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'THE SANCTUARY IN MECCA'. MULTICOLOR PRINT, PAPER

MIDDLE EAST; 20TH CENTURY

H: 34; W: 49 CM

Surrounded by the Holy Mosque, *al-Masjid al-Haram*, stands the sixteen-meter-tall cubic Kaaba. Shortly after they arrive in Mecca, pilgrims first walk around the Kaaba seven times and then walk back and forth between two hills, al-Safa and al-Marwa. They carry out a large number of rituals the following days in both Mecca and its environs. On the 10th day of the month of *Dhu al-Hijja*, they begin the great feast of *Eid al-Adha* to commemorate Abraham's willingness to serve God by sacrificing his son. Ritual sacrifices of sheep and goats are made on this occasion throughout the Islamic world. In conclusion, pilgrims drink or are sprinkled with water from the Zamzam Well in the courtyard of the holy mosque.

This print shows an idealized and schematic picture of the Holy Mosque in the center of Mecca. Around the mosque's courtyard are a number of tall minarets.

The heading exhorts the beholder to make the pilgrimage as often as possible. Prints like this one have been popular decorations in private homes as well as offices and coffee houses during the past century.

Published in:

Kjeld von Folsach, Torben Lundbæk and Peder Mortensen (eds.):  
*Sultan, Shah and Great Mughal: the history and culture of the Islamic world*, The National Museum, Copenhagen 1996, cat.no. 21;  
Stig T. Rasmussen: *Klassisk arabisk litteratur i oversættelse til dansk: en litteraturhistorisk vejvisende antologi*, København 2018, pp. 230-231;