

MESSAGE AND FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR RETURNING HAJJIS.

By Mufti Afzal Hoosen Elias
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Praise for Allaah, Durood upon Nabi (Sallallahu Alayhi Wassallam).

The underlying is for the current and the previous returning Hajji.

Oh Hajji, remember the time you were booking your ticket, waiting to go the Blessed places, have you benefited?

Oh Hajji, think about the running around you did for your visa and vaccination, to go to Makkah and Madinah, are you ready for the grave and Aakhirat?

Oh Hajji, ponder, the movements you did whilst seeking forgiveness from your fellow relatives and friends, have you made peace with your Creator and are you ready to act upon the Shariat now?

Oh Hajji, reflect how you had to pass stage to stage, giving answers to questions, immigrations and customs: - what precautions have you made for the answering in the grave, for your immigration from the grave, for your immigration from the grave and custom check of your actions in detail?

Oh Hajji, you stood in Arafaat, pleading, are you confident that can stand before your Rabb on the Day of Judgement?

Oh Hajji, you witnessed the blessings in your journey, in Madinah, in both the Harams, in Mina, in Arafaat, in Muzdalifah, will you reform?

Oh Hajji, you saw the Green Dome of Madinah, the Majestic Ka'bah, the Magnetic Hajre Aswad, the Miraculous Zam Zam, the hillocks of Safa and Marwah, the peace in Mina, the mercy in Arafaat, the tranquillity in Muzdalifah, will you deliberate and change your direction towards adherence to Sunnat in your life ?

Oh Hajji, just consider how you earned your money, how long it took, how hard you had to work for it, then you saved it to spend it on the memorable journey of your life time, Hajj, was it worth it, yes, if your focus has altered from the world to the Aakhirat.

Oh Hajji, many come back to go to the Masjid, wearing red head shawls, standing in the first row, but this all for just a little while, how sad ! Is this the result of Hajj ??

Oh Hajji, you adorn the Islaamic garb in Makkah and Madinah, shrug it off in Jeddah, back to nakedness and non- conformity, is this not hypocrisy?

Oh Hajji, you kept the beard in the blessed lands but look down upon those who do so, in your own country, you wear the Kurta and at times even the turban in the blessed places but jeer at those who do so in your lands, you frequent the Masjid, made Tilaawat of the Quraan, recited Durood in abundance, turned the tasbeeh but regard those who do the above as crazy in your town, are these not double standards? Should you not reform for the better?

Oh Hajji, what gifts did you bring? Most bring Hadiyyah (gifts, presents). But the most precious gift of gifts is Hedaya – guidance, guidance to act and be steadfast upon the Seeratul Mustaqeem.

Oh Hajji, are you one of those who made close to blasphemous statements like, "I am waiting for the 5 days to end, so that I can remove my beard" or "I am tired of this Hijaab" How terrible ? How sad? How disgusting? What then did you go for? What did you expect?

Oh Hajji, you returned in happiness with good or bad memories, will you remain behaving as a Muslim as long as there is Zam Zam in your home? Hajj is supposed to have created and caused a permanent change, think carefully, read carefully, and make adequate preparation for the everlasting abode, the original resting place.

Oh Hajji, to you whom Allaah allows you to go year in and year out, by now you must be close to sainthood, why do you still shave or trim your beard? Why do you still professionally cheat, lie, deceive and steal? Why do you wear a hypocritical smile and engage in bad and evil ploys? Why do you deal in interest and frequent the casinos and gambling dens? Why has pride, love for wealth, pomp, glory and position not left you? Why has the love for Quraan, Sunnat, Ulema and Deeni activities not truly entered your heart? **Oh regular Hajji**, are you radically reforming and changing to be linked to the fear of Allaah. Remember the more often you go for Hajj, the more you will have to account for the numerous opportunities of reform accorded to you.

Oh Hajji, realise your worth, realise your duaas are accepted, you have been the guest of Allaah, your eyes are so fortunate to see the Ka'bah and the Roza of Rasulullaah (Sallallahu Alayhi Wassallam). You have been to areas, where sages want to be buried and many a millionaire cannot reach, Make duaas for yourself, your family, your Kith and Kin, your relatives, your Ustaads, the Ulema, the Mujahideen and for each and every proper beneficial Deeni activity in whatever form it may be, **Oh Hajji**, if only you knew your worth, take cognisance of the worth and value of your duaas, realise your status and position – do not waste your time in vain and futile activities.

Oh Hajji, do not be misled by Satan, do not have huge arrival ceremonies and festivals, do not be photographed or garlanded, do not engage in late night report back session, then miss your Fajr Salaat, do not shake hands or embrace "na-mahrams"(strangers), do not spoil your Hajj by backbiting, gossiping and slandering.

Oh Hajji, know, if your agent or someone has done you in, robbed you in any way, not delivered as per prior arrangement, then assess and analyse, have your rights been taken, if so, then you are entitled to it, lodge your claim via the proper ways and use the stipulated route – get your rights redeemed, you are entitled to it. Do not be fooled by sitting back and saying "I am making 'sabr'" – by doing so you are rendering a dis-service to yourself and those that come after you. Also you have not understood the difference between your "rights" and "sabr".

Oh Hajji, try NOT to narrate, recall and relate those events and incidents in your journey that will deter or prevent others from undertaking the journey of Hajj. Yes, you may relate an event to cause a sense of awareness for others, so they do not make the same errors or mistakes.

Oh Hajji, have you reformed? Do you still listen to Music? Do you still waste time with bad company? Do you still not perform Salaat? Will you pay your Zakaat now? Do you firmly resolve to fast the next Ramadhaan? Will you aid the poor, help the destitute, support the orphans, be affectionate to the young, and respect the elders? My respected Hajji, change before change is forced upon you.

Oh Hajji, sit down and assess yourself, before you departed for Hajj, what was your spiritual status? what good were you doing? What evil were you steeped in? what bad actions were destroying you? Now after Hajj what is the position? Have you improved or retrogressed? Are you going or running headlong towards Jahannum? Which path have you chosen?

Oh Hajji, just the other day you were looking at the Ka'bah, earning reward, today what are you looking at?

Oh Hajji, yesterday you were walking in Madinah and Makkah, where are you walking today? From where to where? From what to what?

Oh Hajji, see where you are going, you are a valuable person.

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Forward your questions to:

muftie@mweb.co.za

muftie@alislam.co.za