

## HAJJ AND UMRAH Part 1

### Tract M24

Performing the Hajj is obligatory for all Muslims. This "pilgrimage" or "major pilgrimage" is to be performed at least once in a Muslim's lifetime and requires travel to Saudi Arabia. The dates for the Hajj vary from year to year because the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar which is about 11 days shorter than the solar calendar. Hajj is conducted on the 7th to the 13th day of the 12th month of the Islamic calendar. The Umra, or small Hajj, may be performed at any time of year but is not a substitute for the Hajj.

The rituals of Hajj and Umrah include such things as ablution or ritual washing, repetitive prayer, walking around the Kaaba seven times while kissing the black stone or at least pointing to it on each round, running between Safa and Marwah seven times, drinking from the well of Zamzam, sacrificing animals, visiting the hills of Arafah and Mina, crying out loud, throwing stones at the devil, and cutting hair or shaving heads.

Since about two million pilgrims showed up in 2009, the affair does not go without incident, and so even the Saudi Kingdom's website pleads "Be peaceful, orderly and kind. No crushing."

In Islamic tradition Abraham was ordered by Allah to leave Hagar and Ishmael alone in the desert. The story goes that Ishmael was dying of thirst and so Hagar ran frantically back and forth between the hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwah in search of water. Then Ishmael was supposed to have cried out, and hit the ground with his foot (some variations on that that involve Gabriel), and water sprang forth from the ground. This is how the source of the well that is known as Zamzam is said to have appeared, from which Hagar was able to give Ishmael water.

While scripture indicates that Abraham did indeed send his wife Sarah's Egyptian handmaiden Hagar, and Hagar's son Ishmael away, and that Ishmael did nearly die of thirst, the first difficulty with the tradition as taught in Islam arises when we consider the geographical location of Abraham's home, and where Hagar and Ishmael wandered, once they were sent out.

Genesis 21:14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave [it] unto Hagar, putting [it] on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and **wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.** 15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

To suggest that Hagar and Ishmael wandered their way from Beersheba to what eventually became Mecca, would require them to have crossed 1200 kilometers of - at that time - unpopulated, uncharted, unknown, barren, desolate desert, on a single skin of water.

Further, when we consider Abraham's travels, we find that they remained largely within the fertile crescent.

An additional difficulty with the tradition as taught in Islam, is that there is not a single shred of archaeological or historical **evidence**, that suggests that Mecca ever existed before the 4th century AD when immigrants of the Yemeni tribe of Khuza'a settled the area, or that the Kaaba existed before it was built by Asad Abu Karb in the early 5th century A.D. for Arabian Star Family worship. Please see tract M20 for more.

### **So where did the Islamic traditions of the Hajj and Umrah come from?**

Much of the following is credited to the 20 year full-time study of Islam accomplished by Dr. Rafat Amari, that is expounded in his book, "Islam: In Light of History".

The Hadith records that pagans controlled the Kaaba before Mohammed started his religion, and that the Kaaba contained 360 idols. After Mohammed returned to Mecca from Medina and broke the "Truce of Hudaibiyyah" he had made with his own tribe the Quraish, he then removed all the idols ..... **except one.** The black stone that remains to this day is the same that pre-Islamic pagans went on pilgrimage to and

circumambulated, in Arabian moon god and Star Family worship.

Making the pilgrimage to that black stone is one of the five pillars of Islam and thus is obligatory for all Muslims to perform at least once in their lifetime. This of course places a severe financial burden on poor Muslims that live in other parts of the world, and even though it's a requirement of Mohammed's religion, millions of Muslims die before they are ever able to afford to travel to Mecca. However from pre-Islamic pagan times unto today, the Hajj has provided a bonanza of imported wealth transferred to Mecca, from elsewhere. So the question arises, would a good God impose such a tremendous physical and financial burden, that falls most heavily on the poorest, and least able, among his followers?

The Hadith indicates that performing the Hajj may provide remission from sin.

Bukhari V 2, B 26, No 596:

Narrated Abu Huraira:

The Prophet (p.b.u.h) said, **"Whoever performs Hajj** for Allah's pleasure and does not have sexual relations with his wife, and does not do evil or sins then **he will return (after Hajj free from all sins)** as if he were born anew."

So Muslims are taught that walking around the Kaaba seven times, kissing the black stone, traveling from hill to hill near Mecca, casting stones and cutting their hair may provide remission of sin, while at the same time they are taught to reject the shed blood of Jesus Christ that saves everyone from sin - rich or poor - who have faith in His shed blood.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

S Muslim B 7, No 3078:

'A'isha (Allah be pleased with her) reported: **Allah's Messenger** may peace be upon him) **said to me:** Had your people not been unbelievers in the recent past (had they not quite recently accepted Islam), I would have demolished the Ka'ba and would have rebuilt it on the foundation (laid) by Ibrahim; **for when the Quraish had built the Ka'ba, they reduced its (area),** and I would also have built (a door) in the rear.

So Mohammed **credited the Quraish - not Abraham - with building the Kaaba** from the ground up. However as mentioned in the "History of Mecca" tract M20 the history of Arabia suggests that the Kaaba was built by the leader of the Yemeni tribe of the Khuzaa'h, Abu Karb Asa'd, in the early 5th century AD for Arabian Star Family worship.

### **Twaf - Circulambulation of the Kaaba and the black stone**

Circumambulating Kaabas, kissing stone idols, and going on pilgrimages to religious sites were pagan rituals that preceded Mohammed by centuries. Besides that bequeathed to us through the actual historical record of Arabia, the Hadith indicates that Muslims went on Hajj right alongside the pagans, until the year before Mohammed's last Hajj, when the pagans were finally expelled from their own ritual.

Bukhari V 2, B 26, No 689:

Narrated Abu Huraira:

**In the year prior to the last Hajj of the Prophet** when Allah's Apostle made Abu Bakr the leader of the pilgrims, the latter (**Abu Bakr**) **sent me** in the company of a group of people **to make a public announcement: 'No pagan is allowed to perform Hajj after this year, and no naked person is allowed to perform Tawaf of the Kaba.'**

Can you imagine a bunch of naked pagans and Muslims circling the Kaaba? See tract M20 for more on Twaf.

### **Al-Safa and Al-Marwah**

The ritual of running between Safa and Marwa is called the "Sa'ee". As mentioned earlier Muslims are taught that this ritual has to do with Hagar and Ishmael. Besides the historical and geographical absurdity of that view, the pre-Islamic Umra was a ritual of the Arabian Jinn religion.

In Islam jinn are recognized as devils or demons. The idols that were placed on the two stones Safa and Marwa were two statues of Asaf who was a male and Naelah who was female. They were the most venerated priests of the Arabian jinn religion. Arabian mythology claims they committed fornication together inside the Kaabah and the gods transformed them into stone statues. Though the idols were removed by Islam, to this day Muslims still run between Safa and Marwa seven times, just as the pagans did.

For more on Hajj and Umrah, Safa and Marwa see Part 2 tract M25 at

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