

# RECHARGING FAITH MULTIPLE UMRAH PRACTICES OF MIDDLE CLASS

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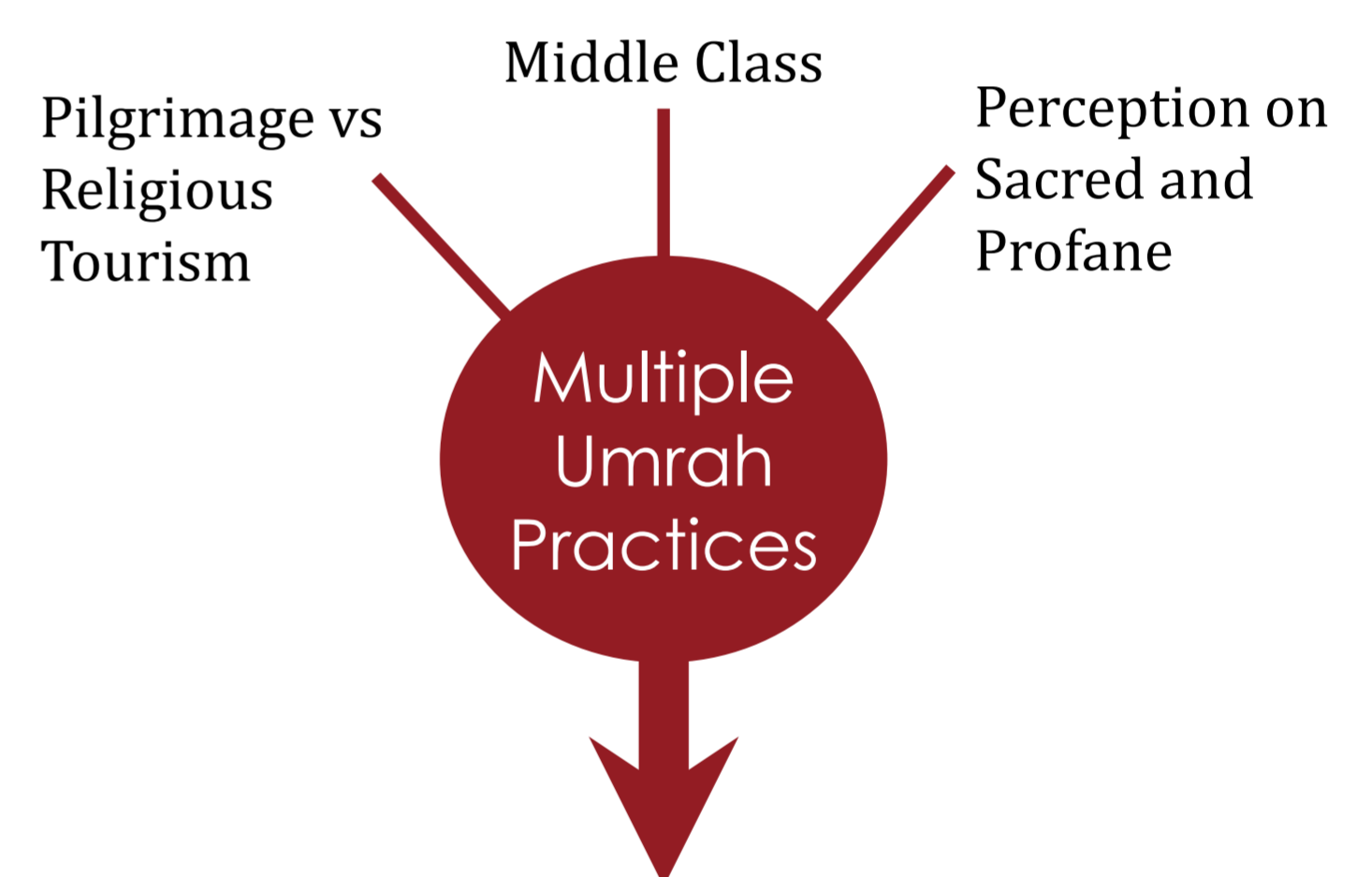
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LOW SEASON			HIGH SEASON		
Jan-Feb-Mar-Apr 2014			May-Jun 2014		
Jan	05,12,26		Mei	11,18,21,28	
Feb	02,09,16,23		Jun	08,15,22,25	
Mar	02,09,16,23				
Apr	06,13,20,30				
	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Gold</b>		<b>Silver</b>	<b>Gold</b>
Quad	\$2,100	\$2,375	Quad	\$2,175	\$2,450
Triple	\$2,150	\$2,475	Triple	\$2,225	\$2,525
Double	\$2,275	\$2,575	Double	\$2,275	\$2,625

ACCOMODATION		
	Silver	Gold
Mecca	Mubaroq	Al Haram
Medina	Al Marsya	Zam-Zam Group
Flight	GA/SQ	

## BEYOND UMRAH



## THE SMALL PILGRIMAGE

Muslim middle class in Yogyakarta (Indonesia) in this research practice umrah for a certain regular time, such as once or twice a year. Considering the amount spent for an umrah trip, which is around US\$ 2,000 – US\$ 3,000, this practice is obviously expensive, compared to the average income of the middle class society in Indonesia, starting from a minimum of US\$ 3,000 per year (Economist, 2011). Although implying that umrah does not merely depend on financial strength, informants arrange a special financial planning for this practice.

Using life history interviews reveals that people committing multiple umrah trips are influenced by the religious tradition during their childhood. The research suggests that the reason for practicing multiple umrah trips is the idea of “charging” the informants’ faith, by fulfilling the calling from Allah. Being regarded as an investment, umrah is considered as a strengthening factor for informants in order to ease them facing their daily live, due to the feeling of closeness to Allah. The informants’ estimation of the most charging sacred place, be it Mecca or Medina, varies. Moreover, informants are also actively engaged in social activities, while still managing their professional and personal role. Letting people in their surroundings know about their visits to Mecca and Medina is an essential part of their multiple journeys. In addition, some touristic practices such as shopping for souvenirs are also dominant in this practice.

*“...like a handphone that need to be charged, umrah is a charging for our faith. Practicing umrah is a part of fulfilling God’s calling. For me, this practice is not merely driven by a strong financial background”*

- Mrs. Ranti, Yogyakarta (Feb, 2014)

## OUTLOOK

Taking these results into consideration we see that umrah is regarded as a meaningful investment in the people’s social status as well as their status before Allah. Nevertheless caring for others, taking part in social activities, becomes relevant too.