

# Muslim Center of New York

137-58 Geranium Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355 Tel.: (718) 460-3000, 445-2642 Fax: 445-2175

www.muslimcenter.org

email:muslimcenter@gmail.com

## Newsletter

Volume 39 Issue 11  
Dhul-Qa'dah 1439 A.H.  
August 2018

*"Invite with wisdom and beautiful preaching to the way of your Lord and convince them the best way" (Al-Qur'an 15:125)*

### The Obligation of Hajj (Pilgrimage) and its Excellence

Allah, the Exalted, says:

**"And Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah) to the House (Ka'bah) is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses (for one's conveyance, provision and residence); and whoever disbelieves [i.e., denies Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah), then he is a disbeliever of Allah], then Allah stands not in need of any of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)." (3:97)**

1. Ibn 'Umar (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "(The superstructure of) Islam is based on five (pillars), testifying the fact that La ilaha illallah wa anna Muhammad-ar-Rasul-ullah [there is no true god except Allah, and Muhammad ((PBUH)) is the Messenger of Allah], establishing As-Salat (the prayers), paying Zakat (poor due), the pilgrimage to the House [of Allah (Ka'bah)], and the Saum (fasting) during the month of Ramadan. [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

2. Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) delivered a Khutbah and said, "O people! Hajj (pilgrimage to the House of Allah) has been made incumbent upon you, so perform Hajj." A man inquired: "O Messenger of Allah, is it prescribed every year?" He (PBUH) remained silent till the man repeated it thrice. Then he (PBUH) said, "Had I replied in the affirmative, it would have surely become obligatory, and you would not have been able to fulfill it." Afterwards he said, "Do not ask me so long as I do not impose anything upon you, because those who were before you were destroyed on account of their frequent questioning and their disagreement with their Prophets. So when I order you to do something, do it as far as you can; and when I forbid you from doing anything, eschew it." [Muslim].

3. 'Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: I said: "O Messenger of Allah! We consider Jihad as the best deed, should we not then go for Jihad?" The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "The best Jihad for you women is Hajj Mabru (i.e., one accepted by Allah)." [Al-Bukhari].

4. 'Aishah (May Allah be pleased with her) reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, "There is no day on which Allah sets free more

slaves from Hell than He does on the Day of 'Arafah." [Muslim].

5. Ibn 'Abbas (May Allah be pleased with them) reported: A woman came to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and said, "Allah's obligation upon His slaves has become obligatory on my father in his old age. My father is very old and incapable of riding. May I perform Hajj on his behalf?" He (PBUH) said, "Yes." [Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

### Devotion in Hajj

Hajj is a journey full of symbolism, for it represents the soul's journey towards the Almighty. All its aspects are replete with profound meanings about life. When performing Hajj we decipher that each rite and stage reveals and embodies our strong devotion to Allah.

"So whoever hopes for the Meeting with his Lord, let him work righteousness and associate none as a partner in the worship of his Lord." (Surah Al-Kahf : 110)

And they were commanded not, but that they should worship Allah, and worship none but Him Alone (abstaining from ascribing partners to Him), and perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat) and give Zakat, and that is the right religion. (Surah Al-Bayyina : 5)

So worship Allah (Alone) by doing religious deeds sincerely for Allah's sake only. Surely the religion (i.e. the worship and the obedience) is for Allah only. And those who take Auliya' (protectors, helpers, lords, gods) besides Him (say): "We worship them only that they may bring us near to Allah." Verily Allah will judge between them concerning that wherein they differ. Truly, Allah guides not him who is a liar, and a disbeliever. (Surah Az-Zumar :2,3)

In Islam, devotion and loyalty in worship means to worship only for the sake of Allah's love and his veneration in the hope of gaining his reward and satisfaction. You see them bowing and falling down prostrate (in prayer), seeking Bounty from Allah and (His) Good Pleasure. (Surah Al-Fath : 29).

Thus, any kind of worship whether by performing Hajj or any other act of worship is not accepted unless it is solely performed for Allah's sake. Thus, Hajj pilgrims must be faithful and loyal to the Almighty. They must not make from their Hajj trip a touristic or commercial one.

Moreover, pilgrims must be sincere in their intentions. One should not seek to be called "HAJJI" and avoid talking much about his/her Hajj trip intending to let others know about his/her performance of Hajj.

Pilgrims should avoid speaking about the hardships they encountered during their trip too. Such behaviour will discourage those who still have not performed Hajj.

Furthermore, Hajj is not a trip to gain fame. Pilgrims should strictly refrain from such kind of behaviour and talk. It must consolidate our faith and reinforce our loyalty and devotion to the Almighty. It has to be considered as an act that increases our love to the hereafter and decreases the love of the worldly pleasure.

"Whoever performs Hajj for the Pleasure of Allah and therein utters no word of evil, nor commits any evil deed, shall return from it (free from sin) as the day on which his mother gave birth to him." (Bukhari, Muslim)

The first house set up for the people is surely the one in Makkah having blessings and guidance for all the worlds. In it there are clear signs: The Station of Ibrahim! Whoever enters it is secure. As a right of Allah, it is obligatory on the people to perform Hajj of the House - on everyone who has the ability to manage (his) way to it. If one disbelieves, then Allah is independent of all the worlds. (Al-Quran 3:96-97)

### Muslim Center Sunday School

The Muslim Center Sunday School is considered to be one of the best Islamic weekend schools in the NYC area. Our Sunday School is constantly endeavoring to create an environment for the Muslim families, living in our community, to comfortably raise their children as good practicing Muslims and model citizens. The aim of our Sunday School is to provide our children with a good Islamic education along with leadership skills so they may grow into Muslim role models as youths and into their adulthood. Center Sunday School is held on Sundays from 9:30 am to Zuhr prayer.

May Allah's blessing light your way, strengthen your faith and bring joy to your heart as you praise and serve Him today, tomorrow and always

**Hajj Mubarak**

Please turn Over

