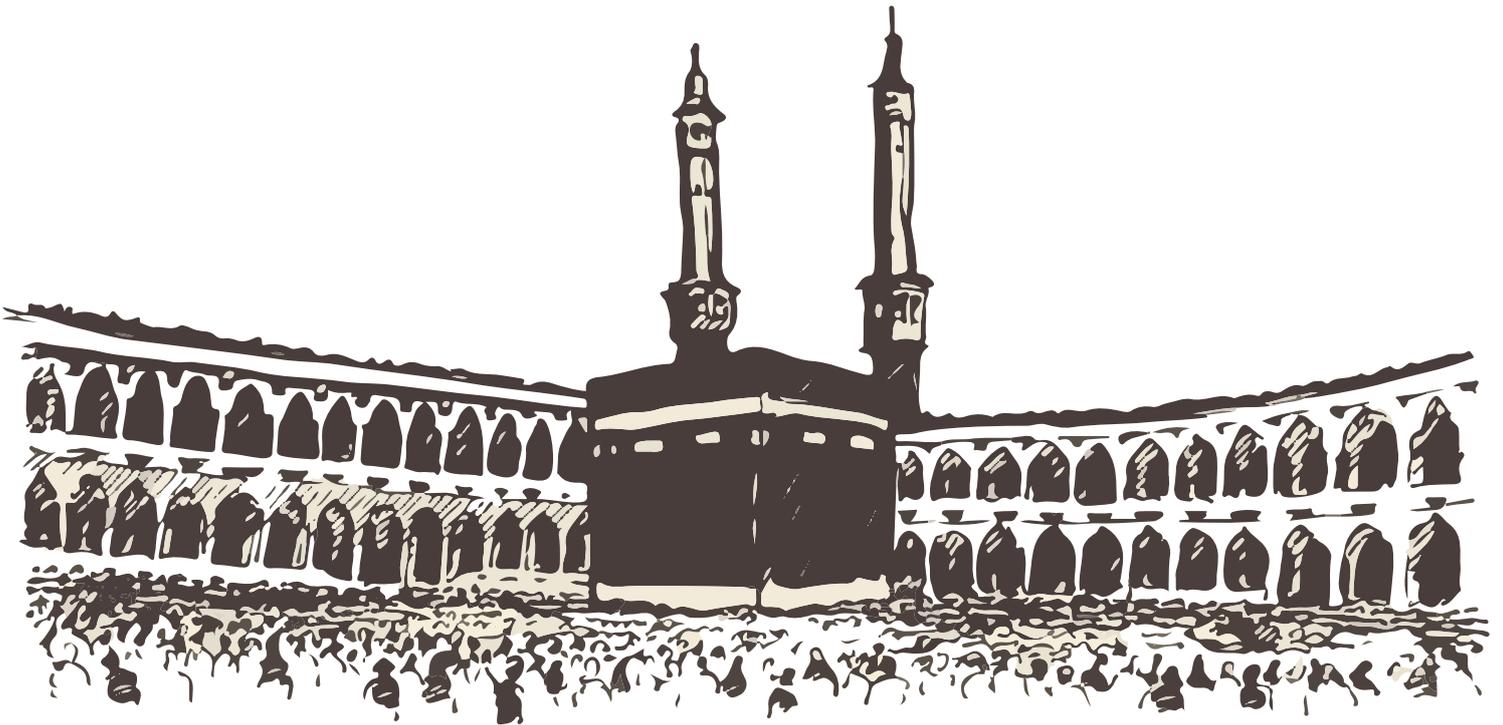


BEST 10 DAYS

Journal



The Prophet ﷺ said,
"There are no days greater in the sight of Allah and
in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him
than these ten days (of Dhul Hijjah)"

Ummi
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What is special about first ten days of Dhul Hijjah?

This is the month of Dhul Hijjah. The first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are the best days of this world. It's the special season of worship. These ten days are better than all the other days of the year, even better than the last ten days of Ramadaan. However, the last ten nights of Ramadaan are better, because they include Laylat al-Qadr.

Ibn 'Abbaas (radi-Allahu anhu) reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: "There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allaah than these ten days." (Bukhari)

So these ten days are most beloved to Allah and He loves for us to do good deeds during these ten days. The reward for doing good deeds in these days are extra. Let us not miss this amazing opportunity to do as many good deeds as we can.

Pray on time, read plenty of Quran, be good to parents and kind with siblings!

Remember, every little good deed counts.

Allah says,

"So whosoever does good equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant), shall see it. And whosoever does evil equal to the weight of an atom (or a small ant), shall see it."
[al-Zalzalah 8-99:7]

We want to be of those on the Day of Judgement who will be happy and laughing and rejoicing because Allah has accepted and rewarded them for all the good that they used to do in the Duniya.

Don't think that you are too young to worship Allah.

The Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said that the young person who grows up worshipping his Lord will be under the shade of the Throne of Allah on the Day of Judgement when there will be no other shade.

What are some more good deeds that you can do?

Takbeer

The Prophet ﷺ commanded us to recite a lot of Tasbeeh ("SubhanAllah"), Tahleel ("La ilaaha ill-Allaah"), Takbeer ("Allahu Akbar") and Tahmeed ("Alhamdulillah") during this time.

Say the takbeer loudly in the mosque, the home, the street and every place where it is allowed to remember Allah and mention His name out loud, as an act of worship and as a proclamation of the greatness of Allah. Men should recite these phrases out loud, and women should recite them quietly.

The phrase of Takbeer is:

"Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, la ilaaha ill-Allaah; wa Allaahu akbar wa Lillaahi'l-hamd (Allaah is Most Great, Allaah is Most Great, there is no god but Allaah; Allaah is Most Great and to Allaah be praise)"

Cut out these speech bubbles, make them colorful and stick them around the house (your desk, bed, dining table, etc) to remind you to say the Takbeer.



Fasting



When you fast on the 9th of Dhul Hijjah, which is the day of Arafah, Allah will forgive your sins of two years. Fast as much as you can in the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah (except for the 10th because that's Eid day!)



Fasting is the most beloved deed to Allah, and so the reward of fasting is more than any other good deeds.



Fasting protects you from the Fire of Hell.



Those who complete the compulsory fasts in Ramadan and also fast at other times will enter the Jannah from a special gate called Al-Rayyaan. This gate is especially for those who fast, no one else will be allowed to go through it.

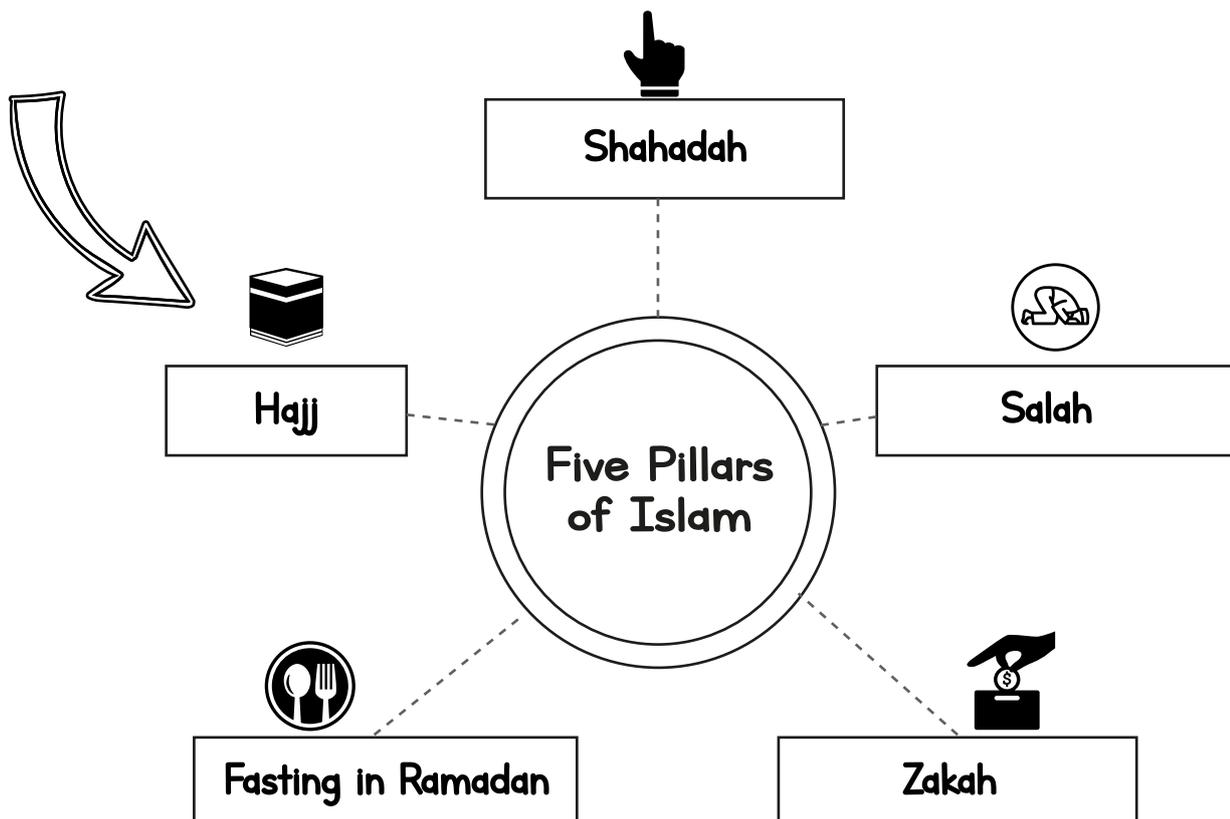
Dhul Hijjah is among the four sacred months

Out of twelve Islamic months, there are four months that are sacred. Dhul Hijjah is one of them. Doing good deeds in sacred months has more reward. And the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah are even more special and important than the rest of the month. It is also in Dhul Hijjah that Hajj, a pillar of Islam, is done.

Hajj is a pillar of Islam

Hajj is the journey to Makkah to Masjid al-Haram to worship Allah in the manner taught by Allah in the Quran and by the Propheht Muhammed ﷺ. Only those who are capable of visiting Makkah are commanded to do Hajj. Those that are weak, old or poor are not required to do Hajj.

There are many acts of worship that need to be done in order during Hajj.



How is Hajj done?



STEP 1: IHRAM

A pilgrim says an intention to perform hajj called the Talabiya. This is when a pilgrim prepares his soul, mind and body for journey to Allah. Entering into Ihram begins from the Miqat (specific places outside the pilgrimage area). In Ihram, men wear unstitched white garments and women wear simple loose clothing (abaya/ jilbaab) and head scarf (khimar).



All the pilgrims wear the same clothes and look alike - the white and the black, the rich and the poor, because in the sight of Allah all are the children of Adam and they are equal to Him. The only way you can become special in the sight of Allah is be your faith and good deeds.

STEP 2: TAWAF

Once the pilgrim enters Makkah, he should make Tawaf around the Ka'bah. Tawaf is done by going around the Ka'bah seven times. After the Tawaf, pilgrim must pray two rakah prayer behind Maqam Ibraheem.

STEP 3: SA'EE

Sa'ee is the walk between the two hills of Safa and Marwah near Ka'bah seven times. In Arabic, Sa'ee means to walk or move quickly.



We do the Sa'ee following Hajar, the wife of Prophet Ibrahim (alayhi as-salaam) who walked distressfully between the hills Safa and Marwah in search of water for her baby Isma'eel when Prophet Ibrahim (alayhi as-salaam) was ordered by Allah to leave Hajar and baby Isma'eel in the desert of Makkah when there was nothing and no one there. Hajar had trust in Allah, she kept running between the hills seeking Allah's help until the help of Allah finally arrived.

STEP 4: STAY AT MINA

Next, pilgrims go to city of Mina on the first day of hajj. The pilgrims stay in Mina until the sunrise of the second day of hajj. In Mina, all the pilgrims stay in tents. During Hajj, Mina looks like a city full of tents.

STEP 5: ARAFAH

After the Fajr prayer in Mina, pilgrims go to mount Arafah. The day of Arafah is the most important day of hajj, If a pilgrim misses standing in Arafah on the day of Arafah, then he has missed the Hajj. Muslims spend the day of Arafah making du'aa to Allah and repenting.



The gathering of the people on Hajj at 'Arafaah reminds the Muslims of the gathering of all of mankind on the Day of Judgement.

STEP 6: MUZDALIFAH

After Arafah, pilgrims go to Muzdalifah for an overnight stay.

STEP 7: RAMY AL JAMARAT

Here, in the city of Mina the pilgrims throw pebbles at the three walls that represents shaytan. The walls at which pebbles are thrown are not real shaytan!



When Prophet Ibrahim (alayhi as-salaam) was going with his son Isma'eel to sacrifice him for the sake of Allah, shaytan appeared as a man to him and advised him to not sacrifice his son. However, angel Jibreel (alayhi as-salaam) informed Prophet Ibrahim that he was shaytan and to throw a pebble at him. This happened thrice. We stone these three pillars to remember that shaytan wishes for us to disobey and distract us from worshiping Allah and obeying him, and we must not fall into his trap.

STEP 8: ANIMAL SACRIFICE

On 10th of Dhul Hijjah, an animal is slaughtered for the sake of Allah in the Makkah by those who are in Hajj. Those who are not in Hajj celebrate Eid by sacrificing an animal in their homes to mark the Prophet Ibrahim's readiness to sacrifice his son Isma'eel for the sake of Allah.

STEP 9: SHAVE HAIR

After the sacrifice, the male pilgrim shave their head and female pilgrim cuts only some of her hair.

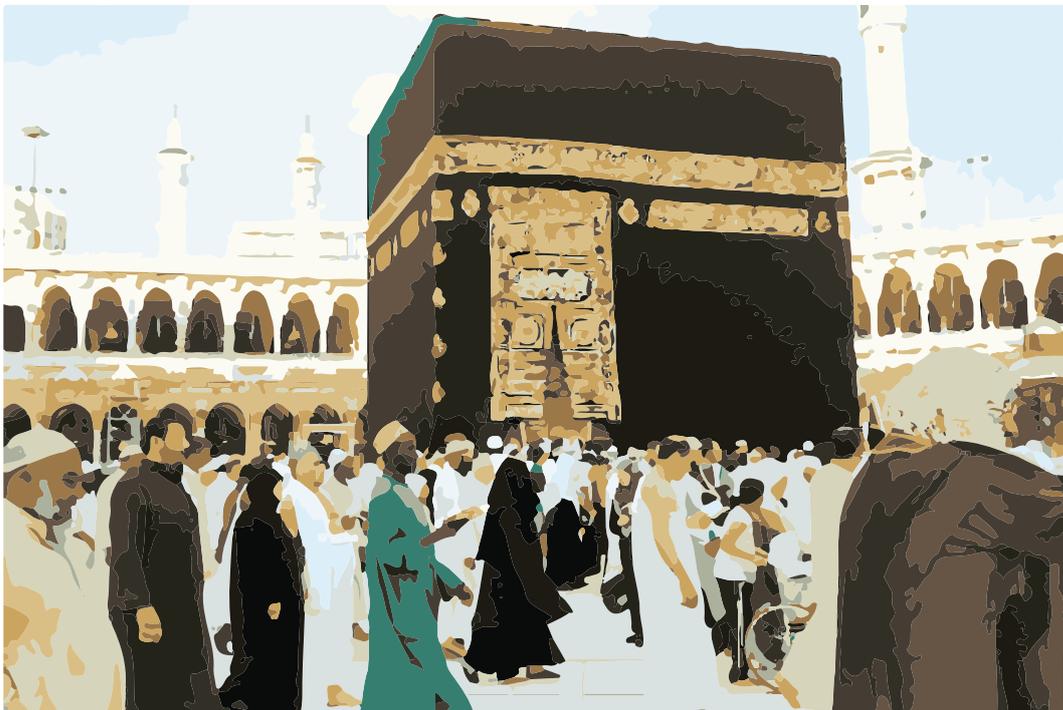
STEP 10: FAREWELL TAWAF

When the pilgrim wants to leave Makkah and go back to his country, he performs the farewell tawaaf.

Hajj in Pictures



IHRAM



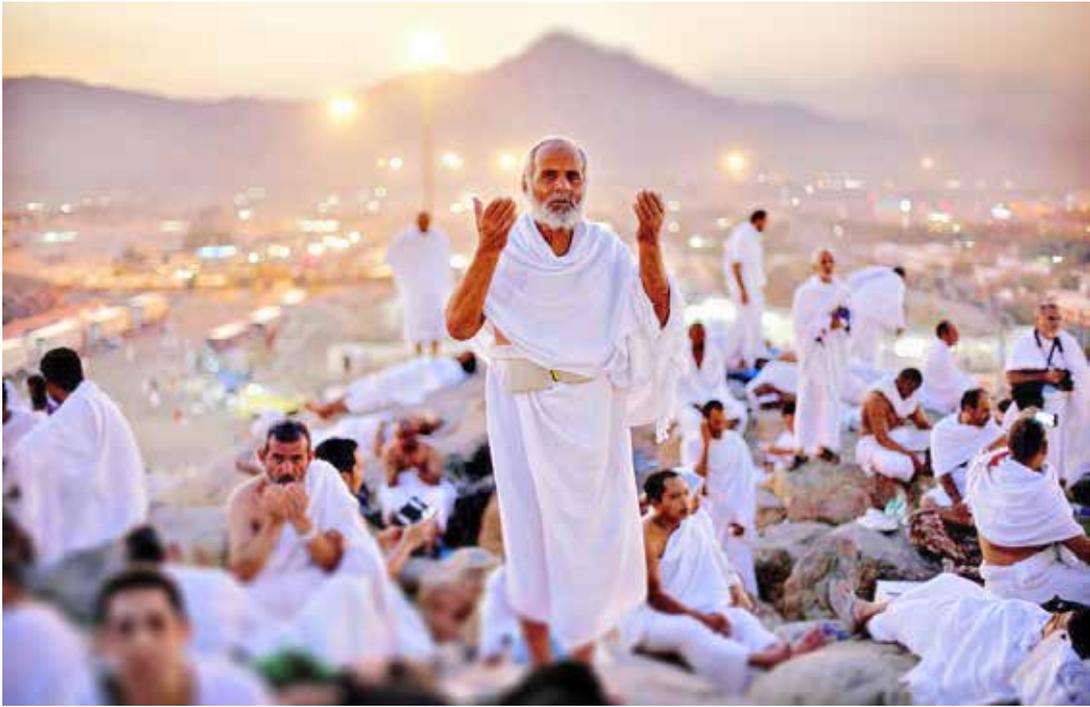
TAWAF



SA'EE



MINA



'ARAFAH



MUZDALIFAH

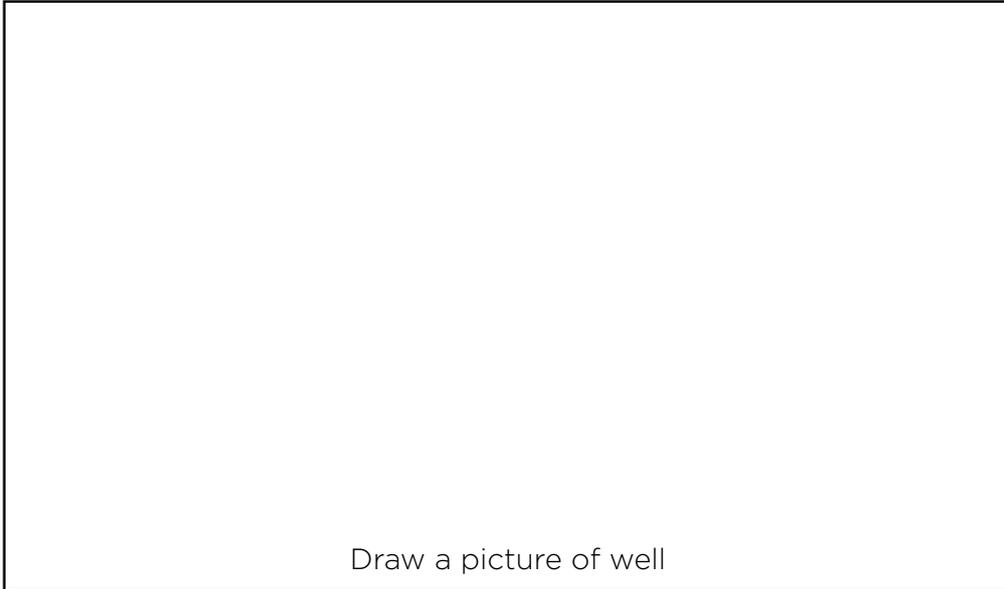


JAMARAAT



SACRIFICE

Story of Zam Zam



Zamzam water is the best and noblest of all waters, and the dearest to people. Let's see how this water came to be!

One day, Ibraheem (alayhi as-salaam) woke up and asked his wife Hajar to get her baby (Isma'eel) and prepare for a long journey. In a few days Ibraheem started out with his wife Hajar and their son Ibraheem. The baby was so young that he was still nursing. Ibraheem walked until he reached the desert of the Arabian Peninsula and came to an uncultivated valley having no fruit, no trees, no food, no water. The valley had no sign of life. After Ibraheem had helped his wife and child to dismount, he left them with a small amount of food and water which was hardly enough for two days. He turned around and walked away. His wife hurried after him asking: "Where are you going Ibraheem, leaving us in this barren valley?"

Ibraheem did not answer her, but continued walking. She repeated what she had said, but he remained silent. Finally she understood that Allah had commanded him to do this. She asked him, "Did Allah command you to do so?" He replied: "Yes." Then his great wife said: "We are not going to be lost, since Allah Who has commanded you is with us."

Ibraheem made dua to Allah, "O Our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley with no cultivation, by Your Sacred House (the Ka'bah at Makkah); in order, O our Lord, that they may offer prayers perfectly (iqamat us-salah) so fill some hearts among men with love towards them, and O Allah provide them with fruits so that they may give thanks. O our Lord! Certainly, You know what we conceal and what we reveal. Nothing on the earth or in the heavens is hidden from Allah.' "

Al-Qur'an 38-14:37

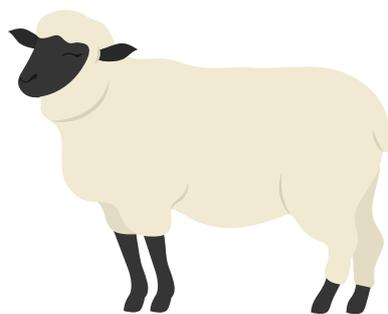
"Hajar went on suckling Isma'eel and drinking from the water that she had. When the water in the water skin had been used up, she became thirsty and her child also became thirsty. She started looking at him tossing in agony. She left him, for she could not bear looking at him, and found that the mountain of As-Safa was the nearest mountain to her on that land. She climbed on it and started looking at the valley keenly so that she might see somebody, but she could not see anybody. Then she came down for As-Safa and when she reached the valley, she tucked up her robe and ran in the valley distressed till she crossed the valley and reached the mountain of Al-Marwa. There she stood and started looking expecting to see somebody, but she could not see anybody. She repeated that running between As-Safa and Al-Marwa seven times."

Thus, the people in Hajj follow Hajar in running between the hills of Safa and Marwah. When she reached Al-Marwa (for the last time) she heard a voice and she asked herself to be quiet and listened attentively. She heard the voice again and said, 'O whoever you maybe! You have made me hear your voice; have you got something to help me?' And behold, she saw an angel at the place of Zamzam, digging the earth with his heel (or his wing) till water flowed from that place. She started to make something like a basin around it using her hand and started filling her water skin with water. Then she drank water and suckled her child. The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid of being neglected, for this is the House of Allah which will be built by this boy (Isma'eel) and his father (Ibraheem), and Allah never neglects His people."

Questions to reflect upon:

- Why do you think Allah commanded Prophet Ibraheem (alayhi as-salaam) to leave his wife and Ismaeel in the desert?
- Why did Hajar not feel anxious about being left alone in the desert when Ibraheem (alayhi as-salaam) told her that it was a command of Allah?
- What was the good that resulted from the patience of Hajar and trust in Allah?
- Why are we commanded to do Saee during Hajj and Umrah?

Story of Sacrifice of Isma'eel from Quran and Udhiya in Eid



Allah decided to test Ibraheem (alayhi as-salaam) to see how far could Ibraheem go to obey Allah. Here is the story of Ibraheem and Ismaeel (alayhim as-salaam) from the Quran.

"And he said after his rescue from the fire, 'Verily! I am going to my Lord. He will guide me! My Lord! Grant me (offspring) from the righteous.' So We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing boy. And when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said, 'O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offer you in sacrifice to Allah), so look what do you think?' His son said, 'O my father! Do that which you are commanded insha'Allah (if Allah wills), you shall find me of the patient.'

"Then when they had both submitted themselves to the Will of Allah and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering) and We called out to him, 'O Ibraheem! You have fulfilled the dream.' Verily! Thus do We reward those who perform good deeds, totally for Allah's sake only. Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial and We ransomed him with a great sacrifice (a ram) and We left for him a goodly remembrance among generations (to come) in later times. Salamun (peace) be upon Ibraheem! Thus indeed do We reward the muhsinin (good-doers). Verily, he was one of Our believing slaves." (Al-Qur'an, As-Saffat, 111-37:99)

We offer udhiya (sacrifice an animal for Allah) on Eid to remember the readiness of Ibraheem and Ismaeel in obeying the commands of Allah. It reminds us and encourages us to be more and more obedient to Allah, and make Ibraheem as our role model.

Al Masjid al Haraam

The First Masjid on Earth

Al Masjid al Haraam is the first Masjid ever to be built on earth. Makkah is the place where the last Messenger of Allah, Muhammad (s) was born and where the Revelation of Quran began. Al-Masjid al-Haraam is located here.

Allah says, "Verily, the first House (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing, and a guidance for al-'aalameen (mankind and jinns)." [Aal 'Imraan 3:96].

It was by built by Ibraheem (alayhi as-salaam) and Isma'eel (alayhi as-salaam). The Ka'bah was rebuilt whenever it was worn out.

Ka'bah (the cubicle structure) is in the middle of Masjid al Haraam. Ka'bah is the qiblah of the Muslims towards which they face in every prayer, in obedience to the command of Allah, as He says, "Verily, We have seen the turning of your (Muhammad's) face towards the heaven. Surely, We shall turn you to a Qiblah (prayer direction) that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of Al-Masjid Al-Haraam (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction"

The Prophet Muhammed (s) informed us that one prayer in al-Masjid al-Haraam is better than one hundred thousand prayers elsewhere.

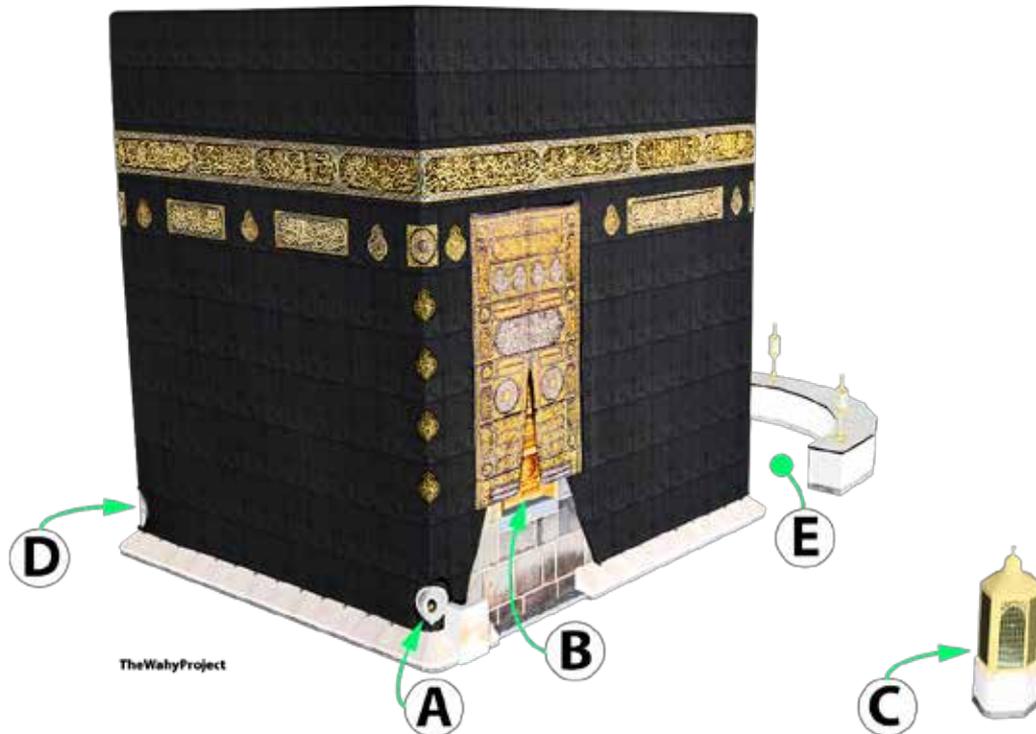
Short story about Ibraheem building the Ka'bah

"Ibraheem (alayhi as-salaam) thought of visiting his family he had left at Makkah once more. He went and found Isma'eel behind the Zamzam well, mending his arrows. He said, 'O Isma'eel, your Lord has ordered me to build a house for Him.' Isma'eel said, 'Obey the order of your Lord.' Ibraheem said, 'Allah has also ordered me that you should help me therein.' Isma'eel said, 'Then I will do so.'

When the building became high and the old man (Ibraheem) could no longer lift the stones to such a high position, he stood over a stone and Isma'eel carried on handing him the stones and both of them would make du'aa:

"O our Lord! Accept this service of us, verily You are the All Hearer, the All Knower." (Quran, Al Baqarah, 2:127)

A close look at the Ka'bah



A - Hajratul Aswad, The Black Stone

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "When the Black Stone came down from Paradise, it was whiter than milk, but the sins of the sons of Adam made it black."
(Narrated by al-Tirmidhi,Ahmad)

B - Door of the Ka'bah

C- Maqaam Ibraheem, The Station of Ibraheem

The rock on which Ibraaheem (alayhi as-salaam) stood whilst he was building the Ka'bah.

It was moved from it's original place. The original place was close to the Ka'bah.

D - Al Rukn al Yamaani

It is another precious stone from Paradise and is located in the corner of the Ka'bah which faces towards Yemen.

E - Al Hijr, it is the part of the Ka'bah. Whoever prays in the Hijr has prayed inside the ka'bah.

Prophet's ﷺ Farewell Khutbah

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did his first and last Hajj in the year 10 AH (After Hijrah). On the ninth day of Dhul Hijjah, at Arafat, Prophet Muhammed ﷺ delivered his last speech to the Muslims There were numerous Muslims present with the Prophet during his last Hajj when he delivered his last Khutbah.

Even today, the last Khutbah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is passed to every Muslim in every corner of the world. Muslims are reminded of it in Masaajid and in lectures. Though the Prophet's soul ﷺ has left this world, his words are still living in our hearts. We must try to follow all that the Prophet ﷺ has commanded us and especially those things that the Prophet ﷺ commanded us in his last Khutbah because they were very important.

After praising and thanking Allah, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:

“O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today.

O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners. Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. Allah has forbidden you to take usury (interest); therefore all interest obligations shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity. Allah has judged that there shall be no interest and that all the interest due to Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib (Prophet's uncle) shall henceforth be waived...

Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under Allah's trust and with His permission. If they abide by your right then to them belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be immodest.

Days of Tashreeq

The 11th, 12th and 13th of Dhul Hijjah are called the days of Tashreeq. Allah says: “And remember Allah during the appointed Days” [al-Baqarah 2:203] These are the days of Tashreeq.

The Prophet ﷺ said about the days of Tashreeq, “They are days of eating, drinking and remembering Allaah.”

You can do Dhikr of Allah during the days of tashreeq in many ways:

- Remembering Allah immediately after the Fardh (compulsory) prayers by reciting Takbeer. This is done until the end of the days of Tashreeq (which is till Asr of the 13th of Dhul Hijjah)
- Remembering Allah when eating and drinking by saying Bismillaah at the beginning, and to praise Him (say Al-hamdu Lillaah) at the end. According to the hadeeth narrated from the Prophet ﷺ, “Allaah likes His slave when he eats something to praise Him for it, and when he drinks something to praise Him for it.” (Narrated by Muslim)
- Remembering Allah in general at all times. You should make a lot of dhikr during the days of Tashreeq. ‘Umar (radi-Allahu anhu) used to recite Takbeer in Mina in his tent, and when the people heard him they recited Takbeer too and Mina echoed with the sound of their Takbeer.
- Making lot of other duaas.

The words of the Prophet ﷺ, “These are days of eating, drinking and remembering Allaah” mean that eating and drinking during the days of Eid are ways to help one remember Allah and obey Him. When you are thankful to Allah, you use the blessings that He has given you to obey Allah and worship Him.

In the Quran, Allah commands us to eat good things and thank Him for them. So whoever uses Allah’s blessings to commit sin is being unthankful for the blessing of Allah, so he deserves to have it taken away from him.



REMINDER:

Tomorrow is the 9th of Dhul Hijjah, the day of Arafah. If you wish to fast then make plans ahead of time!

The Day of 'Arafah

Prophet ﷺ said: "There is no day on which Allah frees more people from the Fire than the Day of 'Arafaah. So make duaa that Allah forgives you, your parents and family and protects from the Fire.

It is the day on which Allah made the religion of Islam complete and perfect. All the laws of Islam were revealed and they were explained by the Prophet ﷺ. Also, Quran and the Prophet ﷺ taught us of all the things that would bring us closer to Allah and protect us from the Fire. Prophet ﷺ completed his task of a Messenger, and conveyed everything from Allah that Allah wanted mankind to know. Nothing can be added in the religion of Islam, nor can anything be removed.

The Prophet ﷺ said, "Fasting on the Day of 'Arafah erases the sins for two years: the previous year and the coming year." (Bukhari)

Arafah is the best day to make duaa. The Prophet ﷺ said, "The best of du'aa' is du'aa' on the day of 'Arafah." (Al Tirmidhi)

What to do on the day of 'Arafah?

- Fast.
- Make duaa to Allah to forgive you and your family, and to protect you and your family from Fire.
- Make the duaa that the Prophet ﷺ taught us to say on the Day of Arafah,

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ، وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

Laa ilaaha ill-allaahu, wahdahu laa shareeka lahu, lahul-mulku wa lahul-hamdu, wa huwa alaa kulli shay'in qadeer.

"None has the right to be worshipped except Allah, alone, without partner. To Him belongs sovereignty and all praise and He has control over all things."

- Recite Takbeer after every prayer.

Eid Day!

The celebration of Eid begins after the Eid prayer. The Prophet Muhammed ﷺ told everyone to attend the Eid prayer, so that everyone can join the Muslims and experience the feeling of celebration. Eid prayer starts after the sun has risen. Many people like to stay in the masjid after Fajr prayer and recite the takbeer until the time for Eid prayer.

Allah has commanded us to follow the Prophet Muhammed ﷺ in all things. We pray as he prayed, we read Quran as he read it, we fast as he fasted, and we celebrate Eid as he celebrated. Here are things that the Prophet Muhammed ﷺ did and taught us to do on Eid. Let's make sure that we follow him on Eid.

- ➔ Take shower (Ghusl) before going out to the Eid prayer.
- ➔ Wear best and beautiful clothes for Eid. Grownup girls should wear proper Hijab when going out.
- ➔ Recite Takbeer before Eid prayer -
Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, laa ilaaha ill-Allaah, Allaahu akbar, Allaahu akbar, wa Lillaahi'l-hamd.
- ➔ Congratulate each other by saying "Taqaabballahu minna wa minkum" (May Allaah accept good deeds from us and from you) or simply "Eid Mubarak".
- ➔ Take a different route to home while coming back from the Eid prayer. That means, you should not come home from the same route that you took to go to the masjid.

