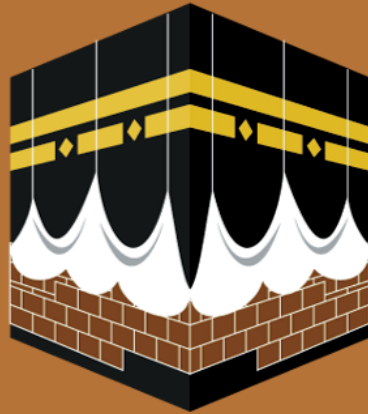


“Assuredly, in their narrative is a lesson for men of understanding...” (12:112)

*Stories of the Prophets...*

# HAZRAT IBRAHIM

*Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him*



Publications Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK, 2023



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*Stories of the Prophets...*

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PEACE BE UPON HIM

Publications Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK, 2023

**This story book belongs to...**

# STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

## HAZRAT IBRAHIM (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

Compiled by : Isha'at Department, Lajna Ima'illah UK

First Published in the UK: 2023

© Islam International Publications Ltd.

Published by : Lajna Ima'illah UK

Aiwan-e-Nusrat Jahan

Printed in the UK at : Raqem Press Farnham, Surrey

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ISBN: 978-1-84480-720-4

# بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

My Dear Children

Assalamo Alaikum

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

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

## 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<sup>aba</sup>. This inspires our women to break glass ceilings 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. Under her direction, a team of lajna members, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to create this series of books suitable for young children telling the stories of the prophets mentioned in the Holy Quran. 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; Humda Bilal, Atia tul Saboor Bhatti, Aalia Rehman, Atifa Ahmad, Nayyara Ahmad Qamar 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

2023

## GUIDE FOR PARENTS

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

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

We also hope that you will also be able to use the books with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. Then you can enjoy doing 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.



HAZRAT

# IBRAHIM

PEACE BE UPON HIM

*Dear children,*

Today we will be reading about a dear prophet who is famous for the sacrifice that he made along with his son, for rebuilding the Holy Ka'aba and destroying idols. Are you able to guess who he is? That's right! It is Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>.

**DID YOU KNOW**



Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> has the title '*Abbul Ambiyaa*',  
meaning '*Father of all Prophets*'!

1. Friday Sermon 29<sup>th</sup> September 2006, page 4,  
<https://www.alislam.org/urdu/sermon/FST20060929-UR.pdf>

The Holy Quran says in chapter 19, verse 42



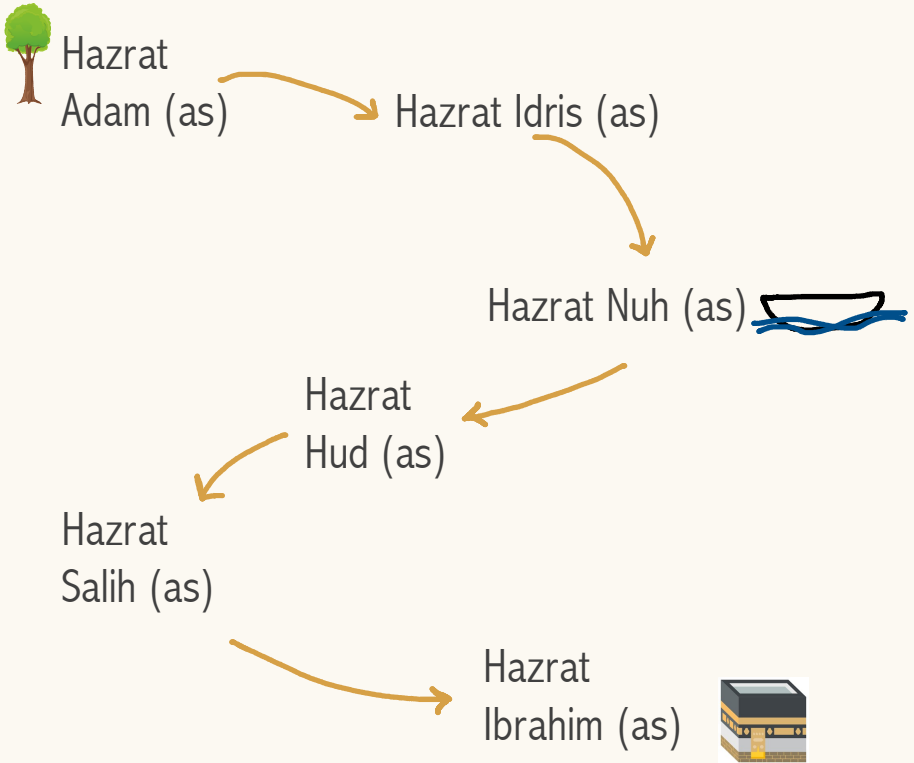
وَ اذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ اِبْرَاهِيْمَ ؑ اِنَّهٗ كَانَ صِدِّيقًا نَبِيًّا ﴿٤٢﴾

“And relate *the story of Abraham as mentioned in the Book. He was a truthful man and a Prophet.*”

So, let us read on together and find out more about him.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> came after Hazrat Adam<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Nuh<sup>as</sup>. That is why Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was a follower of the Law of Hazrat Nuh<sup>as</sup> and just like him, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was also a Divine Messenger of Allah.

# TIMELINE



Dear children, have you ever wondered what religion Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> belonged to? The answer is that he was neither a Jew nor a Christian, but it was always in his nature to turn towards the One and Only God and be obedient to Him. He was not of those who associated partners with Allah.

# Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was fed up of idolatry

Dear children, as the people of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> were idol worshippers, it was important for him to let them know that he was not one of them and did not believe in associating partners with Allah the Almighty. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> recited a beautiful prayer that showed his belief and that prayer has been preserved in the Holy Quran:

إِنِّي وَجَّهْتُ وَجْهِيَ لِلَّذِي فَطَرَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ حَنِيفًا وَمَا أَنَا مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ﴿٨٠﴾

'I have turned my face toward Him Who created the heavens and the earth, being ever inclined *to God*, and I am not of those who associate gods *with God*.'

(Chapter 6, verse 80)

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> rejected the beliefs and ways of worship of the people of his time. Instead, he preached the Unity and Oneness of Allah and strongly denounced and condemned idol-worship. By his activities he even faced the enmity of his father and so with his wife and his nephew, Hazrat Lut<sup>as</sup>, he left his native place.

Dear children, the Holy Quran has safeguarded the story of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> within it, and in Surah Maryam, chapter 19, verse 42, it is even written

وَاذْكُرْ فِي الْكِتَابِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ ۗ  
إِنَّهُ كَانَ صِدِّيقًا نَبِيًّا ﴿٤٢﴾

*“And relate the story of Abraham as mentioned in the Book. He was a truthful man and a Prophet”.*

# Allah guided Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> to the right path

*“And remember the time when Abraham said to his father, Azar, ‘Dost thou take idols for gods? Surely, I see thee and thy people in manifest error.’ And thus did We show Abraham the kingdom of the heavens and the earth that he might be rightly guided and that he might be of those who have certainty of faith”*

(Chapter 6 Verse 75-76)

The verse means that God granted Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> the knowledge of, and an insight into, the natural laws that work in the universe, and of the all- pervading Divine power and control. The Holy Quran states:

And when the night darkened upon him, he saw a star. He said, 'Can this be my Lord?' But when it set, he said, 'I like not those that set.'



And when he saw the moon rise with spreading light, he said, 'Can this be my Lord.' But when it set, he said, 'If my Lord guide me not, I shall surely be of the people who go astray.'



And when he saw the sun rise with spreading light, he said, 'Can this be my Lord? This is the greatest.' But when it *also* set, he said, 'O my people! surely I am quit of that which you associate *with God*,

(Chapter 6 Verses 77-79)

His people however remained arrogant. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> asked his father why he worshipped an idol which could not hear him or see him or help him. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> even said to his father that he had been given knowledge of God which his father had not, so he should listen and follow him, so that they both could stay on the right path. He warned against Satan as those who follow Satan always rebel and go against the Gracious God. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was a good son and was worried that his father would follow Satan and be punished by Allah.

Verses 77 to 79 contain an argument which Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> employed to bring home to his idolatrous people the absurdity of their belief that the sun, the moon and the stars were so many gods which they worshipped (Jew. Enc.). It is wrong to infer from these verses that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was himself groping in the dark and did not know Who his God was, and that he took the evening star, the moon, and the sun for God one after the other and, when each of them set in its turn, he



gave up his belief in their divinity and turned to the One God, the Creator of heavens and earth.

In fact, the passage contains several arguments to show that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, far from taking these heavenly bodies for gods, sought to demonstrate to his people the vanity of their beliefs step by step. Chapter 6, verses 75, 76 (mentioned above) show that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was a firm believer in One God.

When he said to his father, 'O my father, why dost thou worship that which neither hears nor sees, nor can avail thee aught?

'O my father, there has indeed come to me knowledge such as has not come to thee; so follow me, I will guide thee to a straight path;

'O my father, worship not Satan; surely Satan is a rebel against the Gracious *God*,

'O my father, indeed I fear lest a punishment from the Gracious *God* seize thee and thou become a friend of Satan.'

He replied, 'Dost thou turn away from my gods, O Abraham? If thou desist not, I shall surely cut off all relations with thee. *Now*, leave me alone for a while.'

*Abraham* said, 'Peace be upon thee. I will ask forgiveness of my Lord for thee. He is indeed gracious to me;

'And I shall keep away from you and from that which you call upon beside Allah; and I will pray unto my Lord. Maybe that in praying to my Lord I shall not be disappointed.'

(Chapter 19 verses 43-49)

## DID YOU KNOW



Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> seems to be referring to his migration to Canaan. It is on record that he went from Iraq to Canaan and from there to Egypt. He left his father and people behind him in Iraq.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> really put forward a convincing argument against idol-worship. If the idols don't see when their worshippers are in trouble, or help when it is needed, or hear their prayers when they call them, then why worship them?

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> had been talking to his father with affection and consideration. His father though, lost his temper and told him to go away from him and leave him.

## HAZRAT IBRAHIM<sup>AS</sup> BROKE THE IDOLS

Dear children, do you know that every person has their own style of speaking? If you look at your teachers, you will probably find some who are persuasive, some who speak in a loving manner and some who may be more direct in their way of speaking than others.

In the same way, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> also had his way of talking! While talking to idol-worshippers, he would generally make use of irony.

## DID YOU KNOW



While Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> used to talk in ironical language, Hazrat Isa<sup>as</sup> (Prophet Jesus) would talk in metaphors.

In the Holy Quran, Allah the Almighty has written **“We knew him well”** (Chapter 21, Verse 52). This shows that He was aware of the excellent qualities of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and knew that he could be entrusted with the great and noble duties of a Prophet.

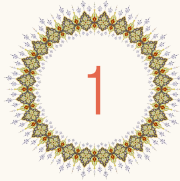
As a prophet, it was important for Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> to have these qualities as they would be needed with his arguments against his people who were idol-worshippers.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> asked his people and his father what these images and idols were that they worshipped and they answered that they had found their fathers worshipping them. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> tried to tell them that they and their fathers had been wrong in worshipping idols and that it was something Which is foolish and should not be done. He tried to tell them what was right and what was wrong, that he was a prophet of God but his people only thought that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> had gathered everyone together to mock them and joke at them. The people of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> were such idolaters that when they saw Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> preaching against idol-worship, they did not, at first, believe that he was even being serious. Again and again Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> tried his best to put forward his argument that their true Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, He Who made them all and that he bears witness to it.

His people however remained ignorant and did not listen to him. When Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was left on his own, he broke all the idols except for the biggest of them – the chief of the idols. When the people returned and saw this they asked who had done this, who broken the idols, he must be a wrongdoer. Then the word spread that it was a young man who spoke ill of their idols and that that young man was none other than Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. His people asked him if he had done it. He replied, somebody has done this, why don't they go and ask their chief idol, who remained untouched, who had done this?

Everyone understood Hazrat Ibrahim's (as) point. They had their heads hanging in shame and said to him that he knows perfectly well that these idols do not speak. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> again asked why did they worship idols instead of Allah when their idols can neither harm nor benefit them in any way.

Going back to when Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> broke the idols into pieces, two meaning can be understood from here:



If in the Arabic text, the word **اليه** is taken to refer to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, the verse would mean that he broke all the idols except the chief among them so that when his people asked him who had broken their idols, he would say that instead of asking him (Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>), they should put the same question to their chief idol. This was a very effective way of telling the people that they were worshipping lifeless blocks of wood or stone.

If in the Arabic text, the word **اليه** is taken to refer to Allah, then the meaning would be that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> broke the idols of his people so that



when they should see them broken into pieces, they should realise their powerlessness and turn to Allah the Almighty.

## DID YOU KNOW



that the idols belonged to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> own family. Otherwise it was not right and proper for him to break other people's idols.

Dear children, having just read part of the story where the idols were broken, do you see how smartly Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> has shown the difference between an idol and a living God.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> first confused the idol-worshippers by breaking their idols, and then, by telling them that an idol which could not save himself from harm, could not answer the calls of its worshippers, was indeed, just lifeless.



His Lord was the Ever-living God Who answered and accepted the prayers of His servants.

All Prophets of Allah have the special characteristic that they can tell people about their false actions and beliefs with courage and boldness. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was the same.

As Hazrat Ibrahim's people could not argue against his points, they had no option left other than torture him or if possible, kill or burn him to death.

Verse 70 in chapter 21, says,

قُلْنَا يِنَارُ كُونِي بَرْدًا وَسَلَامًا عَلٰى

اِبْرٰهِيْمَ

“We said, ‘O fire, be thou *a means of coolness and safety for Abraham!*”

How the fire became cool we are not told. Timely rain or a stormy hurricane might have extinguished it. In any event Allah the Almighty made the situation such that it led to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> being safe.

## DID YOU KNOW



There is always an element of mystery in heavenly miracles and Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> having been saved from the fire was indeed a great miracle.

His people however remained arrogant and instead of listening to the explanations of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, continued to oppose him.

When the people thought that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> broke the idols they brought him to answer questions in front of them, and bear witness. This was also done for a few different reasons:



Those who had heard Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> speak ill of the idols should bear witness against him that he had broken the idols.

After listening to the evidence against Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, they might decide what punishment to give him.



People should witness the punishment that was to be given to him.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was thrown in the fire but as he was a great prophet of Allah and Allah alone has the power to command everything, so Allah saved him.

Dear children, chapter 21 verse 53 starts off with:

إِذْ قَالَ لِأَبِيهِ وَقَوْمِهِ مَا هَذِهِ  
الْتَّمَاثِيلُ الَّتِي أَنْتُمْ لَهَا عَاكِفُونَ

When he said to his father and his people, 'What are these images to which you are so devoted?'

(Chapter 21, verse 53)

*"When he said to his father and his people..."* ; here, in the Arabic text the word **اب** beside meaning *'father'* also means paternal uncle. The person mentioned in the above story therefore was Hazrat Ibrahim's<sup>as</sup> uncle and not his father who is said to have died before Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> became a Prophet.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was thrown in the fire but as he was a great prophet of Allah and Allah alone has the power to command everything, Allah said ,



## DID YOU KNOW

This verse points to a very close resemblance between Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. The fathers of both had died before they were made Prophets. Both were brought up by their uncles. Both preached the message of Unity of God to their uncles. Both the uncles refused to accept the Divine Message with this difference that whereas Hazrat Ibrahim's<sup>as</sup> uncle opposed and persecuted him, Abu Talib, the Holy Prophet's<sup>sa</sup> uncle, though he did not accept his message, stood by him through thick and thin to the last moment of his life and even suffered for him.

# PRAYER FOR A SON

Dear children, our parents and our beloved Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) have told us many times that we should pray for ourselves and make sacrifices. Both things strengthen our bond with Allah the Almighty.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was no exception to this. He prayed to Allah to bless him with a righteous son.



Allah heard his prayers and gave him the good news of a forbearing son. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was told to not be afraid and that his son would be gifted with knowledge. These qualities describe Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>, who was both, very forbearing and very intelligent – he certainly had a lot of understanding.

# SACRIFICE

Dear children, are you familiar with the story of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> leaving his son and wife alone in a deserted valley? There is a saying of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> that sheds light on this.

## DID YOU KNOW

Hazrat Hajrah (the second wife of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>) is known as Hagar in English.



When Hazrat Isma'il (as) was very young, Hazrat Ibrahim (as) left him and Hazrat Hajrah in a bleak and barren Valley of Mecca. He did this with great difficulty, but for the sake of Allah. They were left in an area where there were no necessities – food and water- for miles on end. This was a very difficult thing for Hazrat Ibrahim (as) to do. He had waited for 86 years to have a

child, and he had to leave his family in the dessert alone with no help Their faith in Allah was strong enough to do this.

As the prophet left, Hazrat Hajrah ran after him and asked “Are you leaving us here?” He did not answer. Then she asked him again saying, “Are you leaving us here by the command of God?” Hazrat Ibrahim (as) just pointed towards the sky. She understood this and said that then God will not waste us, and returned to the baby. This shows how faithful Hazrat Hajrah was. She knew Allah was the provider and would give them everything they need to survive. So, she began looking for water and food for her son. She ran between two mountains as her son kicked his heels in the ground. The two mountains were called Safa and Marwah. As she searched, water began springing from the ground where Hazrat Ismail (as) was kicking his heels. In a barren, bleak land, this was surely a miracle. Hazrat Hajrah knew this was a blessing and miracle from Allah. It is mentioned in the Holy Quran, that although it was Hazrat Ibrahim (as) that made



the decision to leave, the sacrifice was a shared blessing between all three of them.

Their cooperation and willingness to obey God's command pleased Him immensely.

“Our Lord, I have settled *some* of my progeny in an uncultivable valley near Thy Sacred House....”

Chapter 14, Verse 38

Dear children, Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> was very dear to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. When Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> was older, old enough to give his own opinion, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> saw in a dream that he was sacrificing him.

He told his son that he has seen in a dream that he is slaughtering him. He asked Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> what he thought about the dream. Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> replied to his father to do as instructed.

When both, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> had submitted

themselves to the Will of God (and were about to carry out the sacrifice), Allah the Almighty told Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> to stop! He said to him that his willingness to sacrifice had been accepted and that he had fulfilled his dream. Dear children, this tells us that Allah did not want any human sacrifice. It is actually the spirit of obedience to Allah which is important.

With this story, Allah the Almighty has shown and told us that He rewards those who do good. This sacrifice surely was a big trial for Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, but he was saved from (actually) slaughtering his son and Allah rewarded him with a good name and reputation for the generations which were to follow.

## DID YOU KNOW



Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was 86 years old when Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> was born, and 99 years old when Hazrat Ishaq<sup>as</sup> was born.



Dear children, do you know that Muslims celebrate two Eids? One is *Eid-ul-Fitr*, celebrated after the end of the Holy month of Ramadhan, and the other is *Eid-ul-Adha*. Eid-ul-Adha is closely connected with Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>

## DID YOU KNOW

Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated on the tenth day of the Islamic month Dhul-Hijjah.

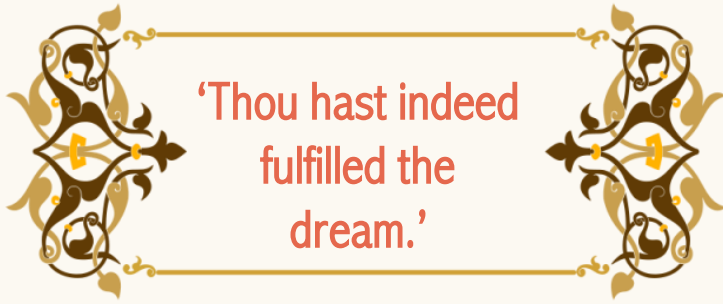
Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated to remember the, passion and dedication of the intended sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>. Muslims, who are the spiritual children of Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> (through the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of Islam) remember every year through prayer and by slaughtering an animal, to keep the sacrifice and its spirit alive, even today.

In a way, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> had already fulfilled his vision by leaving Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>, when he was still a child, with his mother Hazrat Hajrah, in the unwelcoming and barren valley of Mecca.



At that time, you could not find any sign of life there, or a blade of grass or a drop of water. That brave act, had in fact, symbolised the sacrifice of Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>.

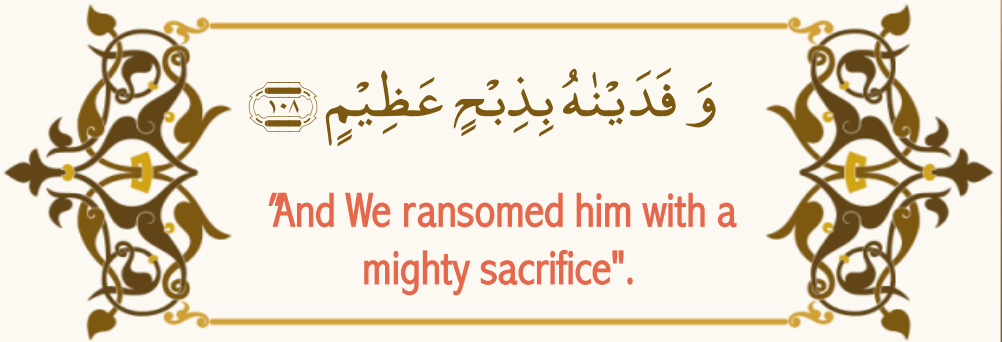
In chapter 37, verse 106 of the Holy Quran, the words



show that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was not required to physically fulfil his vision to slaughter his son. In fact, it was only a practical display of his intentions and preparedness to submit fully to Allah which was required of him. The vision, as mentioned earlier, had already symbolically been fulfilled by Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> having been left in the valley of Makkah with his mother. We cannot forget that this represented a huge sacrifice on behalf of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>! It really was an extreme trial for Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> to have left his dear wife and his only son (at that time), unprovided for and unprotected, in a place where, humanly speaking, they were sure to perish.

The symbolic sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> plays such an important role that a part of it has become an important aspect of Hajj.

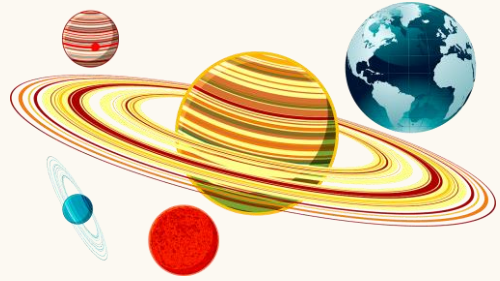
It is this tradition of Sacrifice that seems to have been referred to in chapter 37, verse 108 in the words



The reference in the verse may also be to the ending of human sacrifice which seemed to be in fashion in Hazrat Ibrahim's (as) time and to the substitution for it of animal sacrifice.

# BRINGING THE DEAD TO LIFE

Allah gave Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> knowledge and understanding of natural laws that work in the universe.



This was all done so that he was certain of his faith. His belief was firm, but there was one thing which Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> wanted to know and that was, how did Allah bring the dead to life?



He asked Allah to show him how he gave life to the dead.

Allah the Almighty asked Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> if he did not believe that He could do it. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> said that he did believe in Allah's

powers but just wanted to understand, so that his heart may be at ease.

To this, Allah asked him to find four birds and make them get used to him, love them and make them attached to him. And when this was done, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was asked to put them on a hill and call those birds. He would then see that his birds would come to him in a hurry.



Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> did believe that Allah could bring dead people to life, but what he really wanted was the happiness and satisfaction of knowing that Allah would do the same for his children and their generations to follow.

## DID YOU KNOW



The Jews are descendants of Hazrat Ishaq<sup>as</sup>, who was the second son of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>.



Dear children, the Holy Quran says that a good reputation was left for Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> among the generations that were to follow. With



regards to this, what more proof could there be than the fact that the followers of the three major religions –Islam, Christianity and Judaism – all take pride in attributing their ancestry to him.

In a way it can be said that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was a Muslim. This is because firstly, the word Islam means submission to God, and secondly Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> used the word Muslim for himself and his son Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>. He prayed to Allah to make them both submissive to Him. He also prayed for their descendants to be submissive to Allah the Almighty.

## DID YOU KNOW



The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of Islam is a descendant of Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>, the son of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) came many, many years after Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>.

In the Holy Quran, Allah has described Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> as a special friend of His.

**“And who is better in faith than he who submits himself entirely to Allah, and he is a doer of good and follows the religion of Abraham, the upright? And Allah took Abraham for a special friend.”**

**(chapter 4, verse 126)**

Dear children, if you read this verse and understand it fully, you will come to know that it gives the essence and true meaning of Islam. As mentioned earlier, Islam means obedience to the Will of God and the submission of one's abilities and powers to His service.

## DID YOU KNOW

The *'People of the Book'* are those people who follow religions which have scriptures (divine books revealed by Allah). These include the Torah in Judaism, the Bible in Christianity and the Holy Quran in Islam.

The People of the Book, who respected Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and saw him as a patriarch (a leader, an ancestor) and the Arabs who were proud of being his descendants (his children), looked upon Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> as a person who personified the essence of Islam. How? By his full submission to the Will of God! In this verse, we are told that only by following the teachings of Islam

can we become like Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> – beloved of God and His special friend.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was tender-hearted and patient and had a pure heart. He had a heart that caused no problems. A heart that was at peace with man and God. A heart fully submitted to the Will of the great Creator.

The Holy Quran in many places repeated that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was perfect in obedience and was always inclined to kindness and turned himself to Allah. As a result, Allah wished to make him a Leader of men.

## PILGRIMAGE

### DID YOU KNOW



A Pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place which is done for religious purposes. For the Muslims, this holy place is the city of Makkah, where the Holy Ka'bah is.

The pilgrimage to Mecca began with Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>. It was already said that people will come by foot, on every lean camel, travelling long distances to perform this pilgrimage.



From the time of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, Pilgrimage to Mecca has continued without a break and will continue till the end of time. The Ka'bah was once the centre of Pilgrimage for the Arabs alone, but now it is the centre of Pilgrimage for the whole Muslim world and is destined to become the spiritual centre for all mankind. When Islam spreads everywhere in the world the Ka'bah will become a symbol of the Unity of God and of all mankind.

# REBUILDING THE KA'ABA AND PRAYERS

The vision of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> slaughtering his son (as mentioned in chapter 37, verse 103 of the Holy Quran) did not mean physically slaughtering him. The dream really meant that he was to settle his son in a barren valley. Leaving a young boy with his mother in a place where there was no water, no vegetation and no sign of life was more or less the same as killing them.

When Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> left his son in the valley, he prayed:

“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.”

*(Chapter 14, verse 38)*

Using the words *"Our Lord..."* shows that Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was including Hazrat Hajrah and Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> in his prayer. Even though it was Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> who took his wife and son to settle in *"an uncultivable valley"*, his wife and son had also shared in the sacrifice. They happily went along with him and willingly showed their readiness to live in the wilderness, in obedience to God's command.



## DID YOU KNOW

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was forbidden by God from slaughtering his son and so the practice of offering human beings as sacrifice forever became banned to the followers of God.

Dear children, by using the words, *that they may observe Prayer*, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> seeks to attract Allah's mercy by mentioning the noble cause for which he had taken his son to live near the Sacred House. Allah accepted that prayer of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>,

for He sees the motives of man and He never allows a work done with good intention to go unrewarded.

After mentioning that he had caused his child to dwell in that barren valley so that they might establish the worship of God at the Sacred Mosque and fulfil the purpose for which it had been built, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> prays that *"men's hearts might be inclined towards them"*. This is so that preaching to them might prove effective; more people might join them worshipping God at the sacred place and as a result the purpose for which he had made his son dwell in that *"bleak and barren valley"* might be accomplished. The prayer of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> found its complete fulfilment with the coming of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Before his time only the Arabs visited Mecca for pilgrimage but, after Islam had spread, people from all over the world began to go to the Holy House of God. The prayer also implied that the Ka'bah would one day become the centre of the worship of the One True God.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> did not ignore the physical welfare (wellbeing)



of his offspring. He prayed that his descendants living in and around Makkah may have plenty of fruits. This prayer was made at a time when not a blade of grass was seen for many miles around that place. The prophecy was fulfilled in a wonderful manner, for the choicest fruits come to Makkah now, in plenty and during all seasons. Spiritually, the hearts of nations have become drawn towards the House of God at Makkah, where pilgrims gather from all parts of the world.

## PRAYERS

Dear children, the beauty of the Holy Quran is that it has preserved the accounts, events and prayers of some prophets, so that we can learn from them and use their prayers in our lives as well.

When Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> were rebuilding the Ka'bah, they both prayed to Allah the Almighty to make this a town. A town that would have people living in it who would believe in Allah and the Last Day and would be given peace,

security and lots of fruits. As they rebuilt the foundations of the House, they asked Allah to accept it from them.

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> then prayed

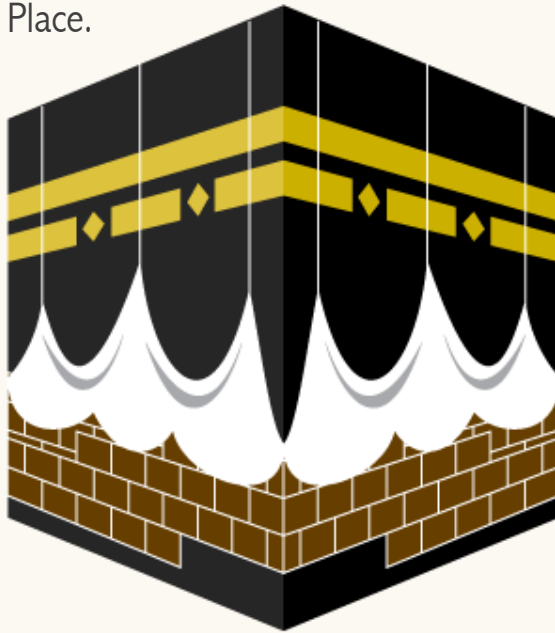
رَبَّنَا وَاجْعَلْنَا مُسْلِمِينَ لَكَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِنَا  
أُمَّةً مُسْلِمَةً لَكَ ۗ وَارِنَا مَنَاسِكَنَا وَتُبْ  
عَلَيْنَا ۚ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ ﴿١٢٩﴾

“Our Lord, make us submissive to Thee and *make* of our offspring a people submissive to Thee. And show us our ways of worship, and turn to us with mercy; for Thou art Oft-Returning *with compassion and Merciful.*”

(Chapter 2, verse 129)

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> prayed for Allah to raise a prophet from the people of Makkah who should show people the Signs of God,

teach them the Law of God and give them wisdom. With all these prayers a promise was made to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> that the Ka'bah would be made a place of reward; a centre where people would come together for worship. The truth of this part of the promise, that is, that the Ka'bah is a place of reward, can only be recognized by believers who irresistibly feel the need to go and visit the Holy Place.



The fulfilment of the prayer that it would become a resort for men has been established by the facts of history during the past

fourteen hundred years, being testified to even by the enemies of Islam. The Ka'bah, as some traditions say and as hinted by the Quran itself, was originally built by Adam<sup>as</sup>, and was, for some time, the centre of worship for his progeny (descendants).

Then in the course of time people became separated into different communities and adopted different centres for worship. Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> then rebuilt the Ka'bah and it has continued to be a centre of worship for his progeny through his son Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup>. As time passed, it became a house of idols; as many as 360 – almost the same as the number of days in a year. With the coming of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of Islam, the Ka'bah became the centre of worship for the One and Only God, Allah, again for all mankind, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> having been sent as a Messenger for all mankind. So, the nations which moved away after Hazrat Adam<sup>as</sup> were again brought together at the Ka'bah which was made the spiritual centre for all humanity and for all time.

Again, the Ka'bah, and, for that matter, the town of Makkah, is acknowledged to be a place of peace and security. The Holy Town has always remained in the hands of those who have held it in respect.

Allah had commanded Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> to purify the House of God. This did not only mean the outward cleaning of the House, but also to be free of idol-worship.

## DID YOU KNOW



This commandment was originally addressed to Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> but it was finally and fully carried out by the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> who, after the conquest of Makkah, cleared the Ka'bah of all the 360 idols that had been placed there by the idolators

When Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> offered the prayer “...*make this town of peace and provide with fruits...*” there was no existing town near the Ka’bah. There existed only the House of God.

So Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> prayed that in that wildest of wildernesses there may develop a town, and that that town might become a place of security and giving peace to mankind. In fulfilment of this prayer, there grew up the town of Makkah which has remained a place of peace and security for hundreds of years.

Having built the House, Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> and his son Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> turn towards God with the prayer that may He give them the power to lead a life of devotion and submissiveness and show them the ways of such worship as may be performed in the Ka’bah.

Dear children, the Holy Quran has saved the stories and dialogues of (some of) the prophets so that we can learn from them and follow their examples. The verses being discussed here

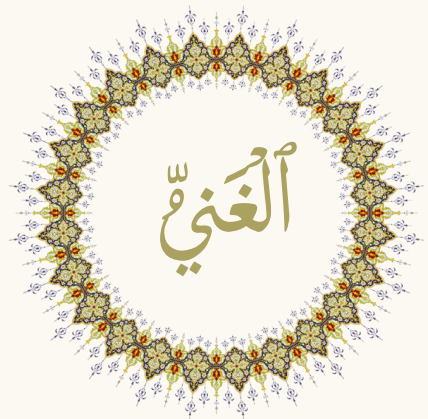
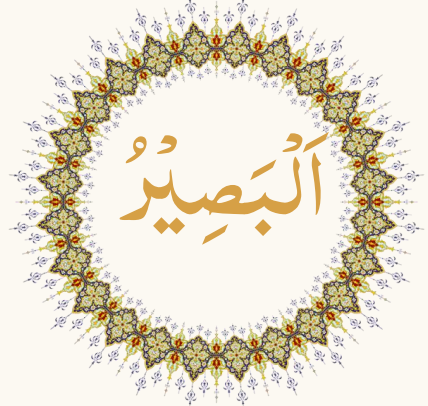
point to the ultimate truth that Divine Messengers, when they talk about Allah, speak from personal experience. They do not



merely make a claim about Allah but prove it with practical examples from their own lives. They do not invite people to Allah just because human reason demands belief in His existence, but they do it with

full conviction and firm faith. When they say that Allah exists, they say it with full conviction because they constantly hear His Sweet Voice and because also they themselves speak to Him and receive answer to their prayers from Him. Allah reveals Himself to them and they witness practical proofs of His power and omniscience (the attribute of all-knowing) in their own persons. So their evidence about the existence of Allah is based not on hearsay (what they just hear), nor on reason alone but primarily and principally on their personal experiences.

Dear children, the attributes *"All-Hearing"* and *"All-Seeing"* are among the most important Divine Attributes. It is our conviction that God sees us when we are in trouble and hears our prayers when we pray to Him, which shows our belief in God. These two attributes are here further complemented by a third—the attribute *'Ghani'* which means, One Who has no need of others and is Self-Sufficient but Whose help others need and upon Whom they are dependent. If Allah was not غني and cannot come to our help when we need it, then His attributes *"All-Seeing"* and *"All-Hearing"* are of no use.





Dear children, this was the story of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>, the Father of all the Prophets. He set a great example for us with his prayers, his steadfastness and his sacrifices. We should all try to learn from his story, his life, and then try to follow his example.



# ACTIVITY # 1 – TRUE/FALSE

1

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> has the title '*Abbul Ambiyaa*', meaning '*Father of all Prophets*'.

True

False

2

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> came before Hazrat Adam<sup>as</sup> and Hazrat Nuh<sup>as</sup>.

True

False

3

The word *Islam* means submission to God.

True

False

4

The '*People of the Book*' are those people who follow religions which have scriptures.

True

False

5

For the Muslims, the holy place is the city of Turkey, where the Holy Ka'bah is.

True

False

6

The Ka'bah was once the centre of Pilgrimage for the Arabs alone, but now it is the centre of Pilgrimage for the whole Muslim world

True

False

7

The Jews are descendants of Hazrat Ishaq<sup>as</sup>, who is also the son of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup>.

True

False

8

Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> was 96 years old when Hazrat Ismail<sup>as</sup> was born.

True

False

9

Eid-ul-Adha is celebrated to remember the, passion and dedication of the intended sacrifice of Hazrat Ishaq<sup>as</sup>.

True

False

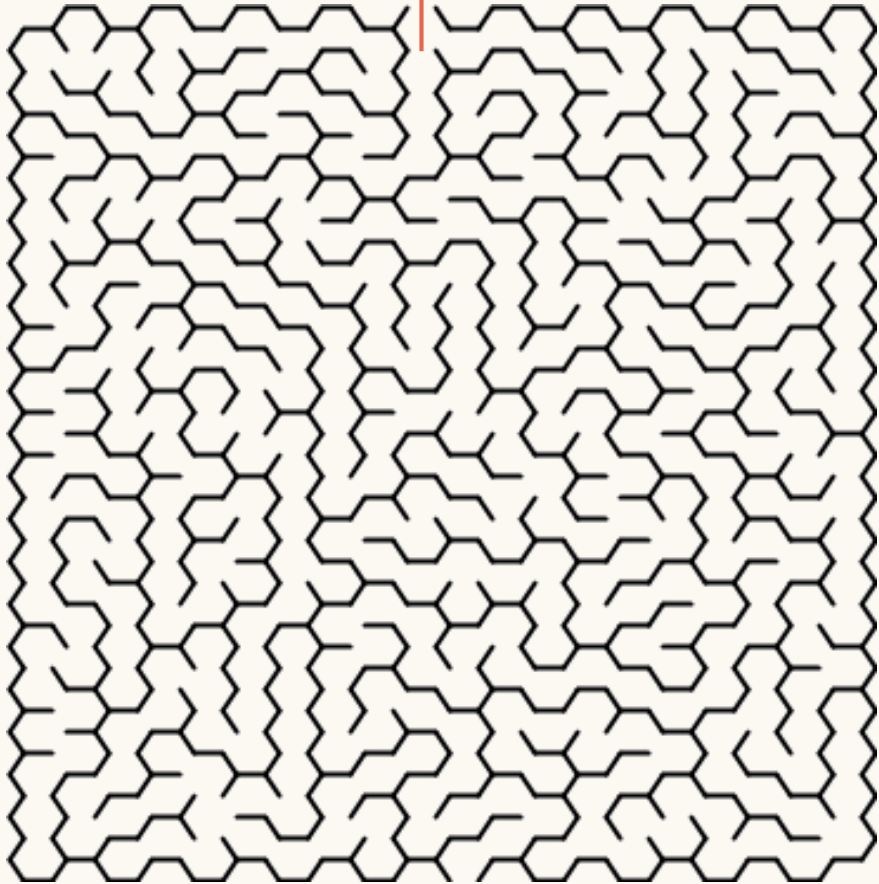
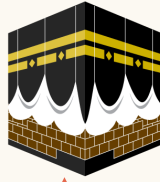
10

The Holy Quran has saved the stories and dialogues of (some of) the prophets so that we can learn from them and follow their examples.

True

False

# ACTIVITY # 2 - MAZE CHALLENGE



# ACTIVITY # 3 – WORD SEARCH

Have fun searching the words listed blow!

I	H	I	K	S	N	A	L	I	Q	D	I	I	A
H	A	S	E	N	P	E	A	J	Q	U	L	M	I
M	R	M	G	J	R	R	M	H	U	R	J	I	I
P	J	A	A	P	I	R	H	A	R	R	O	N	L
R	A	I	M	S	O	I	S	L	A	M	A	S	A
A	H	L	I	L	L	A	L	A	N	H	A	A	L
Y	I	B	R	A	H	I	M	G	G	M	E	C	A
E	E	J	G	H	T	A	S	E	A	L	H	R	E
R	D	O	L	A	E	P	H	A	P	I	A	I	A
S	H	R	I	L	H	K	A	A	B	A	L	F	E
S	C	A	P	Q	P	I	H	K	A	A	L	I	R
I	U	C	J	A	O	J	A	A	S	A	A	C	I
Q	A	G	E	J	R	S	L	O	D	I	H	E	F
M	H	R	A	R	P	H	C	P	A	R	A	I	A

KAABA

PRAYERS

SACRIFICE

QURAN

IDOLS

PROPHET

ALLAH

IBRAHIM

HAJJ

ISMAIL

PILGRIMAGE

ISLAM

HAJRAH

GHANI

# ACTIVITY # 4 - UNSCRAMBLE

Dear children, try to unscramble the words listed below!

PHREPTO

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NRATICHSI

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IMIASL

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AIHBRIM

-----

AYRRPE

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RLIGAIPMEG

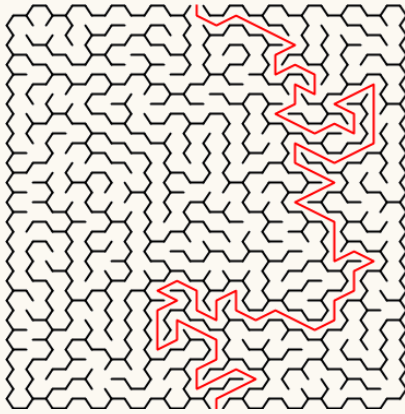
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# ANSWERS

## ACTIVITY #1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. True

## ACTIVITY #2



## ACTIVITY #3



## ACTIVITY #4

PROPHET

CHRISTIAN

ISMAIL

IBRAHIM

PRAYER

PILGRIMAGE

# OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES...

