**ISLAMIAT LECTURE 8**

**PILLARS OF ISLAM (2)**

**• Alms-giving, *Zakat*:**

1. **How it is performed:**

* Zakat consists of giving set proportions of possessions for the poor
* Compulsory on all adult rich muslims to gibe zakat which they’ve had in their possession for more than one calendar year
* Its rate on annual savings is 2.5%
* If a person has 7.5 tolas or more of gold, 2.5% of it is due as zakat
* If a person has 52.5 tolas or more of silver, 2.5% of it is due as zakat
* If a person has 40-120 goats, then one goat is due in zakat
* No fixed date of payment
* However, usually paid in the month of Ramzan
* Can either be distributed by individuals to the deserving or by mosques
* Reciepients of zakat:
* Poor
* Needy
* Newly converts to Islam
* Travelers
* Slaves
* Those appointed by state to collect Zakat
* Those who are in bondage or in debt
* Those who can’t fulfill an obligation

1. **Significance in the community:**

* Helps poor people stop starving
* Sense of brotherhood develops between rich and poor
* It reduces financial difference between rich and poor
* Encourages a bond of social responsibility
* Brings the society closer
* Encourages unity in society

**• Fasting, *Sawm*:**

1. **The Way it is Observed:**

* Carried out in the month of Ramzan
* Starts from the sighting of the moon of Ramzan and ends at the sighting of the moon on Shawal
* All adult Muslims should fast suring day light hours i.e. from dawn to dusk
* They take their sehr before dawn
* After that they refrain from eatinf or drinking until sunset
* During a fast, Muslims abstain from smoking, indulging in evil and indecent acts, abusing etc
* They remember Allah throughout the day by offering prayers and reciting the Quran
* However, they cannot ask for concessions is their work and must lead the normal daily routine
* At the Maghrib prayers, they break their fast with dates and water
* After the Isha prayers they offer 20 rakat of taraweeh prayers
* During the odd nights of the last ten nights of Ramzan, they search for Laila tul Qadr, the night when Quran was revealed
* Muslims even withdraw to mosques and sit in Aitkaaf for the last ten days, i.e. they avoid any contact with the world and submit themselves to Allah

1. **Those exempted:**

* Sick
* Pregnant women
* Travelers
* Elderly people
* Minor

• **Pilgrimage, *Hajj*:**

1. **The Main Observances Involved:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **PLACE** | **OBSERVANCE** |
| 8th Zilhajj | Meeqat | - perform wudu  - wear Ihram  - offer 2 rakat  - make niyat  - recite Talbiah |
| 8th Zilhajj | Ka’abah | - perform tawaf-e-qudum, encircling Ka’abah 7 times  - kiss the black stone |
| 8th Zilhajj | Multazim | - say private prayer |
| 8th Zilhajj | Maqaam-e-Ibrahim | - offer 2 nafal |
| 8th Zilhajj | Safa and Marwa | - sayee, starting at Safa and ending at Marwa, 7 times |
| 8th Zilhajj | Mina | - offer Zuhr, Asar, Maghrib, Isha prayers |
| 9th Zilhajj | Arafat | - listen to sermon  - offer combined Zuhr and Asar prayers  - perform wuquf-e-arafat |
| 9th Zilhajj | Muzdalifah | - perform Maghrib and Isha prayer combined  -collect pebbles for rami  - spend night in rememberance of Allah |
| 10th Zilhajj | Mina | - stone Jamarat-ul-uqba 7 times with pebbles  -offer sacrifice  - men cut their hair and women clip a lock |
| 11th – 12th Zilhajj | Mina | - perform rami, symbolic stoning of satan  - perform tawaf-e-ziyarat between one of these days in Ka’abah  - perform tawaf-e-wida before leaving Makkah |

**QUESTIONS:**

Now, try a few questions your selves to check your understanding. Good Luck!

Q) What is the individual importance of fasting?

Q) What is the communal importance of fasting?

Q) What is the individual importance of hajj?

Q) What is the communal importance of hajj?

Q) Explain the significance of the following with reference to Islamic history:

1. Arafat
2. Sacrifice
3. Ka’abah