



*The Kindest Prophet*  
*Volume 9*

GholamReza Heidari Abhari

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**Author:** GholamReza Heidari Abhari  
**Illustrator:** Amir Nasaji  
**Art Director:** Behzad Gharibpour  
**Translator:** Zahra Radpasand  
**Editor:** Melika Dastgheib  
**Cover Designer:** Kiyanoush Gharibpour  
**Page Layout:** Aminreza Borhani  
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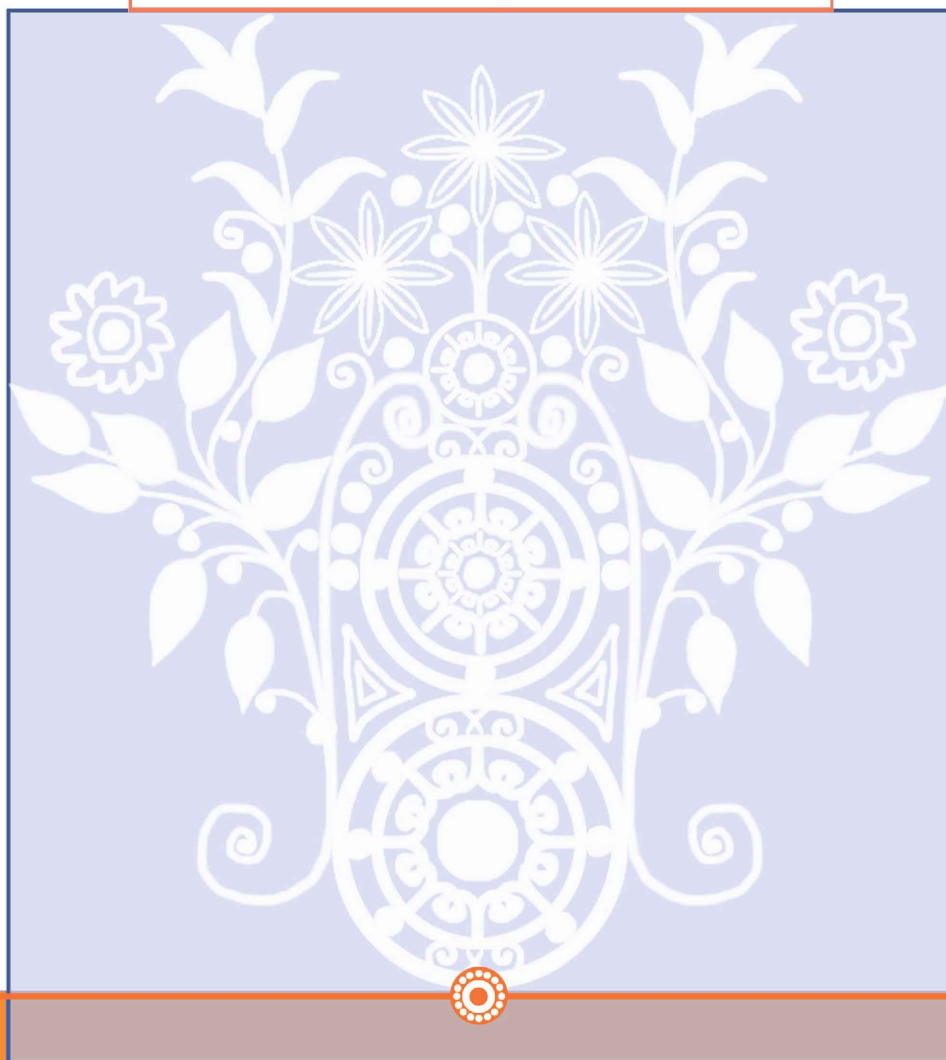






# *Volume 9*

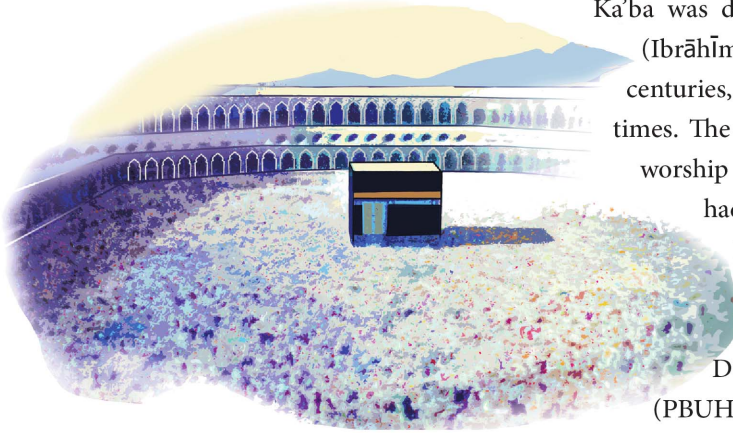
**HISTORICAL, AND RELIGIOUS  
LANDMARKS OF MECCA  
BIRTHPLACE OF THE PROPHET ( PBUH & HP )**





## The Ka'ba

The Ka'ba is a cube-shaped structure situated at the heart of the Islam's most important mosque, that is The Sacred Mosque (Masjid al-Haram), in the city of Mecca. The person who first constructed the Ka'ba was Adam (PBUH). However, after some years due to certain incidents, the



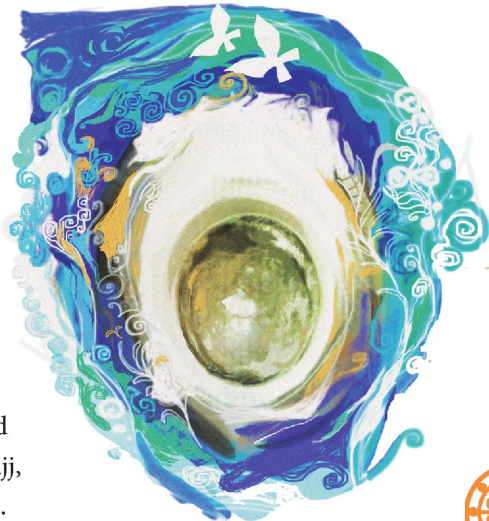
Ka'ba was destroyed and was rebuilt by Abraham (Ibrāhīm) and his son Ishmael (Ismael). Over the centuries, the Ka'ba has been rebuilt numerous times. The Ka'ba was the first center built for the worship of God. Even before Islam, the idolaters had placed 360 idols around and inside the Ka'ba, all of which was demolished years later by the hand of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH & HP).

During the birth year of the Prophet (PBUH & HP), Abraha, the king of Yemen, along with his forces of elephants attempted to invade Mecca and demolish the Ka'ba. However, by the miraculous power of God, Abraha and his army were destroyed.

Today, the Ka'ba is the qibla of all Muslims, and wherever they are in the world, Muslims are expected to face the Ka'ba when praying (Salah). Moreover, during the time of Hajj, pilgrims are required to make tawaf and circulate around the Ka'ba in a counter-clockwise direction.

## The Black Stone (Hajjar al-Aswad)

Hajjar al-Aswad is a black stone embedded on the Eastern corner of the Ka'ba. According to several narrations (hadith), Hajar al-Aswad is a heavenly stone descended from Heaven to earth with Adam. The Prophet and his Ahlul-Bayt (PBUT) would touch and kiss the Black Stone to obtain God's blessings. Until today, this Holy stone is respected among Muslims, and enthusiastic lovers have followed the lead of the Prophet and his pure Household (PBUT) by kissing and touching the Black Stone to receive blessings. The Black Stone was held in respect well before the emergence of Islam. Today, the Black Stone is surrounded by a silver frame, and when pilgrims travel to Mecca for Hajj, they begin to make tawaf from the corner of Hajar al-Aswad.



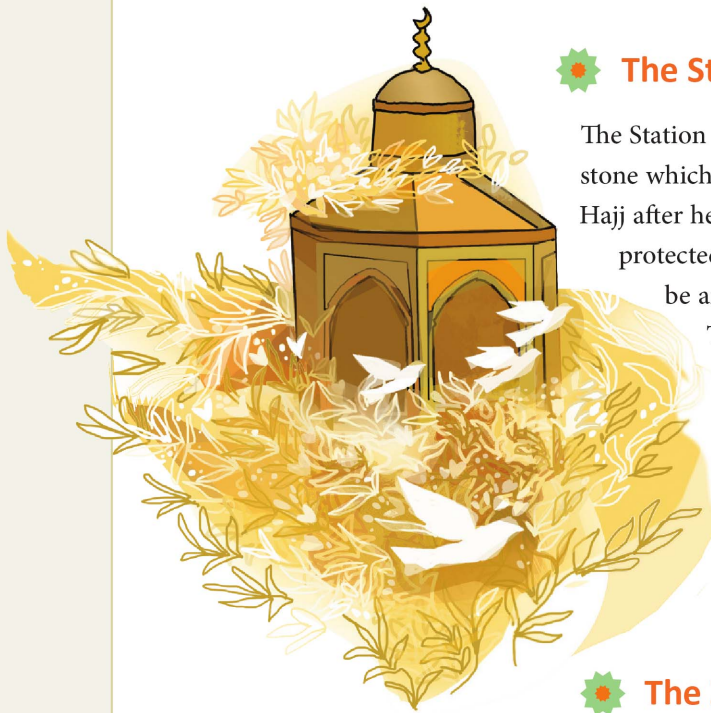


## **Hijr-Ismael**

Adjacent to the Ka'ba, there is a short crescent-shaped wall opposite, but not connected to, the Ka'ba, and that area lying between the wall and the Ka'ba is called Hijr-Ismael. At one time, this area was the place where Ishmael (PBUH) and his mother Hagar (Hājar) lived, and their graves lie buried beneath this area. Many graves of the prophets also lie buried beneath the Hijr Ismael.

The Ahlul-Bayt (PBUT) loved to engage in worship in Hijr-Ismael, and many times they would go to this place to worship and supplicate to God.

The pilgrims who make tawaf around the House of God also circulate around the Hijr-Ismael, and this place is in the way of their tawaf. In addition, the gutter of the Ka'ba is located just above Hijr-Ismael, and so when it rains, the rainwater tumbles onto this area.



## **The Station of Abraham (Maqam Ibrahim)**

The Station of Abraham (Maqam Ibrahim) is the location of the stone which Abraham (PBUH) stood on when calling people to Hajj after he built the House of God. Today, this stone is protected in a glass and metal enclosure with what is said to be an imprint of Abraham's feet.

The Station of Abraham is in the Sacred Mosque (Masjid al-Haram) and is near the Ka'ba. After circulating around the Ka'ba, the pilgrims are required to perform two units (Rak'at) of prayer behind Maqam Ibrahim. The Station of Abraham is also mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.

## **The Zamzam Well**

The Zamzam well is a sacred well located east of Masjid al-Haram. After Abraham (PBUH) was divinely ordered to take his wife Hagar and his son Ishmael to the dry land of Mecca and abandon them, they became extremely thirsty. So, by God's will, the Zamzam well was created by Gabriel, which helped to quench the thirst of Ismael and Hagar.



Several narrations have been recorded which recommends people to drink the Zamzam water. The Prophet and his holy Household (PBUT) would also drink from this well after performing their tawaf. The pilgrims who travel to Mecca also drink from the Zamzam water, and when returning to their cities, they collect this blessed water in bottles and bring it for relatives and friends as a gift.

### **Safa and Marwah Mountains**

Safa and Marwah are two small mountains adjacent to the Sacred Mosque (Masjid al-Haram). One of the rituals of the Hajj pilgrimage is to travel back and forth between these two mountains seven times, and the distance between them is called “*Mas’a*”. During the time that Hagar, Abraham’s wife, was looking for water for herself and his son, Ishmael, she traveled between these two mountains seven times. And so, when the pilgrims perform this ritual, it symbolizes this event. During the years, they have shaved down the Safa and Marwah mountains, and today only a small fraction of the mountains remains onsite.

### **Abu-Qubais Mountain**

Abu-Qubais is the name of a mountain East of Masjid al-Haram, and since it’s close to the Ka’ba, it is regarded as a sacred mountain.

### **The Valley of Abu-Talib (Shi'b Abu-Talib)**

The word “*Shi’b*” is used to describe a valley that lies between two mountains close to each other. The valley of Abu-Talib is a valley between the Mount of Abu Qubais and the Mount of Khandama in Mecca. This valley belonged to the tribe of Bani-Hashim. After the polytheists of Mecca declared an economic boycott on the Muslims, the Prophet (PBUH & HP) and his close relatives took refuge in the Shi’b Abu-Talib. So, they lived in this valley for three years, and were forced to endure massive difficulties during these years. Today, this region has been stone-paved, and it serves as a place of prayer and rest for the pilgrims.



## **The Birthplace of the Prophet (Mawlid an-Nabi)**



“*Mawlid an-Nabi*” is a house near the Sacred Mosque where the Prophet (PBUH & HP) was born. In the second century after migration (Hijrah; 719-816 CE), the mother of Hārūn al-Rashīd bought this place and transformed it into a mosque. Over the years, Muslims would honor this place, especially on the night of the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH & HP), holding a celebration in Mawlid an-Nabi. Unfortunately,

the Saudi regime has demolished this sacred place. However, the current mayor of Mecca followed up with this matter and built a library over the location that still exists today.

## **The House of Lady Khadijah (PBUH)**

The house of lady Khadijah was situated in the valley of Abu-Talib, a place where lady Fatimah az-Zahra (PBUH) was born.

Years later, they built a mosque and a school for teaching the Qur’an in this region. However, in recent years due to constructions, the house of lady Khadijah (PBUH) and the school were destroyed, and no trace of it exists today.

## **The Cave of Hira**

The famous mountain of Hira, located Northeast of Mecca, houses a small cave known as the cave of Hira. This cave served as a place of worship for the Prophet (PBUH & HP), where he used to spend a great deal of his time, especially during the month of Ramadan worshipping and speaking to God. Well before the Prophet (PBUH & HP), this place also served as a place of worship for the Prophet’s ancestors.

It was in this cave that the first verses of the Holy Qur’an were revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP), and it was there that he was honored with prophethood and was chosen as the last guide for mankind.



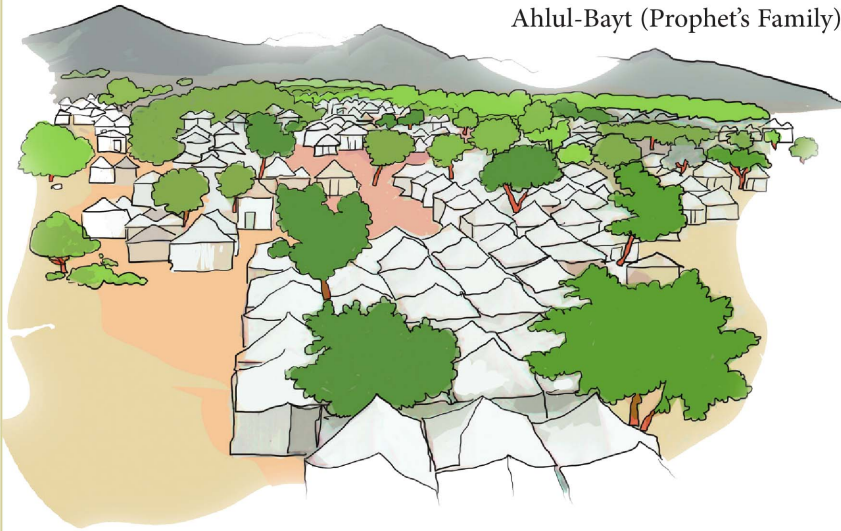


## The Land of Arafat

Arafat is a vast plain about 18 km (12 mi) East of Mecca and is located on the road between the city of Mecca and Ta'if. On the 9th of the month of Zil-Hajj, which marks the day of Arafah, the pilgrims must be at the plain of Arafat from noon until sunset. According to the sayings of the

Ahlul-Bayt (Prophet's Family), whoever spends the day of

Arafah on the plain of Arafat, God will surely forgive them and shower His mercy upon them.



## The Cave of Thawr

The mountain of Thawr located Southeast of Mecca, houses a small cave known as the cave of Thawr. During the time the Prophet (PBUH & HP) was divinely ordered to migrate to Medina to escape the polytheists who were searching for him, he took shelter in this cave for three days. The polytheists who were chasing after the Prophet came up to cave's opening, but due to God's miracle, a spider had spun a web over the cave's entrance. Therefore, the disbelievers assumed this cave is isolated, and no one can be within the cave.

## The Graveyard of Abu-Talib

The graveyard of Abu-Talib is an ancient graveyard located near the Sacred Mosque. Some of the Prophet's ancestors, companions, and religious scholars are buried in this graveyard. Abdul-Muttalib, Abu-Talib, and lady Kadijah are also buried in this graveyard.



## ★ The Land of Mina

The land of Mina is a plain near the city of Mecca and has a length of about 3.5 km (2.2 mi) and a width of about 500 meters (550 Yards). This plain is situated between two lines of mountains, and Mina is located at the end of these two mountain ranges.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and sometimes even the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month of Zil-Hajj, the pilgrims must stop in Mina to perform several key rituals such as: stoning pillars representing Devil, sacrificing an animal such as sheep to distribute its meat to the needy, and cut their hair and nails.

## ★ Mosque of the Jinn (Masjid al-Jinn)



Masjid al-Jinn is an old, and well-known mosque in the city of Mecca. This mosque is located near the graveyard of Abu-Talib and on the street that leads to Masjid al-Haram. The verses of Chapter al-Jinn were revealed to the Prophet (PBUH & HP) in this place, and therefore this mosque was named “*Masjid al-Jinn*”.

## ★ Mash'ar al-Haram

Mash'ar al-Haram (The Sacred Mash'ar) is a vast valley between Arafat and Mina and is located at the end of the narrow passage of Ma'zimayn. After the sunset on the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month of Zil-Hajj, pilgrims must travel from Arafat to Mash'ar al-Haram and stay there to pray and supplicate until the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Zil-Hajj.

While the pilgrims are in Mash'ar al-Haram, they must also collect stones to be used later in Mina to stone pillars representing Devil. Furthermore, the Sacred Mash'ar is mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.



*He did not have a spiteful and revengeful spirit.*

*Many harassed and bothered him;*

*but he never sought to revenge on them.*

*After the conquest of Mecca, he forgave and protected  
all the residents of the city who once had fought against him.*

*His life was filled with acts of generosity and forgiveness.*



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