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16. Philosophy Behind the Name “Al-Ka’bah”

عَنْ أَبِي جَعْفَرٍ (ع) قَالَ: قُلْتُ لَهُ: لِمَ سُمِّيَ الْبَيْتُ، بَيْتُ الْعَتِيقِ؟ قَالَ: لأَنَّهُ حُرٌّ عَتِيقٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ وَ لَمْ يَمْلِكُهُ أَحَدٌ.

It has been narrated that Abi Ja’far [Imam Muhammad Ibn ‘Ali al-Baqir] (peace be upon him) was asked, “Why is it (the Ka’bah) named Baitul ‘Atiq (the Emancipated House)?” The Imam replied: “Because this house is free and emancipated from people and was never under the ownership of anyone.”

Biharul Anwar, Volume 96, Page 59

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