

# The Sacred Stone

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The *Hajj*, pilgrimage, was being shown live on T.V. Pilgrims were walking around the *Ka'bah* ceremonially. Many of the Muslims were kissing the special stone in one of the walls of this cube-shaped room called *Hajr al-aswad*, the black stone. It is said that Abraham and Ishmael used this stone to stand on while building the *Ka'bah*. According to some stories, the stone had the ability to change its shape to help them to build the building. After he finished the task, Abraham put this stone in one wall of the *Ka'bah*.

According to some traditions this stone was originally, white. However, over the ages it has turned black. Others believe it has turned black because of the touch of sinful human beings.

Umar, a companion of Muhammad and his second successor, is said to have disliked kissing this stone. One day he said to it, "If the apostle of Allah had not kissed you, I would never have kissed you."

It may surprise you to know that in the Bible Jesus is called a stone, a cornerstone and even the Living Stone. Those who believe in him are also addressed as the living stones in God's house (Acts 4:10-11; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1Peter 2:4).

The Scripture tells us that believers in Jesus are "no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's household built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20-21).

In another place believers are addressed in these words: "As you come to him, the living stone - rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." (1Peter 2:4-5) Jesus is also called the spiritual rock (1Corinthians 10:4; 1Peter 2:8). Jesus has many other titles, like the Word, Prince of Peace, the Author of Life, and the Light of the World. The best source for finding out more about Jesus is in the New Testament section of the Bible. If you would like a copy in the English language, please write to the address below. Note: As we have a limited number of copies please place your request early to avoid disappointment.

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