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Core Themes
& Topics of the
Glorious Qur'an

PILGRIMAGE - HAJ

Published By:



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GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

Pilgrimage - Haj

An entire chapter in the Qur'an, Surah Al Hajj is dedicated to the great pilgrimage. Additionally, numerous verses speak specifically about the various rites and chapters of Haj. These verses highlight and throw light on the universal nature of this important pillar and its influence over people of all times and ages.

The Obligation of Haj

Haj is obligatory on every sane, adult Muslim at least once in their lifetime, if the person is physically and financially able.

“Pilgrimage to this House is an obligation by Allah upon whoever is able among the people. And whoever disbelieves, then surely Allah is not in need of any of His creation.”

(Surah Aal Imran – Verse 96)

Call to Haj

After building the Ka'bah, Ibrahim (As) was asked by Allah to proclaim the duty of Haj.

“Call (all) people to the pilgrimage. They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel from every distant path...”

(Surah Al Hajj 22 – Verse 27)

This verse is part of the command given to Prophet Ibrahim to purify the Ka'bah and invite people for the pilgrimage after building it.

The Haj Months

“The Haj is in the months well known. Whoever commits to (performing) pilgrimage, let them stay away from intimate relations, foul language, and arguments during pilgrimage. Whatever good you do, Allah knows of it. Take provisions (for the journey), surely the best provision is righteousness. And be mindful of Me, O people of reason!”

(Surah Al Baqarah 2 – Verse 197)

Meaningful Benefits of Hajj

In all acts of worship including Hajj, there is the outward act and an inner deeper meaning. Hereunder some of these great benefits of hajj are mentioned;

Hajj as a picture of death

A person leaves his home, bids farewell to near and dear ones and departs on the journey alone. As how he boards the plane as a conveyance, in death his conveyance will be the bier carried on people's shoulders.

Just as how family and friends can only accompany the Haji to the airport, friends and family can only accompany one in death to the edge of the grave. In death, a person leaves behind his home, family and undertakes this journey alone.

A Haji wears two white sheets to cover his body. In death a person is also wrapped in sheets of the kafan which serve as his garment.

The greatest comfort a Haji enjoys in Hajj comes from the money and provisions, which he carries with him before leaving. Likewise, the greatest comfort one enjoys in the life after death is that which comes from the good deeds, he performed before his death.

International Conference

There are times when different classes of people gather to dialogue, share information and discuss possible solutions. This is what happens in Hajj where representatives from all over the globe, from all spheres of life and from all ranks gather at Makkah for this great annual international conference.

Networking

What better place can there be for networking than at Makkah at the time of Hajj; for discussions and deliberations between rulers, ministers and ambassadors of various countries; for improving relations; for the forming of unity and co-operation among them?

At the headquarters of Islam, with the added influence of the spirit of goodwill and brotherhood at the time of Hajj, it is the best opportunity to network, to build ties and to strengthen unity.

Diversity

So many are the different tongues and dialects spoken and the various cultures at Hajj. Every language and country is present. What a grand expose of the

cosmopolitan nature of Islam! This builds a mind-set of accepting diversity of the human race, which eliminates racism and prejudice.

Unity and Discipline

Nowhere else can a person see a better exhibit of the soldier like uniformity as on the Haj journey. This uniformity is a special and unique symbol and badge of Islam. Hence, we see all the Hajis in the same dress, following the same prescriptions and commands, avoiding the same prohibitions, doing the same actions at the same time. It is an unimaginable display of cohesion and discipline.

Equality and Brotherhood

It is a fact that no better demonstration for the teaching and propagation of equality between the various classes can be seen, than in Hajj. Here at the same time; and at the same places; for a substantial period of time, the rich and the poor, the Arab and the Turk, the Englishman and the African, all dressed in the simple pilgrims garb present themselves for a common purpose and goal. All barriers of rank, class, wealth and status are set aside. Racism and prejudice is removed.

Physical benefits

A change of climate is good for health, and Haj provides a good opportunity for this. Hajj entails much walking and physical activities which contribute to bodily health and well-being.

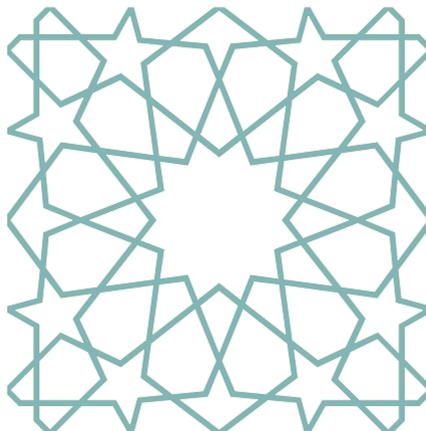
Education and Knowledge

From an educational point of view, Hajj is most beneficial. Many learned scholars from a great number of countries from numerous universities come together; which leads to worthy discussions on educational topics. One gets to know the views, progress, decline and achievements in different countries and societies. All this definitely affords an opportunity of learning from others.

Spiritual Benefits

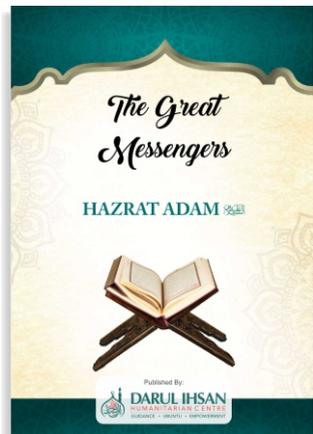
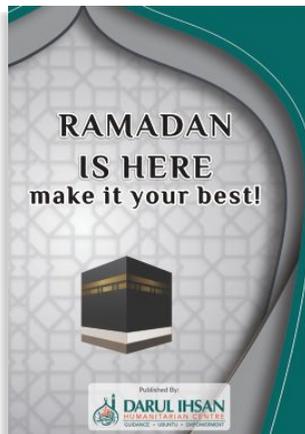
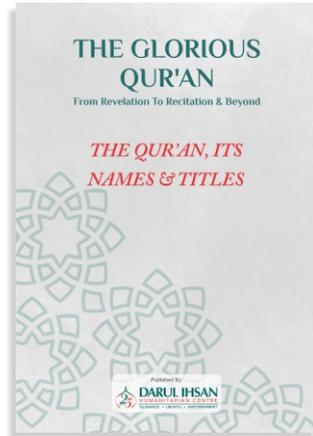
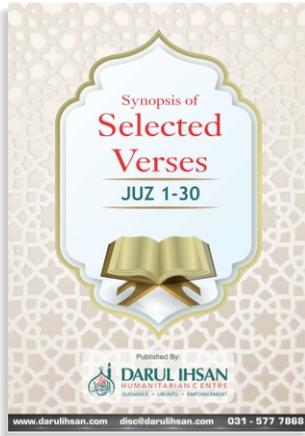
Great saints attend the Hajj gathering annually; whereby an opportunity is offered to derive spiritual benefit from their esteemed presence, by being in their company and listening to their discourses and advices.

(Source: Significance and Meaningful Benefits of Hajj – Daru Ihsan Publication)



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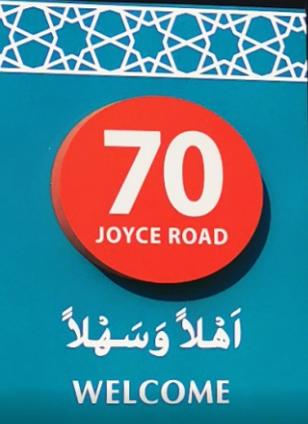
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HUMANITARIAN

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About Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.

