

which, as toward the shrine of their religion, the prayers and pilgrim-journeys of millions have gravitated for thirteen centuries. The story goes that when Adam and Eve fell from Paradise, Adam landed on a mountain in Ceylon and Eve fell at Jiddah,¹ on the western coast of Arabia. After a hundred years of wandering they met near Mecca and here Allah constructed for them a tabernacle on the site of the present Kaaba. He put in its foundation the famous stone, once whiter than snow, but since turned black by the kisses of pilgrims.

The Kaaba or Moslem temple at Mecca stands in an oblong space 250 paces long by 200 broad. This open space is surrounded by colonnades used for schools and as the general rendezvous of pilgrims. It is in turn surrounded by the outer temple wall, with its nineteen gates and six minarets. The Mosque is of much more recent date than the Kaaba, which was well known as an idolatrous Arabian shrine long before the time of Mohammed. The Sacred Mosque and its Kaaba contain the following treasures: the Black Stone, the well of Zemzem, the great pulpit, the staircase and the Kubattein, or two small mosques of Kaab and Abbas. The remainder of the space is occupied by pavements and gravel arranged to accommodate and dis-

Setting of the
Kaaba

¹ Jiddah signifies "grandmother."