



RESPONDING TO THE CALL

OF HAJJ

Let us strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala by fulfilling all of His Commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions. May Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala

facilitate us with ease and blessings as we traverse through our lives in this world and the Hereafter. The topic of today's khutbah is: "Responding To The Call Of Hajj."

At this moment, millions of Muslims are gathered around the area of Baytullah al-Haraam in Makkah, responding to Allah's Call, as He mentions in al-Qur'an:

"And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass." (al-Hajj 22:27)

Hajj is from among the pillars of Islam. It is perhaps the strongest and most pivotal aspect of Islam. It is obligated to be performed once in a lifetime, and by fulfilling this 'ibaadah,

then one's Islam and is deemed completed and his religion perfected. The Muslim ummah would arrive as the guests of Allah in responding to His Call with one pledge, that is:

"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."

Proclaiming the *talbiyah* with a sincere heart and full *khushoo*[•] will incur the glad tidings of Allah's Paradise.

Verily, from the various forms of 'ibaadah in Islam, some are badaniyyah in nature, which are *'ibaadah* that requires the physical strength such as salaah and fasting.

Some are *qalbiyyah* in nature, and they are 'ibaadah that entails the action of the heart such as *dhikr*. Also there are *'ibaadah* that are maaliyyah in nature, which would require wealth such as

zakaat, infaaq, and sadaqah. As for hajj, it is a combination of all three namely badaniyyah, qalbiyyah, and maaliyyah. The physical body performs the actions, the heart has its

role, and the wealth determines. All three forms a union that is inseparable. Today, we earnestly congratulate those that will become the esteemed guests of Allah for this year.

Being honored and chosen to travel to the Holy Land is indeed a great bounty and success in the life of a slave to His Creator, Allah. The 'ibaadah of hajj nurtures the tarbiyyah or

training for one to become mujaahadah (striving in steadfastness) by having to spend a large amount of expenditure, instilling strong determination, and deep resolution.

The person must be willing to leave their homeland, depart from their loved ones, their busy occupation or career, going up against the extremely scorching hot or cold air, and food and drink

that are at times unpalatable. However, for the sake of Allah's Call, the person will respond with perseverance, such that their level of imaan will become further strengthened and unwavering.

The journey of hajj necessitates adequate provision and complete preparation. Aside from sound Islamic knowledge, other significant matters that must be given attention to

are as follows: 1- One must have a sound and sincere intention solely for the sake of Allah upon leaving one's home and hometown heading towards the Noble Sanctuary.

It is this niyyah (intention) that will distinguish whether one is truly serious in fulfilling Allah's Call or just merely having fun. The intention is the underlying principle,

whether in the 'ibaadah of hajj or other 'ibaadah. If the niyyah and determination is not strong, then the 'ibaadah itself will not reach the pinnacle of perfection.

In the hadeeth of Abu Hafs 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab radiyAllaahu 'anh, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"The reward of deeds depends upon the intentions and every person will get the reward according to what he has intended..."

(al-Bukhaari)

2- Upon arriving at the destination, one must take full advantage of such golden opportunity in the utmost manner. Utilize as much time possible to engage in 'ibaadah,

ensuring that the arkaan (pillars) and waajibaat (obligatory acts) are observed, and making du'aa at locations where it is mustajab (accepted). Insha Allah, the du'aas will be

answered by Allah. One should increase their supererogatory acts (nawaafil) such as tawaaf, salaah, i'tikaaf, tilaawah, dhikr, and istighfaar in Masjid al-Haraam.

This is because one *raka* 'ah of salaah in Masjid al-Haraam is equivalent to 100,000 raka 'ah in other masaajid, and salaah in Masjid an-Nabawi is equivalent to 1000 times in

other masaajid. 3- The Holy Land of Makkah is said to be the mini version of the Land of the Hereafter. This depiction means that while there, one must be honest to oneself.

When faced with difficulties, one must not blame others for it. Instead, one should direct those difficulties to one's own self, striving to seek the cause of the tribulation that is due to

one's own doing. Therefore, one must be heedful and vigilant in his words and actions so as to not offend others. 4- While being in the midst of the large gathering of the

Muslim "family", do not question the practice of others. There, one will witness variations in the way that salaah is performed according to the madhhab that is adhered to.

Hence, do not dispute or doubt the differences in the practice of others. 5- Hajj is truly a challenging 'ibaadah. Therefore, those performing hajj must equip themselves with their utmost

sabr. In this context, there are three levels of patience that will be endured, namely: i. Sabr in obedience and fulfilling the command *ii. Sabr* in abstaining from prohibitions and

disobedience. iii. Sabr in the wake of trials and calamities. In the early stages, one will be tested by having to part with all types of comfort, ease, and ordinary activities.

However, the soul will remain patient without feeling regret or sorry, and instead considers every difficulty faced as sunnatullah. Moments of sorrow and happiness,

difficulty and ease, all will occur interchangeably. The 'ibaadah of hajj can help develop a person to become trustworthy, sincere, honest, and responsible, as well as producing

individuals that are tawaddu' or humble and void of dispraised characteristics such as pride, arrogance, boastfulness, and treacherous. Not to mention that during hajj, one is not

allowed to cause disturbance, wickedness, and transgression. In the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"Whoever performs Hajj (pilgrimage) and does not have sexual relations (with his wife), nor commits sin, nor disputes unjustly (during Hajj),

then he returns from Hajj as pure and free from sins as on the day on which his mother gave birth to him."

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

The hajj that is duly performed has many secrets and wisdom behind its rites, and among them: 1- Wearing the *ihraam* This is a symbol and manifestation of equality

amongst mankind in the Sight of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. There are no rich tycoons, high-ranking noble aristocrats, or even lowly slaves. With these white garments, hopefully it will

extinguish all the status and rank for those that deem themselves being above others, gone are those thoughts thinking that they are more dignified than others, and demolished are

the arrogance and pride within. 2- Wuqf in 'Arafah The 9th of *Dhulhijjah* is an event that would remind us of a time to come in which all creations will be gathered

in the Land of Gathering on the Day of Resurrection, a time where everyone will be worried and in fear, whether their deeds will be accepted or rejected by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

By having the consciousness and awareness of this heavy day, the heart will tremble and remain humble, sincerely hoping for the mercy of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

Unlike those within the Muslim ummah that perform only a few good deeds but brazenly claiming that they have attained tremendous reward, deeming themselves better and more noble than

others. Furthermore, some of them are bold enough to claim that they will surely enter Paradise. Such attitude symbolizes one that is arrogant and dominated by the arrogance that was

pumped up by Iblees la 'natullah. Indeed, we sincerely hope that all of our brethren that were honored to be the esteemed guests of Allah this year will attain

hajj mabroor (accepted hajj). Therefore, they must review and purify their niyyah before heading towards the Holy Land. They must have tremendous patience in enduring the circumstances

there. They must take full advantage in utilizing their time there, fully engaging in the fard and sunnah acts at all times. They must ensure to abstain from sinning and disobedience.

All of their limbs and faculties such as the eyes and the mouth must be under constant vigilance. Those that perform their hajj will diligence, zeal, and determination will long and

yearn to return to the Holy Land. Some hopes to die in the blessed land. To those of us who have yet to perform their hajj, hence: 1. Make the intention and determination to perform

hajj as soon as possible. 2. Strive with diligence in registering and saving up enough funds for hajj. 3. Striving to the utmost to perform hajj at a young age. 4. Strive in attaining sufficient authentic knowledge regarding the rituals and rites of hajj so as to attain hajj *mabroor*.

"Hajj is [during] well-known months, so whoever has made Hajj obligatory upon himself therein [by entering the state of ihram], there is

[to be for him] no sexual relations and no disobedience and no disputing during Hajj. And whatever good you do -Allah knows it.

And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding."

(al-Baqarah 2:197)



O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and **Blessings, nourishing us to strive** to continue in strengthening the **Muslim nation especially the state** of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our *imaan*, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaaq, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen

