

Al-Maktab



Maktab Pupil's NewsLetter

Zul Hijjah

The Month of Hajj & Sacrifice

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

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has said that the entire building of Islam is built upon five pillars, i.e. Imaan, Salaah, Zakaat, Fasting and Hajj.

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

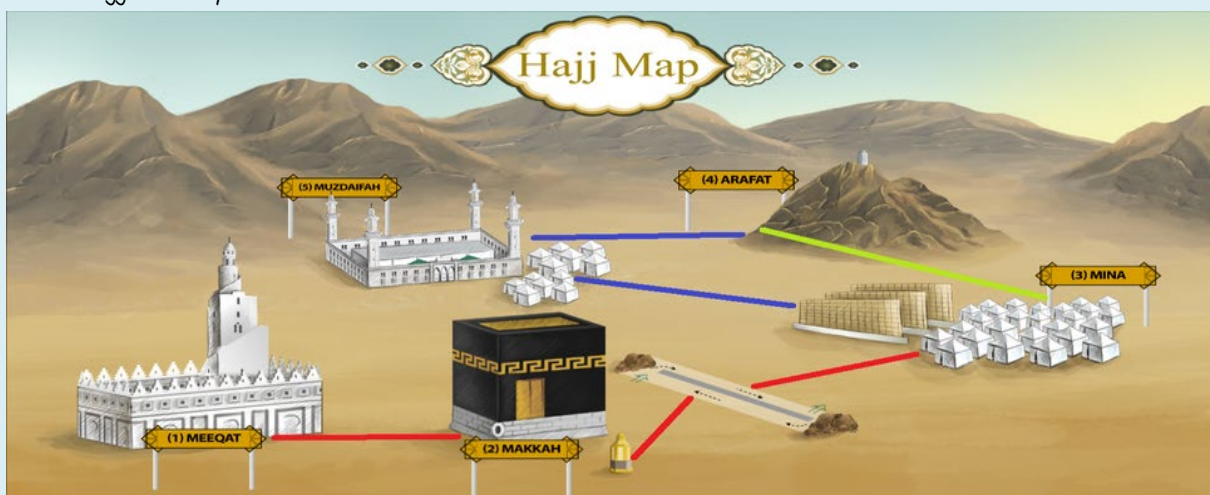
The days of Hajj are 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th of Zul Hijjah. During the 5 days of Hajj, the Hujjaaj go to different places like Makkah, Mina, Arafah and Muzdalifah where they perform some special acts of Ibaadah.

We should make dua to Allah Ta'ala to also take us for Hajj one day, inshaAllah.

Virtues of Hajj

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has said, "The one who performs hajj for the sake of pleasing Allah Ta'ala and does not utter any evil word while performing his Hajj, nor commits any evil deed, he shall return from it free of sins like the day his mother gave birth to him."

Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) also said, "Surely there shall be no reward for an accepted hajj except Jannah."



The Farewell Hajj of Nabi [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam]

In the year 10AH, Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) performed Hajj. This was the only Hajj that he performed after Nubuwwat and it was a few months before he passed away. Therefore it is well known as the farewell Hajj.

Approximatley 124 000 Sahaabah (radiyallahu anhum) accompanied him on this journey.

On the day of Arafah, Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) delivered a very inspiring sermon (lecture). The following were some of the wonderful advices that he mentioned;



All Muslims are brothers.

Muslims must not fight and kill each other.

Men must be kind towards their wives

Nobody should take revenge for any past happenings

Nobody should come near interest money

The Qur-aan is our guide in life.

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 read on the days of Hajj. It is waajib (necessary) for every adult male and female to recite this takbeer once after every Fardh Salaah, from the Fajr of the 9th of Zul Hijjah to the Asr on the 13th of Zul Hijjah.

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

The Month of Ibraaheem (Alayhis Salaam)

When we perform Hajj, many of the rituals performed are in remembrance of the sacrifice of Ibraaheem alayhis salaam, who was known as Khaleelullah (The Friend of Allah) because of his extreme LOVE and OBEDIENCE to Allah Ta'ala.

Hadhrat Ibraaheem alayhis salaam is a great Nabi of Allah. Allah Ta'ala mentions regarding him in the Qur-aan:

“Ibraaheem alayhis salaam was neither a jew nor a Christian, rather he was an upright Muslim who whole heartedly submitted to Allah Ta'ala. And he was not one of those who associated partners with Allah.” (3:67)

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. Allah Ta'ala blessed him at the age of 86 with a beautiful son, Hadhrat Ismaeel alayhis salaam.

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

Ismaeel alayhis salaam began crying out of hunger and thirst. His mother Haajira (radiyallahu anha) began running between the hills of Safa and Marwa searching for someone to help her and her baby son. Those who go for Hajj and Umrah are required to run between these two hills following the example of Haajira (radiyallahu anha). Allah Ta'ala 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 Mulkaramah flourished.

Ismaeel alayhis salaam grew up into a handsome young boy. Ibraaheem alayhis salaam was commanded in a dream to slaughter his beloved son. Hadhrat Ismaeel alayhis salaam accepted the command of Allah Ta'ala. Both, father and son, left for Mina. Shaytaan, our enemy, tried to mislead them. On seeing him, Hadhrat Ibraaheem alayhis salaam 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 alayhis salaam threw stones at him and chased him away.

On reaching the place of slaughter, Ismaeel alayhis salaam was laid down facing the Qiblah. Ibraaheem alayhis salaam sharpened his knife. With all his strength, he tried slaughtering his son but the knife would not cut the throat of Ismaeel alayhis salaam. A

voice from the sky said, “O Ibraheem, you have fulfilled the command which you saw in your dream. Verily we reward those who do good.” When father and son realised that 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 Ibraheem alayhis salaam slaughtered it.

Thereafter, Allah Ta’ala ordered Hadhrat Ibraaheem alayhis salaam to build a place of worship in Makkah. Hadhrat Ismaeel alayhis salaam helped his father build the Ka’bah Shareef. After building the Ka’bah, Hadhrat Ibraaheem alayhis salaam made the following dua; “Rabbana Taqabbal Minna, Innaka Antas Samee’ul Aleem. Wa tub ‘alayna Innaka Antat Tawwaabur 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).

When Ibraaheem alayhis salaam completed building the ka’bah, Allah Ta’ala commanded him to call all mankind to perform hajj. Ibraaheem alayhis salaam 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 alayhis salaam called out to the world to come for hajj and Allah Ta’ala made his voice reach everyone in the heavens and the earth.

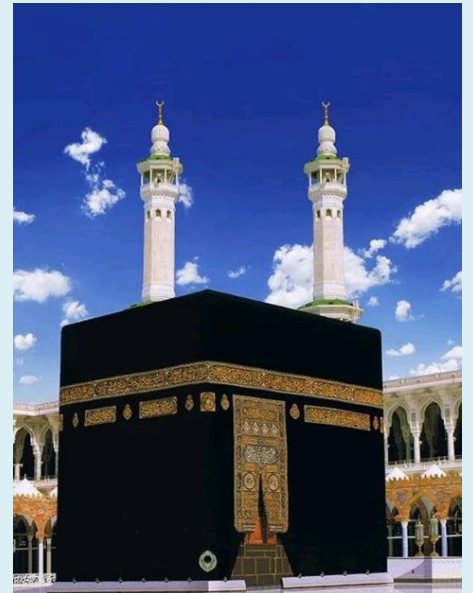
All those who heard this call and said, “Labbaik” will be granted the good fortune of performing Hajj.

This House of Allah Ta’ala became the Qiblah for every Muslim all over the world. Every masjid in the world faces the Ka’bah. Rasulullah salallahau 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 Mukarramah to fulfil the obligation of Hajj. Millions of people make tawaaf of the Ka’bah, pelt the jamaaraat in Mina and sacrifice animals for the sake of Allah Ta’ala.

We learn from this incident how this great Nabi of Allah Ta’ala remained steadfast on the teachings of Allah Ta’ala and obeyed His commands throughout his life. He worked sincerely only for the pleasure of Allah Ta’ala and so was he rewarded by Allah Ta’ala.

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.



Zul Hijjah

The Month of Qurbaani (Sacrifice)

Thousands of Muslims all over the world will be celebrating Eid ul Adhaa by slaughtering animals in the name of Allah Ta'ala.

The days of Qurbaani are the 10th, 11th and 12th of Zul Hijjah.

The ibaadat of Qurbaani once again remind us of the incident of Hadhrat Ibraaheem alayhis salaam and Hadhrat Ismaaeel alayhis salaam.

The object of Qurbaani is to attain Taqwa (that is, we should be conscious of Allah all the time).

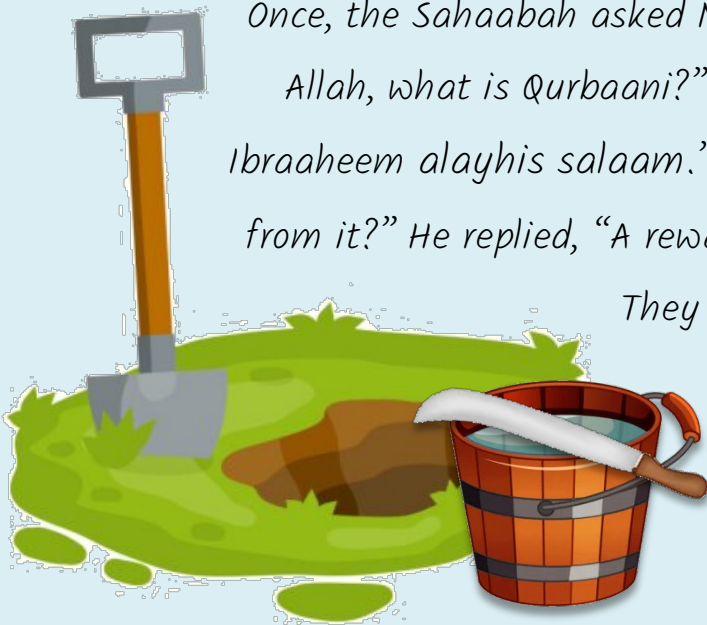
We should request our parents and grand-parents to also sacrifice an animal at home this qurbaani, so we can witness this great act of worship.

Virtues of Qurbaani

Rasulullah [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam] has said: "There is no deed that is more beloved to Allah Ta'ala on Eid ul Adha than spilling the blood of an animal. (i.e. making Qurbaani). Verily the qurbaani animal will come on the day of Qiyaamah with it's horns, hoofs and it's hair (to be weighed)."

Once, the Sahaabah asked Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), "O Nabi of Allah, what is Qurbaani?" He replied, "It is the sunnah of your father Ibraaheem alayhis salaam." They then asked, "What benefit will we get from it?" He replied, "A reward for every hair of the sacrificed animal."

They then asked, "And what about an animal with wool?" Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) replied, "A reward for every fibre of wool."



Sacrificing what we Love

One of the lessons of Qurbaani is to sacrifice what we love for the sake of Allah Ta'ala. Look at the life of Hadhrat Ibraaheem (alayhis salaam). From a young age he was tested again and again by Allah, and he passed all these tests.

We should also sacrifice some of what we love for the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. Shaytaan may have tricked us and made us commit many sins in our lives. Let us also make that sacrifice and remove all sins from our lives. For example;

We may be listening to naaths and nazms which follow musical tunes or have drums beating in the background. Shaytaan deceived us, making us think that this is not music. Let us make that sacrifice and remove this sin of music from our lives.

We may also have photographs of animate objects in our albums. Shaytaan deceived us that we are still small or shaytaan deceived us that we can take photographs with a phone. Let us destroy those photographs and delete all pictures of animate objects from our phones and remove the sin of photography from our lives.

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.

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