

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As you are all aware we will be witnessing another *Zul Hijja* moon by the end of this month. This will signal that the days of Hajj and that *Eidud doha* is near. Out of the approximately 1.7 billion Muslims living in the world today only about one per cent will have the opportunity to go to Saudi Arabia for Hajj. We pray that Allah help them all to accomplish all the rites of Hajj in peace and security and that Allah accept their hajj. From now on until the *Eidud doha* I will try to speak about some aspects of this great pilgrimage so that our friends and members may have an idea of what the pilgrimage means even if we do not have the opportunity to go there. Furthermore, we might all better appreciate the rites of hajj which are transmitted live around the world on TV or on social media.

I will start by reading the verses of the Holy Quran which are related to the Hajj so that we might know what Allah says about it. Here they are as they appear in the Holy Quran from beginning to end:

“And *remember the time* when We made the House a resort for mankind and a *place of security*; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of Prayer. And We commanded Abraham and Ishmael, *saying*, ‘Purify My House for those who perform the circuit and those who remain *therein* for devotion and those who bow down and fall prostrate *in Prayer*.’

And *remember* when Abraham said, ‘My Lord, make this a town of peace and provide with fruits such of its dwellers as believe in Allah and the Last Day,’ He said, ‘And on him too who believes not will I bestow benefits for a little while; then will I drive him to the punishment of the Fire, and an evil destination it is.’ And *remember the time* when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House, *praying*, ‘Our Lord, accept *this* from us; for Thou art All-Hearing, All-Knowing. Our Lord, make us submissive to Thee and *make* of our offspring a people submissive to Thee. And show us our ways of worship, and turn to us with mercy; for Thou art Oft-Returning *with compassion and Merciful*. And, our Lord, raise up among them a Messenger from among themselves, who may recite to them Thy Signs and teach them the Book and Wisdom and may purify them; surely, Thou art the Mighty, the Wise.” (2:125-132)

“Surely, *Al-Safa* and *Al-Marwah* are among the Signs of Allah. It is, therefore, no sin for him who is on pilgrimage to the House, or performs ‘Umrah, to go round the two. And whoso does good beyond what is obligatory, surely then, Allah is Appreciating, All-Knowing.” (2:159)

“They ask you, [O Muhammad], about the new moons. Say, "They are measurements of time for the people and for Hajj." And it is not righteousness to enter houses from the back, but righteousness is [in] one who fears Allah. And enter houses from their doors. And fear Allah that you may succeed.” (2:189)

“And complete the Hajj and Umrah for Allah. But if you are prevented, then [offer] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals. And do not shave your heads until the sacrificial animal has reached its place of slaughter. And whoever among you is ill or has an ailment of the head [making shaving necessary must offer] a ransom of fasting [three days] or charity or sacrifice. And when you are secure, then whoever performs 'umrah [during the Hajj months] followed by Hajj [offers] what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals. And whoever cannot find [or afford such an animal] - then a fast of three days during Hajj and of seven when you have returned [home]. Those are ten complete [days]. This is for those whose family is not in the area of al-Masjid al-Haram. And fear Allah and know that Allah is severe in punishment. (2:197)

“The months of the Hajj are well known; so whoever determines to perform the Pilgrimage in these months, *should remember that* there is *to be* no foul talk, nor any transgression, nor any quarrelling during the Pilgrimage. And whatever good you do, Allah knows it. And furnish yourselves with *necessary* provisions, and surely, the best provision is righteousness. And fear Me *alone*, O men of understanding.” (2:198)

“It is no sin for you that you seek the bounty of your Lord. But when you pour forth from ‘Arafat, remember Allah at *Mash‘ar al- Haram*; and remember Him as He has guided you, although, before this, you were of those gone astray.”(2:199)

“Then pour forth from where the people pour forth, and seek forgiveness from Allah; surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful” (2:200)

“And when you have performed the acts of worship prescribed for you, celebrate the praises of Allah as you celebrated the praises of your fathers, or even more than that.”

And of men there are some who say, ‘Our Lord, grant us *good things* in this world;’ and such a one shall have no share in the Hereafter.” (2:201)

“And of them there are some who say: ‘Our Lord, grant us good in this world as well as good in the world to come, and protect us from the torment of the Fire.’” (2:202)

“For these there shall be a *goodly* share because of what they have earned. And Allah is swift at reckoning.” (2:203)

“And remember Allah during the appointed number of days; but whoso hastens *to leave* in two days, it shall be no sin for him; and whoso stays behind, it shall be no sin for him. *This is* for him who fears God. And fear Allah and know that you shall be brought together before Him.” (2:204)

“Surely, the first House founded for mankind is that at Becca, abounding in blessings and a guidance for all peoples.” (3:97)

“In it are manifest Signs; it is the place of Abraham; and whoso enters it, enters peace. And pilgrimage to the House is a duty which men — those who can find a way thither — owe to Allah. And whoever disbelieves, *let him remember* that Allah is surely independent of all creatures.” (3:98)

“O ye who believe! fulfil *your* compacts. Lawful are made to you quadrupeds *of the class* of cattle other than those which are being announced to you, except that you should not hold game to be lawful while you are in a state of pilgrimage; verily, Allah decrees what He wills.”

O ye who believe! profane not the Signs of Allah, nor the Sacred Month, nor the animals brought as an offering, nor the *animals of sacrifice wearing* collars, nor those repairing to the Sacred House, seeking grace from their Lord, and *His* pleasure. And when you put off the pilgrims’ garb *and are clear of the Sacred Territory*, you may hunt. And let not the enmity of a people, that they hindered you from the Sacred Mosque, incite you to transgress. And help one another in righteousness and piety; but help not one another in sin and transgression. And fear Allah; surely, Allah is severe in punishment. (5:1-2)

“The game of the sea and the eating thereof have been made lawful for you as a provision for you and the travellers; but forbidden to you is the game of the land as long as you are in a state of pilgrimage. And fear Allah to Whom you shall be gathered.”

“The reckoning of months with Allah has been twelve months by Allah’s ordinance since the day when He created the heavens and the earth. Of these, four are sacred. That is the right creed. So wrong not yourselves therein. And fight the idolaters all together as they fight you all together; and know that Allah is with the righteous.”(9:36)

‘And proclaim unto mankind the Pilgrimage. They will come to thee on foot, and on every lean camel, coming by every distant track,’

““That they may witness *its* benefits for them and may mention the name of Allah, during the appointed days, over the quadrupeds of *the class of* cattle that He has provided for them. Then eat ye thereof and feed the distressed, the needy.”

‘Then let them accomplish their needful acts of cleansing, and fulfill their vows, and go around the Ancient House.’

“That is *God’s commandment*. And whoso honours the sacred things of Allah, it will be good for him with his Lord. And cattle are made lawful to you but not that which has been announced to you. Shun therefore the abomination of idols, and shun all words of untruth,

Remaining ever inclined to Allah, not associating anything with Him. And whoso associates anything with Allah, falls, as it were, from a height, and the birds snatch him up, or the wind blows him away to a distant place.

That *is so*. And whoso respects the sacred Signs of Allah — that indeed *proceeds* from the righteousness of hearts.

In them (offerings) are benefits for you for an appointed term, then their place of sacrifice is at the Ancient House.

And to every people We appointed rites of sacrifice, that they might mention the name of Allah over the quadrupeds of *the class of* cattle that He has provided for them. So your God is One God; therefore submit ye *all* to Him. And give thou glad tidings to the humble, Whose hearts are filled with fear when Allah is mentioned, and who patiently endure whatever befalls them, and who observe Prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them.

And among the sacred Signs of Allah We have appointed for you the sacrificial camels. In them there is *much* good for you. So, mention the name of Allah over them as they stand tied up in lines. And when they fall down *dead* on their sides, eat thereof and feed him who is *needy but* contented

and him who supplicates. Thus, have We subjected them to you, that you may be thankful.

Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him. Thus, has He subjected them to you, that you may glorify Allah for His guiding you. And give glad tidings to those who do good.” (22:27-39)

“Surely has Allah in truth fulfilled for His Messenger the Vision. You will certainly enter the Sacred Mosque, if Allah will, in security, *some* having *their* heads shaven, and *others* having *their* hair cut short; *and* you will have no fear. But He knew what you knew not. He has in fact ordained for you, besides that, a victory near at hand.” (48:28)

This last verse of course refers to the triumphant entry of the Holy Prophet (saw) and the Muslims in Mecca for his unique Hajj three months prior to his death.

As one might gather from these verses, the emphasis is on submission, reverence, obedience to Allah’s instructions and the development of *Taqwa* in one’s heart. One may or may not get the opportunity to go for the Hajj but obedience to Allah’s instructions is a matter that should be our focus every moment of our life. May we all take some time to read and reflect upon these verses so that we might observe more of Allah’s instructions and may we all be written among those who do their best to be Allah’s best servants *incha* Allah.