



a Return Journey

- Umme Muhammad Popatia

وَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا فِي اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ
 مَا ظَلَمُوا النَّبِيَّ تَتَّهَمُونَ فِي الدُّنْيَا
 حَسَنَةً ط وَالْآخِرَةُ أَكْبَرُ لَوْ
 كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ل

As for those who have forsaken their homes for the sake of Allah after enduring persecution, we shall certainly grant them a good abode in this world; and surely the reward of the Hereafter is much greater. If they could but know (what an excellent end awaits)”
 (16:41)

The word 'Hijrah' is an Arabic word, which technically means, 'to leave' and its Islamic meaning is, 'to leave Darul Kufr and go towards Darul Imaan'.

In the Islamic tradition, the word *Hijrah* is used to describe the emigration of Muslims from Makkah Mukarramah to either Abyssinia (modern-day Ethiopia) or it refers to Rasulallah's ﷺ migration from Makkah Mukarramah to Madinah Munawwarah in 622 AD.

The migration of the Sahaba رضى الله عنهم and their guide from the best land, Makkah Mukarramah to Madinah Munawwarah in compliance to the order of Allah ﷻ turned over societies, changed standards and balances, altered statuses of the people and states and habits ceased to exist. It was a dawn that broke on millions of humans in the east, the west, north and south. It was the sun of a civilization which shone to propagate progress, development, knowledge, urbanization and high manners to the different platforms of the universe.

As we commence the new Hijri (Lunar) year, it reminds us of the hardships faced by the last of the Messengers of Allah and the Master of all of the Messengers; Muhammad ﷺ with his Companion Abu Bakr Siddiq رضى الله عنه. It reminds us of how his Companions battled calamities and torture with patience and endurance. It is important that we intelligently read the history and take heed from the lessons properly so that we do not miss out on the chance of understanding the events of the present time. Remember, the history of Islam is rich with pearls of wisdom and examples.

The mention of *Hijrah* is done specifically in the month of *Muharram* as both are related to each other. It was in this month that Rasulallah ﷺ left for the city of Madina.

When a bride, who on the threshold of marriage leaves the home she was born in to settle with her life partner, she finds it an emotional moment. The

home where she was born and cradled, the nest where she was nurtured, the place where she bloomed into a young girl. She leaves in inconsolable tears.

Our beloved Rasulullah ﷺ was born in the city of Makkah. The city had memories of his beloved mother and his grandfather. The city had imprints of his uncle and the places they visited together. Moreover, this was the city wherein stood the beloved house of Allah. The city where the signs of the sacrifices of the forefathers of Rasulullah ﷺ were preserved.

It was in this city that they were being persecuted. They were being tortured and maligned. They did not have the freedom to practice their Deen. The Meccan people used all possible methods of torture to create fear in the hearts of the Sahaba so that they would return back to polytheism. Allah the all-seeing, the most merciful, the most compassionate advised Rasulullah ﷺ to leave Makkah; his hometown, his birthplace, along with his companions and migrate to Yathrib to be able to practice Deen peacefully.

While leaving Makkah Mukarramah, the beloved of Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala's eyes were filled with tears and he left with the words narrated by Ibn 'Abbas RadiyaAllahu Anhu, When Rasulullah ﷺ was forced to leave Makkah he headed out to a cave, turned around, and said, addressing Makkah, "You are the most beloved land to Allah, and you are the most beloved land to me. Had the polytheists not forced me out of you, I would never have come out and left you. The worst enemy is the one who transgresses the sanctities of Allah, or kills a soul without due right or kills a soul as revenge from the era of pre-Islamic ignorance."

Then Allah revealed the following verse (which means): "And how many a city was stronger than your city [i.e. Makkah] which drove you out? We destroyed them; and there was no helper for them."
[Quran 47:13]

Allah Ta'ala promised rewards to those who migrated for the sake of Allah.

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We learn from this journey innumerable lessons. We too, have to embark on this journey of Hijrah. Even though our journey will not encompass moving physically from one place to another place, it will mean traveling from a life of sins to a life of piety. We need to reform our hearts and souls and lead a life in the remembrance of Allah. We need to leave our lusts and desires.

Lusaka

We need to ponder over the sacrifices of Rasulullah ﷺ and the Sahaba RadhiyALLAAHu Anhum for this Deen and contemplate, 'what are we sacrificing for the Deen?' Neither are we being tortured nor are we being forced to leave our Deen. What is then stopping us from practicing upon it? Why are we leaving the Sunnah way of life and living like the Jews and Christians?

Let us all repent and migrate from a sinful life towards a life full of good deeds; a Sunnah filled life, which will lead us to paradise. A life that will ensure us shade on the day of Qiyamah where there will be scorching heat.

In order to reach this ultimate goal, we need to set our yearly objectives, monthly aims and weekly targets. Set targets, plan the year ahead and use it wisely before the knock of the angel of death.

May Allah Ta'ala fill our lives with true love for Imaan and Rasulullah ﷺ