



Content for Essay Writing Competition for Intermediate / Degree & Post Graduate students

Hajjatul Widaa' (Farewell Pilgrimage)

"When the help of Allah comes and the conquest (of Makkah) has been accomplished, and you see the people entering Allah's religion in crowds, then glorify the praises of your Lord and ask His forgiveness. Indeed, He is ever Accepting of Repentance."

(Surah An-Nasr, 3)

When Allah's help arrived and Makkah was conquered, and the Prophet ﷺ saw people entering Allah's religion in large groups, He ﷺ was instructed to glorify and praise Allah and seek His forgiveness. Allah is indeed Ever-Accepting of repentance.

At first glance, one may wonder why this verse pairs **tasbeeh (glorification)** and **istighfar (seeking forgiveness)** with **victory and conquest**, when one would expect **gratitude** instead. On this matter, Hazrat Umar رضي الله عنه once asked the companions about the meaning. People gave various answers. Hazrat Umar then looked at Abdullah bin Abbas, who was young and hesitant. When Hazrat Umar encouraged him, he said:

"This verse indicates the approach of the Prophet ﷺ towards his departure from this world; istighfar is for preparation for death."

After this Surah was revealed, it became clear to the Prophet ﷺ that his departure (death) was near. Therefore, it was necessary to proclaim the fundamental principles of Shariah and morality publicly to the world. The Prophet ﷺ had not yet performed the obligatory Hajj since the time of Hijrah. Initially, the Quraysh blocked the way, but after the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, the opportunity arose. However, the prevailing understanding was that this obligation should be performed last.

Eventually, it was announced in **Dhu'l-Qi'dah** that the Prophet ﷺ intended to go to Makkah for Hajj. News spread, and all Arabs with means came to perform Hajj. On **Saturday, the 26th of Dhu'l-Qi'dah**, the Prophet ﷺ performed ghusl, wore the ihram, and tied the belt, and after Zuhr prayer, left Madinah. He ﷺ ordered that all his purified wives accompany him. At six miles from Madinah, at **Dhu'l-Halifah**, a designated miqat of Madinah, they spent the night.

The next day, he ﷺ performed ghusl again, then prayed two rak'ahs, mounted the camel Qaswa, and pronounced loudly:

"Labbayk Allahumma Labbayk. Labbayk la shareeka laka Labbayk. Innal-hamda wan-ni'mata laka wal-mulk, la shareeka lak."

“O Allah! Here I am at Your service. You have no partner. All praise and blessings are Yours, and sovereignty has no partner but You.”

Hazrat Jabir رضي الله عنه, a narrator, said that when the Prophet ﷺ said "Labbayk," the echo spread in all directions, filling the valleys and mountains.

During the conquest of Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ prayed at various locations, and in the blessings of these sites, people built mosques where he ﷺ prayed. On **Sunday, 4th of Dhu'l-Hijjah**, he ﷺ entered Makkah early in the morning. The journey from Madinah to Makkah took nine days.

When the two sons of Hashim heard of his arrival, they came out joyfully. The Prophet ﷺ ensured love and fairness among them while riding the camel. Upon seeing the Ka'bah, he ﷺ prayed for its further honor and performed tawaf, then offered two rak'ahs at Maqam-e-Ibrahim and recited:

“And take Maqam Ibrahim as a place of prayer.”

At Safa, he ﷺ recited:

“Indeed, Safa and Marwah are among the symbols of Allah.”

When the Ka'bah came into view, he ﷺ said:

“There is no deity except Allah, alone, with no partner. To Him belongs all sovereignty and praise; He gives life and causes death, and He is over all things competent. He fulfilled His promise, helped His servant, and defeated the confederates alone.”

After completing the tawaf of Safa and Marwah, the Prophet ﷺ instructed those who did not have sacrificial animals to finish Umrah and remove their ihram. Some companions, out of adherence to prior customs, apologized for not following this, and the Prophet ﷺ explained that he would have done the same if he had no sacrificial animals.

Hazrat Ali رضي الله عنه, sent to Yemen before Hajj, returned with the Yemeni pilgrims with their sacrificial animals and thus did not remove ihram.

On **Thursday, the 8th of Dhu'l-Hijjah**, the Prophet ﷺ stood with all Muslims in Mina. On **Friday, 9th of Dhu'l-Hijjah**, after the Fajr prayer, they departed for Arafat.

Although the Quraysh customarily stopped at Muzdalifah, Islam established equality and fairness, so the Prophet ﷺ stood at Arafat with all Muslims. He ﷺ said:

“Stand at your sacred sites, for you are on the inheritance of your father Ibrahim.”

At the **Maqam Nimrah**, he ﷺ delivered the sermon from atop the camel Qaswa.

He ﷺ declared: *“All practices of Jahiliyyah are beneath my feet.”*

He ﷺ abolished tribal vendettas, interest-based debts, and the oppression of women:

“Fear Allah regarding women.” (Surah An-Nisa, 2)

He ﷺ made clear that life, property, and honor are sacred:

“Your blood, property, and honor are inviolable just like this sacred day, month, and city.”

He ﷺ emphasized equality among humans:

“Arabs have no superiority over non-Arabs, nor do non-Arabs have superiority over Arabs. All of you are the children of Adam, and Adam was created from dust.”

The Prophet ﷺ forgave past vendettas in his own family and declared:

“I forgive the blood of the son of Rabi’ah ibn al-Harith and the debts of Abbas ibn Abdul-Muttalib.”

Women, previously treated as property, were now honored and given full rights.

He ﷺ warned:

“Avoid extremism in religion, for the nations before you were destroyed because of excesses in religion.”

He ﷺ instructed the pilgrims to learn Hajj rituals carefully, as this might be his only Hajj:

“Take your rituals, for I do not know, perhaps I may not perform Hajj again after this.”

Upon reaching Mina, he ﷺ addressed the large gathering, teaching and guiding them in Hajj rites.

Finally, he ﷺ declared:

“Today I have perfected for you your religion, completed My favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion.” (Surah Ma’idah, 3)

Even amidst millions, the Prophet ﷺ demonstrated humility; the grandeur of the event lay not in wealth but in the message of truth, justice, and equality.

He ﷺ proclaimed the sanctity of life, property, and honor:

“Your blood, property, and honor are sacred as this day, this month, and this city are sacred.”

He ﷺ warned against returning to tribal blood feuds:

“Do not revert to misguidance and slay one another; you will be questioned about your deeds by Allah.”