

KHUTBAH

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English

The best of Jihad is an accepted (Mabroor) Hajj

Dear Muslims,

Hajj is one of the main worships and one of the five mile stones of Islam. Performing it, in the right way, rewards forgiveness of the previous sins. Amr Ibn Al-Aas said, “*When Islam entered my heart, I went to the Messenger of Allah and said: ‘Give me your hand so that I may pledge allegiance to you.’ The Prophet spread his hand, but I withdrew mine. He said, ‘What is wrong Amr?’ I said, ‘I want to make a condition.’ ‘And what is that?’ he said. I said, ‘That Allah will forgive me.’ Then the Messenger of Allah said, ‘Did you not know that Islam wipes out what came before it, and that Hijrah wipes out what came before it and that Hajj wipes out what came before it!’*” **Narrated by Muslim**

“*A 'Umrah is a mean of expiation of sins committed between it and the next and a Mabroor Hajj - complete and accepted - has no reward for it but Jannah.*” **[Agreed upon]**

Aa’ishah, the Mother of the Believers, may Allaah be pleased with her, asked the Prophet (PBUH), “**O Messenger of Allaah, can we not go out on campaigns and fight in Jihaad with you?**” He said, “*No, But the best and most beautiful of Jihaad is an accepted Hajj.*” **Narrated by Al-Bukhari**

It is narrated by Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) was asked which deed was best, so he replied, “*Belief in Allah and His Messenger.*” He was asked, then what (was the next best deed), and he said, “*Jihad for the sake of Allah.*” He was asked, then what (after that) and he replied, “*An accepted Hajj.*” **Narrated by Bukhaari & Muslim.**

‘Umar said, “Tie on your pack-saddles for the hajj. It is one of the two types of *jihad*.”

However, not everyone who makes Hajj will have his Hajj accepted and his sins forgiven. As Ibn ‘Umar, radhiyallahu `anhu, said to Mujahid, when he said, commenting that there are many people in Hajj “How many Hujjaj (are here)”, “How few. Rather say, how many riders.”. Hence the challenge is not in performing Hajj but rather in performing it in the way that make it accepted by Allah.

I will highlight here some matters that help one ensure that his or her Hajj will be accepted and he or she will get the great rewards and forgiveness, in shaa' Allah.

1. Sincerity to Allah and seeking His reward and pleasure alone by performing Hajj. There should not be other reason behind going to Hajj (e.g to show off and appease people) otherwise it will not be accepted. Allah says in the hadeeth qudsi, (*Whoever does an action for other than me, I will leave him and his shirk.*) **Narrated by Muslim.** The Prophet, (PBUH), supplicated, (*O Allah, (enable me to make) hajj with no riyā' (show-off in the sense of desire that others witness one's good acts) or sum'a (show-off related to desire that others hear about one's good acts) in it.*) **Narrated by Ibn Majah.**

2. Submission, heart tenderness, and humbleness to Allah during the whole period of Hajj.
3. Respect of the holy places and not performing odd acts there.
4. Following of the Messenger (PBUH) in all matters of hajj as he said, (*Take your rituals (from me), for I do not know whether I will perform Hajj after this one.*) **Narrated by Muslim.**
5. Full submission and precise following to the orders of Allah and His prophet during Hajj. The Sahaba, may Allah be pleased with them, comprehended this matter well. ‘Umar said when he kissed the black stone, “**By Allah, I know that you are a stone, you neither bring harm nor benefit, and if I had not seen the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) kiss you, I would not have kissed you.**”
6. The hajj should be finance by legal and *halal* money. For provision obtained through *haram* is

from matters that cause one's worship not to be accepted. It is related from Al-Tabarani in a marfoo' tradition, "When a person leaves for Hajj with good provision, places his foot in the stirrup (of his mount) and calls, "Labbayka Allahumma Labbayk" [Here I am at Your service, O Allah! Here I am at Your service], he is called from the heavens: "Labbayka wa Sa`dayk [may your call be replied and happiness be your reward], your sustenance is halal, your journeying is halal, and your Hajj is accepted." And when he leaves with corrupt provisions and places his foot in the stirrup (of his mount) and says, "Labbayk", he is called from the heavens, "La Labbayka wa la sa`dayk dayk [may your call not be responded to and happiness not be your reward], your provision is haram, your sustenance is haram and your Hajj is not accepted." **Narrated by Muslim**

Today we live at a time when haram earnings have become widespread, and when questionable wealth has increased, except for those that Allah has mercy upon. So let every servant fear His Lord and remember the saying of prophet Mohamed, (*Allah is Good (Tayyib) and does not accept except what is good.*) **Narrated by Muslim**

7. Recitation of the Qur'an, remembrance of Allah and seeking forgiveness; For Hajj is one of the great occasions to ask Allah and to supplicate to Him, it is an occasion that requires usage of the opportunity and submissiveness before Allah. The Prophet (PBUH) said, (*The best supplication is supplication on 'Arafat.*) **Narrted by Al-Tirmidhi**. He also said (*Those making Hajj and 'Umrah are delegates (guests) of Allah, He called them and they answered, they ask him and He gives them.*) **Narrated by Ibn Majah**

8. Filling the Hajj times with worships and good deeds. This will help protecting one from doing sins and minimize the chances of saying or doing acts that may affect his Hajj.

9. Gentleness, softness and calmness. Every one should respect others; and being loud, harming others by words or acts, or doing anything that may negatively influence others is not accepted because it is opposite to the purpose of Hajj.

10. Increase in remembrance of Allah. The servant who contemplates during rituals of Hajj about Talbiyah, takbir, tahlil (saying La ilaha ill Allah), supplication, as well as the two revelations (Qur'an and Sunnah), will find that an increase in remembrance of Allah is one of the greatest wisdoms and aims of Hajj. It helps the person to restore his faith and his connection to his Lord.

11. Choosing the right company that helps you to perform hajj in the correct way. The right company is those who remind you of Allah, who help you to be connected to Him and worshipping Him, and who don't talk about people and has less concern about the matters of this worldly life during Hajj.

12. Following the guidance of prophet Mohamed when he said, as reported by Abu Hurayrah: (*Whoever performs Hajj and does not commit any Rafath (obscenity) or Fusooq (transgression), he returns (free from sin) as the day his mother bore him*) **Narrated by Al-Bukhari**

Dear Muslims,

Hajj has great benefits for Muslims both in this life and here after as Allah says: "***And proclaim the Pilgrimage among men: they will come to thee on foot and (mounted) on every kind of camel, lean on account of journeys through deep and distant mountain highways; * "That they may witness the benefits (provided) for them, and celebrate the name of God, through the Days appointed, over the cattle which He has provided for them (for sacrifice): then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed ones in want***". It is a great symbol of Muslims unity and brother hood and constitutes a shield that protects Muslims from being deviated from the right path. When performing Hajj we must try and strive to obtain these benefits so that we may be blessed both in this life and the hereafter.

O' Allah we ask you to bless us and give us the opportunity and the ability to perform Hajj in the way that pleases you so that we may get the great rewards you promised in the hereafter.

Amen