



Mosque

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Mosque Means History

After migrating from Mecca to Medina, the first thing the Prophet Muhammad (saw) did was to construct a mosque there. This first mosque has become the center of both social and religious life. This mosque, in a way, is the starting point of the Islamic civilization and history. All mosques on earth, in some ways, bear resemblance to this mosque. Wherever Muslims went, the first thing they did was to construct a mosque so as to build their lives. Thus, constructing a mosque has always been regarded as a great act of worship by Muslims. Mosques are the reflections and footprints of Muslims in history.

Rather than being a geometrical monument only, mosque is a tradition, a life perception, and a worldview as well. Mosque is as eternal and generous as the history as well as being a gate opening up both to the past to the and future.



Mosque Means Civilization

Civilization is the reflection of divine truth over a society. Mosques represent the understanding of this truth by the Muslim society. Mosques are the centers of (Muslim) cities. Life, truth, and civilization are united under the domes of mosques. Every time Muslims look at mosques, they will once more realize that the emergence of life is the divine truth, and that Muslims have to remain faithful to this divine truth. Hence, the truth realized under the domes of mosques is transformed into civilization under the vault of heaven.



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Mosque Means Art

Mosque is not only the source of civilization but also its greatest fruit. Each civilization, while blossoming, has produced art as a symbol of its perfection. Mosques have a special place in what the Islamic civilization has produced. Combining architecture, ornamentation, and calligraphy, mosques also reflect the aesthetic understanding of the believers. While expressing the features of its time and geography in an artistic way, mosques at the same time reconstruct a divine aesthetics and eternalize it by transmitting from one generation to another.

Mosque Means Worship

Muslims feel the deepest emotions when they stand in the presence of Allah (swt). The feeling of peace manifests itself in the mihrab (prayer niche). The closer the worshippers are to the prayer niche in mosques, the more merit they acquire. Thus, the imam, who collects all merits of the worshippers, prays in the niche.

Muslims begin worshipping the moment they set foot in mosques. Because above all, apart from all their functions and connotations, mosques are the places for worship. One cannot enter mosques without being purified by performing ablution. The greatest relief and contentment is experienced in mosques, one finds peace there. Muslims enter mosques as if they would never step out.







Mosque Means Equality

When Muslims set foot in mosques, they leave every worldly title behind. They abandon their title, fame, status, and belongings, and stand in the presence of their Creator as only human beings and the servants of Allah. From that moment on, they have nothing but being a servant. Their worldly possessions have no meaning in mosques. They realize at right that moment that despite all their discrepancies, everyone is equal and the only eternal possession is a peaceful heart and good deeds.



Mosque Means Unity

The believers who stand in orderly rows shoulder to shoulder learn to share the burdens, joys, and sorrows of life together. They know that whoever gets out of the row would disrupt all the sense of unity and orderliness. This teaches them to always keep an eye on other Muslims in their lives. When the muadhdhin calls for prayer from the minaret – the symbol of unity, the bodies of Muslims shake with awe and they all turn to Allah (swt), the One and Only God. Leaving all earthly and mundane tasks behind, they once more conceive the virtue of being generous, not hoarding; sharing but not sparing. Mosques instill something important into the hearts of Muslims: Everything on earth increases when shared.







Mosque Means Conversation

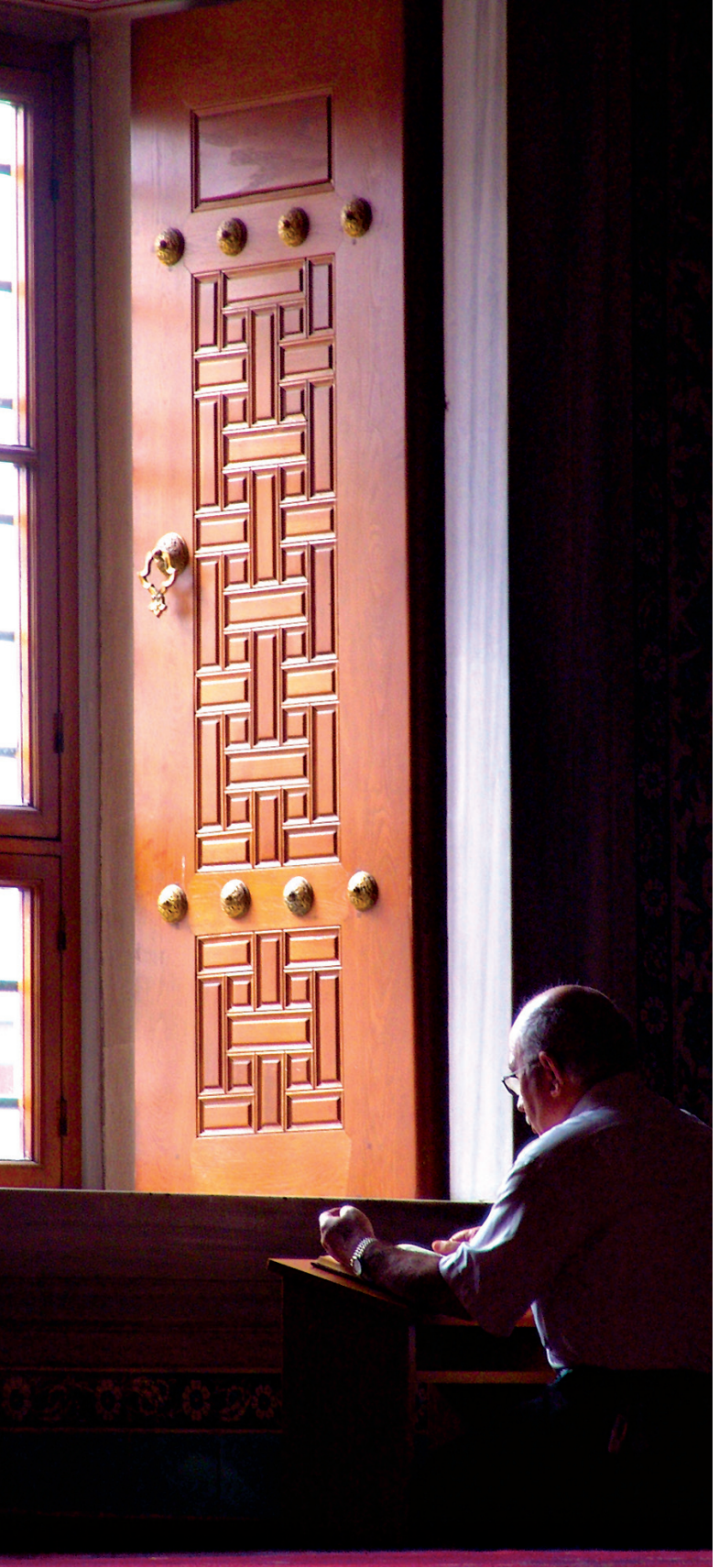
The gates of mosques are open to anyone. Likewise, hearts of Muslims are open to everyone. The moment they step in mosques, they are not only in the presence of Allah, but also ready to communicate with everyone there. This mutual communication leads to natural and friendly exchange of words. In these talks, no word is futile. In these talks, not only mouths speak, but also hearts do.



Mosque Means Wisdom

Once Muslims get in mosques, their hearts wide open to spiritual world; their minds to wisdom. Because, mosques have always been the seat of wisdom in the course of history. Every word recited from the pulpit broadens the horizons of the believers. Every word flowing out of the minbar is worth rediscovering.

Mosques are the source of wisdom because knowledge conveyed via mosques bear the fragrance of the divine truth. Wisdom is put into words and embodied in mosques. This is why worshippers enter mosques with good manners. This is why virtues and good manners culminate in mosques. And this is why those who once step in mosques realize that wisdom cannot coexist with ill manners; and truth cannot coexist without knowledge.





Mosque Means Love

Pure truth can come into existence with love, because to love means to come closer. Believers go into mosques with love, and they love mosques. Mosques, in return, love believers, too. Upon congregating, these lovers are perfected. Mosques and believers share their love with other people. Thus, there is love wherever mosques exist. Mosques teach wisdom and sharing with love. Mosques spread love to those who seek shelter; they give love to worshippers. Mosques do not spare their smiling faces, showing 'The Real One to Love' to those who come to them with love, and helps them to experience real love.



Mosque Means Submission

By teaching love and wisdom, mosques also endow worshipping believers with submission. One realizes that the fountain of civilization, morality, and knowledge is these places of worship, which at the same time serve as shelters. Believers are always under the shade of mosques. They are well aware of the fact that mosques are the Houses of Allah (swt). Their protector is Allah; they take refuge in Allah knowing that whatever they have got or are deprived of is thanks to Allah. Wherever believers go, they will be under the shade of mosques. There is neither fear nor sorrow for them any more. On meeting others in mosques, what they will hear will only be the words of peace and tranquility.



Mosque Means Purification

Believers go into mosques wholeheartedly and devotedly as they clean not only their bodies but also their souls before they enter.

Mosques open their gates to believers. They let hearts of the believers be filled with divine peace. Only those who have spiritually cleaned up can reach that peace. Mosques purify believers. First their sins fall apart, then their sorrows alleviate, they get rid of their moral weaknesses, and thus, get ready to stand in the presence of Allah with contented and complacent hearts.



Mosque Means Shelter

Muslims are well aware that mosques' affectionate gates are wide open when there is no shelter on earth or anywhere to trust. Mosques are shelters for never-ending affection. Actually mosques are the source of affection observed in all the shelters. Mosques offer shelter to those who do not seek refuge in mosques as well. Muslims are also conscious of the fact that all the blessings have come from the same source. Mosques are homes for those who shelter; hope for those who do not.



Mosque Means Understanding

Mosques teach believers to comprehend. They show believers the wisdom of life. Mosques instill the divine truth into the understanding of believers. Every time believers enter mosques, they first conceive the meaning of understanding once again, then it becomes a mental faculty and everywhere they go, they take this faculty along. They see events through the eyes of mosques; hear with the ears of mosques, and feel the surrounding universe with the walls of mosques.



Mosque Means Non-existence without Him (swt)

Believers have always been in and with mosques; in the same way, mosques are with believers all the time. Believers determine their path through mosques. They are fully aware that they cannot exist without mosques. They know that the owner of the mosques is Allah. In the end, they understand that all the pains have been suffered for only one purpose; all the joy, happiness, wisdom, love and life have been experienced for one thing: Not leading a life without Him (swt)!