Sacred Places Are Points in Different Parts of the World

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Abstract:
Sacred places are points in different parts of the world that have religious significance, and where thousands of pilgrims flock annually. Holy places are churches, temples, mosques, most of Temples will become a center of worship and enlightenment for all mankind, and, therefore, holy places will become the spiritual center of the world.

I. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1. Mecca

In the western part of Saudi Arabia, 100 km from the Red Sea, the city of Mecca is located - a pilgrimage center for Muslims. This city is so important for believers that entry into it for non-Muslims is prohibited by the law of the country. The story goes that in 630 the Medina community, led by the prophet Muhammad, entered Mecca. Residents surrendered without a fight and converted to Islam. Since then, Muslims have been praying in the direction of Mecca, wherever they are. In Mecca is the shrine of Islam - the cubic construction of the Kaaba. It is also called "al-Bayt al-Haram", which is translated from Arabic as "holy house". According to the Qur'an, the Kaaba is the first building erected by people to worship God. A black stone is mounted in the wall of the Kaaba, which, according to legend, was once stored in paradise. Mecca, the المكرمة or مكة (in Arabic, it reads “Makka” or “Makka al-Muqkarrama”, ie “Holy Mecca”); Mecca, Makkah or Makkah al-Mukarramah (English) - the city, the capital of the province of the same name in the west of Saudi Arabia (region 02). It is located 72 km east of Jeddah, 75 km from the coast of the Red Sea and approximately 485 km south of the Medina, in a small rocky valley surrounded on all sides by mountains. 2 Homeland of the Prophet Muhammad, the location of the main shrine of Muslims - the Kaaba, and other shrines; The most important pilgrimage destination among believers. The head of Mecca is the king of Saudi Arabia. The municipal government is represented by 14 local elected members, performing the functions of the municipality. Since May 16, 2007, Prince Khalid al-Faisal became the Governor. Mecca and its environs are considered sacred land: wars, tree felling, and the killing of living beings are prohibited here, excluding the slaughter of animals for food and sacrifice. Haram ("Sanctuary") is sometimes called the whole of Mecca with its surroundings. Mecca long before the birth of Muhammad was an important trading city. According to Arabic traditions, Adam, Abraham and Ishmael lived in it, and the Kaaba was built by angels before the creation of man. In the early historical sources, it was first mentioned by Ptolemy as Makorab. Mecca was built by the Koreans in the 5th century, but the Kaaba has been the center of the Arab pilgrimage since very ancient times. Mecca's importance has grown as a result of annual fairs, making the Mecca Valley a place of pilgrimage. About 570 Muhammad was born in Mecca. During the Arab conquests of Syria, Egypt and Iraq, when caravans with rich spoils were sent to Mecca, the holy city flourished. However, in 930 it was looted by the Karmatians who transported the Black Stone. It was possible to return the stone only after 22 years. In 1517, the city was captured by the Turks. Mecca flourished in the later years of Ottoman rule. In 1802, the Wahhabis captured Mecca, but in 1833 they were expelled by Mehmet Ali, who approved his son Ibrahim as the elder of the Sanctuary Mosque (Shaykh al-haram). In 1916, the uprising of Hussein ibn Ali put an end to Turkish rule in Hijaz. After the conquest of Mecca in 1924 by the Wahhabi king Abdul Aziz ibn Saud, the city became part of Saudi Arabia. In Mecca are the Forbidden (Reserved) Mosque - al-Masjid al-Haram and Kaaba. The Forbidden (Reserved) Mosque (al-Masjid al-Haram) - the main Muslim shrine, located in the city center. The mosque took its modern form in 1570, it is an open quadrangular courtyard with a length of approximately 165 m and a width of 111 m, surrounded by eight-meter stone walls. Minarets of white stone rise above the mosque. In the courtyard is the inner sanctuary, Kaaba. Kaaba is the holiest of the shrines of the Islamic world. In ancient times, the temple was four walls (“KA’BA” means “quadrangle” in Arabic), the height of a man, about 80 meters in perimeter, made of rough stone not fastened with lime.

Chapter 3. Tibet

This region of Asia is rich in sacred places. Travelers who have been there talk about the incredible tranquility and peace that almost fill the air. And in truth, the Tibetans are an extremely peaceful people. Even during the Second World War, they maintained neutrality. Until today, Tibet is considered the most mysterious place on Earth. Because of its unusual mountains, it is called the "roof of the world." And adventure lovers do not stop in search of a mythical country - Shambhala, which is a symbol of energy, wisdom and strength. As already mentioned, there are many sacred places in Tibet. But the main shrines are Mount Kailash and Lhasa - the City of the Gods.

Mount Kailash is considered the pinnacle of four religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Bon. For locals, this is the center of the universe. They call it a mystical place that changes the fate of man. According to ancient manuscripts, bypassing the mountain, you can clear the karma of past lives. The city of the Gods is considered the holiest city of Tibet. He gained such fame at the beginning of the 7th century, when King Songtsen Gampo erected the Jokhang Temple. In this temple, today you can see the most revered statue of Buddha in Tibet. Moreover, it
is in Lhasa that the Potala Palace is located, where the Dalai Lama live. In the district of the City of the Gods, there are three largest monasteries - Sera, Drepung and Ganden. The greatest masters of Tibet meditated in them. According to legend, the second emperor of Tibet, SongtsenGampo (Srong-btsanSgam-po), who lived in the first half of the 7th century, made Lhasa his capital. But documents of that time say that the capital of Tibet was constantly moving then. In the center of the city, the Jokhang Monastery was still built, which is now the main pilgrimage site in Lhasa. The city began to grow and flourish after the foundation of three large monasteries of the Gelug school as a result of the activities of Lama Tsongkhapa and his students in the 15th century. These are the monasteries of Ganden (Dga'-ldan), Sera (Se-ra) and Drepung ('Bras-spung). Dalai Lama V LobsangGyatso (Blo-bzang-rgya-mtsho) (1617–1682), subdued Tibet and transferred its administrative center to Lhasa. Then he began to build the Potala Palace, the construction was completed several years after his death. Since that time, Lhasa has become the full political capital of Tibet. Lhavzan Khan, the head of the Khoshut tribe (belonging to the Oirats), captured Lhasa in 1705. The Tibetans appealed for help to the Oirat Khan from the noble Choros clan, the head of the Oirat (Dzhungar) Khanate, who sent a six-thousandth army under the command of TsarinDhondup, who defeated the army of Lhavzan Khan and captured Lhasa in 1717. Europeans rarely infiltrated Lhasa. By 1951, half of the city consisted of monks, the total population was about 25,000 people. Additionally, about 15 thousand people inhabited the nearby monasteries. In 1960, the administrative structure of Tibet was changed to the general Chinese manner. An Lhasa urban district was formed, in addition to it, another 7 counties were included in the district. In 1964, part of the territory of the Ngari Special District was transferred to the Lhasa City District, as a result of which the number of counties in the Lhasa City District reached 11.

Chapter 4.Hagia Sophia in Istanbul

A monumental building surrounded by four slender minarets is a center of attraction for all tourists arriving in Istanbul. For 1,500 years, Hagia Sophia has been amazing for its architecture, magnificent mosaics and the easily felt aura of a place of power. On its walls, the symbols of Christianity coexist with the Arabic script, not mixing, but mutually complementing each other. There are few similar historical buildings in the world that have preserved their luxurious decoration, despite the difficult ups and downs of an extraordinary fate. Hagia Sophia was built on a hill, where until 360 the temple of Artemis was located. It is said that in the 6th century an angel appeared to emperor Justinian with a model of a grandiose temple in his hands. To implement the project, columns from Ephesus and Lebanon were brought to Byzantium, the altar was decorated with rubies, amethysts and pearls. Incredible luxury convinced the Russian ambassadors of the truth of the Orthodox faith, and they recommended that Prince Vladimir accept it. However, in 1453, Constantinople fell, Sultan Mehmet rode a horse to the temple and ordered the building to be rebuilt into a mosque. The imprint of his bloody hand is still visible on the altar wall. The Turks erected minarets, whitewashed mosaics, curtained the walls with camel skins with gold-plated suras from the Koran. For a long 500 years, Hagia Sophia became the largest Muslim shrine after the Kaaba. Only in 1935, KemalAtatürk, the founder of modern secular Turkey, converted it into a museum with a special decree. This building has many titles. In the past, an Orthodox cathedral was located there, later a mosque. Now within its walls is the world famous monument of Byzantine architecture. But not only the titles paint the Hagia Sophia. Thousands of tourists visit it annually. And no wonder. After all, for more than a thousand years, he was the largest temple in the Christian world. Until St. Peter's Basilica was built in Rome.

Chapter 5.St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

The heart of the Vatican and the entire Catholic world, St. Peter's Basilica is one of the main attractions of Rome. Here you can view ancient Rome from a bird's eye view, admire the interior of the cathedral from the top of the dome, stand for mass and even receive the blessing of the pontiff. St. Peter's Basilica is, without exaggeration, the story itself, embodied in stone. The list of great people who, in one way or another, had a hand in its architecture and interior decoration, will take more than one page, and the fate of the world, states, and peoples was within its walls. The history of the cathedral began in the 4th century with the erection of a modest basilica over the alleged tomb of the Apostle Peter. Until the 15th century, the building was not distinguished by anything special. And in 1506, the papal decree decided to rebuild the basilica into a grandiose cathedral, a center of Catholicism and a symbol of pontiff power. Michelangelo, Raphael and other great masters of all time worked on its creation. It became the largest building of the Vatican and the largest historical Christian church in the world. The dome of the cathedral is the highest in the world: 136.57 meters from the floor of the basilica to the top of the crowning cross. St. Peter's Basin delights not only with its columns and mosaics. He is one of the most important sacred places on the planet. It was there that Saint Peter, the apostle and first pope, was buried. The power of all these places is not widely understood. The higher energy inherent there is not subject to the studies of scientists. But the fact remains - after visiting the sacred places, people's lives often change. And what affects this: faith, self-hypnosis or invisible power - everyone decides for himself.

II. BIBLIOGRAPHY


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