

# Insights into the performance of Hajj



**GAINING SPIRITUALITY FROM HAJJ FOR  
THOSE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND**

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# Insights into Hajj...



- Hajj is one of the main obligations in Islam
  - When we look at traditions to understand the Philosophy of Hajj, we come up with a beautiful list of why it is obligatory:
    - ✦ Imam Ali AS: ‘...He, glory be to Him, made it a sign of their humility before His greatness and their yielding to His Might.’[Nahj al-Balagha, Sermon 1]
    - ✦ Imam as-Sajjad AS: “Perform the Hajj [obligatory pilgrimage] and the `umra [voluntary pilgrimage] so that your bodies become healthy, your sustenance expanded, and your faith improved...” [Thawab al-A`mal, p. 70, no. 3]
    - ✦ Imam al-Baqir (AS) said, ‘Pilgrimage calms the hearts.’[Amali al-Tusi, p. 296, no. 582]
    - ✦ Imam al-Sadiq (AS) said, ‘And this is the house by which Allah has demanded the devotion of His creatures to test their obedience in their coming to it...’ [Amali al-Saduq, p. 493, no. 4]
    - ✦ Imam al-Riza (AS) said, ‘If someone asks why He commanded the pilgrimage, it is answered: in order for people to perform the journey to [i.e. for] Allah, Mighty and Exalted...’ [‘Uyun Akhbar al-Riza (AS), v. 2, p. 119, no. 1]

# Insights into Hajj...



- In today's short discussion, I want to discuss the philosophy of Hajj as described to us by our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS [Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 96, pg. 124]:
  - *“When you intend to go on Hajj pilgrimage, empty your heart for sake of Allah, Glorified is He, of any preoccupation, which makes you unmindful of Him (TAQWA). Entrust all your affairs to the Creator (TAFWEEDH) and rely on Him for what you do and you do not (TAWAKUL). Submit yourself to the divine fate, decision, and destiny (TASLEEM). Say farewell to the world, comfort, and people.”*
    - ✦ These are qualities that are expected from all of us; in fact they are the make-up of our Faith

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- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS continues:
  - *“Discharge what you owe others.”*
    - ✦ The rights of human beings are considered more important to Allah SWT than His own rights
  
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS continues:
  - *“Do not rely on your provision, means of transportation, friends, physical power, youth, and wealth, for Allah may turn all of them as your enemies so that you will know there is no power or option but with Allah without whose assistance no one can succeed.”*
    - ✦ Do not get the false assumption that you have any control or authority over anything

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- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS continues:
  - *“Then be prepared for Hajj like one who has no hope of returning home.”*
    - ✦ It shows nothing else is important!
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS continues:
  - *“Behave well with the co-travelers. Observe prayer timings and the traditions of the Holy Prophet (saw), perform what is your duty on courtesy, patience, tolerance, gratitude, compassion, generosity, and self-sacrifice all the time.”*

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- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS continues:
  - *“Then purify yourself with the water of repentance, put on the garment of truthfulness, sincerity, humbleness, and modesty. Get rid of whatever keeps you away from Allah’s remembrance and obedience to Him”*
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> Imam AS continues (interactive discussion):
  - *“Get rid of whatever keeps you away from Allah’s remembrance and obedience to Him.”*
  - *“Say Labbayk to Allah with pure, flawless, and chaste heart while you have laid hold on the firmest handle.”*
  - *“Circumambulate the throne with your heart among the angels in the same way as you circumambulate the House with other Muslims.”*

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- *“Perform Harwala (fast pace); that is escape from carnal desires with all your power and strength.”*
- *“Come out of your ignorance and wrongdoings when leaving Mecca for Mina and never desire what is not lawful for you or that which does not belong to you.”*
- *“Confess of your wrongdoings in Arafat, renew your covenant with Allah, Exalted is He, on His Oneness and approach Him.”*
- *“Fear Him in Muzdalifah and make your soul ascend to heaven by climbing up the mountain.”*
- *“Cut the throat of carnal desires and greed by offering animal sacrifice.”*
- *“Throw away lust, miserliness, meanness, and all blameworthy acts through Ramy al-Jamarat.”*

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- *“Do away with the internal and external flaws when shaving your head.”*
- *“Enter the sanctuary of Allah, Exalted is He, by ridding yourself of all desires when entering the Sacred Precinct.”*
- *“Visit the House in order to honor its Owner and to know His glory and magnanimity.”*
- *“Caress the Black Stone while you are content with what He has given you and you have become humble before His greatness.”*
- *“Say farewell to everything save Allah in the last circumambulation.”*
- *“Purify your soul and prepare for meeting Allah by staying in Safa.”*
- *“Be fair-minded and dissolve yourself in Allah’s Attributes when you are in Marwa.”*



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- The Imam AS ends with this beautiful piece of advice:
  - *“Be it known to you that what the reason Allah has made Hajj obligatory and has allocated it to Himself by saying, “... and pilgrimage to the House is incumbent upon men for the sake of Allah, upon every one who is able to undertake the journey to it. (The Holy Quran; 3:97),” and the Holy Prophet (saw) has devised its rites in this way, is to remind us of death, grave, being raised to life, and the Day of Judgment.”*

# Insights into Hajj...



- Overall, we find that the Imam AS has mentioned some key qualities required for Pilgrimage
  - However, our day to day lives should be a Pilgrimage to Allah SWT:
    - ✦ Taqwa – God Consciousness at all times (requires Ma'rifat)
    - ✦ Tafweedh – Entrusting our affairs to Allah SWT
    - ✦ Tawakul – Reliance upon Allah SWT
    - ✦ Tasleem – Submission
    - ✦ Fulfill the Rights of Human Beings
    - ✦ Recognize that Authority (Mulk) belongs to Allah SWT
    - ✦ Don't leave unfinished matters (especially when pertaining to Religion)
    - ✦ Establish Salaat
    - ✦ Behave with others with the best of Akhlaq
    - ✦ Importance of Purity in Islam
    - ✦ Turn back to God (repentance) through reformation of one's life
    - ✦ Always remember death, and what comes after death