

## Tributes to Mehboob Kamadia

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After graduating from the University of Toronto in 2000, MK embarked on a pioneering project seeking to disseminate knowledge about world civilizations in general, and Muslim Civilization in particular to tourists and holidaymakers. This innovative approach gave birth to ground-breaking cultural tours which MK continues to lead. Its impact is palpable in the tributes MK has earned from global tourists and holidaymakers. A segment of these tributes is provided in this section.

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51 Tributes

### Educating Through Cultural Tourism

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1. **Each Ismaili should promote the tours MK leads**

"The tours designed, directed and escorted by Mehboob Kamadia somehow need to be widely recognized, appreciated and promoted by each one of us" - Sameena, USA

2. **We are so privileged of having MK in the Ismaili Jamat**

"We are so privileged to have an individual in our Jamat [Community] who offers his services in order to enrich our knowledge. You cannot put a value on his 'scholarship touch' which comes along with his tours. He is an individual who loves to share his knowledge with extreme enthusiasm." - Gulnar, former Kamadiani Saheba, Vancouver

3. **MK' tours have an positive impact in peoples' lives**

"My family's experience with Mehboob Kamadia last spring [to Syria, Jordan, Egypt & Paris] was incredible ...Mehboob Kamadia makes a difference in peoples' lives and that is something he should be aware." - Dr Rajwani, former Vice-President for Council for Canada and current ICT Mukhi Saheb, Canada

4. **Only the very fortunate travel with MK**

"Only the very fortunate get to travel with Mehboob Kamadia." - Alnoor, former Kamadia Saheb, Vancouver

5. **Only the privilege few have travelled with MK**

"Only the privileged few will get an opportunity to accompany Mehboob Kamadia and we highly recommend to anyone who is interested in learning more about our religion and history to make every effort to join MK on his future trips." - Munir & Laila, former Mukhi and Mukhiani Sahebans, Toronto

6. **The way MK shares knowledge is truly remarkable & admirable**

"The whole tour to Egypt, Jordan, Syria & Turkey was organised so well and enjoyable. Looking after every individual's comfort with always a smiling face makes you feel whole heartedly welcome. The way Mehboob Kamadia shares his wisdom and knowledge of history with elders and youngsters alike is truly remarkable and admirable. I came back with lots of happiness, pleasure, knowledge and even made new friends during this most memorable trip of my lifetime. I would not miss a guided tour led by Mehboob Kamadia in the near future." - Gulshan, Australia

7. **I have no doubt that MK is the guru of Egypt**

"My 17 days *"Egypt: The Crown of Wonders of the World"* Journey was fantastic & wonderful. This journey was the most memorable experience of my life. I have no doubts that Mehboob Kamadia is truly the "GURU" of Egypt. I am now ready to journey to Jordan, Syria and Turkey with Mehboob Kamadia. ...A Christian Egyptian person by the name of Hany prides himself in considering Mehboob Kamadia as his brother and a role model. ...My special thanks to Mehboob Kamadia who fed us with light and heavy dosages of spiritual food throughout the journey. ..." - Parviz, USA

8. **Youths explore Egypt with MK**

"Our two children ...took away much more than a cultural experience. They were truly touched by our Ismaili history and heritage. Mehboob's on-site lectures and detailed follow-up discussions after dinner made a very strong impact on their understanding of Muslim society and the rich and colourful Ismaili history. They are truly proud of their heritage and the contributions Ismailis and our Imams made to the world from Egypt." - Karim, Canada

9. **An 8 Years old explores Egypt with MK**

"I very much enjoyed my trip to Egypt with my parents and their friends. I learnt a lot from Mehboob uncle on Egypt by visiting important places like the Pyramids and Mawlana Sultan Muhammad Shah's Mausoleum. I will treasure the memories of this trip for my entire life. I saw the mummies in the Museum which haunted me at nights in the beginning...The gigantic statues and cultural places have left permanent imprints in my heart. I thank Mehboob uncle for organizing this wonderful journey." - Anika, South Africa

10. **A 10-Year old explores Egypt with MK**

"Now I can really picture the stories in my Baitul Ilm text books [published by the Institute of Ismaili Studies] about the Fatimid empire centred in Cairo. ... One of the favourite parts of my trip was when we went to St. Catherine and I climbed till the top of the mountain [near Moses Mountain]. It was just amazing! ..." - Imran, Canada

11. **A 15 & 16 years old explore Egypt with MK**

"...Reaching a 15 and 16 year old in a profound way about their religion, culture and their place in society is a very significant achievement." - Shairoz, Canada

12. **Why MK's tours remain unique**

"The Grand Tour of Egypt ...was one of the best in my travels around the world. [...] the uniqueness of this tour was that along with other historical landmarks it had a focus on

Fatimid contributions and pointers. [...] The bonus of our tour was that during any downtime we took advantage of Mehboob's intellectual repository and he was so generous in sharing his wisdom and scholarly knowledge on comparative religion and spirituality. " - Dr Chagla, London

**13. An Iranian's experience**

"I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed my time with your [Ismaili] group. I had a blast. I would like to show my gratitude for the accommodation, trip perfectly arranged by Mehboob Kamadia. His services for this umrah trip was professional, excellent, friendly, prompt and helpful beyond my expectations. ...I will treasure these unforgettable memories. Thank you very much." - Shirin (Iran)

**14. What separates MK from contemporary Ismaili scholars?**

"His mastery of outstanding and unique knowledge combined with his imposing and charming personality separates Mehboob from the rest of contemporary Ismaili scholars. Is there any wonder why Mehboob Kamadia turns into an instant celebrity?" - Hyder, Atlanta

**15. MK is a remarkable scholar**

"Mehboob Kamadia is a remarkable scholar with immense and invaluable knowledge of Islam and Islamic History, especially with particular reference to our Ismaili Tariqah and its contribution to the cause of Islam." - Dr Mohamed, Canada

**16. Our tour to India with MK was unlike other tours**

"This trip for us [exploring the land of our ancestors] was unlike any we have had in more than a decade of travelling. God bless Mehboob Kamadia" - Lutfat and Mali (Former President of His Highness Prince Aga Khan Council, USA)

**17. An out of the world journey**

"First, we all want to thank you very much for organizing *an out of the world* trip for us; it was a very memorable experience for all of us, and a very happy time. ... all the tour guides were terrific Everything went very smoothly and your organization and itinerary was superb!" - Dr. Karim, former Mukhi Saheb & ITREB/CAB Chairman

18. **MK awakened the "Scholar" within us**

"Not only has he awakened the scholar in us to want to know more about our past history, he has also brought to life our Imams, Pirs and Dais, and made us realise the major roles they have played and the many sacrifices they have made in where we Ismailis are today." - Dr. Moledina, Canada

19. **MK a walking talking Wikipedia ...**

"MK's knowledge base is astounding. We have officially dubbed Mehboob Kamadia 'The Walking talking Wikipedia'!! - Bilkiss, Vancouver

20. **MK a versatile scholar**

"Mehboob Kamadia is truly an exceptional and a multitalented scholar. He is a skilful lecturer, an intellectual, a historian and a *guru* (teacher). His presentations [during the Voyage of the Century cruise] were clear evidence of his mastery over topics and themes which are related to Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, science, politics, etc. - Hyder, USA

21. **We came home enlightened**

"If you want to learn about Ismaili history, you must take a tour with Mehboob Kamadia. His tours are not only educational but they are a lot of fun. ....We thoroughly enjoyed Portugal, Spain, Morocco and Tunisia, and learnt a lot about the Fatimid Empire. We feel we came back home enlightened." - Bilkish & Firdos, Canada

22. **No words can express the wonderful tours MK led**

"We have no words to express the wonderful way Mehboob Kamadia organized and planned this exceptional journey to 6 countries: Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Holy Land, Sinai, etc...The unique spiritual dimension of the trip is beyond description...The dosage of rare knowledge provided by Mehboob Kamadia was very appealing to the intellect and the spirit. ...We are more knowledgeable about our Islamic and Ismaili history after this journey which took us to the roots of Judaism, Christianity & Islam..." - Badur & Rashida, former Mukhi/Mukhiani Sahebans, Edmonton

**23. MK's magnificent trips**

"What a magnificent TRIP to Turkey and Holy land. [MK's] humbleness and down to earth personality was excellent. Mehboob Kamadia's tremendous knowledge and ...My feelings for Turkey and Holy Land [Israel & Palestine] and people there will remain with me forever." - Zera, Vancouver

**24. Disseminating knowledge & Having Fun in MK's Tours**

"We had a great time and enjoyed the whole trip very much. We learned a lot about our history and had fun doing it. We will certainly join you again in a future excursion. MK took care of us all and handled everything very well." - Yasmin & Alnasir, Winnipeg

**25. MK's rare and specialized knowledge is invaluable**

"The rare and specialized knowledge that Mehboob Kamadia imparted was an invaluable asset. He is a skilful lecturer and an intellectual." - Nargis and Mansur, Toronto

**26. A Journey of a Lifetime with MK**

"We have just completed the trip of a lifetime with Mehboob Kamadia, the highlight of which was the Umrah in Mecca and Medina, the memory of which will be stamped in our minds and within our hearts forever."

"Even if we had wished or tried we could never have planned an itinerary as rich, exclusive and sacred as this one that Mehboob had planned that included Mecca, Medina, Turkey and Israel, the Holy Land. We felt as if a divine power was presenting this divinely planned trip of Mehboob's to us on a Silver Platter!"

"Mehboob went out of his way most evenings to spare a couple of hours of his own precious free time to enlighten us more about the places we visited from an Ismaili point of view. Very often he also did this whilst standing for hours in the coach as we drove from one place to another. His immense wealth of knowledge just made us thirst for more and more, and he always happily obliged, never disappointing us." - Nazeera, Canada

#### 27. **Obtaining knowledge through travel**

"Many thanks for an absolutely fantastic trip [to Tunisia, Morocco, Andalusia Spain & Portugal]! We gained a lot of knowledge in respect of our history, ginans and dua from Mehboob Kamadia and we are grateful for the hospitality given by MK and his son Mohamed Kamadia. [...]

Laila and I attended a lecture the other day at the Aga Khan Museum on Islamic Art & Objects of Desire and it was gratifying to say 'we know about that or we saw that or we were there, etc'. The professor said she envied us as she had not seen Mahdia [the first Fatimid capital] which for us was the highlight." - Munir & Laila, former Mukhi & Mukhiani Sahebans, Canada

#### 28. **I have infinite praise for MK**

"Mehboob Kamadia is a great scholar, I have infinite praises for him" - Rozy, Vancouver

#### 29. **I made new friends in MK tour**

"Thanks a lot for such a memorable trip to Morocco. Prior to the trip I was so nervous as I was coming alone but honestly I never felt alone. It was like your other testimony said, I was always in the company of family and friends. I have formed new friendships that will last for years to come!" - Maher, Toronto

**30. Visiting the birthplace of Prophet Muhammad & Imam `Ali with MK**

"The trip to Mecca, Medina, Turkey and Israel was my first trip with Mehboob. It was an experience of a lifetime to see the birthplace of Prophet Muhammed and to learn about our history from Mehboob. This trip exceeded my expectations because the real life experience completely surpasses the information that you can gather from books. The feelings that I experienced while entering such sacred places is hard to describe in words and I will never forget those special moments. " Dilshad, Canada

**31. MK is a remarkable scholar with immense and valuable knowledge**

"We have now been on three different group trips with Mehboob Kamadia. This in itself is testimony of the true value of the quality of the trips he organizes ...Mehboob is a remarkable scholar with immense and invaluable knowledge of Islam and Islamic History, especially with particular reference to our Ismaili Tariqa and it's contribution to the cause of Islam."

"As our travels unfolded, whether we were in Turkey, Mecca, Medina, Israel, Mumbai, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Amritsar, Dubai, Portugal, Spain, or Morocco, to name a few places, whether we were on the road or in our hotels, which, by the way were always five star, Mehboob enthusiastically and unhesitatingly continued to enlighten and educate the group: we are always wiser upon our return from his trips - this is the priceless icing on the cake!"

"Thanks to Mehboob for making it possible for us to have the most memorable moments of our lives - these will always be precious indeed to us!" - Dr. Mohamed, Canada

**32. Imbibing one hour knowledge from MK is better than reading a thousand books**

"We had very, very high expectations before we began our travels with Mehboob and I am so glad to say that Mehboob Kamadia exceeded ALL our expectations. To partake in his knowledge for one hour is better than reading a thousand books - This is how my family feels about Mehboob Kamadia." - Gulnar, former Mukhiani Saheba, Vancouver

**33. MK's experience and knowledge is unbelievable**

"MK's experience and his knowledge is unbelievable. Hearing his words while seeing the important places made me understand my history more clearly. He is very knowledgeable!" - Dilshad, Toronto

**34. MK's tour to Egypt**

"[MK] so generously shared his vast and deep knowledge of the Pharaonic, Judeo-Christian, Islamic as well as Ismaili Fatimid history of Egypt, for which I am truly thankful. ...The in-depth talks [MK] gave to the group upon the various faiths were truly insightful, leaving us wanting to learn more." - Nimet, (Calgary)

**35. Experiencing history through MK**

"Experiencing history through the eyes and the wisdom of a scholar who shared his knowledge whole heartedly was heart warming. ...We feel very fortunate that we came back with so much awareness and at the same time had so much fun. Thank you!!!" - Amir & Rozy, Calgary

**36. Travelling back in time**

"To travel back in time, Mehboob provided a wealth of narratives featuring the Prophet, Imam Ali, Imam Husayn, Pir Hasan, Bibi Fatima (Lady of Paradise), Imam Muhammad al-Baqir, Imam Jaffer as-Sadiq and the early Shias like Abuzar Ghifari, Salman Farsi, Kamar, Malik Ushtar and many others. Mehboob expressed these narratives in such a

manner that we felt that as if we were living in Medina with our most beloved Prophet and Imams. And that is how my wife and I felt about our experience." - Gulnar & Alnoor, Vancouver

**37. MK's unique contributions**

"It was vividly evident to us very early on in the trip [to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Turkey & France] that Mehboob Kamadia's scholastic background coupled with his role as a tour director was an invaluable asset. It provided us with a unique perspective on the places we visited - an in-depth look as one might say." - Nizar, Toronto

**38. MK is a great human being**

"Mehboob is obviously very informed which was wonderful for us. [...] Mehboob is a man who is passionate and knowledgeable about his work, dedicated, organized and very well mannered, sincere, responsible, kind and caring - All the qualities that make for a great human being and these are what make Mehboob good at what he does." - Nooshin, Vancouver

**39. MK is the best person I ever met**

"Mehboob Kamadia is the best person I have ever met on my travel. He is well educated and had all the research needed for this tour. We got more than what we expected." "If God gives me opportunities to travel in the future, I will do so with Mehboob because he is truly the best tour director I have ever met and genuinely knowledgeable. My wife too shares the same views." - Sultan, Edmonton

**40. Travelling with MK is an exceptional experience in itself**

"Travelling with MK is an exceptional experience in itself, the religious knowledge MK imparts ...his professionalism, attention to detail, the confidentiality and thoroughness of his itinerary is phenomenal. ...I am so grateful and with MK's inspirational advise, I will attempt to increase my knowledge of Islam and Ismailism." - Samira, Calgary

41. **MK's tours are profoundly memorable**

"My Mum is still talking about her trip [to Egypt, Jordan, Syria & Turkey]. Thanks to Mehboob Kamadia for taking such great care of her." - Nooreen, Australia

42. **MK has tremendous zeal and passion**

"It was a joy to be with Mehboob Kamadia. He has a tremendous zeal and abiding passion to give to others of his knowledge and insight gained over the years through his scholarly research." - Nurjan, Canada

43. **MK's impact on youths:**

"Our two children ...took away much more than a cultural experience. They were truly touched by our Ismaili history and heritage. Mehboob's on-site lectures and detailed follow-up discussions after dinner made a very strong impact on their understanding of Muslim society and the rich and colourful Ismaili history. They are truly proud of their heritage and the contributions Ismailis and our Imams made to the world from Egypt." - Karim, Canada

44. **MK encourages to obtain more knowledge**

"Our journey with Mehboob Kamadia to five interesting countries [Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Sinai, Egypt] as well as Holy land was incredible. ...This trip has encouraged us to seek more knowledge and understand our faith in depth." - Gulshan & Hassan, Toronto

45. **MK encourages to read IIS' publications**

"I am reading the 'Fatimids and their traditions of learning' and I am really enjoying it as I can now visualize the history. Thanks also for the information that MK shared with us. Hope to join MK in the future with his tours." - Dr Nurjehan A., Toronto

46. **MK's everlasting magic** "Thanks to Mehboob Kamadia for a most memorable spiritual and enlightening tour all around, one that I will never ever forget in my lifetime.

...Mehboob's remarkable expert knowledge that he graciously imparted to the group has left an everlasting affect on me personally - one that I will strive to keep alive and work on henceforth." - Zul, Calgary

47. **Exploring the ancestral land through the eyes of MK**

"It was a great pleasure to travel with Mehboob Kamadia to India. My daughters [University students] and myself, we learnt a lot about our ancestors, culture and religion. ...We thank MK for sharing the excellent knowledge he has on Ismaili history on this memorable trip. ...This trip will always remain etched in my memory." - Najma, Toronto.

48. **Each day in MK's tour is different**

"Amina and I would, sincerely, like to thank Mehboob Kamadia for the wonderful time we had in Turkey, Mecca/Medina & the Holy Land. Every day was a different and exceptional experience, enhanced by the humour and historical facts..." - Dr Diamond & Amina, Toronto

49. **MK's tours are once-in-a-lifetime journey**

"It was an awesome journey to Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Holy Land, Palestine, & Egypt. It was truly a pilgrimage and a journey of a lifetime." - Rashida, Edmonton

50. **We will travel to some parts of the world only with MK**

"There are some places in the world where we have decided, my wife and I, that we shall travel with Mehboob Kamadia ONLY...beginning with his style of "*setting up the stage*" and for preparing oneself for the areas you are about to visit, so that you can achieve a very satisfying experience. ...By the end of his tours, it almost feels sad to part from the group. We have always found Mehboob to be very patient and professional and certainly very caring for all his participants." - Gulnar & Alnoor, Vancouver

51. A Note of Gratitude - May 2012

"I met with my parents yesterday and they shared memories, details and thoughts regarding the most recent journey they shared with Mehboob Kamadia and his family. As always, they had nothing but praise. They had a wonderful time and now have - yet more memories (shared with Mehboob) that will last a lifetime."

Mehboob Kamadia's uncompromised patience, guidance, kindness, respect and most of all generosity was not only noted, it was very much appreciated. In addition to this, I was at peace knowing they were embarking on this journey with Mehboob and his family.

From an intellectual perspective, Mehboob Kamadia's sharing of knowledge with my parents allows them to approach, understand and process the doctrines of Islam beyond a knowledge forum that is "conventional".

To Mehboob Kamadia: I am to understand that Mehboob's family was also very kind and generous in connection to their respect, kindness and hospitality. Please convey my gratitude and appreciation to them. We hope (Insha'Allah) to see Mehboob and his family in the near future such that we can finally meet and attempt to reciprocate the uncompromised hospitality and courtesies that Mehboob always extends to us.

Once again, our gratitude and our most sincere prayers - for 'every happiness' to Mehbob Kamadia and his family." - Ali, Edmonton

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