



THE SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF ḤAJJ

The following points, summarised from a conversation that transpired between Imām Zain al-‘Ābidīn (‘a) and a pilgrim called al-Shiblī, should be borne in mind when performing the various stages of Ḥajj:

- **When entering Mīqāt:**
Your purpose is to have a spiritual encounter with Allah.
- **When removing your clothes before *ghusl* of *iḥrām*:**
You are removing the clothes of sin and will put on the clothes of obedience; you are removing showmanship and hypocrisy

from yourself, and will not engage in mistaken beliefs.

- **When performing *ghusl* of *iḥrām*:**
You are washing off your mistakes and sins and are being cleansed by the light of sincere repentance to Allah.
- **When putting on the *iḥrām*:**
You are forbidding for yourself all that Allah has forbidden.
- **When saying the *talbiyah*:**
You are saying it for the sake of Allah, in perfect obedience, and are refraining from sin.
- **When offering the two *raka‘h* prayer of *iḥrām*:**
You are seeking to get close to Allah by means of the best of actions, i.e. *ṣalāh*.
- **When entering the Ḥaram:**
You will not backbite any Muslim.
- **When reaching Makkah:**
Your purpose is to seek closeness to Allah.

- **When giving your hand to the Black Stone:**

It is as if you are giving your hand (in allegiance) to Allah and this is made invalid by committing sin.

- **When standing at Maqām al-Ibrāhīm:**
You will perform every act of obedience and are turning your back on all sins.
- **When offering two *raka‘h* prayers at Maqām al-Ibrāhīm:**
You are praying the prayer of Ḥ. Ibrāhīm (‘a) and are defeating Shaiṭān.
- **When going to the well of Zam Zam:**
You are embarking upon the path of obedience and are closing your eyes from sin.
- **When performing *sa‘ī*:**
You are escaping to Allah and He knows this about you, and you are between hope and fear.

- **When stopping at ‘Arafah:**
You have the recognition of Allah’s knowledge of everything and know that He has possession of your Book of Deeds and that He knows the secrets of your inner self and heart.
- **When at Muzdalifah (Mash‘ar al-Ḥarām):**
You are removing all sin and ignorance from yourself and will attain all the branches of knowledge and perform all good deeds; your heart has the realisation of the people of piety and fear of Allah.
- **When leaving for Minā:**
You will keep people safe from your tongue, heart and hands.
- **When reaching Minā and throwing stones at the Jamarāt:**
You have achieved your purpose and Allah has fulfilled all your wishes for you; you are throwing at your enemy Iblīs and are angering him by completing your Ḥajj.

- **When slaughtering the sacrificial animal:**
You are cutting the throat of greed by adhering to the reality of piety and you are following the tradition of Ḥ. Ibrāhīm (‘a).
- **When having your head shaved:**
You are purifying yourself from all dirt and the consequences of transgression upon others and you have left all sins behind; you are just as you were when you were born.
- **When offering two *raka’h* prayers at Masjid al-Khīf:**
You only fear Allah and your sins and you have hope only in the mercy of Allah.
- **When returning to Makkah and performing the final *ṭawāf*:**
You are proceeding from the mercy of Allah and are returning to His obedience; you are adhering to His love, performing His obligations and are getting close to Him.

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF ḤAJJ

A Pocket-sized Version of
Imām Zain al-‘Ābidīn’s (‘a)
Discourse on Ḥajj with Shibli

Prepared by
Mohammed Ali Ismail