

min ḥawādīth al-zamān. Ed. Khalīl al-Manṣūr. Beirut: Dār al-Kitāb al-‘Ilmiyya, 1417/1997.

Yāqūt. *Mu‘jam*.

Zabīdī. *Tāj*.

Zamakhsarī. *Kashshāf*.

al-Zarkashī, Abū ‘Abd Allāh Badr al-Dīn Muḥammad b. ‘Abd Allāh. *al-Baḥr al-muḥīṭ fī uṣūl al-fiqh*. Ed. ‘Abd al-Qādir ‘Abd Allāh al-‘Ānī. 6 vols. Kuwait: Wizārat al-Awqāf wa al-Shu‘ūn al-Islāmiyya, 1413/1992.

Zarkashī. *Burhān*.

See also: ĀDAM, UPON HIM PEACE; BĀBIL; BEDOUIN; COMPILATION OF THE QUR’ĀN; CANONICAL READINGS; INIMITABILITY OF THE QUR’ĀN; ISMĀ‘ĪL, UPON HIM PEACE; LANGUAGE AND SPEECH; MAKKA; PARABLES OF THE QUR’ĀN; PEOPLE; QURAYSH; RHETORIC AND ELOQUENCE; SCRIPT OF THE QUR’ĀN; SEVEN MODES.

**MUHAMMAD UMAR
(BASIT KAREEM IQBAL)**

al-A‘rāf

See HEIGHTS

‘ARAFĀT

‘Arafāt (alternate spelling ‘Arafa) is the name of the plain where the standing-vigil of Hajj (*wuqūf al-ḥajj*) takes place on the Day of ‘Arafa, the ninth day of Dhūl-Ḥijja, and, by extension, the name of the greatest and indispensable pillar (*rukṅ*) of Hajj (*q.v.*), the standing itself. It is mentioned once in the Qur’ān (Q 2:198) and is implicitly referred to in the verse that follows: *You will be committing no sin at all if [during the pilgrimage] you seek any bounty from your Sustainer; and when you surge forth from ‘Arafāt, remember Allah at the sacred place—remember Him as the One who has guided you, and, indeed, you were among the misguided before this [guidance]. And surge onward from where [other] people surge onward and seek forgiveness from Allah; indeed, Allah is Abundantly-Forgiving, Most Merciful* (Q 2:198-199). Some Companions and many early Qur’ān exegetes also considered the phrase *the Day of the Great Hajj* (*al-yawm al-ḥajj al-akbar*) in Q 9:3 to refer to the Day of ‘Arafa, while others attributed it to the Day of Sacrifice, the tenth of Dhūl-Ḥijja (Ṭabarī, *sub* Q 9:3).

Derivation and Definition

Derived from the root ‘-r-f, ‘Arafāt is a singular proper noun in the form of a plural, like *muslimāt* (“Muslim women”) and *mu‘mināt* (“Believing women”); it is not pluralized and it does not admit the article “al-” (Ibn Manzūr; Zabīdī; Rāghib; Fayrūzābādī, *Qāmūs*,

sub ‘-r-f). Other cognates from the same trilateral root include ‘*arafa* (recognizing and knowing); *a‘rāf* (heights); ‘*arf* (fragrance); and ‘*wf* (custom, goodness). The plain of ‘Arafāt is so-named, according to ‘Alī b. Abī Ṭālib, may Allah be well-pleased with him, because “Allah Most High sent Jibrīl (*q.v.*) to Ibrāhīm (*q.v.*), peace be upon them; he performed the Hajj with him. When they reached ‘Arafāt, Jibrīl asked Ibrāhīm: ‘Have you recognized [this place]?’—to which he replied: ‘Indeed, I already know it (*qad ‘araftu*)’, because he had been there twice before. The place was thus named ‘Arafāt” (Ṭabarī, *sub* Q 2:198). Al-Ṭabarī (d. 310/923) also narrates similar reports from Ibn ‘Abbās and Ibn ‘Umar, may Allah be well-pleased with them. It is also said that this name is given to the plain because Ādam, upon him peace (*q.v.*), and his partner Ḥawwa (Eve) (*q.v.*) met there after their descent from Paradise (Ibn Manzūr; Rāghib; Ibn Fāris; Fayrūzābādī; Zabīdī). Other reasons mentioned for the origin of the name include: (i) its being a sanctified and magnified place (Rāghib; Fayrūzābādī, *Qāmūs*); and (ii) its being a place where Allah’s servants present themselves to Allah Most High through supplications and worship (Yāqūt, *Buldān*, *sub* ‘Arafāt; Rāghib, *sub* ‘-r-f). In addition to ‘Arafāt, several other cognates from the root ‘-r-f occur 70 times in the Qur’ān.

Geographical Location

Bounded by Mount ‘Arafa on the north, the once verdant and populated plain (Yāqūt, *Buldān*, ‘Arafāt) on the road to Ṭā‘if is now a red sandy tract where only a few desert shrubs grow. It is located outside the sacred precinct (*al-ḥaram*), approximately 20 km east of Makka. The plain of ‘Arafāt is about 13 km long at its maximum length along the north-south axis and 7 km wide at its maximum width along the east-west axis; its geographical coordinates are 21° 21’ 34” north and 39° 57’ 59” east. To the east, the plain of ‘Arafāt is bounded by the mountain range of Ṭā‘if; to the south it is now crossed by several parallel highways which run eastward to Ṭā‘if and westward to Makka. To its west is the Valley of ‘Urana, which has a mosque at the western-most edge of the plain of ‘Arafāt. This mosque—variously known as Masjīd ‘Arafa, Masjīd Ibrāhīm, and Masjīd Namira—was built on the site where the Prophet rested upon his arrival at ‘Arafāt from Minā on 9 Dhūl-Ḥijja, 10AH. To the northeast of Masjīd Namira, almost in the middle of the plain, is Jabal al-Raḥma, the Mount of Mercy—a 60-meter high, detached granite hill, which is also named