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for men of understanding...”

(12:112)

Stories of the Prophets

HAZRAT ISMAEL



Publication Department Lajna Ima'illah UK

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Hazrat Ismael (Peace be upon him)

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Message from Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

My dear children

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories of prophets and learn from them.

Allah the Almighty has sent hundreds of thousands of prophets over the course of humanity for our benefit. All prophets have one main message and that is to bring their people closer to God.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more. May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, our thanks and praise are due to Almighty Allah without Whose boundless Grace and Blessings none of our work would be possible.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. This inspires us daily and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah for a very long time. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project, a team of lajna members in the Ishaat department, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to produce this series of books for young children.

The following members of the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books. Aalia Rehman; Humda Bilal; Khola Shah; Maryam Khan; Siemah Ahmad; Atia Bhatti; Atifa Ahmad; Nooresahar Ahmad and Hadiqa Asma

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as National Secretary Ishaat UK

Guide for Parents

This book, one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Ima'illah UK, is based on the stories narrated in the Holy Quran. The books are designed for children of primary school age who can read and try the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading and enjoying these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Quran and read them for themselves.

We hope that you will also be able enjoy sharing the stories with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. We also hope you will enjoy sharing the activities with your children.

May Almighty Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are a beacon of light for all humanity.

The Wilderness of Paran

The ZamZam Well



A Special Journey

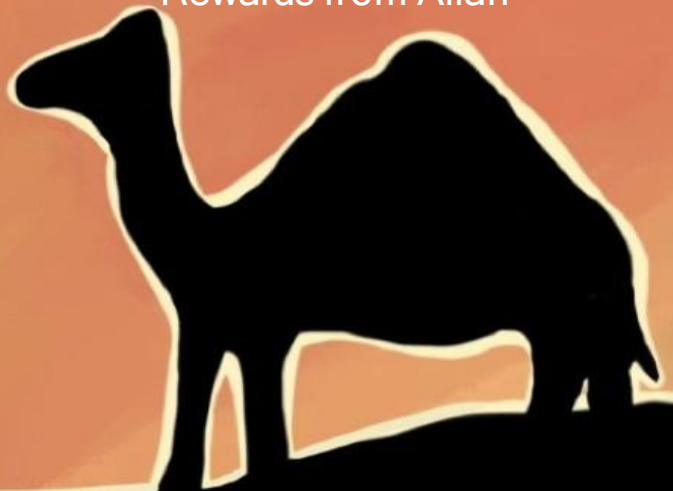
The Safa and Marwa Hills

The Ultimate Sacrifice

Eid-ul-Adha

An Important Dream

Rewards from Allah



Ismael^{as} was the first son of Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} from his second wife Hazrat Hajrah^{as}. Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} was very obedient and faithful to Allah. This meant that he always followed Allah's commands without hesitation.

One day Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} took his son Ismael^{as} and his wife Hazrat Hajrah^{as} on a long journey. They walked for many days until they reached the dry and empty wilderness of Paran. There was no food, no water, no trees and no sign of life there, yet Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} settled his wife and his son there with some food and water that only lasted them a couple of days.



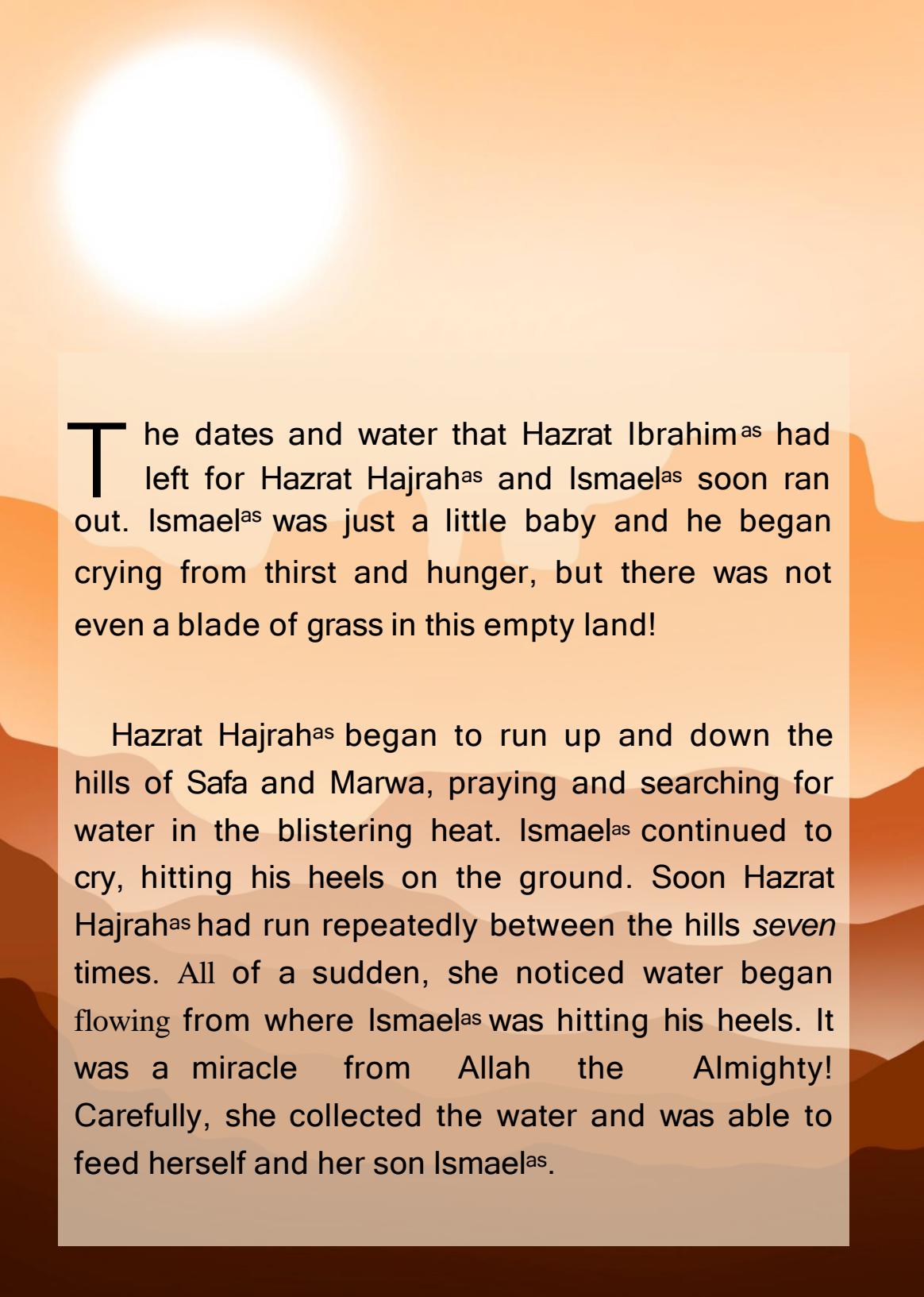
Whilst settling his family here,
Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} prayed to Allah:

“Our Lord, I have settled
some of my children
in an uncultivable valley
near Thy Sacred House - Our Lord -
that they may observe Prayer.
So make men’s hearts incline
towards them and provide them
with fruits that they may be
thankful.” (14:38)

Then, he turned around and started to walk away. Why would Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} do this? Hazrat Hajrah^{as} ran after Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} crying and asking him why he was leaving them alone there. Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} simply pointed up at the sky, and Hazrat Hajrah^{as} understood. Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} had done so upon the command of Allah!

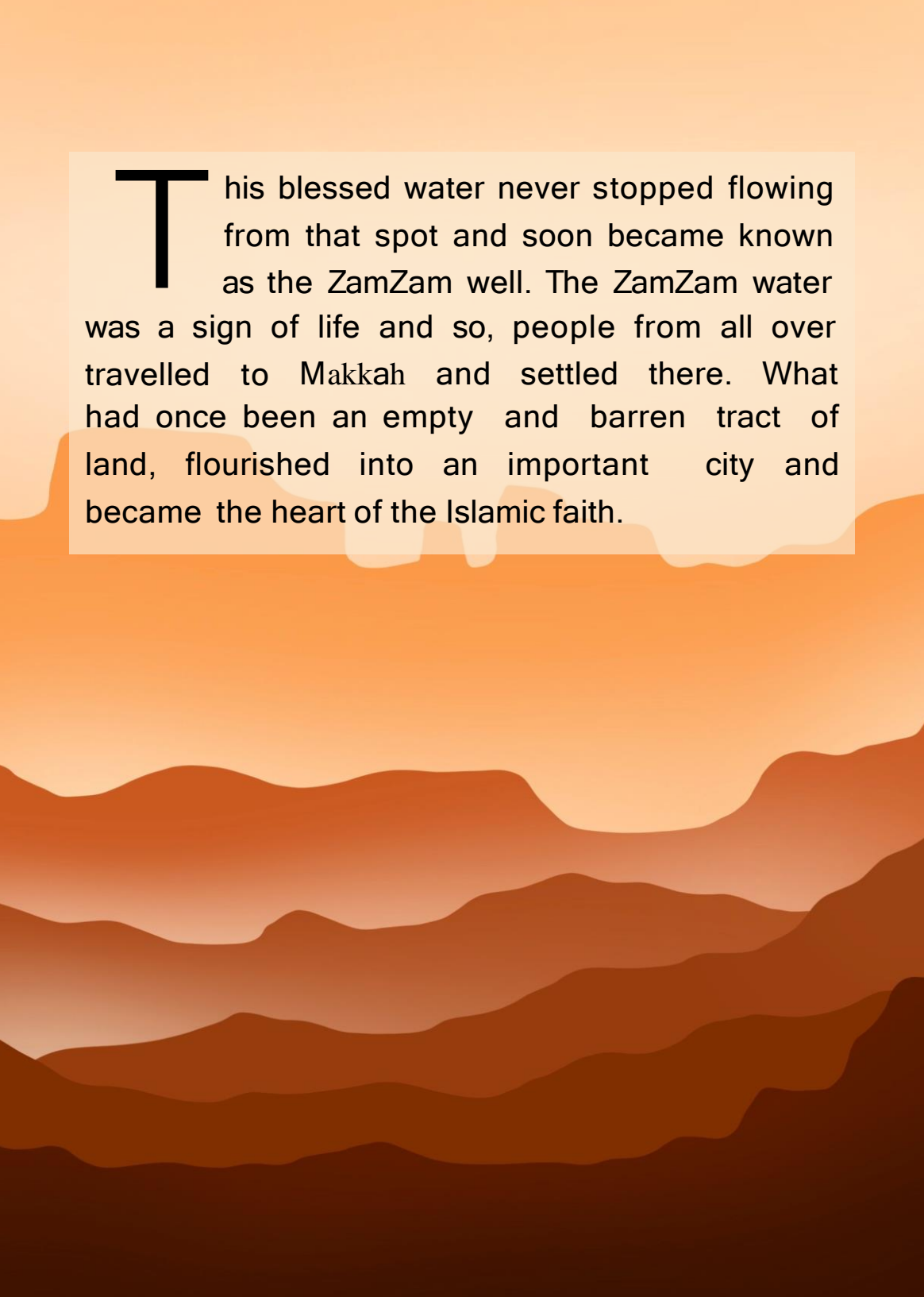
This verse of the Holy Quran tells us that Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} left his offspring in this deserted valley so that they would be able to learn the importance of worshipping God. Indeed, Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and his wife Hazrat Hajrah^{as} knew that Allah is Al-Razzaq (The Provider) and that He would protect and provide for them if they turned to Him for help.

Hazrat Hajrah^{as} did not question this command of Allah nor did she lose faith in Allah. What a brave and faithful lady she was! Certainly, it is this trust in the power and love of Allah the Almighty that would see her through the difficulties that lay ahead of her. Little did they know that all of this was a part of Allah's Divine plan.



The dates and water that Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} had left for Hazrat Hajrah^{as} and Ismael^{as} soon ran out. Ismael^{as} was just a little baby and he began crying from thirst and hunger, but there was not even a blade of grass in this empty land!

Hazrat Hajrah^{as} began to run up and down the hills of Safa and Marwa, praying and searching for water in the blistering heat. Ismael^{as} continued to cry, hitting his heels on the ground. Soon Hazrat Hajrah^{as} had run repeatedly between the hills *seven* times. All of a sudden, she noticed water began flowing from where Ismael^{as} was hitting his heels. It was a miracle from Allah the Almighty! Carefully, she collected the water and was able to feed herself and her son Ismael^{as}.



This blessed water never stopped flowing from that spot and soon became known as the ZamZam well. The ZamZam water was a sign of life and so, people from all over travelled to Makkah and settled there. What had once been an empty and barren tract of land, flourished into an important city and became the heart of the Islamic faith.

One night, Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} saw in a dream that he was slaughtering his son. In the Holy Quran we learn about this in more detail. In the Holy Quran it states that after seeing this dream, Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} visited his son and explained the dream to his son saying:

“O, my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I am offering thee in sacrifice.” (37:103)

Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} then asked his son what he thought of this dream. Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} asked him whether he was ready to give his life. Ismael^{as} was faced with a very big decision but he did not hesitate at all. Ismael^{as} understood that this was an order from Allah the Almighty. He told his father:



“oh my dear father, do as thou art commanded; thou wilt find me, if Allah please, steadfast *in my faith.*” (37:103)



This means that Ismael^{as} was ready to give his life to fulfil the command of Allah the Almighty. Ismael^{as} was not only a very brave young boy but he had such strong faith in Allah that even death did not frighten him!

Even though Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} loved his son so much, he was willing to sacrifice him for God, and because Ismael^{as} was such an obedient young boy and had such strong faith in God Almighty, he obeyed the command of Allah. This pleased God so much that He promised Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and Ismael^{as} that they would be rewarded for their good deeds and their 'great sacrifice.'

Although their faith in Allah was so very strong, this was no easy task because the love that father and son shared between them was so strong. Even so, their love for Allah was greater than anything!

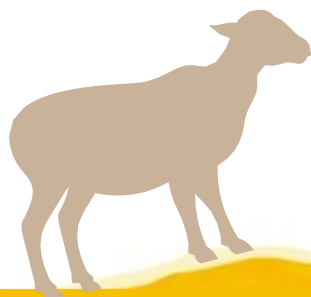
So, Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and his beloved young son Ismael^{as} set out to obey this command of God Almighty. But just as Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} was about to kill his son, he heard a voice from the Heavens calling him!

**‘O Abraham,
thou hast indeed fulfilled
the dream’** (37:106)

What could this possibly mean? Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} was stopped by Allah the Almighty just as he was about to slaughter his son. It all made sense now! Ibrahim^{as} was not actually supposed to kill his son. Instead, this was a test from Allah to see how strong their faith in Allah was. Allah accepted their devotion and obedience and directed that a lamb should be sacrificed instead.

Ismael^{as} was quite young during this incident but his sacrifice serves as a great example to all of us, young and old alike to never lose faith in Allah, and to always be ready to sacrifice our personal interests for the sake of Allah the Almighty Who gifted us with this life and all of its abundant blessings.

For this reason, Ismael^{as} and his father Hazrat Ibrahim's^{as} sacrifice is remembered every year by Muslims around the world on the holy day of Eid-ul-Adha. This blessed Eid marks the completion of the pilgrimage to Makkah by Muslims from all around the world and is an occasion where Muslims are encouraged to make every sacrifice for the spiritual, moral, and social good.



During this Eid, The Festival of Sacrifice, we remember the sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and Ismael^{as}.

In remembrance of this sacrifice, it is common practice for those Muslims who can afford to do so, to sacrifice goats and rams on this blessed day of Eid after Eid Prayer.

The Holy Quran describes the importance of this sacrifice:

‘Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him.’ (22:38)



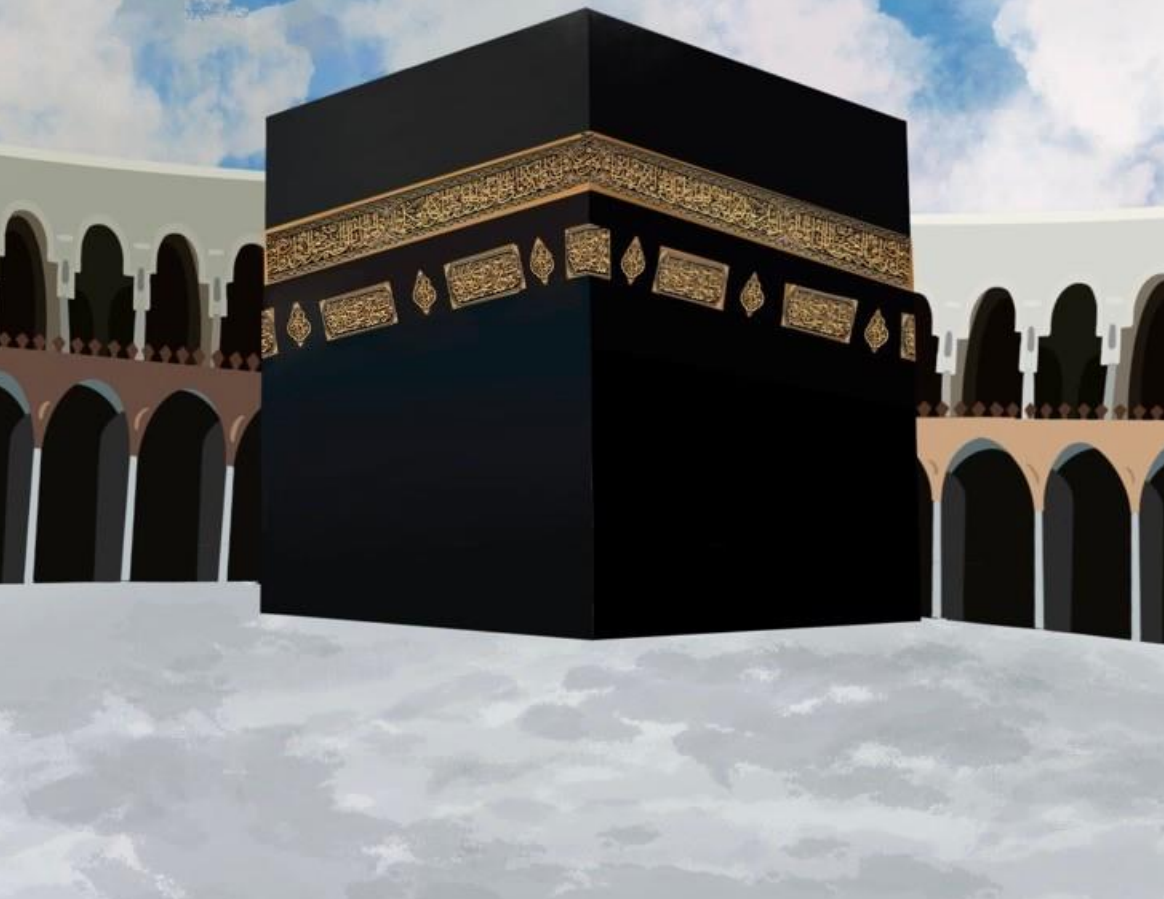
Allah the Almighty had been so pleased with the devotion of Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} that Allah chose Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} to be the Law Bearing Prophet. Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} had always been a firm believer in the Oneness of God and together, Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and Ismael^{as} continued to call people to worship One God, and not worship idols. To encourage mankind upon the right path, Allah the Almighty commanded Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} to rebuild the House of God which had fallen to ruins:

“Purify My House for those who perform the circuit and those who remain *therein* for devotion and those who bow down and fall prostrate *in* Prayer.” (2.126)

Along with the help of his son Ismael^{as}, Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} raised the foundations of the Holy Ka’bah with stones, praying:

“Our Lord, accept *this* from us; for Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.” (2.128)

Following this, Allah the Almighty established pilgrimage, Hajj, through Hazrat Ibrahim^{as}. Since then, every year Muslims from all across the world travel to Makkah to perform Hajj in fulfilment of this pillar of Islam.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Holy Ka'bah was first built by Hazrat Adam^{as} and was used as the centre of worship for his people. But then over time people separated and created their own centres of worship. When Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and Ismael^{as} rebuilt the Holy Ka'bah it became the centre of worship again.

During Hajj and Umrah, it is a ritual to walk between the two mountains, Safa and Marwa, as Hazrat Hajrah^{as} did when searching for water. The ZamZam water that appeared then has never stopped flowing with blessed water since and many Pilgrims drink the water.

The Holy Ka'bah was converted into a house of idols with as many as 360 idols. At the advent of the Holy Prophet^{pbuh} it was again made the centre of worship for mankind and through the Holy Prophet^{pbuh} it became a place to unite all those who had become separated after Hazrat Adam^{as}.

ACTIVITIES!

There is so much to learn from the life of Hazrat Ismael^{as}, so here are some fun activities to refresh your memory.

First off, a word search!

R	W	D	M	B	H	D	F	A	I	T	H	H	E
S	T	M	A	A	A	M	U	I	M	D	E	F	P
A	I	J	L	F	J	A	M	E	C	C	A	S	H
C	R	J	R	A	I	R	A	D	I	Z	A	M	M
R	F	A	R	S	R	W	M	A	F	A	T	D	I
I	O	H	I	H	A	A	J	A	R	M	A	S	H
F	U	H	S	D	F	A	A	S	S	Z	C	T	A
I	N	E	M	R	N	I	P	A	R	A	N	E	R
C	D	C	A	A	A	I	E	C	D	M	O	A	B
E	A	J	E	W	T	D	W	R	I	Z	H	D	I
O	T	D	L	E	A	R	H	E	A	I	A	F	F
M	I	A	R	R	M	E	N	D	U	J	B	A	A
A	O	F	K	W	R	A	E	I	D	A	A	S	D
I	N	D	S	A	A	M	A	Z	A	T	K	T	A

STEADFAST
HAJJ
ISMAEL
SAFA
SACRED
PARAN
KABAH
FAITH
EID
ZAMZAM
MARWA
DREAM
IBRAHIM
FOUNDATION
MECCA
HAJIRA
REWARD
SACRIFICE

*Can you match the Attributes of Allah
with the correct meanings?*

The All-Knowing

السَّمِيعُ

The Most Merciful

الْعَلِيمُ

The Ever Wise

الرَّحِيمُ

The Almighty

الْعَزِيزُ

The All-Hearing

الْحَكِيمُ

Colour in the Arabic calligraphy once
you have finished.

Well done!

This beautiful verse of the Holy Quran is very special because it is the prayer that Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and Ismael^{as} recited whilst building the Holy Ka'bah. We should all try to learn it. Here's a guide of the Arabic for you to trace and colour in. Once you've got the grip, try writing it on the dotted line without any help!

رَبَّنَا مُخَلِّبِ مِنَّا ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

“Our Lord, accept *this* from us; for Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.”

رَبَّنَا مُخَلِّبِ مِنَّا ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

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“Our Lord, accept *this* from us; for Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing.”

NOTES

‘Those who do good
and act righteously shall
have a great reward’

The Holy Quran (3:173)

