



# Pilgrimage

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**In Islam and other Religions**

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Muhammad Ali Chenarani

Translation into English:

Ahmad Rezwani

**Islamic Research Foundation**

**Astan Quds Razavi**

**Mashhad - I.R. Iran**

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[info@islamic-rf.ir](mailto:info@islamic-rf.ir)

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## Preface

Visitation of [the graves of] one's ancestors and the believers and being present at the sacred mausoleums of religious leaders, performing prayers, reciting supplication, and reading the Holy Qur'an at their graves, is one of valuable traditions and devotional acts of Islam. Pilgrimage [to the graves] is not worship of the dead; rather, it is visitation of the living ones [buried], which is performed with the eye of the heart and spiritual association with the purified souls of those chosen by Allah Almighty.

Using historical, narrational, jurisprudential, mystical, and philosophical references, this work undertakes to explain the concept of pilgrimage from the viewpoint of the Holy Qur'an and the necessity of making a pilgrimage to the Holy Shrine of the Great Prophet (S.A.W.) from the Sunnī and Shī'ī points of view. Furthermore, it takes a cursory look at the manners of pilgrimage in other religions, as well.

I deem it incumbent upon myself to express my gratitude to all those who undertook tasks in various stages of publishing this precious work, especially Dr. Mahdavi for his guidelines, Mr. Javad Qasemi, who undertook its literary editing, and my sons Sa'id and Ehsan, who typeset the work and Mohsen who prepared the layout and I beseech the



Almighty Allah to grant them all long and prosperous lives, wishing them to be successful in their endeavors in dissemination of the Glorious Qur'ān's teachings, the Holy Prophet's *Sīra*, and the Ahl al-Bayt's school of thought.

Muhammad Ali Chenarani  
Islamic Seminary (Hawzah)  
The Holy City of Mashhad

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