

Hajj, the journey of a lifetime

Hajj is the only pillar that is once-in-a-lifetime, and only for those who can. The spiritual structure of the journey, beyond the logistics.

CENTREPIECE Surah Aal Imran 3:97

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Conditions for the obligation

Hajj is required once for the adult Muslim who is physically and financially able and whose dependants will remain provided for. Questions about health, safety, debt, travel, and a woman's journey involve fiqh detail. Personal circumstances should be taken to a qualified scholar before the obligation is assumed or delayed.

2. The rituals tell the story of the prophets

Tawaf around the Kaaba, raised by Ibrahim and Ismail. Sa'i between Safa and Marwa, the path of Hajar searching for water. Standing on Arafah, where Adam and Hawwa were reunited. Stoning the pillars, where Ibrahim refused the whispers of Shaytan. The hajj is a re-enactment of the deepest moments of submission in human history.

3. Hajj mabrur, the accepted hajj

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: an accepted hajj has no reward except Paradise (Bukhari 1773). The signs of acceptance are not in the ceremony; they are in what the pilgrim looks like after returning home. Less attached to the dunya, more given to ibadah, more gentle with family.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to hajj, the journey of a lifetime.

Suggested closing: Make the intention to go, even if the means are not yet there. Allah responds to the intention of one who waits faithfully on Him.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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