

HAJJ

“As a right of Allāh, it is obligatory upon people to perform Ḥajj of the House (of Allāh) - on all those who have the means for the journey. [Al-Qur’ān, 2/97]

“Labbayk Allāhumma Labbayk”

How wonderful it is to hear these words proclaimed by the Ḥujjāj! Reciting the Talbiyah, clad in two simple pieces of cloth, united in their quest to please Allāh Ta’ālā.

Ḥajj is obligatory upon every believer who has the necessary means of proceeding to Makkah Mukarramah. Even for the many that don’t, Ḥajj remains a lifelong ambition. As the days of Ḥajj draw closer, the yearning of every Muslim to visit Makkah Mukarramah and Madinah Munawwarah should increase. Whether in Ḥaj or not, we should be with the Ḥujjāj in spirit. Our hearts should be on the plains of Arafāt, in front of the Baytullāh, and in the honoured presence of our beloved Nabī ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam in Madinah Munawwarah.

Together with the obligation of Ḥajj, numerous exceptional virtues have been narrated in the Aḥādīth Sharīf. Nabī ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “Whoever performs Ḥajj and doesn’t behave obscenely or commit any sin, will return (cleansed from sin) like the day his mother gave birth to him.” [Bukhārī]. Another ḥadīth says: “The reward for an accepted Ḥajj is nothing but (entrance into) Jannah.” [Tirmidhi]

The current restrictions or quotas should not deter nor discourage us in the least. Allāh Ta’ālā selects and accepts a person to visit His House. If Allāh Ta’ālā chooses us, every man-made obstacle will vanish. How often don’t we hear of people who overcome great difficulties and barriers and perform their Ḥajj. Anyone who desires to perform Ḥajj should adopt the means under his control, turn to Allāh Ta’ālā sincerely and leave everything to Him.

High prices shouldn’t discourage us either. Spending on Ḥajj or ‘Umrah will never deplete one’s wealth. How beautiful is our Dīn! Nabī ṣallallāhu ‘alayhi wa sallam said: “Perform Ḥajj and ‘Umrah one after the other,

for verily they repel poverty and sins just as a furnace cleanses the dirt from steel.”

[Musnad Aḥmad, 167]

If we are sincere in our longing and desire, Allāh Ta’ālā will make the road easy.

Shaykh-ul-Ḥadīth Maulānā Muḥammad Zakariyyā raḥimahullāh quotes a beautiful incident in ‘Faḍā’il-e-Ḥajj’:

“Dhun-Nūn Miṣrī raḥimahullāh relates that once in the desert he took a young man with him on his way for Ḥajj. The Shaykh said to the youngster: “This is a very long and demanding journey.” The young man promptly replied: “For those that are lazy and have no urge, this journey is difficult; but for those filled with Allāh’s love, it is a pleasure.”

All are encouraged to read the book “The virtues of Ḥajj” by Shaykh-ul-Ḥadīth Maulānā Muḥammad Zakariyyā raḥimahullāh, to make Du’ā for the Ḥujjaaj, and to beseech Allāh Ta’ālā to take us to His House over and over again.

The following is a prescription from the experience of the pious to go for Ḥajj :

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنَا مِنْ عِبَادِكَ الْمُتَّخِيْنِ الْغُرِّ الْمُحَجَّلِيْنَ الْوَفْدِ الْمُتَقَبَّلِيْنَ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْفَتَّاحِ الْعَلِيْمِ الرَّقِيْبِ الْمَنَّانِ

وَأَرِنَا مَنَاسِكَتَنَا وَتُبْ عَلَيْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيْمُ

500 x Durūd Sharīf

May Allāh Ta’ālā grant us the true love and yearning for His House, and may He accept us to perform Ḥajj and ‘Umrah repeatedly!

Āmīn

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