

# Holy Water

Re-discover the sanctity and spirituality of the River Jordan with 'Holy River Establishment'; an organization aiming to reveal its age-old healing properties to the world.

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Jordan's rich history makes it not only an interesting destination but a sacred one. It holds the historical holy presence of many prophets that preached on the ground of Jordanian lands, documenting their spiritual journey in the same places we visit today. Among the various sacred locations, River Jordan signifies the most vital and important destination. I magazine explores the rich site and meets with the "HOLY RIVER" establishment, an organization which is working on revealing the importance of River Jordan through various holy items.

On the western border of the Kingdom, lies the magnificent River Jordan. Surrounded by greenery and beautiful landscape, the area echoes of the greatest historical moments of all times and signifies great importance to monotheistic religions. It is historic and symbolic, documenting and associating most important events in the Holy Books of God. After the death of Moses, the Bible says that God stopped the waters from flowing, allowing Joshua to

lead his people across the River Jordan into Canaan (Joshua 3: 14-17). This took place at a ford in the river directly opposite Jericho known as "Bethabara", or "Beit 'Abara" ("house of the crossing"). Furthermore, it is believed to be the same place where the Prophets, Elijah and Elisha, parted the waters and crossed miraculously to the East Bank of Jordan. From a nearby spot on the east side, Elijah then ascended into heaven "on a chariot of fire and horses of fire" (2 Kings 2: 5-14). For Christians, the most significant event associated with the River Jordan is the Baptism of Jesus Christ by John the Baptist. This took place very close to "Beit 'Abara", where Joshua, Elijah, and Elisha crossed the river. In New Testament times, it became known as "Bethany", the village of John the Baptist.

Today, thousands of people come from all over the world to visit the River Jordan to experience and explore the glory of its historical importance. Holy River Establishment is a Jordanian organization, aiming to reach people

all over the world to explore and share the sanctuary of the place with waters flowing, reviving a sense of spirituality and creating oneness with nature and one's self.

**A place which has existed for so long leaves one absolutely breathless.**

Holy River Establishment is a Jordanian company located in Jordan, licensed to bottle and distributes the authentic Holy water extracted from River Jordan where Jesus Christ was baptized. The head of the organization, Mohamed Shomali, explains: "Holy River Establishment is based on an idea that was shaped in the sixties in Greece when I was continuing my university degree, I recall attending one of my friend's son's baptism and was explained what is the importance of the holy water according to Christianity, they explained to me that it holds healing purposes and is a symbol for purity and a protector from evil. Realizing this fact



it became a mission in constructing our organization to create global awareness regarding this issue; since then we have been working, constructing, and implementing. Work did not start until 1999." Moreover, Shomali explains that "Besides distributing holy water, our organization conveys important values based on spreading justice, peace and harmony." Shomali continues: "Our vision is to provide every home with a bottle of authentic Holy water and make it available for all churches and people around the world. Realizing the importance of this matter, we are dedicating ourselves to discovering a whole new meaning of the divine; to immerse the spirit in the sacred water receiving God's blessings and purifying souls from their sins, and filling homes with purity, serenity, and protection."

Holy Water provided by the organization is purified under the

supervision of the Jordanian authority, deriving its energy from ceremonial prayers conducted by the church, rendering it suitable for a prosperous life. Holy Water is available in Oriental glass bottles inspired from bottles used during Christ era. Each bottle is certified by an official label issued by the Jordanian Royal Commission for the Baptism site of Jesus in conjunction with the Orthodox Patriarchate and the Catholic Church of Jordan. Holy River Establishment is further working on promoting the sites related to the issue.

Realizing the sanctity and importance of many sites in Jordan, they are working on taking visitors back across the centuries to the time of Christ to discover the marvellous biblical sites in Jordan, and to travel through a divine and spiritual journey to a place of past heavenly miracles.

The pilgrimage sites both inspire and remind us of the Prophet's witnessing; the baptism site ("Al Maghtas") where John the Baptist lived. The bible records that John the Baptist who baptized Jesus Christ, lived, preached, and baptized in the village of Bethany on "the other side of Jordan." (John 1:28). In this very location, it has been said that John the Baptist, after Jesus' baptism spent forty days of fasting, praying, and resisting Satan's temptations in the east of Jordan River. Mount Nebo is another important location where Moses viewed the Promised Land in Canaan. The sanctuary of the lady, "Anjara"; where Jesus and his disciples, including mother Mary, passed through and rested in a cave during their journey. "Mukawer" holds the memories and great events of some dramatic and political events such as the beheading of John the Baptist. The Shrine of Elijah, Lestip, in Ajloun, is the hometown of Prophet Elijah. To showcase the various sites Holy River have produced a video showcasing and creating awareness of the pilgrim sites in Jordan and are offered in packages along with the Holy Water. This aims to reveal the historical importance of Jordan and invite people from all over the world to join and experience what Jordan can offer.

Finally, Shomali explains that Jordan has so much to offer; the beauty it beholds lies behind rocks that speak volumes of mankind's history. It is a museum in itself, documenting the very important events of history. ■

