

Epilogue – Poem by Naser Khosrow

The pilgrims returned with reverence. They were thankful to the Merciful God.
On their way to Mecca from Arafat, They repeatedly said "Labbaika" with great respect.
While tired of experiencing the hardships of the desert of the rejoiced that they are saved from the torture and the fire.

They have performed the Hajj and completed the Umra. Now, they safely return to their homelands.
I took time to go and welcome them back, although men of my class did not normally do this. But among the crowd of this caravan, I had a dear and very sincere friend.

I asked him how he accomplished this very difficult and fearful trip?
I informed him that since he had departed and left me alone all I could feel was regret and sadness.
Now, I am happy that you performed the Hajj, and you are the only Hajji in our homeland.

Now, tell me, how was your performance? How did you respect that holy territory?
When you were about to remove your clothes and wear the Ihram what was your "intention" during those exciting moments?

Did you absolutely avoid all the things that must be avoided and whatever is inferior to Almighty Allah?
He replied NO!

I asked him: If he said "labbaika" With full knowledge and great respect? If he heard the command of Allah? Or, if he obeyed as Ibrahim did?
He replied NO!

I asked him: While he was in Arafat, while he stood so close to Almighty God, Did he have a chance to know Him? Was he not eager to learn a bit of the knowledge?
He replied NO!

I asked him: When he entered the Kaaba As the family of "Kahf and Raquim" had done, did he deny his self-centeredness? Did he fear the punishment of the hereafter?
He replied NO!

I asked him: When he shot the idols, did he think of them as evil? Did he then avoid wrong deeds?

He replied NO!

I asked him: When he offered the sacrifice, to feed a hungry person or an orphan, did he first think of Allah? And, did he then kill his selfishness?

He replied NO!

I asked him: When he stood in Ibrahim's position, did he rely absolutely on God? Sincerely and with strong faith?

He said NO!

I asked him: While he circumambulated, When he made the Tawaf of Kaaba, Was he reminded of all the angels, Who constantly circumambulate this world?

He said No!

I asked him: During his Sa'y, While he was running between Safa and Marwa. Was he sanctified and purified?

He said NO!

I asked him: Now that he had returned from Mecca, and felt home-sick for the Kaaba, did he bury his "self" there? Was he impatient to go back?

He said NO!

"Of whatever you have asked me so far, I have understood nothing!!!"

I said: Oh friend, you have not performed the Hajj! And, you have not obeyed God!

You went to Mecca and visited the Kaaba! You spent your money to buy the hardships of the desert!

If you do decide to go to Hajj again, try to perform it as I have instructed you!

Source URL: <https://www.al-islam.org/hajj-pilgrimage-dr-ali-shariati/epilogue-poem-naser-khosrow>