

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



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# Hajj

## *A Timeless Vision*

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Islamic terms are powerfully loaded with meanings and connotations. Translating them in English is like belittling its importance.

Hajj, when translated as 'pilgrimage' dilutes the very spirit of this great Islamic practice. Pilgrimage means 'a journey of devotion' which Hajj does include but then goes beyond it.

Read how it is...

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The word **Hajj** comes from the root-word **hajja** which carries a myriad of meanings, for example: to overcome, to defeat, to confute, to vindicate, to convince. **Hajj absorbs** all these meanings.

With all its dynamic acts - Tawaf, Sa'ee, prayer, prohibitions, sacrifice, devotion, truly global gathering - **Hajj** reminds man of a variety of relationships: **Islam and life**, **Allah and man**, **man and man** and **this world and that world** (Aakhirah).

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The hardships involved in Hajj directly knocks one's heart reminding him that one's Islam can never be detached from the thunder and symphony of life.

Tawaf gushes forth a fountain of meanings. Literally, it means round, circuit and beat. Tawaf in Hajj means going round the Ka'bah. The circular movement involved in Tawaf pivots around a nucleus. This circular movement infuses and thrusts into one's consciousness the fact that life *should* have a nucleus. That nucleus is Allah.

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The movements of life, as the movement in Tawaf, should be pivoted around Allah and His commands. Tawheed is a Muslim's heartbeat. This feeling of nucleus is refreshed in one's heart seven times in Tawaf.

And, by corollary, a Muslim's entire life - behavior, thoughts, emotions, actions - must necessarily be in harmony with his faith in his Lord.

Sa'ee, the running between Safa and Marwa, brings into focus that without effort nothing can be achieved in life!

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Pelting of stones at **Jamrat** reminds one of the Satan tempting Prophet Ibrahim on way to sacrificing his son, Ismail.

**In actual life**, it implies that **a Muslim should always be conscious of temptations of Satan** and should turn him away by way of loving and fearing Allah alone.

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**Arafah** reminds 'the day on which men shall stand before the Lord of the worlds'.

**Arafah** symbolizes a worldly taste of the Day of Judgment.

Millions of **Ibadur Rahman** stand in utmost devotion to their Lord on the Day of Arafah begging mercy and forgiveness from the Master of the Day of Judgment.

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*Arafah also brings to memory the following glorious verse, thus recalling and refreshing the fact that Islam is not only a complete Deen but it is also the only Chosen Way of Life for mankind!*

اليوم أكملت لكم دينكم وأتممت عليكم نعمتي  
ورضيت لكم الإسلام ديناً

Today I have perfected for you your Way of Life, completed upon you My Blessings, and I am Pleased that Islam is your Deen, your Way of Life.

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And **sacrifice** of goat or camel on the 10th Dhu'l Hijjah, the day of Eid, demand of a Muslim a Sacrifice of a higher level: the sacrifice of time, energy, wealth, talents, and above all, the very life in the way of Allah.

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

*'Say: Certainly my Prayer and my Sacrifice, my Living and my Dying are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds'*

Hajj also brings into picture some of the colourful snapshots from the pages of history: the repentance of Adam, the sacrifice of Ibrahim, the obedience of Ismail, the struggle of Muhammad, peace be upon them all.

By projecting history, Hajj infuses in man the unpolluted concept of unity - the unity of Almighty Allah and the unity of man. Hajj erases the division of "they" and "we".

*'O People! All of you are from Adam, and Adam is of dust.'*

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

With inputs primarily from an article by Br. Ibrahim Abu Sheriff.

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