

The expressions of Indonesian muslims in performing the umrah pilgrimage to Mecca

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Abstrak

Minor Islamic pilgrimages (umrah) are increasingly being studied as part of commodified pilgrimages in the age of trade and tourism. This relatively modern construction has restricted researchers' understandings of practices like pilgrimages to the graves of saints. This article compares two imagined Indonesian Muslim religio-cultural communities performing umrah, utilizing a hybrid ethnography method to obtain data. The paper is structured in two sections. Firstly, it discusses how traditionalist Muslims understand umrah as a means of maintaining the authority of the teachings of Sufi ulam. This group adopts the ethical principles of Sufi practices, which involve three key elements: reverence for Sufi ulam, observance of sacred times, and the recitation of prayers to obtain intercession (shafah) and blessings in life (barkah). The second section explores how another group, guided by Muslim ethics, aligns umrah journeys with the principles of capitalism within Islam. Using global and cosmopolitan Muslim perspectives, these spiritual reformers and coaches approach umrah by creating practices suitable for the aspirations of the middle-class Muslims. They tailor the practice of umrah, based on Islamic practices, to account for the ethical principles of self-managing individuals. This comparative presentation demonstrates diverse Muslim experiences, refraining from a homogenous expression of the umrah. Ultimately, this paper advocates for more comprehensive studies of the umrah pilgrimage in Indonesia, including ones that focus on nuanced expressions of pilgrims and diverse roles played by Islamic religious authorities, moving beyond simplified commercial interpretations.