

# The City of Madinah

**Madinah Munawwarah (“the enlightened city”) ranks as the second most holiest place in Islam after Makkah. It is the city that gave refuge to the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and the early Muslims upon their migration from Makkah and where lies the burial place of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).**

- The city of Madinah was originally known as Yathrib, an oasis city dating as far back as the 6th century BCE. During the war between Jews and Romans in the third century CE many Jews fled Jerusalem and migrated to their ancestral place of Yathrib (present Madinah). Nero sent massive Roman force under Petra Lenidas to Madinah to massacre the Jews in 213 CE. A community survived and by the time the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had migrated there was a large Jewish presence around the city.
- The Jews were eagerly waiting for the arrival of a prophet who, according to their scriptures, would appear in Madinah. They used to taunt the local Arabs that when he did arrive, according to their prophesies, the Jews would destroy the pagans as the ancient people of Aad and Thamud had been destroyed for their idolatry. However, when they realized that the final prophet was chosen among the Arabs rather than from the Jews their pride got the better of them and they rejected him even though as the Quran mentions (in 2:146) they recognized him as they recognize their sons. In spite of this there were some Jews who embraced Islam, most notably Hussain bin Salam, one of their most learned Rabbis. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) changed his name to Abdullah bin Salam.
- The city of Madinah was not unfamiliar to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) when he emigrated there. His father Abdullah was buried there and when he was six years old he had travelled with his mother Aminah and their devoted slave girl Barakah (later to be known as Umme Ayman). In later life he recounted how he had learned to swim in a pool which belonged to his kinsmen with whom they had stayed, and how the boys taught him to fly a kite. However, not long after they had set out for the return journey his mother fell very ill, and died a few days later at Abwa, not far from Yathrib and there she was buried. Barakah did what she could to console the boy, now doubly an orphan and brought him back to Makkah.
- About a year before the migration, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had dispatched Mus’ab bin Umair (may Allah be pleased with him) on a mission to propagate Islam (Tableegh) to the people of Madinah. Many of the Ansar became Muslims at his hands.
- Madinah is 210 miles (340 km) north of Makkah. At the time of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), Madinah was approximately the size of the present masjid and the surrounding white tiled area.

- Narrated Anas (may Allah be pleased with him): Whenever the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) returned from a journey and observed the walls of Madinah, he would make his mount go fast, and if he was on an animal (i.e. a horse), he would make it gallop because of his love for Madinah [Bukhari]. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him): *“For the believer, Madinah is the best place. If only they could understand it’s virtue fully, they would never leave it, and whoever departs from Madinah, having become disenchanted with it, Allah will send someone better to replace him. And whoever bears patiently the ordeals of Madinah, for him shall I be an intercessor(or witness) on the Day of Qiyamat.”* [Muslim]
- It is narrated by Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her): When we came to Madinah, it was an unhealthy, uncongenial place. Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) fell sick and Bilal (may Allah be pleased with him) also fell sick; and when Allah’s Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) saw the illness of his Companions he said: *“O Allah, make Madinah as beloved to us as you made Makkah beloved or more than that; make it conducive to health, and bless us in its sa’ and mudd’ (two standards of weight and measurement) and transfer its fever to Juhfa.”* [Bukhari]
- It is stated in another hadith: *“There will be no town which Ad-Dajjal (the anti-Christ) will not enter except Makkah and Madinah, and there will be no entrance (road) but the angels will be standing in rows guarding it against him, and then Madinah will shake with its inhabitants thrice and Allah will expel all the nonbelievers and the hypocrites from it.”* [Bukhari]
- Narrated Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him): The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said, *“Verily, Belief returns and goes back to Madinah as a snake returns and goes back to its hole (when in danger).”* [Bukhari]

**References:** History of Madinah Munawwarah – Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Abdul Ghani, Wikipedia, Muhammad – Martin Lings

## Masjid-e-Nabwi

**Masjid-e-Nabwi is the masjid (mosque) established by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) upon his migration to Madinah. It is the second most revered masjid in Islam and the second largest in the world, after Masjid al-Haram in Makkah.**

- When the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) migrated to Madinah (then called Yathrib), the chiefs of the city and his immediate followers rode around his camel in their best clothes and in glittering armour. Everyone was hoping he

would stop by their house. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) would answer everyone politely and kindly, *"[This camel] is commanded by Allah; wherever it stops, that will be my home."* The camel moved on with slackened reins, reaching the site of the present masjid and knelt down. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) alighted and said, *"This is the home"* and inquired as to who owned the land. The land contained a few date trees, graves of polytheists, a resting spot for herds of cattle and was owned by two orphan brothers, Sahl and Suhail. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) purchased the land, had the trees cleared and the polytheists graves dug up and levelled.

- He then gave orders that his newly acquired courtyard should be made into a masjid (mosque) and work began immediately. Most of the building was done by bricks made of stones and kneaded clay but in the middle of the northern wall (which faced the original Qibla in Jerusalem) stones were put on either side of the prayer niche. The palms in the courtyard were cut down and their trunks were used as pillars to support the roof of palm branches, but the greater part of the courtyard was left open. Small stones were laid on the floor to prevent it from becoming too muddy. At the rear of the masjid, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) built a shaded area called as-Suffah in which the poor companions would spend the night. Two small huts were also constructed on the eastern side of the masjid to accommodate his two wives at the time, Aisha and Sauda (may Allah be pleased with them).
- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) gave the Muslims of Madinah the title of Ansar which means Helpers, whereas the Muslims of Quraysh and other tribes who had left their homes and emigrated to the oasis he called Muhajirun, meaning Emigrants. All took part in the work, including the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) himself, and as they worked they chanted two verses which one of them had made up for the occasion: *"O Allah, no good is but the good Hereafter, So help the Helpers and the Emigrants."* And sometimes they chanted: *"No life there is but the life of the Hereafter. Mercy, O Allah, on Emigrants and Helpers."*
- The masjid was built twice during the lifetime of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). The first time was shortly after he had made the Hijra to Madinah in 622 CE, with the size of the masjid being approximately 35 x 30 meters and the height 2.5 meters. It was rebuilt seven years later after the Fath (opening) of Khaibar. The increasing number of Muslims by then necessitated an increase in the area of the mosque to accommodate more worshippers. Usman (may Allah be pleased with him) paid for the land to accommodate the extension which made the masjid approximately 50 x 50 meters. The height was also increased to 3.5 meters.
- When the revelation came down to change the Qibla to Makkah in 624 CE, the whole masjid was re-orientated to the south.
- The masjid also served as a religious school, community center, court and also as a confinement for prisoners.

- Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) reports that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: *“Whoever performs forty salat in my masjid, not missing one salat in the masjid, for him is granted exemption from the fire of Hell, and exemption from punishment and he shall remain free of hypocrisy.”* [Ahmad]
- Abu Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: *“One salat offered in my masjid is superior to one thousand salats offered in other masjids except Masjid al-Haraam (Makkah al-Mukarramah).”* [Bukhari]

**References:** History of Madinah Munawwarah – Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Abdul Ghani, Wikipedia, History of Madina – Ali Hafiz, Encyclopedia of Islam – Al-Arabee Ben Razzouq, Virtues of Hajj – Sheikh Muhammad Zakariyya Kandhalvi



## MASJID QUBA

### Masjid Quba

**Quba is the place on the outskirts of Madinah where the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), accompanied by Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) arrived and first stayed after emigrating from Makkah. They arrived on Monday 12th Rab'i al-Awwal, fourteen years after Prophethood and this date marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar (Hijra). (16th July 622 CE). A masjid was established here by the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), the first to be built in Islam.**

- The virtue of Masjid Qubas is mentioned in the following Quranic verse in Surah Taubah: *“...certainly a masjid founded on piety from the very first day is more deserving that you should stand in it...”* [9:108]
- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: *“He who purifies himself at his home and comes to Masjid Quba and offers two rakats therein, will be rewarded the reward of an Umrah (lesser pilgrimage).”* [Sunan ibn Majah]

- The people of Yathrib (which was later named Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, the Enlightened City) had long awaited the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), and each day they would go beyond the fields and palm groves and wait for him until the sun became unbearable. One day the people returned to their homes after waiting a long time for the Prophet. A Jew happened to catch a glimpse of a small group of white-robed travellers in the distance. He called out: *“O people of Arabia! What you have been waiting for has arrived!”*
- The Muslims lifted their weapons and rushed to greet the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). There was a great clamour as everyone ran to the edge of the desert to catch a glimpse of the travellers. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) then turned toward the right and came to Banu Amr bin Auf at Quba. Most of the Muslims who had emigrated from Makkah had stayed at Quba and many of them were there when the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) arrived.
- After reaching Quba, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) dismounted. Those of the Ansar (literally meaning ‘the supporters’, the name given to those in Al-Madinah who became Muslim) who had not seen the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) thought that Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) was the prophet because his hair had grown a little gray. But when they saw Abu Bakr shade the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) with a sheet, they realized their mistake.
- It was a time of great joy from both sides. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) addressed them saying: *“O People, give unto one another greetings of peace; feed food unto the hungry; honour the ties of kinship, pray in the hours when men sleep. Even so shall ye enter paradise in peace.”*
- On arriving in the village of Quba after the blessed Hijra (migration), the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) stayed for several days in the house of Kulthoom bin Hadm (may Allah be pleased with him) and laid the foundations of Masjid Quba on his land. Prior to the migration of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) the Muslims sometimes offered their Friday prayers at the house of Sa’ad ibn Khaithamah (may Allah be pleased with him) which was close by. The location of this house was included in the modern day extension of Masjid Quba but the location of the house of Kulthoom bin Hadm (may Allah be pleased with him) is marked by a few boulders to the south-west of Masjid Quba.
- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) personally carried stones, rocks and sand with his companions for the construction work. Al-Tabarani quoted Al-Shimous Bint Al-Nuaman as saying, *“I saw the Prophet when he constructed this mosque. He used to carry stones and rocks on his back until it was bent. I also saw dust on his dress and belly. But when one of his companions would come to take the load off him, he would say no and ask the companion to go and carry a similar load instead.”*

- Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) stayed on for three days after the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) secretly left Makkah for Madinah. During this period he settled all the Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) affairs in Makkah. He then left on foot and met up with the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) in Quba.
- Narrated by Abdullah bin Dinar: Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said, *"The Prophet used to go to the Mosque of Quba every Saturday (sometimes) walking and (sometimes) riding."*
- Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) led the first group prayer from Quba Mosque when Al-Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) was the Qibla at the time. That Friday he left Quba with Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him). He sent a message to Banu Najjar, the house of his maternal grandfather. His kinsmen came to Quba and joined the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) on his way to Madinah.

**References:** History of Madinah Munawwarah – Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Abdul Ghani, When the Moon Split – Safiur Rahman Mubarakpuri, Muhammad – Martin Lings, History of Madina – Ali Hafiz



## MASJID QIBLATIN

### Masjid Qiblatain

This is Masjid Qiblatain (Mosque of the Two Qiblas). It is historically important to Muslims as this is where in Rajab 2 AH the revelation of the Quran came to

## change the direction of the qibla from Bait-al-Maqdis in Jerusalem to the Ka'bah in Makkah.

- During his time in Makkah, the Prophet Muhammed (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) used to pray towards Bait-al-Maqdis, with the Ka'bah in front of him. When he migrated to Madinah, he prayed towards Jerusalem for 16 months, but he hoped it would be changed to the Ka'bah.
- During Dhuhr prayer or it was said that it was Asr, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had led his Companions in praying two rak'ahs, when he was commanded to face towards the Ka'bah by the following revelation in the Quran in Surah al-Baqarah: *"Verily, We have seen the turning of your (Muhammed's) face towards the heaven. Surely, We shall turn you to a Qiblah (prayer direction) that shall please you, so turn your face in the direction of Al-Masjid Al-Haram (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction."* [2:144 ]
- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) turned around towards the Ka'bah and the Sahabah copied out of obedience. Thus the Ka'bah became the new qibla of the Muslims for all time to come.
- Masjid Qiblatain used to uniquely contains two mehrabs, one in the direction of Bait-al-Maqdis and the other towards Makkah. However, the old mehrab has now been covered.
- While it was a day of joy for the Muslims, it was a day of mourning for the Jews. The Muslims had now become completely independent of them and a prophecy in their old books had been fulfilled that the last of the great prophets would change the orientation of the religion of Allah from Jerusalem to the Ancient House of Ebrahim (upon him be peace). Their elders went as a body to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and said that if he would change his orientation back to Jerusalem, then they would follow him. Allah (Glorified and Exalted is He) revealed in the Holy Quran in Surah al-Baqarah: *"And even if thou broughtest unto those who have received the Scriptures all kinds of portents, they would not follow thy qibla, nor canst thou be a follower of their qiblah; nor are some of them followers of the qibla of others. And if thou shouldst follow their desires after the knowledge which has come unto thee, then surely wert thou of the evil doers."* [2:145]
- The Muslims began to have a distinctive character while the Jews began to grow closer to the hypocrites and the polytheists. Many of the Hypocrites reverted to either Judaism or paganism, thereby purifying the ranks of the Muslims.
- Imam Ahmed has reported from Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said: *"The People of the Book do not envy us for anything as much as they do for the Friday given to us by Allah with*

*which they are deprived. They also envy us for the qibla which Allah gave us but not them, and also for the aameen (recital after Surah Fatiha in salat) behind the imam.”*

**References:** TheTrueCall.com;geocities.com/mutmainaa, The life of Muhammad – Tahia Al-Ismael, When the Moon Split – Safiur Rahman Mubarakpuri, The Prophet Muhammad – Ibn Kathir



## **MOUNT UHUD**

### **Mount Uhud and site of battle**

This is a section of Mount Uhud, in front of which the second battle in Islam (the Battle of Uhud) took place in 3 AH. Of this mountain the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) declared, “This mountain loves us and we love it.” [Muslim]

- After the humiliating defeat in the Battle of Badr a year earlier, the Quraysh of Makkah made preparations to muster a great army to fight the Muslims again and

take revenge. They assembled an army of 3000 soldiers with 300 camels, 200 horses and 700 coats of mail. Wives and daughters of slain chiefs in Badr accompanied the army to see with their own eyes the spectacle of the killers being killed. Hind, the daughter of Utbah was the leader of the women's section and her husband Abu Sufyan was the commander-in-chief of the Makkah army. Both were not Muslims at the time but bitter enemies of Islam. The left and right flanks were commanded by Ikrimah ibn Abi Jahl and Khalid bin Waleed respectively. Amr ibn al-As was named the commander of cavalry and his task was to co-ordinate attack between the cavalry wings. (All three subsequently became Muslims and became great generals of Islam).

- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) left Madinah for the valley of Mount Uhud with a Muslim army of only 700 and drew up his troops for battle. Zubair bin al-Awwam (may Allah be pleased with him) was the commander of the right wing and Mundhir bin Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) was given the left wing of the army. Hamza (may Allah be pleased with him), the uncle of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was made the advance guard, Mus'ab bin Umair (may Allah be pleased with him) was chosen as the standard-bearer of Islam and Abu Dujanah (may Allah be pleased with him) was fortunate enough to receive the Prophet's sword (which was known as Zulfikar).
- Before the battle, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had put 50 archers under Abdullah bin Jubair (may Allah be pleased with him) at a mountainside and ordered them strictly to stay there until further orders, whatever may be the condition. They were to obstruct the enemy if they attacked the Muslims from the rear.
- The two armies set upon each other and a fierce battle ensued. The Muslim soldiers concentrated their attack on the eleven standard bearers of the pagans until they were all wiped out. As the enemy standards sank to the ground, the Muslim soldiers hurled themselves against the enemy. Abu Dujanah (may Allah be pleased with him) and Hamza (may Allah be pleased with him), fought with great fearlessness, and their heroic feats on the battlefield were to become legendary in Muslim military history.
- Tragically, Hamza (may Allah be pleased with him), the Lion of Allah, was martyred in the same battle he had dominated. He was killed by the javelin of Wahshi bin Harb, an Abyssinian slave, who with that successful throw earned his freedom from his master, Jubayr bin Mutim.
- Despite the loss of Hamza (may Allah be pleased with him), the Muslims managed to overcome the unbelievers who, faced with yet another defeat, began to flee. The pagan women also scattered as some of the Muslim soldiers gave chase.
- It was at this point of perceived victory that events began unravelling. The archers who had been entrusted with the safety of their brothers in faith disobeyed the

Prophet's clear orders and deserted their stations, thinking that the battle was over. Forty of the rearguards descended the mountain and left the Muslims vulnerable to a counter attack by the enemy.

- Khalid bin Waleed saw the sudden vacuum created by the disappearance of the rearguard and his cavalrymen attacked the Muslims from behind, killing many in the process. When the Muslims saw themselves surrounded, they were overtaken by panic and disorder and failed to map out a cohesive plan.
- The enemy fought their way close to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who was hit with a rock and fell on his side. One of his lower right teeth was broken, his lower lip was cut, and his helmet was damaged. As an enemy soldier thrust his sword at the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), he caught his bone below the eye, and two rings from the Prophet's helmet pierced his face. The blood ran down his face and he wiped it away, saying, *"How can a people prosper who have stained their Prophet's face with blood while he summoned them to their Lord!"*
- Mus'ab bin Umair (may Allah be pleased with him), was targeted by the enemy as he was the Muslims standard-bearer and he was killed. Since Mus'ab (may Allah be pleased with him) resembled the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) to a great extent, his killer, Abdullah bin Qam'a, thought he had slain the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and jubilantly shouted out that he had killed Muhammad.
- Rumours of the death of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) filtered through the Muslims, plummeting their morale. Grief stricken and lost, some of them simply abandoned the field, while others were infused with resolve and rallied saying, *"Come, let us die for what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) gave his life."*
- The crisis receded only when Ka'b bin Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) caught a glimpse of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), making his way to join the besieged Muslims. Ka'b recognised the Prophet's eyes although his face was covered with the helmet. He cried loudly, *"O Muslims, rejoice! Here is the Prophet"*.
- Ka'b's words galvanised the remaining Muslims, and they streamed to the Prophet's side. Within a short time thirty Companions assembled around him. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) decided against further combat, wisely choosing to retreat. He made his way through the rows and successfully led his troops towards the mountain pass.
- By retreating, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) managed to save his army from further losses; losses that had come about from simple disobedience of his orders. Disobedience had changed the Muslim victory into

catastrophe, but with Allah’s help the Muslims were pulled back from the edge of disaster.

**References:** History of Madinah Munawwarah – Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Abdul Ghani, Fazail-e-Aamal – Sheikh Muhammad Zakariyya Kandhalvi, The life of Muhammad – Tahia Al-Ismael, When the Moon Split – Safiur Rahman Mubarakpuri



## JANNATUL BAQI

### Jannatul Baqi

**Jannatul Baqi (Garden of Heaven) is the main cemetery of Madinah. Buried there are many members of the Prophet’s (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) close family, around ten thousand of his companions (Sahabah) and many prominent, pious personalities.**

- Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) reported (that whenever it was her turn for the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) to spend the night with her) he would go out towards the end of the night to al-Baqi and say: *“Peace be upon you, abode of a people who are believers. What you were promised would come to you tomorrow, you receiving it after some delay; and God willing we shall join you. O Allah, grant forgiveness to the inhabitants of Baqi al-Gharqad.”* [Muslim]

- Baqi means the land in which the roots of different trees are embedded, Gharqad is the name of a thorny tree (Boxthorn) which were abundant in Baqi. Hence the cemetery also came to be known as Baqi al-Gharqad.
- The first person to be buried in al-Baqi was As'ad Bin Zararah (may Allah be pleased with him), an Ansari companion who died soon after the Prophet 's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) migration to Madinah. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) chose the spot to be a cemetery. The first of the Muhajirun (Emigrants) to be buried there was Uthman bin Mazoun who died shortly after the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) returned from the battle of Badr.

Some of the blessed personalities resting in Jannatul Baqi are:

- All the wives of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), also known as the Mothers of the Believers including Aisha, Hafsa, Sawdah (may Allah be pleased with them) etc. except for Khadijah bint Khuwaylid who is buried in Makkah and Maymuna bint al-Harith who is buried in Sarif.
- The daughters of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), Fatima, Ruqayyah, Zainab and Umme Kulthum (may Allah be pleased with them)
- Ebrahim (may Allah be pleased with him), the infant son of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) by Maria al-Qibtiyya
- Hasan (may Allah be pleased with him), the grandson of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)
- Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him), the uncle of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)
- The aunts of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), Safiyyah and Aatikah (may Allah be pleased with them)
- Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him), the third Caliph and son-in-law of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)
- Halimah Saadia , the wet-nurse of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)
- Sa'ad bin Abi Waqqas (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Abdur-Rehman bin Auf (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Abdullah bin Mas'ood (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Abu Saeed Khudri (may Allah be pleased with him)
- Imam Malik (may Allah be pleased with him)
- During different times of history many domes and structures were built or rebuilt over many famous graves in Al-Baqi in order to identify the inhabitants. On April 21, 1925, mausoleums, domes and structures in Jannatul Baqi were demolished by the order of King Abdul Aziz Al Saud with the objective of complying with the hadith of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) to not cover or build structures over any grave and to prevent people from seeking help from the dead.

- It is virtuous to visit Jannatul Baqi (preferably on a Friday) and supplicate to Allah (Glorified and Exalted is He) for all those buried in its noble earth.

**References:** History of Madinah Munawwarah – Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Abdul Ghani, Wikipedia, Virtues of Hajj – Sheikh Muhammad Zakariyya Kandhalvi



## Riadhul Jannah and mehrab

The area between the sacred chamber and the Pulpit (Mimbar) is known as the Riadhul Jannah i.e. Garden of Paradise. It is presently distinguished by a green carpet and is also referred to as Rawdah.

- Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said:  
*“Between my house and my pulpit lays a garden from the gardens of Paradise, and my pulpit is upon my fountain (Al-Kauthar).”* [Bukhari]
- Scholars have interpreted the above narration as follows: The Garden is parallel to a garden above it in Paradise. Or it is in reality a garden of paradise, which will be returned to paradise in the hereafter. Or it is like the gardens of paradise, because the peace and tranquility which is experienced in it when engaged in the

remembrance of Allah resembles that of paradise. [Akhbar Madina tur Rasool, Ibn Najjar]

- The original size is approximately 22 meters in length and 15 meters in width, part of it is in the chamber of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

### **Mehrab (Prayer niche):**

- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) prayed for about 16 months facing towards Al-Quds in Jerusalem on his arrival in Madinah. If one was to walk away from the 'Aisha column', leaving it towards your back, the fifth column will be in line with the door marked as Bab-e-Jibraeel. This fifth column was the approximate praying spot of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) for the above period. It was near to the extreme north boundary of the original mosque.
- After the change in Qiblah, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) offered salat near Aisha's column for a short period while facing towards the Ka'bah. Later he started leading salat at the spot where the Mehrab Nabwi is nowadays. Note that there was no mehrab at this spot during the period of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and the four Caliphs.
- In 91 AH, Umar bin Abdul Aziz made a praying niche in the form of a mehrab. Since then it is called Mehrab Nabwi. If you were to stand in the mehrab for offering salat, your place of sajda will be where Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) feet used to be. The Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) place of sajda is intentionally covered by the thick wall of the mehrab.

### **Mimbar (pulpit):**

- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) used to lean against the trunk of a palm tree when he was tired or exhausted while delivering a sermon. The Ansar humbly suggested to him, *"If you approve, we can make a pulpit for you."* The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) approved it and a pulpit was made. Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) sat on this pulpit to make an address. When the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) started using the new pulpit, the old tree yearned for him like a camel missing its calf. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) hugged the trunk until it had calmed down and then ordered that a ditch be dug and the trunk buried decently into it.
- The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) used to stand on the third rung while delivering his sermons. When Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) became caliph, he stood on the second rung and Umar bin Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) stood on the first. Caliph Usman bin Affan did as Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) had done for six years before he returned to the old position of the Prophet. Amir Muawiyah (may Allah be pleased with him) made a pulpit

consisting of nine rungs. The leaders started sitting on the seventh rung. The pulpit has since been kept in this form and the Khateeb has been sitting on the seventh rung since that time.

- The pulpit has been replaced on many occasions throughout the centuries. The present pulpit was put up by Sultan Murad in 998 AH.

**References:** History of Madinah Munawwarah – Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Abdul Ghani, Wikipedia History of Madina – Ali Hafiz