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Al-Kadhimiya Mosque (Arabic: **مَسْجِدُ الْكَاظِمِيَّةِ**, romanized: Masjid Al-Kāẓimiyyah) or Al-Kadhimayn Shrine (Arabic: **حَرَمُ الْكَاظِمَيْنِ**, romanized: Ḥaram Al-Kāẓimayn) is a Shi'ite Islamic mosque and shrine located in the Kādhimayn suburb of Baghdad, Iraq. It contains the tombs of the seventh and ninth Twelver Shī'ī Imāms, respectively Mūsā al-Kāẓim and his grandson Muhammad al-Jawad. Also buried within the premises of this mosque are the historical scholars Shaykh Muḥid and Shaykh Naṣīr ad-Dīn aṭ-Ṭūsī.^{[1][2][3]} Directly adjacent to the mosque are two smaller shrines, belonging to the brothers Sayyid Raḍī (who compiled Nahjul-Balāghah) and Sayyid Murtadā.

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History[edit]

The mosque is built on the site of the Qureish cemetery, which was created with the original Round City of Baghdad in 762 AD. This cemetery became the burial site of the Imam Mūsā al-Kāẓim in 799 AD, followed by his grandson Imam Muhammad al-Jawad in 834 AD. The current building dates to the restoration carried out by Shah Ismail I from 1502–1524. It was further ornamented by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent after he conquered Baghdad in 1534. Since, it has continued to be kept in a state of good repair.[4]

Repairs and maintenance[edit]

Inner structure[edit]

Repairs to the crumbling structure of the main courtyard of the mosque and its surrounding rooms were carried out in three phases, spanning a period of four months, before the end of 2007.[5] The project entailed the stripping off of the old crumbling walls throughout the courtyard, the addition of various reinforcements to the walls and ceilings, as well as maintenance on the electrical wirings throughout the mosque.[5] Once the inner structure was completed, the floors and walls were then plated in various kinds of marble.[5] Updates to the cooling units of the mosque began in late 2008,[6] and new water filtration units were installed on November 28, 2008.[7]

Construction on the new ladies entrance to the mosque, that is Bāb al-Fāṭimah (Arabic: باب الفاطمة), began in late 2008,[8] along with the construction work for new rooms to the mosque meant for serving refreshments to pilgrims.[9]

Outer structure[edit]

Among the earliest of repairs done to the mosque, after the fall of the regime of Saddam Hussein, were repairs done to one of the entrance gates of the mosque known as Bāb al-Qiblah (Arabic: باب القبلة).[10] The gate and the outer wall had to be entirely refurbished because of the severe neglect they had withstood, and took seven months to complete, having started in early September 2006.[10]

The golden dome over the grave of Muhammad at-Taqī was re-gilded and unveiled to the public in March 2008, during the birthday celebrations of Muhammad and his descendant, Jaʿfar as-Sādiq.[2] Repair work on the dome over the grave of Mūsā al-Kādhim began in early August 2008, during the birthday ceremonies of Husayn ibn ʿAlī, ʿAbbās ibn ʿAlī, and ʿAlī ibn Husayn.[3]

Recent timeline[edit]

Date Event

March 2, 2004 At least 75 people were killed and hundreds others were wounded as crowds had gathered to commemorate ʿĀshūrāʾ.[11] Concurrent explosions also occurred at the Imām Husayn Mosque in Karbalā.

August 31, 2005 This mosque was the destination of the crowd that was caught up in the Baghdad bridge stampede.

June 6, 2007 At least 7 people were killed after twin car bombings occurred near the mosque.[12]

June 27, 2007 A car bomb killed at least 14 people and injured 22 others.[13]

March 25, 2008 The freshly gilded dome over the grave of Muhammad at-Taḳī was unveiled to the public, as crowds had gathered in celebration for the birthday of Muhammad as well as his descendant, Jaʿfar as-Sādiq.[2]

December 27, 2008 A car bomb killed at least 24 people and wounded 46 others, many of them Shiite pilgrims. The explosion occurred about 100 yards from Bab al-Dirwaza, one of the main gates to the shrine.[14]

January 4, 2009 A male suicide bomber dressed as a woman,[15] killed 38 and injured 72 Shia pilgrims as they were preparing for 'Āshūrā'.[16][17]

April 8, 2009 7 people were killed and 23 others were wounded after a bomb that was left in a plastic bag near the mosque detonated.[15][18][19]

April 24, 2009 Two female suicide bombers killed at least 66 people and wounded 125 others as people were heading towards the mosque for Friday prayers.[15][20]

May 2, 2016 A triple car bomb series goes off. At least 21 pilgrims are killed and 45 injured. The pilgrims were commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Musa Al-Kadhim. Immediately after the blasts terrorists group ISIS claim the responsibility.[15][21]

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