

Maximising One's Time In The Blessed Lands



STUDY AND PREPARE BEFOREHAND

- Read books.
- Consult an *‘ālim* (Islāmic scholar) if you have queries.
- Along with learning the necessary *masā’il*, also endeavour to gain an understanding of the spiritual aspects of *ḥajj* and *‘umrah*.
- Rectify one’s intention.
- Repent.
- Seek forgiveness from Allāh *Ta‘ālā* and others.
- Make up missed *ṣalāh* and fasts.
- Avoid baseless customs.





DURING THE JOURNEY TIPS



- Enroute, strive to spend every moment in the obedience of *Allāh Ta‘ālā*.
- Make every effort to avoid sins.
- Protect one’s gaze.
- Perform *farḍ ṣalāh* at their appointed times. Do not delay them even while flying.
- Recite the *talbiyah* in abundance.

BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

- **Be patient, do not complain, be understanding, kind, helpful and forgiving. Be gentle and forgiving towards people.**
- **There are people from all around the world with different lifestyles and mentalities.**
- **Have lots of patience at all times- with the process, the transportation, the people involved in organising your *ḥajj* and most importantly, the other pilgrims who are with you.**

BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

- Many times, a lack of patience can lead to arguments and saying things which will be regretted later on, wiping away the spiritual blessings of *ḥajj* and diminishing our rewards.
- There should be no quarrelling.
- There will be situations where you will experience things you do not like.
- People might get in front of you in lines to get onto transportation, or to get through security, or to get food.
- There might be some pushing and shoving. There might be instances where other people may even raise objections with you.

BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

- At all times we must exercise patience.
- Ensure we do not get into any quarrels with anyone, including our own family members as well.
- Be polite and remain calm.
- Allāh *Ta'ālā* is with those who are patient.



BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

- If we were to understand that the purpose of life is not only to engage in worship, but to obey every command of Allāh *Ta'ālā*, then it would be very easy to understand how to behave in such circumstances.
- Upon encountering a delay, tell yourself: “This is what Allāh wishes for me at this moment; he does not wish for me to reach my destination on time, so I should be patient and happy with the decision of Allāh, and this is also worship. So either way, I am pleasing Allāh and receiving reward.”

BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

- **During your journey you will see thousands of people with different levels of knowledge.**
- **It is likely that you will see people carrying out certain ritual acts incorrectly.**
- **On such occasions try to tell yourself that it is not your job to judge and criticise.**
- **Prior to your journey, acquire firm knowledge of the necessary rituals that you need to perform so that you will be confident that you are doing what you should be doing, and therefore have no need to copy anyone else.**

BE PATIENT & UNDERSTANDING

- **People will be telling you that what you are doing is incorrect.**
- **Being aware that there are valid differences in the *madh-hab* and being confident in what you are doing is important.**
- **If you are not sure, or if someone raises objections to what you are doing, seek clarification from a reliable scholar.**
- **Bear in mind that any difficulty that you may encounter is minimal when compared to the great benefits of the journey.**
- **What greater benefit and comfort can there be than seeing the House of Allāh, the Kaʿbah!**

RESPECT THE MASJID

- Make the Intention of *'i'tikāf* every time you enter.
- Enter with the right foot.
- Recite the *du'ā'* for entering.

Dua For Entering Masjid

اللَّهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

O ALLAH, OPEN FOR ME THE GATES OF YOUR MERCY.



DO NOT TAKE PICTURES & VIDEOS

- Throughout the days of *ḥajj*, people are busy trying to get a snap, create a short reel or Tik Tok.
- *Ḥajj* is a journey of love, between a slave and his Master, and the slave at all times should be trying to please and make his Master happy with his actions.
- We do not need to show others.
- Rather, we should have the mindset that Allāh is watching us.



DO NOT TAKE PICTURES & VIDEOS

- There is now extensive usage of the mobile phone and cameras all around the sacred *masājīd*.
- Their usage violates the sanctity of these blessed places and they are a means of people moving further away from Allāh rather than gaining His proximity.
- Muslims should refrain from all types of photography and video filming whilst in the Ḥaramayn.



DO NOT TAKE PICTURES & VIDEOS

- **Photography and video filming in the Ḥaramayn are a source of inconvenience for others.**
- **Many a time one is trying to concentrate on reciting the Qur'ān or performing *ṣalāh*, *ṭawāf* or *sa'ī*, and someone walks past and stands in front to pose for a picture.**



DO NOT TAKE PICTURES & VIDEOS

- The scene at the blessed resting place of Nabī ﷺ is of such disrespect that sometimes there is fear that the wrath of Allāh may fall upon us.
- It seems to be a craze, a loss of sense and intellect that we enter the court of the beloved of Allāh, the best of creation, our master and our beloved Nabī ﷺ and instead of behaving respectfully, we are busy taking photos and videos of it.
- This is a place of *'adab* (etiquette) and not a place for hysterical and degrading behaviour seen these days.



DO NOT TAKE PICTURES & VIDEOS

A poet beautifully says:

“Chor kar deewana pan ay dil, zara hosh-yaar ho

Ab darkane bhi adab se, yeh hai kue-e- Muṣṭafā ﷺ”

"Leave your craziness, O heart, and become sensible;

Even your beating should be respectful,

this is the home of Muṣṭafā ﷺ.”



DO NOT USE YOUR PHONE IN THE ḤARAM

- Do not text or video call in the Ḥaram.
- The use of mobile phones should be restricted in the Ḥaramayn only when there is a dire need to send an important message or make an urgent call.
- Going for *ḥajj* is to leave the creation behind and focus on the Creator.
- By constantly being connected to people on the outside, has this person achieved this? How much time has been wasted when it could have been used in prayer and supplication?



DO NOT TALK IN THE MASJID

- Whilst in the Ḥaramayn (or whilst visiting any *masjid*) engage in *‘ibādah*, adopt silence and observe the utmost respect.
- Completely avoid conversations about worldly matters.
- The Ḥaramayn are the Mothers of *Masājid*.
- Whilst present in them, we become heedless of their etiquettes and carry out such actions that we would never even imagine doing in our local *masjid*.

DO NOT TALK IN THE MASJID

- Would we ever use the mobile phone, tolerate talking on the phone, surfing the internet, playing games and the heart-breaking sound of musical ringtones, and take pictures or videos in our local *masjid*? Would we?
- If the mobile was to ring in our local *masjid*, we would become infuriated with the owner, due to his inconsideration of the *masjid*.
- However, in the Ḥaramayn, we find ourselves freely using it and talking for lengthy periods of time. Would we carry out such actions in our local *masjid*? The answer is a clear NO. Then why should such actions be tolerated, rather perpetrated in the mothers of all *masājid*?

MAKE LOTS OF DU‘Ā’

- In *‘umrah* and/or *ḥajj*, there are many moments, opportunities and places where supplications are accepted:
 1. When we see the *Ka‘bah* for the first time.
 2. After completing our 2 *rak‘ahs* after the *ṭawāf*.
 3. When drinking Zamzam.
 4. During *sa‘ī*.
 5. When we reach *Aş-Şafā* and *Al-Marwah*.
 6. On the day of *‘Arafah*.



MAKE LOTS OF DU‘Ā’

- We need to understand that supplication is not merely memorising some *du‘ā’s* and then reciting them.
- How many of us even know what we have asked for?
- Supplicating is not saying or reciting, but asking.
- If you learn the meaning of the *du‘ā’s* you are reciting, then focus on the meaning when asking. If you have a book of supplications which has the translation, then look at the translation.
- Make *du‘ā’* in your own language so you know what you are asking for and learn the etiquettes of *du‘ā’* as well.



MAKE LOTS OF DU‘Ā’

- Write down and keep a note of all the things you want to ask in *du‘ā’*.
- Sometimes due to the environment and emotional state at the time, it is easy to forget.
- You can also ask other people as well if they would like you to supplicate for them. These can be written down for you to remember.
- It is mentioned in a *ḥadīth*: The most rapidly accepted prayer is the prayer of one person for another, in his absence. In another *ḥadīth* it is stated that: When a person makes *du‘ā’* for his brother in his absence, the angels say: “May Allāh grant you the same.” (Muslim)



MAKE LOTS OF DU‘Ā’

- Let us ask from the bottom of our heart when making *du‘ā’*.
- *Du‘ā’* is the essence of worship.
- Allocate some time daily for making *du‘ā’* to Allāh.
- You should make *du‘ā’* for family, friends, ‘*ulamā’*, *mashāyikh* and all the religious activities taking place throughout the world.
- Also make *du‘ā’* for those deceased Muslims who are lying in the solitude of their graves, who are in need of rewards, yet have no one to send *thawāb* for them.



DO NOT DISOBEY ALLĀH TA‘ĀLĀ

- Your goal should be to abstain from all sins.
- Remember, the filth of sins, be they major or minor, erodes and destroys all the spirituality the heart acquires through blessed acts in blessed places during blessed moments.
- Be attentive, especially towards the use of your eyes, ensuring complete abstinence from casting evil glances.
- The Companions, ‘Umar and ‘Abdullāh ibn ‘Abbās (رضي الله عنهما) would say: “I would prefer to commit seventy sins in Rukyah [a place outside of Makkah] than commit a single sin in Makkah.”

DO NOT WASTE A SINGLE SECOND

- **Value this favour of Allāh and make sure every second is spent in the correct manner, doing only those things that bring His pleasure.**
- **If you have a choice between two actions then choose the one that will be most fruitful.**
- **Distance yourself from all those things that lead to wasting time. Ensure time is not spent in futile and wasteful talk or wandering around in the shopping areas.**



DO NOT WASTE A SINGLE SECOND

- However, while valuing your time, be moderate in your *‘ibādah* and try not to tire yourself excessively.
- This is especially important if you are staying in Makkah prior to the days of *ḥajj*.
- As the main purpose of your journey is the period of the five days of *ḥajj*, make sure that you have enough energy for it.



NO TELEVISION

- Just because a television is found in nearly every hotel room does not mean that you should watch it.
- Among the many harms of television is *laghw* (futility), which leads to sin.
- Thus, the television should be shunned, for it is a strong means of incurring the displeasure of Allāh.



AVOID SOCIALISING

- **It is sad that merely for the sake of tasting different types of food, pilgrims sacrifice precious time during their journey in eating out in different restaurants.**
- **It has become a trend to try various popular food spots seen online.**
- **The practice of going out of one's way to meet fellow visitors just for the sake of socialising should be avoided, as it amounts to a waste of valuable time.**
- **Use every second of your time in doing good. You have your whole life in which to socialise with them when you return.**

DO NOT WASTE TIME SHOPPING

- Rasūlullāh ﷺ said: “The most beloved of places to Allāh are the *masājid*, and the most disliked of places to Allāh are the markets.”
- Despite this *ḥadīth*, visitors to the blessed cities seem more inclined towards the shopping centres than the Ḥaramayn.
- To ensure that time is not lost in shopping, prepare a list of what you require.
- Refrain from browsing and window shopping because hours can be wasted as there is no end to what you can find in the malls and shops.



DO NOT WASTE TIME SHOPPING

- Try to delay any shopping until the last few days, so that when you do go you will be conscious of the fact that there are only a few days left.
- *Inshā'Allāh*, as a result, time will be spent wisely and not wasted in pointless wandering around.
- Set a limit on the amount of time to be spent in shopping and restrict yourself to it. Keep in mind that all the items found in the shops of Makkah and Madīnah can also be found in shops throughout the world.
- However, the spiritual items of Makkah and Madīnah cannot be acquired elsewhere.



DO NOT WASTE TIME SHOPPING

- Therefore, spend the majority of your time in acquiring these priceless spiritual commodities by spending as much time as possible in the Ḥaramayn and engaging in *‘ibādah*.
- Some people say that items are cheaper in Makkah and Madīnah and state this as their reason for extensive shopping.
- But think for a moment: how much will you save? Even if you were to save \$1,000, it is still in reality a loss.
- Spending time in shopping, the millions of rewards that could have been acquired by performing *‘ibādah* in the Ḥaramayn are forfeited.



DO NOT WASTE TIME SHOPPING

- Though we may buy anything we wish for our family, the most blessed and most fitting items to buy as gifts are Zamzam and dates of Madīnah.
- Better and greater gifts are *du‘ā’*, *ṭawāf*, *‘umrah*, etc.
- *Du‘ā’* is a means of contributing to them.
- By making *du‘ā’*, you will become part of these efforts and thus reap rewards.



SET GOALS & A TIMETABLE

- **Physical gratitude to Allāh can be displayed by adopting a timetable in order to organise your activities throughout the day.**
- **A way to ensure your time is well spent is to create a daily timetable and stick to it.**
- **This will help ensure you maximize the reward you can attain on this journey.**

SET GOALS & A TIMETABLE

- Include the following on your timetable, as per convenience when you have arrived:
 - ✓ Read your *sunnah* and *nawāfil* prayers in addition to your *farḍ*, as these are also very rewarding.
 - ✓ Set yourself a goal of completing one complete recitation of the Qur'ān in the days of *ḥajj*, as well as one in Makkah and one in Madīnah.

SET GOALS & A TIMETABLE

- ✓ Use your time while travelling to also read the Qur'ān.
- ✓ *Dhikr* - Recite the *kalimah ṭayyibah* and *istighfār* in abundance.
- ✓ The time spent going and coming from the *masjid* can be invested wisely in *dhikr* sending salutations upon Nabī ﷺ.
- ✓ Morning and evening 'adhkār.
- ✓ Daily *sūrahs*.
- ✓ *Ṭawāf*

SET GOALS & A TIMETABLE

- During your stay in Makkah, perform as many *ṭawāf* as possible.
- This is because in Makkah there is no *nafl* *‘ibādah* more virtuous than *ṭawāf*.
- You can perform all other *nafl* *‘ibādah* in your hometown, but *ṭawāf* can only be performed in Makkah.
- This is why the *fuqahā’* have mentioned that *nafl* *ṭawāf* is more virtuous than *nafl* *ṣalāh*.
- To ensure that you perform a reasonable number of *ṭawāf*, set yourself a target. Not setting a target usually results in the performance of only a minimal number of *ṭawāf*.

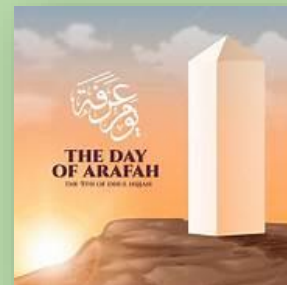
DRINK LOTS OF ZAMZAM WATER

- **Drink as much ZamZam as you can.**
- **Choose this as a drink over any other drink.**
- **Coolers can be found inside the Ḥaramayn.**
- **Keep small water bottles in your bag to fill up every time you go to the Haram and bring it back to your room.**
- **The coolers and water stations found outside of Masjid An-Nabawī are not ZamZam.**
- **The coolers inside of Masjid An-Nabawī are ZamZam.**



THE DAY OF 'ARAFAH

- According to your health, time, circumstances and ability, you should carry out as much *'ibādah* as you can in 'Arafah.
- If nothing else, continue to recite the fourth *kalimah* and *ṣalāt 'alan-nabī*.
- However, from the time you set foot on the plain of 'Arafah until the time you depart, try your utmost to ensure that you commit no act of sin.
- Through this course of action you will be successful in making the most out of the day of 'Arafah, *inshā'Allāh*.



IN MUZDALIFAH

- Moving from ‘Arafah to Muzdalifah and from Muzdalifah to Minā can sometimes be very difficult.
- This is because every *ḥājī* is trying to do the same thing at the same time.
- You may get stuck in traffic or your allocated bus may arrive late.
- Shayṭān takes advantage of this situation and we see *ḥujjāj* immediately lose all they have gained in ‘Arafah as they get involved in fights and arguments at this stage.

IN MUZDALIFAH

- You should remember that everything is in the hands of Allāh.
- Just think, if anything was in the hands of your coach driver or group leader, would they just sit in traffic jams doing nothing?
- So, exercise patience and abstain from losing your temper.
- It is mentioned by some ‘*ulamā*’ that the night of Muzdalifah is more virtuous than the Night of Qadr.
- Therefore, value this night and try to perform as much ‘*ibādah*’ as you can. You should also spend some time sleeping, as this is a sunnah of our beloved Prophet ﷺ.

IN MADĪNAH

- Study the Sīrah of the Prophet ﷺ before going to Madīnah Munawwarah.
- Through this, love for Rasūlullāh ﷺ will increase and the reality and awe of his great personality will be created in your heart.
- Aim to send as much *'ithāl thawāb* to Rasūlullāh ﷺ as you can before you reach Madīnah.
- If you are travelling from Makkah then perform an *'umrah/ṭawāf* on behalf of Rasūlullāh ﷺ.
- If you are travelling to Madīnah first, then send *thawāb* by reciting the Qur'ān or by giving *ṣadaqah*.

ABUNDANT ṢALAWĀT IN MADĪNAH

- Fix a target number of ṣalāt ‘alan-nabī to be recited during your journey to Madīnah, and stick to it.
- If you do not fix a target, Shayṭān will mislead you into thinking that you have recited ṣalāt ‘alan-nabī many times.
- Recite *durūd* when walking to the *maṣjid*, whilst waiting in lines, etc.
- Try to recite the Ṣalāt & Salām booklet at least once after every ṣalāh, and even more if possible.
- It is a compilation of those ṣalāt and salām that are narrated in the *aḥādīth*.

MADĪNAH: THE RAWḌAH

- When visiting Al-Masjid al-Nabawī, be conscious of the fact that Rasūlullāh ﷺ is there.
- When presenting our *salām*, our heart must be focused on Rasūlullāh ﷺ rather than recording the whole experience.
- Book your Rawḍah visit via the Nusuk app in advance.
- Do not mix up the Rawḍah permit with the *‘umrah* permit.
- Book it at a time convenient for you.
- Do not book at a *makrūh ṣalāh* time.



MADĪNAH: THE RAWḌAH

- In Madīnah, go to present *salām* to Rasūlullāh ﷺ as many times as circumstances allow and spend time in sending *ṣalāt* and *salām* to him.
- One may not always be able to go to the *Rawḍah*, but you can enter from Gate 21 and get close enough to where the blessed grave is.
- Also, you can go just outside of the grave, by the green dome and convey *salāms*.
- Convey *salām* on behalf of others as well.



RETURN AS A BETTER PERSON

- **For those who are fortunate to have been chosen to go, use it to become a better servant of Allāh.**
- **Immerse yourself in the sacred surroundings, be thankful and use this journey as a focal point in your life for positive change.**
- **When you return, encourage others to go and also fulfil their obligation.**
- **When they see you have changed for the better, *Inshā' Allāh* it will be encouragement for them as well.**

May Allāh accept the Ḥajj of all those who are going.



May He forgive the sins and mistakes of the pilgrims and give them the opportunity to please Him in the way He should be pleased.

May He give them an opportunity to return to His House and give all those who have not already been, an opportunity to also fulfil their obligation.



May Allāh, through the supplications of the pilgrims bring peace into the world and relieve the suffering of our brothers and sisters all around the world, especially in Palestine.

May Allāh protect the
Ḥaramayn Sharīfayn and Al-Masjid al-Aqṣā.

Āmīn.