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Mecca and Medina

Hajj is a divine trust and the fourth pillar of Islam. The other three pillars preceding it are *Namaaz* (daily prayer), *Zakat*, and *Roozeh* (Fasting). The significance of Hajj is clearly depicted in this narration:

"If a Muslim, who is financially capable to go to Mecca, does not do so and dies, he does not deserve to be called a Muslim and will die as a Jew or Nazarene".

Arabian Peninsula

Saudi Arabia covers an area of 2240000 kilometers, with an approximate population of 13 million. This country is located in Southwest Asia and is bordered by Hashemite Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait on the north, Persian Gulf, Southern Emirates, and Oman Sea on the east, Yemen Republic on the south, and Red Sea to the West.

In Saudi Arabia, the kingship is inherited within the Royal family and the King himself rules over the Ministers. The capital of Saudi Arabia is Riyadh, and Mecca and Medina are the two religious centers of this country. The inhabitants of

Saudi Arabia are Muslims, but regarding the secondary tenets, they follow the creed of *Ahmed ibn Mohammad ibn Hanbal* (born in 856) and in Principles, are followers of *Abulhassan Ash`ari* (born in 941).

Some Saudis are followers of *Muhammad ibn Abd-al-Wahhab*. He was born in *Al-Gway'iyah*, Nejd. He learnt the *Hanbali Fiqh* (jurisprudence) from his father and finally, accepted the beliefs of *Ibn Taymiya* (1262-1327) and his disciple *Ibn-e-Ghayem* (1291-1350) after studying his books. These two figures are known as *Zaaheri*, or advocates of relying on apparent meaning of Quran and Hadith. *Muhammed Ibn Saud*, the progenitor of Saudi Dynasty who was living in *Ad-Dir'iyah* village (near the area that is now called Riyadh) became one of his followers, and after that, other Saudi kings followed him.

Muhammad ibn Abd-al-Wahhab and his followers consider construction of tombs and any kind of symbol on graves as blasphemy and heresy and thus, destroyed the graves in *Baqi*, *Uhud* , *Mecca*, and elsewhere and leveled them to the ground.

Followers of other Islamic faiths are also living In Saudi Arabia, including Shiite minority living in Medina, Mecca, and Qutaif.

Mecca

Mecca is the mother of Islamic cities and center of Islam, and apart from its nobility and sanctity from the very beginning of creation and specially during the life time of the prophet Ibrahim, May Peace be upon him, it is the place where the first verses of the Holy Quran were reveled to Holy prophet, May Allah Greet Him and His Household . It is the birthplace of the Holy prophet, Amir of the Faithful, May Peace be Upon him, and Fatima Zahra, May Peace be upon her.

Mecca stands at a height of 330 meters above the sea level and is surrounded by several mountains. The distance between Mecca and Jeddah Port is about 80 kilometers and its temperature changes between 18 C° in winters and 47 C° in summers.

Although this city has been known as a sacred place from thousands of years ago, this long history, except its beginning and its end, is lost in the mists of history. According to Holy Quran, Ibrahim was the first who settled his family in this barren land and later, a group called *Amelkites* dominated this area. In the Fourth Century B.C, due to disruption in social and economical conditions of South Arabia, groups of southern people migrated to other parts of the peninsula. A tribe known as “*Jarhom*” settled in Mecca and administered the city. Later, Khazae Tribe dominated the area and at the beginning of Sixth Century A.D, Ghasi-bin Kalab , the grand ancestor of the holy prophet, May Allah Greet Him and His Household, brought *Quraysh* tribe who were living in the deserts and valleys outside Mecca to the city and established *Daar al- nadweh*.

Daar al-nadweh was the first and only council all over Arabian Peninsula and then turned into the house for Caliphs and Emirs. Later, the building was gradually set in ruin and finally became a part of the mosque and now, there is no trace left from it.

Masjid al-Haram

Name of a Mosque surrounding the Kaaba ,which is the oldest and most famous Mosque in the history of Islam. Historical records reveal that up to the demise of our holy prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, people built their house near Kaaba. In the era of Caliphs, it was prevented and gradually the area of the mosque increased, so that it now covers

an approximate area of 180,000 Square meters, with sixty two big and small doors: its three main, big gates are known as *Bab al Umrah* , *Bab as Salam* and *Bab al Malik Abdulaziz*. Two minarets, with a height of 92 meters and pedestal of 7.7 meter are standing on top of each main gate, with a bronze, gilded crescent 6.5 meter high on top of each. The seventh minaret of the mosque stands above *Bab as Safa* Gate. Two big minarets, each with a height of 89 meters are recently constructed on the Western wing of the Mosque ,increasing the total number of minarets to nine. With its present area, this mosque can accommodate about 820,000 prayers.

Kaaba House

Kaaba is a roofed, square building inside *Masjid al Haram*, and its outside surface is covered by grayish stones. All over the year, this building is covered with a black curtain with its top margin crocheted with golden strings. *Kaaba* is approximately 15 meters high .The length of *Kaaba* is 68.11 meters from *Ruknul-Aswad* to *Ruknul-Iraqi*, 9.90 meter from *Ruknul-Iraqi* to *Ruknu sh-Shāmī* where *Hajar Ishmael* stands, 4.12 meter from *Ruknu sh-Shāmī* to *Ruknu l-Yamanī*, and 18.10 meters from *Ruknu l-Yamanī* to *Ruknul-Aswad*.

The gate of *Kaaba* is located in the Eastern wing and stands two meters high above the ground. It is closed during the year, and opens only for washing ceremony or when there are some high ranking visitors from Islamic countries.

Pillars (*Rukns*)of Kaaba

Each of the four sides (*rukni*) of the house has a special name: *Ruknul-Iraqi* for the northern wing, *Ruknu sh-Shāmī* for the Western wing, *Ruknu l-Yamanī* for the southern wing, and

Ruknul-Aswad for the eastern wing . Kaaba is a square roofed building with three pillars inside. During 1996 reconstruction activities, its internal walls were repaired and new stones were installed on them.

Hajarul Aswad (The Black Stone)

Hajarul Aswad, meaning the Black stone, located in the eastern wing with an approximate height of 1.5 meter, is a black reddish, oval stone with red spots, with a diameter of 30 centimeters, framed in a silver frame.

Downspout

The *Downspout* is located on the roof of the House, between *Ruknul-Iraqi* and *Ruknu sh-Shāmī* wings above *Hajar Ishmail* .It is said that is was first installed by *Hadjaj-bin-Yusuf* to prevent rainwater concentration on the roof. According to traditions, prayers under Kaaba Downspout are granted.

Hajar Ishmail

Hajar Ishmail is located between *Ruknu sh-Shāmī* and *Ruknul-Iraqi* wings with a semi-circled wall, with a height of 30.1 and width of 50 centimeters. It is said that Hagar, Ishmail, and about 70 prophets are interred there.

Multazam

A part of the House Wall , between *Hajar-ul-Aswad* and gate of Kaaba is called *Multazam*, because the Hajjis feel bound to pray there.

Mustajar

Mustajar is located beside *Yamani* wing and opposite Kaaba gate, and when Kaaba had two gates, the other gate, that was later closed, was located there. It is said that this part of the

Kaaba wall was split for *Fatima-bint-Asad* to give birth to Imam Ali, Peace be upon him, who is thus called the Infant of Kaaba.

Shazravan

A small protrusion around Kaaba wall-except *Hajar –Ishmail* wing, is called *Shazravan*.

Ibrahim Stand

Thirteen meters away from Kaaba wall and at the same side as Hajarul-Aswad, there is a building with a small golden dome. Inside this building, there is a stone with a footprint on it which is attributed to Ibrahim, Peace be Upon Him. In the past, this stone was sheltered by a big dome made of brick, stone, and wood ornamented with Quran verses. Since it reduced the space for circumambulation, in 1965 the Saudi government ordered to demolish and replace it by the present small shrine.

Kaaba Curtain

Kaaba is covered by a black curtain called *Kiswah* or Kaaba Curtain .It is said that Taba` Hamiri , king of Yemen, was the first who covered Kaaba with curtain . Amir of the Faithful, Ali ibn Abitalib, Peace be upon him, sent from Iraq, curtains for Kaaba every year. In the era of Mahdi, the Abbasid Caliph, the servants of Kaaba complained about the huge amount of Curtains on Kaaba, saying that it may damage the House. Mahdi ordered to remove all curtains except one, and replace that every year. This tradition has continued and since then, every year the *Kiswah* is replaced with a new one, crocheted with verses of Quran.

Zamzam well

When Ibrahim brought his wife Hagar and Ishmael to Mecca and settled near Kaaba, Ishmael became very thirsty and his

mother started running between Safa and Marwah to get some water. At last, Jibreel hit the ground with its wing and heel and Zamzam water gushed out. With the passage of time, the well disappeared, until Abdul Mutaleb dug it again and the pilgrims are using its water since then. In recent development activities, separate corridors for men and women were constructed in the basement beside the well, and the pilgrims take Zamzam water from the water taps installed there and special containers in different parts of Masjid al Haram that are filled with Zamzam water.

Safa and Marwah

Safa and *Marwah* are names of two mountains in *Mus`a* and during Hajj, pilgrims cover the distance between them seven times. With the increase in the area of *Masjid al-Haram*, *Mus`a* and Masjid al Haram are now connected together. It is 394.5 meters long and 20 meters wide, with its first and second floors 12 and 9 meters high respectively. At present, some part of Safa mountain still remains but a major part of the Marwah mountain was removed during 1995 developments and merely the part where the pilgrims go round has remained. *Mus`a* has eighteen gates.

Hira

A tall mountain called *Kouh-e-Nour* (Mountain of light) overlooks Mena in the North of Mecca. On its southern slope, 160 meters from its peak, there is a cave called *Hira* that is one of the sacred places of Mecca city, where The Prophet Muhammad, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, retired to worship Allah and where the first verses of Holy Quran were revealed to him.

Birthplace of Holy Prophet, May Allah Greet Him and His Household

The Holy Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, was born in a house in *Shi`b Abu Talib*, (*Abu Talib Mountain Pass*). When he migrated from Mecca to Medina, Aqil moved to that house and sold it to *Muhammad ibn-Yusuf Saghafi*. Then Kheyzaran, mother of Harun, turned it into a mosque for people to pray there.

In 1600, Sultan Muhammad , son of Sultan Murad reconstructed it , made dome and minaret for it, and assigned servants, Muezzin (a person who calls people for prayer) and *Imam Jamaa`t* for it (a religious figure who leads Muslims in group prayers in a mosque). It is now turned into public library of Mecca.

Dar al-Argham

This is the same house that the Prophet, May Allah Greet Him and His Household, and the early Muslims gathered in secret to worship Allah. *Dar al-Argham* was near Safa and outside Masjid al-Haram. Then, a library was established there that was destroyed in 1975 and was included in Masjid al-Haram during developments in the era of Saud bin-Abdul-Aziz.

Sour Cave

Mount Sour is located three kilometers south of Mecca, in the southern part of an area called Musfeleh, with Sour cave on it. This cave is attributed to Sour ibn Abde Manaf and the holy Prophet, May Allah Greet Him and His Household, hid three days in it on his way to migrate to Medina. Allah kept Him safe from the polytheists by forming spider web on the entrance of the cave and he migrated to Medina when it was safe.

Shi`b Abu Talib

Shi`b Abu Talib , or *Shi`b Ali*, is the place where the polytheists of Mecca besieged the Prophet and his clan, Bani Hashim for three years and forbade any transaction or visit with them. This valley slopes down to Mount Abu Qais, where the Mecca library stands beside Masjid al Haram.

Arafat

Arafat is a desert, east of Mecca, a little towards south, on the 21st kilometer of Mecca –Ta`if road. It is said that Adam and Eve met there. In the north of this desert, stands *Jebel al Rahma* or *Jebel al Arafat* (mount of blessing). In recent years, many trees have been planted there and the pilgrims have to stay in this desert from the noon time of ninth day of *Dhu al-Hijjah* (month of Hajj) until the sunset for spiritual nearness to Allah.

Mash`ar ul-Haram

Mash`ar or *Mazdalfeh* is a place where Hajjis enter after Arafat and stay until sunrise. It is the strait located between Arafat from one side and *Mohsar* from the other.

Mana

Mana is a valley with approximate width of 500 meters and length of three kilometers, where the Hajjis must stay in from sunrise of the ninth day to the noon of the twelfth day –except in the permitted hours. It is called Mana, Manna and Mona with different reasons.

Jamarat

Jamarat is the plural word for Jamarah, meaning "heap of stones". The three Jamarah are located in Mana, near Mecca. It is said that it was here that Adam forced away Satan who was

chasing him with throwing pebbles. Following this tradition, the Hajjis throw stones at each Jamarah on 10th and 12th days of Hajj rituals.

Mosques of Mecca

Tan`im Mosque

This mosque is the nearest mosque to Haram, and is located on the road to Medina and is the usual site for becoming Muhrim (putting on Ihram cloths) for *Umrah Mufraddah* .

Jennie Mosque

This mosque is located down Mount Hajoun towards the Haram , about 50 meters after Hajoun bridge and near Aboutaleb Cemetery. It is called Jennie mosque because the Jennie Surah was revealed to the Holy Prophet in this area. This mosque is called Masjid-ul-Hars as well.

Khaif Mosque

Khaif is the biggest mosque in Mana and is on the left side of those who come from Arafat to Mana. It is said that during *Hajja tul weda`* (the last Hajj of the Prophet) the Holy Prophet , *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, pitched his tent in this area and said prayers five times, from noon prayer to morning prayer where now the altar of this mosque stands.

Mu`tmid the Abbasid Caliph in 869 , Muhammad-ibn-Isfahan in 1163, Ibn Mardjani in 1320, Qaitbay in 1469, Sultan *Muhammad Qazlouyeh* in 1661, and *Suleyman Agha* on behalf of Sultan Muhammad in 1681 have repaired this mosque, and in recent years, the old building is demolished and replaced with a beautiful mosque that can accommodate a lot of people.

This mosque is open only during Mana rituals and unfortunately, the gathering of the homeless in this mosque prevents pilgrims to stay there –except in prayer times- and it is difficult to say prayers there.

Abutaleb Cemetery

It is a large area beside *Hajoun Bridge* and is now the cemetery for Mecca inhabitants. Previously, it was known as Abidab *Shi`b`* and *Abd Manaf, Abdulmotaleb, Abutaleb, Khadija* the Great ,peace be upon her, and many *Sahabah* (Companions of our Holy prophet Muhammad),his followers, and Ulama (religious scientists) are interred there. Some have wrongly supposed that *Shi`b Abu Talib* is located here.

The name of this cemetery is *Ma`la* but the Iranians know it as Abutaleb Cemetery.

Medina Munawwarah (The radiant city)

Medina, is the destination of Holy prophet`s migration(Hijra), the capital of Islamic government, and the most famous Islamic city after Mecca .This city is 500 kilometers to the north east of Mecca and is 916 meters above sea level.

It was previously called Yathrib and some historians believe that around two centuries before Christ, some people from ancient Egypt ruled over this city.

This city is famous as migration destination of the Prophet .He came to this city in July 622 that coincided with *Rabi ul awwal* in *hejri* lunar calendar, and this marked the beginning of history of Muslims, but the Hejri lunar calendar starts with Muharram.

In Quran, Traditions of holy Prophet, and conventions of the Muslims, the people of Medina are called *Ansaar* (supporters) and the Muslims of Mecca are called *Muhajeran* (migrants).

During the first months of migration, the holy prophet formed a Brotherhood Pact between Muhajirs and Ansaars, and the Medina Pact that shall be known as the most comprehensive human rights declaration was written in this city after less than one year from Hijra and then, Medina became the center of Islamic rule.

Masjid-al Nabi (*May Allah Greet Him and His household*)

Masjid-al Nabi , in the eastern part of *Medina*, is the second famous mosque in the Islamic history after *Masjid-ul Haram* . When the Holy Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household*)arrived in Medina, he dwelled at *Abu Ayoub Ansaari`s* house, where his camel kneeled. The land of *Masjid-ul Nabi* belonged to two orphans, and was used for drying dates. The Prophet bought it for 10 dinars from the custodian of the orphans to build the mosque. The area of the mosque land was about 2071 square meters . The courtyard of the mosque was covered by black pebble and the walls were made of sun-dried bricks and mud. The Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household*, personally participated in constructing the mosque.

The roof for a part of the mosque was covered by leaves and branches of date palm and tree trunks were used as pillars. The mosque had three doors on east, west and south .The first Qiblah of Muslims was Masjid-ul Aqsa that was later changed to Kaaba. The area of Masjid-ul-Nabi has increased to around 100000 square meters in recent years.

Suffe (Platform)

Within Masjid-ul Nabi, a platform or balcony was made for homeless Muhajirs, later known as *Ashab ul Suffeh*.

It is written in the histories that before *Qiblah* changed from Bait-ul-Maghdas to Kaaba, the altar of the Prophet was in the

north of the mosque. After the Prophet ordered *Qiblah* change, this part was roofed as a place for homeless, Muhajir Muslims to rest and live, and in the seventh year after Hijra, it was included in the Mosque during development activities.

What is known today as *Suffeh*, was previously *Dakkat-ul Aghvaat*, constructed in 1173 following the order of Nour ud-din Zangi, as a place for Haram custodians who were responsible for guarding and serving in Haram .

The houses for wives of Prophet

The houses for wives of the Prophet that were in the form of some *Hujra* (chambers), were located in north, south, and east of the mosque, and after the Prophet passed away, he was interred in Ayesha chamber beside the mosque.

Rawzaye Nabawi (Garden of Prophet)

It is located in south east part of the mosque, towards *Qiblah* , i.e. between the grave of the Prophet , *May Allah Greet Him and His household*, and his pulpit, with a length of 22 meters and width of 15 meters. The Prophet`s grave, pulpit, and Altar are located in this area. The holy Prophet *May Allah Greet Him and His household*, said: *between my pulpit and my house, there is a garden from gardens of Paradise.*

Pulpit

In the western side of the mosque altar, stands a very beautiful pulpit made of marble that was presented to the mosque by Sultan Murad the third in 1589 and replaced Qaitbay pulpit that was placed instead of the pulpit of the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household.*

Altar

Altar is the place where the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household*, used to offer prayers . At His time there was no Altar. During the development of the mosque in Valid-bin-Abdulmalek Umavid era, an altar was constructed where the Prophet offered prayers. This altar has undergone changes over time and its present building is a memorial from Sultan Ashraf Qaitbay, a sultan from *Mamelukes* of Egypt .

Pillars of Nabawi Mosque

Each pillar in *Nabawi* Mosque has a unique name. There are eight pillars remaining from the time of the Prophet which are identified by white color, including:

Mukhalagheh Pillar : this pillar is located in the place of the palm tree trunk where the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household*, leaned while delivering the sermon. When a pulpit was made for the Prophet, a groaning was heard from that trunk and therefore, it was called *Hannaneh*.

Tawbeh (Repentance) Pillar: It is called *Abul babeh* pillar as well. After *Banu Quraizeh* were defeated , The Prophet and his followers boycotted *Abul babeh* for the sin he had committed and finally tied himself to the mosque pillar, until a verse on acceptance of his repentance was revealed to the Prophet *May Allah Greet Him and His household*.

Muharras Pillar: Imam Ali, Peace be upon him, stayed beside this pillar and guarded the Prophet. This pillar is called Ali Pillar as well, because it is where he used to say prayers.

Vafoud Pillar: Beside this pillar, the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household*, received the tribe leaders and political missions.

Sarir (Throne) Pillar:The prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His household* , used to put a bedstead made of palm branches and rest on it during night.

Jibreel Stand: *Jibreel* , the Trustworthy visited the Prophet in this place.

Gates of Masjid-ul-Nabi

When Masjid-ul-Nabi was constructed, three entrance and exit gates were made for people. In addition, some *Sahabeh* (Friends and Followers) built their houses beside the mosque and opened doors inside the mosque.

In the third year before Hijra, before *Uhud* battle, the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , ordered all doors to the mosque, except the door of Ali, *Peace be upon him*, to be closed. The number of doors for this mosque has changed in the course of history, and what follows are the most famous ones:

1- *Bab-ar Rahma* 2-*Bab Jibreel* , 3, *Bab as Salam*, 4-*Bab an-Nisa`* .

With the recent developments, the mosque now has seven doors.

Minarets of the Mosque:

During the extensions in the era of *Valid ibn-Abdulmalik* , four minarets were constructed at the four corners of Masjid ul-Nabi, with some other minarets added later. The main minarets of the mosque were minarets of *Sulaymanyeh* and *Majidi* at both northern wings, and minarets of *Qaitbay* and *Bab-as salam* at two southeastern and southwestern wings.

During later extensions of the mosque, six other minarets were added and therefore, the total number of minarets for this mosque raised to ten.

Baqi:

Baqi cemetery is the oldest and most famous cemetery in Islam. This is called *Baqi Gharghad* as well and is located in the eastern area of Medina.

The graves of Imam Hassan Mujtaba, Imam Sadjad, Imam Muhammad Bagher, and Imam Djafar Sadeq, and according to some narratives, Zahra, *Peace be upon Her*, are located in this cemetery. The graves of

some of the children of the Prophet, *May God Greet Him and His Household* , including Ibrahim, (*Ruqayya, Umm Kulthum, and Zaynab* are located there. *Fatima Bint-e-Asad* , mother of Imam Ali Peace be upon him, *Abbass bin- Abd al-Muttalib* the uncle of the Prophet, *Zaynab bint Khuzayma, Rayhanah, Maria al-Qibtiyya, Zaynab bint-e-Jahsh, Um-e-Habibah, Hafsa, Sawda, Safiyya , Juwayriya, Ayesha and Um-e-Salameh*, the wives of the Prophet *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , are also buried there.

Other famous figures such as *Muhammad Hanafyeh*, son of Ali the Amir of the Faithful, *Oqail-bin Abu Talib* his brother, *Abdullah bin-Djafatr* the husband of *Zaynab* Peace be upon her, *Ishmail* the son of Imam Sadeq Peace be upon him, *Aatekeh and Safiyya*, aunts of the Prophet *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , and many *Sahabah*, followers and *ulama* are interred there.

The Mosques of Medina

There are many mosques in Medina , including:1-Masjid Quba,2- *Masjid al-Qiblatain* (,3- *Masjid al- Jum'a*,4- Masjid Fazikh, 5-*Masjid al-Fatah*,6- Masjid Ali,7- Masjid al- Ghanama, 8-Masjid al Ejabah(Mubahelah or cursing), 9- Masjid Fatima az zahra, 10- Masjid Ali ibn Abitalib, 11- Masjid Salman, 12- Masjid al Shajarah, 13 – Masjid al Mo`ras, 14- Masjid Sanyat al weda`,15- Masjid abouzar, 16-Masjid Saghya, 17- Masjid and Drinking vessel of Umm-e Ibrahim

Masjid Quba

Quba was a village two miles away from Medina which was inhabited by Bani amru bin Auf at the time of migration of the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* . After arriving to Medina, The Prophet and his Followers built the first mosque that was called Quba in the same village. At present, the approximate area of this mosque and its ancillary buildings equals 13500 square meters , with a beautiful appearance and can accomodate up to 20000 prayers. This mosque has four minarets , each 47 meters high. The Verse "The mosque with its pillars made of piety" is revealed for this mosque.

Masjid Qiblahtein

This mosque is 5.3 kilometers from Masji al Nabi May Allah Greet Him and His Household in the west north of Medina and in Jan 624, when the Prophet was saying afternoon prayers, the verse “*so we shall surely turn you to a qiblah which you shall like*”¹ was revealed on him and He turned from *Bayt al Mughaddas* towards Kaaba. As a memorial for this change, two altars were made towards the first and second Qiblah . But they are removed during recent reconstructions. The area of this mosque has reached to 3920 square meters in 1366 reconstructions.

Masjid Jum`a

After Quba mosque, this mosque is the second historical mosque. After moving from Quba towards Medina,, the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , arrived on Friday in a neighborhood where the family of *Bani Amru bin Awf* were residing and offered the first Friday Prayer and then , a mosque was built there.

This mosque was reconstructed by Saudi government in 1991 with an area of 1630 meters.

Masjid Fazeeh

This mosqu is located at the end of Share`olAwali and is among historical, famous mosques. Fazeehk is a kind of date palm tree and the mosque is called so because such trees were there. The other name of this mosque is Radde shams mosque. This mosque is demolished recently and probably a new building will be constructed there.

Masjid Fatah

This mosque stands on the skirts of Sal` Mount in the west north of Medina. It was there that the prophet May Allah Greet Him and His Household , asked from Allah for victory and conquest in Khandaq (trenches) Battle and Allah granted his wish and the polytheists were defeated. Some say that the Fatah Surah was revealed here on the Prophet

¹ -AL-BAQARA, V 144

May Allah Greet Him and His Household , and then this mosque was constructed on this hill.

The present area of this mosque which dates back to 1853 is 24 square meters , with a height of 5.4 meters.

Masjid Ali(Peace be upon Him)

This mosque is located in the south of Masjid al Fatah and overlooks Vadi al Bathan. It is said that during the siege of Medina in Ahzaab Battle , Imam Ali, the Amir of the Faithful prayed in this mosque. Near this mosque, there is another mosque named Fatima Peace be upon Her, and are known as The Five Masjids, together with Fath, Salman, Abubakr, Umar and Qiblahtein mosques.

Masjid Ghanamah:

Ghanameh means clouds. Vaaghedi writes : the first prayer for the festivity marking the end of the fasting month (Ramadan) that was offered by the prophet *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , in the second year of *Hijra* in Medina was in the desert. He offered the prayer in the desert and then , in the second century after *Hijra*, it was turned into a mosque. It is so called because the prophet prayed for rain there and after his prayer, the clouds gathered and rain started .This mosque is now developed and reconstructed with a new style.

Um-e- Ibrahim Mushrabeh (drinking vessel)

It is called so because *Maria al-Qibtiyya*, delivered the son of Ibrahim the prophet of Allah *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* in this place. As recorded in the histories, the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* offered prayers in *Mushrabeh*. *Mushrabe* had been a garden in Awali area of Medina in the north of Masjid *Bani Qurayzah* , which in now in ruins and as a cemetery.

Masjid Abuzar

This mosque is at the end of the present *Abuzar* street and is recently demolished and reconstructed with a vaster area.

Masjid Shajarah

This mosque is 9 kilometers away from Medina and as the city has extended recently, the distance is reduced. Since there were trees beside the mosque, it was called *Masjid Shajarah*. The importance of this mosque stems from the fact that the prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, started his pilgrimage in *Hudaibiyah Umrah*, *Umratul Ghaza`*, and *Hajjatul Weda`* from this location. Currently, the Iranian pilgrims that go to Medina before *Umrah*, start their pilgrimage from *Masjid Shajarah*. This mosque was very small and untidy in previous years. In recent reconstruction from 1987 onwards, the area of the mosque has increased to about 26000 square meters. Outside the mosque, over 500 shower bath and more than 350 lavatories are constructed.

Masjid Mubaheleh

The mosque that is name *Mubaheleh* represents a great historical event.

Mubaheleh means cursing and damning each other. In the 10th year after Hijra, a group of Christians of Najran –an area in Yemen, in the south of Arabia came to the prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, and talked to him about the Jesus Peace be upon him .The Prophet said Jesus was Allah`s servant and word and Allah inspired it on Maryam. They said how can a man be born without any father? A quranic verse was revealed saying that the example of Jesus is like Adam. When the dialog continued for a long time, the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household*, told them by the order of Allah, let us bring our sons and wives and start *Mubahelah* so that the liars be cursed by Allah. In that day that was 28th, or according to some traditions, 25^h October 631, The prophet, with Ali and *Fatimat az zahra* and Hassan and Hussein, Peace be upon them, set out for *Mubaheleh*. The Christians were taken aback by their splendor and grandeur and avoided *Mubaheleh*. So they compromised with the Prophet and accepted to pay *Jiziah* (tribute).

Uhud

Uhud is a mountain and valley 6 kilometers north of Medina and now, due to expansion of the city, a great part of this distance is filled with buildings.

It was here that the second battle of Muslims and polytheists of Mecca happened in the third year of Hijra of the holy prophet. When the prophet was informed that *Abusofyan* and his army are heading towards Medina, he called the war council.

The elders believed that the city must take a defensive arrangement , but the youth who were more decisive, recommended to attack the enemy outside the city. Since they were in the majority, the Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , accepted their idea, put on arms, and set out for fight. On the other hand, the Mecca polytheists went to *Zulhalifa* and then north of *Yathrib*, and were positioned beside *Uhud* . There were 1000 soldiers in the army of Islam. Before the battle started, *Abdullah ibn Obai*-the leader of hypocrites – went back to Medina with 300 soldiers as a sign of protest , saying that Muhammad followed the kids and disregarded his idea. It is said that the Verse 167 of *Al-e-Umran* Surah was inspired about him.

When Abdullah and his followers left the army of Muslims, only 700 persons remained in the Prophet`s army. The Prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , positioned some archers on *Jebel Ramaat* and told *Abdullah bin Jubair*, the head of archers, to be on watch so that the enemy cannot circle and attack us from behind. Do not leave your position until the battle is finished, whether we were victorious or defeated.

With the first attack of Muslims, the army of Mecca retreated and soldiers of Islam started taking booties. The group of archers left its position to take booties and did not listen to their leader *Abdullah* ,who was trying to stop them. As soon as they left the entrance of the valley, the enemy cavalry led by *Khalid ibn Valid* attacked the army of Islam .In this attack, *Hamzah*, the uncle of the prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* , and about 70 Muslims were martyred. The grave of *Hamzah Sayed-osh shuhada* (Master of martyrs)and other martyrs are on *Mount Uhud* slope.

Musa`b ibn Amir, and *Hanzala Ghasil –al Mala`ikeh* are also among martyrs of *Uhud* battle. The prophet, *May Allah Greet Him and His Household* ,became very sad for the martyrdom of *Hamzah* and named him *Sayed ash -Shohada*.