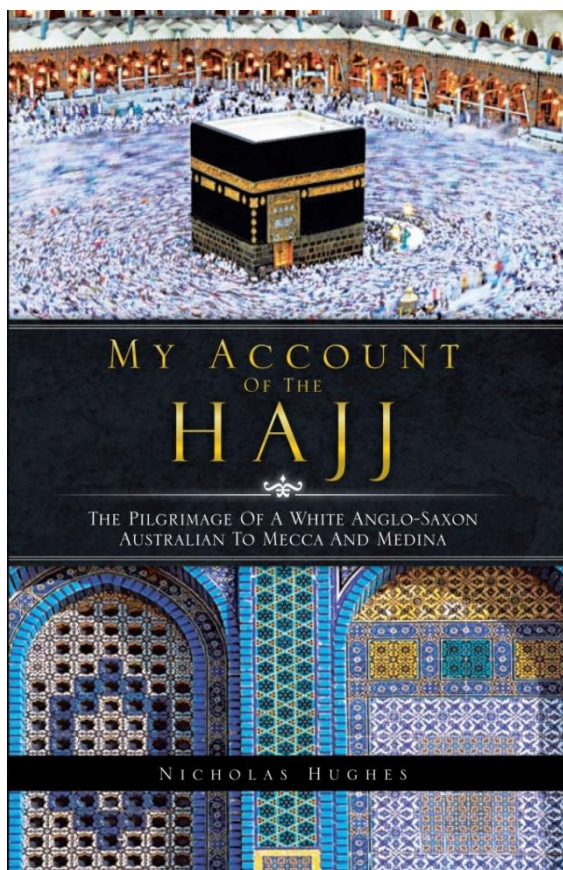


MY ACCOUNT OF THE HAJJ:

The Pilgrimage of a White Anglo-Saxon Australian to Mecca and Medina

Nicholas Hughes



About the Book

Rare are works that combine personal revelations with explanations of Islam in a manner to which westerners can easily relate. The beauty of Nicholas' *Account of the Hajj* is that an Australian farm boy with an education imbued in Christian principles, and a lifetime of exposure to religions and cultures in the Arab world and South and South-East Asia, can relate to and convey in a straight-forward manner Islamic beliefs and practices that many may consider foreign.

Nicholas has done a great service to those interested in religions and spirituality in his descriptions of the rites of the Hajj and explanations of their origins and meaning.

As a diary, the work animates the daily life of the pilgrim in an engaging style reminiscent of writings from earlier periods of exploration. Nick expresses a personal revelation, "the Hajj inspires a deep sense of serenity, humility and affinity with the Almighty". The Hajj is both a voyage to Mecca as well as a recommitment to a lifelong spiritual journey.

He writes, "If *My Account of the Hajj* can contribute to inter-cultural and religious understanding, I am happy to have shared it with others".

About the Author

Nicholas grew up on a sheep farm in Australia and was educated in a Christian college in Adelaide. He married Fatma, an Indonesian of Arab descent in 1976 and became a Muslim with the name *Ikhlas*, meaning 'sincere, of one's heart and soul', Nick worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in South and South-East Asia, and has visited many Arab countries with his wife.

They, together with their daughter, performed the Hajj in 1992 at the invitation of the Indonesian Ambassador to Italy and as members of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hajj contingent.

Nick finalised his *Account of the Hajj* two decades later, in retirement in Indonesia, as part of a lifelong spiritual journey. They now live on a farm in the mountains outside Jakarta growing rice, tropical fruits and goats. He is currently studying the origins of Arabs in Indonesia between his travels climbing mountains and studying the ecology of this amazingly diverse country.

Photograph (cover page - top)

A time-elapse photo of pilgrims performing the *Tawaf*, the seven circumambulations of the Ka'bah, in the Al-Haram Mosque, Mecca, in preparation for the Hajj.



Wife and daughter of the author in *Ihram* attire in preparation for the Hajj, 1992

Women in ihram attire are indistinguishable in a crowd because their mukenah leaves only a small oval face exposed. Everyone's concern was to avoid losing their women members in the crowds. The practical solution was for women to attach some form of identification on top of their mukenah. Our group settled for very pretty, lilac-coloured bows.

Follow *My Account of the Hajj* on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nicholas-Hughes/137264723113507>

Buy the book

My Account of the Hajj explains the rites and meaning of the Hajj through the cultural lens of a White Anglo-Saxon Australian – Professor Lindsay Falvey, Sydney, Australia

'If *My Account of the Hajj* can contribute to inter-cultural and religious understanding, I am happy to have shared it with others'. - Nicholas Hughes, Jakarta, Indonesia

Preview/buy the book

Institute for International Development, Adelaide: www.iid.org - pending

Commercial sites: hard cover, paperback and e-book

Trafford Publishing: <http://www.traffordpublishing.com.sg/books/MY-ACCOUNT-OF-THE-HAJJ.aspx>

Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/ACCOUNT-HAJJ-PILGRIMAGE-ANGLO-SAXON-AUSTRALIAN/dp/1466932309/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1365412707&sr=1-2

Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/my-account-of-the-hajj-nicholas-hughes/1114490034>

Direct Sales (Australia) – paperback

\$15.50, including handling/packaging/postage within Australia

Orders: email: <nhbhughes@gmail.com>