

HOW BEST TO SPEND YOUR TIME DURING THE HOLY JOURNEY

As-salaamu ‘alaykum warahmatuLLAAH.

All praises and gratitude are due to Almighty ALLAAH the Lord of the worlds, may HIS peace Peace and Blessings be upon the soul of noble Prophet Muhammad, his household, companions and everyone who treads their path till the day of Qiyaamah.

Sheikh Ibn Baaz, may ALLAAH have mercy on him, said: 'Good deeds are multiplied in the Two Holy Mosques, the amount of which only God knows, except for prayer, as the amount of their multiplication has been explained.'

Below are ways through which you can maximize this rare opportunity of being in the Two Holy Mosques. These are some ways of using your time judiciously while in the holy land.

1- OBSERVING THE FIVE DAILY PRAYERS AND SUPEREROGATORY (NAWAAFIL) IN THE HOLY MOSQUES.

It was narrated from Jaabir that the Messenger of ALLAAH ﷺ said: "One prayer in my mosque is better than one thousand prayers elsewhere, except the Sacred Mosque (in Makkah), and one prayer in the Sacred Mosque (in Makkah) is better than one hundred thousand prayers elsewhere." [Ibn Majah]

The implication of this is that a prayer in the Haram in Makkah is worth the 5 daily prayers of 55 years 6 months and 20 days in other mosques. While the complete five daily prayers of a day are equivalent to the 5 daily prayers of 277 years 9 months and 10 days in other mosques. Maa shaa ALLAAH! Being there is a privilege, which you should thank ALLAAH for.

2. GOING TO THE HOLY MOSQUE EARLY BEFORE THE MORNING PRAYER BY 1 HOUR OR TWO FOR PRAYERS, SUPPLICATIONS AND TAWAAF.

Abu Hurairah Narrated that ALLAAH's Messenger ﷺ said: "Our Lord, the Blessed, the Superior, comes every night down to the nearest Heaven to us during the last third of the night, saying: "Is there anyone to invoke Me, so that I may respond to invocation? Is there anyone to ask Me, so that I may grant him his request? Is there anyone seeking My forgiveness, so that I may forgive him?" [Al-Bukhari]

3. STAYING BEHIND IN THE MASJID AFTER THE MORNING PRAYER (FAJR) FOR REMEMBRANCE UNTIL SUNRISE.

ALLAAH's Messenger was reported to have said: "If anyone prays the dawn prayer in congregation, then sits remembering ALLAAH till the sun rises, then prays two rak'ahs, he will have a reward equivalent to that of a hajj and an 'Umrah. He reported ALLAAH's Messenger as adding, "A perfect one, a perfect one, a perfect one." Tirmidhi.

Abu Hurairah (May ALLAAH be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of ALLAAH ﷺ said, "The angels supplicate in favour of one of you so long as he remains in the place where he has performed Salaat (prayer) in a state of Wudu'. They (the angels) say: 'O ALLAAH! Forgive him, O ALLAAH! Have mercy on him.'" [Al-Bukhari].

4. PERFORMING NUMEROUS TAWAAF

Ibn 'Umar mentioned that he heard the Prophet ﷺ saying: "Whoever performs Tawaaf around this House seven times and he keeps track of it, then it is as if he freed a slave." And I heard him saying: "One foot is not put down, nor another raised except that ALLAAH removes a sin from him and records a good merit for him." [Tirmidhi]

5. OBSERVING NAWAAFIL IN THE HOLY MOSQUES

Umm Habeebah, one of the Mothers of the Believers (May ALLAAH be pleased with her) reported: I heard the Messenger of ALLAAH ﷺ saying, "A house will be built in Jannah for every Muslim who offers twelve Rak'ah of optional Salat other than the obligatory Salaat in a day and a night (to seek the Pleasure of ALLAAH)." [Muslim].

The twelve rak'ahs are: 2 before Fajr prayer, 4 before Dhuhr, 2 after Dhuhr, 2 after Maghrib and 2 after 'Ishaa. With these 12 rak'ahs, you earn a castle in Jannah. Imagine observing these supererogatory prayers in the Holy Mosques where you earn a thousand manifold of reward and a hundred thousand manifold in the Holy Mosques in Madeenah and Makkah respectively.

6. Offering alms/charity

In a Hadeeth, the Prophet ﷺ said that ALLAAH the Almighty said: (O son of Adam, spend, and I will spend on you) [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]. It was mentioned in authentic hadeeth that the angels every morning pray for the one who spends to

have a replacement, and ruin or bankruptcy for the one who holds back from spending.

Charity is a means of relieving distress, purifying a person of sins, extinguishing the wrath of the Lord, repelling affliction from the servant, bringing happiness and pleasure to the heart, healing the heart and body, and protecting oneself from Hell, as the Prophet, may ﷺ said: "Fear Hell, even with half a date."

7. MAKING LOTS OF DU'AA

Aside from the fact that your du'aa is most likely to be accepted in the holy mosques, it is also an act of worship which you will be rewarded for. Yes, you will be rewarded for calling upon ALLAAH as the one who calls other than ALLAAH will be punished. During Tawaaf, mid-night and sujood (prostration) are some of the best time to make du'aa.

Ibn 'Abbas (May ALLAAH be pleased with them) reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Glorify your Lord in Ruku' (bowing posture) and exert yourself in supplication in prostration. Thus your supplications are likely to be accepted." [Muslim].

8. RECITATION OF THE QUR'AAN

Ibn Mas'ud (May ALLAAH be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Whoever recites a letter from the Book of ALLAAH, he will be credited with a good deed, and a good deed gets a ten-fold reward. I do not say that Alif-Lam-Mim is one letter, but Alif is a letter, Lam is a letter and Mim is a letter." [At- Tirmidhi].

9. SINCERITY

It is necessary that you purify your intention as you embark on this holy journey. The pleasure of ALLAAH, HIS Mercy, Reward and Jannah should be your goal and not the praises of humans. Do not trade your reward for social media likes and shares. Avoid show-off as it nullifies the reward of good deeds.

May ALLAAH grant you the best of this world and the afterlife.

Take your Hajj rites from the Prophet.