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## ISLAM AND PILGRIMAGE TOURISM: SPIRITUAL AND EDUCATIONAL POWER

**Abstract:** This article draws important conclusions by analyzing the role of travel in Islam and its relevance today and the issues of promoting pilgrimage mentioned in the Holy Quran and hadiths are covered. Also, this article highlights the positive impact of pilgrimage tourism on the human psyche and the importance and effectiveness of traveling to historical places.

**Key words:** Islam, pilgrimage tourism, halal, culture, history, travel.

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### Introduction

Looking at the historical literature, researchers associate the emergence of tourism with the period before century. With the invention of money, trade rose to a new level, which made it possible to open a new era in terms of the concept of travel. The development of a medium of exchange, such as money, was an invention that greatly increased existing trade activities. Changes in trade, the most important reason for travel during this period, also had a positive effect on travel.

Historically, Muslim travelers traveled to different places and shared their knowledge and experiences with others. In fact, some Muslim travelers, like archaeologists, visited many ancient countries and cities long before the Europeans and conducted detailed studies of the regions. Some of

these travelers made travelogues and some drew maps.

The active participation of Muslim individuals in travel from the first periods of Islamic history shows that there is a positive view of travel in Islam. In Islamic philosophy, it is believed that God's glory can be understood by seeing the richness and beauty of the things he has created. At the same time, traveling and participating in tourism activities allow people to feel better, relieve stress and thus perform better.

Tourism in Islam is an effort to be physically, mentally and socially healthy for the sake of Allah. We can also learn that religious sources have many useful tips about the purposes for which the journey should be made.

For example, Allah Almighty says this in surah "Ankabut", verse 20 of the Holy Quran [8, p.762]

قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ بَدَأَ الْخَلْقَ ثُمَّ اللَّهُ يُنشِئُ النَّشْأَةَ الْآخِرَةَ  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

**Say:** Go about the earth and see how He created for the first time, and then Allah will recreate life. Surely, Allah has power over everything.

As mentioned in this verse, walking brings many benefits to a person. It is said that while traveling one

can enjoy the wonders of the earth. Also, when a person travels to a place other than where he lives, he learns from the surroundings, sharpens his mind and renews himself.

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At the same time, the hadiths also contain the most famous and authentic hadiths that promote pilgrimage and grave visits. This is what they say about the nature of the pilgrimage to the grave:

***"I turned you back from visiting the graves. Now visit them! Because it reminds you of the hereafter, it reminds you of death. Hey, keep visiting.***

سَافِرُوا تَصِحُّوا وَتُرْزَقُوا: رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ

***It is narrated from Ibn Abbas, may God be pleased with him: "The Messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him peace, said: "Travel, you will be safe and you will be provided for."***

We can give many examples of such hadiths and sayings of great people. According to Imam al-Nasa'i, may God have mercy on him, it is said that the virtue of visiting the graves is: "Their visit increases the good for you" [25, p.6738]. Indeed, visiting the graves of the great and famous scholars and the past reminds one of the hereafter, showing that the difficulties and all kinds of problems in this world are transitory, and makes the soul calm and peaceful.

In Islam, Muslims are encouraged to engage in any self-improvement activity. Islam is a religion that encourages Muslims to develop in beneficial ways and live in peace. [27, p.8]

According to statistics published in the 2013 edition of Tourism Highlights published regularly by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), 27% of people participating in tourism activities worldwide in 2012 were "pilgrimage tourism, health tourism and visiting relatives" acted with passion. According to this, about 300 million people around the world have traveled with motives such as "pilgrimage tourism, health tourism and visiting relatives and friends". All the three tourist attractions listed above correspond to the orders and recommendations of the Islamic religion. On December 21-23, 2015, the 9th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Tourism, held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, adopted a resolution on the development of tourism among OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) member states.[6, p.12] The participants of this meeting approved the proposal for the implementation of the "Strategic Plan for the Development of Islamic Tourism" project. With this, the development of tourism based on Islamic teachings was started in OIC member states, and later in other countries. In particular, cooperation planned the following projects [22, p.106]

- conduct research on the origin, aspects and dimensions of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries and its importance;
- conducting a situational analysis of the state of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries;
- to propose a strategic direction with an action plan for the development and promotion of Islamic tourism in OIC member countries.

***Because it softens the heart and makes the eyes smile. Because there is an example for you. He makes one pious in this world" (Muslim, Termiziy, Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah, Hakim, Tabarani's narrations).***

In another hadith, the Messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him peace, says:

In Islam, tourism is an effort to gain God's approval and to be physically, socially, and psychologically healthy. We can also observe that many issues have been pointed out about the benefits of travel. For example, travel reduces stress in individuals. It helps him to listen and get rid of various mental, physical and spiritual problems. Thus, the concept of travel in Islam is purposeful action. Personal development such as stress relief, physical relaxation, health, education and upbringing are among the main goals of travel. In pilgrimage tourism, tourists travel to seek Allah's approval on the one hand and to fulfill their individual recreational activities. [1, p.86]

Today, it is very important to preserve places such as historical places and monuments and pass them on to future generations. The reason is that preserving historical places gives people a sense of the past. One feels a different feeling when visiting time-tested places than when visiting modern buildings. Then a question may arise. Why ancient heritage sites still play an important role in society today?

Traveling to historical places is good in many ways. First of all, it improves our knowledge of history. Ancient monuments help us to understand the history that happened before, and increase respect for the society that lived in that time and had different traditions. [27, p. 1242]. Visiting historical places is not just about traveling and visiting, but also about discovering and learning new things. It should be noted that one of the main reasons that influence people to visit various historical places is personal satisfaction, increasing their knowledge and spiritual strength. For example, travelers want to see the historical places they have read and heard about and go back in time to experience the historical processes themselves, and this creates opportunities for them to acquire new knowledge.

Our ancestors who lived in history were knowledgeable and made world-class discoveries in various fields. The fact that the historical monuments that we see today were built in a time when there were no technical equipments like today, and yet these monuments continue to surprise the tourists of the world with their strength and luxury, is an inspiration for children and the young generation. Children can learn a lot from such cultural heritage tours that become educational.

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*Cultural heritage and historical monuments perform the following important functions in society:*

- helps to form social capital;
- important in preserving local traditions and culture plays a role;
- promotes positive behavior;
- improves the image and pride of the community;
- helps improve society [4, p. 314].

The role of historical and cultural heritage in the development of pilgrimage tourism is very important. In this sense, we can call pilgrimage tourism as cultural and spiritual tourism. In particular, "cultural tourism" provides an opportunity for tourists to get acquainted with the history, traditions, economic activity and culture, customs and other historical potential of this country. People's visits to such cultural places contribute to their spiritual enrichment and broadening of their worldview [3, p. 890].

During pilgrimage, five real experiences are embodied in a person and we can call them spiritual, cultural, ecological, worldly and educational. For people, happiness can be a factor of positive behavior and emotions that they perform. As an example, the famous psychologist Martin Seligman said: "A person's happiness is related to 3 elements, which are positive thoughts, the work he is doing, and its meaning."

So, in order for a person to live a happy life, he should have positive thoughts along with his favorite occupation. Pilgrimage is one of the sectors that serve to provide such feelings. The reason is that pilgrimage tourism awakens positive and exciting emotions in a person's memory and serves to increase his love for life. In turn, one experiences processes of self-learning, self-reformation, and personal transformation during the journey. Researches show that one of the main goals of pilgrims to travel to holy places is the feeling of a person in holy places, the experiences that arise during the trip. In addition, it is necessary to emphasize here the possibility of religion

to create a feeling of satisfaction and happiness in life. [12, p.5]

Places visited by pilgrims, including shrines and tombs of prophets, Sufis and saints, mausoleums and madrasahs, mosques, which have risen in religious atmosphere, create such an environment for pilgrims.

Historical monuments and places attract a lot of domestic tourists [2, p.4438] as well as foreign citizens. Communication prepares a thorough ground for self-correction, re-education, realization of personal potential based on external positive influences, examples, leads to perfection. Therefore, pilgrimage tourism provides a platform for visitors to interact and share experiences with foreign tourists of different nationalities and people they have never met before [13, p. 35].

During pilgrimage tourism, there are also customs that have a positive effect on human spirituality. In particular, a person begins to pay attention to cleanliness and cleanliness and gets into the habit of dealing with the environment in this manner. That is, shrines and cultural monuments are always kept clean and tidy. Tourists visiting these places are required to follow the same order, to keep the surroundings of cultural monuments, shrines and holy places clean, to pay attention to personal hygiene and cleanliness. It is natural that these acts of cleanliness will benefit the pilgrim in his future life as well. This shows that the act of pilgrimage leads to spiritual growth and self-control of a person.

### Conclusion

It is important that the historical and cultural heritage potential of the country is one of the main factors of the development of pilgrimage tourism. Because familiarization with historical and cultural heritage is the strongest tourist incentive and is an important means of attracting many tourists. In addition, it should not be forgotten that cultural and historical heritage is an important asset of modern cities, which benefit the objects and have a significant impact on economic development.

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