

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ أَمَرَ عِبَادَهُ بِذِكْرِهِ وَوَعَدَهُمْ بِعَظِيمِ فَضْلِهِ  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ يُقْبَلُ التَّائِبِينَ وَيُعْطِي  
السَّائِلِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ سَيِّدُ الْبَشَرِ  
خَيْرٌ مَنْ ذَكَرَ رَبَّهُ وَشَكَرَ وَحَجَّ الْبَيْتَ وَاعْتَمَرَ فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ  
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَعَلَى مَنْ  
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. He commands His servants to remember Him and promises them abundant rewards. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah. He accepts those who repent to Him and gives those who supplicate to Him.

I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the servant of Allah and His Messenger, the best of mankind. He was the best who worshipped his Creator and performed Hajj and Umrah. May peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

وَأَتِمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ

“And complete the Hajj and umrah for Allah” (2:196)

الْعُمْرَةُ إِلَى الْعُمْرَةِ كَفَّارَةٌ لِمَا بَيْنَهُمَا وَالْحَجُّ الْمَبْرُورُ لَيْسَ لَهُ جَزَاءٌ إِلَّا الْجَنَّةُ

“From one 'Umrah to another is an expiation for what comes in between, and Hajj al-Mabrur brings no reward less than Paradise" (An-Nisai)

- We are in the blessed and special month of Dhul Hijjah, a month whose days are greater than Jihad and nights greater than the night of Qadr.
- Millions in Makkah who have embarked on life changing journey of hajj
- In the hustle and bustle of millions, Islam exemplifies the pinnacle of equality, acceptance, tolerance, love, and patience. Where pauper, king, famous and unknowns, men and women, are all donned in one cloth before Allah chanting Labayk – “ O Allah here I am”
- Not a single ant, fly, branch or living thing which exists can be harmed, a lesson to all humanity of the real nature of Islam and Muslims
- The ultimate goal for everyone there is to have an accepted Hajj
- We learn lessons of sacrifice, submission and peace. To sacrifice the most precious things to us to get closer to Allah – no child/wealth or material should prevent us from getting closer to Allah

- All of the lessons above Hajj relate to our behaviour, akhlaak and adaab. However many of the lessons of Hajj actually relate to our Beliefs and correct Aqeeda.
- Hajj is about Waseelah. Waseelah means a connection, to the people, the actions, objects or things that draw us closer to Allah.
- Imam al-Qurtubi – states “al Waseelahtu, hiyal qurbah” Waseelah is closeness/proximity
- Ibn Manzur, the author of the biggest Arabic dictionary states in Lisan al-Arab “al Waseelahtu fil asli ma watawassalu bihi ilash shay - Waseelah is something that brings you closer to something else.
- Waseelah is a means to an end, towards the ultimate goal and destination, which is Allah and His pleasure.
- Our Iman is Waseelah bring us closer to Allah. Salah is a Waseelah to get closer to Allah.
- Having Sabr patience is also a Waseelah, good actions is Waseelah – closer to Allah, even refraining from bad actions is a Waseelah to get closer to Allah.
- All Muslims must believe in Waseelah, for those who reject it are rejecting the Qur’an.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ وَجَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

O you who have believed, fear Allah and seek the means [of nearness] to Him and strive in His cause that you may succeed. (5:35)

- Allah is our Murad, and our worship is solely devoted and directed to Him, but Allah himself says draw closer to me via my places, my people and their actions.
- A person goes to Hajj, you draw closer to Allah, you don't meet, see or hear Allah. You go to His house, called Baytullah, but Allah doesn't live there, the Ka'bah is Waseelah of Allah, which gives you the feeling of safety and comfort.
- People wait hours to kiss the stone, the pleasure, relief and serenity which is achieved is indescribable, but that isn't Allah, nor His hand; the black stone is the Waseelah which gives you love and intimacy.
- Zam Zam provides relief both spiritually and physically, but it's only a Waseelah of Allah which gives you a special strong feeling towards Allah's Mercy.
- Even the Tasmiyah - Bismillah - is a Waseelah – a means to get closer to Allah
- You are not asking Allah to help you, you say in the [Name of Allah](#). You are gaining proximity and Barakah from His Name.
- Nuh himself reminds us "And [Noah] said, "Embark therein; in the name of Allah is its course and its anchorage" (11:41)
- Hajj is a reminder of us needing those Waseelahs that Allah has placed for us to get closer to Him.
- So we seek Waseelah from the Ka'bah, through Safa and Marwah, Arafah, Mina, Muzdalifa, Maqam Ibrahim and when visiting His Habib. These are the means to Allah's acceptance, forgiveness, love, mercy and success.