

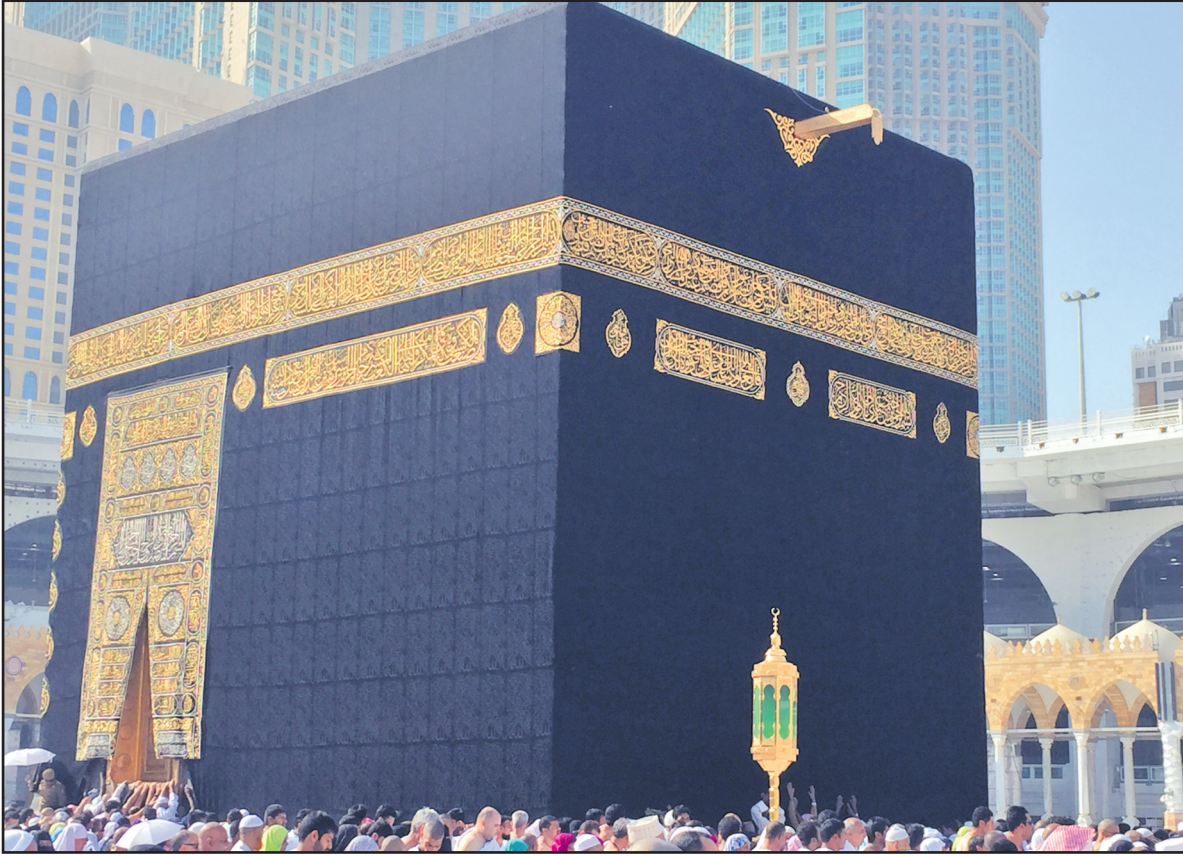


Stories from the Hijaz

THE MAKKAH CHRONICLES



The golden Meezab-e-Rahmah



The golden meezab is positioned above the Hijr Ismail, near the top of the Kaabah.

SALIM PARKER

THE meezab is the golden spout from where rainwater on the roof of the Kaabah falls onto the Hijr Ismail, in the Hateem area.

It is reported that the Prophet (SAW) supplicated under the meezab, which is commonly referred to as the 'Meezab-e-Rahmah' (Water Outlet of Mercy). The Quraish were the first to construct a roof on the Kaabah when they reconstructed it after it had been damaged by floods.

Nabi Muhammad (SAW) was about 35-years-old at the time. The Quraish then attached a downpipe from the roof.

The meezab was remodelled

when the Kaabah was renovated in 1417 AH (1996). The dimensions were retained as they were when the Ottoman emperor, Sultan Abdul Majeed Khan, renovated the meezab in 1273 AH. (1855/56)

In 1039 AH (1630), because of heavy rain, flood and hail, two of the walls of the Kaabah collapsed. The flood during which this occurred took place on the 19th of Shabaan, 1039 AH (April 2, 1630) which continued relentlessly.

It is reported that the water levels rose to nearly halfway up the walls.

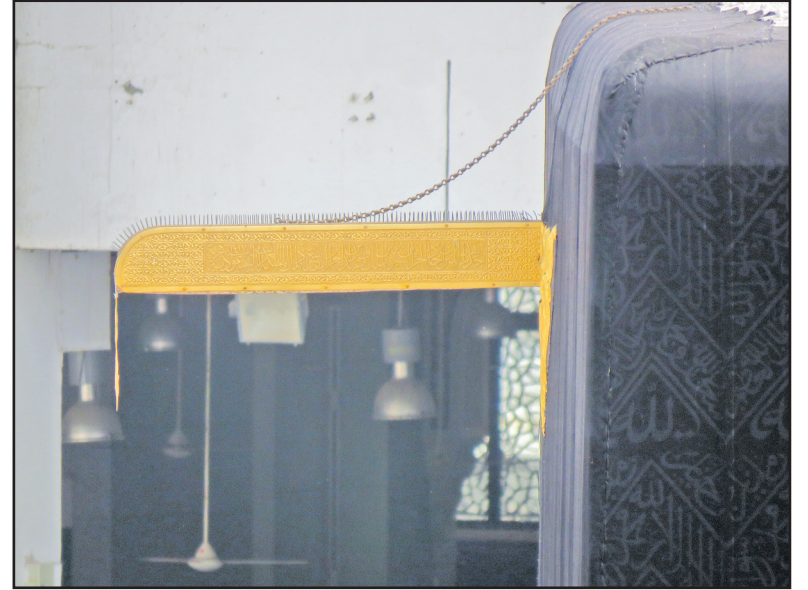
The next day, the eastern and western walls collapsed. The flood receded on Friday, Shabaan 21,

and the clean-up process started in earnest.

The reconstruction of the Kaabah started on the 26th of Ramadan (May 9, 1630). By the 2nd of Dhul-Hijjah, 1040 (July 2, 1631), the construction was taking place under the guidance of Sultan Murad Khan, the Ottoman khalifah.

From the point of the Hajaratul Aswad (Black Stone) and below, the current construction is the same as that done by Abdullah ibn az-Zubayr.

The construction which was done under the auspices of Murad Khan was exactly the one done at the time of Abdul Malik ibn Marwan, which is the way the Quraish



The sharp spikes on the spout of the meezab prevent birds from perching or nesting there.

Photo SALIM PARKER



A close-up view of the water outlet leading to the meezab of the Kaabah.

Photo SALIM PARKER

had built it before Prophethood.

The gutter and outlet pipes were included in this reconstruction. In 1854, Abdulmejid I, the Ottoman sultan (1839-1861), ordered a golden gutter.

A major reconstruction of the Kaabah took place between May 1996 and October 1996. This was after a period of about 400 years (since Sultan Murad Khan's time).

During this reconstruction, the

only original parts left of the Kaabah are the stones.

All other material have been replaced, including the ceiling and the roof and its wood.

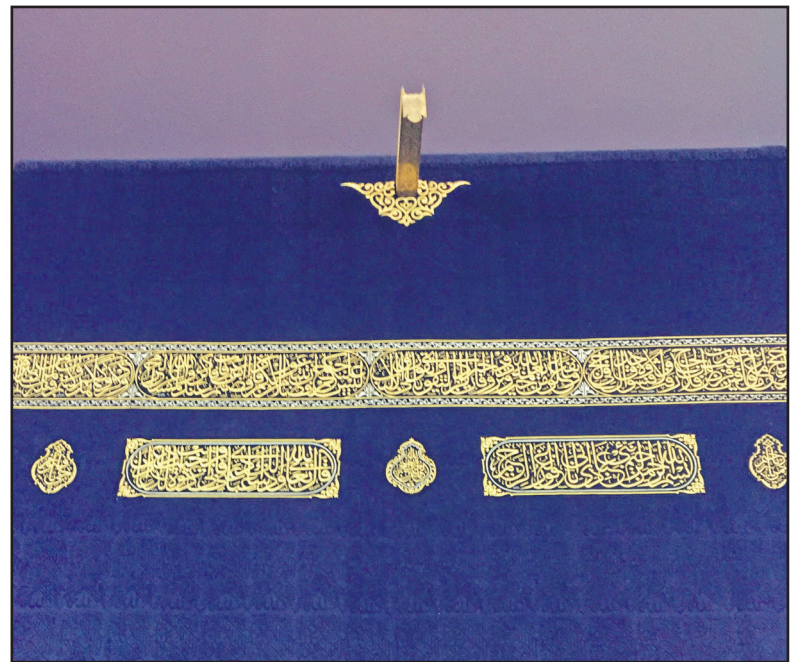
The recent gutter was handcrafted from pure gold at the behest of the late King Fahd.

This gutter is also known as the 'rainspout of blessing' and Muslims believe that prayers under the gutter are granted by Allah.



The box-shaped roof of the Kaabah leads to water accumulation, hence the need for the meezab to allow the water to flow away.

Photo SALIM PARKER



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