

HAJJ ACTIVITY 1b: HAVING A PURE AND CLEAN HEART

Traditionally the journey of Hajj has always been an extremely difficult and very long journey. For centuries pilgrims from around the Muslim world would leave their homes and families not knowing if they would ever return. They would have their life savings with them and the journey would often take months and months. Some times they would run out of money along the way, or get caught up or trapped in another country because of a war or some other reason. And the journey across deserts, different landscapes and water sometimes could be very dangerous and not for the soft-hearted. Sometimes the journey would take so long, the pilgrims would miss the hajj and then stay on until the following year hoping they would live until then.

It really was the journey of the lifetime. When a person left for Hajj they would say farewell to all their loved ones. It was not an easy departure as it would be a long separation and that was if they returned. Pilgrims made every effort to say goodbye to everyone they knew properly, pay off their debts and make peace with anyone they had quarrelled with or not spoken to for a long time.

To this day, pilgrims will still do these things before leaving for hajj as it is vital to visit the house of Allah with a clean and pure heart and account. However even if you are not going for hajj we should always live our life this way as we never know when we might meet our Creator.

Think deeply about this activity and try to do all of the following. Ask your parents to work through the list too.

1. Do you owe anybody any money. Maybe you borrowed a £1 for something and forgot about it. Write down and repay any debts you have outstanding which you can payoff immediately.
2. Do you need to return any books or anything else you borrowed from a friend or your extended family and keep forgetting to pass it back on. Make a list of things you need to return and work through your list.
3. Have you fallen out with anybody at all and not made up with them? Maybe a classmate at school or madrasah, a child in your street or an elder who told you off and you've ignored that person since then. If yes, then call that person or if possible stop by their house and ask them to forgive you and that you have no hard feelings against them either. Maybe you can take a chocolate bar too. Remember the important thing is to make amends with them. Don't take an expensive present but still feel anger towards them after.
4. Think of 5 other people who you have not spoken to or seen since lockdown. They might be aunts or uncles, cousins or friends or teachers. Call, visit or write a letter / card to post out to them wishing them duas in these blessed days and asking them to make dua for you.