



The Hajj: one Ummah, one aim, one purpose

Hajj literally means 'to set out for a place' but islamically it refers to the annual pilgrimage Muslims make to Makkah. The first rites were in the time of the Prophet Ibrahim who was entrusted by Allah to build the Ka'bah with his son Ismail at Makkah. Prophet Ibrahim would come to perform Hajj every year and after his death, this practice was continued by his son.

However, as idolatry spread through Arabia, over 360 idols were placed inside the Ka'bah and its walls covered with poems

and paintings. The time came for Prophet Ibrahim's prayer to be answered:

"Our Lord! Send amongst them a Messenger of their own, who shall recite unto them your verses and instruct them in the book and the Wisdom and sanctify them. Verily you are the all-mighty, all-wise" Qur'an (2:129)

A man named Muhammed ibn Abdullah was born in the very city of Makkah and for twenty three years after he was given

the prophethood he spread the same message that all the other prophets had come with- that there was no god but Allah and that Muhammed was his last messenger.

The Prophet cleansed the Ka'bah of its impurities and reinstated the rites of Hajj and in this way, all the practices before Islam, based on ignorance, were abolished.

Once more, Hajj was a model of piety, fear of Allah, purity and simplicity. Every step was

devoted to Allah alone. It was this kind of Hajj that was worthy of the reward of paradise.

May Allah grant us all the ability to visit His House and perform the Hajj in the manner of the Prophet Muhammad.



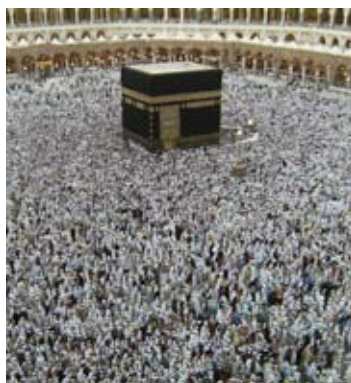
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Universal Brotherhood

Islam encourages believers to socialise with one another. A believer is, after all, a mirror to his brother.

The Friday Jummah prayer at the masjids is on a weekly basis, where you meet up with the brothers at your local masjid. Twice a year, you meet up with those in your neighbourhood on Eid. At least once in a life time, you take the opportunity to meet fellow believers from across the world.

All stand humbly before their lord, dressed in white unstitched material with uncovered heads. No one is able to tell the rich man from the poor man. All are equal in the sight of their lord. That is beauty in itself. Hajj is indeed a beautiful institution. It is the largest annual gathering anywhere in the world. Hajj demonstrates universal brotherhood in practice, and holds it up as a viable model for day to day living. What



a contrast to the narrow nationalism/ tribalism which some countries are lurching towards.

"Narrated by Ibn Abbas that the Prophet said: There are no good deeds that are more beloved to Allah than these ten days. They inquired: Not even Jihad in the cause of Allah? He said: No, unless one goes out for Jihad, sacrificing both his life and wealth, and returns with neither of them" (Hadeeth Al-Bukhari)



The days of virtue and good

The first ten days of Dhul-Hijja are a great blessing from Allah. In Surah Al- Fajr 89, verses 1-2: 'By the dawn. By the ten nights', the ten nights referred to are said to be the first ten days of Dhul-Hijja.

Observing fasts is recommended, especially on the day of Arafat. Allah himself mentions that 'Fasting is for me and I shall requite it. My slave relinquishes his desires, food, and drinks for my sake'.

Reciting the takbeer and doing dhikr is also very important, as well as repentance in order to acquire Allah's forgiveness and mercy. Voluntary good deeds are encouraged such as charity and salah.

Some things were also forbidden: "When you see the new moon of Dhu'l-Hijjah, if any one of you wants to offer a sacrifice, then he must stop cutting his hair and nails until he has offered his sacrifice." (Hadeeth-Muslim)



Unity of the Ummah - Where does it start? Who's Responsibility?

The monthly talk will be a the second part of 'Unity - Where does it start?' by Abdullatif Osman.

If you have a question for the speaker you may email it in advance to: sundaytalkquestions@companionsofthemosque.com Your name will not be mentioned and if the speaker doesn't get it covered, it will be answered during the Q&A session as a priority.

A quick summary of this Sunday's event:
10:45am Monthly Sisters gathering only (boys under 10 welcome)

- Activities include:
- Judo taught by an experienced sister
 - Book club for the girls
 - Arts and crafts for the younger kids aged 2-6

- Basketball, taught by a professional player
- Making Arabic and English dictionaries (for younger kids)
- There will also be light snacks

Sister Tasneem (Umm Inayah) is the co-ordinator of the sisters event and needs more volunteers so if any sister is interested contact Abdussalam on : 07946 489 099

2:30pm Family gathering (for all)

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish.

3:50pm tidy up for the main talk

4:00-4:20pm Our youngsters' presentation

4:30pm (sharp) main talk of the month starts
Speaker: Abdullatif Osman

6:30pm End of event

The details of the venue is as follows:

The Quad (Youth Centre)
Green Wrythe Lane
Carshalton
SM5 1JW

There is an on-site parking as well as off street parking. For more information, please visit: companionsofthemosque.com

Please publicise this event to your friends and families (Muslims & Non-Muslims) as everyone is welcome.

"Is not Allah Sufficient for His servant? Yet they try to frighten you with those (whom they worship) besides Him! And whom Allah sends astray, for him there will be no guide. And whomsoever Allah guides, for him there will be no misleader. Is not Allah Almighty, Possessor of Retribution?"
Qur'an (39:36-37)



Jabir ibn `Abdullah said, describing the Hajj of the Prophet (pbuh): "Then he started to say the words of Tawhid:

لَيْتَكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَيْتَكَ
لَيْتَكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَيْتَكَ
إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ
لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ

"Here I am, O Allah, here I am. Here I am, You have no partner, here I am. Verily all praise and blessings are Yours, and all sovereignty, You have no partner."
[Hadeeth - Muslim]

Unity makes us strong

We line up in the masjids, five times a day, in masses, ready to worship our lord.

We stand feet to feet, shoulder to shoulder, a black man next to a white man. They are both brothers, both equal. Their way of life, Islam, says so.

The unity of the Muslim ummah is unique in its own right - after all, it makes up the second largest religion in the world.

Yet compared to the early believers, who were few but very strong all the same, these believers are divided.

Would a powerful nation come to exist? A powerful nation that would follow the Qur'an and Sunnah properly?

The prophet foresaw this division himself:
"The Jews will divide themselves into 71 sects and the Christians into 72 sects. My ummah will divide itself into 73 sects and

only one will go to Jannah"" (Hadeeth - Abu Dawood, At-Tirmidhi and Ahmed)

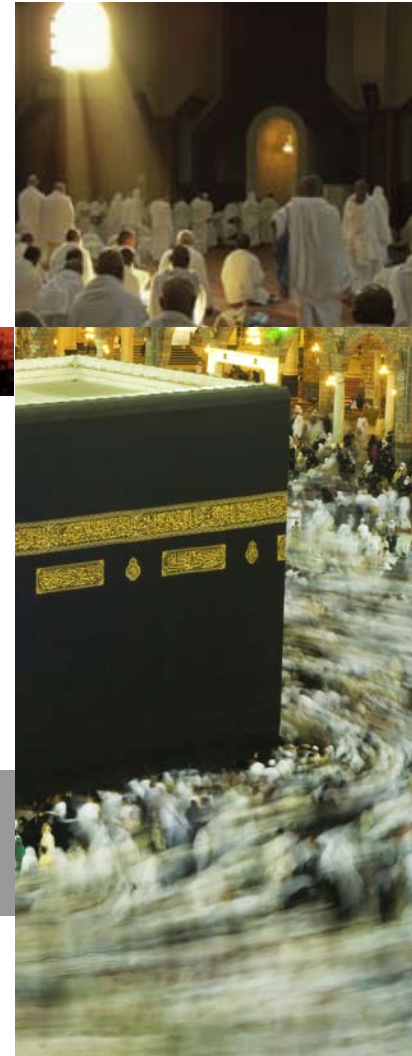
Yet the Muslims complain that in their countries it is not as civilized as Europe, that they are not as advanced in science as the rest of the world.

"The unity of the Muslim ummah is unique in its own right"

Without being united and strong, this will not be possible. Allah addresses those who try to split the Muslim Ummah up:

"Surely, those who split up their religion and break it up into sects, you have no concern at all with them. Their affair is only with Allah, who will then inform them of what they used to do."
Qur'an (6:159)

Yet it is unlikely that the whole of the Muslim Ummah will ever unite.



However, there is still chance that the Muslim community within a town would unite and forget their differences.

If they are united, then they should not let Shaitaan come between them. They should remain strong. For the sake of Allah.