

tinguish the four orthodox sects in their devotions.

The Black Stone and Aerolite

The Black Stone is undoubtedly the oldest treasure of Mecca. Stone-worship was an Arabian form of idolatry in very ancient times, and relics of it remain in many parts of the peninsula. Maximus Tyrius wrote in the second century, "The Arabians pay homage to I know not what god, which they represent by a quadrangular stone." It is probably an aerolite and owes its reputation to its fall from the sky.

Duty to Make Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage to Mecca is incumbent on every free Moslem, male or female, who is of age and has sufficient means for the journey. Many of them, unwilling to undergo the hardship of the journey, engage a substitute, and thus purchase the merit for themselves. Most Moslems also visit the tomb of Mohammed at Medina and claim the prophet's authority for this added merit. The Shiah Moslems visit Kerbela and Meshad Ali, where their martyr-saints are buried.

Other Religious Practises

In addition to what is said about these "five pillars" of the faith, a word is necessary regarding certain other Moslem practises, if we are to complete the sketch of every-day religion.

Circumcision

Circumcision, although not once alluded to in the Koran, is the initiative rite among all Moslems everywhere, and in that respect it corre-