



Chapter 4 Abridged Resource

What is the Evil Eye?



The 'evil eye' has strong traditions within the Muslim world and refers to the act of causing hurt or injury to another through jealousy.

Put simply, injury can be caused when someone likes either something belonging to, or associated with, another person.

This might be objects of their wealth, health, achievements or opportunities. If the individual looks at these things with jealousy then this can create an evil which affects the person in question.

Example injuries might involve an accident, infertility, loss of a loved one or loss of wealth.

Members of the Muslim community often seek refuge in the form of prayers, the reading of Quran or in some cases wearing an amulet (such as the one pictured) to protect them from the envy of others.

Not all 'enviers' cause injury however, as individuals given to envy can also seek refuge in God from causing harm to others.

It is not uncommon in Muslim communities for individuals to feel that they have been affected by the Evil Eye and to seek remedies from qualified members of the community. These remedies might include prayers, reading Quran, cleansing oneself or eating particular foods.



Shisha Culture

You will undoubtedly be introduced to the shisha culture during your time in the Middle East.

Smoking shisha amongst friends, eating and drinking tea is a popular past time.

The shisha is made up of a water basin with a long stemmed outlet and a pipe.

Smokers inhale the vaporized smoke - often flavoured with molasses or fruit, through the pipe. Flavours such as apple, mint, mango and pineapple are popular.

Many governments have tried to curb the smoking of shisha. Despite this and several Islamic jurists proclaiming it 'sinful', the people continue to smoke shisha across the region in ever more numbers.

In this video you can see a nice selection of scenes showing people relaxing with their shisha. It also gives some insight into the uphill battle many regional governments face in trying to stop the people smoking.



[Click here to watch](#)

