
KAABA

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4:08

ERUCH: What do they do at the place like Kaaba, where millions of people go there? There is nothing but a black rock over there and a cubicle is there. And it is all covered with velvet and all that. And all that they do is, from a distance from outside not inside, they can't go inside, so they just circumambulate it seven times and they feel in their hearts that their pilgrimage is fulfilled, is accepted by the Lord, yeah.

PILGRIM 1: What is the history of the Kaaba, what is the circumstance?

ERUCH: Nobody knows the history. Somebody says it is a story of a meteorite, asteroid as they call it. Ancient time to them it was such a surprise and something celestial coming from the seventh heaven, something like that. And I had heard the story that well there is that same rock where Abraham was told to cut, to sacrifice his son.

PILGRIM 2: That's in Jerusalem? [crosstalk]

PILGRIM 3: Dome of the Rock.

PILGRIM 4: But in Islamic culture they say that it was there, the Kaaba.

PILGRIM 3: In Islamic culture they that it is the Dome of the Rock, where the mosque is built over. [crosstalk].

PILGRIM 4: It was supposed to have been built originally by Abraham, wasn't it?

PILGRIM 3: Yeah, he built it, but that's not where Isaac was going to be sacrificed, that was in Jerusalem.

PILGRIM 2: We don't know, do we?

ERUCH: So, some say this and some say that and some say that it is sanctified. Some say that there was a source of water. You know desert is such that at that spot, there was a source of water that flew out from there. And that is why it is sanctified, because for people who are thirsting for water, you know, water is life. That's why it is sanctified. Many stories are there, but apart from the stories the faith comes. And when you shed the faith then what is left, nothing. Just as when you try to peel the onion nothing is left. But faith is there, then it is there, if there is no faith then there is nothing.

PILGRIM 1: Baba was there before Mohammed.

ERUCH: Before Mohammed, of course, before Mohammed. On the contrary it was infested with idols. You know idols, for lightening and for showers and rain and for the good of the others and for the curse to somebody and they would propitiate these idols, yeah. And Mohammed had once prohibited anyone who has brought faith in Islam to visit Kaaba. He had stopped them because of idolatry worship. But it was so ingrained at that time that it was either to lose the hearts or to stop them from idol worship. So there was a compromise created by Mohammed, saying that on a particular day, one day, at a particular time you'll should go there as a pilgrimage and all that. It was a compromise later

on. Formerly He has stopped all this. There were battles fought because of this, because of the idols that were broken down. Same thing happened at the time of Abraham also.

PILGRIM 4: So, they turned the Kaaba into an idol also.

ERUCH: Yeah, but now it is not an idol, but it is because of the injunction they do it. The world. Visit once in a lifetime if you can afford.

PILGRIM 4: But even the prayers they direct them to the Kaaba.

ERUCH: Yeah, because that is the sanctified place, because Mohammed had focused upon it. Many battles were fought to pay visit. Mohammed Himself went there and circumambulated it. So following in the footsteps, that's all.