

Wonders of Islamic History

January 2021



MOUNT ARAFAT

Mount Arafat's significance holds a special place in the history of Islam. This is where Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ preached his last sermon, also known as the 'Khutbat al-Wada,' to his companions (sahaba), who had accompanied him for the Hajj in AD 632, three months before his passing.

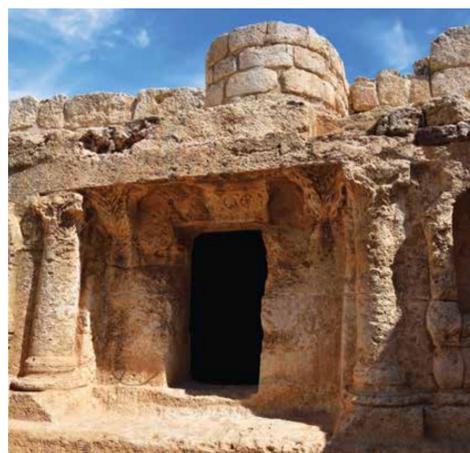
In modern day, the mountain is especially important during the Hajj, with the 9th day of the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijjah, also known as the Day of Arafah, after the mountain itself. It is the day when Hajj pilgrims leave Mina for Arafat; this day is considered to be the most important day of the Hajj. The khutbah (sermon) is delivered and Zuhr and Asr prayers are prayed together in the valley. The pilgrims spend the whole day on the mountain invoking Allah ﷻ to forgive their sins.¹

It is also believed that Mount Arafat is the place where Hazrat Aadam ﷺ and Bibi Hawwa ﷻ reunited on Earth, after falling from Heaven. The mountain is believed to be the place where they were forgiven, hence giving it the name Jabal Ar-Rahmah, meaning 'Mountain of Mercy'. A pillar has been erected on top of the mountain to show where this event is believed to have taken place.

Reference:

1. <https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/qurbani/dhul-hijjah/>

February 2021



ASHAB-E-KAHF

Also known as 'The Cave of the Seven Sleepers', the story goes that there were once a number of young boys, brought up in royalty as the sons of noblemen and rulers, in a town where paganism and idol worship prevailed as the main religious practice. These young boys, though unknown to each other, came together by chance and collectively rejected idolatry and affirmed their belief in Allah ﷻ.

Eventually, word of their activities reached the palace and they were summoned before their King. When questioned by the King, they refused to succumb to him, but instead, tried to invite the King to the path of Allah ﷻ. The King rejected their call to Islam, and punished them in the manner customary for that era. They were stripped of their fine clothing and elegant ornaments, and were given the night to "repent" from their ways.

With Allah's ﷻ might, the youths managed to escape captivity during the course of the night, they were guided to the safety of a cave, where they fell into deep sleep. The King ordered his men to give chase, but Allah ﷻ concealed the youths from their sight. By the miracle of Allah ﷻ, they woke up 300 years later, without having aged a single day!²

Allah describes their sleeping in the Holy Quran in Surah Kahf: "You would have thought they were awake, though they lay asleep. We turned them over, to the right and the left, with their dog stretching out its forelegs at the entrance. If you had seen them, you would turn and run away, filled with fear of them." [18:18]³

References:

2. <https://hadithoftheday.com/the-people-of-the-cave-part-i/>
3. <https://quran.com/18/18?translations=>

Wonders of Islamic History

March 2021



JABAL-AL-NOUR

Jabal-Al-Nour ('Mountain of the Light' or 'Hill of the Illumination') is a mountain near Mecca, in the Hejazi region of Saudi Arabia. The mountain is famous for housing the grotto or cave of Hira, and holds tremendous significance for Muslims throughout the world.

One physical feature that differentiates Jabal-Al-Nour from other mountains and hills is its unusual summit, which makes it look as if two mountains are on top of each other. The cave within, faces the direction of the Kaaba, is very much isolated.⁴

Reference:

4. <https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/qurbani/dhul-hijjah/>

April 2021



GHAR-E-HIRA

Ghar-e-Hira is housed within the mountain of Jabal-Al-Nour, and is a cave of great significance in the history of Islam. Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ spent a great deal of time in this cave meditating and it was here that he received the first revelation, which consisted of the first five ayats of Surah Al-Alaq from the Angel Jibra'il.

Hira is both without water or vegetation, other than a few thorns, and is crowned by a steep and slippery peak, which Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ with some companions once climbed.⁵

Reference:

5. <https://saudiqazette.com.sa/article/523657>

Wonders of Islamic History

May 2021



MOUNT SAFA & MARWA

The importance of Mount Safa and Marwa comes from the story of Zamzam. The Zamzam Well was revealed to Bibi Hajra عليها السلام, the second wife of Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام and mother of Hazrat Ismail عليه السلام. By the instruction of Allah سبحانه وتعالى, Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام left his wife and son at a spot in the desert and walked away.

Bibi Hajra عليها السلام was desperately seeking water for her infant son, but could not find any in the hot dry valley, in Mecca. Bibi Hajra عليها السلام ran seven times back and forth in the scorching heat between the two hills of Safa and Marwah, looking for water. Getting thirstier by the second, the infant Hazrat Ismail عليه السلام rubbed the land with his feet, where miraculously water sprang out from the earth.⁶

Reference:

6. <https://hadithoftheday.com/the-amazing-story-of-hajar-and-how-its-relevant->

June 2021



MOUNT JUDI

According to the Quranic account of the Flood and Hazrat Nuh's عليه السلام Ark, the final resting place of the vessel was at Mount Judi:

"And it was said, "O earth, swallow your water, and O sky, withhold [your rain]." And the water subsided, and the matter was accomplished, and the ship came to rest on the [mountain of] Judi. And it was said, "Away with the wrong doing people." (11:44, The Noble Quran)⁷

The story of Hazrat Nuh's عليه السلام Ark began when the people of his town continued to practice their paganistic rituals. Despite pleading his case of these wrong doings, the leaders of the town rejected his beliefs of change. Having been warned a number of times, the disbelievers were now to be punished and His judgement on the disbelievers was passed in the form of a flood. There came a divine order for Hazrat Nuh عليه السلام to build an ark with His knowledge and instructions, with the help of angels. The huge structure of the ark that Hazrat Nuh عليه السلام built was to be the only form of survival for the flood that came days later⁸, with 'waves like mountains' (11:42, The Noble Quran)⁹

References:

7. <https://quran.com/11/44?translations=>

8. <https://hadithoftheday.com/nuh/>

9. <https://quran.com/11/42?translations=>

Wonders of Islamic History

July 2021



MOUNT SINAI (TUR SAYNA)

Upon approaching Mount Sinai, Hazrat Musa عليه السلام was commanded by Allah ﷻ to fast for thirty days and to then proceed to the valley of Tuwa for guidance. Allah ﷻ ordered Hazrat Musa عليه السلام to fast again for ten days before returning. After completing his fasts, Hazrat Musa عليه السلام returned to the spot where he had first received his miracles from Allah ﷻ, where he took off his shoes as before and went down into prostration. Hazrat Musa عليه السلام prayed to Allah ﷻ for guidance, and begged Allah ﷻ to reveal himself to him.¹⁰ It is narrated in the Qur'an that Allah ﷻ told him that it would not be possible for Hazrat Musa عليه السلام to perceive Him, but that He would reveal himself to the mountain, stating:

And when Hazrat Musa عليه السلام arrived at Our appointed time and his Lord spoke to him, he said, "My Lord, show me [Yourself] that I may look at You." [Allah ﷻ] said, "You will not see Me, but look at the mountain; if it should remain in place, then you will see Me." But when his Lord appeared to the mountain, He rendered it level, and Hazrat Musa عليه السلام fell unconscious. And when he awoke, he said, "Exalted are You! I have repented to You, and I am the first of the believers." (7:143, The Noble Quran)¹¹

When Allah ﷻ revealed himself to the mountain, it instantaneously turned into ashes, and Hazrat Musa عليه السلام lost consciousness. When he recovered, he went down in total submission and asked forgiveness of Allah ﷻ. This was where he was then given the Ten Commandments by Allah ﷻ as guidance and mercy.

References:

10. <https://www.islamreligion.com/articles/3366/viewall/story-of-moses/>

11. <https://quran.com/7/143?translations=>

August 2021



MOUNT TAIF

At Mount Taif, Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ was received by the three chiefs (Abd Yalail, Mas'ud and Habib, their father was Amr Bin Ummaya Ath Thaqafi) of the local tribes, who let him have his say, however paid little heed to his message. Having rejected his religion, the people of the city forced Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ out of Taif alongside Zayd ibn Harithah, where they took refuge in an orchard to rest.

It was there that the Angel Jibra'il came to him with the Angel of the Mountains and said that if Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ wanted, he would blow the mountains over the people of Taif (or crush the people of Taif in between the mountains). Instead, Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ declined and decided to forgive the people through prayer.¹²

Reference:

12. <https://hadithoftheday.com/nuh/>

Wonders of Islamic History

September 2021



MOUNT UHUD

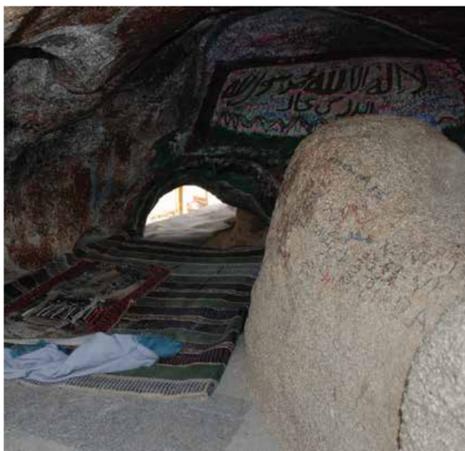
The Battle of Uhud was a famous Ghazwa of Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ against the polytheists of Mecca in 625. Quraysh marched out toward Medina, as they desired to avenge their losses in the Battle of Badr, while Abu Sufyan was the commander of the army.

The battle was fought valiantly by the Muslim army initially, but their efforts came undone when a number of archers left their assigned posts, leaving way for a surprise attack from the Meccans on the flank. The Muslims faced a heavy defeat with approximately 70 martyred Muslims, including Hamza b. 'Abd al-Muttalib who got mutilated and Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ who was left badly injured.¹³

Reference:

13. https://en.wikishia.net/view/Battle_of_Uhud

October 2021



CAVE OF THAWR

After the demise of Abu Talib, Quraysh polytheists intensified the harassment of Muslims. As the life of Muslims were in danger, Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ ordered Muslims to migrate to Yathrib, where he had recently made an allegiance. The chiefs of Quraysh decided that select brave men from every tribe would attack Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ together, and assassinate him in his home.

On the night, Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ was warned of the assassination by an angel and told to take refuge inside the cave of Thawr. Here, once Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ and Hazrat Abu Bakr ﷺ were inside, Allah ﷻ sent a spider to spin a web from a bush across the entrance to the cave and also commanded two doves to fly down between the spider and the tree, to make a nest and lay eggs to further conceal the cave. On seeing the spider's web and the doves' nest, the Quraysh concluded that no one could have entered the cave and left, clearing the path for Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ and his companion to escape after 3 days.¹⁴

Reference:

14. <https://www.islamiclandmarks.com/makkah-other/jabal-al-thawr>

Wonders of Islamic History

November 2021



CAVE OF HAZRAT IBRAHIM (عليه السلام)

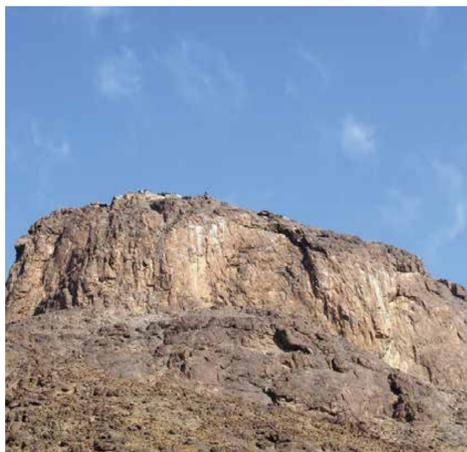
Before Hazrat Ibrahim's عليه السلام birth, a star appeared, of such shimmering brightness that it outshone the Sun and the Moon. This frightened the king Nimrod, who called his magicians and astrologers to ask them the meaning of this occurrence. They replied that a man would arise in his territory who was destined to destroy him and his rule.

Hearing this, Nimrod left and moved to another town, compelling everyone to move with him and ordering the killing of any boy to be born to them. Hazrat Ibrahim's عليه السلام father Azar, placed his pregnant wife in a cave, fearing for his unborn. It was here that Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام was born, and spent his early years. When Azar was assured that there was nothing to fear from the king, he went to the cave and took his boy out. It is said that Hazrat Ibrahim عليه السلام was about 10 years old at that time.¹⁵

Reference:

15. <https://hadithoftheday.com/ibrahim-part1/>

December 2021



MOUNTAIN OF ABU QUBAIS

In an attempt to stump him, disbelievers from the Quraysh clan demanded an undeniable sign from Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ, which led to Allah ﷻ splitting the moon in two before their eyes; Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ then said, "Behold." The baffled crowd said that Muhammad ﷺ must have cast a spell on them, but since he could not have cast a spell on everyone, they decided to ask the travellers from surrounding areas if they saw what they did. They sent riders racing out to question those beyond the city of Mecca and they too confirmed having seen the exact same phenomenon. Ultimately, the idolaters from Quraysh chose denial and, because nobody could deny seeing the moon split, they were forced to deny their own eyes.¹⁶ The Quran states:

"The Hour has come near, and the moon has split [in two]. And if they see any miracle, they turn away and say, 'Passing magic.' And they denied and followed their inclinations. But for every matter is a [time of] settlement." (54:1-3, The Noble Quran)¹⁷

References:

16. <https://yaqeeninstitute.org/mohammad-elshinawy/the-physical-miracles-of-prophet-muhammad/>

17. <https://quran.com/54/1?translations=>