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## HAJ and Returning HOME

For many a returning Haji, the excitement felt as the plane nosedives to meet the runway at OR Tambo, and the image of the assembly of friendly faces and embraces ahead, would strangely bring on a sense of relief, (and butterflies), more than the landing at Jeddah at the beginning of the journey.

Home sweet home!

The first sighting of the Ka'ba, the first circling around it, the first sip of zam-zam, the first attempt at Mounts Safa and Marwa, going to Mina, the big day at Arafaat, the blessed Muzdalifa repose, pelting the shaytaan, and finally the euphoria on entering the city of the beloved Prophet ﷺ, suddenly blurs into the past.

Home sweet home!

Yet the whole Haj package (not talking about the agent's one!) is about a home-coming of a different type. Islam's 5th pillar is a journey into origins. Landmarks and events mark the pilgrimage based on the recognition of the Tauheed, the foremost principle of faith.

Home sweet home!

How strange! To undertake a lifetime journey to a distant land just to seek a link to the primary declaration of "there is no God except Allah."

But that in any case is the cornerstone of belief for every muslim, anywhere, anytime.

Haj or no Haj. Actually, It can only begin to make sense if you balance this with the awesome display of faith demonstrated by the greatest act of sacrifice for the sake of Tauheed, as was attempted by the noble messenger Ibraheem ؑ.

His construction of the Holy Ka'ba, jointly with the 'sacrificial' son Isma'eel's help ؑ, signifying unity in religion in the worship of the only God, Allah. The concerns of Hajira, his wife, as she ran between the two hills in her desperation for water and the emergence of

zam-zam. The passion in the journey of life as Isma'eel already content with his destiny, inspiring his father to follow through his intention, as the cursed shaytaan failed to detract their mission.

Yes, the pilgrim has to physically witness and physically participate in the play that became enshrined as Haj, and a pillar of Islam. For the pleasure of Allah. And the stage is Mecca. Where it all began.

Home sweet home!

Then there is Arafaat, where the final messenger, Muhammad ﷺ, gave his epic 'farewell sermon', the place where Adam ؑ was forgiven and also re-united with his wife, sign of the ultimate re-union still to follow.

Arafaat means recognition. And what would the whole Haj exercise be without that? Recognition. Catching the point of the lesson. Recognition of Tauheed? No! Recognition of the object of Tauheed... ALLAH!

Home sweet home!

To know Allah. To recognise. To become close to Allah. To love. Then worship Him as He should be worshipped. With love. For He is the First (al-Awwal), the Originator, the Source, the Origin, the Original.

"Inna Lillahi wa inna llayhi raaji'oon, Verily from Allah and verily to Him that on returning."(Q)

Home sweet home!

Ali ؑ described the journey "like how the animals return to the watering place as the sun sets."

Home sweet home!

Welcome. Haj Mubarak! May your Haj be accepted!

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# THE KING OF YEMEN AND THE LAST PROPHET ﷺ... ..

## PART 1

The incredible story of the King who sent a letter to our Prophet ﷺ a thousand years before his birth, seeking his intercession!

The following account is narrated in Al Mustazarf, Hajjatullah `alal-Alamīn' and in Tārīkh ibne Asākīr and translated from an article by Abū Nūr Mohammad Bashīr.

Once the King of Yemen, Tab'a Awwal Hamirī, about 2,500 years ago, went on tour of his country and those surrounding it. He was a very rich King indeed. In his entourage he had 12,000 `Ulama, physicians and learned men in addition to his army of 114,000 soldiers. Wherever they went, the procession of these men and soldiers which marched in much pomp and ceremony that people lined the roadside to watch them, wherever they went and welcomed them.

When the entourage reached the outskirts of Makkah, no one came to see them or welcome them to the town. This greatly surprised the King. He asked his Chief Minister, "Wherever we have gone people have gathered in droves to see and welcome us. But not here. What is the reason?"

The Chief Minister replied, "Your Highness! There is a House in this town. It is called Baitullāh. The people of this town and its Khādīm have a great respect for it. Our entourage has no comparison to it. People in large numbers from places near and far come for Pilgrimage to this House. In this town no one will heed you or give you any importance. They respect the holy House more than kings."

Hearing this, the King was furious. In his anger, he swore and declared, "I will bring this House to the ground and have the people of this town killed." No sooner had the King uttered these words that blood began spurting from his mouth, nose and eyes. The blood was so foul smelling that his companions moved away from him and no one would come near him. He called upon his Physicians and doctors for

treatment, but no one could help or treat him any way. His condition got worse. He could not sleep at night and kept on tossing and turning. He wanted to get treated by any means and at any cost.

Amongst his entourage there was a physician who was a God-fearing scholar as well. He came to the King, inspected him, took his pulse and said, "O King! Your illness is spiritual. Medicines will not work on you. Did you intend to do anything bad or evil, your Highness? If you did, He will pardon you and relieve you of your misery and illness if He wishes should you repent."

Taking the Physician's advice, the King immediately changed his evil plans to destroy the Ka'ba and to kill the people of Makkah. No sooner had he repented that the foul smelling blood stopped spurting from his mouth, nose, and eyes. He was completely cured. He was very happy for his recovery. He ordered a silk Ghilaf for the Ka'ba to be made and a gift of 7 gold sovereigns and 7 pieces of silk clothing for each of the residents of Makkah. This was the first Ghilaf or covering on the Ka'ba.

Having recovered, the King of Yemen then continued with his tour. His entourage next arrived in Madina al-Munawwara. The `Ulama in his group had studied the Books that had been revealed to the Prophets who had come before them. They took the soil of Madina and smelled it and looked at the features of the place. The signs of the place where the last Prophet of Allah ﷺ would make his Hijra to, as indicated in these Books, were all present here. These `Ulama were overjoyed and made a commitment to stay put in this town. They wished to live in Madina and stated that if they were fortunate, one day they would meet the Prophet ﷺ. But if they didn't, the dust from the Holy Prophet's ﷺ sandals would land on their graves. This at least, they thought, would bring blessings and be their salvation.

.....To Be Continued



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# ETIQUETTES OF QURBANI

## ON WHOM IS QURBANI WAAJIB

The sacrificing of animals has been made waajib and incumbent on the entire ummah. Rasulallah ﷺ Himself and all the Sahabah ﷺ, Tabi'een, and the whole Ummah from every country and place have continuously fulfilled and up kept this waajib.

Qurbani is waajib on every muslim who is mature, sane, muqim (i.e. Not a traveller) and possesses the amount of fifty two and a half tolas of silver (equivalent to 612,36 grams) or wealth equivalent to that value in excess of one's basic (asli) needs.

In the case of Qurbani it is not necessary that this amount be in one's possession for a complete lunar year, like in zakaat.

## THE DAYS OF QURBANI

The act of Qurbani is prescribed for three special days - the tenth, eleventh and twelfth of Zil Haj. Qurbani may be performed on any of these days, but the first day is better.

## SADAQAH OR CHARITY INSTEAD OF QURBANI

There is no Ibadah more lovable in the eyes of Allah Ta'ala during the days of Qurbani than Qurbani itself. By giving the equivalent amount of Sadaqah or Charity during the days of Qurbani will not compensate nor fulfill the Wujoob. One will always remain sinful because of leaving the Waajib (Qurbani is a unique Ibaadah). In the manner that salaah cannot compensate for Saum, or Saum cannot compensate for Salaah, similarly Sadaqah or Charity cannot compensate for Qurbani. The practices of Rasulallah ﷺ and the Sahabah ﷺ are a testimony to this.

## WARNING FOR THOSE WHO IGNORE QURBANI

It is reported by Hazrat Abu Hurairah ﷺ that Rasulallah ﷺ said, "that the person who has the means of performing Qurbani but does not do so should not even come near our Eid Gah (where Eid Namaaz takes place).

## THE TIME FOR QURBANI

In towns where Jumma namaaz and the Eidayn are performed, qurbani is performed after the Eid Namaaz and not before. In villages where Jumma Namaaz and the Eidayn's are not performed, Qurbani may be performed after Subha Saadiq (true dawn) on the tenth day of Zil Haj till the 12th of Zil Haj until sunset. It is makrooh to perform Qurbani at night.

## AGE OF THE QURBANI ANIMAL

A camel 5 years old.

A cow, ox and buffalo must be 2 years old.

A goat or sheep must be at least at least 1 year old.

A sheep that has reached the age where it is thought to be 1 year old could be used for Qurbani.

Animals that are younger in age are not suitable for Qurbani. If an animal seller says that an animal has reached the required age, and outwardly there is no sign to disprove it, then it is permissible to rely on such a statement.

## DEFORMITY IN A QURBANI ANIMAL

There are two kinds of deformity in a Qurbani animal, some deformity in an animal prohibit Qurbani while other faults does not affect the Qurbani at all.

### UYOOB- E- MUKHALLA

*Deformity which prohibit Qurbani*

- \* Horns which are broken off from the root.
- \* Weakness which does not permit the animal to walk to the place of slaughtering
- \* Animals which are blind, squint eyes or limping.
- \* If more than a third of the ear or tail of the animal is cut off.
- \* An animal that was born without ears.
- \* An animal without teeth.
- \* An animal that has three or less legs.

### UYOOB-E-GHAIR MUKHALLA

*Deformity which does not affect Qurbani*

- \* Horns which are broken above the roots.
- \* An animal born without horns.
- \* Less than a third weakness visible.
- \* Limps but is able to walk on its own.
- \* If less than a third of the ear or tail is cut off.
- \* While slaughtering the animal jumps and thereafter becomes injured or deformed.

### MISCELLANEOUS MASAA'IL

- \* Is an animal that has been selected for Qurbani gives birth before it's slaughter, or while slaughtering a live lamb or calf is born, then the newly born animal should also be slaughtered.
- \* A person may eat the meat of every Qurbani slaughtered, be it a Waajib, Nafil or Nazr (mannat) Qurbani.
- \* Seven people are allowed to the part in the sharing of a cow for Qurbani, providing each shareholder contributes 1/7 towards purchasing the cow. If any of the shareholders share is less than a 1/7 then no - one's Qurbani will be correct, (even those who have given a full share.)
- \* If seven people have a share in a cow or bull, then the meat should be weighed and divided equally.
- \* It is better to slaughter your own Qurbani yourself. If for some reason or the other one is unable to slaughter, then it is permissible to let someone else slaughter it.
- \* It is preferable to be present when the animal is being slaughtered.
- \* Rasulallah ﷺ made Qurbani on behalf of his ummah.

**\* It is necessary that a person performs Qurbani for himself/herself first, thereafter if Allah has given him the means he can perform Qurbani on behalf of deceased relatives, minor children or on behalf of Rasulallah ﷺ**

# Q&A

BY MOULANA  
SHAH FAISAL  
KHAN SAHEB

Q. Inform us of some excellence and rulings of Eid-ul-Adha also known as Baqr-e-Eid Jazakallah?

A. A companion of the prophet ﷺ Hazrat Zaid bin Arqam ؓ states that one day some companions came to the holy court of Rasoolullah ﷺ and queried as follows: "Ya Rasoolullah what is the reality of these sacrifices (of an animal) He ﷺ replied: This is the tradition and sunnah of your great father sayyiduna Ebrahim Khaleelullah ؑ, again they asked: what rewards will be gained by these sacrifices? Then the beloved master ﷺ said: there is a reward in exchange for each hair/fur on the animal.

### What Is The Tradition Of Nabi Ebrahim ؑ

Dear readers in Islam, The summary of the blessed hadith mentions that Ebrahim ؑ had a dream on 3 consecutive nights to sacrifice the thing that is dearest to him, he understood from this that he must sacrifice his little son Ismaeel ؑ who was just 7 or 13 years of age. When he expressed his understanding to his wife and child, they agreed and with full loyalty they let it go ahead. On the 10th Zul Hijjah he took his little son to the valley of mina and laid him down on his stomach rather than his back as he tried slicing his son's neck the knife did not cut and Ismaeel ؑ was replaced with a ram Allah accepted this sacrifice of Ibrahim ؑ.

### The Statement Of The Holy Quraan:

The glorious Quran has mentioned this incident: "And when his son was old enough to walk with him he said: O my son I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offering you in sacrifice to Allah). So what do you think? He said: "O my father do that which you are commanded if Allah wills you shall find from those who are patient". Then they have both submitted themselves and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead we called out to him: O Ebrahim you have fulfilled your dream verily we reward the good doers. Verily that indeed was a manifest trial, and we ransomed him with a great sacrifice (a ram) and we left for him (a good remembrance) among the later generations. Peace be upon Ebrahim. Thus indeed we reward the good doers. Verily he was one of our believing slaves (37:102-111)

### Intention and sincerity is the centre of everything

Dear friends in Islam this Qurbaan (sacrifice) is a great means of guidance for people of Imaan till the day of judgement. It is a reminder of the great incident of Ebrahim ؑ therefore the beloved prophet ﷺ stated that when sacrificing the animal do so with full devotion. Allah has mention in the Quraan "Allah only accepts the practices of the pious ones".

### The purpose and wisdom of sacrificing

Sacrifice (qurbaani) in its outer appearance means to sacrifice an animal in the name of Allah, However the purpose of sacrifice is not merely sacrificing an animal rather the spirit of sacrifice is that a slave of Allah must be Allah consciousness and sincere Allah Ta'aala states in the Holy Quraan: "The flesh and meat does not reach Allah rather it is your piety and consciousness of Allah that reaches him".

In another part of the Quraan Allah addresses the people of Imaan through the medium of Rasoolullah ﷺ as follows: "Say (O beloved) to them that indeed my prayers, my sacrifices, my life and my death are all for Allah the cherisher and sustainer of all universe." (6:162)

An urdu poet beautifully says: "Ay musalma sunny eh hukta dares quraan meh hein azmatey Islaamo muslim sirf qurbani meh hein".

O Muslims listen carefully this point is given in the Quraanic lesson that the greatness of people lies only in the Qurbaani (sacrifice).

### Philosophy of sacrifice

Anything sacrificed in the path of Allah never decreases but the reward continues to increase. Therefore those animals (which are halaal to be consumed) slaughtered in the name of Allah there is continuous increase in their numbers. Hence those animals not slaughtered in the name of Allah (i.e. forbidden animals) their numbers keep decreasing. eg. Cows, sheep and goats etc... Some give birth to one child annually and others 2 or 3. So their production is little with high consumption of their meat that thousands are sacrificed in the name of Allah many even die due to sicknesses however their number still increases. Contrary to this a dog gives birth to 5-6 and a pig to 10-12 offspring's. Their production is a lot and consumption is a little yet their quantity keeps decreasing. The answer to this is that sheep etc... Are slaughtered in the name of Allah and dogs etc... Are not.

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QURBANI



## SOME RULES OF SLAUGHTERING

- 1.) Ensure that the knife is sharp.
- 2.) Let the animal lay on its left side allowing its face to be towards the Qibla.
- 3.) It is Sunnah to recite the following Dua:

إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ  
حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ط  
إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَأَنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاغِبُونَ ط  
يَا أَيُّهَا رَبِّي الْعَلِيمُ ط  
اللَّهُمَّ اقْبَلْ مِنِّي ط

*"Inni Wajjahtu Wajhiya Lillazi Fataras Samawati Wal Arda Hanifaw wa Maa Ana Minal Mushrikeen. Innas Salaati Warusuki Wamah Yaaya Wa Mamaati Lilahi Rabbil Alemeen. Allahumma Innaka Waiak."*

For me I have set my face firmly and truly towards Him who created the heavens and the earth and I am His alone (hanif) and never shall I ascribe partners to Allah.

O Allah this sacrifice is from You and for You.

- 4.) Then say  
"Bismillahi Allahu Akbar" بِسْمِ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ ط  
And slaughter

- 5.) After slaughtering read this Dua:

اللَّهُمَّ اقْبَلْ مِنِّي كَمَا تَقْبَلْتُ مِنْ خَلِيلِكَ  
إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ وَخَبِيبِكَ مُحَمَّدَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ  
عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ط

*"Allahumma Taqabbal Minni Kama Taqabbalta Min Khaleelika Ibrahim Alay His Salaam Wa Habeebika Muhammadin Swalla Laahu Aly Hi Wa Sallam"*

"O Allah accept from me (this sacrifice) like you have accepted from Your friend Ebrahim (A.S.) And your beloved Muhammad (S.A.W.)

- 6.) If slaughtering for someone else then read:

اللَّهُمَّ اقْبَلْ مِنِّي (.....) كَمَا تَقْبَلْتُ  
مِنْ خَلِيلِكَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ وَخَبِيبِكَ  
مُحَمَّدَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ط

*"Allahumma Taqabbal Min (mention the persons name) Kama Taqabbalta Min Khaleelika Ebrahim Alay His Salaam Wa Habeebika Muhammad Sal Lal Laa Hu Alay hi Wa Sallam."*

O Allah accept from . . . (Mention the persons name) this sacrificelike you have accepted from Your friend Ebrahim (A.S.) And Your beloved Muhammad (S.A.W.)

- 7.) Do not skin the animal until it has cooled.
- 8.) Do not slaughter an animal in front of other animals.
- 9.) Four veins should be clearly cut. The throat, windpipe, and the two jugular veins. Even if three are cut the meat would still be considered as Halaal.

### MEAT OF THE QURBANI ANIMAL

It is preferable to divide the Qurbani meat into 3 portions:

- 1.) A portion for one's own use.
- 2.) A portion for relatives and friends.
- 3.) A portion for the poor and needy.

\* However it is permissible to keep all the meat or give all away.

\* The Qurbani meat of shareholders should be distributed by weight and not estimation.

\* It is Haraam to sell the Qurbani meat.

### SKIN OF THE QURBANI ANIMAL

\*The skin of the Qurbani animal may be kept for one's personal use, such as tanning the skin and using it as a Musallah or water bag etc.

\* If the skin is sold, the money cannot be used for oneself - it is Waajib to give it away as Sadaqah

\* A needy Muslim engaged in religious activities (organisations) may be given the skin as Sadaqah. It is preferable to do this.

\* It is incorrect to give the labourers (who skin the animal) the skin, fat or unusable flesh as payment for their labour, they must be paid for their labour in terms of cash.

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# THE TWO SONS OF MUSLIM BIN AQEEL ﷺ

Of all the children that accompanied Imam Husain ﷺ, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ & progeny) to Karbala, the story of the suffering and death of Muhammad and Ibrahim, the two young sons of Muslim bin Aqeel ﷺ. is particularly sad and moving. Muslim ﷺ was cousin of Imam Husain ﷺ and nephew of Hazrat Ali ﷺ

**Muslim ﷺ arrives in Kufa.** Imam Husain ﷺ had sent his cousin Muslim ﷺ to Kufa to assess the political and social environment there. Muslims of Kufa had invited Imam Husain ﷺ to come and guide them in the religious affairs as the Imam of the time. Muslim ﷺ was treacherously killed in Kufa by the orders of Yezid, the ruler of that time. This order was executed by the Governor of Kufa, Ubaidallah ibn Ziyad. This was particularly sad and shocking, because Kufans themselves had invited Imam Husain to Kufa. Initially he was welcomed by Kufans and 18,000 to 24,000 people made pledge of support for Muslim ﷺ. He thereafter, sent a letter to Imam Husain advising him of the large support of Kufans for him. However, when Ibn Ziyad arrived with just a handful of companions as the new Governor of Kufa, the environment changed overnight. Ibn Ziyad used intimidation, threats, bribery and lies and managed to disperse the huge crowds of Muslim's supporters. Muslim ﷺ was cowardly and treacherously abandoned by Kufans, rather quickly. He did not know where to go and where to hide from his enemies. He wandered alone in the streets of Kufa, and finally took refuge in the house of Hani bin Urwah. Ibn Ziyad learned about Muslim's whereabouts and ordered Hani's arrest. Muslim ﷺ escaped and took refuge in the house of an old woman by name Tua.

**Muslim ﷺ martyred.** Ibn Ziyad discovered the hiding place of Muslim ﷺ and sent his army to kill him or capture him. Muslim ﷺ fought bravely in the tradition of the bravest of Bani Hashim.

Finally he succumbed to the onslaught by the numerous but coward forces of Kufans who attacked him from all sides, even hurling stones from the roof of the house. He was thirsty but could not even drink water because he was bleeding from injuries to his face. He was beheaded and his head was sent to Ibn Ziyad. His body was desecrated in the worst pre-Islamic barbaric tradition. He was the first Bani Hashim from the camp of Imam Husain to die. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Raja'oon."

**The two Sons of Muslim ﷺ.** The name of the older child was Muhammad and the younger was Ibrahim. Their exact ages are not known. However, according to some accounts they were pre-teens, possibly 12 years and 10 years old. There are two versions of their initial whereabouts. According to the Books: "Nasak-ut-Tawarikh," and in "Roda al Shod'a" by Qazvini, they were with their father, Muslim ﷺ. The other version is that they were with Imam Husain in Karbala and later on imprisoned by Ubaydallah Ibn Ziyad, the Governor of Kufa. However, all historians agree that they were subsequently imprisoned in Kufa on the orders of Ibn Ziyad.

**Life in the prison.** The young orphans spent about one year in the prison. They underwent extreme hardship. Ibn Ziyad had ordered to treat them harshly. They only received two pieces of barley bread and a cup of water daily, in the evening. In the tradition of Ahlul Bayt, they fasted in the daytime, even though they were so young. They became

weaker by the day. After a year had passed by, one brother said to the other, "O' brother! It is a long time that we have been imprisoned, our life is being wasted away and our 2 bodies have suffered. Tonight when the jailer comes, we are going to introduce ourselves to him, perhaps he might release us."

**Release from the prison.** When the jailer learned that these youngsters were from the family of the Prophet, he was shocked. He fell on their feet and asked for forgiveness. That night he set them free with some provision and directed them towards Medina with caution to travel only at night to avoid being caught by Ibn Ziyad's soldiers. After a while, they lost their way and became tired and exhausted. They asked an old woman, who was outside her house, to give them shelter for the night. When she learnt that they were from the family of the Prophet, she was kind to them. However, she worried about her son-in-Law, Harith, who was Ibn Ziyad's supporter, and who might harm the boys. The boys slept in a dark room. They were unfortunately, discovered by the man and he found out who they were. He bound their feet together.

**Final moments of the youth's life.** In the morning, Harith ordered his slave named Fatih to take them to the bank of the river and kill them and bring back their heads. The slave when he learned that these were from the Ahlul Bayt of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, he refused to obey his master and fled.

The man asked his son to kill them, but he also refused and left. Finally, the man himself took the boys to the bank of river Euphrates to kill them. They pleaded with him to sell them as slaves rather than kill them. The man refused. They again pleaded with him to take them to Ibn Ziyad and let him decide their fate, but the cruel and greedy man would not listen. He said, "I better earn his nearness by spilling your blood." They finally requested permission to offer the Salaat, which was granted.

**Their last words.** After the Salaat, they looked up towards the heaven and prayed: "O' Thou alive, O' Thou wise, O' who is the best of all the judges; Thou judge us and him with justice." Then the evil man killed the older youth first, and then the younger one. Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Raja'oon."

**The heads of Mohammad and Ibrahim brought in Ibn Ziyad's Court.** The man wrapped their heads in a cloth and took them to Ibn Ziyad expecting two thousand Dirhams in bounty. When Ibn Ziyad saw the heads of the children, he arose and sat three times and then exclaimed, "Woe upon you! Where did you find them?" The man related the whole story. Ibn Ziyad asked him why did he not bring them alive, so he would give him four thousand Dirham. The man replied, "my heart did not allow me, except that by spilling their blood I should seek your nearness."

**Fate of the killer of the youth.** Ibn Ziyad asked what their last words were. The man repeated their prayer seeking Justice of God. Ibn Ziyad said, "Allah had done justice between you and those children." Then he ordered that this cruel man be taken to the same place where the two children were killed and behead the man and bring his head back. Thus, the prayers of the innocent victims were answered Their tomb is situated at a place called Musaiyib, about ten miles from Karbala.

# THE SECRETS OF HAJ

MOULANA BASHIR KHAN

It is apparent that the Mercy of Almighty Allah rains upon the followers of the Beloved Prophet from the day of his marvelous birth. The followers (Ummah) of the previous Prophets have earned rewards and accolades only through great trials, tribulations and exertion. On the contrary, we are fortunate because through minimum effort and exertions we achieve abundant rewards. The Beloved Prophet ﷺ once informed his Companions concerning an individual who was from amongst the following of a previous Prophet. This disciple was a great Abid, who had prayed to and exalted Almighty Allah for a thousand months.

The illustrious Sahabah on hearing about the devotion of this Abid became depressed, for the thought that had crossed their minds was, how will it be possible for them to accomplish such a lofty distinction of worship in their short lifetime. When they expressed their sorrow a chapter of the Holy Qur'an was revealed:

"We have indeed revealed this (message) in the Night of Power: And what will explain to you what the Night of Power is? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months. Therein descend the Angels and the Spirit by the permission of Allah, on every errand: Peace it is until the appearance of dawn!"

.....towards which are brought fruits of all kinds....

Almighty Allah states that if he had blessed the nations of previous Prophets with longevity then through His Infinite Mercy he has blessed this nation of the Final Prophet with a night whose reward is greater than a thousand months. Furthermore, the various populace of the previous Prophets adopted a monastic life to attain the complete pleasure of their Lord, disassociating themselves from their family, friends, relatives, wealth, cities, etc. choosing to stay in caves, mountains and jungles in solitude so that they could wage battle with their desires (Nafs) by refraining from the comforts of the world.

Almighty Allah has prohibited such difficult practices for this Ummah by placing Barakah (blessings) in congregation (Jamaat) stating, "There is no monasticism in Islam." Hence, there is no solitary seclusion in Islam.[3] In return, He has revealed to humanity a course of action, which is free from obstacles and inconveniences and it does not require a lengthy duration. It is abundantly filled with blessings and reward. This strategy is a once in a lifetime pilgrimage to the Holy House in Makkah al-Mukarramah, which He has ordained as compulsory (Faraid). Thus, by referring humanity towards Himself, He has blessed them with respect and honour.

Furthermore, Almighty Allah has made this place a place of peace and security, copious with blessings and guidance, satiating the heart with enthusiasm such that even a few days of severed relationships and being in a foreign environment will not cause any apprehension or impediment. Rather, each person moves avidly from all directions towards Him in the same way a pigeon heads towards her nest or a camel towards her young. This foreign Kingdom shows such a relish that the delicious flavour of one's homeland is forgotten.

Subsequently, each new expedition or journey warrants a unique experience and a strange miracle. After close examination, it is apparent that we are not like the previous followers who wandered through the wilderness, exasperated, tormented and petrified, without provisions, except for the berries, herbs and roots of plants and trees

that they could locate.

On the contrary, we do not have to confront the forlorn and desolate wilderness or endure the inconvenience of obstacles. Do we have to listen to the howls and cries of wild beasts or keep the company of ferocious animals? In comparison to the past, we have a heavenly garden fit for a bride. Every step brings with it beautiful and clean clothing. Our bodies are fragrant with musk or other exotic perfumes. We are enveloped with thousands of jewels of mercy. Glistening eyes, shining faces and beautiful hearts is the resultant factor such that returning is extremely difficult. The moths are besotted with this exquisite light. The lovers shroud their hearts frenzied with the costume of love, constraining the pangs experienced in their spirit. Somehow, the journey is softened and caressed in the same way a light fresh morning breeze kisses the lips of the rosebuds. The heart blossoms whilst tears surge uncontrollably.

No preparations and education can ever prepare one for such a journey. Some individuals, on arrival fall into prostration, astonished. Others envelope Multazim, converted into a picturesque vision. Yet others are seated in the Hatim dumb-founded with admiration. Some walk around deliriously chanting. Then you will find several at Rukn-e-Yemeni, intoxicated with joy, unconscious to their surroundings. A few find the same joy and pleasurable intoxication when kissing the Black Stone. This incredible action renders them oblivious of the throngs surrounding them. With the same earnest zeal, many stumble over one another to experience this euphoria. Those that finally do get the opportunity to kiss the Black Stone remain as if glued to it.

Each individual is immersed in his own communications seeking the garlands of enchantment and compassion. Each afforded an esteemed status. Whoever lowered his head Almighty Allah granted him elevation in rank. Chants of "Labbaik! Labbaik! Allah humma Labbaik" echo crisply through the air. Arising from the four corners, the sweet calls of Dhikr, Dua, Naat, Salawat, Adhan and Iqymah resonate through the air creating pleasurable elegance and indescribable elation. Plumes from the smoke of sin wafts away into non-existence.

The "vegetation" of wishes begin to bud and slowly blossom into lush greenery. The close interaction of the learned (Ulamah) and pious (Salihin) become delicious morsels and cuisines upon which the common feed with earnest fervour. It seems that only that occurs which is desired. Nothing goes unanswered,

This is the true promise of the Bountiful Lord "So whoever denies..." Now, those that show ungratefulness to such abundance from the gifts and blessings provided by Almighty Allah and despite the reality of the limitless profits to be harvested on account of a minute sacrifice and endurance of a little difficulty, become frantically insane when they too taste the delightful and countless bounties.

"Almighty Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures."

O! Almighty Lord You have concealed the wickedness of our deeds with prayer, although, if You choose to destroy us or cause us some detriment, nothing can stop You. We pray to Allah To Accept Our Hajj and Umrah And Forgive US our Sins ameen

# ECZEMA

BY HASINA BEGUM SAYED

Itchy skin is a form of eczema, or an inflammation of the upper layers of the skin. The term eczema (pronounced, ex-em-ah) denotes a chronic, recurring skin rash that is characterized by swelling, redness, itchiness, and dryness, with possible crusting, flaking, blistering, oozing, and bleeding areas.

Eczema occurs episodically in sufferers; meaning that persons with eczema will have times when their skin health will seem to get worse during periods of "flare-ups," or exacerbations.

These periods are followed by times when the condition improves, called "remissions."

## Common Forms of Eczema

*Atopic Dermatitis* also known as atopic eczema, this is the most common form of eczema. Atopic eczema is normally seen on the face, scalp, inside of elbows, behind the knees, and at times, on the buttocks.

*Contact Dermatitis* this form of eczema is of two types: allergic-contact dermatitis or irritant-contact dermatitis. The allergic variety is caused by exposure to an allergen such as poison ivy. There is often a delayed reaction.

Exposure to irritants, like chemicals, account for nearly 75% of all reported contact dermatitis cases. This type of contact dermatitis usually subsides when the substance (i.e. irritant) is identified and avoided. Occupational skin disease is a form of irritant-contact dermatitis.

*Xerotic Eczema* also known as "winter itch," this skin condition is common during the dry, winter months and affects the elderly with the greatest regularity. It often begins as normal dry itchy skin that progressively worsens, actually turning into what is classified as eczema.

*Seborrheic Dermatitis* or as it is most commonly known as, dandruff, seborrheic dermatitis a dry or greasy scaling of the scalp and/or eyebrows. This form of itchy skin is manageable.

## Cause

The exact cause of eczema remains a mystery. It's likely that several factors are at play, most notably, genetics and the environment.

This may mean that pre-existing factors like allergies can actually cause eczema in susceptible individuals. Additionally, researchers have identified potential triggers that may make the condition worse and also include specific allergens, environmental triggers, food, and other factors such as:

- \* Soaps, laundry detergents, and perfumes
- \* Low or high humidity
- \* Extreme heat or cold
- \* Highly processed foods, trans-fat rich foods, and foods with high saturated fat content
- \* Emotional stress
- \* Allergens such as pollen, pet dander, foods, feathers, and even dust mites.

## Conventional Treatments

Conventional treatments vary from person to person and are based on physician recommendation and the patient's personal preference. Medical practitioners not specializing in naturopathic techniques will most likely advise the use of medications, topical or otherwise.

These can include anti-itch lotions, topical corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, and antihistamines. As well, newer medicines called topical immunomodulators, or TIMs, are steroid-free ointments that have shown upwards of an 80% success rate. Phototherapy or Photochemotherapies are other popular options.

## Home remedies:

- \* Drink water so the fluids can flush through your body and moisturise your skin.
- \* Put cream on every morning and night if needed.
- \* Mix organic unfiltered Apple Cider Vinegar 50% with 50% water dab on affected area twice a day when it dries off moisturize with coconut oil or mustard oil.
- \* Use dove unscented soap, or aveeno body wash, or cethaphil body wash. Any of these helps.
- \* Use equal parts of sugar and olive oil and gently apply on eczema affected skin. Rub gently then use a damp cloth to lightly wipe off the sugar. Olive oil is a natural moisturizer.
- \* If your hands are in bad shape, buy a pair of cotton gloves. After applying lotion mixed with a little coconut oil, slip them on and wear them about 1 hour on and 1 hour off, applying lotion mix each time.
- \* Try using a sugar/water paste and rubbing the affected area. This will remove dead skin cells. Rinse with cold water and pat the skin dry. Immediately put moisturizer after drying, so the effect can be more prominent.
- \* Try avoiding offensive everyday food items like cows milk, goats & soy milk are both perfect alternatives which will reduce eczema in most cases.
- \* Try lemon juice. It's "very" sour but it will help clean your body
- \* Get some Piriton tablets at a chemist. It is advisable take 1 every three to four hours.
- \* Body massage with coconut oil half an hour before bath helps.

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# DAWAH - PROMISE OF AN ANSWER TO A PRAYER...

BY SHEIKH ZUZE ISHAAQ - HEAD OF DAWAH ACTIVITIES AT ORANGE FARM

I think its quiet brave enough to be honest about the way we feel-and do you know what it is to have something burning inside you? In the meantime our hearts ache with pain when we imagine how miserable others are living right now...! As we look back with disdain upon the days when love was caring, and passion was responsibility in its accountability, these and many others are some of a relation to our current life, where brother and Sister Muslims are being killed everyday without a valid reason and the increasing frequency in the breakdown of marriages & the instability and unsafe of our societies...

This present modern western cultural, activates unrealistic expectation and brainwash our innocent Muslim youth as they adopt the western life –yet but Islam lives on, no change rather stronger it becomes. Almighty Allah has promised assistance to those who follow his commands. One Hadith says that the one who remembers Allah Taalah in times of comfort, Allah Taalah remembers him in times of difficulties.

In times of adversity, with devotion and concentration, we shall never fail to raise our hands high in glorifying and hymning the praises of Allah as for our spirit we always believed that in every supplication there is a promise of an answer, and today I make Duaa to you all for a heart free from sadness, a mind free from all worries, a body free from illness & a day full of Allah's blessings. Ameen!

Mans value depend on his general contribution towards humanity and the good influence he has on those around him. I applaud to all those Muslim individuals who have achieved success in their Hajj. It is indeed in this month Millions of pilgrims visit the Ka'abah and perform Hajj annually for the purpose of worshipping and pleasing Allah alone. Muslims from all over the world gather together for this purpose that compels them unity, striving towards Allah's blessings. Lets all make Duaas for them as they will bring us Barakat as noor will be seen upon their faces.

It is definitely in this month, supplications and sacrifices are made, where ones act is rewarded abundantly, from the rite originated from Prophet Ibrahim ؑ and restored by our beloved Nabi Muhammad (saw) and still honored and practiced by us Muslims every year. We must always beseech Almighty Allah to forgive us and bless us with best expectations of life from him. Only through a good expectation from Allah with repentance with strong supplication will wipe out our misdeeds and perfect us all to stay on the straight path with guidance.

Besides all pandemic diseases and Juvenal delinquencies mentioned in the above first paragraph I

believe to say that the Muhajireen's are to present every society they come from since the blessing observed from such blessed act must benefit mankind at large. Sacrifices of Eid-ul-Adha should not benefit meat only to the poor but the spirit of love and consideration. Validation of self worth is from others, without comparing and competing to impress others, everyone is worthy of respect and more importantly you will respect yourself. So sacrifices we may uphold will not benefit one but all even none Muslims. As such Duaas and acts Almighty Allah will accept and answer.

It is very important to note that every act in Islam invites each Muslim to practice patience, self restraint and piety. Qurbani instills in us selflessness, sharing and sacrifice and removes from us the carnal desires to hoard money, but to fulfill a command of Allah Ta'ala.

Rasulullah ﷺ once said, Hazrat Dawood asked Allah Ta'ala that what will be the reward of the member of the Ummah of Hazrat Muhammad, who offers a sacrifice, Allah said: he will be granted ten good deeds forever hair on the animal's hair and ten bad deeds will be erased from his records and will be promoted by ten degrees. Allah said lastly to Dawood ؑ, Oh Dawood, the sacrifice wipe out sinful errors & drive away misfortunes.

In another narration Rasulallah ﷺ said, ' offer your sacrifices and feel happy about letting them go , for if someone takes his sacrificial animal, and turns it to the Qibla, its blood and its hair will be preserved for him on the Day of Resurrection. When the blood falls into the dust, it is falling into Allah's safekeeping. Spend freely, that you my be recompensed abundantly.

May Almighty Allah grant us Taufeeq, instill in us faith and spirit of surrender and submission to the divine call, and HEY! ...There is always an answer to our prayers, lets observe them carefully...

DAWAH

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# HAPPINESS – The Cornerstone of Seeking Virtue & Enlightenment

MOULANA NASIK AHMED BROOD

Happiness is a mental or emotional state of well-being characterized by positive or pleasant emotions ranging from contentment to intense joy. A variety of biological, psychological and philosophical approaches have striven to define happiness and identify its sources. Happiness is all of the good that someone experiences combined into one emotion. This emotion can, and usually does, bring out the best in people. For someone to be happy they need to know that everything that has happened in their past has happened for a reason and that it has happened in order for them to become a better person. Not only does it make them a better person but it also makes them realize how good they have it or can possibly have it. Although things might be hard to deal with at the moment, people need to realize that they will be able to learn from their experiences and that they will learn to take the good from them all.

People often wonder what kind of powers the source of happiness possesses. Let us look at a few examples and then we can see the strength of happiness:

- a) Two men of equal physical strength may carry the same load: the first may complain as if he carried double weight; while the other may laugh and sing as if he carried nothing.
- b) Two men of similar physique may suffer from the same illness: one may react pessimistically and always imagine death, thereby increasing illness; the other may endure it patiently, feel optimistic and expect sooner recovery, thereby speeding up his recovery.

These are just a few examples regarding the powers the source of happiness possesses. Happiness is a sensation, which is like a light. When it is on then we can make everything around us seem lively and full of delight. We can't live our life in fear of what can go wrong. We just need to go out and live our life to the fullest and know that we will be happy, even if something doesn't go the way that we had planned it to. The best kind of happiness is when we know that we are able to care for someone and that they may care about us. They may just be our friends or any other Muslim brother/sister; but we care about them enough that we want what is best for them and in return they want the same for us. This kind of happiness is of the purest form. It is an unspoken agreement between people that says that each of them will do whatever they can to make the other person happy and that in this process we will be able to be happy and enjoy the moment. The Holy Prophet (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam) has said: "None of you is a true Believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Bukhari & Muslim) Happiness may come and go like the seasons but in the end, every moment that we have that is filled with happiness will be well worth the sad or unnerving ones that we have had to

endure.

It is the nature of every person to seek happiness. One of the most elusive objectives of every human being is 'Happiness'. Islam indicates the secret of attaining perfect happiness in this life and forever. We learn from the teachings of Islam that happiness is an exclusive quality of the soul. Thus, a body that attains all the material successes it longs for - money, power, fame, etc. - often belongs to an unhappy person. Happiness depends totally on the degree of growth and development attained by the soul. Islam provides a detailed map towards perfect happiness for both body and soul, both in this world and in the Hereafter. We must remember that for every minute we are unhappy, we lose sixty-seconds of happiness. I believe that happiness is the art of never holding in our mind the memory of any unpleasant thing that has passed. A wise person once said: "We must realise that true happiness lies within us. Therefore, waste no time and effort searching for peace, contentment and joy in the world outside. Remember that there is no happiness in having or in getting, but only in giving. Happiness is a perfume we cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on ourselves."

Different people suggest ways for getting happiness. Some people think that happiness can be achieved through wealth and worldly possessions. But if this were true, kings and millionaires would be perfectly happy. They would then know no sorrow. But this is contrary to facts. We must take heed of the fact that a life of peace and contentment is essential for happiness. One should be satisfied with what one has. It must be remembered that the easiest way to happiness is in the most faithful use of what we possess.

May Allah Almighty, through the Wasilah of Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam), grant us all the strength and the ability to continuously strive for happiness so that we may achieve success in both worlds, Aameen!

## FOR THE ESAALE SAWAAB OF:

- 1.) Hazrat Ghulaam Mustapha (R.A)
- 2.) Hazrat Baba Kassim Faridi (R.A)
- 3.) Hazrat Sayed Khalid Shah (R.A)
- 4.) Hazrat Khadim Ghulam Jilani (R.A)
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# ISLAM SLAUGHTERED BY KENYAN CARNAGE

BY FAIZEL KHAMKAR

At the very outset let it be clear that the killings and maiming at the Westgate mall in Kenya cannot be condoned.

These events cannot and should not be ascribed to Islam and its teachings. The western media and powers to be however have made capital of it and the only way it could benefit was to subtly headline it as Islamic. It is then little wonder that a certain Robert from Howick then suggests that the e-tolling gantries should have cartoons of our Beloved Prophet (sallallahu alayhie wassalam) hanging from them so that these gantries will be blown up. The biased reporting on this matter leads to these weird ideas being formulated, despite its negative effect.

This is not the first atrocity which has taken place in Kenya. Hopefully it will be the last as life is sacred. The question which needs to be asked is why Kenya is susceptible to such attacks? The only answer is that it has become a surrogate to its American masters and follows a foreign policy meant to serve the American agenda as enunciated recently by Obama in his speech in the United Nations general assembly. This has then placed Kenya on the list of terrorist regimes by those classified as the terrorists themselves. This insane cycle of violence and counter violence cannot result in any form of positive outcomes. The Kenyans will have to start examining its foreign policies in the light of what is best for the Kenyan people. Furthermore one has to wonder if the recent decision by the Kenyan parliament to withdraw its membership from the International Criminal Court following the interdict against its leader for crimes against humanity did not allow an attack on its own soil as a political lesson of forcing international obedience on the Kenyan regime?

South Africa's media has taken liberty in taking the events in Kenya and drawing inferences to the South African position. Its first line of attack is the availability of false or fraudulent documents which should be under the control of the Department of Home Affairs.

Scant regard is given to the fact that South Africa is actively engaging in steps to counter this problem and the new identity documents which had its roll out programme already in force.

Secondly no country is immune to this problem and to single out one country can only be regarded as naive. Thirdly no nexus has been proven or likely to be ever proven between this problem of fraud and the attack in Kenya.

It is the same forum that has become vocal since prior to the 2010 world cup dishing out the same kind of diatribe.

To date except for arguing on theory no substantial evidence has been presented to back up their claims that South Africa is a hot bed for terrorist activity. A correspondent of the Daily Maverick had to back down and publicly apologise when his arguments could not be substantiated when he was challenged on his allegations. The effect of these rumour mongering will have a lasting negative effect on this country. Anelli Du Plessis is quoted in the Sunday Times by Ray Hartly in which she subtly expresses that right wing terrorism is fine but not Islamic extremist. This specialist should know that the destabilization of any country by whoever is unacceptable. To place specific focus on one area of danger and leave out all other areas is foolhardy to say the least.

I am in full agreement with Naledi Pandor who answered as follows when interviewed by Chris Barron of the Sunday Times: "I think there is a lot of sensationalism, stories being created, and I believe there is quite a lot of stretching the truth in a terrible fashion to harm the image of South Africa." This answer in a nutshell sums up the position of the media.





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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSAN

Washington, USA - President Barack Obama and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani held the first conversation between American and Iranian presidents in more than 30 years. Obama said he and Rouhani have directed their teams to work quickly to pursue an agreement. Iranian and U.N. officials have been meeting to continue talks on how to investigate suspicions that Iran has worked secretly on trying to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran denies that claim. Earlier Rouhani called the United States a "great" nation in a sharp reversal from his predecessors and expressed hope that at the very least the two governments can stop the escalation of tensions.

New York, USA - The U.N. Security Council has passed unanimously a resolution ordering the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons after Russia and the United States agreed on a deal to avert U.S. military action against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, the world's chemical weapons watchdog, had earlier approved the disarmament plan for Syria that paved the way for the UN vote. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem said his country would comply. Hundreds of Syrian citizens died in a chemical weapons attack a few months ago, prompting calls for attacks on the Syrian government.

Quetta, PAKISTAN - Survivors in Awaran district in Balochistan, Pakistan have been forced to spend the night in makeshift shelters built with sticks and bed sheets after their mud homes were flattened in a massive earthquake. The Pakistan

National Disaster Authority put the death toll for Tuesday's quake at nearly 500, but rescue workers believed it would be much higher because larger parts of the affected region are unreachable. The remoteness of the area and the lack of infrastructure hampered relief efforts. Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province but also the least populated.

Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC - Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama has sent a call to Buddhist monks to stop persecuting Muslims in Burma, urging them to adhere to Buddhist principles. The Dalai Lama was commenting at the annual human rights conference in the Czech capital on hundreds of thousands of Muslims being forced to flee their homes in western Burma since June after attacks from Buddhist mobs on their areas.

Cairo, EGYPT - Egyptian authorities have shut down the headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice newspaper in Cairo, described by the Brotherhood as the latest move aimed at crushing the Islamist movement. Authorities in Egypt have cracked down on the Brotherhood since it overthrew President Mohamed Morsi in a popular coup on July 3. Morsi belonged to the Brotherhood movement. Hundreds of Brotherhood supporters have been killed and thousands arrested since then.

Miami, USA - A controversial Florida pastor was arrested before he planned to burn almost 3,000 copies of the Qur'an on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Terry Jones, 61, was detained, but faces charges not for



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the planned desecration of sacred text but rather for of transporting fuel illegally and openly carrying a firearm. Officials said Jones was riding in a pickup truck that was towing a trailer carrying a large braai grill filled with paraffin-soaked Qur'ans. He also had extra bottles of the fuel inside the truck.

Massachusetts, USA – Pakistani girl Malala Yousafzai, an outspoken proponent for girls' education, received the 2013 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award at Harvard University. Malala was shot in the head last October, because she was critical of the Taliban. The well-spoken 16-year-old Malala said she hopes to become a politician because politicians can have influence on a broad scale.

Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - The move to shift government departments from Mina to a new administration complex in Muzdalifah would create 23 percent extra space in the tent city to accommodate 185,000 more pilgrims this year, according to officials. Most of the non-essential government agencies would be shifted to the new facility, said Sultan Al-Dossary, spokesman of the Makkah governorate. More than 600,000 foreign pilgrims have already arrived for Hajj that begins on October 13. Nearly two million pilgrims are expected to take part in this year's pilgrimage.

## NATIONAL INDEPENDENT HALAAL TRUST



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