



Hajj

الحج

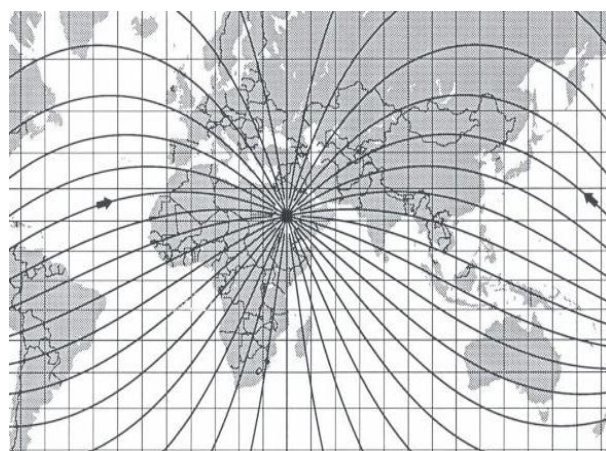
JURISPRUDENCE

LEVEL 2

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Understand that Muslims must make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their adult life
- Know where Mecca and Medina are on a world map
- Be reminded of the story of Prophet Abraham (as)
- Understand that the 10th of Dhul Hijjah (as) is a day of 'īd for the Muslims
- Briefly discuss the major themes of Hajj
- Be introduced to Masjidul Haraam
- Be introduced to the Ka'bah



Australia is at the bottom right hand corner. Mecca and Medina are where all the lines direct to!

What is Hajj?

Hajj is a pilgrimage or a religious journey to Mecca made in a specific time of the year, in a month called Dhul Hijjah. This is the last month of the Islamic calendar. Hajj is something that all Muslims must do- if they can afford it and are well enough to perform it.

When we visit Mecca to perform Hajj, it is also very recommended to visit Medina, where the grave of our Holy Prophet is.

Where are Mecca and Medina? Let us look at the world map and see.

THE ORIGINS OF HAJJ

Let us travel back thousands of years to the time of Prophet Abraham (as). Prophet Abraham (as) and his second wife Hajar had a baby boy and they called him Ismā'īl. Long after he was born, Allah (SWT) ordered Prophet Abraham to take his wife and new born son to a desert. After the long journey, Prophet Abraham left his wife and son in the desert, leaving them in the trust of Allah (SWT).

After a few days in the hot desert, the food and water that Prophet Abraham had given Hajar and her son had run out, and the baby was now hungry and thirsty. Hajar was worried that her baby would die of hunger and thirst and so she searched everywhere for any source of water. From a distance, she saw a mirage (a shiny view that reflects and looks like water), and so she ran very quickly to go and get some water. When she reached, she realised it was only a reflection. From this point, she saw

another mirage on the opposite side, and so she frantically ran again towards it, again only to find it was a reflection. She saw this mirage 7 times, and she ran from one end to the other each time. By the end of this she was exhausted, and she sat down next to her thirsty son, feeling very alone and tired.

At this point a fountain of water gushed out from next to her son Ismā'īl. Hajar was very relieved and she knew Allah (SWT) was looking after them.

The points between which Hajar was running were two hills called Safa and Marwah. These are the same hills that we walk between when we go to perform Ḥajj today

Let us now look at how and why the Ka'aba was built.

During the time of Prophet Abraham, people were very ignorant about Islam, and they were not ready to believe the message Prophet Abraham had brought. For this reason, Allah (SWT) ordered Prophet Abraham to build a place of worship, where people from all over the world could come and worship the only and only Allah (SWT).

Prophet Abraham, with the help of his now grown-up son Prophet Ismā'īl, built the Ka'bah. The black stone which is found on one of the corners of the Ka'bah is a special stone from heaven.

Now that we know how the Ka'bah was built, and we know the history behind the Sa'y, let us take a brief look at what Muslims actually do at Ḥajj.

We will follow this journey in the form of a story.

A ḤAJJ JOURNEY

In the beginning of the month of Dhul Ḥijjah, Jawad and his father Ali set out for the ultimate journey to Ḥajj. They went to Medina first to visit the shrine of the Holy Prophet of Islam – Prophet Muḥammad (saw). They stayed in Medina for a few days, and daily paid visits to mosque of the Prophet and the graves of the Imams next to it.

They then set out for Mecca by bus. They stopped at a place called Mīqat where they put on their Iḥrām (the special clothes for Ḥajj). After putting on their Iḥrām, they set out for Mecca. On reaching Mecca, Jawad and his father Ali went straight to Masjidul Ḥarām (the Holy Mosque) which is the name of the mosque where the Ka'bah is situated. As they walked through the mosque, Jawad was getting very excited to see the Ka'bah.

After a couple minutes walking, there it was! Jawad was standing right in front of the Holy Ka'bah.

He was so happy that he had tears flowing down his eyes for he had always longed to see the Ka'bah.

Jawad and his dad set out to do ṭawāf, which is going round the Ka'bah seven times. When they finished the ṭawāf, they recited a short prayer, in the same place where Prophet Abraham used to recite his prayer thousands of years ago.

Then they set out to do their Sa'y, which is the walk between the mountains of Safah and Marwā (as discussed earlier).

There are other main parts of Hajj that will be discussed in future years. While in Mecca, Jawad and his father celebrated 'Īdul Aḍḥā, one of the three major celebrations in Islam.

When they returned to their hometown in Sydney, Jawad was asked one question by his friends, and his teachers. They asked him:

'What did you learn from this journey, and how can you briefly describe Ḥajj?'

He answered:

'Ḥajj is all about submitting oneself to Allah (SWT) completely, and obeying Him and trusting that He really is the One and Only God...I have learnt from Ḥajj that all Muslims are equal, whether rich or poor, fair or dark, short or tall. No one is superior in the eyes of Allah. When we walk around the Ka'bah, all of us are wearing the same outfit. Two white pieces of cloth to cover our body. Hence, in the eyes of Allah, we are all equal.

It is in Ḥajj where all the Muslims unite, and where brothers meet brothers, and sisters meet sisters.

Class Activity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnLxEQOHxvY&list=PL091sJJ30-2-pXc_ElBk-4bdwCTtACsp6

Watch this beautiful animated video clip on Ḥajj.

Your teacher will play it for you.

