol of warding off evil.

iii. Yaumul al-Nahar:

This is the day of slaughtering animals soon after throwing of stones. The animal may be sheep, goat or camel.

iv. Ayyam al-Tashreeq:

These are two or three days which pilgrims are spent at Mina i.e. 10th-12th Dhul-Hijjah.

10. Mention the Conditions for preparations of Hajj

- i. The intending pilgrim must be a Muslim.
- ii. He must be attained puberty or adolescence.
- iii. He must be sane and of sound mind.
- iv. He must be free (free from slavery).
- v. He must have means to provide for his family remaining behind with their basic needs, for the period in which he will be away.
- vi. He must have enough money for the expenses of the journey and adequate physical ability to undergo various rituals in Hajj.
- vii. The way to Hajj should be safe from danger of any kind.
- viii. He should make sure the money he uses is from lawful sources.

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