

SHAHADAH, we repeat many times a day. **SALAH** at least 5x a day. **SAWM** 30x each year & sometimes each week/month. **ZAKAH** each year & voluntary Sadaqah. As for **HAJJ**, it's an act of worship that only requires **three days** or so in a **lifetime**. Never needs to be repeated again, but it is still a **PILLAR**. Hajj is a powerful pillar with secrets, depths, lessons and life-changing properties.

A Powerful Reminder Of The Day Of Reckoning

Surah 22 is Al-Hajj, the first ayah seemingly has nothing to do with Hajj

“O mankind, fear your Lord. Indeed, the earthquake of the [final] Hour is a terrible thing. The Day you shall see it, every nursing mother will forget her nursling, and every pregnant one will drop her load, and you shall see mankind as in a drunken state, yet they will not be drunken, but severe will be the Torment of Allah.” (22:1-2)

1st Ayah addressing the Day of Reckoning is an indication that there is a link between the two. The forgetfulness of this Day is the mother of all sins, similarly, the remembrance of it is the mother of all repentance.

(1) The beginnings of both - Hajj began with a call which Ibrahim was instructed to make after he raised the foundations of the Ka'ba

“And proclaim to the people the Hajj” (22:27) وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ

Ibrahim عليه السلام ascended mount Abu Qubais calling out “O people, Allah has commanded you to perform Hajj, so do so”, Similarly, the day of reckoning shall begin with a call. **وَنُفِخَ فِي الصُّورِ فَإِذَا هُمْ مِنَ الْأَجْدَاثِ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَنْسِلُونَ**

“And the Trumpet will be blown (i.e. the second blowing) and behold from the graves they will come out quickly to their Lord.”(36:51)

(2) The farewells of both - Before the pilgrim departs for Hajj, he bids his family farewell, asks for forgiveness, repays his debts and writes a will. It really is as if the pilgrim is making his way to the Home of Hereafter.

(3) The nudity of both - Two pieces of Ihram fabric will be their attire for 3 days, the Ihram & the Kafan are the same. The partial nudity of Hajj really is a reminder of the day of absolute nudity, the Day of Reckoning.

“People will be resurrected barefoot, unclothed and uncircumcised. I (‘Aisha) said: ‘O Messenger of Allah, will the men and women not look at one another?’ He said: ‘O ‘Aisha, the matter on that day will be too severe for anyone to care about this.’” (Bukhari)

(4) The ambience of both - The crowds of Hajj, the cramming, the stress, the yelling is a reminder of why the Day of Reckoning is called *Yawm al-Hashr*—The Day of Cramming; The Day of Calling; The Day of Meeting.

يَوْمَئِذٍ يَتَّبِعُونَ الدَّاعِيَ لَا عِوَجَ لَهُ وَخَشَعَتِ الْأَصْوَاتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ فَلَا تَسْمَعُ إِلَّا هَمْسًا

That Day, everyone will follow [the call of] the Caller [with] no deviation therefrom, and [all] voices will be stilled before the Most Merciful, so you will not hear except a whisper [of footsteps]. (20:108)

(5) The perspiration of both - Hajj amazes you at how much your body can sweat without shrivelling up like a prune.

يَعْرِقُ النَّاسُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ حَتَّى يَذْهَبَ عَرْقُهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ سَبْعِينَ ذِرَاعًا ، وَيُلْجِمُهُمْ حَتَّى يَبْلُغَ آذَانَهُمْ

“People will sweat on the Day of Judgement till their perspiration enters into the soil a distance of 70 arms’ lengths, and will rise till it submerges them, reaching their ears.”(Bukhari)

(6) The sleep and awakening of both - On the night of Muzdalifa, you sleep with the stars above you, the soil beneath you, and two basic garments just about covering you, much like your grave. You rise in a dishevelled, rough and dusty state, similar to your eventual emergence from your grave on the Day of Reckoning. Then, you leave Muzdalifa along with millions of others, moving in one direction, just as you shall be made to move on the Day of Reckoning towards Allah ﷻ.

(7) The transition of both - Despite the few days of Hajj, the amount of transition from place to place is amazing. Mina to 'Arafah to Muzdalifa to the Jamarat, to Qurbani, to shaving of the hair, to Makkah for Tawaf to Mina, then to the Jamarat, then back to Makkah for the farewell Tawaf. **Soul, Birth, Life, Death, Grave, Resurrection, Gathering, Intercession, Judgement, Receiving of books, Scales, Bridge – Paradise/Hell.**

(8) The outcome of both - The excitement of the pilgrims upon their return is inexplicable. A life of purity, forgiveness and hope. Family and friends congratulate them by saying **Maa'Shaa'Allah, Alhamdulillah.** Likewise, when the horrors of the Day of Reckoning come to an end and the believers finally rest in paradise, all that will be heard - **Alhamdulillah**

“And you will see the angels surrounding the Throne, glorifying the praises of their Lord, and it will be judged between them in truth, and it will be said, ‘All praise is to Allah, Lord of the worlds.’” (39:75)

Hajj means *Qasd/Aim*. Therefore, the pilgrim knows where he is going, what he is going to do and what he wants from it by the end. Hajj is an exercise in Sabr, where you are challenged in every way, adapting to situations. **PREPARING FOR HAJJ PREPARES YOU FOR YOUR HEREAFTER.**