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The Impact of Prophet Ibrahim's Supplications in the Qur'an on the Flourishing of Islamic Pilgrimage

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The supplications of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) in the Qur'an have had a significant impact on the flourishing of Islamic Pilgrimage and have also provided spiritual guidance for those who visit these sacred sites. Through his supplications, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) expressed his love for the sacred places associated with the Islamic faith. His prayers for both the visitors and residents of these places, are believed to invoke divine blessings and protection upon them. Prophet Ibrahim's supplications in the Qur'an also encouraged Muslim pilgrims (often referred to as religious tourists) to visit these holy sites by reminding them of the great rewards awaiting those who fulfill their pilgrimage obligations. This motivation has led to an increased number of people visiting these sites for the purpose of pilgrimage. This study aims to highlight the impact of Prophet Ibrahim's supplications in the Qur'an on the establishment of Islamic religious tourism, including Hajj and Umrah pilgrimage journeys. Consequently, the influence of the Hajj pilgrimage on the economy of Saudi Arabia and the countries of pilgrims is significant and multifaceted. The study employs a textual analysis method to examine, investigate, interpret, and explore the meaning of Qur'an chapters, Islamic teachings, themes, and hidden structures within the selected texts. Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) continued his mission of spreading the word of God until he received a revelation. He transcended geographical borders and traditional beliefs related to lineage, introducing a new worldview and mindset that has endured through time. Through the rituals of Hajj, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) imparted the true meaning of the journey, where one returns to the world anew, as if reborn, with the spirit of God within them. He groomed a successor who could carry the burden of caliphate, someone unwavering in their belief in God and capable of connecting with fellow humans.

Key Words: Qur'an, Hadith, Prophet Muhammad, Prophet Ibrahim, supplications, Hajar, Islamic religious tourism, Hajj (pilgrimage) festivals

Introduction

Pilgrimage to the Sacred House of God is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is an integral part of the religion, obligatory for every physically and financially able Muslim (Raj, 2015). Hajj is a religious ritual that predates Islam, having been imposed by God on previous nations, including the followers of Prophet Ibrahim (peace be upon him), who adhered to the hanifi faith (Alkhateeb, 2017). This practice existed during the time of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and beyond, but over time, some rituals of Hajj were altered and innovated upon with the emergence of paganism and idolatry in the Arabian Peninsula.

Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) supplications in the Qur'an have significantly contributed to the flourishing of

Islamic Pilgrimage. Through these supplications, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) expressed his deep reverence for the sacred places associated with the Islamic faith (Levitt, 2003). He fervently prayed for both the visitors and inhabitants of these sites, invoking divine blessings and protection upon them. Furthermore, his supplications served as a compelling call to believers to undertake the pilgrimage, reminding them of the immense rewards awaiting those who fulfill this sacred obligation. This encouragement has led to a substantial increase in the number of people visiting these holy sites for pilgrimage.

Prophet Ibrahim's supplications in the Qur'an have also provided profound spiritual guidance to those who visit these sacred places. They encourage pilgrims to reflect

deeply on the purpose of their journey and to seek divine guidance, enhancing their understanding of their faith and enriching their pilgrimage experience. In essence, Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) supplications have left an enduring mark on the flourishing of Islamic pilgrimage, offering divine blessings, spiritual guidance, and a reminder of the vital role pilgrimage plays in the lives of all Muslims.

In his supplications, Prophet Ibrahim called upon Allah to bestow pilgrims with understanding of His Mercy, grant them the strength and wisdom to fulfill their obligations, forgive their sins, and provide the peace and prosperity they seek. Additionally, he prayed for their eternal life in Paradise. These supplications have served as a powerful source of inspiration for billions of Muslims worldwide, motivating them to participate in the annual Hajj pilgrimage and strive to fulfill their duties in the best possible manner.

Methodology

Textual analysis is a research method that involves a meticulous examination and interpretation of written or spoken texts to comprehend their meanings, themes, and underlying patterns. This approach entails a systematic and thorough scrutiny of various forms of textual information, including books, articles, interviews, speeches, and social media posts. It finds application in a wide range of academic disciplines, such as literature, linguistics, communication studies, media studies, sociology, and anthropology (Krippendorff, 2018).

Through textual analysis, researchers can gain valuable insights into the language, rhetoric, and ideologies embedded within the texts. By critically analysing textual data, researchers can develop a profound understanding of social, cultural, political, or historical phenomena, which can be instrumental for further research or practical applications (Fürsich, 2009). This current study employs rigorous and systematic analysis techniques to unveil meaningful insights, identify recurring patterns or themes, and interpret the significance of the textual data.

Hajj, Islamic Pilgrimage

The Islamic pilgrimage, often referred to as the Hajj, is a venerable tradition. This sacred journey to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia is undertaken by Muslims who possess the physical and financial means to do so (Aziz 2001; Bianchi 2004; Peters 1994). The Hajj constitutes one of the five pillars of Islam, obligatory for every able-bodied Muslim who can afford it.

The journey encompasses rituals such as circumambulating the Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure in Mecca, and a visit to the plains of Arafat for prayer. The Hajj holds immense spiritual significance for Muslims, serving as a reminder of their shared community of believers (Caidi, 2019). It is a journey to the birthplace of Islam, a place where they can reflect on their faith and its teachings. The Hajj pilgrimage also offers Muslims an opportunity to unite in prayer and pay homage to the Prophet Muhammad and his message of peace and justice. It is a demonstration of faith, humility, and solidarity, a time when Muslims come together to celebrate their common beliefs (Al-Ajarma, 2021).

Notably, the impact of Hajj on the economies of both Saudi Arabia and the countries from which pilgrims hail is significant and multifaceted. The Hajj contributes significantly to Saudi Arabia's economy, with the government making substantial investment in infrastructure and services to support the millions of pilgrims who visit each year. This includes the construction and maintenance of hotels, transportation systems, and sanitation facilities, along with charging fees to pilgrims. The private sector also reaps benefits, as local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and souvenir shops, as well as transportation companies including airlines, railways, taxis, and buses, experience increased demand. Moreover, the economies of countries from which pilgrims originate, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan, also gain from the Hajj, as many pilgrims spend substantial amounts on travel, accommodation, and gifts. In sum, the Hajj pilgrimage exerts a significant impact on the economies of Saudi Arabia and the countries of pilgrims, generating substantial revenue for the Saudi government and the private sector while contributing to the economies of the pilgrims' home countries.

Prophet Ibrahim's Role in the Hajj

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) embarked on a journey through his homeland, spreading the word of God. Accompanied by his son and wife, he settled in an uncultivated valley near the Kaaba, where he established prayer. Together with his son, he laid the foundations and pillars of the Kaaba, inviting people to perform the Hajj. He continued his mission of spreading God's message until receiving divine revelation. Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) transcended geographical borders and challenged traditional beliefs tied to lineage, introducing a new worldview and mindset that has endured over time. Through the rituals of the Hajj, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) conveyed the profound essence of journeying—a journey of spiritual rebirth, returning to the world as if reborn, with the spirit of God within. He laid the groundwork for a successor, one who could bear the responsibility of caliphate, unwavering in their faith in God and capable of connecting with fellow humans.

The Qur'an verses (Q2:126, Q14:37, Q22:27) underscore Prophet Ibrahim's prayers and his devotion to the sacred city of Mecca. They emphasise his plea for God's protection and provision for its people, both the faithful and the disbelievers. Additionally, they express his aspiration for the hearts of believers to turn towards Mecca and for the land to yield fruits, thereby evoking gratitude.

Furthermore, Ibn Kathir's commentary on Q22:27 elaborates on the significance of Prophet Ibrahim's call to pilgrimage. It narrates how his proclamation resonated throughout the earth, with even the mountains, stones, raindrops, trees, and divine scriptures responding. The Hadith reported by Abu Hurairah, narrated by Imam Muslim in his Sahih, emphasises the importance of performing the Hajj to the House of Allah and encourages humility and responsiveness to God's call. It serves as a reminder that the entirety of existence is dedicated to serving Allah and should heed His summons.

The Call of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh)

Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) call was realised through his unwavering devotion to the worship of the one true God and his construction of a sacred place of worship, the

Kaaba. Together with his son, Ismael (peace be upon them both), they collaborated in raising the foundations of this sacred House, a dedication emphasised in Surat Ibrahim in the Qur'an. Allah (SWT) acknowledges this devotion by stating,

He made the hearts of people yearn for them

and blessed them with fruits as a sign of His favor and grace. Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) legacy endures through the Kaaba, which holds paramount importance in the Islamic faith.

The Kaaba, as the first house of worship erected by Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), stands as the holiest site in Islam. Muslims worldwide pray facing the Kaaba five times a day, and it remains a destination of pilgrimage for millions of Muslims annually. Beyond its religious significance, the Kaaba symbolises unity, serving as the focal point for the entire Muslim community. Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) legacy, rooted in his commitment to monotheism and faith in God, resonates through the Kaaba, central to the Islamic faith (Babaei, 2021).

Verily, the first House (of worship) appointed for mankind was that at Bakkah (Makkah), full of blessing, and a guidance for Al-'Alamin (the mankind and Jinns). (Q3:96)

When God tested Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) by commanding him to take his wife, Hajar, and his son, Ismail, to an uninhabited and barren land near the Sacred House of God, it was a daunting task, especially for a father of his age. Nevertheless, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) entrusted them with unwavering faith that God, the Almighty, would not forsake them. He prayed:

Our Lord! I have settled some of my offspring in a barren valley, near Your Sacred House, our Lord, so that they may establish prayer. So make the hearts of the believing people incline towards them and provide them with fruits, so perhaps they will be thankful. (Q14:37)

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and his son, Ismail (peace be upon them), constructed the Sacred House of God in the arid Arabian desert, firmly rejecting polytheism and idol worship. They established this house as a place of worship solely dedicated to God, devoid of any partners. Believers and monotheists alike took the Kaaba as a sacred site for annual pilgrimage, following in the

footsteps of Prophet Ibrahim and Ismail (peace be upon them). It is worth noting that even subsequent prophets made pilgrimages to the Sacred House of God.

However, over time, the worship of idols entered Makkah, and the Arabs erected idols within the Sacred House of God. In response to the call of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), God Almighty answered:

Our Lord, send among them a messenger to recite to them Your revelations, teach them the Book and wisdom, and purify them. You are the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. (Q2:129)

When God sent His noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and, after the conquest of Mecca, cleansed the Sacred House from the surrounding idols, Muslims from all corners of the world came yearly to the Sacred House. In a powerful and awe-inspiring scene, they answered the call of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and echoed the word of monotheism.

*Labbaika Allahumma Labbaik
Labbaika, La Shareeka Laka, Labbaik
Innal Hamdah, Wan Nematah,
Laka wal Mulk, La Shareeks Laka Labbaik*

*Here you go, my God! I'm at your disposal!
You have no partners. I'm at your disposal!
Praise be to you, without a doubt. The blessing
is yours and the property is yours. You have no
partners.*

Prophet Muhammad's Completion of the Foundations of Islam:

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) once declared,

Take your rituals from me (Siddiqui, 1976).

On this momentous occasion, he delivered his renowned sermon, announcing the fulfillment of the foundations of the Islamic religion. He accomplished this by performing the fifth and final pillar of Islam, stating,

*Today I have perfected your religion for you,
completed my blessing upon you, and approved
Islam for you as a religion. (Q5:3)*

Hajj, the pilgrimage, was ordained for Muslims in the ninth year after the migration (hijrah) of the Prophet

Muhammad (pbuh). The rituals that Muslims carry out today trace their origin back to the farewell sermon delivered by the Prophet (pbuh) in the tenth year of hijrah, during which he performed the correct Hajj rituals. He reiterated,

Take your rituals from me. (Bukhari & Muslim)

This event marked the fulfillment of the fifth and final pillar of Islam: Hajj.

Eid al-Adha and the Story of Sacrifice

With the arrival of Eid al-Adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice, Muslims worldwide are reminded of the enduring narrative of Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice and redemption. This story underlines the profound power of faith and devotion. It emphasises the bond between a father and son and the strength of unwavering commitment to God (Arat & Hasan, 2018). It serves as a testament to the significance of submitting to God's will and being prepared to sacrifice even the most cherished possessions in His name. Prophet Ibrahim's story also reveals the boundless mercy of Allah. Despite Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son, Allah provided a substitute, demonstrating His immense compassion. Moreover, it underscores the importance of patience during adversity. Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering faith, even in the face of the agonizing prospect of losing his son, serves as a powerful example of steadfastness amidst hardship (Ahmed, 1992).

Ultimately, the story of Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice encourages self-sacrifice and underscores the true essence of Eid al-Adha. When Muslims partake in the tradition of sacrificing an animal in commemoration of Prophet Ibrahim's sacrifice, it serves as a reminder to be willing to relinquish precious possessions to obey Allah's commands. This observance reinforces the power of faith and the significance of placing Allah at the forefront of one's life. Eid al-Adha is a call to humility, generosity, and gratitude for Allah's abundant blessings.

Hajar's Trials

During her life with Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), Hajar endured two profound trials. The first ordeal occurred when, in obedience to God's command, Prophet Ibrahim

(pbuh) left her and their son, Ismail, in the desolate Meccan desert. Hajar found herself utterly alone in a foreign, inhospitable land with no means of sustenance for herself and her child. Despite her desperate search for assistance in the barren desert, none was to be found (Shariati & Behzadnia, 1980).

The second trial unfolded when her son, Ismail, teetered on the brink of death due to dehydration and starvation. Hajar embarked on a frantic quest for a water source to save her son, eventually stumbling upon the miraculous Zamzam well, which exists to this day (Elhadary, 2021). This discovery allowed them to survive and eventually establish a home in Makkah.

During the first ordeal, as Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) contemplated where to leave Hajar and Ismail, he fervently sought a location with vegetation and provisions. However, when Gabriel (peace be upon him), directed him to a barren, waterless place under the scorching sun, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) remained resolute in his trust in God's care. Hajar, though apprehensive about hunger and thirst for herself and her son, clung to Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), reluctant to let him go.

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) left them with faith that God would provide for Hajar and Ismail. Assured of their safety, he supplied them with a bottle of water and some bread. Hajar's earnest prayers to God were answered when He revealed a fountain of water, known as Zamzam, ensuring their survival. This location, known as the Well of Zamzam, holds significance in Islamic history (Elhadary, 2021).

Hajar's unwavering determination led her to find water between the mountains of Safa and Marwah after running back and forth seven times, eventually discovering Zamzam. This miraculous spring has since served as a symbol of God's providence and remains a vital element of the Hajj pilgrimage (Ibn Majah, 2007).

In both instances, Hajar's unyielding faith and resolve played a crucial role in overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges. Her actions exemplify the strength of a mother's love and her unwavering trust in God's divine plan.

The Significance of Hajj and Prophet Ibrahim's Legacy

God responded to Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) prayer by providing abundant blessings and sustenance to the people of Hijaz, transforming Mecca into a blessed and secure city. The descendants of Ismail were designated as custodians of the Sacred Mosque and other holy sites. The Kaaba, the focal point of prayer for all believers, became a sanctuary for the oppressed. The annual pilgrimage to the Kaaba serves as a reminder of the blessings bestowed upon Ismail's descendants and the covenant they entered into with Allah. It also highlights the steadfastness and perseverance of the Muslim community, who have maintained their faith and traditions despite significant challenges.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) emphasised the importance of Hajj, saying,

O people, God has enjoined Hajj upon you, so perform Hajj (Sunan Abi Dawood).

The five pillars of Islam are interconnected, reflecting the divine nature of the religion. The Shahada serves as the gateway to Islam, while prayer fosters spiritual connection with God. Zakat involves a journey with one's wealth, fulfilling the obligation to support the needy. Ramadan represents an inner journey of preparation for the external journey of Hajj, which serves as a reminder of life's final journey and the Day of Resurrection.

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was sent to the Sacred House in response to Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) prayer, recorded in the Qur'an. Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) beseeched God to send a Messenger from among their people to recite His verses, teach them the Book and wisdom, and purify them. God answered this plea by sending Prophet Muhammad. The pilgrimage to the Sacred House serves as a reminder that God has appointed this house for the people, uniting believers from diverse backgrounds. It underscores the importance of mutual love, affection, and fellow feeling among believers, akin to the unity of a single body.

Islam, rooted in Hanifism, emphasises tolerance and follows the path of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh). Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the final prophet and messenger, completed the religion.

The fifth pillar, Hajj, underscores the Ibrahimic heritage and the obligation to follow God's path and emulate His beliefs and actions. The rituals of Hajj predominantly commemorate the deeds of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), revered as an exemplary figure for true believers. God sanctified the Kaaba as His sacred house and tasked Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) with its purification for those performing circumambulation, standing, bowing, and prostrating. He also commanded people to undertake Hajj to witness the benefits, mention His name on appointed days, feed the destitute, and fulfill vows while abstaining from idolatry and falsehood. This journey facilitates the cultivation of piety and pure monotheism, leading to forgiveness and fulfillment of the trust of stewardship on Earth.

The pilgrimage's essence and foundation were established through Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) and his family's migration, Kaaba construction, and the subsequent arrival of other prophets and messengers. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) concluded this journey. To truly comprehend the essence and significance of Hajj, one must understand the life and legacy of Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh). Hajj represents the culmination of Prophet Ibrahim's (pbuh) journey, as he exemplified a prophet, messenger, trustee, teacher, and role model in redemption and sacrifice.

Conclusion: Prophet Ibrahim's Universal Message and the Significance of Hajj.

Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), a revered figure in various religious traditions, extended his influence far beyond the constraints of geographical borders and the confines of conventional lineage-based beliefs. His legacy traverses time, leaving an indelible mark on humanity. One of Prophet Ibrahim's most remarkable contributions was his introduction of a new worldview and a fresh mindset that have endured throughout history.

He challenged prevailing notions, beckoning people to rise above narrow perspectives and embrace a more profound understanding of existence. Central to Prophet Ibrahim's transformative message was the ritual of Hajj. Through this sacred pilgrimage, he imparted profound wisdom and unveiled the true essence of embarking on a journey. It was not merely a physical undertaking but

a spiritual odyssey where one would return to the world anew, as if reborn, carrying within them the indomitable spirit of God.

Hajj became a symbol of self-discovery and renewal, embodying the universal human yearning for transformation and connection with the divine. Prophet Ibrahim's teachings underscored that the true purpose of this journey extended beyond visiting a physical location or fulfilling prescribed rituals. It entailed embarking on an inward exploration, seeking spiritual enlightenment and divine proximity.

The rituals of Hajj, meticulously prescribed by Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh), were designed to guide pilgrims on an introspective voyage of self-realisation. The circumambulation of the Kaaba, running between the hills of Safa and Marwa, and the symbolic stoning of the pillars at Mina all served as powerful metaphors for the challenges and trials one encounters in the pursuit of spiritual growth.

Through Hajj, Prophet Ibrahim (pbuh) instilled in people the significance of humility, unity, and equality. It taught them to shed the trappings of worldly identity and embrace the fundamental essence of humanity. Regardless of their social status, race, or nationality, pilgrims would stand side by side, dressed in simple white garments, exemplifying the profound truth that, in the eyes of God, all are equal.

Prophet Ibrahim's teachings and the enduring legacy of Hajj continue to inspire countless individuals across cultures and generations. They remind us that our journey in life transcends physical boundaries and the constraints of lineage. The true essence of pilgrimage lies in our willingness to embark on a profound inner expedition, seeking a spiritual rebirth and carrying the divine light within us.

In a world often divided by geographical, cultural, and ideological boundaries, Prophet Ibrahim's teachings of unity, tolerance, and spiritual awakening remain a beacon of hope. They serve as a reminder that by transcending our limitations and embracing a mindset rooted in love and compassion, we can forge a path towards a more harmonious and enlightened future.

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