

My Hajj Diary (1999)



Maqami Ibrah



Inside Masjidun Nabi



Ka'ba



Prayer tents



Wuqoof in Muzdalifa



Wuqoof in 'Arafa



Masjidun Nabi



Wuqoof in Mina



HAJJ

وَاللَّهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ حِجُّ الْبَيْتِ مَنِ اسْتَطَاعَ إِلَيْهِ سَبِيلًا

“It is the duty of all mankind to God, to come to the House, a pilgrim if he/she can make his/her way there...” **Qur’an – Suratul Ali Imran 3:96**

It is the month of Ramadhan, and we have just decided to go for Hajj this year, Insha Allah. All I know is that the organisers will see to all the travel and visa requirements. What do I do? This is a spiritual journey and I have no idea what is required. The little I learnt from Madrasa is vague and hazy. In this write up, I will take you through my quest for information.



PRE-REQUISITES THAT I HAD OVERLOOKED WAJIBAAT

1. Taqleed – Was I following a marja' and did I know the masai'ls of Hajj from his risala?
2. Khums – Was I up to date on my payments
3. Qir'at – Could I recite Arabic (especially the recitations of Salaa (namaz) with the correct makharij?

Obtaining a guide to the masai'ls from the World Federation (W.F.) solved the first pre-requisite. The next was easily rectified too but the third took a couple of weeks intensive lessons from a Qur'an teacher. I had not realised that I was not pronouncing the following letters correctly.

خ ذ ص ض ط ظ ع غ ق ه

ث ح

Refer to 'Al Islamu Deene – Book 4' produced by W.F.



MUSTAHABAAT

1. Will – The Prophet (pbuh) has said: *“It is not proper for a Muslim to pass two nights except that his/her will and testament is near his/her pillow.”*
2. Sadaqa
3. Duas to be recited before leaving home, on the plane.

DIARY

29TH Dhulqa’da

All prepared to go. I have packed everything. The sleeves of my ihram keep riding up. I have been shown a brilliant idea by a friend. Some white wrist bands from a sports shop have solved the problem. Although socks are not part of ihram, they are wajib for hijab therefore I have got some white cotton socks to wear when I am in ihram in the presence of non-mehrams.

I have phoned all the people I know and asked for forgiveness. I have also made a list of those who have asked me to pray for them. I shall do a tawaf for them all. I hope I will achieve the purpose of Hajj – closeness to Allah and fulfilling a wajibat. I pray He accepts my Hajj. The feeling of



being so near the roots of Islam makes me just wonder in awe. I'm still in a whirl and reality has still to hit me.

The niyya (intention) for Hajj must be Qurbatan Ilallah – In obedience of Allah and to seek His sole pleasure.

30th Dhulqa'da

Last minute packing and re-packing in between practising my makharij and talbiyya. I understand we will be going to Johfa to come *muhrim*. It is not permitted to enter Makka without being Muhrim – which means to wear Ihram and thus 25 things become Haram (Refer to the Hajj booklet produced by W.F.).

Johfa is approximately 100kms north of Jeddah. Some people go to Madina first and stop at Masjide Shajara to become muhrim. The places are known as Meeqat. One can also wear ihram by nadhr (Please refer to the masa'il of your marja' taqleed for further details).



1st Dhulhijja

5 a.m. I cannot sleep after Salatul Fajr. I am so excited I cannot contain myself. I have packed my ihram separately.

1 p.m. I've taken out sadaqa and recited a four rakaat salaah in two's like Salatul Fajr reciting Suratul Hamd and Suratul Tawheed in each rakaat. After salaah I recited the following dua:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَتَقَرَّبُ إِلَيْكَ بِهِنَّ فَاجْعَلُهُنَّ خَلِيفَتِي وَمَالِي

(For further duas refer to Rahnumma e Hujjaj by Syed Ali Abid Rizvi)

5.30 p.m. After a meal at mum's house we're in the airport accompanied by ALL. I'm panicking for I have forgotten the talbiyya. A quick peek at the Hajj booklet brings it all back.

6.30 p.m. We're in the departure lounge. I'm really going!!!

6.56 p.m. It's time for Salatul Maghrib. Pray salaah.

8.00 p.m. On board the plan. All around us there are people in ihram. I thought that I had memorised the dua for travelling but it's gone.



I've found it on a scrap of paper in my filofax –
Thank God!!!

Dua when boarding a means of transport

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا
هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرَبِينَ

In the name of Allah, and there is no power except with Allah. Praise be to Allah who make this (means of transport) subservient to us, and (we ourselves) could never have accomplished it.

1st Dhulhijja

4.30 a.m. (local time). We're an hour from Jeddah and everyone is reciting Talbiyya loudly. The effect is seeping through. I can now feel the meaning of Labbayk – I am here. O Lord! I truly am near!!!!

4.49 a.m. It's time to pray Salatul Fajr. It's amazing how everyone is getting ready for salaah. There is a long queue for the bathroom

5.45 a.m. We've landed safely. Alhamdulillah!
We're waiting in what seems to be a lounge.



7.05 a.m. The waiting seems never ending. We've been moving from one lounge to another. I am trying to recite Qur'an to keep my mind from straying.

10.05 a.m. At last! The Immigration Customs and Passport controls are over. The thermos flask and snacks saw us through. Everybody appears to be keen on sharing! Inshallah this spirit will last!! We're in a terminal building which is beautiful. The sun is streaming though the skylights in the roof which looks like mini-tents.

11.30 a.m. Prayed Salatudh Zhur & Asr and done the mustahab Ghusl with niyya of Ihram for Umra' Tamattu (the first section of Hajj), for entry into city of Makka for entry into Haram of Makka, for entry into Masjidul Haram, and for tawaf of Umra' Tamattu (5 in all). (For those going to Madina these niyya for Ghusl will apply when they leave for Makka). Changed into our Ihram.

4.30 p.m. We're on our way to Johfa. Everything outside is so barren. A desert with miles and miles of sand.



1ST WAJIBAT

5.30 p.m. Reached Johfa. There's a beautiful masjid here. I think of the time when the Prophet (pbuh) stopped near here (Ghadir e Khum is a few miles from here but is not accessible by road) when returning from Hajj. All the Panjetan were here. This is near the very place where Imama was declared. I thank my Lord for granting me the opportunity to be here.

8.00 p.m. After praying Salatul Maghrib & Isha we have prayed 2 rakaats mustahab salaah for niyya of becoming muhrim, and said our niyya aloud. (It is one of the niyyas' which is mustahab to say loudly) – *I am wearing ihram for Umra Tamattu to perform Hajj Tamattu – wajib qurbatan ilallah.* Immediately one has to recite Talbiyya:

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ لَبَّيْكَ لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ

I am here, O Allah! I am Here, I am here, there is no partner for You, I am here.

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ

Indeed all praise and bounties are for you and the kingdom



لَا شَرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ

There is no partner for You.

One is now a muhrim. Something inside me felt different. I felt empty but content. You've got to experience it to know what I mean.

11.30 p.m. We left Johfa with everyone reciting Talbiyya over and over again. (It is mustahab to recite Talbiyya continuously). I thought of how the Talbiyya had originated. The Prophet (pbuh) was on his way to Me'raj when Buraq stopped at the place where Masjid-e-Shajara now stands. A voice called out "O Muhammad". The Prophet (pbuh) replied:

لَبَّيْكَ

I asked myself: "Am I worthy to say – Labbayk?" "Was I really at His service?" I thought of all the times I had disobeyed Him! I started crying! Someone asked if I was missing the children?

3.15 p.m. Reached Makka. I'm actually at the town where every Prophet and Ma'sum has come. I'm on the very soil that they stepped on! In the very city!!! I say a silent Alhumdulillah for



being granted the opportunity for entering the town.

Lost in my thoughts I forgot the dua that is recited when entering haram (boundaries of Makka).

Instead I thought of how this boundary had been marked out. Our grandfather Adam (pbuh) had been shown the place where the Ka'ba would be. He prayed for a similar structure to be built by him. Allah granted his dua and sent a cube of ruby from Janna. Adam based the design of the Ka'ba on this cube. At night the moon on the ruby cube gave out light which marked out the boundary of the 'haram'.

5.15 a.m. We've settled down at our residence and it's been decided to go to Masjid-ul-Haram after salaah and breakfast. I want to go now!!! I feel helpless but they are my elders and teachers and I cannot go against them. My mind is in a dilemma! I want to go to the Ka'ba. Maybe it's because most of them have come before and do not feel the urgency. I do not understand.

6.45 a.m. Walked down to the Haram. I was walking on the earth my Prophet and Aamma walked on. I felt like I was walking on the clouds. My 12th Imam has a residence here. I looked up



at the balconies and windows thinking – Which one was his house? This one or that or Entered Masjidul Haram through the door called “Babus Salaam”. Recited:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ وَعَلَىٰ مِلَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

What I saw mesmerised me! It was the most magnificent sight in the world. The Ka’ba had an impact on me that I will never forget. A simple cubicle structure draped in black but it hit me hard. I froze unable to walk or talk. All the duas I had marked out were forgotten. I was being told to hurry up. I did not hear. I was pulled forward but I refused to budge. Leave me alone!!! I said. They thought it was heat exhaustion!!!! They did not understand!!! Reluctantly I moved forward. All I could manage was ‘Subhanallah’. We proceeded to do our first tawaaf.

2ND WAJIBAT

Starting at Hajarul Aswad we did our tawaaf. There were a multitude of people, yet I felt alone. I collected my thoughts and recited ‘Tasbihat-e-Arba’a’, the duas from the Qur’an that I normally



recite in Qunoot and I asked for forgiveness for my sins.

3RD WAJIBAT

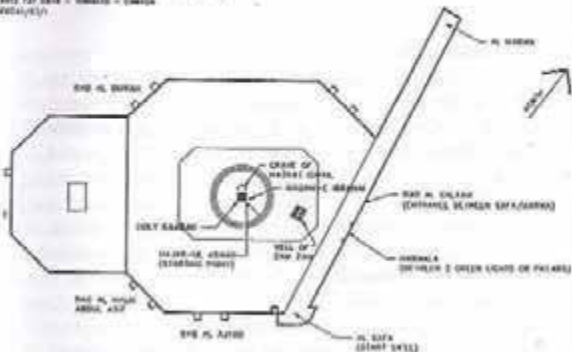
Straight after tawaaf one has to recite two rakaats of Salatul Tawaaf as near as possible behind Maqami Ibrahim. This seemed impossible task but suddenly there were some men standing in a circle saying “Salli!!”(Pray!!) In a daze I did. The salaah is to be with wajib niyya.

I imagined Maqami Ibrahim to look like a stone with footprints on. From where I looked it looked like a golden bird cage. I make a mental note to persevere to look closer. I had to see the stone!!!



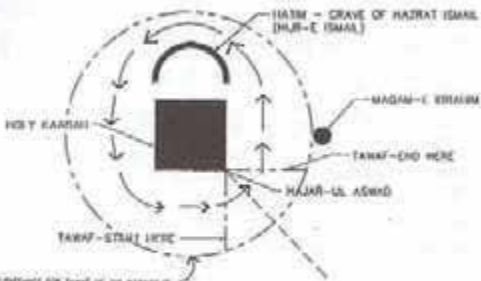
HOLY KAABAH - SURYA AL MUBARAKAH

PREPARED FOR NAIA ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE - NORTH AFRICA
 FAO (2001) T27 2204 - WARRIS - GAWAZ
 NO. 0001/01/0



TARAF QURSI OF HOLY KAABAH

PREPARED FOR NAIA ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE - NORTH AFRICA
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 NO. 0001/01/0



NOTE

1. THE MINIMUM LIMIT/DISTANCE FOR TOWN OF THE KAABAH IS 100 METERS PERMETER AND DISTANCE OF TOWN FROM KAABAH IS 4 METERS (175 METERS).
2. WALLS OF KAABAH IS OUT OF THE LIMIT FOR TOWN.
3. KEEP AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE TO THE KAABAH - MINIMUM DISTANCE TO THE KAABAH IS 4 METERS (175 METERS) OR MINIMUM DISTANCE.



4TH WAJIBAT

Like clockwork mice we went to do Sa'ee.

Walking between the hills of Safa and Marwa.

Did I say 'Hills'? I should have said 'palace'. As I walked I thought of Bibi Hajra! She walked under the blazing sun with hunger and thirst – striving.

We were walking along a palace corridor with all mod cons and we called it sa'ee – striving?

All the duas I had planned to recite here were forgotten. Instead I thought of all the goals in my life I would strive for – I made a mental list:

1. I would learn Arabic
2. I would endeavour to study Fiqh in detail
3. I would stick by the ayah my father had taught me to apply in life:

إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

“Indeed my salaah, my sacrifice, my life and my death (are all only) for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. 6:163



5TH WAJIBAT

Completing sa'ee I did taqseer – cutting off some of my nails.

Umra-e-Tumattu was now complete

We went to drink some water of Zam Zam – I prayed earnestly – Please God! Grant me the tawfeeq to follow the resolutions I made today.

We went to sit near the 'green light' which was to be the meeting point for the group. Sitting there I thought of the children I had forgotten all about at home, I did not know that anything else existed. My life was here – I did not want to leave ever ...

I recited Qur'an and I felt peaceful.

Left Masjidul Haram and walked back 'home'.

Showered and went to sleep.

2nd Dhulhijja

5.00 a.m. Could not wake up early enough to go to Masjidul Haram for Salatul Fajr. Prayed at 'home' and read up what was the best 'a'maal' to



do after wajibats. In order of preference they were:

1. Doing tawaaf (list of mustahab tawaf as below)
2. Praying salaah (Ada, Qadha, Mustahab...)
3. Reciting Quran
4. Looking at the Ka'ba and 'pondering'

Note: There is no mustahab sa'ee

Mustahab Tawaaf

It is mustahab to perform 360 tawaafs if time permits. If that is not possible, then 52 tawaafs. If this too is not possible than at least 12 tawaafs with the following niyyat:

1. For Ambiya and Mursaleen – 124,000 Prophets
2. For our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)
3. For the six elders of our Prophet (pbuh)
 - a. His father – Hazrat Abdullah (pbuh)
 - b. His mother – Bibi Amina binte wahab (pbuh)
 - c. His uncle – Hazrat Abu Talib (pbuh)



- d. His aunt – Bibi Fatima binte Asad (pbuh)
 - e. His first wife – Bibi Khadija (pbuh)
 - f. His grandfather – Hazrat Abdul Muttalib (pbuh)
4. For Ashabe Rasul and Ashabe Ma'sumeen e.g. Salman Farsi, Abu Dharr, Bilal, Ammar, Yaseer, Jabir ibn Abdullah Ansari
 5. For our 12th Imam – Imam Muhammad Al-Mahdi (pbuh)
 6. For the 12th Imam's 4 naibs (representatives) – Husayn ibn Rawh, Muhammad bin Ali, Uthman bin Sa'eed, Muhammad bin Uthman
 7. For the righteous progeny and wives of the Ma'sumeen e.g. Masuma Qum, Hakima Khatun, Nargis Khatun ...
 8. For Muhsinan e Islam
 9. For all the shuhada of ISLAM (Jihad & Kerbala)
 10. For all our Mujtahedeen – including those of our time – Ayatullah Khumaini,



Ayatullah Khui and the living
Mujtahedeen e.g. Ayatullah Seestani

11. For our parents, children and blood relations – also for those who do not have children. Also pray to keep our children Salih
12. For our friends and all those who have done ‘ehsaan’ on us.
13. For all those on whom we have intentionally or inadvertently done ‘dhulm’ (injustice) on like gheeba, tohma
...
14. All those who have asked us for hajaat (in one tawaaf) as taught by Imam Musa Al-Kadhimi (pbuh) to Ibraheem Hazarmi
15. For all the mo’mineen and mo’meenat from the time of Prophet Adam (pbuh)
16. For all the sick with the wasila of Imam Musa al-Kadhimi (pbuh) and Imam Ali Zaynul Abedeen (pbuh).

12.00 p.m. Did the washing and helped in the kitchen in the morning with various odd jobs. I have met so many selfless people together. I can only but pray for them. The organisers have



always put others before themselves. Went to Haram for Salatudh Dhuhr & Asr.

3.10 p.m. The sun is directly above. My feet feel bruised and they ache. 365 Tawaafs? I haven't even reached a century!!! I guess I'll recite Qur'an. A lady came to ask what I was writing. When I explained that it was a diary, she pointed to my shoulders in broken English and said that I already had two angels doing that for me.

3.30 p.m. Left for home and bought some Qur'an recitation cassettes (Abdul Bassit). Its Asr time and everything is coming to a standstill.

10.00 p.m. Recited Salatul Maghrib and Isha at home but it did not feel right especially when the thawaabs for reciting in haram are 100,000 for each rakaat. I will choose to differ with the others on this one but ... *(although the time for Salatul Maghrib in the Masjid is before ours, by the time Adhan is recited and the people get ready for salaah, our time sets in).*

After a 'masa'il' session and dinner left for Masjidul Haram. The walk is only 10 minutes but it seems like a lifetime. I could not wait to get there. We went to the top (terrace). The bird's



eye view is a sight to be seen. For the first time I saw the Hajarul Aswad albeit from 'up' Tawaf is difficult right now as there are some 'dignitaries' who seem to be getting preference. I complain to Allah – It's not fair. I thought we were all equal here!!!

12.00 p.m. The others went home. I've decided to stay here until Fajr salaa. I'm mesmerised with the atmosphere.

5.00 a.m. I've prayed Salatul Fajr. I got confused when the Imam started reciting Suratul Najm in the second rakaat. It is a sura with WAJIB sajda and we cannot recite it in salaa. With the jam'a I went into sajda immediately as the aya of sajda was recited. I realised my salaa was batil so I prayed again afterwards.

The sight of the birds is amazing. They come and go. It reminds me of my salaa. My concentration wavers. I see this bird! I plead to Him who hears all!!!

The next few days followed the same pattern. I spent the night at Haram and slept part of the day. What amazed me was that the routine never bored me. I wanted it to go on and on and on ... We also walked within Haram as one



cannot leave Haram before completing Hajj-e-Tamattu

E.g. Saw the place where the house of Bibi Amina (pbuh) was. It is a local library now. There seems to be no preservation of the signs of Allah. I feel sad. Around it is the area called 'Mahalla e Bani Hashim'.

Walking around I suddenly thought of Sumayya. She was first martyr of Islam. I thought about her. I envy her Eiman. May be if I am granted a daughter I shall call her Sumayya.

Thursday and Friday were different for they are days in which the a'mals allocated to those days are done. We had a majlis-e-Husayn (pbuh) followed by Ziyarat-e-Waritha to remember our marhumeen on Thursday. I finished the recitation of a Qur'an (Alhamdulillah) but it hurt not to be able to understand it. The merits for reciting a whole Qur'an in Makkah are that one will not die before seeing his/her place in Janna and will do the ziyara of the Prophet (pbuh) in his/her lifetime.



8th Dhulhijja

This is the day of ‘tarawiyya’ – the day on which Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) dreamt of sacrificing Prophet Ismail (pbuh). The thawab of fasting on this day are equivalent to 60 years kaffara for sins. I could not miss the opportunity.

Undeterred by the well meaning elders of the group I fasted for I had the permission of my husband.

2.30 p.m. Tried to call the children after reciting Salatudh Dhuhur & Asr but could not get through.

1ST WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

6.00 p.m. Went to Masjidul Haram to pray Salatul Maghrib & Isha and to wear Ihram. Broke my fast with Zam Zam water and said niyya aloud for Hajj-e-Tamattu after reciting two rakaat mustahab salaa. Immediately recited Talbiyya. The feeling of detachment came through again!

10.07 p.m. Just about to leave after having boarded the bus at 9.15pm.

11.00 p.m. Reached Arafat. It’s a vast plain. All I can see is tents, tents, tents and more tents. The roadside is bare sand and rock and it’s stiflingly hot. I feel selfish being so comfortable. I think of



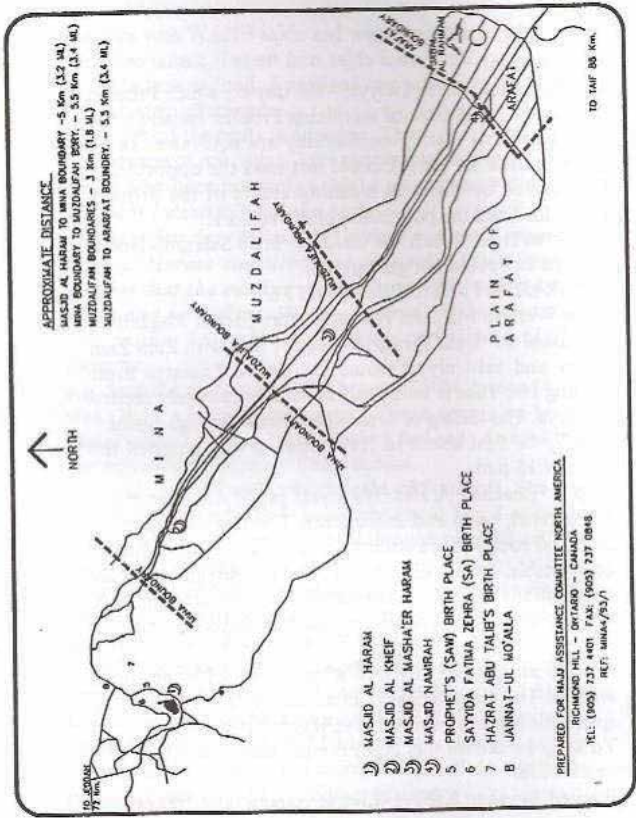
our Prophet, his household and his companions, our ulema who walked for days on end, without any of the facilities we take for granted. I make a mental note, not to complain.

11.30 p.m. Settled down in a large tent with the other women. The men's tent is right besides it. It is mustahab to spend this night at Mina but this was not possible.

To keep awake on this night is equivalent thawab of 170 years ibada.

Recited Jawshan Kabeer, Ziyarat Ashura and 100 raka'ts salaa. Slept after Salat Layl and Salat Fajr. The atmosphere is amazing! The night sky is so beautiful! I thought of Hamza (The Prophet's uncle) who when converting to Islam said that when he looked at the sky in the desert he always felt that there was a power greater than the idols the Makkans worshipped who controlled it. I can now understand his words!





9th Dhulhijja

Day of Arafat

9.00 a.m. Woke up with the sun blazing high. It's so hot! Drank lots of water but my thirst does not seem to quench. Immediately I thought of the children of Husayn (pbuh).

The morning seems long. I read up on the a'mal to be done during wuqoof. I try to prepare myself by thinking of all my sins, all that I wish to do, and my desire to get closer to Allah. I pray for direction ... I try to recite Dua-e-Arafat taught to us by Imam Husayn (pbuh) but I find the text difficult. I resort to reading the translation. In all my life I have never read such moving words. I cry and have now received the title of "baby". I get frustrated; I wish they would understand they think I'm missing the children. If only they would leave me alone....

2ND WAJIBAT

12.30p.m. After praying Salatudh Dhuhr & Asr, said niyya aloud for wuqoof in Arafat – *"I remain in Arafat from Dhuhr to Maghrib for Hajj-e-Tamattu – Qurbatan Ilallah"*



Started with the a'mals. I find it helped doing the a'mals together with everyone. It is mustahab to remain standing for wuqoof but it got tiring and was distracting so I sat down at intervals. The time flew and it seemed a chore to eat and break the flow – but what has to be done has to be done...

7.00p.m. I am on board a bus to Muzdalifa. Although it is already the time for Maghrib it is Mustahab to delay salaa and recite it in Muzdalifa. The bus is now moving and it is getting claustrophobic.

9.00p.m. Changed buses and are on our way to Musdalifa – At last!!

The bus is crawling – literally. It is mustahab to move at a slow pace to Muzdalifa – We sure were achieving that!!! It's faster to walk. The time has also given me an opportunity to reflect. I look at the list of bad habits I have. When I pick up the pebbles in Muzdalifa (also known as Mash'har or Juma') I must relate them to weapons with which to combat my bad habits.

11.00pm We're still not there. I'm worried about salaa. It will become qadha!!



3RD WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

11.30p.m. Reached Muzdalifa. Did niyya for wuqoof at Muzdalifa and prayed Salatul Maghrib & Isha first.

Looked for pebbles for Rami. It is mustahab to pick peanut sized coloured speckled pebbles – I guess I'm colour blind as I could see each one had a sparkle! Were they winking at me or... The night sky is amazing! As I look up I think of Suratul Feel. It was here that the army of Abraha was stoned by the birds Allah sent when they were on their way to destroy the Ka'ba. I too would try to use these pebbles to destroy the army of bad habits within me.

10th Dhulhijja

Eid-ul-Hajj

1.00a.m. Although the wajibat is to remain in Muzdalifa from nightfall to sunrise, the elderly, women and sick may leave earlier to avoid the crowds. Our group decided to do this and we will go to Mina

2.00a.m. Reached Mina. It's very empty. Refreshed ourselves and rested for a while.



4TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

The wajibat is to hit the Jamara Aqaba (the large shaitan), with seven pebbles. It is a short walk from where we have taken residence. The Jamara Aqaba was at the end of the tunnel. As we arrived in Mina earlier than the 'crowd' it is very empty. Did niyya – *"I am throwing seven pebbles at Jamara Aqaba for Hajj-e-Tamattu – Qurbatan Ilallah"* and proceeded to hit the 'shaytan'. It's a miracle how one can see one's own pebbles hit or miss. Each time one should recite 'Allahu Akber'.

I missed thrice but managed to strike the seven pebbles. I felt satisfied but did the pebbles really strike the bad habits within me... Would I stick to my resolutions? Time would tell... I'm sure the angels recording my deeds are reflecting my words... Silently I plead to them to overlook mistakes (genuine ones of course)...

4.40a.m. Recited Salatul Shab and Salatul Fajr. I am too exhausted to recite anything and sleep soundly only to be woken up at 7.00a.m. The men have come and one in particular looks 'whacked'



5TH WAJIBAT

Qurbani is the 5th wajibat. As I am unable to go, my husband will arrange for the slaughter of an animal. The niyya is a wajib condition and it is important that one (or one who has been appointed) is consciously aware of this – Qurbatan Ilallah.

The meat of Qurbani is to be disturbed for three purposes:

1. One part to be given as sadaqa to a needy mu'min
2. The second as a gift to Mu'mineen
3. The last to be for one's own consumption.

The first is difficult, we were told to give away 1/3rd of the cost of the animal to the needy. The third to be consumed by oneself was not convenient although our Hajj was valid by not eating of one's own Qurbani a sin had been committed. I felt sad to have to begin Eid day like this...

11.00a.m. My husband arrived back having completed Qurbani.



6TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

After niyya – *I am doing taqseer for Hajj-e-Tamattu – Qurbatan Ilallah* I cut off a bit of my nails. It is mustahab to face qibla and bury the hair/nails near one's place of residence.

I removed Ihram. All the conditions except hunting, relationships and perfume are lifted. Had a shower and feel good (I'm nearly there!!!) Alhamdulillah...

Although it is better to return to Makka after taqseer we have opted to go tomorrow – 11th Dhulhijja.

5.00p.m. Went to Masjid-e-Kheef. It has a special significance as this is the place where our grandfather and grandmother – Prophet Adam (pbuh) and Bibi Hawwa (pbuh) stayed on their way from Arafat to Makka. It is also where during the last hajj of the Prophet (pbuh), the tent of the 'panjetan' was pitched. It is reported that 70,000 Ambiya have prayed here.

For me it had a special significance. As a child I knew that my father had recited Adhan here and it was something that had pleased him a lot. He often talked about it, and the expression on his face was something I never forgot.



We went inside. Surprisingly there were not as many people as I expected. The atmosphere was serene and calm just like Masjidul Haram. We prayed 2 raka't salaah 100x Subhanallah, 100x La ilaha ilallah and 100x Alhamdulillah as recommended by the ma'sumeen.

As we walked out we saw a glass building which is the site where Bibi Hajra's house was. I imagined how it must have been when Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) came to tell his son of his dream. The preparation to sacrifice must have taken place here. All we are asked to sacrifice is our sins...

7TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Spent the night of 11th Dhulhijja (In Islam the night precedes the day) in Mina with niyya – *I remain here tonight in Mina for Hajj-e-Tamattu – Qurbatan Ilallah.* Was exhausted but the doctor with us needed some help – with no experience in nursing I tagged behind her following her orders and smiling half heartedly.



11TH Dhulhijja

8TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

7.00a.m. Proceeded towards Jamrat to do rami – this time of all the three jamarats – Oola, Wustas & Aqaba (The small, middle and big). The niyya must not be forgotten and the sequence must be adhered, smallest to biggest. I remembered a majlis I had heard where the zhakir said that the three shaytans represented power, wealth and profession. How true it seemed? They are all things that are praiseworthy if accompanied with faith but disaster if abused.

7.45a.m. Reached Makka. Amazingly it only took 13 minutes to get back.

9.00a.m. Left for Masjidul Haram. I feel I've come back home like a pigeon to its nest. The sun is high and it's hot. The heat sears through and is burning but the sight of the Ka'ba cools it all. A long lost friend whom I missed, I wish I had long arms that went right round it so I could hug it and never let go.

9TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Did tawaaf of Ziyarat for Hajj-e-Tamattu (Again niyya is a wajib condition). So many people but I



feel alone and close to Him. At this point in time, if I was granted one wish I would want to never leave.

10TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Got to pray Salatut Tawaaf close to Maqame Ibrahim. I actually glimpsed inside but could not see the footprints. Maybe one day!!! Inshallah. As it's time for Salatudh Dhuhr, joined salaa but prayed with furada niyya. The Imam is near Maqame Ibrahim and we are opposite him. The circular salaa has this problem. It is an innovation which is not found in any school of thought. Normally, we try to find a place behind the Imam and pray with niyya of Jama'a but reciting everything. Until 1956 there were four Salatul Jama'ts. The government has introduced a circular Salatul Jama't since then.

11TH WAJIBAT- HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Did Sa'ee (remembering the niyya). It's packed today and it is very difficult to stay on the rocks. Drenched ourselves with the water of Zam Zam.



12TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Taqseer – Cut off some nails.

13TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Did the final tawaaf – Tawafun Nisa. It was the most difficult but the most satisfying. My feet are killing me!

14TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Recited two raka'ts Salatut Tawaaf. We did not get to pray as near to Maqame Ibrahim as before.

3.30p.m. Walked back home. Changed and showered.

9.00p.m. After Salatut Maghrib and Isha we had dinner and left for Mina.

15th WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

Spent the night of 12th Dhulhijja in Mina (again with niyya of Hajj-e-Tamattu – Qurbatan Ilallah). Once again I helped the doctor. I am seriously thinking of never taking up doctor tagging.

12th Dhulhijja

5.30a.m. Went for a walk after praying Salatut Fajr.



16TH WAJIBAT – HAJJ-E-TAMATTU

11.30a.m. Went to do rami of all three jamarats. This is the final wajibat of Hajj. We've actually finished Hajj. I feel sad, yet pleased for I have completed a wajibat. I plead silently – Please accept my Hajj and please invite me again.

1.30p.m. Left for Makka after Salatudh Dhuhr & Asr. The roads are jam packed and the heat is stifling.

3.45p.m. Reached Makka and collapsed in a heap on the bed. Slept till salaa time. I'm exhausted.

9.00p.m. Many of the group left for Madina. It is heat rendering to say Fi-Amanillah to so many wonderful people. I shall miss them all immensely. We exchange addresses and promise to keep in touch. As I write this I see each one, a special friend and companion in the journey towards Allah.

13th Dhulhijja

11.00a.m. Slept after Salatul Fajr. Left for Ziyara of various places which are outside the Haram. At Arafat where there were tents was now barren and empty dessert. What a transformation....



1. **Jabalur Rahma (The mountain of mercy)**
It is makruh to climb the mountain during the wuqoof in Arafa. Situated in Arafa it is where Prophet Adam (pbuh) landed when he came to earth. It is here that Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) had his dream. I prayed two rakaat salaa and asked for forgiveness for it was here that Adam's dua of tawba was accepted.
2. **Masjidun Namira** It is an extensively developed masjid. The 'Ahlulbayt' whilst performing Hajj prayed here and it is in this masjid that Dua-e-Arafa was recited by Imam Ali Zaynul Abedeen (pbuh). We recited our Salatudh Dhuhur & Asr here.
3. **Masjidul Umra** It is also called Masjid-e-Taneem, or Masjid-e-Ayesha. An extensively decorated masjid. The Prophet (pbuh) had entered Makka on his way to perform Hajj when his wife – Ayesha told him that she had not done her niyya for Ihram at Masjid-e-Shajara as she had not become tahir from her



periods. He told her to go to Masjid-e-Taneem to do her niyya and wear Ihram as Masjid-e-Shajara was too far away. She then could do Hajj as planned.

4. **Kohe Abu Qubays** This mountain range which was the first mountain to be created by Allah is all but destroyed now with palaces and tunnels. However, a slight glimpse of what may have been a mountain was visible. It is here that the ark of Prophet Nuh (pbuh) passed and paused. In this mountain, Prophet Adam (pbuh) is buried and it was here that the Prophet (pbuh) split the moon in two with Allah's permission (refer to Qur'an 54:1,2)
5. **Jannatul Mualla** Although we could not actually visit it, it was pointed out to us from the 'bridge'. We recited Ziyara with heavy hearts. To mention a few those who are buried here are: Hashim, Abdul Muttalib, Abu Talib, Bibi Khadija, Qasim (the Prophet's infant son)...



6. **Jabalun Nur (Cave of Hira)** - We reached here in the late evening. There are no steps cut into the mountain as there are on Jabalur Raham. It took 'quite a while' (an understatement) to climb to the cave. Exhausted, I thought of Bibi Khadijah who used to bring food to the Prophet (pbuh) everyday. There is hardly any space in the cave. A 'hole' (window) faces the Ka'ba. It is a breathtaking sight where the key word is 'Peace'.

Climbed (crawled) down and it's dark but the mountain remains lighted. Is this why its called Jabalun Nur? Nobody answers!

9.30p.m. After salaa and dinner we go to Masjid-ul-Haram to say goodbye. I cannot contain myself – I do not want to go. After tawaaf of Wida and Salatut Tawaaf we leave through Bab-al-Umra glancing back every second.

"Please Allah!" – I plead silently – "I want to come back again & again & again..."

10.30p.m. On our way to Madina – the city of the Prophet (pbuh)



14th Dhulhijja

8.00a.m. Reached Madina after an eventful night of punctures, getting separated from the other coach but Alhamdulillah we're here...

My diary ceases here but I include the information on Madina that may be useful for those who read it.



MADINATUL MUNAWWARA

(The lighted city)

MADINATUN NABI

(The city of the Prophet)

“My son! If someone visits me whilst I am alive or dead, or visits your father, your brother or yourself, it becomes WAJIB on me to visit him/her on the day of Qiyama and rescue him/her from his/her sins.” **Prophet (pbuh) to Imam Husayn (pbuh)**

HISTORY OF MADINA

Yathrib was populated by the Jews who travelled there knowing about the coming of the last Prophet. Following the Hijra from Makka to Madina, each resident wanted Rasulullah (pbuh) to stay with them. He said, he will stay wherever Kiswa (his camel) sits. Kiswa sits outside the house of Abu Ayyub Ansari (he was from the progeny of Tubba). The place where Kiswa sat was designated as masjid and was bought from two orphans. This is the site of Masjidun Nabi (the 2nd mosque to be built, 1st was built in Quba on the way to Madina).



APPROACHING MADINA

As soon as you see the city, remember that it is the city of the Prophet (pbuh). You will be walking upon the very places where the Prophet (pbuh) walked. You are in the city where ISLAM was established, the city where he still lives. Try to make no delay in going directly to the masjid. Remember, that although you cannot visualise him in the physical world, it is he to whom you sent salaams to in every salaa, he to whom you owe your ne'ma – ISLAM. Raise your hopes in anticipation of meeting him...

RECORD YOUR THOUGHTS



MASJIDUN NABI



ENTERING THE MASJID

Bab-e-Jibrail is the best door to enter from – it is located on the North West side of the masjid.

Idhn al-dukhul: Seeking permission to enter the Prophet's mosque for the ziyarat of the Prophet (pbuh).

Try to memorise the following extracts for idhn al-dukhul:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي وَ قَفْتُ عَلَى بَابِ بَيْتِ مِنْ بُيُوتِ
نَبِيِّكَ وَ آلِ نَبِيِّكَ عَلَيْهِ وَ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّلَامُ



O Allah! I am standing at the door of one of the houses of Your Prophet and the family of Your Prophet, peace be upon him and his family.

ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا حُجَّةَ اللَّهِ

ءَأَدْخُلُ يَا مَلَائِكَةَ اللَّهِ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ

May I enter, O Prophet of Allah? May I enter, O the proof of Allah? May I enter, O angels of Allah?

As you cross the threshold (with your right foot), enter with humility reciting:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ وَبِاللَّهِ وَفِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَعَلَى مِلَّةِ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَارْحَمْنِي وَتُبْ عَلَيَّ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ

التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ



In the name of Allah and by Allah in the path of Allah and on the religion of the Prophet of Allah peace be upon him and his family.

O Allah! Forgive me and have mercy on me and turn repentant towards me for You are most forgiving and merciful.

Recite takbeer **الله أكبر** 100x as you walk in.

Recite 2 rakaat salaa with the niyya tahiyate Masjid (a prayer of greetings to the mosque).

Walking through the door you will see a structure ahead and to the left. It is the 'zarih'. The nearest end is the house of Bibi Fatima (pbuh) whilst further to the left are the graves of the Prophet (pbuh), Abu Bakr and Umar.

Greet the Prophet (pbuh) whilst standing as near as possible, standing in his presence as though he were still alive in the physical world. He knows you are there, and that you have come to visit him. All your salaams reach him, for Allah sends angels to greet anyone from his Umma who greets him.



Recite the 'ziyara' of the Prophet (pbuh) – [Try to memorise the extract below]:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ

Peace be upon you, O messenger of Allah

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ

Peace be upon you O Prophet of Allah

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا مُحَمَّدَ بْنَ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ

Peace be upon you, O Muhammad the son of 'Abd Allah

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا خَاتَمَ النَّبِيِّينَ

Peace be upon you, O seal of the Prophets

Also recite the ziyara of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh) for there is a hadith which states that she is buried in her own house.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكِ يَا بِنْتَ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

Peace be upon you O daughter of the Prophet of Allah



Recite the two rakaat salaa of ziyara.

Standing there raise your hands in dua and ask Allah for your needs standing in the presence of the Prophet (pbuh)

About the Zaree

Divide it into three. The first third (near Bab-e-Jibrail) is the house of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh). It is



reported that she is buried there with her son Muhsin. This is the house for which Suratul Dahr was revealed, the house where her unborn son Muhsin died and the house where Imam Hasan & Husayn (pbuh) were born.

The middle portion is the house of the Prophet (pbuh) and the last portion the house of Ayesha where Abu Bakr and Umar are buried.



In the middle portion it is said that there is the space for one grave – for Prophet Isa (pbuh) besides the Prophet (pbuh)

SUFFA (Platform)

Directly behind Sayyida Fatima's (pbuh) house is a platform where a group of the Prophet's followers called Ahlul Suffa used to stay. They were homeless. The Prophet used to sit and talk to them after Salatul Tahajjud. Follow his sunna by reciting Qur'an after salaa.

THE MIMBAR

Proceed to the member and if you can, try to run your hands over the knobs wiping your face and eyes. It is said that this is a cure for eyes. Standing by it praising Allah and ask for your needs. The Prophet (pbuh) has said: "One of the gardens of Janna lies between my grave and my mimbar"

MIHRAB

During the time of the Prophet (pbuh) the direction of qibla was marked by a stone. There are 3 mihrabs in Masjidun Nabi – the one which



marks the original mihrab of the Prophet (pbuh) is the one to the left of the mimbar (directly behind the mihrab was the house of Umme Salma).

MARBLE PLATFORM (For muaddhin)

Opposite the marble mimbar is a platform about 7 feet high – this marks the height of the original mosque on whose roof Bilal used to climb on to give adhan.

MAQAME JIBRAIL

This is where Jibrail used to stand when delivering wahi to Rasulullah (pbuh).



PILLARS



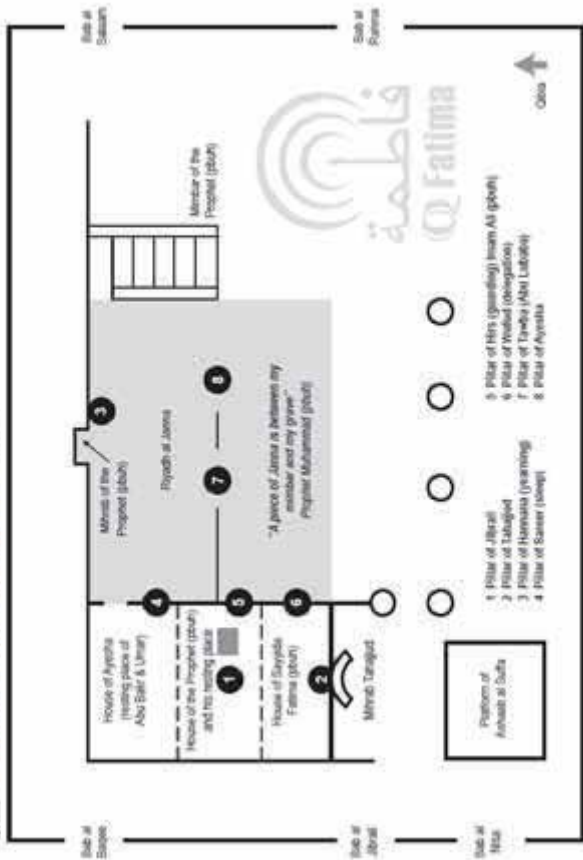
There are three types of pillars in the masjid.

1. Peach with a golden edge on the bottom half – Put up during the time of the Prophet (pbuh) and are part of the original masjid. (They used to be palm trunks)
2. All Peach – These were built after the wafat of the Prophet (pbuh)
3. Half peach and half white – These are the pillars in **Riyadhul Janna (The piece of paradise)**.





Pillars inside Masjidun Nabi



Eight pillars of riyadhul Janna have a significant historical background.

اُسْطُوَانَةُ التَّهَجُّدِ

The pillar of Tahajjud

This is in a corner in the house of Sayyida Fatima Zahra (pbuh). It is not visible but you will see a clock opposite the marble platform of Ahlul Suffa. The pillar is directly behind the clock. The Prophet (pbuh) used to recite his Salatut tahajjud here.

اُسْطُوَانَةُ الْجِبْرِيلِ

The pillar of Jibrail

The pillar cannot be seen as it is completely inside the zaree. It is said that the Prophet (pbuh) used to sit here with Jibrail who used to tell him about the secrets of the universe.



اِسْطُوَانَةُ الْوُفُوْدِ

The pillar of delegation

Wufud means delegations. When visitors from outside Madina came to visit the Prophet (pbuh) he received them here. The delegation from Najran for whom there was Mubahila were received here. For a moment stop and take yourself back in time appreciating the honour you have been granted by being invited here.

اِسْطُوَانَةُ الْحُرْسِ

The pillar of 'guarding'

This is also known as the pillar of Imam Ali (pbuh). It is here where Imam Ali (pbuh) used to keep guard over the Prophet (pbuh) as he slept.



اَسْطُوَانَةُ السَّرِيْرِ

The pillar of 'sleeping' (resting)

Sareer means bed. It is here that the Prophet (pbuh) used to rest during 'I'tikaf'

اَسْطُوَانَةُ الْحَنَّانَةِ

The pillar of 'yearning'

Hannana is the sound of yearning a baby camel makes when it is separated from its mother.

This is the pillar adjoining the mimber of the Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet used to lean against a date palm trunk before the mimber was built. After the mimber was built, the Prophet (pbuh) used it for delivering his khutbas. On the first day he sat on the mimber, the 'hannana' sound was heard from the date palm. The Prophet (pbuh) came down from the mimbar, hugged the date palm and told it that it would accompany him to Jannah. When the date palm dried up and died, it was buried there and a pillar was raised in its memory called the pillar of hannana.



اِسْطِوَانَةُ التَّوْبَةِ

The pillar of 'tawba'

It is also known as the pillar of Abu Lababa.

When the Muslims first settled in Madina they had a peace treaty with the Jews who lived there.

The Jews did not comply with the agreement and Allah ordered the Prophet to fight them. Abu Lababa leaked the news to the Jews (he was then a newly converted Muslim). He realised his error and tied himself to a date palm trunk in the masjid crying to Allah for forgiveness. His daughter used to untie him only for food, Salaah and to visit the bathroom. Otherwise he stayed tied to the date palm trunk day and night.

One day the Prophet (pbuh) was resting in the house of his wife Umme Salma when the aya of Qur'an 4:64 was revealed forgiving Abu Lababa. He smiled and went to untie Abu Lababa and give him the good news.

The Prophet is reported to have said that had Abu Lababa come through him for forgiveness, his 'tawba' would have been accepted immediately.



Recite two rakaat salaah as ma'sumeen used to do here and ask for the forgiveness of sins.

اِسْطُوَانَةُ عَائِشَةَ

The pillar of Ayesha

There is a hadith according to some Muslims that the Prophet (pbuh) had said that there was a place in the masjid where there was a lot of thawab to pray and if people knew about it they would form long queues. After the Prophet died it is said that Ayesha pointed out this place and a pillar was raised there.



ZIYARA IN AND AROUND MADINA

Jannatul Baqee

'Baqee' means a garden. It is known as Jannatul Baqee because in it are buried many of the companions and relations of our Prophet (pbuh). Nearly 7,000 of the Prophet's companions are buried here. Our 2nd, 4th, 5th & 6th Imams are buried here. According to some ahadith Bibi Fatima Zahra (pbuh) is buried here. Fatima binte Asad (the mother of Imam Ali (pbuh)), Ummulbaneen (the mother of Hazarat Abbas (pbuh))... are also buried here.

Besides a few stones marking the graves, Baqee lies in ruin. In the name of expansion and extension even today historical and holy sites are systematically destroyed.

Masjid –e-Ghamama

It is here that the Prophet (pbuh) recited Salaatul Eid & Salaatul Istisqaa (sall for rain). Also known as Masjid-e-Musalla.



Masjid-e-Qiblatayn

(The masjid with two qiblas). It is here that the Prophet (pbuh) was given the order by Allah to change the qibla from Baytul Muqaddas (Jerusalem) to the Ka'ba in Makka.

Masjid-e-Quba

It is the first masjid built (even before the masjid of the Prophet in Madina). On his way to Madina from Makka during Hijra, the Prophet (pbuh) stayed in Quba for three days waiting for Imam Ali (pbuh) and the ladies of his household to join him. On his way out the people of Quba asked for a remembrance. The masjid was that remembrance. The boundary was marked by Kiswa (Prophet's camel). It is also the first masjid where Salatul Jama' was recited.

Masjid-e-Jumua'

(1/2 mile from Masjid-e-Quba). It is the first masjid where Salaatul Jumua' was recited.

The Battlefield of Khandaq

This is where the Prophet (pbuh) on the advice of his companion Salman Al-Farsi dug a trench



during the Battle of Khandaq. The Muslims stayed here for 21 days.

Masjid-e-Fatah

Situated on a hilltop it is where the Prophet (pbuh) prayed for victory for the success of the Muslims in the Battle of Khandaq. Allah sent a violent storm which scared the Kuffar and they ran away so confused that Abu Sufyan forgot to untie his horse. (Refer Qur'an 33:9).

Birr Ali (Not accessible anymore)

During a period of drought in Madina, Prophet (pbuh) sent Imam Ali (pbuh) outside Madina to dig wells. Near Masjid SHajraa, the water in the well is known for shafa for stomach and kidney ailments.

The Battlefield of Uhud

This is where the second battle of Islam took place. It is here where Jibrail brought the sword Zulfikar from the heavens for Imam Ali (pbuh) when all his other swords broke and the other companions of the Prophet (pbuh) ran away. The area is surrounded by the mountains in which the



other Muslims ran and hid. It is here where Hazrat Hamza – the Prophet's uncle is buried. Bibi Fatima (pbuh) used to come here to mourn him.

Masjid Fadhee (Not accessible anymore)

Alcohol was banned 15 years after Be'that. Some couldn't leave the habit and went out of Madina to drink.

At all these places recite Ziyara and 2 rakaat salaa. Think of the events that happened at each place and take yourself back through time. Ponder over the lessons learnt and the way it changed the course of history.



TIPS THAT MAY HELP

Study the fiqh of Hajj before you go, well in advance. Get some books, tapes and videos. Look online and print everything out. Write all the Duas out on index cards. Try to memorise as many as you can BEFORE you go. Make flash cards....

The best time to visit the Haram of Makkah is from 1.00am until Fajr and from about an hour after Fajr until 9.00am or so. Remember to bring your prayer rug to sit on. This is so that people don't come and sit right in front of you or back of you so you'll have room to pray later.

PREPARE yourself mentally for a lot of frustration, mental anguish, annoyance and anger – you must not let these things interfere with your goal.

PREPARE yourself physically for a lot of walking and physical exercise. You may be walking back and forth from your hotel to the Haram at least 10 times a day, not to mention logging Tawafs and Sai'ys that come out to miles in the end.



DO NOT take a lot of clothes... Bring enough socks and underclothes. You can always wash clothes if you have to. A regular travelling rule of thumb is to never pack more than you can carry for a trip! It goes without saying that you should bring some comfy shoes/trainers for when you go on Ziyara or shopping. Also bring some good chappals/shibshib for when you are going to the haram.

A NOTE for Madina. The weather there is very different from Makkah. Madina is much cooler. We were in 80-90 degrees everyday in Makkah and then in Madina we were at 60-70s and it was extremely COLD around Fajr, so bring a sweatshirt/sweater and a few warm clothes so you don't get sick.

DO NOT change money before you go. There are tons of exchanges there that you can go to on the streets and you'll get a better rate than the usual bank rate too.



DO bring a lot of medicine – Paracetamol, Lemsip, Tunes, Rennie's, Imodium, Chapstick/Vaseline. Believe me you'll be glad you did and if by some miracle you don't get sick other people in your group will.

DO bring a cheap canvas bag to put your shoes, prayer rug and Qur'an in when you go into the haram. You can also bring a small bag/purse you can wear under your jibaab for your money/passport.

Make a list of what gifts you have to give to whom beforehand and write down what you need to buy and quantities. That way you won't waste a lot of time trying to decide what to get for whom.

- Dates
- Zam Zam water
- Tasbeeh
- Hijabs & Jibabs
- Prayer Rugs



DO NOT speak English or any foreign language in stores, just Urdu or Arabic. Even if all you know is “Kam Hatha”... You must bargain for everything you buy. Everything is marked up as par for the course. A good trick is to offer half then work your way up. Remember to go to many stores to get an idea of the price range. DO learn all the Arabic numbers (1 to 20 and every 5 after that till a hundred and you’ll be set)

Do be careful about taking pictures and bringing cameras. They don’t let cameras into either of the Harams and they’ll check your bags too.

DO agree on prices for cab rides, camel rides and any other service in between beforehand. A note about the camel rides. They will immediately go and take Polaroid’s of you on the camel/horse and then force you to buy them. Tell them beforehand NO PICTURES please.

JUMUAH – Go EARLY!!! Our first Jumah in Makkah the Adhaan was 12.05 or something and we got to Masjid Al Haram at 11.00am. BIG mistake. The concourse outside the Masjid was



full let alone trying to get in there. We sat in the beating sun for over an hour and prayed. The next week we got there at 9.00am!!!

TAWAF – There are large groups who perform Tawaaf together and link hands. If you see them approach, then let them pass or step aside and give them way. Also watch out for the elderly who are being carried around the Ka’ba and people taking their relatives round in wheelchairs. As a rule the nearer the Ka’ba you perform the Tawaaf the more squashed you will get and I mean squashed. This is especially true when going around Maqam Ibrahim because of the people trying to pray.

ARAFAT – Make the most of this day as possible. Don’t eat too much after Zuhur. The last thing you want to do is feeling sleepy from having over eaten.

PATIENCE – You’ll understand the meaning of that word when you encounter the crowds, the queues, and the long waits etc etc etc.



TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY:

1. Smile in another Muslim's face and say Salaam to strangers
2. Shake someone's hand and ask about their health
3. Buy tea for someone
4. Offer to get someone's groceries
5. Sit with a Hajj group from another country
6. Carry someone's bags for them
7. Shun vain talk
8. Gather stones for people
9. Give major attention to shy people in your group
10. Phone relatives (from Makkah) on Eid day
11. Remember – during the heat – the unending torment of hell fire
12. Give charity to those who sell meagre things (sandals/eggs)
13. Forgive people that wrong you
14. Talk to 10 different people from 10 different countries
15. Compliment someone sincerely



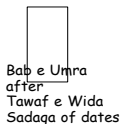
16. Focus hard on helping those immediately near you
17. Remember specific blessings Allah has bestowed upon you and say Alhamdulillah
18. Fill your pockets with sweets and give to the children that you meet.



BEST A' MAAL
 Reciting Qur'an
 Tawaf
 Looking at the Ka'ba

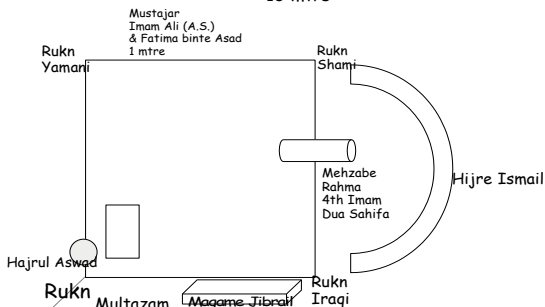


House of Umme Hani
 sister of Imam Ali (A.S.)
 One of four sanctuaries
 of Me'raj



Bab e Umra
 after
 Tawaf e Wida
 Sadaqa of dates

13 mtrs



Maqame
 Imam Zamana

Maqame
 Ibraheem



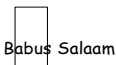
Zam Zam



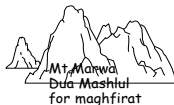
Bab e
 Bani Shayba
 (Hubal's cesspit)



Mt. Safa
 Dua Kumayl
 for rizq



Babus Salaam



Mt. Marwa
 Dua Mashitul
 for maghfirat





NOTES



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