Overview

• Introduction of Hajj
• Abrahamic Roots
• Important Places and Rituals of Hajj
• Significance of Hajj
Introduction of Hajj
5th Pillar

1. Shahadah – testifying to creed
2. Salat – offering daily prayers
3. Zakat – paying charity
4. Sawm – fasting in Ramadan
5. Hajj – making pilgrimage
What is Hajj

• The Arabic word Hajj literally means "to continuously strive to reach one's goal".

• In Islamic terminology, Hajj refers to the annual pilgrimage that Muslims embark on, to Mecca, with the intention of visiting holy places and performing certain religious rites in accordance with the way prescribed by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).
What is Hajj

• Hajj must be performed once in lifetime for those who are financially and health wise able to do it.

• Hajj, or the Pilgrimage, consists of visiting a number of sacred places such as Ka’bah, Mt Arafat and performing specific rites during the period from the 8th to 13th Zul-Hijjah, the twelfth month of the Islamic Calendar.
Hajj in the Quran

“Verily, the first house (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Mekkah), full of blessing, and a guidance for His creatures. In it, are manifest signs, the Station of Abraham; whoever enters it attains security. And Pilgrimage to the house (Ka’bah) is a duty mankind owes to God, those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, God stands not in need of any of His creatures.

(Qur’an, 3:96-97)
Hajj in the Hadith

• Prophet Muhammad said: “Whoever performs Hajj to this house — Ka’bah — and does not commit any obscenity and wrongdoing, he, or she, will come out as the day he, or she, was born — pure and free from sins.”
Abrahamic Roots
Hajj is Abrahamic

• Abraham was an exemplar model for monotheism and a mentor for all believers in One God. His faith and submission to One God was equal to the faith of a whole nation as described in the Holy Qur’an.

• Hence, it is not a surprise that most of the Hajj rites are Abrahamic.
The Story of Abraham

- Abraham had two wives, Sarah, the mother of Isaac and Hagar the mother of Ishmael.
- When Ishmael was a baby, Abraham took his wife Hagar with Ishmael to Mecca at a time when it was an arid place. This was a command from God for which he acted without hesitation because he had trust in his Lord. His wife Hagar fully submitted to God’s command due to her strong faith and agreed to migrate to Mecca and live there alone with her son.
The Story of Abraham

• Initially, it was very difficult for Hagar in Mecca; at the time Mecca as a city did not exist. It was part of a valley called Bekka. When Hagar ran out of water and her son cried because of thirst, she walked and ran scanning the whole area searching for water.

• The sa’y commemorates Hagar’s frantic search for water to quench Ishmael's thirst. She ran back and forth seven times between two rocky hillocks, Safa and Marwa.

• Hagar kept searching until she found the sacred water known as zamzam.

• This water sprang forth miraculously under Ishmael's tiny feet.
Important Places and Rituals of Hajj
Important Landmarks

• The Sacred Mosque

  • The Sacred Mosque is located in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, and is the holiest mosque in the world. It is the primary destination of the Hajj pilgrimage

  • The Sacred Mosque is the only mosque that has no qibla direction, since Muslims pray facing the Ka'bah in the central courtyard.
Important Landmarks

• Kabah

• Muslims believe that the Ka’bah was the first place of worship built by the first human and the first prophet, Adam. It was later rebuilt on the same foundations by Abraham and his son Ishmael and declared as a shrine dedicated to monotheism. Abraham called on people to make pilgrimage to the site.
Important Landmarks

• Black Stone

  • The Black Stone set on the outside of one corner of Ka’bah.
  • The Black Stone was put there by Prophet Abraham and Ishmael by the order of God, and the purpose of it was to indicate the beginning of circling the Ka’bah.
Hajj has a number of important rituals associated with it, including:

- **Obligatory**
  - Arafah
  - *Tawaf (Circumambulating*)
Rituals of Hajj

• These acts although not obligatory, still need to be fulfilled to complete one's Hajj:
  • Putting on ihram, the two pieced cloth
  • A fast walk between Safa and Marwa near Ka’bah
  • Visiting and staying at Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifa
  • Throwing pebbles at three fixed places in Mina
  • Shaving or trimming hair
  • Sacrifice of an animal which is distributed to the poor
Ihraam

• Making the intention to enter a spiritual status (religious purity with some restrictions). This is the first compulsory act to start performing the rites of Hajj.

• Through the ihraam a pilgrim develops an acute sense of equality of human beings in practice.

• It simulates the Day of Judgment when masses gather in one place wearing only a two-piece white garment without any stitches.
The Practice of Tawaf

- Pilgrims glorify God by going around the Ka’bah, as though saying ‘just as we are circling the one and only Ka’bah, the oldest place of worship on earth, we only obey you the Absolute One worthy of worship.’
The Practice of Tawaf

- A common act in the universe is that all entities orbit around a central point. While electrons orbit the nucleus in an atom, the earth and planets orbit the sun. The solar system orbits the centre of the Milky Way and so on. Muslims join in this cosmic mode of worship and synchronize with the universe and all existence by circling the Ka’bah.
Circumambulating the Ka’bah (Tawaf)
7 times
Sa’y

• At Hajj, pilgrims walk the same distance Hagar did thousands of years ago. This Hajj rite is called Sa’y.

• Sa’y consists of 7 laps (with a total distance of 2.76km). It starts from Safa and finishes at Marwa.
3 locations for stoning

Greater Jamarah
Pilgrimage Routes and Dates

Coming from Mecca or Madinah

Mecca → Mina → Muzdalifah → Arafat

9th “night” - 10th “Fajr”

10th - 13th
ARAFAT is the heart of Hajj rites

The common way to do Hajj:
Start by Umrah

Umrah  →  Stay in Mina  →  Before going to Arafat

ARAFAT

Stay in Muzdalifa

Mecca – Sacred Mosque

Ifadha Tawaf  →  Farewell Tawaf

Mina

Nahr Day  →  Tashreeq Days

Dates of Zoul Hijjah lunar month / not to scale

4th  8th  9th  10th  11th  12th  13th

Last day to enter Saudi for the purpose of Hajj

Hajj - Significant Practice in Islam

Eid Days
Significance of Hajj
Personal Significance of Hajj

- The individual hopes to become, by performing Hajj, a better person in this world and increase his prospects of reward in the Hereafter.
Universal Significance of Hajj

- Revolving around a central axis is a universal act of worship. Hence, Muslims circle Ka’bah.
Hajj is a form of collective worship, and a way of establishing a connection with the monotheism and its human legacy symbolised by Abraham and the first human Adam.

Muslims obey the call of God by turning up in millions at the time of pilgrimage. The central aims of worship, that is exalting, glorifying and praising God, occur individually and collectively.

According to Islamic tradition, Mt Arafat is the place where the first man, Adam and his partner Eve sincerely repented and received forgiveness for their mistake.
Hajj
Hajj in the context of other pillars

1. Shahadah – testifying to creed
   • Detaches one from finite and false masters

2. Salat – offering daily prayers
   • Detaches one from the worldly affairs

3. Zakat – paying charity
   • Detaches the worshipper from the pangs of material wealth

4. Sawm – fasting in Ramadan
   • Detaches the worshipper from the physical desires and emotional impulses

5. Hajj – making pilgrimage
   • Detachment from the load of sins and racism
Equality of all Human Beings

- Hajj enables a Muslim to realise the universality of Islam as he or she sees Muslims from all over the world, from all nationalities and races. A pilgrim develops an acute sense of equality of human beings in practice rather than just theory.
Developing Mental Strength

• Many mental skills such as determination, perseverance, patience and control of human will are exercised and developed in trying conditions of the Hajj. Leaving everything behind for a long period of time provides the effect of true recreation for the mind and the spirit.
Importance of Physical Fitness

- Physical benefits are not neglected in pilgrimage. Hajj is very much a physical event. Going around the Ka’bah seven times and fast walk between Safa and Marwah gives Muslims ample exercise and reminds them of the need to be physically fit and also the value of good health.
Hajj – Pilgrimage

• 5\textsuperscript{th} Pillar of Islam

• Deeply rooted in the Abrahamic Tradition

• Various acts within Hajj

• Hajj detaches one from load of sins and racism

• There are many benefits to Hajj, whether its individual or universal
Questions?
THANK YOU