

The Ka'bah – The First House of Allāh

First House of Allāh

Abdullāh bin Amr bin Ās (radhiyallāhu anhu) narrated that the Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) said, "After the arrival of Ādam and Hawwā (alayhimus salām) into the world, Allāh commanded them that they should build the House of Allāh (the Ka'bah). After they had fulfilled the command, they were asked to go round it (Tawāf). They were told that they were the first among people and this house was the first House (of worship) appointed for people. (Ibn Katheer). Allāh has mentioned, "The first house set up for the people is surely the one in Makkah having blessings and guidance for all worlds." (Āli-Imrān: 96)

Al-Bayt Al-Ma'moor

Directly above the Ka'bah, there is another Ka'bah situated in the heavens named Al-Bayt Al-Ma'moor. During the miraculous journey of Mi'raj, the Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) was shown Al-Bayt Al-Ma'moor. 70,000 angels do Tawāf of this Ka'bah daily. Due to the vast number of angels, they only get this opportunity once and do not get another chance thereafter.

The Structure of the Ka'bah

The structure of the Ka'bah was first built by Ādam (alayhis salām). However, it collapsed during the great flood in the time of Nuh (alayhis salām). Following that, it was re-built by Ibrāheem and Ismā'eel (alayhimus salām), who were led by an angel on to the site of the Ka'bah and shown its previously existing foundations hidden under sand dunes.

During the early period in the life of the Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam), it collapsed once again and was rebuilt by the Quraysh. The Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam) himself participated and also helped place the Black Stone with his blessed hands. However, the structure raised by the Quraysh was a little different from the original structure.

Originally, the Ka'bah had two doors; one for entry and another for exit. Also, the semi-circular half wall around the Ka'bah was included in the original structure. Now, the Ka'bah is a cube shape with only one door. The semi-circular section was separated with a half wall around the Ka'bah, which is known as the Hateem. In reality, the Hateem is also a part of the Ka'bah.

The interior of the Ka'bah is an open space featuring three wooden pillars supporting the roof with gold and silver lamps hanging. The inside walls are covered in marble and green silk.

The Keys to the Ka'bah

Since the time of our beloved Prophet (sallallāhu alayhi wasallam), the key to the door of the Ka'bah has been held by the Banu Shayba. We learn from different ahādeeth that the keys will remain with this family until the Day of Qiyāmah!

Different Parts of the Ka'bah

- Hateem: A semi-circular section with a half wall around one side of the Ka'bah.
- Al-Hajar Al-Aswad: A black stone from the heavens. It is situated on the corner of the Ka'bah.
- Multazam- The wall between the Door of the Ka'bah and the Black Stone. Du'ās made whilst holding this particular section are accepted.
- Meezābur-Rahmah – The golden water spout hanging from the roof of the Ka'bah. Rainwater from the roof falls through this pipe into the Hateem area.
- Kiswah – A black cloth covering the Ka'bah that has Qurānic verses embroidered with gold thread on it.
- Maqām Ibrāheem – A glass enclosure, at a slight distance from the Ka'bah, in which the foot-steps of Ibrāheem alayhis salām are situated.



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