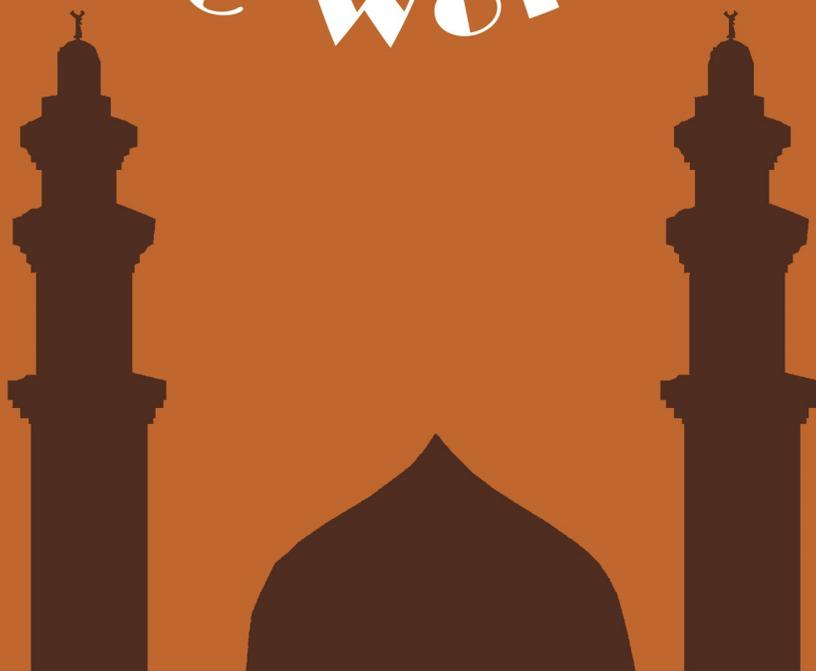


Al-Hilal

Mosques Around



the World



US \$2

A Magazine for Children

2013-1&2

QUARTERLY AL-HILĀL

A magazine for children, by children, that provides them with a creative opportunity to learn about the world around them, and how to apply the teachings of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat to their daily lives.

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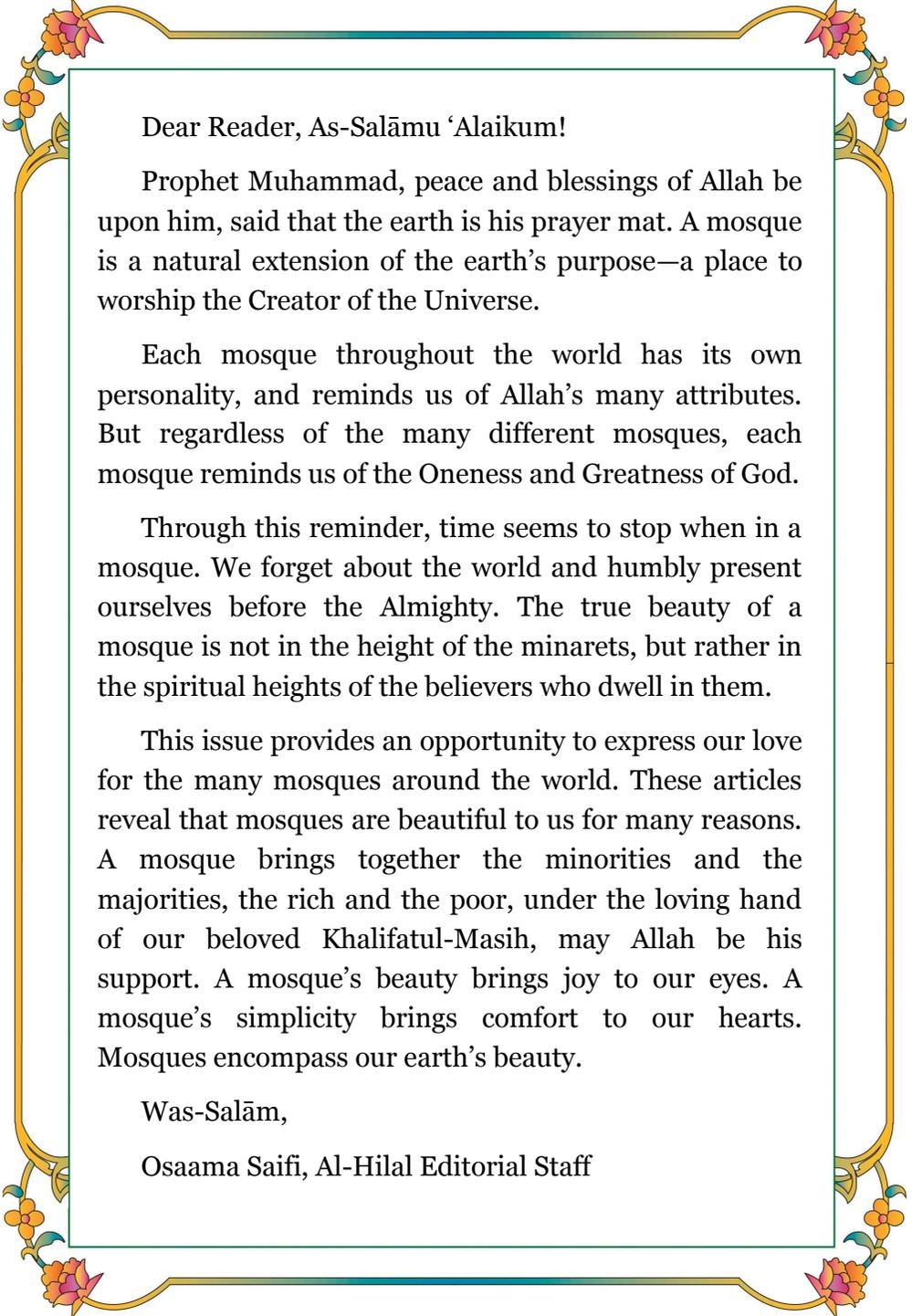
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Cover by Sumera Ahmad



Dear Reader, As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum!

Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said that the earth is his prayer mat. A mosque is a natural extension of the earth’s purpose—a place to worship the Creator of the Universe.

Each mosque throughout the world has its own personality, and reminds us of Allah’s many attributes. But regardless of the many different mosques, each mosque reminds us of the Oneness and Greatness of God.

Through this reminder, time seems to stop when in a mosque. We forget about the world and humbly present ourselves before the Almighty. The true beauty of a mosque is not in the height of the minarets, but rather in the spiritual heights of the believers who dwell in them.

This issue provides an opportunity to express our love for the many mosques around the world. These articles reveal that mosques are beautiful to us for many reasons. A mosque brings together the minorities and the majorities, the rich and the poor, under the loving hand of our beloved Khalifatul-Masih, may Allah be his support. A mosque’s beauty brings joy to our eyes. A mosque’s simplicity brings comfort to our hearts. Mosques encompass our earth’s beauty.

Was-Salām,

Osaama Saifi, Al-Hilal Editorial Staff

Allah, the Almighty, says
in the Holy Qur'an concerning Ka'bah,
the first house of God located in Mecca:

وَإِذْ جَعَلْنَا الْبَيْتَ مَشَابَهُ لِّلنَّاسِ وَآمِنًا
وَآتَخِذُوا مِن مَّقَامِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ مُصَلِّينَ
وَعَهَدْنَا إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ أَن طَهِّرَا
بَيْتِيَ لِلطَّائِفِينَ وَالْعَاكِفِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ
السُّجُودِ ﴿١٢٦﴾

And remember the time when We made
the House a resort for mankind and a
place of security; and take ye the station
of Abraham as a place of Prayer. And We
commanded Abraham and Ishmael,
saying, 'Purify My House for those who
perform the circuit and those who remain
therein for devotion and those who bow
down and fall prostrate in Prayer.'

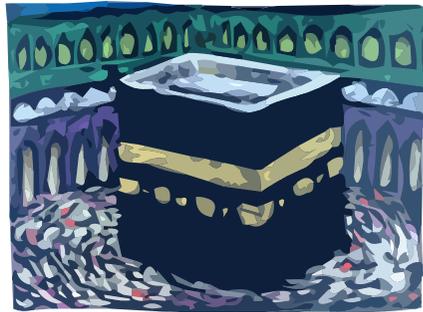
[2:126]

MY FAVORITE MOSQUE

Zareeda Ahmad, Age 8, Oshkosh, WI

My favorite mosque in the world is Masjid Al-Haram because it houses the Ka'ba, which is known to be the first house built for Allah. Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) rebuilt it with his son Ḥaḍrat Isma'il (may peace be upon him) in 2130 BCE. It has remained a center for pilgrimage for thousands of years. Arabs of Mecca before Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) made the Ka'ba into a house of idols, so much so that they had an idol for every day of the year.

Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), after the conquest of Mecca in AD 630, destroyed all these idols and made the Ka'ba into a house of



Allah again. During Hajj, millions of Muslims from all over the world come to Mecca every year to perform Hajj. I have not been to Ka'ba but it is my dream and I wish to go there at least once.

The Ka'ba is the central focus for all Muslims because every day we face the Ka'ba to offer our Salat (daily Prayers). Masjid Al-Haram is the largest mosque in the world covering over 88 acres and can accommodate over four million worshipers during the Hajj times. The Ka'ba and Masjid Al-Haram thus have dual religious importance for Muslims: It serves as the direction for our daily Prayers and serves as the main location for the Pilgrimage every year. May Allah grant my wish of visiting the Ka'ba. Āmīn.

My Special Visit to Baitur-Rahman



Mahid Qureshi / Age 10 / Harford, CT



I have visited many mosques around the world from India to California, but my most memorable visit was to Baitur-Rahman in Silver Spring, Maryland. When I was nine years old my family traveled to Maryland so that we could spend time near Huzur during his visit to America.

As soon as we arrived I was amazed to see so many people joining together to greet Huzur. I myself was very excited for the opportunity to get very close to Huzur. For the first day I spent my time exploring all the different rooms and listened carefully to Huzur's Friday Sermon. My first impression of the mosque was that it was very large and neat. For the next few days I had many experiences that I will never forget. I had the chance to attend a Waqf-i-Nau class in which Huzur gave me a chocolate. Also, I met many of my cousins from around the country and new people that I had never met before.



We played basketball outside and all prayed together five times a day. The most memorable event during my stay at Baitur-Rahman was my opportunity to have my Āmīn with Huzur. It was even more special because my cousin had his Āmīn with Huzur as well. Overall, my experience was unique because I was surrounded by my family, friends, and had a special opportunity to meet with Huzur and offer my Prayers behind him.

وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا ۝١٩

And *all* places of worship belong to Allah;
so call not on any one beside Allah.

The Holy Qur'an: 72:19

Shafia Hafeez
7 yrs. old
Houston North

Shafia





Mosques Around the WORLD

Noor Rana, Age 12

A few years back in 2005, I went to Spain. It was an amazing experience. This was the place where Muslims from North Africa took over and ruled for over seven hundred years. We visited two historical mosques, Masjid Bashārat and Masjid Qurtuba (Cordova Mosque).

We went from Madrid to Pedro Abad by bus. The Ahmadiyya missionary there came to pick us from the bus station and took us to Masjid Bashārat. Foundation stone of Masjid Bashārat mosque was laid by Khalifatul-Masih III, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (may Allah shower his mercy on him) on October 09, 1980. This mosque was inaugurated by Khalifatul-Masih IV, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah shower his mercy on him) on September 10, 1982. It is the first mosque built in Spain after 746 years. The mayor of Pedro Abad attended the function and remarked that this event was of great significance for Pedro Abad's history, especially because of the fact that the Ahmadi Muslims were the first to build a mosque after the government granted religious freedom in Spain.

After spending the night in Masjid Bashārat, we went to Cordova by bus. In 756, the Umayyad Prince, Abdul Rahman I, who had come from Syria when their dynasty fell, took Cordova. He made a deal with the Christians and bought the Church of St. Vincent and converted it to Masjid Qurtuba. Its expansion was overseen by Abdur-Rahman II and III. The last extension was done by Al-Mansur when the mosque was at its grandest with thousands of pillars. The mosque was converted into a cathedral by King Ferdinand III in 1236 when he took over the city of Cordova. Now it is called Mezquita Cathedral.

Masjid Qurtuba was one of the most beautiful massive buildings built by the Umayyads. Everything else from the Muslim era has been ruined or destroyed. Only two remnants of the Islamic dynasty in Spain, this mosque in Cordova and Alhambra in Granada, are still remaining.

Continued on the next page...

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Here is a picture of me standing inside Qurtuba Mosque and a picture of Masjid Bashārat.



Masjid al-Ḥarām

Sophia Khan, Age 12, Dallas, Texas

The Masjid al-Haram was built around the Ka‘ba. It is also the first mosque ever built. Masjid al-Haram surrounds the holiest place in the world, the Ka‘ba, and is a grand mosque. Masjid Al-Haram is located in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. When praying you turn towards the Ka‘ba. Many mosques today have separate ladies’ and mens’ areas to pray but at Masjid al-Haram the men and woman pray together. Masjid al-Haram was remodeled under the leadership of the second Khalifa, Ḥaḍrat ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him). He ordered the demolition of some houses surrounding the Ka‘ba in order to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims and built a 1.5-meter wall to accommodate a large Prayer area.



Etiquette of the Mosque

Tanzeela Virk, Age 7, South Virginia

Mosques are the houses of Allah, the Almighty, in which Allah's name is mentioned and obedience to Allah and worship of Allah is encouraged. Mosques are where hearts become alive and souls are raised, foreheads are lowered and people come together in unity.



Allah Almighty says: **“Verily the mosques are for Allah so do not associate anybody with Allah in worship.”**

Therefore, whoever comes to the mosque must leave worldly affairs behind at the door, as they are in a private meeting with the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth in the House of the Almighty Lord.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught us that the mosques are Allah’s houses and that they have etiquette and rules that should be learned and upheld by every Muslim.



One should enter a mosque wearing clean clothes and avoid eating and using anything that creates a bad smell.

Everyone should cover their heads when entering a mosque and recite the prayer for entering the Mosque. Children are not allowed to run around and make any noise. While waiting for the prayer to start people should try to remember Allah.

Mosques should be kept clean and be treated with respect. Eating and drinking are also generally not allowed. A person should not pass in front of the praying Muslim.

May Allah Almighty enable us to follow these rules and make us to follow appropriate etiquette in our daily lives.

MOSQUES AROUND THE WORLD

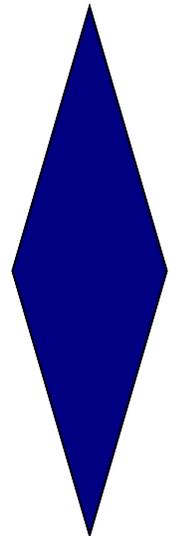
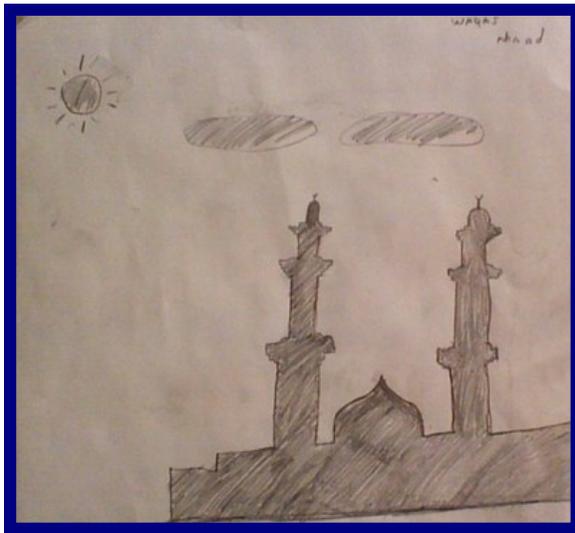
Waqas Ahmad, Age 8 1/2 , Seattle

A mosque is a house of Allah. By the grace of Allah, I had a chance to visit several mosques such as Baitur-Rahman in Washington DC, USA and Baitul-Islam mosque in Toronto, Canada. Baitul-Islam is my favorite mosque because it is really big and our Khalifas have come to that mosque. It has two levels where we can go up and down. Whenever I visit my cousin in Toronto, we go to the mosque to offer Prayers.

I want to visit the mosque in Mecca where our Holy Prophet, Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). I also want to visit the mosques in Qadian where Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) came.

At the end I would like to share a Hadith where the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “A person who builds a mosque for Allah’s sake, Allah builds a similar house in heaven for that person” [Muslim]. May Allah enable me to build a mosque for His sake. Āmīn.

Reference: Ahmadiyya Muslim Mosques around the World (2008)



Mosques Around the World

Baria Ahmad, Age 12, Queens, NY

Muslim place for worship

Open to anyone

Sermons delivered every Friday

Quiet when Imam is delivering speech

Unpredictable events occur

East

South

All kinds of events

Respect a mosque

Open 24/7

Unites one with God

North

Don't be shy of coming in

They are everywhere

House of Allah

Estimated 2.5 million mosques around the world

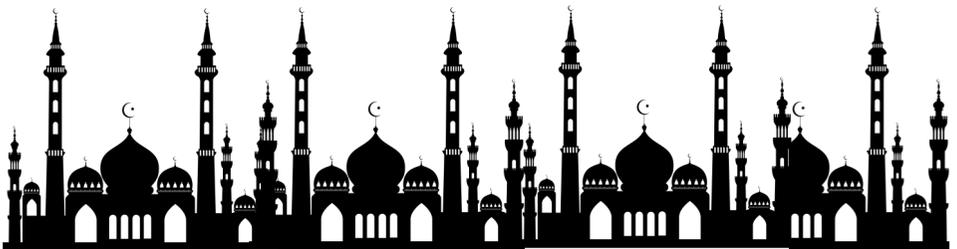
West

Obey the rules

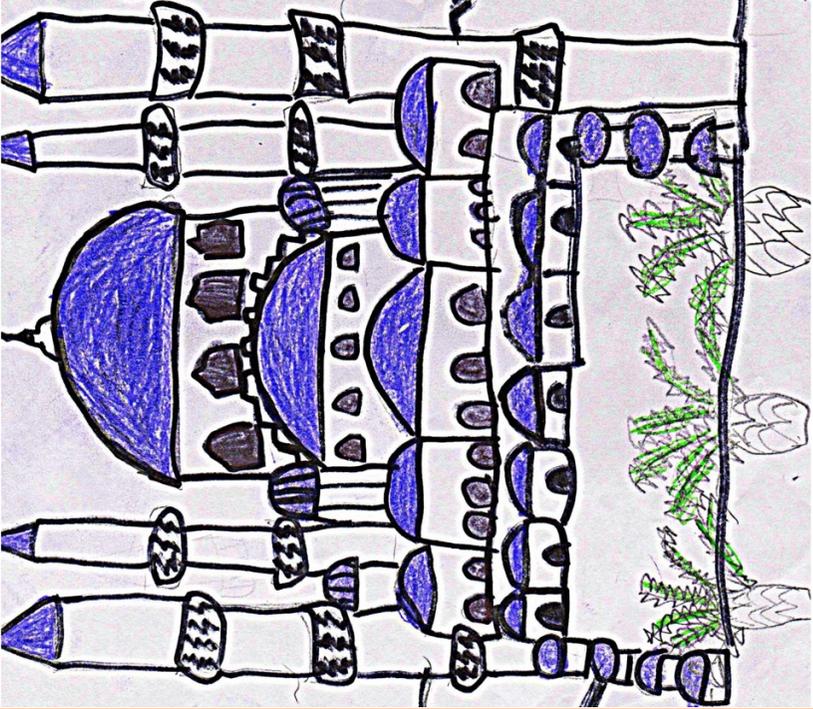
Repeat

Love for all hatred for none

Do visit one



Mosques Around the World



The mosques I visited so far are Baitur-Rahman of Silver Spring, Maryland; Mubarak Mosque of Chantilly, Virginia; and Baitul-Islam in Ontario, Canada. I really liked Baitul-Islam because it is big and looks beautiful with its silver domes and many windows. One day I would love to visit the Sultan Ahmet Mosque better known as the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. It is named after King Ahmet I. It is one of the most beautiful mosques in the world to have six minarets making it very unique as most mosques only have four, two, or just one minaret. The 20,000 blue tiles inside the mosque give it its popular name.

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BY: Elsa Bajwa
From: Southern Virginia Jama'at

وَإِذْ بَوَّأْنَا لِإِبْرَاهِيمَ مَكَانَ الْبَيْتِ أَنْ لَا
تُشْرِكْ بِي شَيْئًا وَطَهِّرْ بَيْتِيَ لِلطَّائِفِينَ
وَالْقَائِمِينَ وَالرُّكَّعِ السُّجُودِ ﴿٢٧﴾

And *remember the time* when We assigned to Abraham the site of the House *and said*, ‘Associate not anything with Me, and keep My House clean for those who perform the circuits, and those who stand up and those who bow down *and fall prostrate in Prayers*’ [22:27].

قُلْ أَمَرَ رَبِّي بِالْقِسْطِ وَأَقِيمُوا
وُجُوهَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَادْعُوهُ
مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ كَمَا بَدَأَكُمْ
تَعُودُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

Say, ‘My Lord has enjoined justice. And fix your attention aright at every *time and* place of worship, and call upon Him, making yourselves sincere towards Him in religion. As He brought you into being, so shall you return.’ [7:30]

The History of the Blue Mosque

Muaz Malik, Age 9, Laurel, MD

The domes and six slender minarets of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque (commonly known as the Blue Mosque) can be seen from everywhere in Istanbul. Its high ceiling has about 20,000 blue tiles. This is why it is called the Blue Mosque. The design of this mosque is called Iznik, which was popular in the sixteenth century. The tiles look like flowers, trees, and other really nice patterns.



There is an old Christian church in Istanbul called the Hagia Sofia. This church was made a long time ago when the Greeks ruled all of Turkey. In the seventeenth century, the Turkish king, Sultan Ahmet I, had the Blue Mosque built. He wanted the Blue Mosque built because he was envious of the beauty of the Hagia Sofia.

Mehmet Aga was the architect who designed and built the Blue Mosque.

Construction on the mosque began in 1609 and took seven years. Sultan Ahmet died only a year after its completion. He was only 27 when he died. He is buried just outside the mosque.

A beautiful attribute of the Blue Mosque is the six minarets. This is different from most other mosques. Other mosques only have four, two, or even one minaret. Some people think that this was a mistake by the architect. These people think that the King asked for gold minarets. The Turkish word for gold and the number six sound alike. The architect thought the King was asking

Continued on the next page...



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for six minarets.

Some Muslims did not like that the Blue Mosque had six minarets because the mosque in Mecca also had six. The problem was solved by adding a seventh minaret to Mecca's mosque.



Researching about the Blue Mosque has made me very curious about it. If I ever get a chance to go to Turkey, I'll definitely go to visit this wonderful mosque, In Sha Allah.

My Visit to the Mosques in Qadian

Muneeb Sharif, Age 10, Boston

Allah the Almighty says in Holy Quran in Surah Taubah:

“A mosque which was founded upon piety from the very first day is surely more worthy that thou shouldst stand to pray therein.”
(9:108)

In 2011, I was able to go to Qadian, India, and visit its many mosques such as Masjid Mubarak, Masjid Aqsa, and the Noor Mosque. Masjid Mubarak and Masjid Aqsa have great importance and are very precious because they are where our beloved Imam, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), offered his supplications and Prayer.

On laying the foundation of Mubarak Mosque in Qadian in 1883, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) received the revelation:

“This is a blessed mosque to impart blessings. Every blessed work will be done in it” (Barahīn-i-Ahmadiyya, Vol. 4, P. 559).

I felt highly blessed to visit this mosque during my stay in Qadian and offered obligatory Prayers in Masjid Mubarak. This mosque has a path leading to Baitud-Du‘ā, the same path that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) used to take to go to Masjid Mubarak. Presently ladies offer their Friday prayers in Masjid Mubarak.

The Aqsa Mosque in Qadian was built by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Murtaza, the father of Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), in 1876. The mosque has been extended several times over the years. In 1903, the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, laid the foundation stone of the today’s lofty Manaratul-Masih in the mosque’s courtyard. I had the blessed opportunity to offer my Friday prayers in Masjid Aqsa. The Masjid Aqsa has the blessed tomb of the father of Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

There is a special place in Masjid Aqsa where Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) received “Khutbah Ilhamiyyah,” the revelation of the entire sermon in Arabic at the time of ‘Īd. Ahmadi Muslims today offer Nawāfil (voluntary Prayers) at this spot in Masjid Aqsa where the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) delivered the sermon.

Apart from these two mosques, I also had the privilege of visiting the Noor Mosque built by Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih I (may Allah be pleased with him). This is a highly important mosque and has special blessings associated with it. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him) was blessed here as the second successor of Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). I have great memories of these sacred mosques in Qadian and wish to visit them more often to derive the benefits of offering Prayers in these mosques.



**Masjid Aqsa in Qadian.
Picture taken from the top
of Manaratul-Masih**

So said the Holy Prophet Muhammad
may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

أُعْطِيتُ خَمْسًا لَمْ يُعْطَهُنَّ أَحَدٌ مِنِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ قَبْلِي،
نُصِرْتُ بِالرُّعْبِ مَسِيرَةَ شَهْرٍ، وَجُعِلَتْ لِي الْأَرْضُ
مَسْجِدًا وَطَهْرًا، وَأَيُّمَا رَجُلٍ مِنْ أُمَّتِي أَدْرَكَتْهُ
الصَّلَاةُ فَلْيُصَلِّ، وَأَحِلَّتْ لِي الْغَنَائِمُ، وَكَانَ النَّبِيُّ
يُبْعَثُ إِلَى قَوْمِهِ خَاصَّةً، وَبُعِثْتُ إِلَى النَّاسِ كَافَّةً،
وَأُعْطِيتُ الشَّفَاعَةَ .

I have been given five things which have not been
given to any prophet before me.

I have been assisted by awe for a distance of one
month's journey.

The earth has been made for me a place for
prostration and clean (for worship). Therefore my
followers can pray wherever they are at the time
of a Prayer.

Booty has been made lawful for me.

A Prophet was sent to his nation exclusively but I
have been sent to all mankind.

I have been given the right of intercession.

(Bukhari, 335, 438)

Mosques I Love.

Naaiema Khan, Age 14, Cypress-Houston

Peace Village (Ahmadiyya Village, Canada) is a housing project of 260 homes built on 50 acres. All nine streets within the neighborhood are named after the names of Khulafa and other prominent Ahmadi Muslims. The main street is called Ahmadiyya Avenue and there is also a public park named “Ahmadiyya Park.” The *Baitul*



-Islam Mosque is visible from all streets. The mosque was designed by Naseer Ahmad and Baitul-Islam’s construction was completed on April 5, 1999. I have been to this mosque multiple times.



One of the many mosques I would love to see is the Crystal Mosque in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. The mosque is located at Islamic Heritage Park on the island of Wan Man. The mosque was constructed between 2006 and 2008. It was officially opened on February 8, 2008 by Sultan Mizan Zainal-Abidin of Terengganu.

These two mosques are two of the estimated 2.5 million in the world. They are very special and unique in their own way.



<http://www.reviewofreligions.org/>

Mosques I Want to Visit

Sameen Hanan, Age 10, SVA

I really want to visit the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. It has capacity for more than 41,000 worshippers. The Sheikh Zayed Mosque has 82 domes and is white. Also, this mosque has over 1,000 columns. Masjid Sheikh Zayed is an enormous mosque. I really want to visit it because it is very beautiful and I suppose it would be more beautiful if I saw it in real life.



Sheikh Zayed Mosque

Another mosque I would love to visit is the Nur Astana Mosque in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.



Nur Astana Mosque

Nur Astana Mosque has a capacity for about 5,000 worshippers. It is the largest mosque of Kazakhstan and central Asia. The mosque is white and has a big golden dome on the top. The mosque was a gift to the president of Kazakhstan. The height is 40 meters, which symbolizes the age of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when he received his first revelation. The 63-meter minarets symbolize the age when Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) passed away.

MOSQUES OF THE WORLD

FAZL MOSQUE

Sarah Mughal, Age 15, Binghamton, NY

A mosque is a fundamental part of Islam. It is the house of Allah where we go to worship Him and listen to the sermons of the Khalifatul-Masih. Mosques promote worship of Allah, and allow Ahmadi Muslims to come together as a brotherhood to worship Him- whether during Jum‘ah Prayer, ‘Īd, or our monthly meetings. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) has stressed the importance of



mosques in many of his sayings, including the following: “To Allah, the most adored places are the mosques and the most undesirable places are market places.” (Muslim) This means that to Allah, mosques and the practice of Islam are far more important than buying things in the market, and making money.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) emphasized that Ahmadiyyat is the renaissance of Islam, and that people will enter mosques in order to join in this Divine movement.

One mosque that I would like to visit is the Fazl Mosque in London. It was the first mosque in London formally opening in October 1926. The foundation of the mosque was laid in 1924 by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him). What I find most admirable about the mosque is that it was built through the contributions of Ahmadi women in India, who sold their possessions to fund the mosque. I have always been fascinated by London, and besides wanting to visit this mosque I have also wanted to visit Khalifatul-Masih in London as well, not just during Jalsa.

Nuriya Rodney,
St. Louis Jama'at

Nasirat

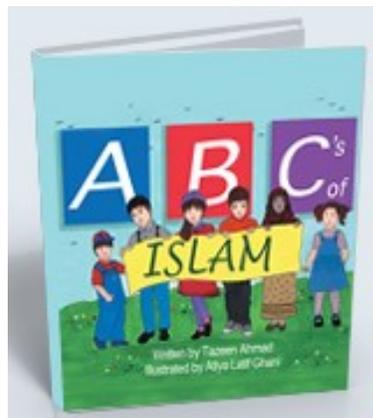


Typing Al-Hilal Articles

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Written by Tazeen Ahmad

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MY FAVORITE MOSQUE

Seher Ambar Khan
Age 9
Los Angeles, California

My favorite mosque is the Sadiq Mosque in Chicago. It was established in 1922. Interestingly, the first Ahmadi Muslim Missionary to the US had the same name, Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him). Islam spread through his efforts in Chicago and other parts of the US.

Another beautiful mosque near Chicago is Baetul-Jaamay, which means House of Gathering.

The other reason I like these mosques is because they are located in my favorite city, Chicago, where I was born.



Baitul-Hameed Mosque

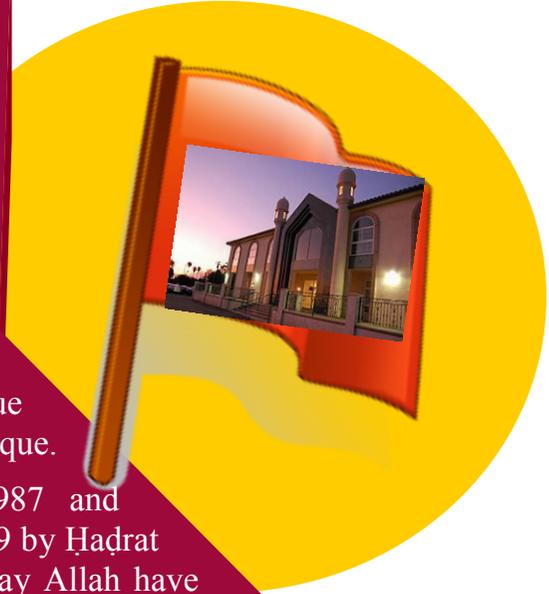
Rehan Mahmood Khan /
Age 7 / Los Angeles,
California

A mosque is a house
of worship. Here in

Southern California,
the name of our mosque
is Baitul-Hameed Mosque.

It was built in 1987 and
inaugurated in 1989 by Ḥaḍrat
Tahir Ahmad (may Allah have
mercy on him). This mosque is
special to me because I go here
to pray and attend Sunday classes.

Baitul-Hameed mosque has some
nice features like a large beautiful
fountain, a new basketball court, a
library, a game room, and lots of space
to play with my friends and cousins. This
is the same mosque both my parents
went to when they were my age!



وَمِنْ حَيْثُ خَرَجْتَ فَوَلِّ وَجْهَكَ شَطْرَ
 الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ ۖ وَحَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ فَوَلُّوا
 وُجُوهَكُمْ شَطْرَهُ ۚ لِئَلَّا يَكُونَ لِلنَّاسِ
 عَلَيْكُمْ حُجَّةٌ ۖ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا
 مِنْهُمْ ۚ فَلَا تَخْشَوْهُمْ وَاخْشَوْنِي ۚ
 وَلَا تَمَنَّوْا نِعْمَتِي عَلَيْكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ
 تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٥١﴾

And from wheresoever thou comest
 forth, turn thy face towards the Sacred
 Mosque; and wherever you be, turn
 your faces towards it that people may
 have no argument against you, except
 those who are unjust — so fear them
 not, but fear Me — and that I may
 perfect My favour upon you; and that
 you may be rightly guided.

[Holy Qur'an, 2:151]

BAIT-UN-NASR MOSQUE

Oslo, Norway

By: Khafia Choudhary, Age 10, Central Virginia



Two years ago, I visited Baitun-Nasr Mosque in Oslo, Norway. Norway is a beautiful Scandinavian country and has a Jamā'at of approximately 1,500 members. I get the opportunity to visit Norway every summer because my grandparents live there. This beautiful mosque was completed and inaugurated in 2011 by our beloved Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his support). The mosque is located on the main highway and can be seen by thousands of people everyday. The prime minister of Norway commented on the beautiful structure of the mosque by saying that it is a wonderful landmark and a symbol of peace. The Baitun-Nasr mosque is the largest mosque in Europe after Baitul-Futūh, in London. It has three big halls. One of them has offices and is also used for sports activities. There is also a beautiful house for the missionary in the building. Did you know that more than 3,000 people can pray there?

Due to its great location, most Jamā'at members take public transportation to the masjid.

Bait-un-Nasr is a very beautiful and astonishing mosque. I would encourage everyone to visit this special mosque.

By: Hisham Virk, Age 9, Washington, DC

A few weeks ago I went to the National Geographic museum in Washington D.C. I went on this trip with my Atfal class to see and learn about 1001 Muslim inventions. While I was there I learned about a great Muslim architect named Sinan. He built over 100 mosques. Sinan's greatest masterpiece was the Selimiye mosque in Edirne, Turkey. He used cut stone and marble as material in building this mosque. The mosque has four minarets over 80 meters tall. However, the best feature of this mosque is the one great huge dome in the center, affirming the oneness of God. To me this is one of the most beautiful mosques in the world. I pray to Allah, that I am fortunate enough to go see it one day. In Sha Allah.



Bait-ul-Futuh

By: Sairah Janjua, Age 13, LA East

Bait-ul-Futuh is a beautiful mosque. It is a place for prayers, annual peace symposiums, school tours, and other local community events. The name Bait-ul-Futuh means “House of Victories.” Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) said in a live Friday sermon on 24th February 1995 to the world wide Ahmadiyya community,



“Presently, I am appealing for £5 million for the central mosque for the UK Jamā‘at, with prayers and intentions, certainly, that it will be the largest mosque in the UK. The emphasis should be on increasing [the] number of worshippers.”

On 19th October 1999, Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) laid the foundation of the Bait-ul-Futuh

Mosque and Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih V (may Allah be his support) inaugurated the mosque on October 3rd, 2003. Today, Bait-ul-Futuh is the largest mosque in Western Europe accommodating 10,000 worshipers in three prayer halls.



I have been blessed to attend the daily prayers, Friday sermons, and Ijtimas at Bait-ul-Futuh. I loved going to the Aftab Khan Library after my Nasirat classes. When I was in the Masjid I enjoyed the holy feeling of the Masjid and the knowledge it had to offer. May Allah enable us to make mosques as well as increase the worshipers of Allah, Āmīn.

Some Facts About Bait-ul-Futuh

- ★ Bait-ul-Futuh is conveniently located next to Morden South railway station and 150 yards from Morden tube station.
- ★ The mosque includes a gymnasium, offices, library, and television studios.
- ★ Since its inauguration, the mosque has been host to almost all of the weekly Friday Sermons delivered by Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masih.
- ★ The mosque sits on 5.2 acres of land, it cost £5.5 million to build and was funded by the donations and contributions from the community's members.
- ★ Bait-ul-Futuh is the home to MTA (Muslim Television Ahmadiyya).

Masjid Al-Nabawi

By: *Anoosha Mirza, Age 11, Laurel MD*

I would like to visit Masjid Al-Nabawi because my parents and my brother went to Saudi Arabia and got to see Masjid Al-Nabawi. When they came back they talked about how beautiful and how big it was. My mom talked about how she imagined the time period of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). All these memories are very touching. They showed me the amazing pictures of the incredible mosque. So at that time I decided that in the future In Sha Allah, I will visit this holy mosque.



Al-Masjid Al-Nabawi, also known as the Prophet's Mosque, is the second holiest mosque in the world and is the final resting place of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The original mosque was built by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) around A.D. 622 after the Holy Prophet built the first mosque, in Quba, a village in the outskirts of

Medina. The Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) built the second mosque Masjid al-Nabawi in Medina next to his house. The mosque also served as a

community center, a court, and a religious center at that time. The first version of the mosque was very simple, it was built out of mud bricks and the structure of the mosque was supported by palm tree trunks. Therefore this first version cannot be compared to what the mosque looks like today.

The small mosque, around 8660 square feet, which the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had built, was enlarged by many Muslim rulers. A reason for enlarging the mosque was that pilgrims from all over the world came to visit this holy site. In the present mosque, 700,000 people can pray at the same time during the Hajj season. The modern mosque is filled with electrical and mechanical systems. For example, the mosque has domes and umbrellas that open and close as necessary. It has one of the largest air conditioning systems. The mosque is also a beautiful site and it has many colorful decorations, numerous pillars and arches of marble with golden ornaments and Persian carpets. The first Khalifa Hadrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) and the second Khalifa Hadrat 'Umar bin Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) were also buried here.

That is why I want to visit this incredible & beautiful mosque.

Baitul Futuh

By: Anisa Asad, Age 10, Potomac MD

I have had the chance to visit mosques in different countries and in the U.S. I have visited Baitul-Islam Mosque in Canada, Baitul-Futūḥ Mosque and Fazl Mosque in London, Baitur-Rahman Mosque in Maryland, Baituz-Zafar Mosque in New York and Baitul-Hadi Mosque in New Jersey. I like Baituz-Zafar and Baitul-Hadi because one is a mosque made from a synagogue and one is a mosque made from a church. So, these mosques have interesting features like church benches and stained glass with Hebrew writings. But the mosque I





liked visiting the most is Baitul-Futūḥ Mosque in London. This mosque is on a city street in a part of London. It is a huge and beautiful mosque. I like to go there for Jum'ah with my cousin who lives in London.

When we are driving on the street toward the mosque, it is exciting because you can see Ahmadis coming from everywhere for Jum'ah. They are walking, driving, getting off the bus and coming out of the subway (they call it the tube). It feels like the whole area is Ahmadi Muslim. The mosque is enormous, and when you come in, you have to walk through different hallways to get to the Prayer hall. There are so many people and shoes, but inside is very big so there is enough room. I like the design of the mosque and the calligraphy. The best part of Baitul-Futūḥ is that the Khalifatul-Masih (may Allah be his support) is there and gives the Khutbah on Friday. At home or at my mosque, I listen to Huzur from far away on MTA, but at this mosque, I know he is in the same building.

Everyone else knows it too, and they listen very quietly so they can hear what Huzur is saying. The time after Jum'ah is great too because I can go back to my cousin's house and play.



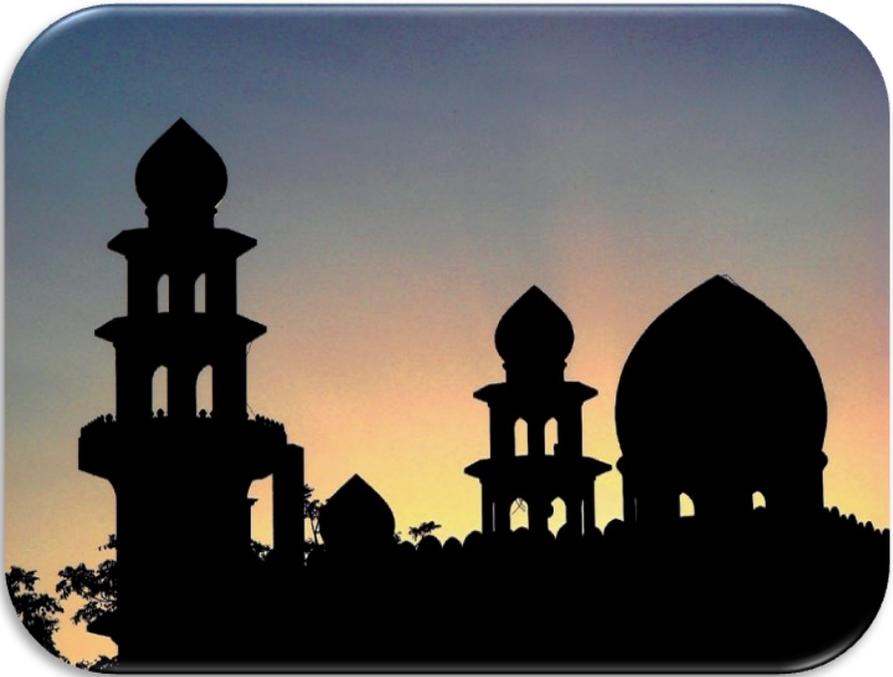
Looking Forward To Our Mosque In Sharon, MA

By: Khalid Shammās, Age 13, Boston

My name is Khalid Shammās and I belong to Boston Jama'at and we are trying to build a new mosque. We hope to have a new mosque because the number of our Jama'at members is increasing, children are growing and becoming more active, and we **need** a bigger mosque.

Currently, we have a mission house which we are using as a mosque. It has two entrances and a basement which was destroyed by flooding. Space is a big concern for us. Sometimes we have to temporarily assign a part of the prayer area as eating space. Every 'Īd, when attendance is more than usual, some people have to stand. There is also only one bathroom for ladies and one for men, which can be difficult, especially during Jum'ah, 'Īd and Ijtimas.

However, we are really excited since we got the news of getting a new mosque, In Sha Allah. We, the Atfal of Boston Jama'at are especially excited about this because we are going to have the mosque built. The way we are going to build the mosque is by using the land across the street from our mission house. This way we will also be close to the mission house which we used for so many years and have so many great memories. We never wanted to completely move away from this place. We love this mission house as it is located in a beautiful place and the street it is built on is named after our third Khalifa (may Allah have mercy on him), and the name of the street is Nasir Ahmad Road. Now we will In Sha Allah



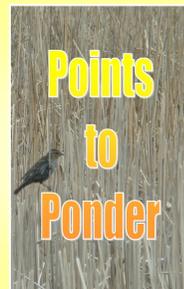
have the new mosque located on the same Nasir Ahmad Road and will also have access to our mission house. Some of the things we, Atfal, voted on having are a game room, gym, and a meeting room. Hopefully we will be able to make the new mosque soon. We are really excited and cannot wait for our new mosque. We are praying sincerely and also request the prayers of all Ahmadi Muslims for the successful completion of our new mosque.

Points to Ponder

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Ḥadrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II,
may Allah be pleased with him.

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The Importance of a Mosque

By: Saamia Bashir, Age 12, Potomac, MD



A mosque is a place of worship for Muslims. It is also a place for the community to gather for various occasions. Not only do we gather at the local mosque for daily Salat and Jum'ah Prayers, we also use the mosque for the Nasirat and Atfal classes, sports tournaments, Ijtimas, and many other activities.

At the heavenly sign of solar and lunar eclipses in 1894, the Promised Messiah, peace be upon him, prophesized:

"The foundation stone of the Renaissance of Islam and a superior world order have been laid. Now, mosques will be built and people will enter them, and join the Divine Movement in hordes." (Nūrul-Haq, Vol. 2, p. 42)

After this prophecy, the Promised Messiah, peace be upon him, said:

"Our Jamā'at needs a lot of mosques. It is a house of God. Whichever village or town can build it, should build it. It should be well understood that (in that town) foundation of the progress of Jamā'at is also laid with it."

He further said:

"This is not necessary that a mosque must be embellished and be a brick building. Just enclose the plot and a room of thatched roof may be built... The mosque of the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, had its roof of a few palm tree branches which continued for a long time. It was Haḍrat Uthman who built it with bricks because he loved construction of fine buildings." (Malfuzat, 9 August 1904)

"Better get a piece of land and make an enclosure around it. That will be a mosque for you. No good will be done by creating disorder. If you will not retaliate against your enemy, God will take revenge for you. He takes care of him who prostrates at his doorstep." (Malfuzat, Vol. 6, p. 33)

I have been to several different mosques. I have been to Baitur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland, Baetul Jaamay in Chicago, Illinois, Baitus-Samee in Houston, Texas, and Baitul-Hadi in Old Bridge, New Jersey. I live near Baitur-Rahman Mosque and I visit it as much as possible. I want to go to the Ka'bah in Mecca Saudi Arabia and to the Baitul-Futūḥ Mosque in England where Khalifatul-Masih (may Allah be his support) gives his Friday sermons and leads Salat. It would be an honor to pray behind him because not many people get the chance to do so. I want to go to the Ka'bah because it is very special, but it would be even more special if I went during Hajj.



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Mosques around the world

Mosques, mosques all around the world

All as beautiful as a shining pearls

This is where Muslims pray

And everything goes the right way

There is no other place as religious as this

So here is an opportunity you should not miss

Now, now what is a mosque

It is a place where Allah is the boss.

By: Aiyza Ahmed, Age:10, Silicon Valley, CA

Mosque- House of Allah



A mosque, it is a place we go to pray
For I wish I could go there every single day

It is a place we go to worship
To avoid struggles and hardship

It is a place we go to gather and meet
To make our relationships strong and sweet

Every time I go there, every time I pray

It sure blesses me and makes my day

A mosque is house of Allah whether made of stone or clay

Whether it is on a mountaintop or just around the bay.

By: Bashire Jamil, Age:9, Silicon Valley, CA





My Mosque

I was born in Mobile, which is a small city in Alabama and there were no Ahmadiyya Muslim mosques in town. Then my parents had to move to Boulder, Colorado for work and there was no mosque there either.

I lived in Colorado until I was seven years old. During those years I got to visit a lot of other mosques. For example, I have been to the Baitur-Rahman Mosque in Silver Spring, Maryland many times. I have also been to the Ahmadiyya Muslim mosque in Seattle, Washington. In Canada, I visited the mosque in Vancouver and also the big Baitul-Islam Mosque in Peace Village. When I was six, I visited Pakistan and went to see the Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad. It was very big and beautiful.

My family moved to Austin, Texas to be closer to a mosque and my favorite mosque is my Austin Mosque. It is called the Baitul-Muqet Mosque. It is my favorite because it has all that I need; family, friends and Allah who created us all. And most of all because this mosque is very close to my house. I like the Baitus-Samee Mosque in Houston, Texas, too and I have been there many times but I like my Austin Mosque the best. I enjoy praying in my mosque the most. I am very grateful to Almighty Allah that He gave us the opportunity to live closer to the mosque and enable us to perform at least one Salat there daily.

One day I would like to visit the mosque of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in Medina. Because it is very big, it looks beautiful in its pictures and because it is where the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to lead Prayers.

By: Misbah Ahmad, Age:9, Austin, TX

Masjid Muhammad



Masjid Muhammad is my favorite masjid. There are many reasons behind this. I really like how this mosque was designed and built. Masjid Muhammad was founded in 1995. It was built on a ten-acre plot

of land in the suburbs of northwest Jackson, MS. The building is only a small ranch house that has been converted into a masjid.

The staff of the Masjid works hard to get education out to the world. Two members of the masjid's Jamā'at decided to construct a museum built entirely for the cause of Islam. The museum has Islam-related exhibits. Masjid Muhammad offered to fund the museum. The museum, International Museum of Muslim Cultures, finally opened its doors in 2001. The main purpose of the museum is "to educate the public on the richness of metropolitan Jackson as well as the state's diverse religious and cultural heritage and illustrate the vast positive contribution that Muslims have made to the development of Mississippi, the South, America and the world."

Masjid Muhammad has truly more behind it. It is an Islamic mosque and its members are mostly African Americans. They have set a goal to construct a newer and bigger mosque within the period of two years. This is a big goal to accomplish.

So, if you ever visit Jackson, Mississippi, be sure to stop by Masjid Muhammad.

BY: MEHEEN PIRACHA, AGE:10, DALLAS, TX



Masjid Quba



Masjid Quba was built in Quba, which is about three miles north of Medina, Saudi Arabia, and was built in AD 622.

It is known to be the first mosque built in Islamic history and was built by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companions as soon as he arrived outside Medina on his migration from Mecca. Masjid Quba is also called Masjid Taqwa, which means Mosque of Piety.

Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) spent more than ten nights in Masjid Quba after migrating to Medina performing Qasr (short worship). While he was there, ‘Ali (may Allah be pleased with him), his nephew, arrived from Mecca.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to go to the mosque, riding or on foot, every Saturday and would offer two Nafil Prayer. He highly recommended others to do the same, saying, “Whoever washes themselves and then goes to Masjid Quba and prays, will have a reward like that of an ‘Umrah.”

I hope one day I will be able to visit Masjid Quba and offer two raka’at of Nafil Prayers at the mosque. Āmīn.

By: Zara Malik, Age: 10, Dallas, TX

MOSQUES AROUND THE WORLD



A mosque is a place of worship for all Muslims. Quba Mosque is the first mosque in the history of Islam. A mosque is a place where Muslims can come

together for Salat (Namaz) and it is a center of religious education. In a mosque, the “Imam” leads the Prayers.

There are so many mosques around the world like Faisal mosque and Badshahi Mosque in Pakistan. Masjid Nabawi and Masjid Al-Haram in Saudi Arabia and so many others...

But my favorite mosque is my mosque, Bait-ul-Muqet. I like my mosque; it is situated in Austin, TX. I really like to go there. Our teacher taught us the Qur’an, Islamic education and about Ahmadiyyat. We also celebrated every holy festival of Islam like Ramadan and both the ‘Īds. In our mosque all the people are good and humble. We feel like we are a family. That’s why my mosque is the best mosque all around the world and I always love to go there.

By: Ereena Malik, Austin, Texas

Age 9



Aiman Asif
8 yrs. old
Houston North

Houston Mosque

Aiman Asif



Sabeen

Sabeen
7 yrs. old
Houston North

Houston Mosque



Id Kah Mosque in China



There are many mosques all over the world, and I would like to talk about one of them. It is called the Id Kah Mosque. Although Islam was introduced to China by traders, it was officially brought to China by Sa'd ibn abi Waqqas, the Prophet's maternal uncle who was appointed by Ḥaḍrat Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him). He sent a message of peace to the Emperor of China encouraging the emperor and his people to convert to Islam. Although the emperor did not convert to Islam, he responded by ordering the building of a mosque in Canton City. Canton City then became the first Islamic settlement in China. Many of the traders settled and married Chinese women, which helped to bring the Muslims and Chinese people together. The Arabs often took names of their Han wives or a Chinese name or letter close to their real name. Some of those names became integrated into the Chinese culture. Most of the time, Chinese rulers encouraged Muslim immigration for their



own needs. The Muslims in China are mostly tolerated as foreign guests since the beginning but in the 13th century, Mongol hoards took

control of the Muslim Middle East and also devastated China. As a result, many Muslims from Central Asia were forced to immigrate to Western China to help the Mongols. During the Ming Dynasty, Muslims had many privileges, were provided with many facilities, and many mosques were built. Id Kah mosque is the biggest mosque in China. It is located on the central square in Kashgar City. Near the mosque, there is also a pond, and on the bank of the pond, there are pottery washing areas which Muslims use to perform Wudu. People say that it used to be a cemetery. It was built in the year 1442 but was actually small at first. Several renovations and enlargements have made it bigger. Every day, thousands of Muslims visit the mosque. During the cultural revolution, the mosque was damaged. One of the minarets there went down as a result of an earthquake in 1902. Even though the face of the mosque has stayed generally the same, a lot of things have changed around and inside the mosque. In Sha Allah, I will be able to visit it some day.

By: Saleha Ahmedi, Age:11, LA West

Ridaa Noor Khan
Age 10
Detroit, Michigan

I go there to pray.

There's a gym to play.

I'd love to stay,
for hours, if I may.

If there is a way,
I'll stay for a whole day!

My mosque, hooray!



I WISH....

Abia Virk / AGE? / Virginia South

We have a small center where we offer our Prayers so I always pray to Allah Ta'ala that we can raise enough money to buy our own big and nice mosque. I wish our new mosque has a lot of space for us so in addition to Salat, we can also organize our Nasirat events in it. Outside like all other mosques, I would love to have minarets and arches. The biggest reason I want a new mosque is because we are a big Jama'at and need a lot of space to offer Salat and also we always have to go to Maryland for all big events.

When my wish becomes true, I will feel good and happy because I know that I am in Allah Ta'ala's house. Also, I know that I am there to pray and I can ask forgiveness for all of my sins. I want to offer my Prayers in congregation with my other Ahmadi Muslim sisters. While in the mosque I will try to recite all the prayers that I know and say Astaghfirullah to ask for Allah's forgiveness and mercy.

I will pray to Allah Ta'ala each and every day that my wish may come true.



MOSQUE I WANT TO VISIT...

Anna Ahmad / Age 13 / South Virginia



A mosque I want to visit is Masjid Selat Melaka. This mosque is located in Malaysia. I want to visit this mosque because it look's pretty and it's on a beach. Half of this mosque is on water and the other half is on sand. I think a mosque on a beach is pretty cool. You would have a really pretty view too. Plus who would not want to go to a mosque on a beach. That is definitely a mosque that I want to visit.



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MOSQUES



Areeba Ahmed /11/ Binghamton, NY



Some are big and some are small
Some are old and some are new
Some are here, some are there
They are everywhere
They are a place to worship
Baitur-Rahman and Baitul-Islam
Are two that I have been to
Both are very gorgeous and special
Both are my favorite
Baitul-Islam is close to
Peace Village



And Baitur-Rahman is
in Silver Spring
I plan to visit many more
Hopefully in different countries
Such as, Rome, Egypt, Spain, and Turkey
Some are big and some are small
Some are old and some are new
They are everywhere



THE BLUE MOSQUE

Bilal Ahmad Mian / Age: 12 / Oshkosh



Mosques are places of worship for the followers of Islam. These places of worship have existed for more than a millennia. Quba Mosque is the first mosque in the history of Islam, and since then mosques have developed significantly. With the spread of Islam across the world, distinct styles have inevitably evolved. Many mosques have elaborate domes, minarets, and prayer halls. Mosques originated on the Arabian Peninsula, but are now found in all inhabited continents.

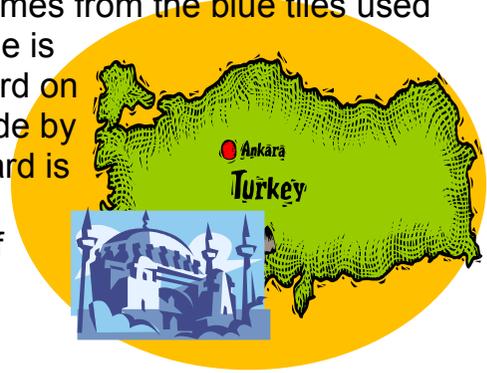
This past summer I had a chance to visit Istanbul, Turkey. It was a great trip; I got to see a lot of Islamic history and relics.



Turkey has many beautiful mosques. One of the famous Mosques is the Blue Mosque or the Sultan Ahmet Mosque. The mosque is popularly known as the Blue Mosque for the blue tiles adorning the walls of its interior. The design of the Sultan Ahmet Mosque is the culmination of two centuries

of both Ottoman mosque and Byzantine church developments. It is considered to be the last great mosque of the classical period of the Ottoman Empire.

This historic mosque was built from 1609 to 1616, during the rule of Ahmed I. A very religious-minded king who became a monarch at the very young age of fourteen. In his religious fervor, he decided to construct a mosque to surpass the Ayasofya (Hagia Sophia) in its glory. It is natural to be expecting a blue colored building when you go to visit the Mosque, but the mosque has an exterior of plain grey. The name Blue Mosque actually comes from the blue tiles used inside the Mosque. The Mosque is surrounded by a broad courtyard on three sides entered on each side by eight portals. The inner courtyard is paved in marble. Rivaks, supported on columns made of marble, granite and porphyry surround the courtyard. In the center of the courtyard is a fountain for ablution, surrounded by six marble columns.



This is the only Mosque in Istanbul which has six minarets. Each of these minarets supports two to three balconies each. You can visit the Blue Mosque at any time of the day except for half hour of Prayer time five times a day. On Friday, the Muslim holy day, the Prayers are longer and the Mosque may remain closed for a longer time. There is no entry fee. The visitors generally enter from the north door while the west door is reserved for the Muslim worshippers. It is a popular tourist attraction. When the Mosque is closed for Prayers, there is an informative lecture for tourists in a different building, where the tourists sit and enjoy complementary tea and snacks, and watch a PowerPoint on Islam. It was interesting to see that the Turkish government was eager to share its Islamic heritage with the rest of the



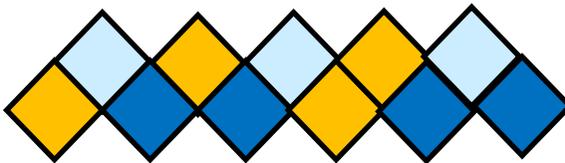


world, unlike most Muslim countries. At the entrance of the Prayer hall, volunteers handed out plastic bags for shoes. Tourists who were wearing shorts or sleeveless tops were given pieces of cloth to cover themselves. On entering the mosque you can see its magnificence. Once inside, the calligraphy by the poet architect Mehmet, the painted



arabesques on the roof of the dome, the stained glass windows, and the blue tiles gradually unfold themselves and you can feel the mystic atmosphere of the place. You can sit quietly on the carpet (but the stink of the socks can be overwhelming. My mom wanted to spray the carpet with Febreze) and absorb the beauty of the interiors.

The one thing that strikes about the Blue Mosque is the bright and open effect that is produced by the 260 windows through which sunlight streams in. This is a well-thought illumination that combines skillfully the mosaic faience to herald a new type of architecture. Pope Benedict XVI visited the Sultan Ahmet Mosque on 30 November 2006 during his visit to Turkey. The Pope's visit marks the second papal visit in history to a Muslim place of worship. Having removed his shoes, the Pope paused for a full two minutes, eyes closed in silent meditation. (Ref. Various resources)



TAHIR MOSQUE

Irene Ameena / 13 / Dallas, Texas

Payangadi is a small village in the Kerala state of India. It is home to the first mosque of the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at in Kerala (year 1919) and one of the oldest Ahmadi Muslim mosques in India.



The mosque at this site has been completely reconstructed twice to accommodate growth in the community. Payangadi also has the honor of having a mosque that dates back to the first century of Islam.

There are approximately seventy Ahmadi households in Payangadi. The road on which the Mosque is situated is named Ahmadiyya Road.

Pictured above is Tahir Mosque, the second complete reconstruction, which was inaugurated by the Late Mirza Waseem Ahmad in 2008. It has the capacity of holding 700 worshippers.

My grandparents' house is right behind the mosque and I enjoy going to this beautiful mosque in this scenic patch of land.

Even though the village of Payangadi is small and rural, this magnificent mosque represents a Jamā'at that will always be strong-now and forever.

يَبْنِيْ اٰدَمَ خُدُوْا زِيْنَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ
 وَكُلُوْا وَاشْرَبُوْا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوْا ۗ اِنَّهٗ لَا يُحِبُّ
 الْمُسْرِفِيْنَ ۝۳۲

O children of Adam! look to your adornment at every *time and* place of worship, and eat and drink but exceed not the bounds; surely, He does not love those who exceed the bounds. [7:32]

وَمَنْ اَظْلَمُ مِمَّنْ مَّنَعَ مَسْجِدَ اللّٰهِ اَنْ
 يُذَكَرَ فِيْهَا اسْمُهٗ وَسَعٰى فِيْ خَرَابِهَآ
 اُوْلٰٓئِكَ مَا كَانَ لَهُمْ اَنْ يَدْخُلُوْهَا اِلَّا
 خَآئِفِيْنَ ۗ لَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا خِزْيٌ وَّلَهُمْ فِي
 الْاٰخِرَةِ عَذَابٌ عَظِيْمٌ ۝۱۱۵

And who is more unjust than he who prohibits the name of Allah being glorified in Allah's temples and seeks to ruin them? It was not proper for such men to enter therein except in fear. For them is disgrace in this world; and theirs shall be a great punishment in the next. [2:115]

Mosques Around the World

Fiza Ahmad, Age 12, Queens, NY

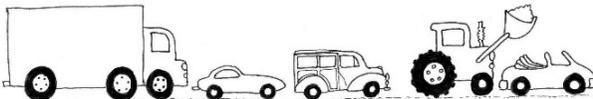
The house of Allah
A place of worship
The most important place
Open to everyone
Where Muslims pray
Sermons that you should listen to attentively
There are more than one million mosques
A place where you obey Allah's commands
Stay quiet at all times
They are everywhere



Masjid Poem

Salman Khan, Age 5, Fort Worth, TX

Vroom vroom vroom
On Allah's way we go
The masjid is round the corner
And one day we will be there
Then we worship Allah
By doing Prayers



Muslim Prayer Area

Minahil Khan / Age 11 / Virginia South

Muslim Prayer Area

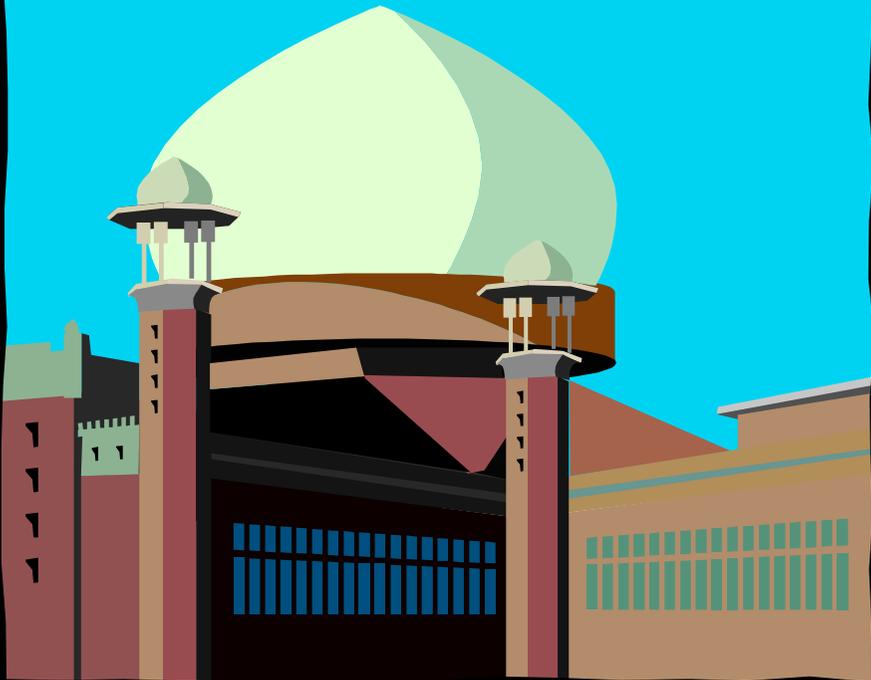
Outstandingly Holy

Speaking to Allah

Quiet

Unique

Etiquette is Key



Mosques around the world

Molood Saeed / Age 11 / Boston



A mosque is the house of Allah. I have visited mosques around the world such as Baitul-Futūh in London. My favorite is Baitul-Futūh because it is big and it is where Huzur (may Allah be his support) presents his Friday sermons. A mosque that I would like to build would be kind of like Baitul-Futūh with the dome and a minaret. It would be big and filled with rooms to pray in.



A mosque I would like to visit would be Masjid al-Haram because it is built around the Ka'bah and the Ka'bah was the first mosque. It was built by Ḥaḍrat Abraham (may peace be upon him) in Saudi Arabia. If I go to the Ka'bah I would perform pilgrimage (Hajj).



Another mosque I would like to visit would be the Mubarak mosque in Qadian, India. The Mubarak mosque is next to the White Minaret (which is a tall white tower). Our Jama'at is trying to make a new mosque because our old mosque is too small.



The Assyafaah Mosque!

By: Nida Ahmad
Age: 13

The Assyafaah Mosque in Singapore,
Has nice shiny walls
it contains many rooms,
to read prayers for GOD,
And last but not least has nice wide halls.

It is a four-story mosque
That I will visit one nice sunny day
But not alone, I will be with my family
And to get there I will travel over the bay.

We should be thanking GOD
For having this mosque which is a nice piece of art
People travel all around the Universe
To keep GOD in their heart.





**City Mosque , Kota Kinabalu
Malaysia**



Al-Azim Mosque, Malacca, Malaysia



Id Kah Mosque, Kashgar, China



**Baitun-Nur
Mosque,
Calgary, Canada**



**Baitur-Rahman
Mosque, MD**

What is a Mosque?

A mosque is a place of worship, where Muslims come to pray in congregation. Every mosque in the world is the house of God.



I have been to Masjid Mubarak, Baitun-Nur, Baitur-Rahman and a lot more but I would like to visit many more mosques around the world.

Name: Samya Ahmad

Age; 14

Jama'at: SVA

Note: References to Hadith in this issue are numbered according to the editions on alislam.org.

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Children are encouraged to send their original writing for publication.

Please include your full name, age, city, state and contact number when submitting an article as we may follow-up with the author for clarification.

If you would like to send a picture or artwork, please send the original. If you would like the original returned, please include your full name and return address/postage along with this request.

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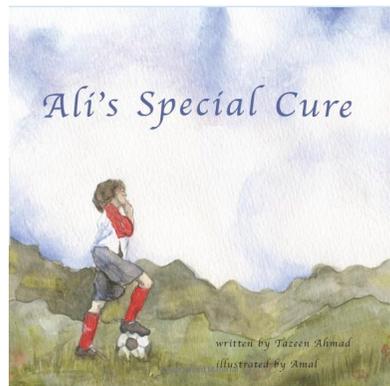
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Written by Tazeen Ahmad

This book is written for children.

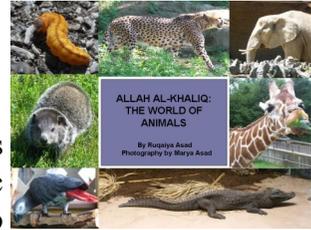
It is a story of a young Muslim boy who discovers the power of prayer as he strives to become a better soccer player. Purchase at www.tazeenahmadbooks.com



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Written by Ruqaiya Asad

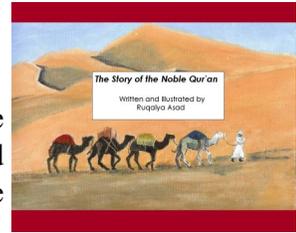
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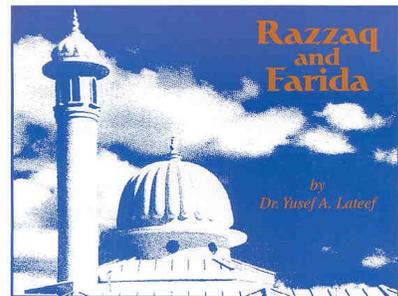
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Notes:

1. The numbering of the Qur'anic verses includes the Tasmiyah.
2. Hadith references in this issue are given from the versions published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Glossary

Āmīn [Āmeen] آمين : So be it. Amen.

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ May peace be upon you. (The formation assalam-o or assalam-u is incorrect as there is no waw و after mīm م, hence the abbreviation AoA or A.O.A. or A-o-A is also incorrect.)

As-Salāmu ‘Alaikum Wa Raḥmatullāh وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ Peace be with you and blessings of Allāh.

Bait al-Ḥarām بيت الحرام (Baitul-Ḥarām): Sacred House (at Mecca). Ka‘bah.

Ḥaḍrat حضرت [Hadhrat, Hazrat]: His Holiness

Ḥajj حج : Formal pilgrimage to Mecca during appointed time of the year.

Ḥuḍūr [Ḥudhūr, Ḥuzūr] حضور : His Honor, His Holiness, Your Honor, Your Holiness. In Urdu, it is spelled Ḥaḍūr [Ḥaḍoor, Ḥadhūr, Ḥadhoor, Ḥazūr, Ḥazoor].

Ka‘ba (sukūn on ‘ain) كعبه : a cube. House of God in Mecca. Also Ka‘aba (fatha on ‘ain) and Kaaba.

Masjid مسجد : mosque

Masjid Aqsa (مسجد اقصی) : Mosque in Jerusalem. Mosque in Qadian, India.

Masjid Mubārak مسجد مبارک : blessed mosque. Mosque built by Ḥaḍrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad (1835-1908), the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, next to his residence in Qadian.

Masjid Nabawi مسجد نبوی : Mosque of the Prophet. The mosque built by Muhammad in Madinah, Arabia, after his migration there.

Ṣalāt صلاة : Formal Prayer offered according to a prescribed procedure. Thus, Ṣalātut-Tahajjud, Ṣalātul-Fajr, Ṣalātuz-Zuhr, Ṣalātul-‘Asr, Ṣalātul-Maghrib, Ṣalātul-‘Ishā.

Was-Salām (wassalām) والسلام : and (greetings of) peace.

مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا لِلَّهِ
بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ مِثْلَهُ

He who builds a mosque for
Allah, Allah will build for him
(a house) in Paradise like it.

(Muslim, 1127, 7580)

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