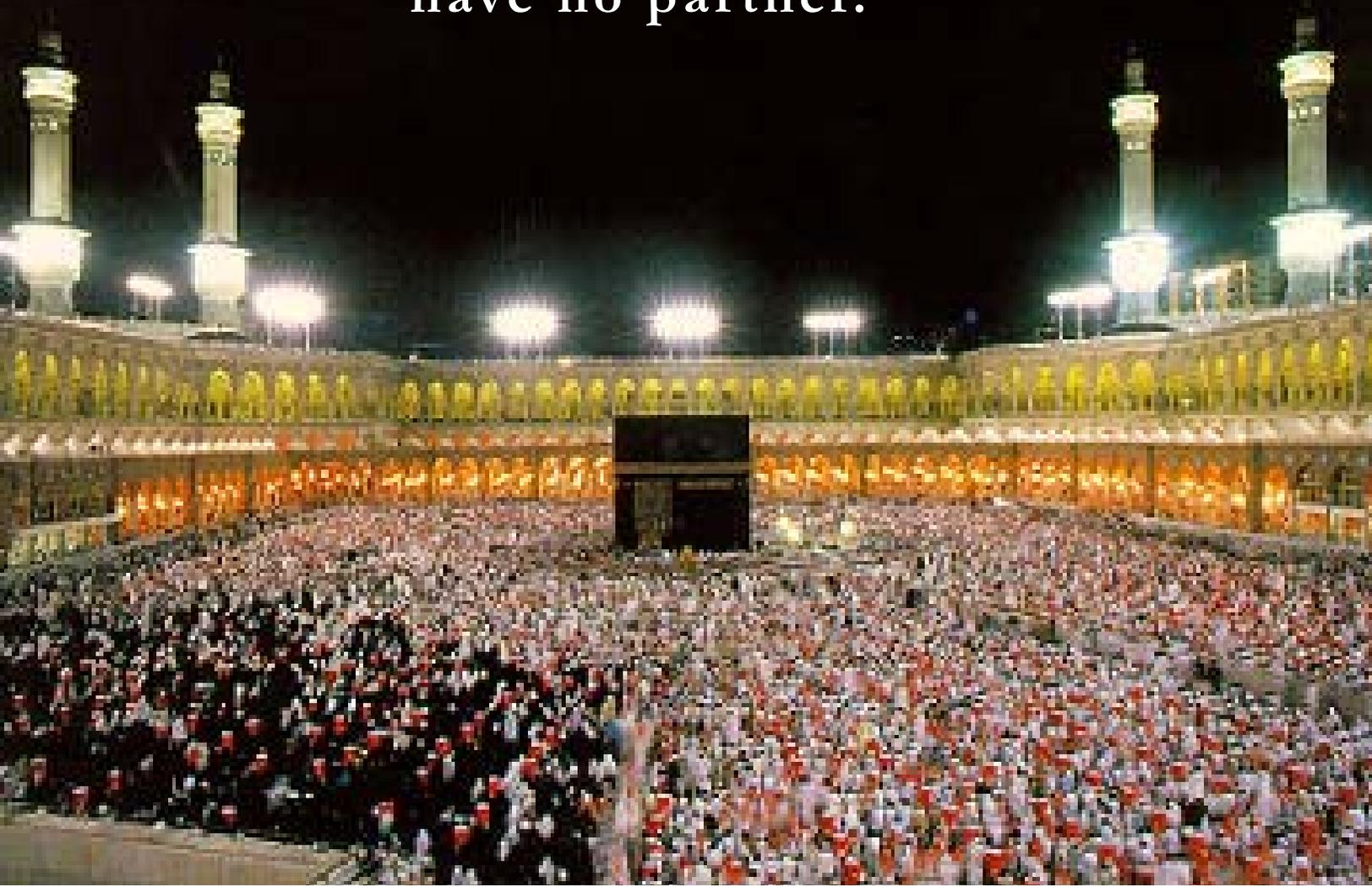


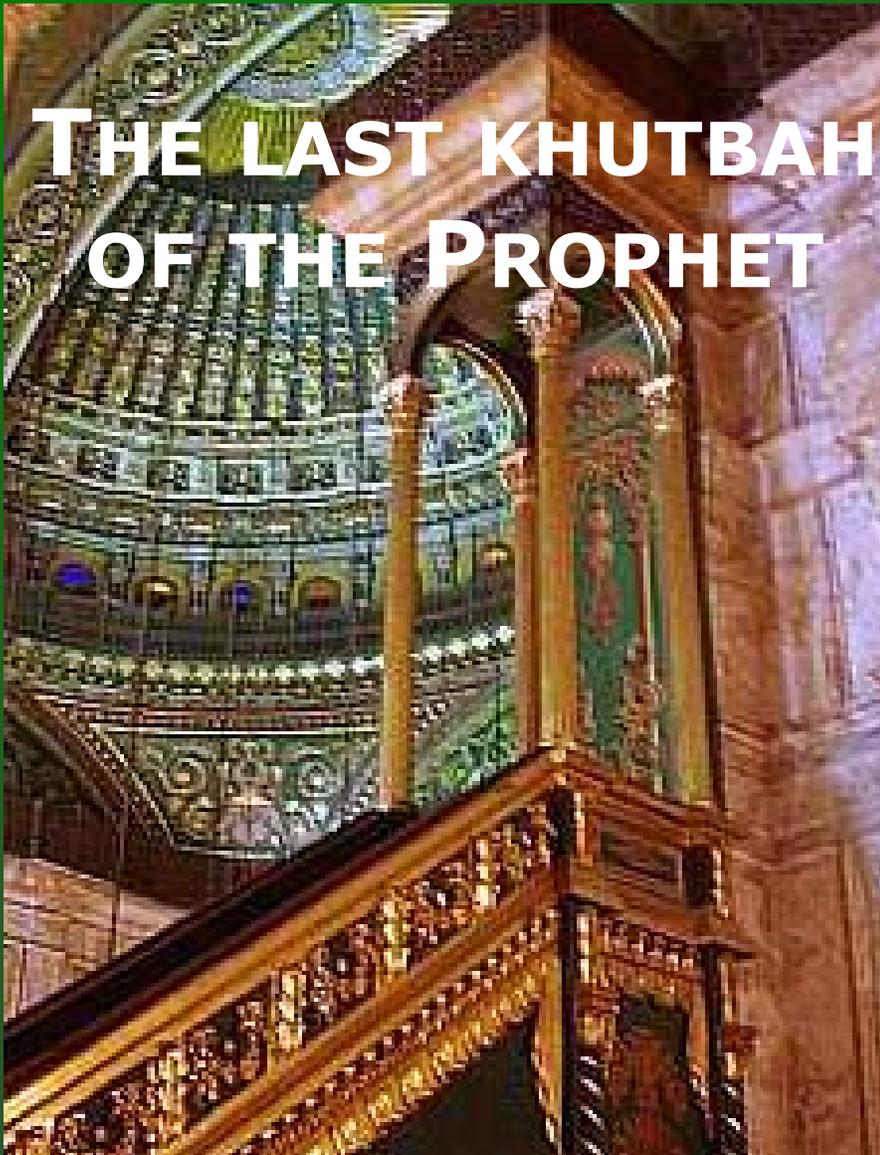
THE MESSAGE

Eid Mubarak

LABAYK ALLAHUMA LABAYK, LABAYKA....

“Here I am O Allah (in response to your call) here I am. Here I am. Verily all praise, grace and sovereignty belong to you. You have no partner.”





THE LAST KHUTBAH OF THE PROPHET

The Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) of Islam, on 9th Zil-Hajj, invited all the Muslims, who had gathered in Makkah for Hajj, to the plain named Jabal-Al-Rahmah in Arafat, so that he could speak to them. At this instance not a single person other than the Muslims was among the pilgrims.

The Sermon performed by the Prophet (s) was called Khutbat-ul-Wida" or "the last sermon" in Arabic.

Before the Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) began his Sermon, he asked the people, "Do you know which month is this?"

They all replied, "This month is the month of Zilhaj, one of the sacred months". The Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) asked, "Do you know which land is this?" They replied with one voice, "It is the sacred land of Arafat, O Prophet of Allah".

After this, the Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) began his actual discourse. First he took the name of Allah. After His praise he recited testimonies and then began:

All praise be to Allah. We glorify Him and seek His help and pardon; and we turn to Him. We take refuge with Allah from the evils of ourselves and from the evil consequences of our deeds. There is none to lead him astray whom Allah guides aright, and there is none to guide him aright that He leads

astray. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone; having no partner with Him, and I bear witness that Muhammad (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) is His bondsman and His Messenger. I admonish you, O bondsmen of Allah! To fear Allah and I urge you to His obedience and I open the speech with that what is good.

Ye people! Listen to my words: I will deliver a message to you, for I know not whether, after this year, I shall ever be amongst you here again. O people! Verily your blood your property and your honour are sacred and inviolable until you appear before your Lord, as this day and this month is sacred for all. Verily you will meet your Lord and you will be held answerable for your actions. Have I not conveyed the message? O Allah! Be my witness.

He who has any trust with him he should restore it to the person who deposited it with him.

Beware, no one committing a crime is responsible for it but he himself. Neither the son is responsible for the crime of his father nor the father is responsible for the crime of his son.

O people! Listen to my words and understand them. You must know that a Muslim is the brother of Muslim and they form one brotherhood. Nothing of his brother is lawful for a Muslim except what he himself allows willingly. So you should not oppress one another. O Allah! Have I not conveyed the message?

Behold! All practices of paganism and ignorance are now under my-feet. The blood-revenges of the days of Ignorance are remitted.

The first claim of blood I abolish is that of Ibn Rabi'ah Harith who was nursed in the tribe of Sa'd and whom the Hudhayl killed.

Usury is forbidden, but you will be entitled to recover your principal. Wrong not and you would not be wronged. Allah has decreed that there should be no usury and I make a beginning by remitting the amount of interest which Abbas^{R.A} bin Abdul Muttalib has to receive. Verily it is remitted entirely.

O people! Fear Allah concerning women. Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah and have made their persons lawful unto you by words of Allah! Verily you have got certain rights over your women and your women have certain rights over you. It is your right that they do not commit acts of impropriety which, if they do, you have authority to chastise them, yet not severely. If your wives refrain from impropriety and are faithful to you, clothe and feed them suitably.

Behold! Lay injunctions upon women but kindly.

O people! Listen and obey though a mangled

The Message

Abyssinian slave is your amir if he executes (the ordinances of) the Book of Allah among you.

O people! Verily Allah has ordained to every man the share of his inheritance the children belong to the marriage-bed and the violator of wedlock shall be stoned. He who attributes his ancestry to other than his masters, the curse of Allah, that of the Angels and of the people be upon him. Allah will accept from him neither repentance nor righteousness.

O people! Verily Satan is disappointed at being ever worshipped in this land of yours, but he can be obeyed in anything short of worship.

He will be pleased in matters you may be disposed to think of little account, so beware of him in your matters of religion.

Verily, I have left amongst you the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) which if you hold fast, you shall never go astray.

"And if you were asked about me, what would you say?" They replied: "We bear witness that you have conveyed the message, and discharged your ministry."

The Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) addressed the assembly again on Friday Zilhaj, Hijrah 10 A.H. and besides repeating some of the important points of the previous address, he threw a good deal of light on some new questions.

As usual, he opened his oration with praising Allah and expressing his gratitude to Him.

O people! Verily the intercolation (of a prohibited month) aggravates infidelity. Thereby the unbelievers are led to wrong. For they make it lawful one year and forbid it in another year to be in conformity with the number (of months) which Allah declared unlawful so they consider violable that which Allah declared to be inviolable and they consider inviolable what Allah declared to be violable.

Verily the time has revolved in its own way from the day when the heavens and the earth were created. The number of months to Allah is twelve of which four are sacred; three are consecutive ----- Dhul Qa'dah, Dhul Hijjah, Muharram, and Rajab which is between Jumadah and Sha'ban.

O people! Do you know what day it is, what

territory it is, what month it is?

To this the people answered: The day is the day of sacrifice; and the territory is the sacred territory, the month is the sacred month. At each reply the Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) said:

So I apprise you that your lives, your property and your honour must be as sacred to one another as this sacred day, in this sacred month, in this sacred town.

And your slaves! See that you feed them with such food as you eat yourselves; and clothe them with the clothes that you yourselves wear. And if they commit a fault that you are not inclined to forgive, then part with them for they are the servants of Allah and are not to be chastised.

Behold! Listen to me. Worship your Lord: offer prayers five times a day; observe fast in the month of Ramadan; make pilgrimage to the House (Holy Ka'bah); pay readily the Zakat (Poor-rate) on your property and obey whatever I command you, only then will you get into the heaven.

Let him that is present convey it unto him who is absent. For happily, many people to whom the message is conveyed may be more mindful of it than the audience."

The Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) picked up the thread of his oration on the next day also and added:

O people! Verily your Lord is one and your father is one. All of you belong to one ancestry of Adam and Adam was created out of clay. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab and for a non-Arab over an Arab; or for white over the black or for the black over the white except in piety. 'Verily the noblest among you is he who is the most pious'.

Behold, the nearer ones of you should convey the message to the remoter ones. I have conveyed the message. Then looking up to the heaven, he said:

"O Lord! I have delivered the message and discharged my ministry".

"Yes," cried all the people crowding round him, "yes, verily you have".

"O Lord! I beseech Thee bear Thou witness unto it".

And with these words, the Prophet (*may Allah bless him and grant him peace*) concluded his address.



ONLY TEN DAYS...

For those not performing Hajj, Abu Qatadah said, the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said:

"Fasting on the day of Arafat is an expiation (of sins) for two years, the year preceding it and the year following it and the fasting of Aashuraa is a expiation for the year preceding it."(Muslim)

Upon us now are the best ten days of the year. There are no other days more rewarded than these ten. They are the first ten days of the Islamic month Dhul-Hijjah. Unfortunately many of us do not know and let them fly by ...

If there was some great sale advertising ridiculously low prices you will find many of us there waiting on long lines just to get such great deals. Well we should all hurry to catch this great sale that Allah is advertising. "It's all come all served!"

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: " No good deeds done on other days are superior to those done on these days." His companions asked " Not even Jihad in the way of Allah?" He said: "Not even jihad, except for the man who puts his life and wealth in danger and returns with neither."

Subhanallah, how merciful is our Lord. So what can we do? One could read Quran, read things to increase our Iman, help our Muslim neighbor, give charity (even a smile is charity), volunteer at our masjid, fast, dthikr (remembering Allah), etc...

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "There are no days more loved to Allah for you to worship Him therein than the ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. Fasting any day during it is equivalent to fasting

one year and to offer salatul Tahajud (late night prayer) during one of its nights is like performing the late night prayer on (Lilatulqadr) the night of power"

So if we can why not at least try to fast one day during these days so we would have one year fasting on our bank records towards the purchase of the next life.

Ibn Abbas said that the ayah: "Remember Allah during the well known days," (2:203) refers to the first

Upon us now are the best ten days of the year

ten days of Dhul-Hijjah. We should say Allahuakbar (Allah is great), Alhamdulillah (all praises is due to Allah), Lailhailallah (there is no deity but Allah). This is what the Prophet (peace be upon him) told us to do during these days.

That's not too much to ask from us and it is only for our own benefit. **On the ninth day it will be the day of Arafat.** We should all try to fast this day because the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "It is an expiation for the sins of the preceding year and the current year."

Therefore my dear brothers and sisters in Islam, please do not let these days go by without getting in line for this great bargain that Allah the most high is giving away to all that come. May Allah forgive us all and have mercy on us all.

January 2004						
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February 2004						
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First 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah
Eid Al-Adha



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The sky was inky black, full of stars and I was walking on dry earth.

Soon I was standing on a rocky desert cliff with a few people around me. I moved forward towards the edge, seemingly without walking, and peered down.

Thousands of feet below me I saw the Kaaba...the scene seemed to magnify dizzily as I looked down. Hundreds of people moved around the huge black cube. Each of them in their own world, each making dua to Allah. It was as if I had eagle eyes and could focus on each one and yet all at the same time.

"O Allah please help me..." a woman's face floated up. "O Allah give me..." another's face floated up. Until the sky was full of faces, the din of thousands of voices around me until they all seemed like one voice. All the voices separate but together, praising

their Lord, rising up straight to the Heavens. I looked up at the sky and moved back from the edge. The scene disappeared slowly. I opened my eyes to see my own room. The tears fell...what beautiful vision was this?

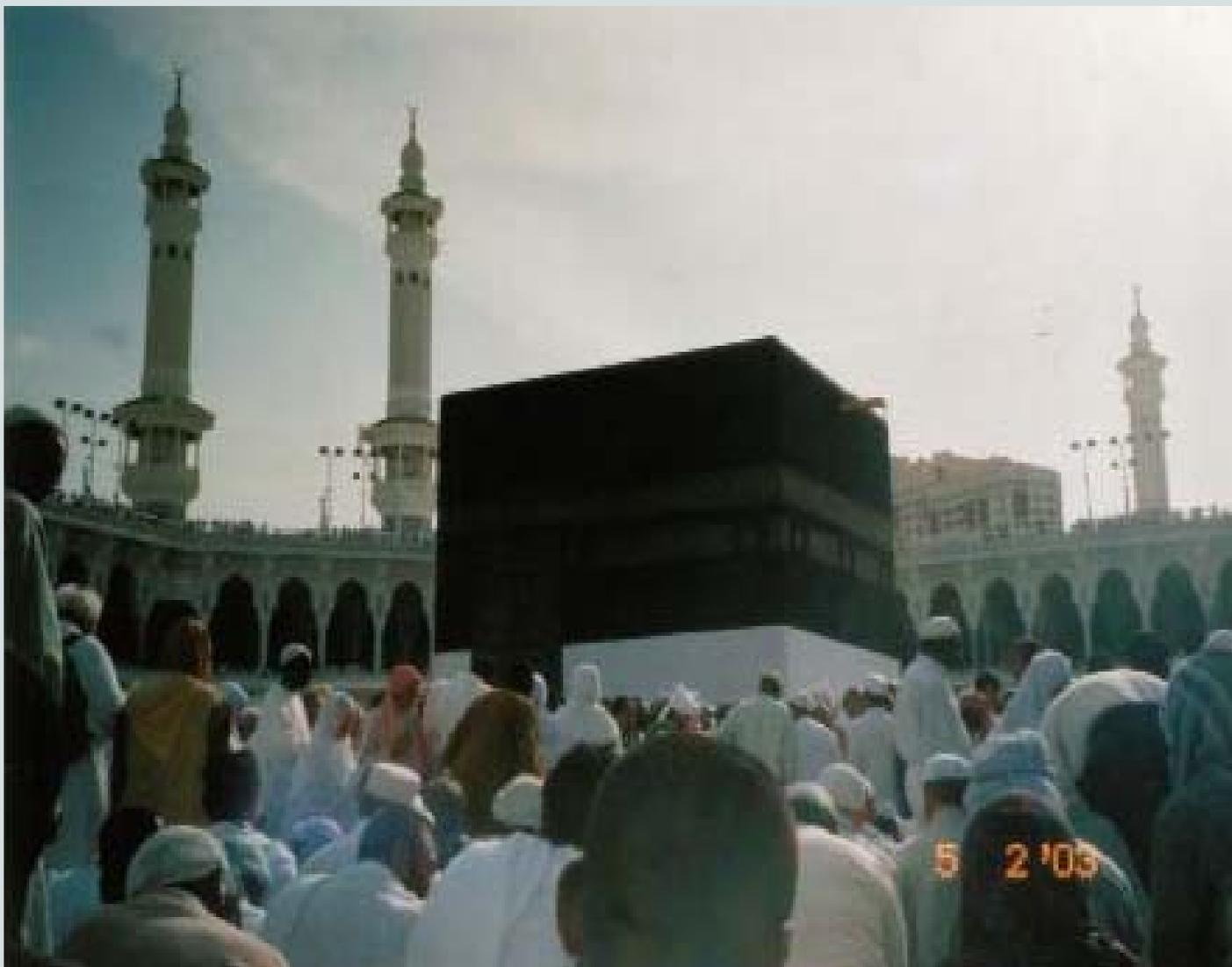
Three years later...

The bus pulled up to the curb next to the New White Palace Hotel, our abode for the week we were to spend in Makkah. We were all so tired from our journeys but energized as we looked out the tinted bus windows trying to glimpse anything of the Haram Shareef. Down the hill we saw parts of a mosque minaret and wall. It seemed like a medieval castle or fortress with hundreds of lights around it. All of Makkah looks like any other middle eastern city: dark, tan brick buildings and hotels, hundreds of people about dressed in thobes, kufis, abayas, hijab

and niqab, streets lined with stores and cars, people selling things on sidewalks, sleeping on sidewalks...

Among all this the Haram looks like a spiritual mirage glowing from within, with all of Makkah built around it, scrambling to get as close as they can.

When we got out of the bus we could hear Sudais's recitation from the loud speakers even though we were up the hill a ways. We could see people praying the last rakahs of Taraweeh outside the haram walls. As we entered the lobby of the hotel we noticed the TV broadcasting the Taraweeh prayers live. It was a little unreal that people down the block from the haram were watching the same thing people all over the world were watching on their satellites. We felt so fortunate that were actually here in Makkah and would be able to participate in the



prayers instead of watching it longingly from our living rooms.

We quickly stored all our belongings in our hotel rooms and raced down to the lobby to meet the others to begin our Umrah. Everyone was already dressed in their ihram clothes, having changed somewhere in the skies above on Singapore Airlines. The announcement that we were approaching the meeqat was made by a polite stewardess wearing hijab. We were also able to see the direction of Makkah at all times from our monitors on the plane. It was a pleasant change to be on a flight where the pilot started with dua and the passengers were all reading Quran or studiously studying their Hajj & Umrah books!

It seemed a little odd to me at first to see the men with so little amount of clothing; two white towels and chappals. They might have looked odd anywhere else, but here it seemed normal somehow. We began to make our way to the Haram. All I could think about was that we were finally walking in the streets of Makkah. We were in MAKKAH, the birthplace of the Prophet

(s), the land of Islam, home of Allah's House -- the Kaaba, where Islam first started and now the spiritual center of the entire Muslim world.

We hurriedly walked across the shining marble of the courtyard surrounding the Haram and in my own excitement I just remembered to say the Talbiyah once before we entered under the arched doorway.

"Labaik, Allahumma Labaik, Labaik La Sharika Laka Labaik, Innal Hamda Wa N'amata Laka Wal Mulk, La Sharika Lak."

This talbiyah we began repeating long ago on our first bus ride to Sydney and countless times since on airplanes, in airports, cars and buses. Finally we had arrived at our goal and the last talbiyah echoed within us; we were finally here.

As we entered we took off our shoes and quickly said our dua, "O Allah, open the doors of your mercy". The Haram itself is indescribable in its beauty. I cannot imagine anyone anywhere designing and building anything so beautiful. It is truly beyond imagination. When you first enter you are struck and enthralled with the architecture

and beauty. Completely made from marble, porcelain and gold, the artistry is unmatched. Having seen the Taj Mahal I never thought anything would overshadow it, but the Masjid al-Haram definitely does. We quickly walked through the newest outer section of the Haram. It looks very modern with white and grey marble and seems airy. In the next section we found huge columns, gold trimmings and hundreds of people reclining, praying and sitting on beautiful red oriental carpets. Women's areas are sectioned off with golden laced bookcases. We continued forward gawking at everything around us and through the columns we saw our first glimpse of the Kaaba. Apprehension and solemnity suddenly descended on us.

After hall after hall of beauty in the Haram, we saw peaking between the columns this huge black velvet cube structure. As we got closer my heart stopped in delight and wonderment. I had to keep repeating to myself, 'It's the Kaaba, THE KAABA!' because it looked so different from any

pictures or ideas I had about it. It was so much bigger and the velvet so much blacker, much more beautiful than I had imagined. There were hundreds of people walking around the Kaaba together on the marble floor. Around them were people praying and sitting on carpets and around that was the entire two floor Haram structure. Words can never describe anyone's feelings of seeing the Kaaba for the first time with their own eyes. All I can think of is that it would be the same feeling one might have when first entering jannah and seeing its delights.

We paused to make dua but could hardly take our eyes from the scene before us. We walked through the cleared pathway between zamzam coolers to join the people making the tawaf. Around us they clutched dua books in their own languages. Qurans, their lips moved in silent litanies. Others read duas from memory as they walked around with purposeful strides. A few were led in groups by imams who would say "Rabbina aatinaa..." and they would dutifully repeat after them "Rabbina Aatinaa..." Someone later remarked that it brought to mind the Day of Judgement when everyone would be making dua, standing, walking, following their Imams and leaders in groups. I could hear the sound of others and my own bare feet as I walked on the marble. I could hear individual duas or I could let go and just hear the sounds of all the duas melting into one, surrounding the Kaaba and reaching upwards. As I started the Tawaf and made one circuit, this all sunk in and it was at this moment that it struck me and I realized that this WAS my dream of 3 years before. Immediately following that was the thought that Allah had allowed me to live this vision. It had taken so long and the journey here was not so easy but I was finally here living it. My tears flowed in thankfulness and joy as we finished the rest of the Tawaf.

When our Tawaf was complete we drank some Zamzam with plastic cups from the coolers spread throughout the mosque. The Zamzam water tasted cool and sweet and somehow just calmed us and gave us energy, something all pilgrims can attest to. We then rushed to complete our Sai'y before Fajr was called.

Sai'y is a test in endurance and patience. It's kind of like life. You go from station to station but in the middle you feel you'll never make it and have to push yourself. We began our Sai'y on Safa. We stood at one end of the long hall and faced the Kaaba to make our dua, then we turned and began walking to the other end. Neon green lights demarcate where you can run. We looked at each other and smiled as we watched big men in ihram or jalabiyyas sprinting and

dodging people through the middle sections like true world cup soccer players. Running helped to change the pace and really ended up encouraging us to our goals. On each Mount we paused to make dua. In the middle, we heard the beautiful call to prayer and almost panicked thinking it was for Fajr. With relief we learned it was for Tahajjud and we continued with our Sai'y. Finally when we were all done we were amazed that our umrah was complete. We couldn't wait to chop off our hair to show/feel what we had accomplished.

We left the haram around 4 AM to head back to our hotels, but no one was sleepy. The entire Haram remained alive, yet still peaceful as we left.

Over the next week that we spent in Makkah we continued going to the haram for every prayer and ibadah, meeting at the hotel for meals and tried to fit in Ziyara, visiting relatives and Jeddah and shopping in between. Many in the group made multiple Umrah's by going to Tan'im a place Aisha (ra) used as her meeqaat point and re-donning their ihram early after fajr prayer and completing the umrah rituals again. Some made umrah on behalf of a parent or late relative.

We were able to pray Taraweeh prayers right in front of the Kaaba in the haram, an experience we will never forget. The third day we spent in Makkah was the day of Eid. We knew the masjid would be packed beyond belief since locals from all over the area would come to the haram to pray the eid prayer as well. We decided to come as early as possible to pray the eid prayer right in front of the Kaaba. We spent an uncomfortable few hours waiting for Fajr while the haram filled to capacity (beyond capacity). Unfortunately ppl could be seen pushing and shoving right in front of the Kaaba trying to find a place. The haram guards tried to keep everything under control admirably under the circumstances. It was still a happy atmosphere with people throwing candy into the audience and around them, giving out tasbeeh's and chocolates. The athan for tahajjud was given and we prayed that slowly and then the fajr prayer afterwards. Then we waited.. and waited and waited. (I'm not sure for what.) Finally, when the sun was way up on the horizon we could hear someone grab ahold of the microphone and then we heard the call, "Salaahtul Eidddd... Salaahtul Eidddd". Spontaneous cheers and Takbirs went up all around us. We prayed the Eid prayer and then listened to the khutbah before heading back to our hotels. The streets of Makkah that day were so crowded from the streams and streams of people coming out of the Haram for at least a full hour after.



Picture of the Kabah taken from the roof of the Haram



The view of the Haram taken on the roof of our hotel.



Sheikh Taj, Shady, Mohammed Dour and other brothers enjoy a night on the roof of our hotel in Mecca.



The busy scene taken outside the Haram after Asr prayers

ORIGINS OF THE ZAMZAM WELL

Hajar was the first woman to wear a robe with a train to hide her footsteps from her co-wife Sarah who was jealous of her. Later on, a Revelation was sent to Abraham to take Hajar and her son Ishmael to Mecca. Abraham (peace be upon him) brought Hajar and her son Ishmael (peace be upon him), whom she was still nursing, and left them at (the site of) the House of Allah [Ka`bah] under a tree above Zamzam.

Mecca at that time was a place where there was neither water nor dwellers. He left a bag of dates and a waterskin for them. Then, Abraham (peace be upon him) went away. Ishmael's mother said to him, "O Abraham! Where are you going? Are you going to leave us in this valley where there is neither human nor living creature?" She repeated this several times, but he did not answer. Finally, she asked him, "Has Allah commanded you to do so?" He answered, "Yes." Thereupon she said, "Then He will not let us perish!".

Then, she returned back to her place. Abraham left and when he reached a mountain pass where he could no longer be seen by them, he turned his face toward the Ka`bah and with his hands raised, supplicated, " O Our Lord! I have made of my offspring to dwell in a valley without cultivation by Your Sacred House; in order Our Lord, that they may establish regular Prayer: so fill the hearts of some among men with love towards them, and feed them with fruits, so that they may give thanks."

Ishmael's mother drank from her waterskin and nursed her baby, until all the water she had was gone and her milk dried up. Thus, her son grew hungrier and hungrier. He was writhing with hunger and she could hardly bear to look at him. So she went and stood at Al-Safa - the hill nearest to her - and looked down in the valley to see if there was someone there to help, but she could see no one. She, then, climbed down Al-Safa and reached the valley. She struggled hard, crossed the valley and reached Al-Marwah. She stood thereon and looked all around. Still she could see no one nearby.

She repeated this seven times. When she reached Al-Marwah, she heard a sound and said to herself, "Be Quiet." She heard the sound again. Whereupon she said, "I have heard you. Help me, if you can." All of a sudden, she found an angel at the place where Zamzam now is. He kept digging the well with his heel (in another narration: with his wing) until water flew out. She used a waterskin to keep some of the overflowing water. She drank and gave water to her child. The angel addressed her, "Do not be afraid! for in this site, this child and his father will establish the House of Allah. Verily, Allah will not bring harm to those who believe in Him."

Shortly, a group of the Jurhum tribe came nearby and saw a bird hovering about the spot of water. They sent one or two slaves to explore the place. The two explorers re-

turned after determining the exact position of the water. They headed for Mecca and asked Hajar, Ishmael's mother, for permission to settle in that place. She gave them permission but stipulated that they would have no right to the water. They agreed on her condition.

RE-DIGGING OF ZAMZAM:

While `Abdul-Muttalib was sleeping in the Hijr, he was ordered, "Dig Barrah" He asked, "What is Barrah?" On the next day, while sleeping in the same place, he was also ordered "Dig Al-Madnunah." He asked, "What is Madnunah?" Then, the caller vanished. On the next day, he slept in the same place and was ordered, "Dig Tibah", He asked, "What is Tibah?" On the fourth day, it was said to him, "Dig Zamzam". He said, "What is Zamzam?" He was answered, "It never becomes empty or constricts." Then, its place was marked for him. He began to dig, and Quraish said to him, "What is it, `Abdul-Muttalib?" He said, "I have been commanded to dig the well of Zamzam."

Then, `Abdul-Muttalib went on digging until he found two golden deers. These were the two deers that had been buried there by the Jurhum clan at the time they were expelled from Mecca. It is the well of Ishmael bin Abraham (peace be upon them both). Thereupon, when `Abdul-Muttalib dug Zamzam, guided in this and singled out for it by Allah, he received increasing honour and influence among his own people.

HADITH OF THE MONTH



SAHIH BUKHARI Volume 1, Book 2, Number 25:

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Apostle was asked, "What is the best deed?" He replied, "To believe in Allah and His Apostle (Muhammad). The questioner then asked, "What is the next (in goodness)? He replied, "To participate in Jihad (religious fighting) in Allah's Cause." The questioner again asked, "What is the next (in goodness)?" He replied, "To perform Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca) Mabrur, (which is accepted by Allah and is performed with the intention of seeking Allah's pleasure only and not to show off and without committing a sin and in accordance with the traditions of the Prophet)."

Allahu Akbar walillahil hamd! One can only wonder how valuable the fulfilment of Hajj is to Allah (swt). It is one of the finest deeds one can render, and has the highest rank in Allah's (swt) viewpoint, after believing in Him and His Apostle and struggling (jihad) in His cause. Brothers and sisters in Islam do not neglect such an opportunity and miss out on such a deed. If one performs hajj correctly, one will be returned from hajj by Allah (swt) 'free from all sins as if he were born anew,' as narrated by Abu Huraira (R). Allahu Akbar! What more can a Muslim ask for? What deed can outdo this deed to acquire a closer, more obedient relationship with Allah (swt)? Surely, this is not an opportunity to miss! As for the sisters, it only becomes better with the following hadith:

SAHIH BUKHARI Volume 4, Book 52, Number 43:

Narrated 'Aisha:

(That she said), "O Allah's Apostle! We consider Jihad as the best deed. Should we not fight in Allah's Cause?" He said, "The best Jihad (for women) is Hajj-Mabrur (ie. Hajj which is done according to the Prophet's tradition and is accepted by Allah)."

SubhanAllah, hajj for our sisters has an even higher premium rank in the view of Allah (swt), as jihad for a woman is to perform hajj correctly. Thus, we can see the Grace and Mercy Allah (swt) has for his servants, to offer such a bountiful deed for people to get closer to Him. Tabarak Allah!

O sister in Islam, take on Allah's offer, and cleanse yourself from your previous worldly sins. Take with you your husband, father, brother, or any mahram closest to you and perform the best jihad you can possibly render; for Allah Subhanahu Wa Taala is offering you a chance to prove yourself as an obedient servant to your Lord. O brother in Islam, fulfil this pillar of Islam and complete your religion, since Allah Taala says in the Holy Quran: "This day I have perfected your religion For you, completed My favour upon you, And have chosen for you Islam as your religion," (5:3) and that day was a Friday and the Prophet was standing at Arafat (ie. the Day of Hajj). One can only imagine the continuous blessings Allah has given us through Hajj. May Allah (swt) grant us His Mercy and grant us all the chance to perform Hajj at least once in our lifetimes. Ameen!

Your Brother in Islam

Malcolm X's Letter from Makkah

Malcolm X saw and experienced many positive things. Generosity and openheartedness were qualities which were impressed on him by the welcome which he received in many places. He saw brotherhood and the brotherhood of different races;

"This is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. Throughout my travels in the Muslim world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white - but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practiced by all colours together, irrespective of their colour."

HIS
PILGRIMAGE
TO MAKKAH

When Malcolm X was in Makkah, he wrote a letter to his loyal assistants in Harlem... from his heart he wrote:

"Never have I witnessed such sincere hospitality and overwhelming spirit of true brotherhood as is practiced by people of all colours and races here in this ancient Holy Land, the home of Abraham, Muhammad and all the other Prophets of the Holy Scriptures. For the past week, I have been utterly speechless and spellbound by the graciousness I see displayed all around me by people of all colours.

"I have been blessed to visit the Holy City of Mecca, I have made my seven circuits around the Ka'ba, led by a young Mutawaf named Muhammad, I drank water from the well of the Zam Zam. I ran seven times back and forth between the hills of Mt. Al-Safa and Al Marwah. I have prayed in the ancient city of Mina, and I have prayed on Mt. Arafat."

"There were tens of thousands of pilgrims, from all over the world. They were of all colours, from blue-eyed blondes to black-skinned Africans. But we were all participating in the same ritual, displaying a spirit of unity and brotherhood that my experiences in America had led me to believe never could exist between the white and non-white."

"America needs to understand Islam, because this is the one religion that erases from its society the race problem. Throughout my travels in the Muslim

world, I have met, talked to, and even eaten with people who in America would have been considered white - but the white attitude was removed from their minds by the religion of Islam. I have never before seen sincere and true brotherhood practiced by all colours together, irrespective of their colour."

"You may be shocked by these words coming from me. But on this pilgrimage, what I have seen, and experienced, has forced me to rearrange much of my thought-patterns previously held, and to toss aside some of my previous conclusions. This was not too difficult for me. Despite my firm convictions, I have al-

ways been a man who tries to face facts, and to accept the reality of life as new experience and new knowledge unfolds it. I have always kept an open mind, which is necessary to the flexibility that must go hand in hand with every form of intelligent search for truth."

"During the past eleven days here in the Muslim world, I have eaten from the same plate, drunk from the same glass, and slept on the same rug - while praying to the same God - with fellow Muslims, whose eyes were the bluest of blue, whose hair was the blondest of blond, and whose skin was the whitest of white. And in the words and in the deeds of the

white Muslims, I felt the same sincerity that I felt among the black African Muslims of Nigeria, Sudan and Ghana."

"We were truly all the same (brothers) - because their belief in one God had removed the white from their minds, the white from their behavior, and the white from their attitude."

"I could see from this, that perhaps if white Americans could accept the Oneness of God, then perhaps, too, they could accept in reality the Oneness of Man - and cease to measure, and hinder, and harm others in terms

of their 'differences' in colour."

"With racism plaguing America like an incurable cancer, the so-called 'Christian' white American heart should be more receptive to a proven solution to such a destructive problem. Perhaps it could be in time to save America from imminent disaster - the same destruction brought upon Germany by racism that eventually destroyed the Germans themselves."

"Each hour here in the Holy Land enables me to have greater spiritual insights into what is happening in America between black and white. The

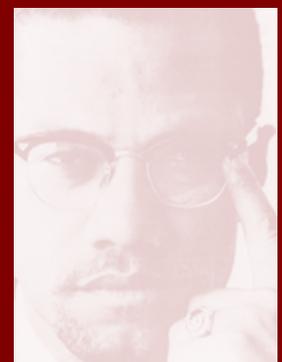
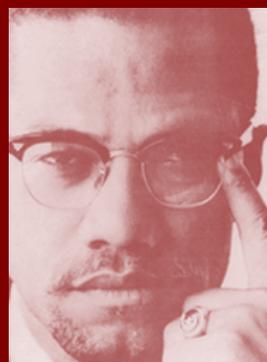
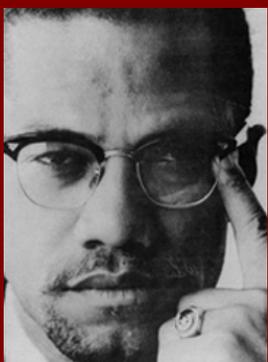
American Negro never can be blamed for his racial animosities - he is only reacting to four hundred years of the conscious racism of the American whites. But as racism leads America up the suicide path, I do believe, from the experiences that I have had with them, that the whites of the younger generation, in the colleges and universities, will see the handwriting on the walls and many of them will turn to the spiritual path of truth - the only way left to America to ward off the disaster that racism inevitably must lead to."

"Never have I been so highly honored. Never have I been made to feel more humble and unworthy. Who would believe the blessings that have been heaped upon an American Negro? A few nights ago, a man who would be called in America a white man, a United Nations diplomat, an ambassador, a companion of kings, gave me his hotel suite, his bed. Never would I have even thought of dreaming that I would ever be a recipient of such honors - honors that in America would be bestowed upon a King - not a Negro."

"All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds.

Sincerely,

Al-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X)



1

IHRAM FOR TAMATTU' HAJJ

On the noon of the 8th day of Dhul-Hijjah, pilgrims begin to make Ihram for Hajj from their place. It is recommended to make ghusl and then proceed to wear the garments of Ihram. Pilgrims begin to recite the Talbiyah as often as they can.



2

SPENDING THE NIGHT IN MINA.

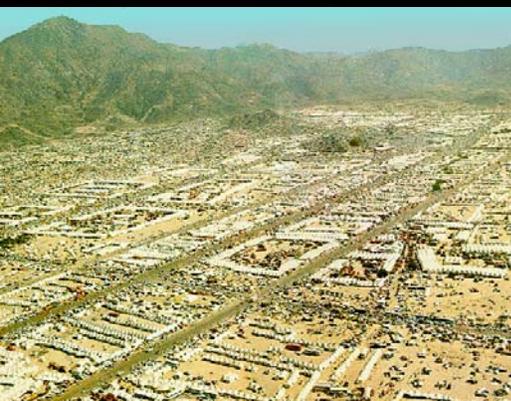
Pilgrims head towards Mina, where they should pray the Zhuhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha and Fajr prayers, shortening the four- rak'ah prayers to two only.



3

ATTENDING ARAFAH

The Prophet (s) said: "The Hajj is Arafah" and therefore is considered the focal point of the performance of Hajj. Following sunrise, pilgrims head for Arafah, where they offer the Zhuhr and Asr prayer in combination at the time of the Zhuhr prayer, two rak'ahs each, and stay there until sunset. Pilgrims remember Allah and supplicate to Him often as no supplication is rejected by Allah (swt) made by pilgrims while on the plain of Arafah.



HAJJ: A STEP



4

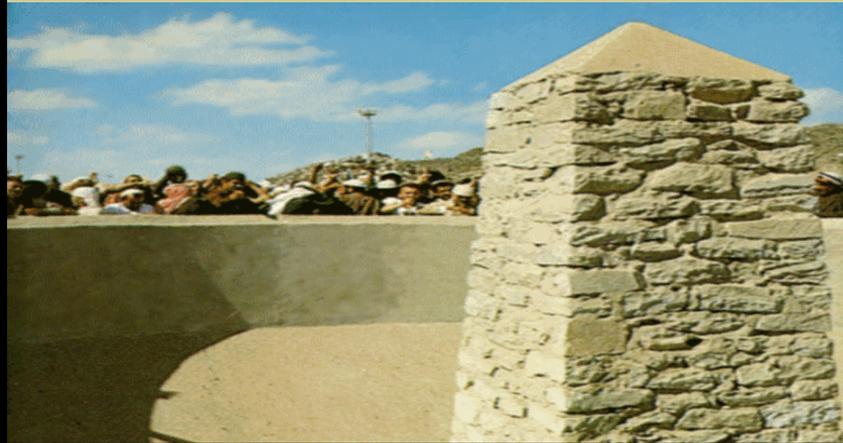
HEADING FOR MUZDALIFAH

After sunset, pilgrims head from Arafah to Muzdalifah, where they offer the Maghrib, Isha and Fajr prayers. Pilgrims stay there and keep remembering Allah often until sunrise. As pilgrims prepare to leave Muzdalifah, they collect enough pebbles in anticipation of heading towards the Jamrat (signifies the stoning of Satan)

5

THROWING JAMRAT

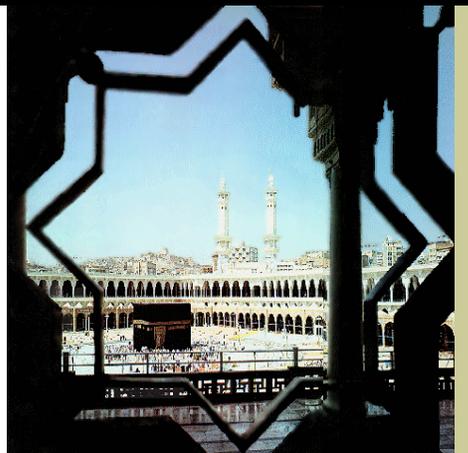
Shortly before sunrise, pilgrims should leave Muzdalifah and head for Mina. Upon reaching there, pilgrims throw at Jamrat Al-Aqabah using seven of the pebbles they collected while at Muzdalifah, successively one after the other and pronouncing Takbir (saying Allahu Akbur) with each throw.



6

SLAUGHTERING THE SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL

Pilgrims make arrangements for the slaughtering of the sacrificial animal, eat from its meat and distribute the remaining amongst the poor and the needy.



BY STEP GUIDE



7 HAIRCUT

Male pilgrims begin to shave their heads while women shorten their hair. On completion, pilgrims may wear their ordinary garments. At this point they are free from all the restrictions of Ihram except for sexual intercourse.



10 SPENDING THE NIGHT IN MINA

Following the Tawaf and Sa'i, pilgrims head for Mina, where they spend the nights of the 11th and 12th days of Dhul-Hijjah.



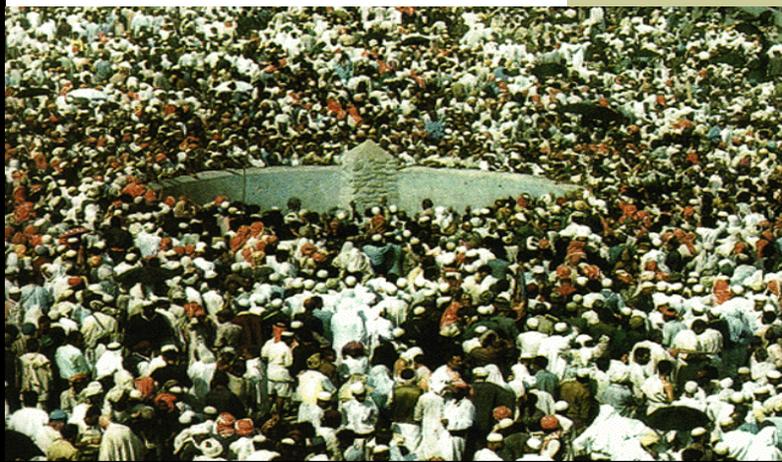
8 THE TAWAF OF HAJJ

Pilgrims return to Makkah and make Ifadah Tawaf (the Tawaf of Hajj). Pilgrims circumambulate the Kabah seven times, beginning from and ending with the Black Stone. Then offer two Rak'ahs of prayer behind Maqam Ibrahim (the Station of Abraham).



11 JAMARAT

Pilgrims proceed to throw at the three Jamarat on the 11th and 12th day following midday. Each Jamrah is to be thrown with seven successive pebbles, pronouncing Takbir with every throw. After completing the throwing at the Jamarat, pilgrims are permitted to leave Mina and head towards Majid Al-Haram in Makkah.



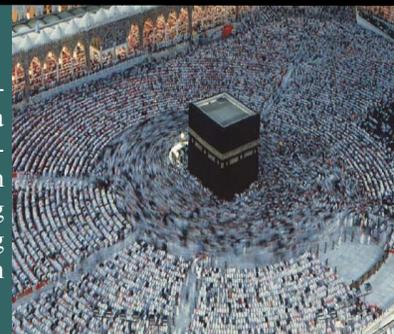
9 SA'I BETWEEN SAFA AND MARWAH

After finishing their prayer, pilgrims proceed to Mt Safa and perform seven rounds of Sa'i between Safa and Marwah, beginning with Safa and ending with Marwah.



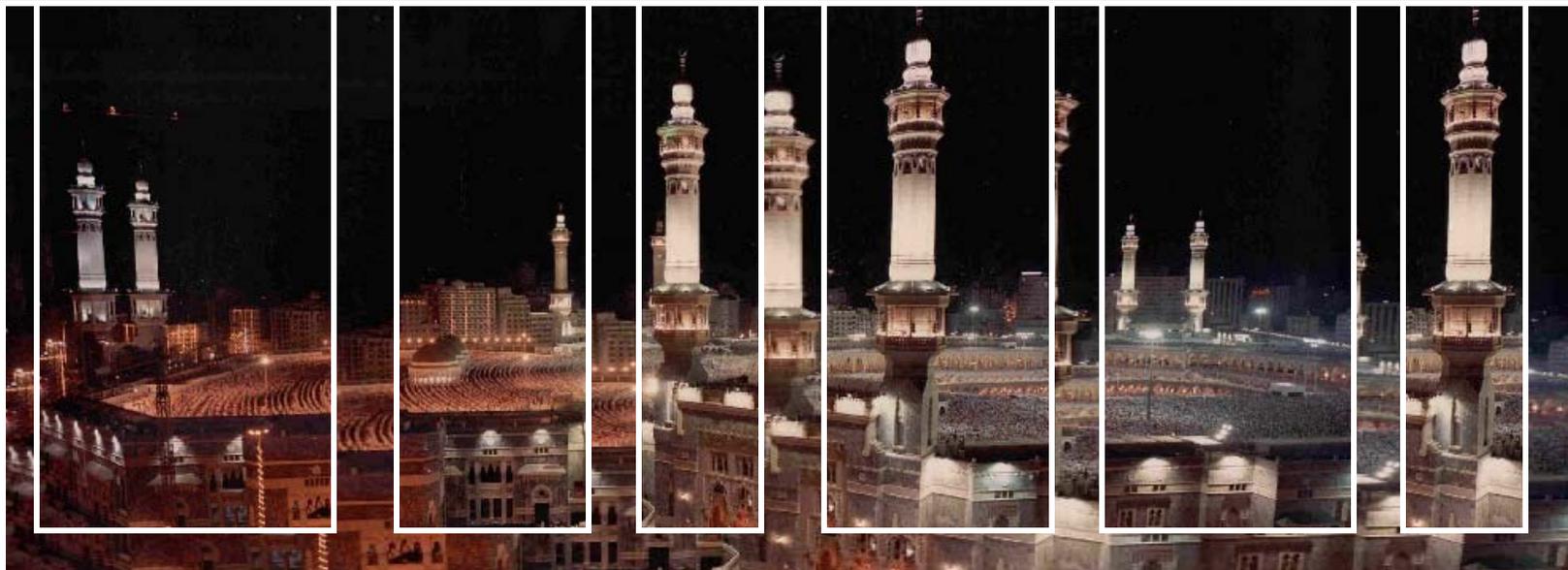
12 FARWELL TAWAF

To complete the Hajj ritual, pilgrims commence a final Tawaf (Farwell Tawaf) circumambulating the Kabah seven times, beginning from and ending with the Black Stone. Menstruating women are not required to perform the farewell tawaf.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES @ UMA

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	After Salat al Isha	DEATH AND THE HEREAFTER by Shiekh Shady at Lakemba Mosque.
	After Islamic Lesson	Distribution of free Islamic tapes and cassettes
	Between Maghrib and Isha	Visiting Muslims
Tuesday	After Salat al Isha	Arabic and Quran lessons for beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. (Lakemba Mosque)
Wednesday	After Salat al Maghrib	HOW TO PRAY PROGRAM For all levels, from beginners to advance at Lakemba Mosque.
Thursday	After Salat al Isha	Advanced Islamic Lessons by Shiekh Shady Islamic Jurisprudence (Science of Islamic Law). (Lakemba Mosque)
	After Islamic Lesson	Distribution of free Islamic tapes and cassettes
	Between Maghrib and Isha	Visiting Muslims
Saturday	From 12pm-6pm.	Sisters Weekly Lessons Lessons by Sheikh Shady & respected female guest speakers.
ALL WEEK	CROYDON ST ISLAMIC GYM IN LAKEMBA	Open to brothers; it provides members with the latest Gym facilities. All for a mere \$300 dollars annual fee... JOIN NOW!!! All proceeds spent in the way of Allah. Contact Brother Azad on 0414 293 012 for more details.



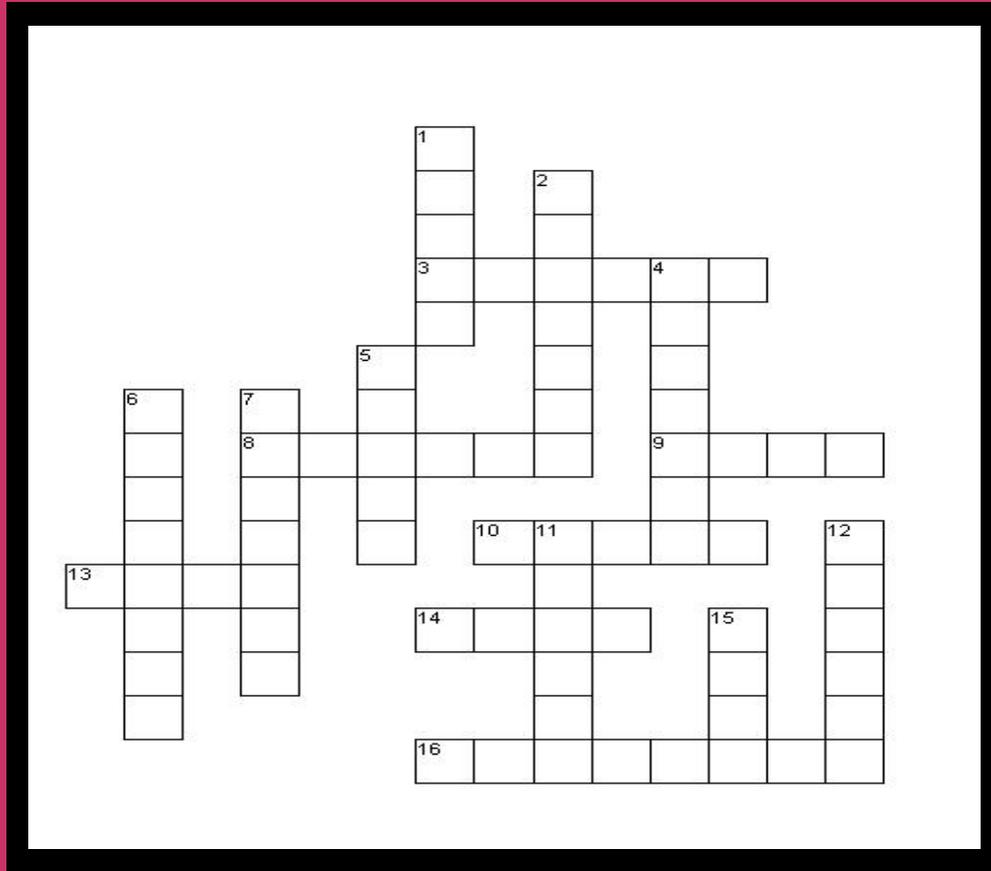
VERSE OF THE MONTH

الْحَجُّ أَشْهُرٌ مَّعْلُومَاتٌ فَمَنْ فَرَضَ فِيهِنَّ الْحَجَّ فَلَا رِقْتٍ وَلَا
فُسُوقَ وَلَا جِدَالَ فِي الْحَجِّ وَمَا تَفَعَّلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمَهُ اللَّهُ
وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ

2:197 for hajj are the months well known. If any one undertakes that duty therein, Let there be no obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in the hajj. And whatever good ye do, (be sure) Allah knoweth it. And take a provision (With you) for the journey, but the best of provisions is right conduct. So fear Me, o ye that are wise.

Hajj is the journey of a lifetime, which every Muslim desires to take. Those fortunate enough to go are considered guests of Allah. Allah swt instructed Prophet Ibrahim to invite people to come to hajj. It is said; 'so that they may witness things that are of benefit to them'. (Al-hajj 22:28). Like the trails and tribulations of Prophet Ibrahim that we commemorate, every hajj experience has its challenges. Hajj is tough and requires a lot of patience; everyone will be tested in this journey, so let there not be any obscenity, nor wickedness, nor wrangling in hajj.

The best among you during hajj are those who have good conduct and show patience, helping one another, and sacrificing time, money, comfort and physical pleasures and desires. A Muslim finds that their love for Allah swt heightens as they start to prepare for the pilgrimage journey, with the sole intention of pleasing Allah swt. One becomes purer in thought and deed. The closer you get to the house of Allah, the more intense becomes your desire to do well. Making sure you do not harm anyone, you avoid abuse, indecency, dishonesty, squabble and bickering. Thus the whole journey becomes an act of worship, so how can, then you do wrong???



- Across**
- 3. Location of Prophets last sermon.
 - 8. The Muslims faced in the direction of masjid _____ while praying before being commanded to face the Ka'aba.
 - 9. The second caliph, after the death of the Prophet (s.w.a).
 - 10. Two pieces of cloth worn by men during Hajj.
 - 13. The battle Hamzah, the prophet's uncle was killed.
 - 14. First battle took place between Muslims and infidels took place here.
 - 16. The first month of the Islamic calendar.

- Down**
- 1. Appointed to give the first adhan.
 - 2. The first woman to embrace Islam.
 - 4. Only sura in the Quran that does not begin with Bismillah.
 - 5. The 80th sura of the Quran.
 - 6. The occupation of the Prophet (s.w.a) before prophethood.
 - 7. The Holy Quran was revealed in this month.
 - 11. The sayings and teachings of the Prophet.
 - 12. Well discovered by Prophet Ismail.
 - 15. The seal of the prayer.

- 27 . And proclaim to mankind the Hajj (pilgrimage). They will come to you on foot and on every lean camel, they will come from every deep and distant (wide) mountain highway (to perform Hajj)
- 28 . That they may witness things that are of benefit to them, and mention the Name of Allaah on appointed days (i.e. 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th day of Dhul-Hijjâh), over the beast of cattle that He has provided for them (for sacrifice). Then eat thereof and feed therewith the poor who have a very hard time.
- 29 . Then let them complete the prescribed duties (*Manasik of Hajj*) for them, and perform their vows, and circumambulate the Ancient House (the Ka'bah at Makkah)

Surah 22. Al Hajj - Ayat 27 -28 -29

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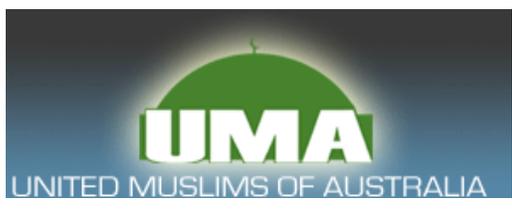


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