

Benefits of Hajj

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In the name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

The Muslim faith gives peace and happiness more than any other faith, and it is the most suited to human nature. And more than any other religion it is better off for humans at any time or any place. It is the religion of faith, and religion of good morals, it instates truth, and outlaws the wrong despite the disliking of the unbelievers. Allah says: **{It is He Who has sent His Messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, that he may proclaim it over all religion, even though the Pagans may detest (it)} 61:9.**

This religion was formed upon great solid foundations and one of those foundations is pilgrimage or Hajj. Hajj is the fifth corner stone in Islam. Allah says: **{And proclaim the Pilgrimage among men: they will come to you on foot and (mounted) on every form of transport through deep and distant route (27) That they may witness the benefits (provided) for them, and celebrate the name of Allah, through defined days, for the cattle which He has provided for them (for sacrifice): then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed ones in want. (28) Then let them complete the rites prescribed for them, perform their vows, and (again) circle round the Ancient House." (29) Such (is the Pilgrimage): whoever honours the sacred rites of Allah, for them it is good in the sight of his Lord} 22:27-30.**

Hajj is a holy blessed trip the faithful pass their time in worship, speaking of Allah and asking Allah or Duaa. A trip during which the spirit of the faithful elevate to in a world of clarity, cleanliness and purity. This who comes back from this trip would have their spirit has purified, and their morals and behavior became more refined, and their interaction with others has improved, and their sins forgiven. The messenger (ppbu) said: **{whoever comes for Hajj to this house and does not approach his/her spouse for marital**

relations nor commits sins while performing *Hajj*, then all his/her previous sins will be forgiven}.

And when the crowds of those performing Hajj start off on their journey towards the old and sacred house to perform the Hajj rituals in fact it is only responding to the everlasting call made by the father of all prophets Abraham (pbu). Allah says: { **And proclaim the Pilgrimage among men: they will come to you on foot and (mounted) on every form of transport through deep and distant route** } 22:27. Those people are responding to that call and are implementing what their prophet (ppbu) had commanded them when he said: {**follow up *Hajj* and *Amrah* (mini-hajj) for they eliminate being poor and eliminate sins just as furnace removes the impurities from iron, gold and silver. And the good Hajj has no other reward except paradise**}. And as those heading for hajj gets involved with the call taught to them by the their prophet (ppbu):

{ لبيك اللهم لبيك، }

Here I am, Oh God, at Your command

Here I am at Your command

No partners are associated with You

I am at Your command

All thanks, grace and dominion are to you,

No partners are associated with You.}

Hajj is an obligation for a Muslim to be performed once in a life time. When this verse (Ayah) was revealed: {**Pilgrimage is a duty for people owe to Allah for those whoever has the ability**} 3:97. Muslims repeated asking the messenger: O' Messenger of Allah, is it every year? Then he said: {**NO, and if say yes, then it would become an obligation every year.**}

One of the companions asked the messenger (ppbu): what is the best deed? He answered: {**having faith in Allah and His messenger**}. he was asked: and what next? He answered: {**Jihad (a struggle) in the line of Allah**}. he was asked: and what next? He answered: {**a devoted pilgrimage or devoted Hajj**}

After the Hajj ritual one returns with all his/her sins washed off provided they have done hajj with all its requirements and rules. One starts a new life, and opens a new and clean page. One should commence and indulge into acts and deeds of goodness which are approved by Allah. Amr Ebn El-As (عمر ابن العاص) when he was about to announce his acceptance to Islam he said to the messenger of Allah (ppbu): I want to become a Muslim on a condition that I am forgiven. The messenger (ppbu) said: **{did you not know that Islam clears everything which happened before it, and migrating for Islam clears everything before it, and Hajj clears everything before it?}**

Dear brothers in Islam, if the reward for Hajj is so magnificent, then a Muslim should not procrastinate and put off doing this obligation. And not to be with those who use the word “I will I will” with the reason that it will be done in the next few years. One never knows what will happen to oneself. The future is unknown, and only Allah knows the future. One ought to hurry with Hajj and take earliest opportunity to do it. The messenger (ppbu) said: **{hurry up you Hajj, for one of you does not what could befall him}**. He was also reported saying: **{Whoever wanted to do Hajj then let them do it promptly. For one can get sick, or lose their means of transport, or become needy}**.

If all circumstances become suitable then do not delay it. for other circumstances may happen which will come between you and doing Hajj. If you have your physical health today, without any problems and with no other commitments, and if you have the money to spend then take this opportunity. You may be at an irreplaceable opportunity. Omar Ebn-Al-Khuttub said: “I was almost at the point to send men to the land to see if people have the means and circumstance to do Hajj and they didn’t so to impose tax on to them. for they can not be considered Muslims, they can not be considered Muslims”.

A person at Hajj must abide by Islamic good morals, manners and behavior especially with patience, taking it easy, relaxing and controlling anger and cooling one’s nerves, and putting up with

others mistakes, and not to cause harm to others, and spending more time in remembering and worship of Allah, and staying away from chat in evil stuff and wasteful conversations. All that so one would keep the reward gain by Hajj. A scholar was asked once what is a good Hajj, and he said: “is to return from Hajj with less desire for this life and more desire for the next life”.

One needs to select for his or her Hajj money which did not come from *haram* (wrong) in part or in full. Allah is good and only accept the good. Money which was wrongly earned will prevent hajj from being accepted. This who spends *Haram* money on doing hajj will be reduced to lower levels, and it will be a barrier between their *duaa* (prayers) and being answered. Spending money which came from perfect sources (halal) will elevate the person to higher levels and be a reason for accepting their deed.

And remember that the Messenger (ppbu) said: **{spending for hajj is like spending in the line of Allah seven hundred times more}**.

Please make sure to use only Halal money for Hajj. And also remember that people doing Hajj are visitors to Allah, if they call Him then he will answer, and if they ask for forgiveness He will forgive them. Be amongst those, or be happy to meet them, and make sure they make duaa on your behalf for goodness and success.

Take the opportunity as soon as it presents itself, and perform this great ritual. Hurry it when the means are made available. Do it while it is safe to travel, and services are being offered. May Allah reward your in this life and next.