

Al-Maktab

Haj - The 5th Pillar of Islam

Al-hamdulillah, we have now entered the months of Haj. Many of the Hujjaaj (people going for haj) have already left and will be returning only after Eidul Adha.

Rasulullah [sallallahu alayhi wasallam] has said that the entire building of Islam is built upon 5 pillars. i.e. Imaan, Salaah, Zakaat, Fasting and Haj.

Haj is the last and fifth pillar of Islam. Allah Ta'ala has made Haj compulsory once in a lifetime upon all Muslims who can afford to go.

During the time of Hadhrat Ebraaheem (AS), Allah Ta'ala commanded him to build the Kabah. His son, Hadhrat Ismaeel (AS), helped him and both father and son built the first masjid on the face of the earth. Having built the kabah, Allah Ta'ala commanded Hadhrat Ibraheem (AS) to call all mankind to perform haj. Ibraaheem (AS) asked Allah Ta'ala, "O Allah. How shall my voice reach them?" Allah Ta'ala replied, "You will call them and I will make your call reach them." Hence Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) called out to the world to come for haj and Allah Ta'ala made his voice reach everyone in the heavens and the earth.

All those who heard this call and said, "**Labbaik**" were granted the good fortune of performing Haj. The Hadith further explains that all those who said Labbaik even before they were born, will be guaranteed to perform haj. The Hadith also explains that whoever recited the labbaik once will perform haj once and those who recited labbaik twice will perform haj twice.

The Best of actions

Once, someone asked Rasulullah [sallallahu alayhi wasallam], "Which is the best action?" He replied, "Imaan in Allah Ta'ala." He was again asked, "And then." He replied, "Striving in the path of Allah Ta'ala." Again he was asked, "And then." Rasulullah [sallallahu alayhi wasallam] replied, "**An accepted Haj.**"

Fasting on the 9th of Zul Hijjah

It is mustahab to fast on the 9th of Zul Hijjah. Rasulullah ﷺ has said, "The person who fasts on the 9th of Zul Hijjah, Allah Ta'ala will forgive his past years sins as well as his sins of the coming year."

Ten Great Nights

The first ten days of Zul Hijjah are very great and sacred in the sight of Allah Ta'ala.

It is reported in one Hadith that Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has mentioned,

"No good action is loved more by Allah Ta'ala than those good actions that are performed on the first ten days of Zul Hijjah", whether it be Nafal Salaah, Zikr, Charity, recitation of the Quraan Shareef, etc.

In another Hadith it is mentioned that if one fasts on any one of these ten days (excluding the tenth of Zul Hijjah as this is the day of Eid), he will receive the reward of fasting for an entire year. Likewise, if a person makes Ibaadah on one of these nights, he will receive the reward of making Ibaadah on **Laylatul Qadr**.

One should read "Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah, La Ilaha Illallah and Allahu Akbar" in abundance.

Haj—A Remembrance of the sacrifice of Hadhrat Ebraaheem (AS)

Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) is the greatest Nabi of Allah Ta'ala after our beloved Nabi [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam]. At a very young age, he was forced to leave his parents. He lived all alone, only, because he wished to worship Allah Ta'ala and not idols of stone. He lived for many years in Jerusalem until eventually Allah Ta'ala blessed him at the age of 86 with a beautiful son, Hadhrat Ismaeel (AS).

Allah Ta'ala ordered him to leave his wife and infant son in the hot desert lands of Arabia with no food and water. Ibraaheem (AS) left them in the middle of the dessert and made dua to Allah Ta'ala to take care of them.

Ismaeel (AS) began crying out of hunger and thirst. His mother Haajira (Radi Allahu Anha) began running between the hills of Safa and Marwa searching for someone to help her and her baby son. Those who go for Haj and Umrah are required to run between these two hills following the example of Haajira (Radi Allahu Anha). Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) had made dua to Allah Ta'ala to take care of his wife and child in this barren land. Allah Ta'ala took pity on them and caused the sweet, tasty water of Zam Zam to gush out of the ground. Both of them quenched their thirst and satisfied their hunger with this special water. The special water of Zam Zam attracted other thirsty travellers to settle in this desert. Soon the city of Makkah Mukkaramah flourished.

Ismaeel (AS) grew up into a handsome young boy. Ibraaheem (AS) was commanded in a dream to slaughter his beloved son. Hadhrat Ismaeel (AS) accepted the command of Allah Ta'ala. Both left for Mina. Shaytaan, our enemy, tried to mislead them. On seeing him Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) said, “**Allahu Akbar**” pelting shaytaan with seven stones. Shaytaan sank into the ground. He tried this trick another two times but each time Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) threw stones at him and chased him away.

On reaching the place of slaughter, Ismaeel (AS) was laid down facing the Qiblah. Ibraaheem (AS) sharpened his knife. With all his strength he tried slaughtering his son but the knife would not cut the throat of Ismaeel (AS). A voice from the skies echoed, “O Ibraaheem, you have fulfilled the command in your dream. Verily we reward those who do good.” When father and son realised this was yet another test from Allah Ta'ala which they had passed successfully, they were overjoyed. A sheep from Jannah was sent by Allah Ta'ala and slaughtered by Ibraaheem (AS).

Thereafter, Allah Ta'ala ordered Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) to build a place of worship in Makkah. Hadhrat Ismaeel (AS) helped his father build the Ka'bah Shareef. Allah Ta'ala sent a stone from jannah to be placed in the Kabah. This stone is known as the Hajrul Aswad. After building the Ka'bah, Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) made the following dua; “*Rabbana Taqabbal Minna, Innaka Antas Samee'ul Aleem. Wa tub 'alayna Innaka Antat Tawaabur Raheem.*” (O Allah accept from us (this act of building the Ka'bah), Verily you are all Hearing and forgive us for verily You are The Being that forgives and is Most Merciful).

This House of Allah Ta'ala eventually became the Qiblah for all Muslims all over the world. Every masjid in the world faces the Ka'bah. Rasulullah [salallahu alayhi wasallam] has said, “One who performs a single salaah in this masjid, will receive the reward of performing 100 000 salaah.”

Today, millions of people all over the world come to Makkah to fulfil the obligation of Haj. Millions of people make tawaaf of the Ka'bah, pelt the jamaaraat in Mina and sacrifice animals for the sake of Allah Ta'ala. The sincerity with which Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) worked, gained him this acceptance.

We learn from this entire incident how this great Nabi of Allah Ta'ala remained steadfast on the teachings of Allah Ta'ala and obeying His commands throughout his life. He worked sincerely only for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala and he was rewarded by Allah Ta'ala. Muslims throughout the world remember the incident of Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) and make qurbaani following his noble sunnah.

May Allah Ta'ala bless us all with such sincerity and dedication and may He also bless us in this world and the next. Aameen.

Virtues of Qurbaani

- ♦ Rasulullah [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam] has said: "There is no deed that is more beloved to Allah Ta'ala on the day of Eidul Adha than spilling the blood of an animal (i.e. making Qurbani). Verily the Qurbaani animal will come on the day of Qiyaamah with it's horns, hooves and it's hair."
- ♦ In another Hadith it is mentioned, "The one who makes Qurbaani will receive a reward for every hair on the animal." The Sahaabah (RA) asked, "What if the animal has wool?" Rasulullah [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam] said, "For every fibre of wool on its body he will receive a good deed."
- ♦ Once Nabi [Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam] told his beloved daughter Hadhrat Faatima (RA), "Stand by your animal when it is being slaughtered, for verily all your past sins will be forgiven when the first drop of blood

The Night before Eid

Rasulullah [Sallallahu alayhi waslaam] has said, "That person who remains awake in the ibaadat of Allah Ta'ala on the night before the two Eids, his heart will not die on the day that all other hearts will die."

Everyone of us should try and spend at least some time during the night before Eidul Adha in the ibaadat (worship) of Allah Ta'ala by performing Nafal Salaah, reciting the Quraan, making zikr and making dua. By spending some part of this night in ibaadat, we will Insha Allah receive the benefits of this Hadith.

Sunnats on the Day of Eid

1. To take a bath.
2. To use miswaak.
3. To put on one's best clothes. (not necessarily new).
4. To apply Itr.
5. To go to the Eid Gaah by foot.
6. To say the Takbeer aloud whilst going for Eid Salaah.
7. To go by one route and return by another.
8. To perform Eid Salaah at the Eid Gaah.
9. Not to eat anything before the Eid Salaah.
10. To eat the liver of one's animal after the Eid Salaah.

Takbeer-e-Tashreeq

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

The above takbeer is called Takbeer-e-Tashreeq. It is waajib (necessary) for every adult male and female to recite this takbeer once after every Fardh Salaah, whether the salaah is performed with Jamaat or individually, from Fajr of the 9th of Zul-Hijjah to Asr on the 13th of Zul Hijjah.

Males will recite it loudly after the Fardh Salaah, whilst females will recite it softly.

THE FAREWELL HAJ OF NABI [SALLALLAHU ALAYHI WASALLAM]

In the year 10AH, Rasulullah [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam] performed Haj. This was the only Haj that he performed and it was a few months before he passed away. Therefore it is well known as the farewell Haj. Over 124 000 of the Sahaabah (RA) accompanied him on this journey.

On the day of Arafaat, he delivered a very inspiring khutbah (lecture). The following were some of the wonderful advices that he mentioned;

1. All Muslims are brothers.
2. Muslims must not fight and kill other Muslims
3. Men must be kind towards their wives
4. Nobody should take revenge for any past happenings
5. Nobody should come near interest money
6. The Qur-aan must be our guide in life.

It is mustahab (desirable) for one who intends to perform Qurbaani to refrain from cutting hair or clipping the nails from the 1st Zul Hijjah up to the 10th Zul Hijjah, (i.e. until after one has performed Qurbaani).

Quiz

Answer all 10 questions and submit your entries. The first 5 correct entries drawn will receive R50-00 cash.

1. What is the name of the black stone that is placed in the Ka'bah?
2. What is the name of the place where Allah Ta'ala has commanded us to perform two rakaats salaah after tawaaf?
3. What is the reward for a person who has performed a Haj Mabroor?
4. Which Nabi of Allah Ta'ala was commanded to sacrifice his son?
5. What is the reward of reading one Salaah in Makkah Mukaramah?
6. What are the virtues of the first 10 days of Zul Hijjah?
7. Mention one important ibaadah that is carried out in Mina?
8. What was Ismaa-eel's (AS) mother's name?
9. Which are the Ayyaamut Tashreeq (days of tashreeq)?
10. Write down the words of the talbiyah (Labbaik)?

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH YOUR QUIZ TO YOUR PROJECT. SUBMIT EACH ONE SEPERATELY

Maktab News

Most beloved Children

Assalamu alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakaatuhu.

The last term of the year has arrived. Everyone is busy completing the work for the year and very shortly we will prepare for the final exam. This term is full of excitement and activity. Whilst we all are getting ready for exams, Eidul Adha comes in between. Once again we will slaughter animals for the sake of Allah Ta'ala and feed the poor and the hungry, thereby bringing alive the great sunnah of Hadhrat Ibraaheem (AS) and Hadhrat Ismaeel (AS).

As we are now in the season of Haj, our topic for the Al-Maktab is "Haj". Millions of Hujjaaj from all over the world will gather on the plains of 'Arafaat to fulfil the rites of Haj. May Allah Ta'ala accept the ibaadaat of all the Hujjaaj as well as their duas for us all. Aameen.

Once again we say *Masha Allah* to all the Madrasahs for participating in the Al-Maktab competition. May Allah Ta'ala reward all of you.

The first 5 correct entries drawn for the quiz were:

Name	Maktab	Grade
1. Anisa Sheikh	Eastview	Grade 6
2. Zaynub Desai	Bergville	Grade 4
3. Muhammed Azeem Khan	Atfaalun Nur [Kokstad]	Grade 4
4. Shaista Shaik	Musjidus Salaam [Sunford]	Grade 5
5. Ayesha Haniff	Ashrafiyya	Grade 7

The winners for the best projects for each grade are as follows:

Name	Maktab	Grade
1. Mumtaz Malik	Zun Nurain (Dundee)	Grade 1
2. Tayyibah Katradah	Abu Hurayrah	Grade 2
3. Tasneem Raheema	Silverglen	Grade 3
4. Muhammad Tikly	Abu Hurairah	Grade 4
5. Wasimah Karim	Abu Bakar Siddeque (Phoenix)	Grade 5
6. Bilal Mohamed	Eastview (Phoenix)	Grade 6
7. Fathima Chenia	Zun Nurain	Grade 7

Project

Do a project on any one of the following;

1. The virtues and importance of Haj..
2. The virtues of Qurbaani..

All entries must be handed in before Madrasah closes at the end of the year. Winners in each grade will receive R100.00 cash prize.

Grades 1-2 (Build a model of the Ka'bah).

Grade 3-7 (5 page project on any of the above two topics).

N.B. Please write your name, the name of your Madrasah, the area you live in and your grade on your project in big bold writing. *JazakAllah.*