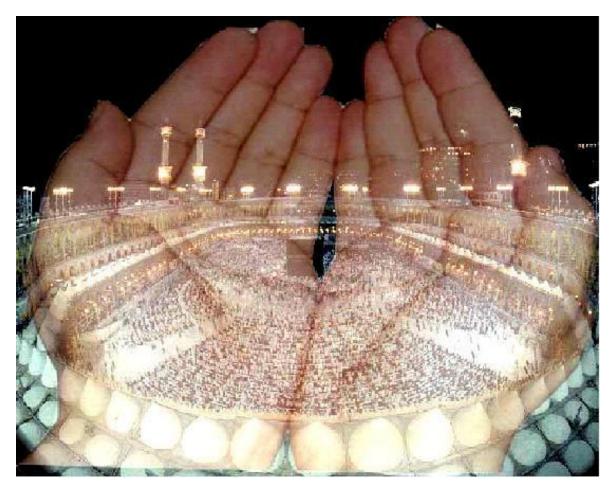


Building the House of Allah on the Foundation of Monotheism



Produced By:

Islamweb Staff



Hajj is a salient manifestation and symbol of Monotheism. It is a celebration of the Oneness of Allah Almighty, in terms of its time, place and rites. Allah, The Exalted, Identified the due time of Hajj for the pilgrims to perform these rites. Allah, The Exalted, Says (what means): {Hajj is [during] well-known months, so whoever has made Hajj obligatory upon himself therein [by entering the state of Ihraam], there is [to be for him] no sexual relations and no disobedience and no disputing during Hajj.} [Quran 2:197]

The rites of Hajj encompass both words and deeds that celebrate the Oneness of Allah Almighty as well as devoting one's worship and intentions sincerely and solely to Him. These rites renounce Shirk, promote Tawheed,

and repel all traces of associating partners with Allah. The hearts of the pilgrims are inclined to their Lord, as they recite Talbiyah (devotional

expressions chanted during Hajj and 'Umrah) and Takbeer (Allahu Akbar:

Allah Is The Greatest). They express their gratefulness to their Creator, seek

His Forgiveness, and supplicate to Him. Oh, how Great Is Allah, Who

United the hearts of all these pilgrims under the banner of Monotheism!

How Great Is Allah, The Exalted, Who Unified all these pilgrims on

thanking, remembering, and glorifying Him and the rites He ordained!

The place where these Hajj rituals are performed has its distinguished story in the history of mankind. The great House of Allah was built by a family from which Monotheism sprang after the spread of Shirk among people. This blessed family gave birth to many messengers and prophets after a period of time that witnessed an absence of prophets and the cessation of divine revelation.



It is the family of Ibraaheem (Abraham), including Ibraaheem, his son Ismaa'eel (Ishmael) and Ismaa'eel's righteous mother Haajar (Hagar), may Allah exalt their mention. This was a family of Tawheed and Imaan. They devoted their religion solely to Allah and dissociated themselves from Shirk. They endured tribulations, hardship, migration and loneliness, and as a consequence Allah, the Exalted, Rewarded them and Conferred His Honor upon them after successive waves of affliction and trials. They were the family chosen to build the Sacred House and proclaim pilgrimage among the people. Allah, the Exalted, Blessed the descendents of Ibraaheem, as he had the greatest number of prophets and apostles from among his descendants, including the three messengers with firm resolution: Moosaa (Moses), 'Eesa (Jesus) and Muhammad, may Allah exalt their mention.

The monotheism of the builders of the House, may Allah exalt their mention:

Ibraaheem, was the great Prophet, whose life story is well-known for those who read the Noble Quran.

He was the forefather of monotheists, after Aadam and Nooh (Noah), may Allah exalt their mention. He was the leader whom Allah, the Exalted, Considered as a nation by himself. He carried the banner of Monotheism alone, faced polytheism and idolatry on his own, and proclaimed Jihaad; through dissociating himself from Shirk and through debate.

Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {Indeed, Abraham was an Ummah (a leader having all the righteous qualities or a nation), devoutly obedient



to Allah, inclining toward truth, and he was not of those who associate others with Allah.} [Quran 16:120]

He was Al-Khaleel, the close servant of Allah (Al-Khaleel) who debated Namrood ibn Kan'aan (Nimrod), the king of Babylon, about the Lordship of Allah, the Exalted. He displayed peerless steadfastness and bravery [before this king who claimed divinity]. He offered clear evidence proving that the king was a mere helpless slave of Allah, The Lord of the Worlds. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {Have you not considered the one who argued with Abraham about his Lord [merely] because Allah had given him kingship? When Abraham said, "My Lord is the one who gives life and causes death," he said, "I give life and cause death." Abraham said, "Indeed, Allah Brings up the sun from the east, so bring it up from the west." So the disbeliever was overwhelmed [by astonishment], and Allah Does not Guide the wrongdoing people.} [Quran 2:258]

He also debated the idolaters from his people, who worshipped the planets, the sun and the moon. He reminded them of the fact that the sun, the moon, and the planets set and disappear from the sky. He proclaimed the Oneness of Allah, the Exalted, and dissociated himself from Shirk. He used such a simple, smooth and indirect debate to say to them that their faith is wrong! Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And [mention, O Muhammad], when Abraham said to his father Aazar, "Do you take idols as deities? Indeed, I see you and your people to be in manifest error."* And thus did We Show Abraham the realm of the heavens and the earth, that he would be among the certain [in faith]* So when the night covered him [with darkness], he saw a star. He said, "This is my lord." But when it set, he said, "I like not those that disappear."* And when he saw the moon rising,



he said, "This is my lord." But when it set, he said, "Unless my Lord guides me, I will surely be among the people gone astray."* And when he saw the sun rising, he said, "This is my lord; this is greater." But when it set, he said, "O my people, indeed I am free from what you associate with Allah.* Indeed, I have turned my face toward He who Created the heavens and the earth, inclining toward truth, and I am not of those who associate others with Allah."* And his people argued with him. He said, "Do you argue with me concerning Allah while He Has Guided me? And I fear not what you associate with Him [and will not be harmed] unless my Lord should will something. My Lord encompasses all things in knowledge; then will you not remember?* And how should I fear what you associate while you do not fear that you have associated with Allah that for which He has not sent down to you any authority? So which of the two parties has more right to security, if you should know?} [Quran 6:74-81]

He is Al-Khaleel, the close servant of Allah who smashed the idols with his blessed hands; defeated Shirk, and established Monotheism. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And We had certainly given Abraham his sound judgment before, and We were of him well-Knowing* When he said to his father and his people, "What are these statues to which you are devoted?"* They said, "We found our fathers worshipping them."* He said, "You were certainly, you and your fathers, in manifest error."* They said, "Have you come to us with truth, or are you of those who jest?"* He said, "[No], rather, your Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth who created them, and I, to that, am of those who testify.* And [I swear] by Allah, I will surely plan against your idols after you have turned and



gone away."* So he made them into fragments, except a large one among them, that they might return to it [and question].} [Ouran 21:51-58]

Allah, the Exalted, also Says about him (what means): {Then he turned to their gods and said, "Do you not eat?* What is [wrong] with you that you do not speak?"* And he turned upon them a blow with [his] right hand.* Then the people came toward him, hastening.* He said, "Do you worship that which you [yourselves] carve,* While Allah Created you and that which you do?"} [Quran 37:91-96]

His people wanted to punish him, so they threw him into the fire after he had proved them wrong, clarified the clear path for them, and proved the falsity of polytheism, but Allah, the Exalted, Saved him. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {He said, "Then do you worship instead of Allah that which does not benefit you at all or harm you?* Uff to you and to what you worship instead of Allah. Then will you not use reason?"* They said, "Burn him and support your gods — if you are to act."* Allah said, "O fire, be coolness and safety upon Abraham."* And they intended for him harm, but We made them the greatest losers.} [Quran 21:66-70]

When he, saw their disbelief, their stubbornness and persistence in Shirk, he forsook them for the Sake of Allah, the Exalted. He fled from their country in order to establish Monotheism in another land. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And I will leave you and those you invoke other than Allah and will invoke my Lord. I expect that I will not be in invocation to my Lord unhappy."} [Quran 19:48]



As a reward for his sincerity and devotion, Allah, the Exalted, Blessed him with righteous and devout offspring. He was rewarded with pious descendants due to his good faith, striving in calling people to Tawheed, as well as his sincerity, conviction, patience, and dedication. He, well, implored Allah, the Exalted, to Protect him and his descendants from falling into the abyss of Shirk. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And [mention, O Muhammad], when Abraham said, ''My Lord, make this city [Makkah] secure and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols.* My Lord, indeed they have led astray many among the people. So whoever follows me – then he is of me; and whoever disobeys me – indeed, You Are [yet] Forgiving and Merciful.} [Quran 14:35-36]

This was a brief account of parts of the life of the builder of the House of Allah. He, and the many hardships and much harm in his life. His son Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, participated in the building of the Ka'bah with his father. Ismaa'eel, was a monotheist himself and a sincere advocator of Tawheed like his father. Allah, the Exalted, Described Ismaa'eel, as a patient man. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And [mention] Ishmael and Idrees and Thul-Kifl; all were of the patient.} [Quran 21:85]

Allah, the Exalted, also Says (what means): {And remember Ishmael, Elisha and Thul-Kifl, and all are among the outstanding.} [Quran 38:4]

Allah, the Exalted, was Pleased with the Imaan and righteousness of Ismaa'eel, He Says (what means): {And mention in the Book, Ishmael. Indeed, he was true to his promise, and he was a messenger and



a prophet.* And he used to enjoin on his people prayer and Zakaah and was to his Lord pleasing.} [Quran 19:54-55]

Allah, the Exalted, Put him and his father, may Allah exalt their mention, to the greatest trial in which a father and son can face. Allah, the Exalted, Commanded Ibraaheem to slaughter his son Ismaa'eel. Both the father and the son displayed peerless submission and obedience to their Lord. Ibraaheem, Allah without any hesitation or questioning and the dutiful son Ismaa'eel, , lay down with a serene and devout heart. They both were confident of their Lord and their hearts abounded with obedience, submission and devotion. How great were their faith, devoutness, and confidence in Allah! Pious and submissive as Ibraaheem was, he did not ask Allah, the Exalted, to relieve him from such a harsh trial. Ismaa'eel did not abstain or hesitate in fulfilling the Command of Allah, the Exalted. He even encouraged his father to obey Allah, the Exalted. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, "O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think." He said, "O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah Wills, of the steadfast."* And when they had both submitted and he put him down upon his forehead,* We called to him, ''O Abraham,* You have fulfilled the vision." Indeed, We thus reward the doers of good. [Quran 37:102-105]

The confidence of Haajar, , in Allah, the Exalted:

Haajar, was the mother of the noble Prophet Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, who participated in the building of the Ka'bah. She went through harsh adversity herself when she and her newborn child were left



alone in the barren valley of Makkah. She displayed matchless submission and obedience to the Commands of Allah, the Exalted.

Ibn 'Abbaas, , said:

Ibraaheem brought his wife and suckling son Ismaa'eel to Makkah and left them near a tree beneath which Zamzam gushed forth afterwards, and there was no one living in Makkah at that time. He left them a water-skin containing some water and a bag of dates and went away. Haajar followed him and called out to him, "O Ibraaheem! To whom are you leaving us in this deserted valley?" She repeated her question several times and Ibraaheem, "All did not answer her. She asked him, "Did Allah Command you to do this?" Ibraaheem, "Ibraaheem, "Then, "Then,

In another version of this narration she called him from behind, "O Ibraaheem, to whom are you leaving us here?" He replied, "(I am leaving you) to Allah's (Care)." She said, "I am satisfied to be with Allah." [Al-Bukhaari]

Contemplate, dear reader, her great confidence in Allah. She placed her full trust in Allah, the Exalted, and displayed commendable steadfastness and acceptance of the Decree of her Lord. Upon knowing that it was a Divine Command to her husband, she obeyed her Lord and stayed in this barren deserted valley with her baby. She was absolutely certain that her Lord Would never Let her and her child down. As a reward for her confidence in Allah and her compliance, Allah, the Exalted, Caused the water of Zamzam



to flow, and the tribe of Jurhum settled in the valley of Makkah, which was once a barren and deserted valley. Haajar and her son, may Allah exalt their mention, were the first dwellers of Makkah.

She, deep down in her heart, knew that the barren valley of Makkah would change and that the hearts of mankind would incline to it. She knew that Makkah would be the destination of the pilgrims till the end of time. As she was running between As-Safa and Al-Marwah in her pursuit of water for her thirsty child, Allah, the Exalted, Sent down the Angel Jibreel, to cause the water of Zamazam to flow. Jibreel, told her, "Do not be afraid of being neglected, for in this place is the House of Allah which will be built by this boy and his father, and Allah never Neglects His devout servants." [Al-Bukhaari]

This was the blessed family upon whom Allah, the Exalted, Conferred His Honor of settling in Makkah and building the Ka'bah. It is the family of Tawheed, knowledge, trust in Allah and devotion to Him. The father, mother, and son displayed commendable submission and devotion to their Lord.

In fact, the real rationale behind the Divine Command to Ibraaheem, well, to leave his wife and child in the barren valley of Makkah was to establish monotheism. This is crystal clear in the supplications of Ibraaheem, when he left them there. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {Our Lord, I have settled some of my descendants in an uncultivated valley near Your sacred House, our Lord, that they may establish prayer. So make hearts among the people incline toward them and provide for them from the fruits that they might be grateful.} [Quran 14:37]



The journey of Ibraaheem, Will, to Makkah to build the Ka'bah:

Years passed by and many people dwelled in Makkah. Then, Allah, the Exalted, Commanded Ibraaheem, well, to build the Ka'bah. He traveled from Ash-Shaam to Makkah, where he met his son after many years of being apart. The loving father embraced his son compassionately and said to him, "Son, your Lord Commanded me to build Him a house." The dutiful son replied, "Obey your Lord, father." Ibraaheem, added, "He also Ordered me that you should help me therein." Ismaa'eel, responded, "Then I will." So, both of them rose and Ibraaheem started building the Ka'bah while Ismaa'eel handed him the stones. Allah, the Exalted, Informed us that they were saying (what means): {..."Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing.} [Quran 2:127]

When the building became high and the old man (Ibraaheem) could no longer lift the stones (to such an elevation), he stood on the stone of Al-Maqaam and Ismaa'eel carried on handing him the stones, and both of them were saying, {..."Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing.} [Quran 2:127] [Al-Bukhaari on the authority of Ibn 'Abbaas,

Their supplications while building the Ka'bah are clear evidence of their unadulterated monotheism and their sincere hope in the Rewards of their Lord as well as of their fear that He May not accept their deed. Wuhaib ibn Al-Ward, wied to weep whenever he recited what Allah, the Exalted, Says in this regard (which means): {And [mention] when Abraham was



raising the foundations of the House and [with him] Ishmael, [saying], "Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing.} [Quran 2:127] He used to say, "Oh close servant of Allah; you build the House of Allah and you fear that He May not accept your deed!" [Abu Haatim and Ibn Katheer in their Tafseer books]

Among the clearest evidence of the absolute monotheism of Ibraaheem were his supplications for himself and his son Ismaa'eel and their descendents to be Muslims. He also implored his Lord to send mankind a great leader for the monotheists. Allah, the Exalted, Answered his supplication and Sent mankind the seal of all the Prophets and the best of all the sons of Aadam, Muhammad, from Makkah to carry the banner of Tawheed, establish monotheism and eradicate Shirk. Allah, the Exalted, Says that Ibraaheem was supplicating during the building of the Ka'bah with these words (which mean): {Our Lord, and make us Muslims [in submission] to You and from our descendants a Muslim nation [in submission] to You. And show us our rites and accept our repentance. Indeed, You are the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful.* Our Lord, and send among them a messenger from themselves who will recite to them Your Verses and teach them the Book and wisdom and purify them. Indeed, You Are the Exalted in Might, the Wise."} [Quran 2:128-129]

The Prophet, , said: "Truly, my name was written as the Seal of the Prophets when Aadam was still lying on the ground in his clay. I shall inform you about the beginning of my mentioning: I am the supplication of my father Ibraaheem, and the good tidings of my brother 'Eesa (Jesus),



and my mother saw, when she delivered me, that a great light issued from her and lit the castles of Syria for her." [Ahmad; Ibn Hibbaan: Saheeh]

Allah, the Exalted, Wanted the Ka'bah, which was built by Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, to be the place where the rites of Hajj would be performed and which the pilgrims would circumambulate. Allah, the Exalted, Commanded Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, to purify His House from any aspects of Shirk. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And [mention] when We made the House a place of return for the people and [a place of] security. And take, [O believers], from the standing place of Abraham a place of prayer. And We Charged Abraham and Ismaa'eel, [saying], "Purify My House for those who perform Tawaaf and those who are staying [there] for worship and those who bow and prostrate [in prayer]."} [Quran 2:125]

Ibraaheem, , proclaims Hajj:

After Ibraaheem, the leader of the monotheists, finished building the Ka'bah on the foundations of Tawheed, Allah, the Exalted, Commanded him to proclaim Hajj among the people. This was meant to celebrate the Oneness of Allah, the Exalted; worship; supplicate; remember; and thank Him. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {And proclaim to the people the Hajj [pilgrimage]; they will come to you on foot and on every lean camel; they will come from every distant pass*That they may witness benefits for themselves and mention the name of Allah on known days over what He has provided for them of [sacrificial] animals. So eat of them and feed the miserable and poor.} [Quran 22:27-28]



Ibraaheem, , proclaimed Hajj, calling the monotheists at all times and in every corner of the globe to visit the House of their Lord. The monotheists answered the blessed call of their father Ibraaheem, , and the disbelievers refrained from answering it. Ibn 'Abbaas, , said, "When Ibraaheem had finished building the Ka'bah, Allah, the Exalted, Ordered him to proclaim Hajj to mankind. Ibraaheem said, "O Lord, my voice will not reach them?" Allah, the Exalted, Said: "Call, and it is Ours to convey it." Ibraaheem, , stood on his Station and said, "O people! Pilgrimage to the Ancient House has been ordained upon you, so perform pilgrimage to it." It is said that all that is between heaven and earth heard his voice. Do you not see that people from every distant corner of the earth hasten to their Lord reciting Talbiyah (saying, "Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk (Here I am O Allah, responding to your call)." [Ibn Abu Shaybah and Al-Bayhaqi; Al-Haakim: Saheeh]

In another narration, Ibn 'Abbaas, , said:

...Ibraaheem stood on the stone and said, "O mankind! Pilgrimage has been ordained upon you," and his voice reached those in the loins of men and the wombs of women. so those who believed and those whom Allah Decreed would perform Hajj until the Day of Resurrection responded saying, "Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk (Here I am, O Allah, here I am)." [At-Tabari]

The generations of monotheists passed down such commendable glorification, veneration, and honoring of the Ka'bah. Muslims, from the descendents of Ibraaheem, wenerated the House of Allah; visiting it,



carrying out the rites of Hajj and 'Umrah, and glorifying Hajj rituals. Muslims still venerate the House of Allah and its rites until this very day and will continue honoring the House of their Lord until the end of time. Then, after the decent of 'Eesa, 'Ee, he will kill the Maseeh Ad-Dajjaal (the anti-Christ) at the end of time and visit the Ka'bah and perform Hajj. Abu Hurayrah, 'Eesa', reported that the Prophet, 'Eesa', said: "By Him in Whose Hand my soul is. Ibn Maryam ('Eesa: Jesus Christ) would certainly pronounce Talbiyah for Hajj or for 'Umrah or for both (simultaneously as a Qiraan) in the valley of Rawhaa'." [Muslim]

The polytheists and idolaters refrained from performing Hajj to the House of Allah and rendered their idols and the graves of their leaders and masters as destinations to which they performed pilgrimage. They favored their distorted version of pilgrimage over the Hajj that Allah, the Exalted, Prescribed for His slaves. We thank Allah, the Exalted, for making us among His chosen slaves who answered the call of Ibraaheem, We implore Him to Grant us steadfastness on the Straight Path as long as we live. Indeed, He Is Near and Responsive.

Deviants and the rite of Hajj:

Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, built the Ka'bah on the foundations of Tawheed, acting upon the Command of their Lord, in the place that Alaah, the Exalted, Chose to establish monotheism. The monotheists are worthier of the Ka'bah and its builder, which, than any other nation. When the Christians and Jews claimed that Ibraaheem, was one of them and that they were his followers, Allah, the Exalted, Confuted their allegation. Allah, the Exalted, Underlined that the true followers of



Ibraaheem, Allah, are those who held on to his true monotheistic religion and answered his call; the Muslims. Allah, the Exalted, Says (what means): {Abraham was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but he was one inclining toward truth, a Muslim [submitting to Allah]. And he was not of the polytheists.* Indeed, the most worthy of Abraham among the people are those who followed him [in submission to Allah] and this prophet and those who believe [in his message]. And Allah Is the Ally of the believers.}
[Quran 3:67-68]

Many Christian and Jewish writers nowadays claim that Hajj and its rites are mere traces of idolatry that infiltrated into Islam. They aim at arguing that Islam was distorted after they had failed to put the religion of Islam as a Divine Message from Allah, the Exalted, to mankind into question. They argue that Hajj rites are pagan in origin. They founded their claim on historical traditions about the pagan Arab tribes who performed pilgrimage in the pre-Islamic era.

Some atheists, who label themselves as thinkers and intellectuals of our time in the Islamic countries, advocate this unfounded claim. Such so-called thinkers and intellectuals disbelieve in Allah, the Exalted, and the Day of Judgment. They denounce the eagerness and condemn the hastiness of Muslim crowds to perform Hajj as they consider it relics of corrupt practices of the pre-Islamic pagan era .

Indeed, they are the most ignorant people as they disbelieve in the Noble Quran by claiming such a thing. Allah, the Exalted, Made mention of Hajj and its rites – Sa'y, Tawaaf, staying in 'Arafah, and spending the night in



Muzdalifah – in the Noble Quran. What do they have to say about these verses?

They are also most ignorant of history and what is known as sociology and cross-cultural interactions; as civilizations do not recognize political or geographical borders. It is well known and proven in history that Ibraaheem, was the one who proclaimed Hajj among people and that the people of Makkah followed his religion but deviated from the true religion of Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, with the passage of time. An observer can notice the traces of the Abrahamic religion that passed from one generation to another among these pagan Arabs. Indeed, they distorted the monotheistic religion of Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel, may Allah exalt their mention, and adopted Shirk, associating partners with Allah. They worshipped idols as partners to Allah, the Exalted, and placed these idols and statues all around and even inside the Ka'bah. They also observed spatial discrimination of Al-Hums during the rites of Hajj and they used to circumambulate the Ka'bah while being naked.

Then, Allah, the Exalted, Sent the Prophet, , as a final Messenger to humanity from the very place where his father Ibraaheem, proclaimed Hajj. Muhammad, , was sent by our Lord in order to purify the religion of Ibraaheem from distortion and all hideous traces of Shirk. He was sent to eradicate Shirk and usher mankind from the darkness of polytheism back into the light of monotheism, to which Ibraaheem, , once called them. He, , fulfilled his due mission. Muslims performed Hajj after the Ba'thah, i.e. Divine commission of the Prophet, , to bear and proclaim the



message, according to the monotheistic belief to which Ibraaheem, called and proclaimed Hajj after building the Ka'bah.

That being said then, how can some ignorant people – whose hearts are dimmed with hatred and whose vision is blinded with falsehood – who read in the pages of history that Quraysh used to perform pilgrimage in the pre-Islamic era, rejoice at their discovery and proclaim among people that Hajj is the relic of paganism and idolatrous superstition? Ignorant as these people are, they do not know that lay Muslims all over the Islamic world know that Quraysh had inherited the rites of Hajj from the Prophet Ibraaheem, Muslim commoners are aware of the fact that some of the Abrahamic Hajj rituals were observed by the pagan Arabs, despite the distortion and Shirk that were blended with them. The Prophet, , raised the banner of monotheism and eradicated the spiritual 'filth' of Shirk, inviting mankind to Islam.

These deviants are given front seats in the corrupted media and are made famous. The corrupted media impose them on people day and night on the grounds that they are thinkers and researchers, despite the fact that they are incredibly ignorant of the Islamic Sharee'ah, history, cultural legacy, civilization and nature, as we have clarified earlier.

Dear readers, we should complain to Allah, the Exalted, from such a blameworthy time; when mean people take the lead, when Truth is hidden, and when Ar-Ruwaybidhah (the insignificant, worthless, and inane people) proceed to have a say in public affairs and speak on behalf of the general masses.