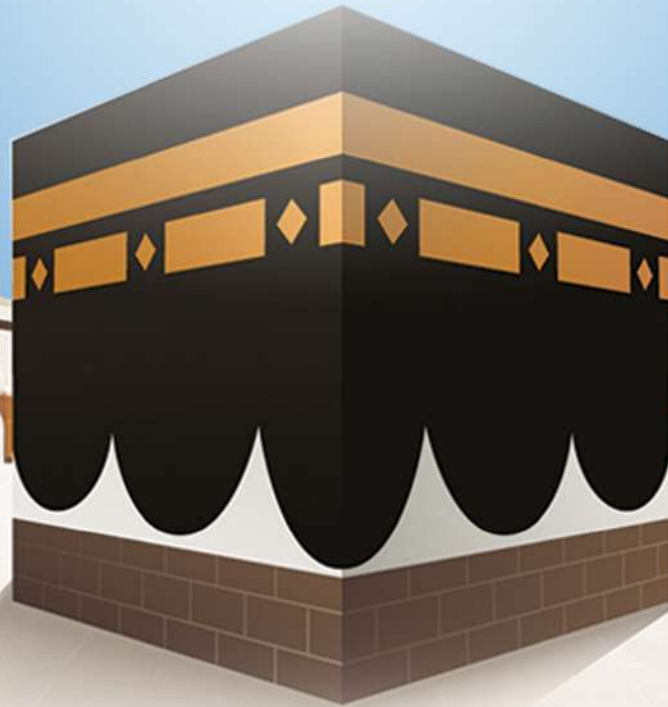




HAJJ

PILGRIMAGE



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Law Students' Muslim Majlis
20/21

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WHAT IS HAJJ?

There are 2 kinds of pilgrimages that a Muslim would perform; Hajj and Umrah. Hajj is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that Muslims have to make at least once in their lifetime. The Arabic Word Hajj means 'to intend the journey'. It is the fifth pillar of Islam and is an important act of worship that lasts between the days, 8th - 12th of Dhul-Hajj, the 12th month of the Lunar calendar.

Each year, 2 - 3 million Muslims from different parts of the world gather at **Ka'bah**¹ in Mecca to perform the pilgrimage of Hajj which is described as the largest single gathering of people. It is mandatory for all Muslim adults to perform Hajj and in order to do so, they should be of sound mind and be financially capable to take part in this journey.

Hajj is a journey inspired by piety and devotion to Allah. In this quest, the individual is strengthened by the knowledge that thousands of human beings from all over the world, regardless of their worldly status, language or race, come together to worship Allah.

'A person who performs Hajj would have all his sins forgiven and would be as pure as a newborn baby'. (Buhary)

The main objective of Hajj is to get closer to Allah (SWT). Pilgrims keep the intention of performing Hajj to please Allah and they perform all the rituals keeping only God in mind. Hajj also promotes brotherhood among the Muslim Ummah as millions of Muslim men and women leave their differences aside to gather at one place and engage in worship wholeheartedly in obedience to Allah. Purification of the soul is another important objective of a pilgrim embarking on this spiritual journey. A pilgrim aims to seek forgiveness for his sins from Allah as well as to purify his mind and soul.



¹ Ka'bah - A cube shaped building which is the direction for prayer for all muslims.



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DAY 1

8TH OF DHUL HAJJ

Muslims who arrive prior to the pilgrimage period can also perform Umrah before beginning their Hajj journey. When entering Mecca, Pilgrims would have to keep their intention; the intention to perform Hajj for the sake of Allah alone. Following this, they would enter into a state of purity (Ihram) and perform the acts of **Tawaf**² and **Sa'i**³. Once this is complete, pilgrims will leave the state of purity and rest till the 8th of Dhul Hajj.

The 8th of Dhul Hajj marks the first day of the Hajj Pilgrimage. On this day, the pilgrims would have a bath, apply Attar, keep the Niyath (intention) and enter the state of Ihram. Ihram refers to the state of purity. When entering into this state, men are obligated to wear garments consisting of two white sheets wrapped around the body, and sandals. Apart from purity, this symbolizes unity and equality among the Muslims. The clothing requirements for women in Ihram are less strict, they usually dress in thick and plain clothing, leaving only their faces and hands uncovered. There are certain acts that should be avoided during this state of purity. They are - smoking, swearing, shaving, clipping nails, having sexual relations etc.

After entering Ihram, pilgrims will then start their journey to **Mina**⁴ while reciting the '**Talbiyah**'⁵. After reaching Mina, Pilgrims will then stay in tents and offer Luhr, Asr, Maghrib, Isha and Fajr Salats. The stay in Mina is an important period for self reflection and devotion.



² **Tawaf** - act of walking around the Ka'bah 7 times in an anticlockwise direction

³ **Sa'i** - It is the devotional act of walking seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwa. This tradition began when Hajar, wife of Ibrahim (AS) ran between the two hills in search of water for her son Ismail (AS).

⁴ **Mina** - a valley six kilometres east of the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca.

⁵ **The Talbiyah** - is a prayer that is recited as a conviction that they intend to perform Hajj only for the glory of Allah. [Labbayka Allāhumma labbayk. Labbayk lā shareeka laka labbayk. Inna al-ḥamda wa n-ʿimata. Laka wal mulk. Lā shareeka lak which means "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."]



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DAY 2

9TH OF DHUL HAJJ

On the ninth day of the month of Dhul Hajj, after the Morning prayer, the pilgrims would make their way to the plains of **Arafah**⁶ while reciting **Istighfar**⁷ and making supplications. After reaching the plains of Mount Arafah, they would observe Luhr (afternoon prayer) and Asr (evening prayer) by combining and shortening them to 2 rakats.

On this day, a sermon would be delivered from the Masjid Al-Nimra which is located on Mount Arafah. The day of Arafah is one of the most important days for the Muslim Ummah. The Surah al - Maidah in the Holy Quran refers to the day of Arafah as the day on which Allah perfected the religion of Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said :

“There is no day on which Allah frees people from the Fire more so than on the day of Arafah. He comes close to those (people standing on Arafah), and then He reveals before His Angels saying,"What are these people seeking" (Muslim).

After sunset, the Hajj pilgrims will then start travelling to Muzdalifah, an open plain between Mina and Arafat. After performing Maghrib (late evening prayer) and Isha (night prayer) there, they would stay up all night to pray and reflect.



⁶Arafah - vast desert plain located about 12km SouthEast of the Ka'bah

⁷Istighfar - act of seeking forgiveness from Allah

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DAY 3

10TH OF DHUL HAJJ

The 10th day of Dhul Hajj is also known as Yawm-al-Nahr or the Day of Sacrifice. On Day 3, after performing the morning prayer, the pilgrims will start moving to Mina while continuously reciting the Talbiyah. After the afternoon prayer, the pilgrims will then leave Mina and make their way towards Jamarat al - Aqaba (the big pillar) where they will throw 7 pebbles while reciting the **Takbir**⁸ upon each throw. This is known as the act of 'Rami al - Jamarat' or 'the stoning of the devil'. Apart from the rami Al jamarat ritual, Pilgrims will also take part in sacrificing an animal on this day.

Following this, the pilgrims will proceed to shave their heads (for men) or trim their hair (for ladies). After leaving the state of Ihram, they will now start heading towards Makkah to perform 'Tawaf' and 'Sa'i' which are obligatory Hajj rituals. If these two acts are not performed, the Hajj would be considered void. After completion of the Tawaf and the Sa'i, the pilgrims of Hajj would be allowed to engage in all the acts which were lawful before observing Ihram. They will return to Mina to complete the remaining Hajj rituals.

The Muslims who are not part of the Hajj pilgrimage would celebrate Eid -ul-Adha or the festival of sacrifice all around the world.



⁸Takbir - It is the arabic phrase 'Allahu Akbar' meaning 'God is the greatest'.

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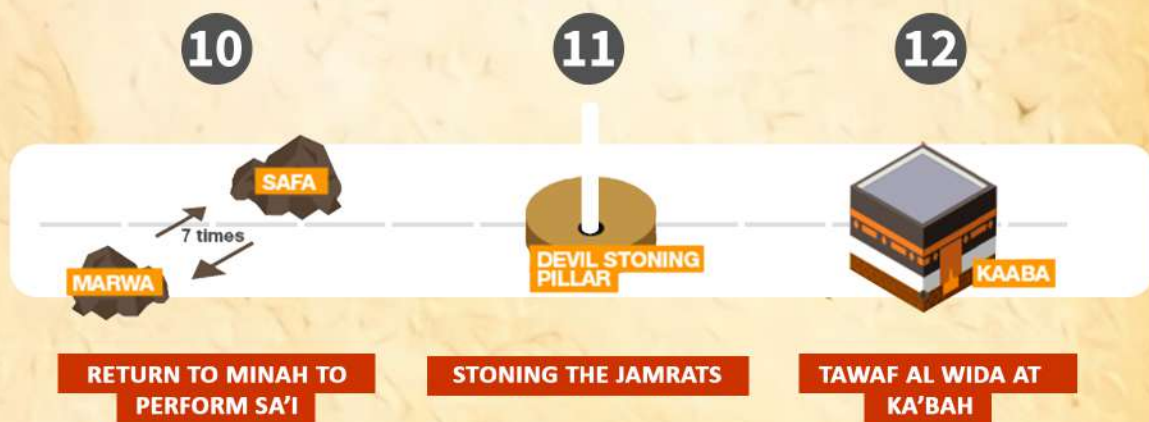
DAY 4 & 5

11TH AND 12TH OF DHUL HAJJ

The 11th and 12th of Dhul Hajj also known as 'Ayyamul Tashreeq' are the final two days where the Hajj pilgrims would return to Mina to complete the last of their rituals.

After Luhr (afternoon prayer) on the 11th of Dhul Hajj, the throwing of stones on the three Jamrats will take place. Pilgrims will begin throwing seven consecutive pebbles while reciting the Takbir starting with the first pillar which is known as Jamarah al - Ula (the small pillar), then Jamarah Al - Wusta (the middle pillar) and finally at the Jamarah - al- Aqaba (the big pillar). This act is performed as a symbolic reenactment of the Hajj performed by Prophet Ibrahim (AS) where he threw pebbles at three pillars representing the temptation to disobey God. This ritual will be performed on the 12th of Dhul Hajj as well. The pilgrims who were unable to perform Tawaf or Sa'i on the 10th could go to the Ka'bah and complete the two acts on this day.

Finally, before leaving Makkah, the pilgrims will perform one last Tawaf known as Tawaf al Wida (the farewell tawaf). Here too, 7 rounds around the Ka'bah will be completed followed by two rakats of prayer. With this, the pilgrimage of Hajj is complete!



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EID - UL - ADHA

(THE FESTIVAL OF SACRIFICE)

There are two main festivals celebrated by Muslims. They are the Eid ul Fitr and the Eid Ul Adha. While the Eid Ul Fitr signifies the completion of the month of Ramadan, Eid Ul Adha is held to commemorate the end of the pilgrimage of Hajj.

The day of Eid ul Adha falls on the 10th day of the month of Dhul Hajj, the last month of the Islamic Lunar calendar. The day that celebrations will take place will depend on the sighting of the crescent moon, following the completion of the Pilgrimage of Hajj which is mandatory for all Muslims who fit into a specific criteria.

This festival is celebrated by Muslims worldwide in remembrance of Prophet Ibrahim (AS)'s devotion to Allah which could be seen in his readiness to sacrifice his own son, Ismail (AS) on the orders of Allah. At the point of sacrifice, Allah replaced Ismail (AS) with a ram and Ibrahim (AS) then sacrificed the ram. This command to sacrifice his own son was a test to see how much Prophet Ibrahim (AS) was willing to obey his Lord's command, without question. This is why the festival is called the festival of sacrifice.

The celebrations of Eid can last between two to four days depending on the country. The festival begins with Muslims offering the Eid prayers which is performed in congregation followed by the Qurbani or slaughtering of an animal as a sacrifice in remembrance of the Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice for his Lord. The animal should be healthy, of a certain age and should be sacrificed in a halal manner which will cause minimal pain to the animal. The meat will then be divided into thirds and distributed to family, friends and the needy.

Traditionally, the rest of Eid will be celebrated visiting relatives and friends, exchanging gifts, wearing new attire and giving charity.

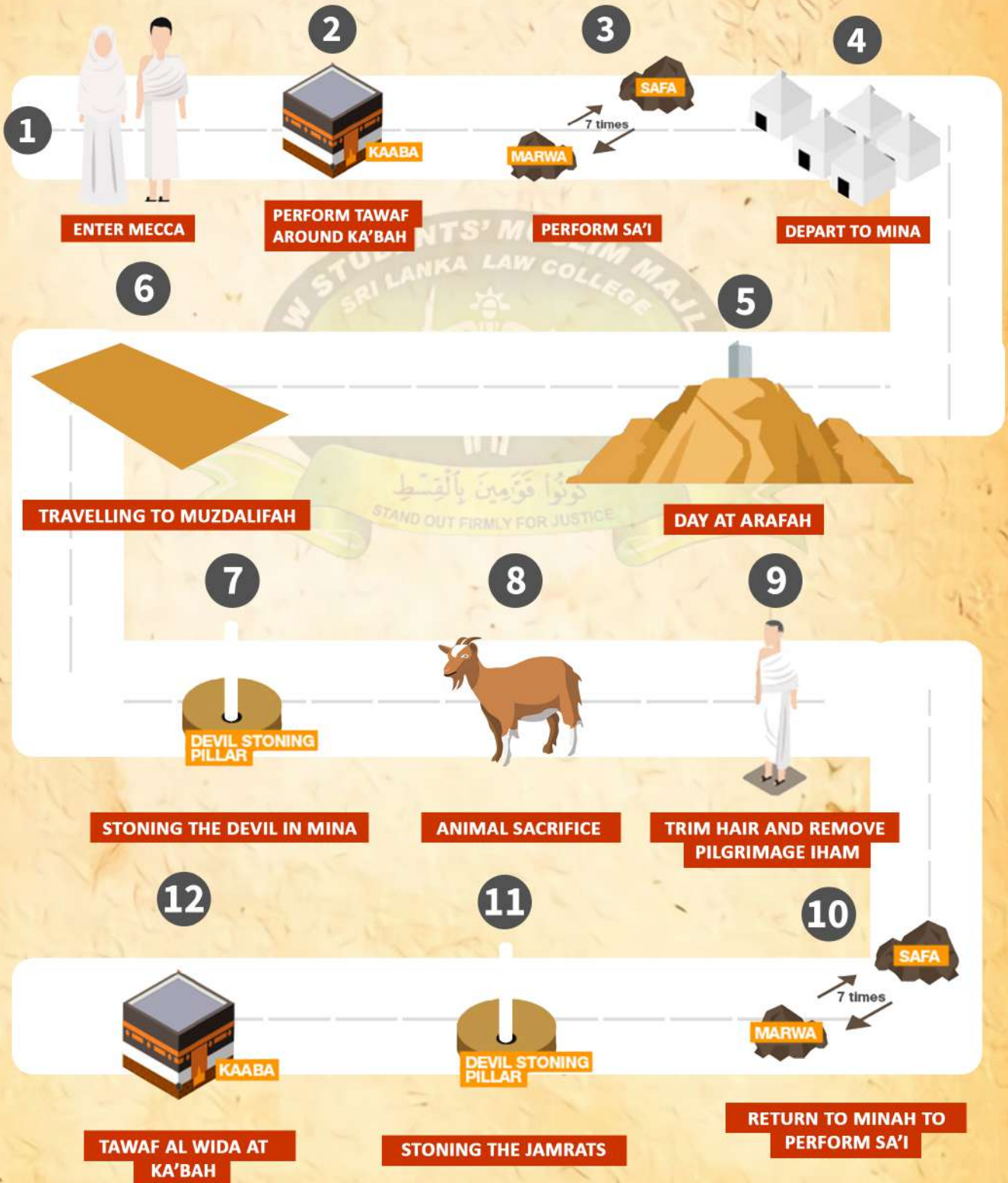


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TIMELINE



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IMAGE GALLERY

Thousands of Hajj Pilgrims getting ready to perform Tawaf

- circling around the Ka'bah in an anticlockwise direction.



Pilgrims dressed in the Ihram performing the Sa'i



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IMAGE GALLERY

The Valley of Mina, also known as the 'City of tents'.



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IMAGE GALLERY

Gathering on the Plains of Arafah



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IMAGE GALLERY

Spending the night in Muzdalifah



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IMAGE GALLERY

Stoning the devil or Rami - al - Jamarat



A pilgrim getting his head shaved on Day 3 of the pilgrimage



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IMAGE GALLERY

Beautiful images taken during the Hajj pilgrimage

