

Zul Hijjah

The Month of Hajj & Sacrifice

Ahamdulillah, 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 the 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.

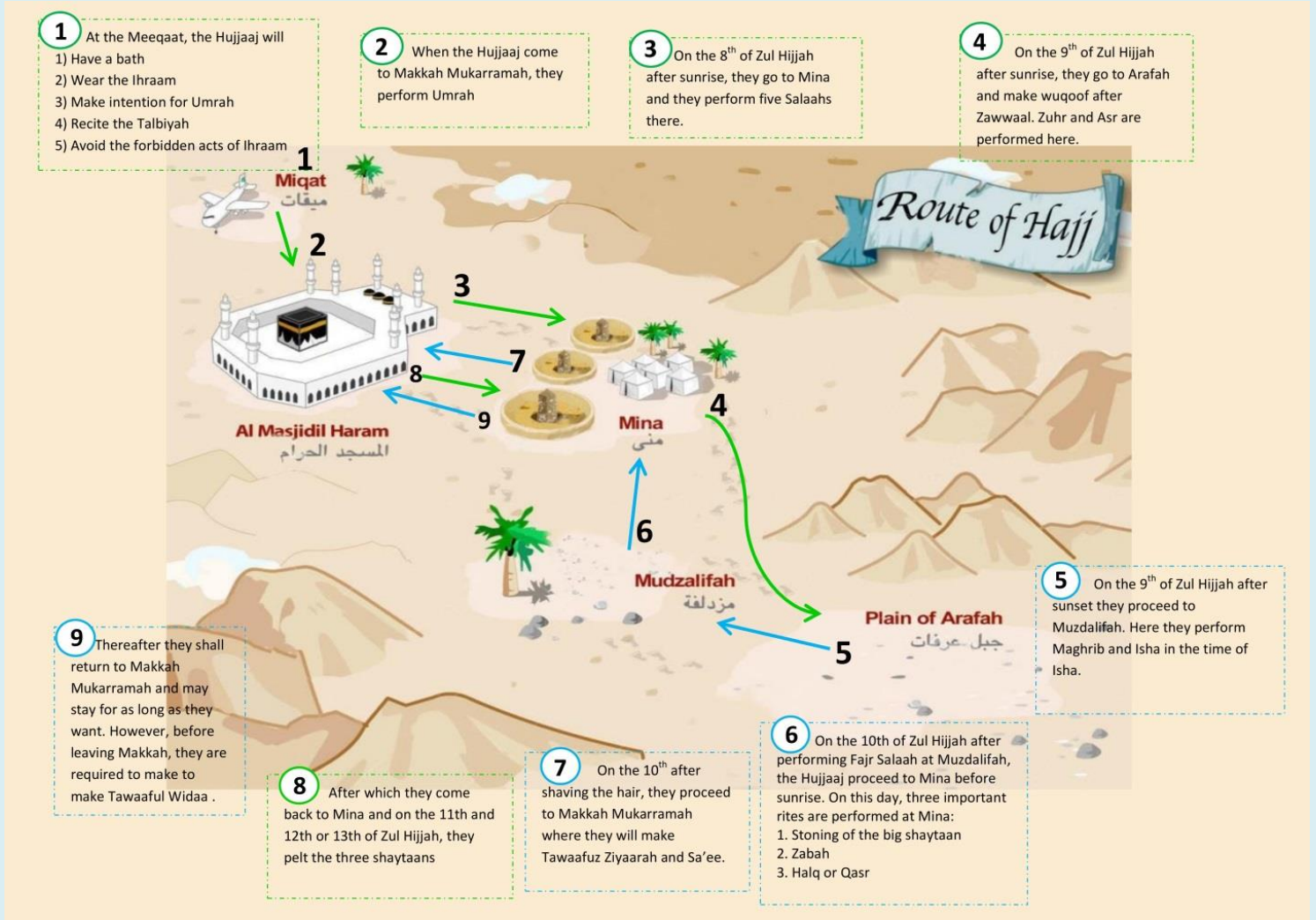
We should make dua to Allah Ta'ala to also take us for Hajj one day, inshaAllah.



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."



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. (A total of 23 Salaah)

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

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).

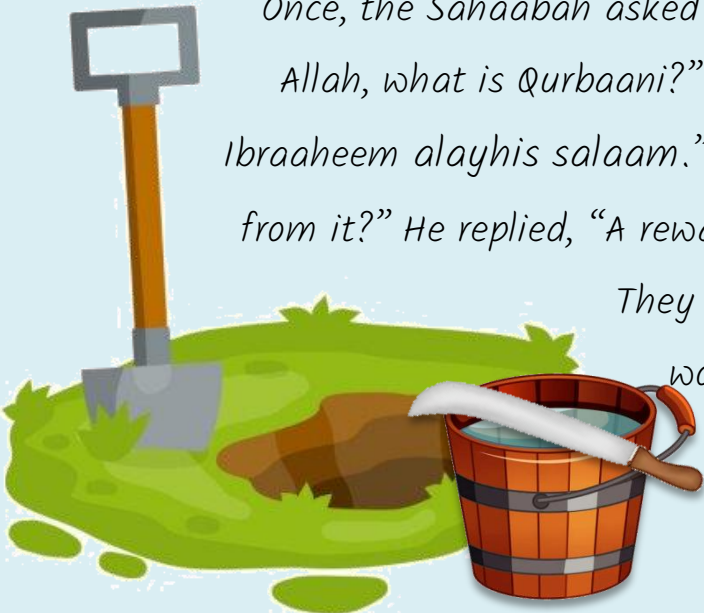
We should request our parents and grand-parents to also sacrifice an animal at home this qurbaani, so we can witness this great act of worship.

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).