Lesson 47 Topic; Hajj

One can not enter the Haram (sanctuary) of the holy city of Mecca without being in the state of ihram, and one can only get out of the state of ihram by performing the rites of Mecca in terms of tawaf, sa'y, etc.

The Haram is the holy city of Mecca and the encompassing zone around it; which is about 500km-sq. with the *miqat* being some of the points of entry to the Haram.

Acts that should be avoided during ihram

1. Hunting of land [animals].

2. Courting one's spouse.

3. Performing the marriage contract for oneself or for others, bearing witness of it, or testifying to it.

4. Masturbation.

5. Usage of perfume, fragrance, etc.

6. Wearing sewn clothing (prohibition for men only)

7. Wearing kohl. 8. Looking into the mirror.

9. Wearing socks. 10. Fusooq, which is lying, swearing... 11. Jadal which is quarrel.

12. The killing or removing of insects found on the human body.

13. Wearing rings with the intention of adornment

14. Wearing jewelry for women. 15. Covering the head (for men)

16. For a woman, to cover her face with burqu' and suchlike.

17. Plucking or removing hair from the head or other parts of the Body.

18. Applying oils to the body.

19. Causing the bleeding of the body.

20. Pulling a tooth if it would lead to bleeding.21. Clipping the finger nails.

22. Sheltering in the shade while on the move/travelling – prohibition for men only.

23. Uprooting trees or any vegetation of the Haram.24. Wearing arms.

Tawaf

The process of tawaf is to make the Ka'bah on one's left-hand side, begin with al-Hajar al-Aswad – the Black Rock – and to finish by it seven rounds later [around the Ka'bah].

The criteria of tawaf

1. The niyyah.

2. To be tahir from the major hadath - such as janabah, hayd, and nifas - and the minor hadath - i.e. one should be in the state of wodu'.

3. The body and clothing should be tahir.

4. for the male individual to be circumcised.5. The covering of the private parts; and everything that is required for the cover in salah.

6. That the tawaf is performed between the holy Ka'bah and Maqam Ibrahim except in the case of difficulty and discomfort.

7. That Hijr Isma'el is enclosed within the circumference of thetawaf.

8. That one's entire body is outside the holy Ka'bah.

The Tawaf's salah

The third act of the rites of the Umrah is to perform the two rak'ah Salat al-Tawaf behind Maqam Ibrahim, peace be upon him, or by the side of it.

This salah is like the morning salah with its own niyyah.

The Sa'y

The fourth act of the rites of the Umrah is the Sa'y (the walk) between mounts Safa and Marwah.

In this rite, it is mandatory for the Hajj to cover the distance between Safa and Marwah seven cycles beginning with the Safa.

The journey from the Safa to the Marwah constitutes one cycle and the return one from Marwah to the Safa constitutes another.

Taqseer or shortening/cutting

The Taqseer means to cut some of the hair of the head, or the beard, or clipping the finger nail.

After this Taqseer, everything that was haram for the *muhrim* becomes halal with the exception of Hunting, and Uprooting the Haram plants.