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Stories from the Hijaz
THE MAKKAH CHRONICLES



The Makkah Chronicles We launch our new series

SALIM PARKER

MUSLIM Views ran a series called 'Stories from the Hijaz' over a five year period about Madinah, the city housing the qabr of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in the Prophet's Mosque, the City of Peace, the City of Light and the city that draws millions annually to bathe in its serenity.

In this edition, 'The Makkah Chronicles', a new series of 'Stories From the Hijaz' commences about the city that is associated with all our prayers.

It is the city to which over a billion Muslims turn their faces five times a day in compulsory prayer.

It is integral in the prayers and desires of each and every Muslim to one day visit Makkah.

Madinah is the city to which our Messenger (SAW) fled after the Muslims were persecuted. Madinah is where our beloved Prophet (SAW) was finally laid to rest.

Makkah is the city where Nabi Muhammad (SAW) was born and the city where, during the Farewell Pilgrimage Khutbah on Arafah, he pronounced the perfection of our religion.

Makkah's history goes back much further and is associated with the Father of Mankind. From barren earth, our Creator, through Nabi Ebrahim, Hajira and Nabi Ismail (AS), willed that,

through the miracle of the well of Zam-Zam, a city, a nation, and now an ummah of over a billion strong flourishes.

Makkah is a city that draws us. 'Hajj' linguistically means to set off on a journey.

Hajj for all Muslims is the journey we embark on to repay a debt owing to Allah SWT.

It is the journey that forms the fifth and final pillar of Islam.

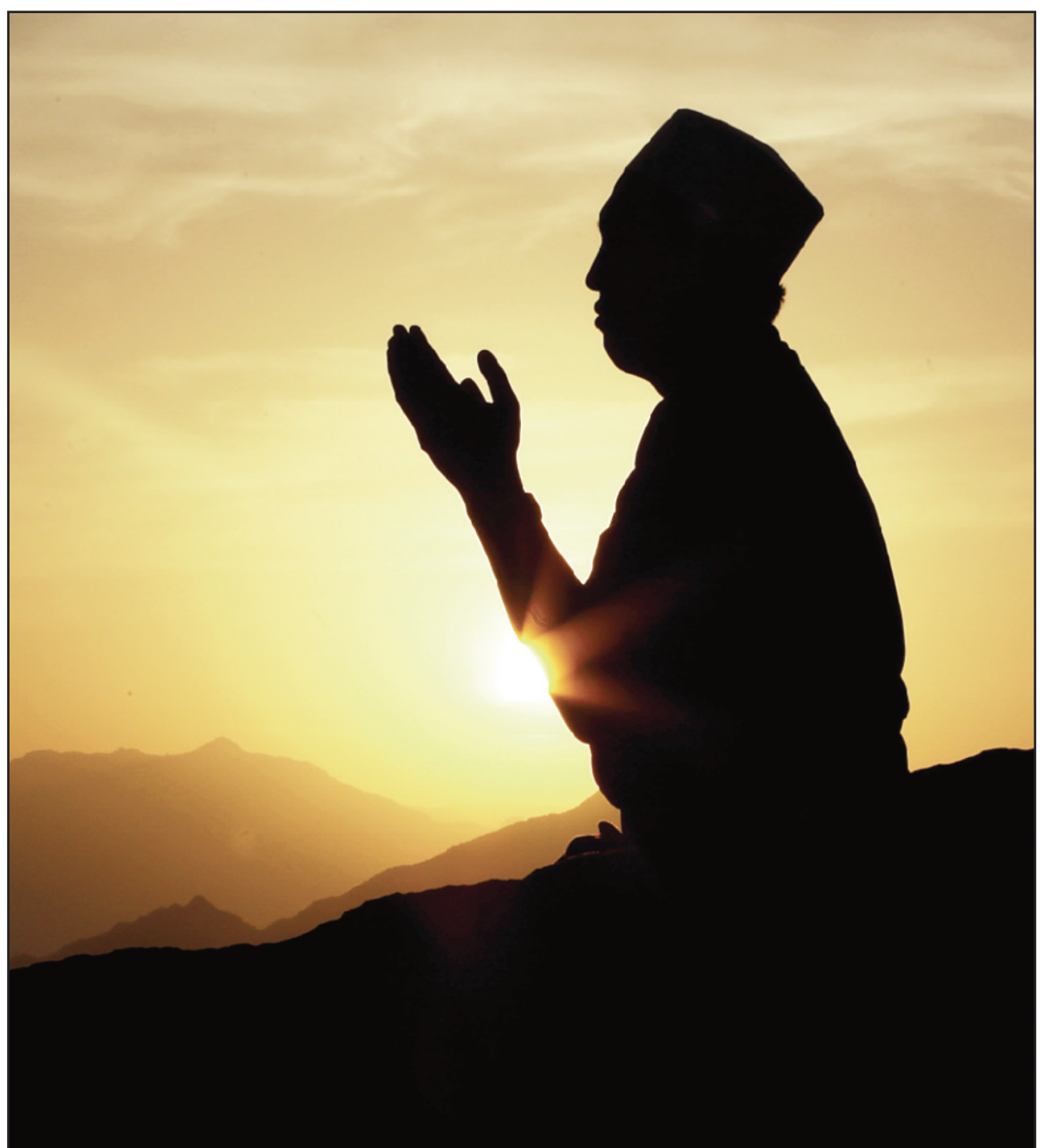
It is the physical and spiritual journey of the individual yearning to be as close to our Creator as is humanly possible.

Yet, Hajj is the journey of humankind taking us to the roots of our religion and laying bare, when all are uniformly clad in their humble ihraams, our frailty. It reminds and prepares us for the time after our temporary abode on this earth.

However, it also is a time of infinite repentance and a reminder that Allah's capacity to forgive exceeds our capacity to sin.

This new series will take the reader in the footsteps of those who have travelled this path while simultaneously gazing and wondering in amazement at the significance of Hajj and the associated history.

Through words and pictures, our new series, 'The Makkah Chronicles' will, Insha Allah, reinforce the obligation to accept the invitation extended by Nabi Ebrahim (AS) thousands of years ago.



Five times a day, the devout Muslim, after completing the fard salaah (compulsory prayer), will thank our Creator for the countless blessings He has bestowed upon us. The Muslim will also beseech our Creator to grant us the opportunity, the blessing of performing pilgrimage.
Photo ESA ALEXANDER

Stories from the Hijaz: The Makkah Chronicles, features as a special centrespread feature in this edition of Muslim Views.



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