

The Semblance of Worship in kissing the Hajar Aswad

Q: Imaan-37: Non-Muslims object to our kissing of the Hajar Aswad, saying that it is form of worship. What is the answer to this?

Answer: The Hajar Aswad is kissed as a token of love and not for worship, not to show reverence to it and not because it is a means to fulfilling one's needs.

The reply to this objection was in fact given more than fourteen hundred years ago when Rasulullaah SAW stood before the Hajar Aswad and said, "I know well that you are just a stone that can neither do harm nor good and I would never have kissed you had my Rabb not commanded me to kiss you."

In a like manner, when the second Khalifah Hadhrat Umar RDI was making Tawaaf and was about to kiss the Hajar Aswad, he first addressed it with these words because there were several new Muslims present, "I know well that you are just a stone that can neither do harm nor good and I would never have kissed you had I not seen Rasulullaah SAW kiss you."

Had the Muslims regarded the Hajar Aswad as a deity that fulfils their needs, why would they ever address it in this manner? The kiss is done out of love, just as a person would kiss his children or his wife. Can it be said that he worships his children and wife and regards them to be deities who can fulfil his needs? Not at all.

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