

## PILGRIMAGE OR HAJJ (1)

### 1. Definition of *Hajj*

*Hajj* is an act of worship. It is obligatory only for those who are in good health and who can afford to perform it. The indigent and the sick or disabled are excused. The majority of scholars hold that *hajj* was prescribed in the sixth year after *hijrah* for it was then that the following verse concerning it was revealed: “*And complete the hajj and umrah in the service of Allah.*” (Al-Baqarah:194)

### 2. Excellence of *Hajj*

The Divine Law-giver exhorted Muslims to perform *hajj*. In this regard we may refer to the following:

(a) ***Hajj : one of the best deeds.*** Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (SAW) was once asked: “What is the best deed?” He replied: “To have faith in Allah and in His Messenger.” The inquirer asked: “What next?” The Prophet (SAW) said: “To strive in the cause of Allah.” “What is the next best thing?” He replied: “*Hajj mabrur* (a faultless *hajj* that is free of sin and is graced with Divine acceptance and pleasure).”

(b) ***Hajj : a form of jihad.*** Al-Hasan Ibn Ali reported that a man came to the Prophet (SAW) and said: “I am a coward and a weak person. Is there anything I can do?” The Prophet (SAW) said: “*You must go for jihad that involves no fighting, that is, hajj.*” Abu Hurairah narrated that the Prophet (SAW) said : “*Hajj is the jihad for the old, the weak and women.*”

(c) ***Hajj wipes off past sins.*** Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (SAW) said: “*He*

*who performs hajj for Allah’s pleasure and avoids all lewdness and sins will return after hajj free from all sins as he was on the day his mother gave birth to him.*”

### 3. Pilgrims are Allah’s Guests

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (SAW) said: “*Pilgrims and those performing umrah are Allah’s guests; their prayers are answered and their supplications for forgiveness are granted.*”

### 4. The Reward of *Hajj* is Paradise

Abu Hurairah reported the Prophet (SAW) said: “*All sins committed in between the performance of one umrah and another are expiated and erased, and the reward of hajj mabrur is nothing save Paradise.*”

### 5. The Excellence of Spending in *Hajj*

Buraidah reported the Prophet (SAW) as saying: “*Spending during hajj is akin to spending in the cause of Allah, and every dirham thus spent will be rewarded seven hundred times over.*”

### 6. *Hajj* is Obligatory Only Once in Life

There is consensus among scholars that *hajj* is obligatory only once during the lifetime of a Muslim, unless someone vows to perform extra *hajj*, in which case, he must fulfill his vow. Whatever is done over and above is supererogatory or optional. Wallahu A’lam

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