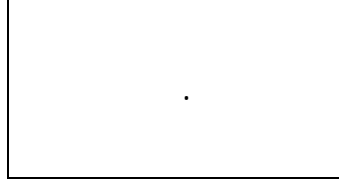


Hajj: Black or White Dots?

by
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Take a look at the following picture. What do you see?



Many will see the black dot. Not the whole field of white dots. Despite all the white dots around us -- our health, wealth, youth, our household, our family, our fine clothing -- some only see the black dots. That guy at work who's always talking on the phone. That drip-dripping tap that never stops.

Allah swt says:

وَقَلِيلٌ مِّنْ عِبَادِيَ الشَّاكِرُونَ

And only a few of My slaves are truly grateful. [34:13]

Subhanallah, how true this is! And never truer than on Hajj. Hajj is a time of hardship, no doubt about that. But one way to increase the quality of your Hajj is to focus on the white dots, not the black dots. Because you will be tested -- guaranteed -- in ways you cannot imagine.

Say you're in Mina, and you suddenly realize you have to use the washroom. So you rush out -- only to find over a hundred people lined up across ten stalls! *Subhanallah!* That's a big black dot -- but what are the white dots?

1. You're alive -- that's a big blessing in itself.
2. You're surrounded by your brothers and sisters in Islam -- and Hujjaaj, to boot!
3. It's not a serious medical emergency -- like someone dying -- just a need to use the washroom.

The best way to prepare for Hajj is to start looking for all the white dots, now!

Wherever you are, think about all the blessings and white dots.

Allah swt says:

وَأَتَاكُمْ مِّن كُلِّ مَا سَأَلْتُمُوهُ وَإِن تَعُدُّوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ لَا تَحْصُوهَا إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَظَلُومٌ كَفَّارٌ

And He gives you of all that you ask for. But if you count the favours of Allah, never will ye be able to number them. Verily, man is given up to injustice and ingratitude. [14:34]

Here are some examples.

1. Your group leader tells you the bus to Arafah is coming at 3am, so you should get up at 2am to get ready. You wake up at 2am. 8am comes, and the bus is still not here.

[White dot: You have a group! Sure beats going alone. Hey, you could get lost if you go alone!]

[Another white dot: Allah (SWT) woke you up! He could have taken your soul that night, but he gave you respite! More time to ask for forgiveness and come back to Him.]

2. You complete your *tawaaf* and *sa'ee* for Hajj, and return to your tent, only to find out they've already served dinner -- because the group's going later!

[White dot: Come back, no dinner? It's alright. Remember, you fast 30 days of Ramadan anyway. And remember that Allah (SWT) provided you with foods day in, day out in your hometown. A few hours, no biggie. OK, if you're still not budging, remember those places where 10 people fight to get a piece of bread. Can you find a piece of bread in your tent? Eat it, and thank Allah.]

[Another white dot: Say *Alhumdulillah* that Allah has allowed you to perform the task of *Sa'ee* and *Tawaaf*. Remember when you first started. You had inner feelings like 'it's not going to be easy!'. But Allah (SWT) relieved you! And, it's all over now, and you actually made it alive, and the rewards have been cashed in. What a great blessing!]

3. You're sitting on a bus to Mina. You've been sitting for 4 hours. The driver turns off the air-conditioning because the engine is overheating.

[White dot: A.C? Say *Alhumdulillah* that Allah (SWT) has made you a Muslim and will with His Mercy save you from hell, THE hottest place. Imagine putting yourself into a real-life oven. Now multiply that by 70. Hmmm. Not exactly hot any more, are we? I'm sure you feel cooler now.]

These are just a few examples, taken from some real incidents in Hajj. Can you think of more white dots in these situations?

Source: www.ilmfruits.com [Very good blog. Visit regularly.]