



## Hijrat and Jihad

### Hijrat

Hijrat means the act of migrating from one place to another especially in order to live or find work. In Islamic terminology Hijrat means the migration of the Muslims from one place to another for the religious cause. If in a certain country the Muslims are subjugated and oppressed, and they are subjected to torture for adopting the Islamic way of life, they must leave that place and migrate to somewhere else. However, if they are unable to migrate due to lack of resources or they are too helpless to migrate, then it is likely that Allah will forgive them.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَوَفَّيْنَاهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ظَالِمِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ قَالُوا فِيمَ كُنْتُمْ ۖ قَالُوا كُنَّا مُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ۖ قَالُوا أَلَمْ تَكُنْ أَرْضَ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةً فَتُهَاجِرُوا فِيهَا ۖ فَأُولَئِكَ مَأْوَاهُمْ جَهَنَّمُ ۖ وَسَاءَ تَصِيرًا ۝ إِلَّا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ مِنَ الرِّجَالِ وَالنِّسَاءِ وَالْوِلْدَانِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ حِيلَةً وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ سَبِيلًا ۝ فَأُولَئِكَ عَسَى اللَّهُ أَنْ يَعْفُو عَنْهُمْ ۖ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا ۝ وَمَنْ يُهَاجِرْ فَيُجِدْ سَبِيلَ اللَّهِ يَجِدْ فِي الْأَرْضِ مُرَغْمًا كَثِيرًا وَسَعَةً ۖ وَمَنْ يَخْرُجْ مِنْ بَيْتِهِ مُهَاجِرًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ يُدْرِكْهُ الْمَوْتُ فَقَدْ وَقَعَ أَجْرُهُ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۖ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَحِيمًا

(النساء ٩٤-١٠٠)

### ① Translation

“When angels take the souls of those who die in sin against themselves, they (the angels) will ask: In what (plight) were you? They will

reply: We were weak and oppressed in the earth. (The angels) will say: Was not the earth of God spacious enough for you to migrate therein? Such men will find their abode in hell, an evil refuge. Except those men, women and children who are really weak and appressed or who have no means in their power nor (do they have any guide) to direct their way. For such people it is likely that Allah will forgive them. And Allah is Merciful and Forgiving. And who migrates in the cause of Allah, will find in the earth many a refuge and abundance in the earth. And one who forsakes his home for Allah and His Messenger, and death overtakes him, his reward is incumbent (due) on Allah. And Allah is ever Forgiving, Most Merciful”

The above verses of the holy Quran make it clear that Hijrat benefits a Muslim in this world and in the Hereafter. The holy Quran says:

وَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا فِي اللَّهِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا ظَلَمُوا النَّبِيُّونَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ ۖ وَلَا جَزَاءُ  
 الْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ ۚ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ۚ الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَعَلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ  
 (النحل ٤١-٤٢)

### ② Translation

“And those who left their homes in the cause of Allah after they had been oppressed, we will surely give them goodly lodging in the world. And truly the reward of the Hereafter will be greater if they only realized. They are those who are steadfast and put their trust in Allah.”

Thus those who migrate for the cause of Islam deserve the mercy of God. The Holy Quran says:

ثُمَّ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ لِلَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا فُتِنُوا ثُمَّ جَاهَدُوا وَصَبَرُوا إِنَّ رَبَّكَ مِنْ  
 بَعْدِهَا لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ (النحل- ١١٠)

### ③ Translation

“Then verily thy Lord—for those who left their homes after they had been persecuted, and then fought and remained steadfast—verily thy Lord afterwards is ever Forgiving, Most Merciful.

Allah has promised salvation, paradise and the best reward to those who migrate for the cause of Islam. Allah has also assured them that they will be forgiven and their virtuous deeds will not go waste. The holy Quran says:

فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أَضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِّنْكُمْ مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَى ۖ  
بَعْضُكُمْ مِّنْ بَعْضٍ ۚ فَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا وَأُخْرِجُوا مِن دِيَارِهِمْ وَأُوذُوا فِي سَبِيلِي  
وَقُتِلُوا قَتِلُوا لَا كُفْرَ عَنْهُمْ سَيِّئَاتِهِمْ وَلَا أَدْخِلَنَّهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ  
تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ ۚ ثَوَابًا مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ ۖ وَاللَّهُ عِنْدَهُ حُسْنُ الثَّوَابِ (آل عمران ١٩٥)

#### 4 Translation

“Then their Lord accepted them (their prayer and He said): I never let go waste the work of any worker, male or female. You are members of one another. Those who have left their homes or have been driven out of their homes and suffered harm for My cause and fought and were slain, verily I will remove their evil deeds from them and admit them into Gardens with rivers flowing beneath. (This is) a reward from Allah, and with Allah is the best of rewards.”

It can rightly be said that as long as Jihad was not declared obligatory, Hijrat was the best virtuous deed with the condition that it must be in the way of God and the migrant must stand firm to the principles of Islam and the migration must aim at preaching and spreading the true religion.

### Jihad

Jihad in an Arabic word derived from 'Juhd' or 'Jahd' which means endeavour, effort or struggle. In Islamic terminology it means to exercise all types of physical and mental energy in the way of God. Jihad requires the believers to sacrifice wealth, families, blood relations and even their own lives for the supremacy and spread of the true religion. Those who take part in Jihad do their best to make the designs of the enemies ineffective and check their attacks. The believers do not withhold from fighting if it



becomes inevitable to save the religion. That is why Jihad has been declared a great worship in Islamic teachings.

The sense of Jihad is very clear. According to some theologians the best kind of Jihad is Jihad bin-nafs. According to some theologians such a type of Jihad is 'Jihad-e-Akbar! It means that one should be willing and prepared to bear all the physical tortures in the service of the religion of Allah. The holy Quran and some traditions of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) give importance to this kind of Jihad. The holy Quran says:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا ۚ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ (العنكبوت: 69)

“And those who strive for us, We will surely guide them to Our paths, and verily Allah is with the good.”

### **Types of Jihad**

According to the holy Quran there are two types of Jihad—Jihad bin-Nafs and Jihad bil-Mal.

#### **Jihad bin-Nafs**

Jihad bin-Nafs is Jihad by person which means that a Muslim should be willing and prepared to bear all kinds of physical troubles in the service of the religion of Almighty Allah. One must be prepared to undergo hardship or to be sentenced to death. He must not fear arrows, spears, swords, guns or cannons. He must be prepared to receive injuries and cuts which may take even his life. When we use the word Jihad it usually means Jihad bin-Nafs. In the holy Quran the word 'Qital' is used for this type of Jihad.

Allah commands the Muslims to make preparations for Jihad, and forbids Muslims to use the word 'dead' for the martyres. The holy Quran says that the martyres receive sustenance from their Lord and they hold festivities. Allah has promised a great reward to them.

#### **Jihad bil-Mal**

Jihad bil-Mal or Jihad by wealth means that one has to spend one's wealth or property for the preaching of religion and for the success of Truth. Almighty Allah gives man wealth and property so that he may spend

it in the way of Allah. The holy Quran says:

الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهَاجَرُوا وَجَاهَدُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِهِمْ وَأَنْفُسِهِمْ أَكْثَرُ  
دَرَجَةً عِنْدَ اللَّهِ.

“Those who believe and migrated and did Jihad in the way of Allah, by wealth and by person, they are exalted to high rank by Allah.”

On the other hand those who hoard up wealth and do not spend it in the way of God, they have been warned of the severe punishment. The holy Quran says:

وَالَّذِينَ يَكْنِزُونَ الذَّهَبَ وَالْفِضَّةَ وَلَا يَنْفِقُونَهَا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَبْشِرُهُمْ بِعَذَابٍ  
أَلِيمٍ

“Those who hoard up gold and silver and do not spend it in the way of Allah, Allah will give them the 'good news' of Painful punishment.”

There are two major hindrances in the way of success and progress. The first is love for one's self and the other is love for wealth. The nation which sets aside these hindrances and spends its wealth and manpower without any hesitation gains success.

### **Jihad by Knowledge**

This is another type of Jihad. The unrest and mischievous activities in the world are due to the lack of knowledge and education. If a man has common sense and knowledge, he should also benefit others with these virtues. The holy Quran says:

ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ  
(النحل ١٢٥)

“Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching, and argue with them in a better way.”

Thus the preaching of religion and inviting to the truth in an intellectual manner is also a type of Jihad, and such a preaching yields good results. In Surah 'Al-Furqan' such a type of preaching has been named "Jihad-e-Kabeera" which means the 'great Jihad'

### **Commitment and Devotion**

There is another type of Jihad and that is to perform one's duties with full commitment and devotion. Once a companion (رضي الله عنه) of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) sought permission for taking part in Jihad. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) asked him if his parents were alive. The companion (رضي الله عنه) replied that they were alive. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) asked him to do Jihad by attending them.

To say truth before a tyrant is also Jihad, rather a greater Jihad. The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) said that Jihad would continue till the Day of Judgement.

### **Rules and Regulations**

Jihad is an organized effort and it is performed under strict rules and regulations. An armed struggle started by a person or group is not Jihad. For Jihad it is necessary that institutes of learned religious scholars make an impartial study of circumstances and pass a verdict supporting Jihad, and then an Islamic state issues official orders to that effect. It is also necessary that the proposed Jihad aims at helping the oppressed Muslims, removing obstacles from the way of preaching Islam, doing away with the mischiefs of the enemies of Islam and fulfilling the wish of God.

### **Conditions of Jihad**

It is necessary to wage war against the enemies of Islam under the following conditions.

- i. The enemy invades an Islamic territory.
- ii. The enemies of Islam are torturing the Muslims.
- iii. The disbelievers prohibit the Muslims to adopt the teachings of Islam. Jihad becomes necessary even if an Islamic state imposes religious restrictions on the non-Muslim subjects. It is so because Allah does not allow anyone to compel the people to change their



religion or faith. Islam also does not allow to destroy the places of worship of the non-Muslims.

- iv. The enemies are the guilty of the breach of an agreement and they have become traitors.
- v. The enemies have destroyed the peace and order, and they have spread chaos in the country.

In the presence of the conditions mentioned above it becomes inevitable for the Muslims to uproot the seeds of evil and have a war with the infidels (non-Muslims).

### **Principles of Jihad**

The main principles of Jihad are as follows.

- i. Peace is the first weapon of the Muslims. Therefore, they should continue to make efforts for establishing a peaceful atmosphere. In case the enemy exceeds his limits, it becomes necessary for the Muslims to reply them in the same coin.
- ii. It is necessary that Jihad is declared by the head of an Islamic state.
- iii. It is first and foremost duty of every Muslim to obey the head of the Islamic state under all circumstances during Jihad.
- iv. It is strictly forbidden for the Muslims, taking part in Jihad, to break the agreement, deceive the people and practise dishonesty in the distribution of booty.
- v. During Jihad the Muslims are not allowed to cut the nose, ears or other parts of the body of the enemy. The Muslims are also forbidden to murder women, old people, children, the blind and the crippled.

## EXERCISE

### A. Answer the following questions.

1. What is Hijrat? What does Allah command about Hijrat in Surah Nisa?
2. What good news does Allah give to those who leave their homes in the cause of Allah?
3. What reward has Allah promised in Surah Al-Imran to those who suffered harm for the religious cause?
4. What is Jihad and what is its best type?
5. What is Jihad-i-Akbar? Describe in detail.
6. What are the two types of Jihad mentioned in the holy Quran? Explain each type in detail.
7. Explain the rules and regulations of Jihad.  
What are the conditions and principles of Jihad?

### B. Fill in the blanks.

- i. In Islamic terminology Hijrat means migration of Muslims from one place to another for the \_\_\_\_\_ cause.
- ii. As long as Jihad was not declared obligatory, \_\_\_\_\_ was the best virtuous deed.
- iii. In religious terminology Jihad means to exercise all types of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ energy in the way of God.
- iv. Jihad has been declared a great \_\_\_\_\_ in Islamic teachings.
- v. According to some theologians the best kind of Jihad is \_\_\_\_\_.
- vi. According to the holy Quran, the two types of Jihad are (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_.
- vii. Those who hoard up wealth and do not spend it in the way of God, they have been warned of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. The unrest and evil in the world are due to the lack of \_\_\_\_\_.
- ix. To say truth before a tyrant is \_\_\_\_\_.
- x. It is necessary that Jihad is declared by an \_\_\_\_\_.