

# ALI 248: Rituals and Significance of Dhul Hijjah



ACADEMY FOR LEARNING ISLAM

OCTOBER 2013

# Etymology of Dhul Hijjah



- God determined the calendar to have 12 months, of which 4 are sacred (hurum).
- The sacred months are:
  - Rajab
  - Dhul Qa'dah
  - Dhul Hijjah
  - Muharram
- The month of Dhul Hijjah is sacred because it is the month for hajj.

# Historical Significance



And when We did appoint for Moses thirty nights (of solitude), and added to them ten, and he completed the whole time appointed by his Lord of forty nights;

- Period of solitude, supplication and worship.
- Question: why do we make dua to Allah? Is it because he does not know our needs? Is it that we need to convince God to be generous?

# Qur'anic Significance



By the Dawn, by the ten nights, by the Even and the Odd, by the night when it departs!

- God swears by entities which are important within human life and important for growth.
- There are different interpretations for the ten nights
- Ayat. Nasir Makarem: just as the sky has days and nights, the human heart also has days and nights.

# Spiritual Significance



Remember Allah through the appointed days. (2:203)

- Special places and times for doing zikr
- Sayyid Ibn Tawus narrates from 6<sup>th</sup> Imam that the appointed days are the ten days of Dhul Hijjah.
- What is zikr of Allah?
- Zikr means to remember Allah in our speech, our hearts and in our actions.
- Zikr is always coupled with realizations.

# Objective of Rituals



- Are rituals means towards a goal, or are they goals?
- What are the implications of this question?
- Rituals are a means for nurturing faith, character and identity in ourselves.

*Indeed the prayer prevents indecencies and wrongs*

*...so that you may be God-wary*

*Take from their wealth sadaqah, and so purify them...*

# Imam al-Sajjad and Shibli



As you washed yourself thoroughly, entered the state of Ihram, and intended to perform Hajj, did you intend to wash yourself thoroughly with pure repentance to Allah?

As you entered the state of Ihram, did you intend to abstain from every matter that Allah deems unlawful?

As you said Labbayk, did you intend to utter any statement of obedience to Allah and shut your mouth against any statement of disobedience to Him?

# The Spirit of Hajj in Our City



- We can develop some of the spirit of Hajj within our own community.

فإذا فعلت ذلك شاركت الحاج في ثوابهم و إن لم تحج

If you were to recite the two rak'ah prayer, you will join the pilgrims in their reward even if you did not go for Hajj?

- How can a two rak'ah prayer grant one the reward of performing Hajj?



# Spirit of Hajj



- **Spirit of Tawhid:**
  - Duas of the month of Dhul Hijjah
- **Spirit of Empathy:**
  - Fasting during the first ten days of Dhul Hijjah
- **Spirit of Unity:**
  - Going to mosque for congregational prayers
- **Spirit of Humbleness**
  - Observing the day of Arafah

# Day of Eid



- Eid comes from the word aud, meaning to return.
- Eid/celebration in Islam comes after a period of hard work and effort:
  - Eid al-Fitr
  - Eid al-Adha
  - *Everyday in which you do not commit a sin, it is a day of Eid for you. Imam Ali (a).*
- Eid is the day when a person is purified and his heart is blessed with new life from Allah (s).