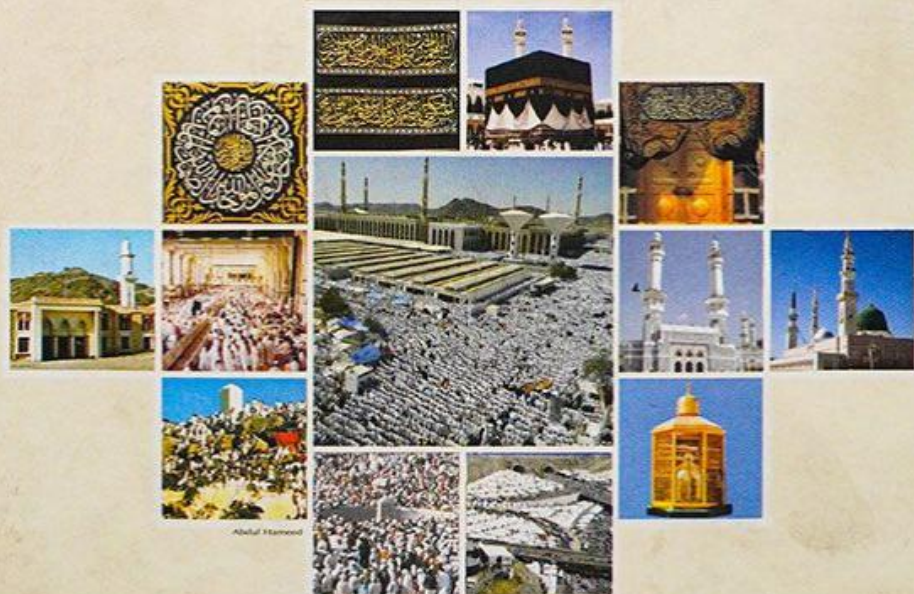


Getting the Best out of

# Al-Hajj

(Pilgrimage)



Abu Muneer Ismail Davids

DARUSSALAM

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## Foreword to Second Edition

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Universe. May peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, the last of the Prophets and Messengers, and upon his family and esteemed Companions.

Allah, Your help we seek, Your forgiveness we ask, and we seek Your refuge from the evil of our own selves and from our sinful deeds. Whosoever Allah guides, there is none to misguide him. And whosoever He leaves astray, none can guide him. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship besides Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

Since the publishing of the first edition in 2000, it has been extremely rewarding and satisfying for me to see how useful and helpful the book has been for the pilgrims. My highest expectations were surpassed. During the last six years, I have experienced so many overwhelming and uplifting moments while delivering *Hajj* lectures and during the actual *Hajj*, when I would come across a pilgrim with the book, where pieces of paper are sticking out from various pages, highlighting of paragraphs, and how protective they would be over the book. So many pilgrims mentioned to me that they have used the book as their complete reference and have guided others with it. They even knew their 'way around the book' better than me. *Alhamdulillah*, I pray that my intentions remain sincere and that all the benefits are written for us all in our book of good deeds, *Aameen!*

Since moving from Saudi Arabia back to Australia in January 2005 (Dhul-Hijjah 1425), I was again blessed with the opportunity to continue being involved in *Hajj* as well as teaching and advising prospective pilgrims, *Alhamdulillah*. Hence, in January 2006 (*Hajj* 1426), I was back 'at home' in Makkah as a guide for a group of Australian pilgrims. This provided me with the golden opportunity to compare my experiences from 1989, arriving as a pilgrim from outside and

returning 17 years later. Arriving at the Hajj terminal I was anxious to see how and if the processing had improved, but to my dismay, it was no better than in 1989. Fortunately I have learnt to be more patient and now had many years of experience under my belt. So my fellow pilgrims, without a doubt the infrastructure in Mina, Makkah and Madinah, have markedly been improved, but sadly the processing and movement of the pilgrims were still the same. So please 'buy' an extra large bag of patience.

In the first edition, I mentioned that going to Aziziah was not such a good idea, but I have since changed my mind. During the Hajj of 2006 (1426), we moved to Aziziah on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Dhul-Hijjah and used this as our base during and after Hajj. I was sceptical in the beginning, but in all honesty I can now vouch that it is one of the best logistical moves for any group, as it provides such easy access to Mina. We were able to walk to and from Mina with ease. We stationed some of the really sick and elderly pilgrims there after stoning the *Jamr'at* and on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> we were able to walk back to Aziziah after stoning and avoiding the long delays in the traffic. In addition departing for the airport was also much easier. So I am 'converted' to the Aziziah concept.

As with so many previous years, in 2006 (1426) there was once again an unfortunate stampede at the *Jamr'at*, and many pilgrims died. As usual the pilgrims' behaviour was to be blamed. Whatever the cause, please heed my suggestions about the *Jamr'at* in chapter 8. Don't enter the bridge if it is overcrowded and don't push. Also don't be in a hurry to get back to Makkah, and don't go at *Zawwal* time on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Each year the authorities grapple as to what to do about the *Jamr'at*. In 2005 they built new wall shaped *Jamr'at*, which worked wonders, and it did help the stoning, but the problem is still the crowd on their way to the *Jamr'at*. Many proposals including a multi-level bridge have been planned. So whatever picture we publish for the *Jamr'at* could be obsolete in no time, as each year something different comes up. My view and experience is that if the bridge itself is policed properly, these stampedes can possibly be avoided.



My reasoning for this is that after every stampede they apply strict policing (using thousands of army personnel) on and off the bridge (breaking up big crowds, making sure no one pushes, helping older pilgrims, protecting families, etc.), and there is never a repeat stampede in the same year....why? Because this is how it will work best. Maybe one day the authorities will decide to apply these tactics from the beginning of *Hajj* until the completion.

It also became apparent that many pilgrims needed to keep with them certain sections of the book, so with this in mind, and with the Mercy and Blessings of Allah, we published the following pocket guides:

1. Hajj Pocket Guide (fold-out card)
2. Hajj Pocket Guide (32 page)
3. Umrah Pocket Guide (32 page)
4. The demand for chapter 11 (supplications) resulted in a supplication pocket guide, to be published with this second edition, Allah Willing!

With the Blessings of Allah and due to the success and widespread use of the book, meant requests to give lectures and presentations on *Hajj* in various parts of the world and also in Makkah and Mina itself. This opened yet another avenue for me to assist the 'Guests of Allah'. I ask of you, as I ask during my lectures, when pilgrims ask me what they can do for me in return: "Please make *Dua'* for me (by name), my parents, my family, and for all the Muslims when you are on Arafat".

Many people have suggested I get someone famous to write an introduction to the second edition. I have always been reluctant to do that, even with the first edition. To me the most famous and important person is the actual pilgrim. So this is what some of them had to say:

- *Alhamdulillah* your book was very beneficial for *Hajj*, thank you.
- My parents love the book and are trying to get everyone

visiting us to buy one.

- I am feeling quite anxious I have to confess! *Alhamdulillah* your book has been very helpful (my dad is trying to frantically finish reading it but my mum keeps snatching it from him!)
- I'd like to reinforce how helpful the book was and so accurate too. We remembered you in Arafat as promised!
- Anyway, I wanted to thank you for your time on Saturday. What you had to say was invaluable and the way you said it was terrific.
- Once I started reading the book, I could not put it down until I completed it.
- May I thank you on behalf of my wife and myself for giving such a useful and absorbing lecture in London on Saturday.
- We are now reading through your book. Perhaps we should have bought one copy each!
- We cannot thank you enough.
- The book is so easy to read, down to earth and so informative.
- She says to thank you and that you made her *Hajj* much more easy and understanding and memorable.

The first edition was published in full colour with extremely good quality paper, which made its presentation excellent. However it had two drawbacks, one, it was very heavy and two it was quite expensive. Even with this, the first edition sold out, *Alhamdulillah*. With this second edition (revised), I hope it is more affordable and I sincerely hope that it will continue to be of a benefit to the "Guests of Allah".

Abu Muneer Ismail Davids  
27 Jumada At-Thani 1427 (23 July 2006)  
Sydney, Australia.



## Acknowledgments

First and foremost I thank The Almighty Allah for having granted me the health, strength, and time to complete this second edition. Without the Mercy and Blessings of our Sustainer we can achieve nothing.

With a project of this size there are always many people that contribute in various degrees. In the first edition I listed everyone, as their help was a great source of inspiration for me to complete the original work. As with this edition and any subsequent editions I am still indebted to them for their help. The inspiration and need for the second and revised edition is due to the enormous demand for the material. Hence I would like to express my deepest appreciation and thanks to Message of Islam publishing in London who made the first publication and subsequent lectures a reality. Also Darul-Khair publishing in Jeddah who made the pocket guides a reality. Then there are all the brothers and sisters who helped 'advertise', sell and distribute the book as well as those *Hajj* agents who chose to include the book in their *Hajj* packages. Special thanks to my dearest mother and beloved wife for being such great believers and sales ladies for the book, as I was 'useless' with sales, giving away copies most of the time. May Allah bless all of them and write it for them in their book of deeds.

As with the first edition, a very special thanks to Imam Ahmed Al-Jehani, Imam Said Al-Mizyen and Imam Wajdi Hamza Al-Ghazzawi who have been my main sources of reference and instrumental in providing me with the teachings of *Hajj*, according to the Qur'an and *Sunnah*. I am also very grateful for them for having found the time in their busy schedule to review the book and for their research and patience with regards to my continuous questions on *Hajj* and other *Fiqh* related issues.

May Allah grant them all the best rewards in this life and in the Hereafter.

If by chance I failed to thank someone who contributed to this project, please forgive me.

May Allah reward all those who have contributed, directly or indirectly, in all these projects.

*Aameen!*



# كيف نستفيد من الحج

باللغة الانجليزية

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## Pilgrims' Comments:

- *Alhamdulillah* your book was very beneficial for *Hajj*, thank you.
- My parents love the book and are trying to get everyone visiting us to buy one.
- I am feeling quite anxious I have to confess! *Alhamdulillah* your book has been very helpful (my dad is trying to frantically finish reading it but my mum keeps snatching it from him!).
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