

## Lessons from the Hijrah

- ***This Migration was a very special journey and a turning point for Islam and Muslims in that it was chosen to mark the beginning of the Islamic calendar.***

- ***The difficulty and magnitude of the decision to migrate itself.***

We tend to think that this migration was a simple 3-day journey by camel between 2 cities, and don't give much thought to its implications in those days. By all scales, the migration itself as an act was not that easy. How many of us are truly ready to leave our homes, our families, our businesses and just go to a new town and start from scratch?

- ***The migration was not about saving his life, but it was about saving the message and fulfilling his mission.*** Staying in Makkah with the persecution from the Makkan people was unproductive for the Prophet (peace be upon him) because the environment was not conducive for the message which he (peace be upon him) carried, Islam. The Prophet (peace be upon him) had to find a way out, he (peace be upon him) had to find a venue for his message to flourish. The evidence of this is that immediately after reaching Madinah, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) didn't relax but immediately went through an all-embracing process to establish a faithful and strong society by building a mosque, establishing a market, managing the politics of the new town, and so on.

- ***Hijrah is a process of transfer to a better situation to enable you to be productive and active vicegerent on Earth.***

It is not meant to be a means to find a comfortable place where one would relax and stop being productive. Rather, it is a search for an environment more favorable to continuous and constructive productivity for Allah's sake.

- ***It doesn't have to be migration from place to place, but it could be migration from a non-halal job to a halal one, or migration from sins to repentance, or from evil deeds to good deeds.***

- ***The Pre-Planned Journey.***

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) and his companion Abu Bakr Al-Siddeeq (May Allah be pleased with him) went through a lot of preparation for this epic journey. *They prepared their transportation, planned how to hide their tracks, hired a guide, and even appointed the people who'd bring them the news from Makkah and who would bring them the food each night.*

- ***Placing your trust in Allah.***

The above point is highlighted further in those precious moments where Abu Bakr Al-Siddeeq (May Allah be pleased with him) spent with the Prophet in that cave between Makkah and Medina. They were hiding there, but the Makkans were able to trace their tracks to the cave. When the Makkans approached the cave, Abu Bakr Al-Siddeeq started panicking saying: "O Prophet, if they look to their feet they'll see us!" But the Prophet's confident response was: "*Don't be Afraid, Allah is with us*"

- ***Practical Lessons From The Hijrah***

How we can apply this concept of balancing between taking the means and trusting in Allah in our lives? *This requires a special mindset that comes with training and constantly self-evaluating your actions.* When you have goals, you need to force yourself to prepare the utmost whilst at the same time praying and pleading to Allah as if you've no means at all.

- ***The Measuring Stick of Justice***

One beautiful lesson from the Hijrah is the instruction that the Prophet (Peace be upon him) gave to his cousin, Ali ibn Abi Talib (May Allah be pleased with him) asking him to return the 'Trusts' that were with the Prophet to the rightful people in Makkah. I had to stop at this and really imagine the situation to understand the magnitude of this act of honesty.

***it teaches us that our measuring stick in Islam is Justice, not our whims and desires or revenge or hatred.*** We do justice even to our worst enemies and this is how we become servants of Allah instead of servants of our desires. We become truly the Best of All Nations when we apply such principles in our lives.