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Islamic encyclopedia

Why is Al-Aqsa Mosque so important for the Muslim Ummah?

By Ahasan Habib

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Aqsa Mosque - Islampidia

Aqsa Mosque

A large part of our present generation does not have the slightest idea about the identity, dignity and greatness of Masjid Aqsa. I have gained this experience long ago by hanging out with common people. Therefore, in the present article, I will try to summarize the identity and status of Al-Aqsa Mosque and highlight some significant aspects and features, inshallah.

One. The second oldest mosque

A major identity and feature of the Aqsa Mosque is that it is the second oldest mosque in the history of the world. The foundations of this mosque were laid after Masjid Haram.

On the authority of Abu Dharr, he said: I said: O Messenger of Allah, which mosque was established first on earth? He said: Al-Masjid Al-Haram. I said: Then which? He said: Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa. I said: How much time is between them? He said: Forty years.

Abu Zar RA. He said, I said, O Messenger of God! Which mosque was established first in the world? He said, it is forbidden in the mosque. I said, then which mosque? He said, Aqsa Mosque. I said, how much time between the construction of these two? He said, forty years. –Sahih Bukhari, Hadith 3366; Sahih Muslim, Hadith 520

Two. Blessed Mosque, Blessed Land

A special virtue of Al-Aqsa Mosque is that Allah has blessed it. He also blessed the surrounding towns around this mosque. Allah Ta'ala says-

Glory be to God, may God bless us. He is the All-seeing.

Holy is He Who takes His servant overnight from Masjid Haram to Masjid Aqsa, the surroundings of which I have blessed, to show him some of My signs. Verily He is the Hearer of all things, the Knower of all things. - Surah Bani Israel (17): 1

Allah also says-

And We placed between them and the towns which We had blessed, towns visible...

Between them and the towns which I had blessed, I placed towns which were visible.... –Surah Saba (34): 18

Ibn Abbas RA. Said, here by the blessed township is meant the township of Baitul Maqdis. –Tafseer Ibn Kasir, b. 6, p. 468

Three. The third prestigious mosque

The most prestigious mosque in Islam is Masjid Haram, located in the holy city of Mecca. The second prestigious mosque is Masjid Nabawi, located in Madinah Munawara. After these two mosques, the third holiest and best mosque is Al-Aqsa Mosque, located in Jerusalem, Palestine. This is why the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

Journeys are only undertaken to three mosques: the Sacred Mosque, the Mosque of the Messenger, may God bless him and grant him peace, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

If you visit, you should visit three mosques. Masjid Haram, Masjid al-Nabawi, and Masjid al-Aqsa. –Sahih Bukhari, Hadith 1189; Sahih Muslim, Hadith 1397

This hadith proves that Masjid Al-Aqsa is the most prestigious place in Masjid Haram, after Masjid al-Nabawi.

Four. The former Qabala of Muslims

A unique feature of Masjid Al-Aqsa is that it was once the Qabala of the Muslim Ummah.

Ibn Abbas RA. said-

The Messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him peace, used to pray while he was in Mecca facing the Holy House, with the Kaaba in front of him. After he migrated to Medina for sixteen months, he was then directed to the Kaaba.

Al-Haythami said in Majma' al-Zawa'id: It was narrated by Ahmad, al-Tabarani in al-Kabeer, and al-Bazzar, and its men are the men of Sahih.

The Messenger of Allah, may God bless him and grant him peace, used to pray facing the Kaaba in Makkah and facing Baitul Maqdis. Even after migrating to Madinah, he continued to pray towards Baitul Maqdis for sixteen months. Then the Qibla is turned towards the Kaaba. –Musnad Ahmad, Hadith 2991; Almuzamul Kabir, Tabarani, Hadith 11066; Mazmouz Gawaid, Hadith 1967

Hazrat Bara Ibn Azeeb RA. Said, When the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, first came to Madinah, he was a guest at his maternal uncle's house. And he turned towards Baitul Maqdis and prayed for 16 to 17 months. But he wanted Baitullah to be his Qiblah.... –Sahih Bukhari, Hadith 40, Sahih Muslim, Hadith 525

Five. Isra and Meraj's memory intertwined mosque

It is enough to understand the importance of Al-Aqsa Mosque that our Prophet first visited this

mosque with Gabriel Ameen before starting his journey to Meraj Rajni and prayed. He led the Imamate and all the prophets followed him. Abu Huraira RA. He said, The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said (while describing Baitul Maqdis)-

I saw myself in a group of prophets, and behold, Moses was standing and praying, and behold, a man with curly hair, as if he were one of the men of Shanu'ah, and behold, Jesus, son of Mary - peace be upon him - was standing and praying, and the person who most resembled him was Urwah ibn Mas'ud al-Thaqafi, and behold, Abraham - peace be upon him - was standing and praying, and the person who most resembled him was your companion - meaning me. Himself - Then the time for prayer came, so I led them in prayer...

And I found myself in the congregation of Ambiya Alaihis Salaam. See, Hazrat Musa a. are praying He was lean and had a long body. His hair was curly, which hung down to his ears. It looks like a man from the 'Shanwa' tribe. Hazrat Isa A. was also seen standing in prayer. His stature is more similar to Sahabi Urwa Ibn Mas'ud Saqafi RA. Hazrat Ibrahim A. was also seen while praying. The Prophet said, "My body shape is more similar to his body shape." It was already time for prayer and I led them all. – Sahih Muslim, Hadith 172

In the narration of a long hadith, Hazrat Anas Ibn Malek RA. He said, The Holy Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace, said-

Then I entered the Holy House, and the prophets, peace be upon them, were gathered for me. Gabriel put me forward until I led them in prayer.

Then I entered Baitul Maqdis. All the prophets were gathered together. Gabriel led me forward and I led them. –Sunan Nasa'i, Hadith 449

Why interest is forbidden in Islam?

By Ahasan Habib

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Symbolism of capitalism

Capitalism - Iconography

What is interest? Why is Islam prohibited usury? I will discuss these issues in detail in today's article, Inshallah.

According to Wikipedia, interest is extra money. The word interest is Urdu. Arabic equivalent is 'Riba'. Interest is called Interest or Usury in English. 'Riba' means excess, increase, extra, extension, outgrowth etc.

context

The real interest context does not match Wikipedia.

For example, a poor and distressed person took a loan from someone. The creditor took interest from him on the basis of his danger, which is clear oppression. Taking advantage of others' danger is inhumane. But this is not the prevailing interest of the present day; Rather completely different.

Is interest really forbidden? What does the Koran say?

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah Ta'ala declares usury several times.

He said:

The interest you pay to increase people's wealth does not increase wealth in the sight of Allah. But increase the zakat that you give in order to gain the pleasure of Allah. Indeed it is the zakat payers who bring prosperity. (Surah: Rum, verse: 39)

O believers! You do not eat compound interest. And fear Allah so that you may attain good.' (Surah Al-Imran: Verse 130)

Allah wipes out usury and increases charity. (Surah: Baqarah, verse 276)

Why usury is haram and business is halal

Capitalism – Iconography

Usury is considered the most heinous crime and main tool of economic exploitation in Islamic economics for several reasons. Some of the reasons are mentioned below:

An important principle of Islamic economics is that capital cannot be confined to a handful of people. Because of this, economic stability is severely disrupted.

This is why Allah says in the Holy Qur'an:

Wealth should not be concentrated only among the wealthy among you.' (Surah Hashar: 7)

But capital circulates and accumulates among a handful of people as a result of interest. In this, the wealth of one class of people continues to increase without labor, without production, on the other hand, the poor people continue to become poorer day by day despite inhuman labor for the necessary production.

Economic inequality

Interest creates economic inequality. The rich keep getting richer, the poor go from poor to extreme destitution. As a result, many people get involved in suicide or various anti-social activities and crimes.

Rising commodity prices

In the interest based financial system, interest is added on top of the normal price of the product i.e. production cost, transportation cost, duty and normal profit. As a result, the price of the product continues to increase day by day.

Penalty for charging interest

I have highlighted some verses of the Holy Quran regarding the punishment of usury

Those who take usury will rise (from the grave) like him whom Satan touches and drives mad. This is because, as they say, business is like interest. But Allah has made business lawful and usury forbidden.' (Surah Baqarah: Verse 275)

The Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ said:

On the night of Meraj I passed a group whose bellies were as large as houses. Many snakes inside. which was seen from outside the stomach. I said, O Gabriel! Who are they? He replied, These are the usurers of your Ummah. (Ibn Majah 2273)

May Allah Rabbul Alamin grant us all the taufiq to save us from usury and provide us with Halal sustenance. Amen.