



Stories from the Hijaz

THE MAKKAH CHRONICLES



When the Kaabah will be no more

SALIM PARKER

'HASTEN to do good deeds before tribulations come like patches of dark night, when a man will wake up as a believer and by evening he will be a kaafir or, in the evening he will be a believer and by morning he will be a kaafir, selling his religion for some worldly gains.' (Muslim:169)

We are constantly reminded of the end of time. Numerous mentions are made of the Final Hour, the time just before Judgement

Day with hadiths mentioning the signs that will be present.

Ahmed [46] states that Hudhayfah ibn Usayd al-Ghiffaari reported saying: 'The Messenger of Allah (SAW) saw us from a room while we were talking about the Hour. He said: The Hour will not come until you see ten signs: the rising of the sun from the west; the smoke; the beast; the emergence of Yajooj and Majooj (Gog and Magog); the appearance of Nabi Esa (peace be upon him); the Dajjal (antichrist); three landslides – one in the west, one in the east and

one in the Arabian Peninsula; and fire which will emerge from the direction of Aden and will drive – or gather – the people, stopping with them whenever they rest overnight or during the siesta hour.'

The Kaabah and the Holy Quran are the two central entities of Islam. The Kaabah has been destroyed or damaged before but has always been rebuilt. There will come a time when it will be destroyed and not resurrected.

One of the last signs indicating the Final Hour before the Day of Resurrection is the destruction of

the Kaabah by Zul-Suwayqatayn. He is from Abyssinia (Ethiopia) and it is prophesied that he will destroy the Kaabah in order to steal its treasure and Kiswah (Kaabah's cover).

The very Kaabah that is in effect the centre of the Muslim universe, whose foundation was laid by our Father Nabi Adam (AS), built by Nabi Ibrahim (AS) and assisted by his son Nabi Ismail (AS), will be no more.

Abdullah ibn Amr reported that he heard the Prophet (SAW) say: 'Zul-Suwayqatayn from Al-

Habasha (Abyssinia or Ethiopia) will destroy the Kaabah and steal its treasure and Kiswah (cover). It is as if I can see him now; he is bald-headed and has a distortion in his wrists. He will strike the Kaabah with his spade and pickaxe.'

Ibn Abbas reported that the Prophet (SAW) said: 'As if I see him now: a black person with thin legs plucking the stones of the Kaabah one after the other.'

Another annual event will cease to exist as well. Bukhari reported that Shuba narrated that the Prophet (SAW) said: 'The Hour (of resurrection) will not occur till the Hajj is abandoned.' So, as the Final Hour approaches, there will be no Hajj, no Kaabah and very few people of faith.

Many discussions have been held around the content of the Quran. The written text may be destroyed but the memorisation of its content has been a constant in Islam. It is permanently etched into the memory, the minds and hearts of many hufaadh and it is widely held that even during the reign of the worse oppressors, the living Quran could never be suppressed.

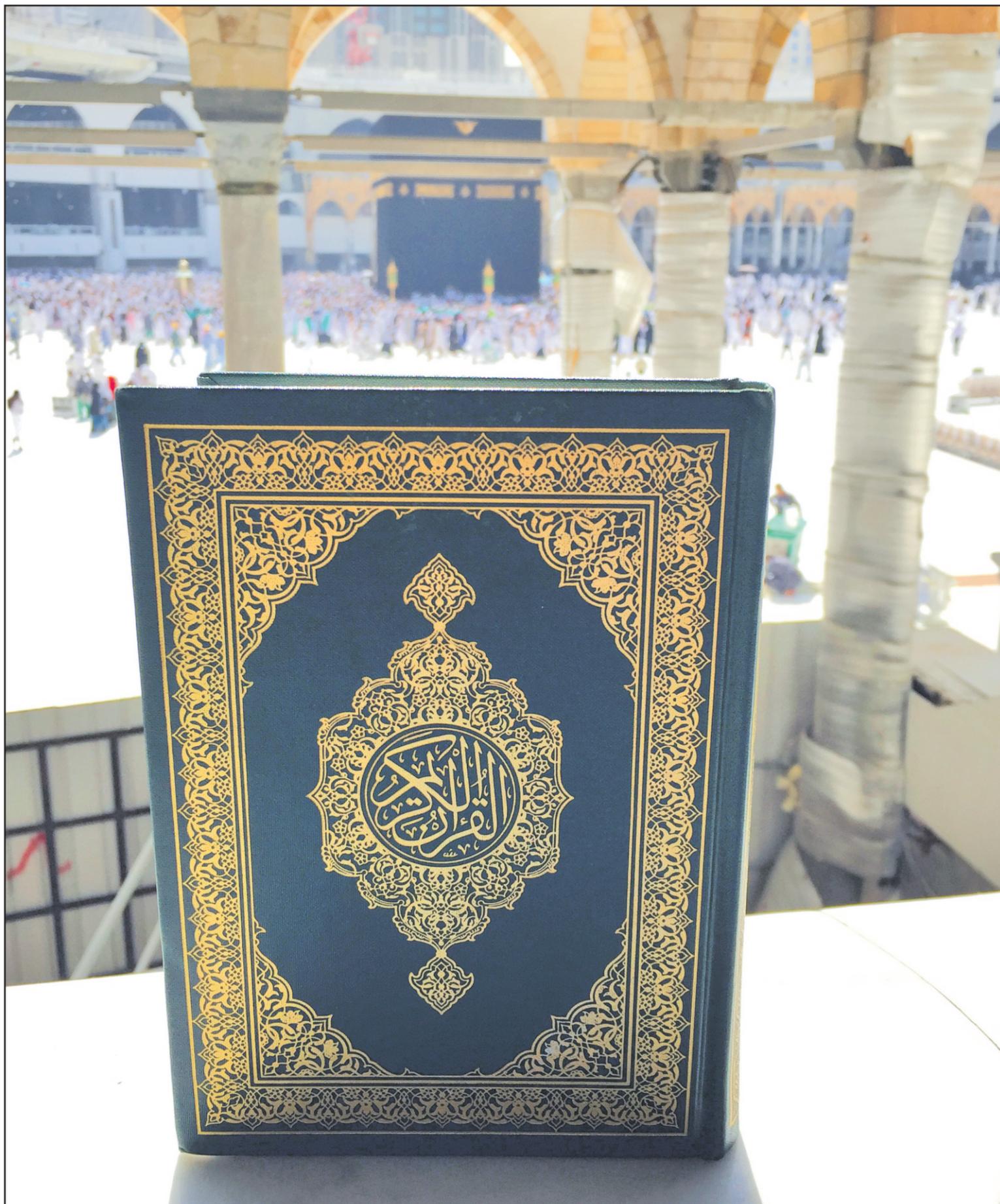
Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: 'The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: The Kaabah will be destroyed by Dhul-Suwayqatayn from Ethiopia. And Allah will take the Quran away from the earth, and not one aayah of it will be left in the mus-hafs or in people's hearts. 'Allah will not permit His Book to remain on earth if it is not benefitting anyone and no one is acting in accordance with it. So this thing will come to pass.' (Bukhari:1519)

Al-Daarimi narrated that Abd-Allaah ibn Masood said: 'Recite the Quran much before it is taken away.' They said, 'These Mus-hafs will be taken away! What about that which is (memorised) in men's hearts?' He said: 'Something will come and take it one night, and in the morning they will wake up without it. They will forget the phrase 'laa ilaaha ilallah' and they will start to recite the sayings and poetry of the jahiliyyah. That is when the Word will be fulfilled against them.'

Many are worried about when the Last Day will be and try to determine its exact time. We have to bear in mind what our Prophet (SAW) prepared us for. When a man went to the Prophet (SAW) and asked: 'What is the exact date of the Day of Judgment?' the Prophet (SAW) answered: 'What have you prepared for that day?'

The Prophet (SAW) gives positive guidance as to how every Muslim should concern him or herself, before anything else, with performing good deeds and acts of worship so as to be safe on that day. It is commonly held that before the Final Hour, a wind will take away the souls of all true believers and only the non-believers will remain on earth. At that time, there will be no Kaabah, no Quran and no Muslims.

We should all be mindful that the only protection against the darkest time before resurrection is the constant engagement of being true Muslims.



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