Lecture 22

**The Farewell Hajj (10 A.H.)**

**Context**

* By 10 A.H., most of Arabia had embraced Islam. Idol worship had ended, and the region was united under the teachings of Islam.
* This pilgrimage was a monumental event, marking the culmination of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) mission.

**Departure from Madinah**

* In Zil-Qadah, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) set out from Madinah with 124,000 companions to perform Hajj.
* The Prophet (PBUH) intended to demonstrate the correct way to perform Hajj and to deliver his final message to the Muslim Ummah.

**Arrival in Makkah**

* On the **5th of Zil-Hajj**, the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions entered Makkah and performed Umrah.
* On the **8th of Zil-Hajj**, they moved to Mina and camped there overnight in preparation for the next day’s rituals.

**The Sermon at Arafat**

* On the **9th of Zil-Hajj**, riding his camel Quswa, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) delivered his farewell sermon on the plains of Arafat in the Uranah Valley.
* The sermon was addressed to all of humanity, offering timeless guidance and emphasizing key principles of Islam.

**Key Points of the Sermon**

1. **Sacredness of Life and Property**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) declared life and property as sacred, comparing their sanctity to the sacredness of the month, the day, and the city.
   * Commanded Muslims to return goods entrusted to them to their rightful owners.
   * Advised against harming others: **“Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you.”**
2. **Prohibition of Usury (Interest)**:
   * All forms of interest were declared forbidden (Haram).
   * The Prophet (PBUH) led by example by canceling all interest owed to his uncle, Abbas ibn Abdul Muttalib.
3. **Warning Against Satan**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) warned of Satan’s attempts to mislead the Ummah, particularly in smaller matters, as he had given up hope of leading them astray in major issues.
4. **Rights and Responsibilities Between Men and Women**:
   * Highlighted the rights of women and emphasized their kind treatment.
   * Stated that wives have rights over their husbands, as husbands have rights over their wives, under Allah’s trust and permission.
5. **Core Acts of Worship**:
   * The Prophet (PBUH) urged adherence to the pillars of Islam: Salah (prayer), fasting during Ramadan, Zakat (charity), and Hajj (pilgrimage) for those able to afford it.
6. **Equality Among People**:
   * Declared the equality of all humans, stating:  
     **“An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have superiority over a white—except by piety and good action.”**
7. **Unity of the Muslim Ummah**:
   * Emphasized the brotherhood of Muslims:  
     **“Every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim, and nothing is permissible to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it is given freely and willingly.”**
8. **Accountability and the Day of Judgment**:
   * Reminded the assembly of their accountability before Allah:  
     **“One day, you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds.”**
9. **Finality of Prophethood**:
   * Proclaimed that there would be no prophet or new faith after him.
   * Reiterated that Islam is the final divine religion.
10. **Guidance for Future Generations**:
    * Left the Quran and his Sunnah as the ultimate guide for Muslims:  
      **“If you hold fast to them, you will never go astray.”**
    * Encouraged the dissemination of his message:  
      **“All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others, and those to others again.”**

**Completion of the Hajj**

* After the sermon, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) asked the gathering if he had conveyed Allah’s message. The assembly unanimously replied:  
  **“By our Lord, Verily Thou Hast.”**
* Allah revealed the verse:  
  **“This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My favor upon you, and chosen Islam as your religion.”** (Quran 5:3)
* On the **12th of Zil-Hajj**, after completing the rites of Hajj, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) offered Fajr Salah at the Ka’ba and returned to Madinah with the Muhajireen and Ansar.

**The Last Sermon: A Timeless Message**

Delivered during the Farewell Hajj, the Last Sermon emphasized the following principles:

1. **Respect for Life and Property**:
   * Life and property are sacred and must not be violated.
2. **Prohibition of Interest (Usury)**:
   * All forms of interest were abolished.
3. **Accountability Before Allah**:
   * A reminder that all actions will be judged by Allah.
4. **Avoidance of Harm**:
   * Prohibited harm to oneself or others.
5. **Rights of Women**:
   * Advocated for fair treatment of women and their rights.
6. **Core Obligations of Islam**:
   * Salah, fasting, Zakat, and Hajj were emphasized as fundamental duties.
7. **Unity and Equality**:
   * Stressed that all humans are equal, with piety being the only measure of superiority.
8. **Finality of Prophethood and Islam**:
   * Declared that no prophet would come after him and no new faith would arise.
9. **Eternal Guidance**:
   * Left the Quran and Sunnah as the ultimate sources of guidance.

The Prophet (PBUH) concluded by calling upon Allah as a witness to his conveyance of the divine message.