



Manner of Umrah

Umrah (Lesser Pilgrimage) is one of the remarkable form of worship that is prescribed by Allah on believers. It is to be offered in relation with the premises of Ka'bah as it is the first house ever built in the earth as depicted in the Qur'an. It can be performed at any time of the year, without any time and period like Hajj.

Allah says:

أَتَمُّوا الْحَجَّ وَالْعُمْرَةَ لِلَّهِ (سورة البقرة: 196)

"Perform the Hajj and Umrah for Allah's sake" (Al-Baqara-196), But it is a sunnah to perform it a number of times- if it is possible. Prophet said: "Umrah is an expiation for the sins committed between it and the previous one." (Hadith)

Pillars of Umrah

The routine of Umrah (Lesser pilgrimage) are Ihram, circumambulation of Ka'bah, Sa'y (seven symbolical runs between Mount Safa and Mount Marwa), if any one of the pillars may lose it, the Umrah shall be null and void.

Obligations of Umrah

To enter in the state of Ihram at the specific station that is prescribed for those who have not performed Hajj and Umrah, shaving or cutting hair, these are the obligations of Umrah. In case of omitting any one of the basic rites, to be compensated by an animal sacrifice.

Ihram

Ihram means one who enter into the ceremonies of Hajj and Umrah. It is desirable to cut nails, to shave pubic hairs and armpit, cutting moustache before entering Ihram. All these things to be completed before starting the journey from their home. Men should wear Ihram dress at the specific Miqat (station) near to the airport. It can be applied perfume without staining in the garment.

As far as our Miqat named Yalamlam is concerned, it is situated 30 minutes prior to reaching at Jeddah airport, to be uttered :

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ عُمْرَةَ

(Here I am oh Lord, to perform Umrah)

Men should utter it in a loud voice and women in a silent voice. Thereby they have entered in the state of Umrah, male pilgrim shall enter ihram wearing a loincloth and an upper cloth which covers shoulders and women shall wear the garment covering entire body except face and forearm.

Manner of Talbiya

لَبَّيْكَ اللَّهُمَّ لَبَّيْكَ، لَبَّيْكَ لِأَشْرِيكَ لَكَ لَبَّيْكَ، اِنَّ الْحَمْدَ وَالنِّعْمَةَ لَكَ وَالْمُلْكَ لِأَشْرِيكَ لَكَ

(Here I am oh Lord, here I am, you have no partner, here I am, surely praise, blessings and the sovereignty are for you, you have no partner).

This is to be uttered when entering Ihram until reaches at Masjidul Haram.

Tawaaf (Circumambulation of Ka'bah)

The pilgrim shall enter Masjidul Haram by pacing right leg just like entering other mosques, by reciting the following prayer:

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ وَالصَّلَاةِ وَالسَّلَامِ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللّٰهِ، اللّٰهُمَّ افْتَحْ لِيْ اَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

(In the Name of Allah, His mercy and blessings upon the messenger of Allah. Oh Allah, open to me the doors of your mercy)

The come towards black stone and to begin circumambulation from that point. Kiss the black stone in every circuit- if it is possible or to touch it and kiss his own hand or make gesture raising his right hand. Then say :

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ اللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ اللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ

(In the name of Allah, He is great.)

Thereafter, begin the circumambulation keeping the sanctuary on his left. During the circumambulation men shall make his upper cloth under the right armpit and to tie its two ends at left shoulder, as well as to walk hastily in the first three rounds. (The term for the way of wearing garment is called "Al-Ittiba" and the way of walking hastily is called "Ramal". Women are exempted from these two) . To start from black stone and to return to it after circumambulating the Ka'bah completes one round. In such a manner to be completed seven circuits. The corner just before black stone is called Yamani corner, and to touch this corner- if it is possible.

There is no need to kiss or make gesture at this corner. To recite the prayer from Yamani corner until reaching to the black stone:

رَا نِلَا بَاذِعْ اِنْ قُوْةً نَسْحَ قَرْخَالَا يِفُوْةً نَسْحَ اِيْ نِدْلَا يِفْ اِنْ تَاْ اِنْ بَر

(Oh our Lord, bestow us good things in this world and good in the hereafter, and save us from the punishment of hell-fire.)

In other times it can be offered other prayers and invocations, but nothing is instructed specifically. On completion of circumambulation remove the upper cloth from the armpit and cover the body not wearing headgear.

When making circumambulation it is to be performed out of Hijr Ismail, that it is the semi-circular area at the north side of the Kab'ah, because it is the part of the sacred house. If there is any doubt regarding the number of circuits, the remaining circuits to be performed on the basis of assurance. Taking ablution is must for performing Tawaaf. When it is lost during the circumambulation, ablution to be taken again and to complete the remaining circuits. Thereafter to be performed two rak'ats behind Maqam Ibrahim turn towards Ka'bah, and to recite Fatiha and Surah Al-Kafiroon in first Rak'at and Surah Ikhlas in 2nd rak'at. And perform sa'y after drinking water the from the well of zamzam.

To begin the sa'y from Mount safa. Then recite the Qur'anic verse

اِنْ الصَّفَا وَالْمَرْوَةَ مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللّٰهِ فَمَنْ حَجَّ الْبَيْتَ اَوْ اعْتَمَرَ فَلَا جُنَاحَ عَلَيْهِ اَنْ يَطُوْفَ

بِهِمَا وَمَنْ تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ شَاكِرٌ عَلِيْمٌ (البقرة:158)

(Safa and Marwa are of the symbols of Allah. It shall be no offense for the pilgrim or the visitor to the sacred house to walk around them, and whoever does good of his own accord shall be rewarded by Allah, he is rewarding, and knowing)

and pray by mounting Safa turning towards Ka'bah and raised his both hands as follows:

لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ اَنْجَزَ وَعَدَهُ وَنَصَرَ عَبْدَهُ وَهَزَمَ الْاَحْزَابَ وَحْدَهُ

يَحْيٰى وَيُمِيْتُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيْرٌ

لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ

لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَاللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ ،

(There is no God but Allah, Allah is great.

There is no God but Allah, He is alone, there is no associate with him,

To him belongs sovereignty, to him belongs praise, He gives life and death. And he is able to do all things. There is no God but Allah, He is alone, he has made true his promise, helped his servant and defeated Himself the coalesced enemies.)

Repeat this prayer three times. By the by, he can avail the opportunity to invoke Allah in relation to this world and the hereafter in his own language, Then proceed to Marwa. Men should walk speedily at the place it is marked in green colours.(women are exempt). On arriving Marwa, take part in the prayers as it don already in Safa, counting one to Marwa and the walking in return is two, in such a way making 7 runs.

It is incumbent to increase prayers and invocations. There is no special prayers as prescribed during the Tawaaf. It must bear in mind that such an occasion is granted us so as to invoke our needs and aspirations before Allah as our own discretion, not to repeat or by heart something that is written in Arabic by others based on their whims and fancies. That it will be a great loss.

On completion of Sa'y in 7 runs it can be done shaving or trimming and to be free from Ihram. It is better to shave the hair for gents, in case of trimming the hair all parts to be covered. Cutting off one or two small locks from the hair is against the creed. Women can merely cut off a small lock. By performing these rituals Umrah is over.

Visit to Madina

First of all, it must bear in mind that the visit to Madinah is not the part of Hajj or umrah. The prayer in Masjid Nabawi is a thousand times excellent than prayer in any other mosque, except Masjidul Haram. So that it is desirable to visit Madina expecting blessedness. It is sunnah to visit the graves of Prophet(PBUH), Aboobacker and Umar and to send blessings on the holy prophet and others.

Prophet (PBUH)emphasized that the place between his house (now it is known as his grave) and pulpit is Rawdha (Rawda is not mentioned for grave). The place situated in between his house and the pulpit is a garden of the paradise, (Bukhari). It is a virtue to pray Tahiyat or similar prayers, but it is mandatory to pray compulsory prayers at in first raw itself.

Likewise ,the prayer at Quba Masid will receive a merit equal to that awarded for Umrah, that it is built at first on the arrival of the Prophet (PBUH) at Madina. It is incumbent to take ablution from the residence. When retuning to Makkah from Madina by reaching the Miqat of Abyar Ali (Dul Khulaifah) to be offered two rak'ats at the Masjid , after that to enter in Ihram and to intend purpose after boarded in the vehicle.

Prohibited matters on entering Ihram

Shaving or trimming the hair, cutting the nails, wearing headgear and face willfully, using perfume, wearing of sewn garments, to indulge in offense or profane matters, to go on hunting, proposal of marriage, engage in sexual relationship, felling the trees bushes in the sacred territory, quarrelling with others, and to own the lost things of others.

Other Matters

- It is not a sunnah of the prophet to perform the Umrah leaving nearest to the miqat (station)
- The Umrah group has no liability pertaining to the directions of airline companies as well as the loss of documents and luggage. The expenses regarding such matters shall meet by the pilgrims themselves.
- Women in the state of ceremonial impurity should enter in Ihram at the Miqat , and to perform other rituals of Umrah on taking bath after menstruation.
- May Allah bestow His blessings upon us and to act upon comprehending the matters as pleasing to him and to avoid the matters which are offensive. Ameen