

Basic History
(Basic Islamic History)

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Introduction

The Qur-aan Shareef discusses the incidents of the Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam) in great detail. The incidents of approximately 25 Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam) are discussed. These incidents are mentioned for us to take lessons from the nations of the past; to stay away from those things that brought ruin to them as well as implement and apply those aspects that made them successful.

In this small booklet titled Basic History, the Ulul Azm Ambiyaa (those Ambiyaa that enjoy the highest rank) are discussed. Most of it has been taken from Qasasun Nabiyyeen written by the late Hadhrat Moulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi (rahmatullahi alayh). It is kept on a very simple level aimed especially for children.

It is hoped that this book can educate the children of the ummat on the lives of the great Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam) as well as learn about the life of our beloved Master Sayyiduna Muhammadur Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam).

May Allah Ta'ala accept this work and make it a means of imbibing the love of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and the Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam) into our hearts. *Aameen.*

Ta'limi Board (KZN)

Rajab 1439



Part One

In this section:

- ❁ Introduction to The Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam)
- ❁ Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam)
- ❁ Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam)
- ❁ Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam)



Introduction to the Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam)

The Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam) were those selected servants of Allah Ta'ala whom He chose and sent to this world to guide mankind. All the Prophets of Allah Ta'ala were human beings and have human needs and feelings. They ate, drank, slept and got married like all other humans. No Prophet of Allah Ta'ala committed any sin. All of them were pious servants of Allah Ta'ala.

No person can become a Prophet on his own. Only Allah Ta'ala chooses a Prophet. Allah Ta'ala sent the Prophets to this world to guide man to the right path and to explain to them who Allah Ta'ala is. It is necessary for us to believe in all the Ambiyaa (prophets). A person who rejects even one Prophet cannot be a Muslim. The Arabic word for Prophet is 'Nabi' or 'Rasool'. Nabi is singular and Ambiyaa is plural.

Allah Ta'ala sent approximately 124 000 Prophets to this world. Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) was the first Prophet and Hadhrat Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was the last and final Prophet of Allah Ta'ala. Our Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has the highest position amongst all the Ambiyaa (alayhimus salaam). It is necessary for us to believe in all the Prophets of Allah Ta'ala (those we know and those we don't

know). In the following pages we will *Insha Allah* mention some of their stories in brief.

These stories are mentioned so that we can take a lesson from the people of the past and do not repeat their mistakes.





Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam)

Creation of Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam)

Long long ago, when there was no life on earth, Allah Ta'ala asked the angels to go around the earth and collect sand from different parts of the world. They did as they were commanded and collected sand of different colours and textures. Allah Ta'ala then shaped the sand into the form of a human being.

One day, Allah Ta'ala spoke to the angels and told them that He wants to create a new creation from sand, who will live on earth. The angels replied, "O Allah! Make us in charge of the earth. We are always in your worship. We don't ever disobey You. If you make another creation, they will cause corruption on earth and will kill one another." Allah Ta'ala told the angels that He knew better than them.

Allah Ta'ala then gave life to this human being. All of a sudden, this new creation started moving when life came into him. This is how Aadam (alayhis salaam) came into existence. He is the first person to be created in human form and he is the first Prophet of Allah Ta'ala on earth as well. After Allah Ta'ala gave life to Aadam (alayhis salaam), he taught him the names of everything on earth (e.g. water, light, sand, tree, fruit, stone, etc.). One day, Allah Ta'ala placed a few things in front of the angels and asked them the names of these things. They replied, “*Subhanallah! We have no knowledge except that which You have taught us, O Allah! You are the most Knowledgeable and the Wise.*”

Allah Ta'ala then turned to Aadam (alayhis salaam) and asked him to explain to the angels the names of those things. When he mentioned to them the names of those things, Allah Ta'ala said to the angels, “*Didn't I tell you that I have knowledge of the skies and the earth and I know what you show and what you hide.*”

Iblees (shaytaan) and the Command to make Sajdah

Iblees (shaytaan) lived amongst the angels as a very pious creation. He was always busy in the worship of Allah Ta'ala and was known as the teacher of the angels. His name at that time was Azaazeel.

After creating Aadam (alayhis salaam), Allah Ta'ala commanded everyone to make sajdah to Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam).

Every single angel made sajdah except for Iblees. He became arrogant and proud. He told Allah Ta'ala, "How can I make sajdah to Aadam? I am better than him. I am made of fire and he is made of clay." Iblees did not obey the command of Allah Ta'ala, so Allah Ta'ala threw him out of Jannah and he is cursed and doomed forever.

He told Allah Ta'ala that since he is going to Jahannam, he will try to take as many people from the children of Aadam (alayhis salaam) with him to Jahannam. He said that he will teach them the wrong things and misguide them all.

Allah Ta'ala told him, "Very well! You and those who follow you will go to Jahannam. But remember, if any person makes taubah (ask for forgiveness) and repents for his sins, then I will forgive him and send him to Jannah."

Marriage

Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) lived in Jannah all alone. He started feeling lonely and needed a friend to talk to. So Allah Ta'ala decided to create a wife for him. She was created from Hadhrat Aadam's (alayhis salaam) left rib and her name was Hawwa.

Hadhrat Aadam and Hawwa (alayhimas salaam) lived very happily in Jannah. Allah Ta'ala said to them, "O Aadam! You and your wife

may live in Jannah! Eat whatever you want and do whatever you wish. However, do not eat the fruit of this certain tree.”

Removed from Jannah

One day, shaytaan came and told them that if they eat from that tree, they will live in Jannah forever. Shaytaan insisted that they should eat from the tree and promised that he is their friend. Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) and his wife forgot about the command of Allah Ta’ala and ate from that tree. All of a sudden the clothes of Jannah that they were wearing disappeared from their bodies. They began covering themselves with the leaves of Jannah. They now realised that they had done something wrong.

Allah Ta’ala became displeased with them and asked them for an explanation. Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) did not argue like Iblees. He accepted his mistake and asked Allah Ta’ala for forgiveness. Allah Ta’ala removed them from Jannah and sent them to live on earth. Shaytaan was also sent to live on earth.

For many days, Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) and his wife Hadhrat Hawwa (radiyallahu anha) roamed around the earth crying to Allah Ta’ala for forgiveness. They were very sorry for not obeying Allah’s command. They kept on reading the following dua;

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

O Allah! We have made a mistake and if you do not forgive us, we will definitely be from those that are lost.

Allah Ta'ala accepted their taubah (repentance) and forgave them. Any person who commits any sin and makes taubah, will most certainly be forgiven by Allah Ta'ala.

Children of Aadam (alayhis salaam)

Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) and Hadhrat Hawwa (radiyallahu anha) lived on earth. They worshipped Allah Ta'ala here and were blessed with many children. This is how life started on this earth. Their family grew and spread throughout the land.

When Allah Ta'ala blessed them with children, they would get twins, (a boy and a girl in each set). After two pairs of twins were born, in order for life to carry on, the brother of one set of twins had to marry the sister of the other set of twins. So in one pair was a boy whose name was Haabil and his sister and in the other pair was Qaabil and his sister. Haabil had to marry Qaabil's sister and Qaabil had to marry Haabil's sister.

The sister that Haabil had to marry was extremely beautiful and the sister that Qaabil had to marry was not so beautiful. Qaabil got

very angry and jealous and argued with his brother. Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) told them not to argue but to offer a sacrifice to Allah Ta'ala and whoever's sacrifice is accepted will have the choice of marrying whom he wants. They both offered a sacrifice.

Haabil offered a fat healthy ram whilst Qaabil offered a thin piece of rejected dirty corn. In those days, a sign to show that a sacrifice will be accepted was that a fire would come down from the sky and eat up whatever was offered. It turned out that the sacrifice of Haabil was accepted. Qaabil could not control his anger and jealousy and killed his brother. This was the first murder that took place on earth.

Eventually after many years, on a Friday, Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) passed away. The angels came down from the skies and enshrouded his body. He was then buried.

Lessons Learnt from this Incident

1. We must always obey the commandments of Allah Ta'ala.
2. Don't let Shaytaan mislead you in any way.
3. Shaytaan is our enemy. We must always treat him like our enemy and not befriend him in any way.
4. Whenever we make a mistake or commit a sin we must always accept our wrongs and make taubah.
5. Allah Ta'ala accepts the taubah of anyone who repents.
6. Muslims must never be jealous of one another as jealousy will destroy us.

Questions

1. Who was the first human being that Allah Ta'ala created? _____

2. Why did shaytaan not make sajdah to Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam)? _____

3. What did shaytaan say to Allah Ta'ala? _____

4. Who did Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) get married to? _____

5. Why were Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) and Hadhrat Hawwa taken out of Jannah? _____

6. Why was Qaabil unhappy? _____

7. What made Qaabil kill Haabil? _____



Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam)

After Aadam (alayhis salaam)

After Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) passed away, shaytaan began misleading the people. He made them worship idols and statues of people. Allah Ta'ala got very angry with them as they were now gone astray. They were not following what Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam) taught them. Therefore, Allah Ta'ala decided to send another Prophet to guide them onto the right path.

As human beings, we cannot see Allah Ta'ala. Only when we die we will be able to meet Allah Ta'ala. In this world, Allah Ta'ala does not speak to His servants directly, but rather He chooses a Prophet to advise people to do good and stay away from evil.

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) is Chosen as a Prophet

Allah Ta'ala chose Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) to be His Prophet and to guide the people to the straight path.

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) was a pious and generous man. He was intelligent, kind and sincere. He was truthful and trustworthy and was known for giving good advice. Allah Ta'ala revealed to Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam), *“Warn your people (to stay away from sins) before a painful punishment comes to them.”* So Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) stood up and told them, “I am a faithful messenger from Allah Ta'ala to you.”

When Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) began to say to his people, “I am a faithful messenger to you,” some of them replied, “When did this man become a Prophet? Yesterday he was one of us and today he says that he is a Prophet.”

The friends of Hadhrat Nuh's (alayhis salaam) began saying, “This man used to play with us when we were young and he sat with us every day. When did he become a Prophet? Was it during the day or during the night?”

The rich and proud people mocked at him saying, “Could Allah Ta'ala not find anyone else to make a Prophet? Has everyone else died? Was there only this poor man from all the people to be His Prophet?”

The ignorant ones said to each other, “He is only a man like yourselves. If Allah Ta’ala wanted to really send someone to guide us, He would have sent down angels. We have never heard of something like this before.”

Some of the people said that Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) only wanted to become a leader, a man of power and position amongst them by saying that he was the messenger of Allah Ta’ala.

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) and his people

People were used to thinking that worshipping idols was the correct and sensible thing to do. They thought that anyone who did not worship idols was foolish. They would say, “Our fathers worshipped idols, so why shouldn’t we worship them?”

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) knew that their fathers were wrong and unwise and that Hadhrat Aadam (alayhis salaam), who was the father of all their fathers, did not worship idols. He worshipped Allah Ta’ala alone. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) knew that the people were foolish when they worshipped stones and did not worship Allah Ta’ala who created them.

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) stood up one day and announced at the top of his voice,

“O my people! Worship Allah Ta’ala! There is no God besides Him. Truly, I fear for you the punishment of a dreadful day. O my people, there is no error in me. I am a messenger from Allah, the Lord of all the worlds. I convey to you the message of Allah Ta’ala and I give you good advice, for I know from Allah Ta’ala what you do not know.”

Only the lowly class follow you!

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) tried very hard to make his people worship Allah Ta’ala alone and leave out worshipping idols made of stone. But only a few poor people believed in him.

The rich were too proud to believe him. Their pride kept them away from listening to Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam). Their property and wealth distracted them from thinking about the hereafter. They would say, “We are the noble ones and these people who follow you are lowly.” When Nuh (alayhis salaam) called them to Allah Ta’ala, they answered, “How should we believe you when only the low class follow you?”

They asked Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) to chase his poor followers away. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) refused and said, “I cannot chase away the believers. My door is not the door of a King. I am only a clear warner!”

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) knew that the poor people were sincere believers and that he could not chase them away.

Hadhrat Nuh's (alayhis salaam) Call

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) continued calling his people and tried to advise them saying, “O my people! I am a clear warner to you, worship Allah Ta’ala and Fear Him so that He may forgive your sins.”

These people continued in their sinful ways. They carried on worshipping their idols and refused to worship Allah Ta’ala. Eventually, Allah Ta’ala became angry with them and held back the rains. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) advised them saying, “O! My people! If only you believe in what I say, Allah Ta’ala will be pleased with you and remove your punishment.”

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) made dua to Allah Ta’ala to send rain. Allah Ta’ala sent the rain and blessed their crops. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) called his people and said to them, “Can’t you now recognise Allah Ta’ala? These are the clear signs of Allah Ta’ala all around you. Can’t you see them? Can’t you see the heavens and the earth? Can’t you see the sun and the moon? Who created the heavens? Who placed the moon in the sky as a light and made the sun a lamp? He created you and laid out the earth as a carpet for you.”

But the people of Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) would not understand and did not want to believe in Allah Ta'ala. When Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) advised them, they put their fingers in their ears and ignored him.

Hadhrat Nuh's (alayhis salaam) Dua

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) stayed with his people for nine hundred and fifty years, calling them to Allah Ta'ala, but his people still did not believe in Allah Ta'ala. They would not stop worshipping idols. They refused to worship one Allah Ta'ala.

How long could Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) wait for? How long could he watch the earth and its people being ruined? How long could he tolerate his people worshipping stones? How long could he watch them eat the food provided by Allah Ta'ala and worship something else besides Allah Ta'ala?

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) did not get angry. He was more patient than anyone else could have ever been. Calling his people to Allah Ta'ala for nine hundred and fifty years! **Subhaanallah!**

Then Allah Ta'ala revealed to Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam), “O Nuh! From now on, none of your people will bring Imaan (believe in Allah Ta'ala) except those who have already brought Imaan.”

When Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) called his people again, they said, “O Nuh! You have been threatening us for a long time. If you

are really truthful, then bring upon us the punishment that you have promised us.”

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) lost all hope in his people. He made dua, “O Allah Ta’ala, destroy all these unbelievers. Do not leave even one of them on the face of this earth!”

The Ark (Ship)

Allah Ta’ala answered Nuh’s (alayhis salaam) dua and He decided to punish them with a great flood.

Allah Ta’ala wanted to save Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) and the believers, so He commanded Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) to build a big ship called the Ark. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) began building the ship immediately.

The unbelievers saw him busy working and mocked him saying, “What is this? Since when have you become a carpenter? Didn’t we tell you not to sit with the carpenters and ironsmiths and now you have really become a carpenter!”

“O Nuh! Where is this ship going to? Everything about you is strange! Is it going to sail on the sand or climb up the mountains? The sea is a long way from here. Will the jinn carry it or will oxen pull it?”

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) heard all these statements and continued with his work quietly and patiently.

The Flood

The promised punishment of Allah Ta'ala came. It rained and rained until the sky was like a sieve which could not hold the water. Water poured down from the sky and gushed up from the earth and flowed until it surrounded the people on every side.

Then Allah Ta'ala commanded Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam), "Take with you those of your people and family who are believers." Allah Ta'ala also commanded him to take on-board a pair of every animal and bird; a male and a female, because the flood would cover the entire earth. Neither man nor animals would be saved from it. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) did as he was instructed. With him in the Ark were only those who believed in Allah Ta'ala and a pair of every bird and animal.

The Ark sailed with them on waves like mountains. The people outside the Ark climbed onto every high place and every hill, running away from the punishment of Allah Ta'ala. But no one could save them besides Allah Ta'ala.

Hadhrat Nuh's (alayhis salaam) Son

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) had a son who was with the unbelievers. Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) saw his son in the flood and said to him, “O my son! Board the ship and do not be with the unbelievers. You will be saved if you come with me.”

He replied, “I will climb the highest mountain and I will be protected from the flood water.”

Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) said to him, “Today no one will be saved except the one to whom Allah Ta’ala shows mercy.”

The waves came between Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) and his son and his son drowned immediately.

After the Flood

When all the unbelievers drowned, the rain stopped and the water subsided. The Ark settled on Mount Judi and Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam), and his people got off the ship. Allah Ta’ala blessed the children of Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) and they spread out in the land and filled the earth. There were communities amongst them and there were even Prophets and kings amongst them.

May Allah Ta’ala shower His Peace upon Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam)!

Lessons Learnt from this Incident

1. Don't ever mock a Nabi or pious person. They are the friends of Allah Ta'ala. If Allah Ta'ala gets angry with you, you will be destroyed.
2. Always make dua for the Mercy of Allah Ta'ala because only those whom Allah Ta'ala shows mercy to will be saved from His punishment.
3. Stay in the company of the poor. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) used to also encourage living with the poor because they are naturally humble people.
4. We are totally dependent on Allah Ta'ala's Mercy. No one can be saved even if you are the son of a Nabi.

Questions

1. Who did the people of Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) worship?

2. What did Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) advise them to do? ____

3. For how long did Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) call his people?

4. What did Allah Ta'ala ask Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) to build?

5. How did Allah Ta'ala punish the people of Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam)? _____

6. Where did the Ark of Hadhrat Nuh (alayhis salaam) settle? ____

إبراهيم

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam)

Long, long ago, there lived a man whose name was Aazar. He was famous because he used to make and sell idols. The people kept many of their idols in a huge temple in the middle of the city and prayed to them. Aazar would also pray before these idols and worship them.

Aazar's Son

Aazar had a very intelligent son named Ibraahim. Ibraahim would see the people bowing down to the idols. He knew that the idols were made of stone and could neither speak nor hear.

He knew that the idols could neither help nor harm anyone. He saw flies sitting on them and they could not even chase them

away. Mice would come and eat the food which was left for the idols. If the idols could not protect themselves, how were they going to protect anyone else? Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) would always ask himself, “Why do people worship these idols? Why do they ask the idols for their needs when they cannot even help themselves?”

Hadhrat Ibraahim's (alayhis salaam) Advice

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) would say to his father, “O my father, why do you worship these idols? Why do you bow down to them? O my father, why do you ask these idols for your needs when they can neither speak nor hear? They cannot help anyone nor harm anything. Why do you put food and drink before them when they cannot eat or drink?”

Aazar became very angry and did not understand what all these questions meant. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) tried to give his people the same advice, but they also became angry and did not understand what he was trying to say. One day, the young Ibraahim said to himself, “I will smash these idols when the people are gone away. Maybe then they will understand what I am saying.”

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) breaks the idols

When the day of their great festival came, everyone was happy and came out to celebrate, taking their children along with them. Ibraahim's father asked him, "Why don't you come with us?" Ibraahim replied: "No, I am not feeling well." When everyone had gone, Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) went to the huge temple where the idols were kept and spoke to the idols.

He said: "Why don't you speak? Why don't you hear? There is food and drink here. Why don't you eat? Why don't you drink?" The idols remained silent because they were made of stones which of course cannot speak. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) said, "What is stopping you from speaking?" When the idols didn't say anything, Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) grabbed an axe and smashed all the idols with the axe except one. He left the biggest idol standing there and hung the axe around its neck.

Who did this?

After the festival was over, the people returned. Because it was a day of celebration and happiness, they hurriedly went to their temple to bow down before their idols. They were shocked and angry at what they saw. "Who has done this to our gods," they cried. Some of them said, "We heard a young boy called Ibraahim talking about them."

When Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) was brought before them, they asked him, “Are you the one who did this to our gods?” Ibraahim (alayhis salaam), pointing to the biggest idol, answered calmly: “Their chief has done it. Ask him if he is able to speak.”

The people knew that the idols were made of stone and that stones cannot hear or speak. They knew that the biggest idol was also made of stone and that it could not move, so it could not have broken the other idols. They said to Ibraahim (alayhis salaam), “You know that the idols cannot speak.” So he asked them, “Then how can you worship idols when they can neither help nor harm anything? Don't you understand?” The people were as silent as the idols, and felt ashamed of themselves.

A Cool Fire

The people got together and planned, “What shall we do? Ibraahim has broken our idols and disgraced our gods. How should we punish him for what he has done?”

The answer was, “Burn him and take revenge for your idols.” That was exactly what they did. They lit a huge fire and threw Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) into it. Allah Ta’ala helped Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) and said to the fire, “O fire, become cool for Ibraahim (alayhis salaam).” Immediately, the fire became cool and a place of comfort for Ibraahim (alayhis salaam). The people were even

more surprised and confused when they saw that the fire did not burn Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam).

“Who is my Lord?”

That night Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) saw a star and he said, “This is my Lord.” When the star set, Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) exclaimed, “No! This is not my Lord!” Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) then saw the moon and he said, “This is my Lord.” When the moon set, Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) exclaimed, “No! This is not my Lord!”

Then the sun rose and Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) said, “This is my Lord. This is greater.” When the sun set, Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) exclaimed, “No! This is not my Lord! Allah is my Lord. He is always living and does not die. The light of Allah always shines and never sets. Allah is All-Mighty. Nothing can overpower Him. The light of the stars is weak, morning overcomes it. The light of the moon is weak, the sun overcomes it. The light of the sun is weak, night overcomes it. The stars cannot help me because they are weak. The moon cannot help me because it is weak. The sun cannot help me because it is weak. Allah Ta’ala alone can help me because He is the Most Powerful.”

My Lord is Allah Ta'ala

Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) knew that Allah Ta'ala was his Lord, for Allah Ta'ala is ever living and does not die. His light always shines and never dims or sets. Allah Ta'ala is All-Mighty, nothing can overpower Him. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) knew that Allah Ta'ala is the Lord of the stars, the Lord of the moon, the Lord of the sun and the Lord of all the worlds.

Allah Ta'ala therefore guided Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) and made him a Prophet and His close friend. Allah Ta'ala commanded Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) to call his people towards Allah Ta'ala and tell them not to worship idols. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) carried out the command of his Lord. He asked his people: "What do you worship?" "We worship the idols," they said. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) asked them: "Do they hear you when you call, or help or harm you?" They said, "We found our fathers doing that." Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) said, "I do not worship these idols. Rather, I am the enemy of these idols. I worship the Lord of all the worlds, the One who created me and who guides me, the One who gives me food and drink, the One who heals me when I am sick, and the One who gives me death and will bring me back to life. Idols cannot create anything and cannot guide. They cannot give anyone food or drink. When someone is sick, they cannot cure him. They cannot give death or bring anyone back to life."

In front of the King

A very cruel and evil king by the name of Namrood ruled the city. He forced the people to bow down to him and believe in him. When the King heard that Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) only bows down before Allah Ta'ala and would not bow down before anyone else, he became angry and sent for him. Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) came as he did not fear anyone except Allah Ta'ala. The King asked him: "Who is your Lord, O Ibraahim?" Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) replied: "My Lord is Allah Ta'ala." The King asked: "Who is Allah?" Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) replied: "The One who gives life and death."

The King said, "I can also give life and death." He then called for two prisoners to be brought before him. The King had one of them killed and he let the other one live. After that, very proudly, he said, "You see! I also give life and death. I killed one man and let the other man live." The King was very silly.

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) wanted to make the King understand. He wanted to make all his people understand. He said to the King, "Allah Ta'ala brings the sun from the east, now you bring it from the west!"

The King was confused and silent. He was ashamed and could not think of anything to say.

Calling his Father to Allah Ta'ala

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) also called his father to Allah Ta'ala. He said to him: "O my father, why do you worship something that does not hear or see? Why do you worship something that cannot help or harm anyone? O my father, do not worship shaytaan! Worship the Merciful Allah Ta'ala!" Ibraahim's (alayhis salaam) father became angry and said, "Now I will hit you. Leave me alone. Do not talk to me." Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) was patient. He said to his father, "Peace be upon you. I will leave this place and worship my Allah." Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) was very sad. He wanted to go to another country so that he could worship Allah Ta'ala and call the people to Allah Ta'ala peacefully.

To Makkah

The King became angry. The people had also become angry. Even Ibraahim's (alayhis salaam) father was angry. So Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) decided to go to another place where he could worship Allah Ta'ala and call the people to Allah Ta'ala peacefully. He bid farewell to his father and left that place. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) intended to go to Makkah with his wife Hajar (radiyallahu anha). There were no plants or trees in Makkah, no well or river, and no animals or people. Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) reached Makkah and stayed there.

After some time, Allah Ta'ala commanded Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) to leave Makkah and go to another land. Allah Ta'ala commanded him to leave his wife and child in Makkah and go alone. Thus Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) left his wife Hajar (Radhiyallahu anha) and his son Ismaa-eel in Makkah. As he was about to leave, his wife asked, "Where are you going, O my husband? Are you going to leave us here in a place when there is no food or water?" Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) remained silent. He did not know what to say. His wife then asked him, "Has Allah Ta'ala commanded you to do this?"

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) replied, "Yes, Allah Ta'ala has commanded me to go."

Hadhrat Hajar (radiyallahu anha) then spoke up, "Then Allah Ta'ala will not let us die here. You may go. He will take care of us."

The Well of Zam Zam

Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) became very thirsty in the desert and his mother began looking for water to drink. But was there any water there? There was no well in Makkah! There was no river in Makkah! Hajar (Radhiyallahu anha) ran from the mountain of Safa to the mountain of Marwa and from Marwa to Safa looking for water.

Allah Ta'ala helped Hajar (Radhiyallahu anha) and Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam). He created sweet water for them to drink. Water sprung out of the ground and Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) and Hajar (Radhiyallahu anha) drank from it. The water remained there and became known as the well of Zam Zam. Allah Ta'ala has blessed the water of Zam Zam. This is the well from which people drink when they travel to Makkah for Haj or Umrah. They take the Zam Zam water back to their countries and share it with their families and friends. Have you drunk Zam Zam water?

Hadhrat Ibraahim's (alayhis salaam) dream

Sometime later, Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) returned to Makkah and re-joined Ismaa-eel and Hajar (Radhiyallahu anha). Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) was very happy and loved his young son Ismaa-eel. Ismaa-eel ran and played about and went everywhere with his father.

One night Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) dreamt that he was sacrificing his son Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam). Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) was a truthful Prophet. His dream was a true dream. Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) was a close friend of Allah Ta'ala and he decided to do what Allah Ta'ala had commanded him to do in the dream. He told his son Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam), "I have seen in a dream that I was sacrificing you. What do you think?" Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) replied, "My father, do what you have been commanded to do. Allah Ta'ala willing, you will find me to be patient."

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) takes Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) with him for sacrifice

When Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) reached Mina, he got ready to slaughter Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam). He laid Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) down on the ground and put the knife on Ismaa-eel's (alayhis salaam) throat. Allah Ta'ala wanted to see if His friend would do what he was commanded to do. Did he love Allah Ta'ala more or did he love his son more?

When Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) had passed the test, Allah Ta'ala sent Jibraeel (alayhis salaam) with a ram from the Jannah. He said, "Sacrifice this ram. Do not sacrifice Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam)." Allah Ta'ala loved what Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) had done. So He commanded the Muslims to make a sacrifice in remembrance of this great incident on Eid ul-Adhaa. May Allah Ta'ala bless Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) and grant him peace.

The Ka'bah

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) left Makkah a second time and thereafter returned. He decided to build a house for worshipping Allah Ta'ala. There were many houses, but there was no house where Allah Ta'ala alone was worshipped.

Hadhrat Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) wanted to help his father build this house for Allah Ta'ala. Both, father and son worked, carrying stones from the mountains around Makkah, and built the Ka'bah with their own hands.

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) would always remember Allah Ta'ala and make dua to Him. He would say, "Our Allah Ta'ala, accept this from us! You are the All-Hearing, the All-Seeing!"

Allah Ta'ala accepted it from Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) and Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) and blessed the Ka'bah. All the Muslims around the world face the Ka'bah in every Salaah. We travel to the Ka'bah during the Haj, and make tawaaf around it.

Jerusalem

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) had another wife whose name was Saarah. From Saarah, Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) had a son whose name was Ishaaq (alayhis salaam). Saarah and Ishaaq (alayhis salaam) lived in Palestine. Ishaaq (alayhis salaam) built a house for worshipping Allah Ta'ala in Palestine just as his father and brother had built a house for Allah Ta'ala in Makkah.

This masjid which Ishaaq (alayhis salaam) built in Palestine is the Al-Aqsa Masjid. Allah Ta'ala had blessed the land around it.

Allah Ta'ala blessed Ishaaq (alayhis salaam) and his children. There were many Prophets and Kings in his family.

Lessons Learnt from this Incident

1. Stay far away from kufr and shirk. Don't even go near idols, temples, churches, crosses, etc. If you ever see anything of kufr or shirk read the 5th kalimah loudly.
2. Always obey Allah Ta'ala even if your parents tell you not to.
3. Take a lesson from how Hadhrat Ibraaheem (alayhis salaam) and Hadhrat Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) obeyed Allah Ta'ala even though it meant that a life must be sacrificed. Allah Ta'ala has not commanded us to slaughter our children but we must still obey his command by sacrificing an animal.
4. Help in doing good actions. Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) helped his father build the ka'bah. We should also be helpful in doing good deeds that will secure many rewards for us in the hereafter.

Questions

1. Who was the father of Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) and what work did he do? _____

2. What advice did Hadhrat Ibraahim give his father? _____

3. What did Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) do to the idols on the day of the festival? _____

4. Where did Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) go to after leaving his father? _____

5. Explain the dream that Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) had seen? _____

6. What did Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) and his son build? _____

7. Who built Masjidul Aqsa? _____

Part Two

In this section:

- ❁ Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam)
- ❁ Hadhrat Isa (alayhis salaam)
- ❁ Hadhrat Muhammad ﷺ



موسى

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam)

Bani Israaeel in Egypt

The Bani Israaeel was a respected clan of people and honoured by all the Egyptians. Great Prophets like Hadhrat Ya'qub (alayhis salaam) and Hadhrat Yusuf (alayhis salaam) were from them. After the Prophets passed away, the ways and manners of the Bani Israaeel became corrupted and they stopped obeying Allah Ta'ala. The Egyptians also changed their behaviour towards them. The Egyptians felt that the land of Egypt belonged to them. Some of them felt that Hadhrat Yusuf (alayhis salaam) was a foreigner and that it was not correct for an outsider to rule Egypt. They

forgot the virtue, generosity and kindness of Hadhrat Yusuf (alayhis salaam).

Firaun

Firaun, an evil and oppressive man, then became the king of Egypt. He hated the Bani Israaeel. He did not care that the Bani Israaeel were the children of the Ambiyaa, nor that they were from the house of Yusuf (alayhis salaam), who was the noblest King of Egypt. He treated them very harshly without any mercy and justice. He felt that the Egyptians were a nation of Kings, created to rule and the Bani Israaeel were a nation of slaves, created to serve. Firaun treated them like animals and used to serve the Egyptians.

This King was arrogant and believed that no-one was higher than him. He did not believe in Allah Ta'ala. He used to say to the people, "I am your Lord Most High. Worship me and bow down to me." He became angry if he heard of anyone being higher than him. He commanded the people to worship him and bow down before him. The Bani Israaeel refused to obey him because they believed in Allah Ta'ala and His Messengers. Firaun therefore became very angry with them.

Killing the Children

A priest once told Firaun that a male child will be born from the Bani Israaeel who will take over his Kingdom. Firaun became very angry. He ordered his guards to kill every new-born boy of the Bani Israaeel. Firaun felt that he was the people's lord and master. He could kill whoever he wished, and let live whoever he wished. The guards went to every home. Whenever they heard that a male child was born among the Bani Israaeel, they killed him. Thousands of children were killed in front of their mothers and fathers. The day a male child was born to the Bani Israaeel was a day of great sorrow and grief.

The Birth of Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam)

Firaun could not stop the plan of Allah Ta'ala even after murdering so many children. The child that Allah Ta'ala had destined to destroy the kingdom of Firaun was born. In spite of Firaun and his armies trying to kill every child, Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) was born and survived. He was destined to bring people out of darkness into light, out of idol worship and into the worship of One Allah Ta'ala.

In the Nile

Hadhrat Musa's (alayhis salaam) mother was afraid for the safety of her beautiful son. How could she help it when the army of Firaun was searching for him everywhere? She had seen the soldiers drag dozens of children from their mothers' laps and kill them. What could she do? Where could she hide her beautiful child when the soldiers had eyes of hawks?

Allah Ta'ala helped Musa's (alayhis salaam) mother and inspired her with the idea of putting him in a box and letting it float down the Nile River. Glory be to Allah Ta'ala! How could a soft hearted mother put her child into a box and then throw it into the river? Who would feed the child in the box? How would the child breathe? Musa's (alayhis salaam) mother did what Allah Ta'ala had inspired her to do. She put her beautiful child into a box and pushed it into the Nile River. Initially she was worried, but then became calm because of her trust in Allah Ta'ala.

Firaun's Palace

One day, Firaun and his wife noticed a box floating on the water. "My lord, do you see that box? How can there be a box in the Nile?" exclaimed the wife of Firaun. As the box came nearer the people saw it shouted out, "Yes, it is a box!"

The King commanded one of his servants to fetch the box. The servant brought the box to the King and when he opened it, he found a beautiful, smiling baby inside. Everyone was amazed. They all wanted to hold him and look at him. Even Firaun was amazed and stared at this young beautiful boy. One of the servants said: “Look, it is an Israelite child. The King must kill him immediately.” When the Queen saw the child, love for him filled her heart. She pleaded with the King not to kill him but rather to adopt him as their son as they had no children. Musa (alayhis salaam) survived in spite of Firaun and his guards wishing to kill him. Allah Ta’ala wanted Firaun to bring up that same child who was going to destroy his kingdom.

Who will suckle the Child?

The child became the new toy of the palace. Everyone came to look at him. They hugged him and kissed him. How could the ladies of the palace not love him? How could the servants of the palace not love him? The Queen looked for a woman to nurse and feed the child. The nurses came one after the other, but the child refused to drink their milk. How astonishing! Why did the child refuse to drink? The nurses tried hard to feed the child but Allah Ta’ala had some other plan for him.

In the Arms of his Mother

In the meantime, the mother of Hadhrat Musa's (alayhis salaam) was worried about her son. She asked her daughter to go and see if her brother is alive. She knew that he would be safe as Allah Ta'ala promised her that her child would be returned to her and that He would protect him. Musa's (alayhis salaam) sister went to look for her brother. She heard people talking about a beautiful child in the King's palace. She went to the palace and listened to the women talking. Musa's (alayhis salaam) sister heard that the child was not drinking milk from any of the woman. She then said in a polite and friendly way, "I know a woman in the town from whom the child will definitely accept milk."

The news reached the Queen and she called the girl and said: "Go and bring this woman." Musa's (alayhis salaam) mother was brought. The child clung to her and began to drink milk from her as if he had been with her since birth. The Queen and the people of the palace were amazed. Firaun, who was uneasy, said: "Why did the child accept this woman? Is she his real mother?" Musa's (alayhis salaam) mother replied, "I am a woman with a good smell, the smell of milk which I have is accepted by every child." Firaun was satisfied with her reply and paid her a wage.

Musa's (alayhis salaam) mother was overjoyed. She returned home with her baby in her arms according to the promise of Allah Ta'ala. She was also being paid to take care of the child.

Return to Firaun's Palace

After Musa (alayhis salaam) grew up and no longer needed his mother's milk, she returned him to the palace. Musa (alayhis salaam) grew up in the King's palace as a prince. He saw with his own eyes the luxury that Firaun and his family enjoyed and how the Bani Israaeel were being oppressed. He saw how the Bani Israaeel went hungry so that Firaun's animals could eat. He saw how the Bani Israaeel were made to work worse than animals. Musa (alayhis salaam) saw these things every day and remained silent. It angered him to see his people living like this. What wrong had the Bani Israaeel done to deserve treatment like this?

The Fatal Blow

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) became a strong young man, and Allah Ta'ala gave him wisdom and knowledge. He hated injustice and always assisted the weak. Every Nabi has these qualities. One day Musa (alayhis salaam) entered the city and found two men fighting, one from the Bani Israaeel and the other from the Egyptians. The Israelite shouted to Musa (alayhis salaam) for help. Musa (alayhis salaam), trying to stop the two men fighting, punched the Egyptian. The Egyptian fell down dead. Musa (alayhis salaam) was filled with regret. He turned to Allah Ta'ala in repentance. Allah Ta'ala forgave him because he did not mean to

kill the Egyptian. Musa (alayhis salaam) praised Allah Ta'ala and said: "Allah Ta'ala has blessed me and forgiven me. I will never help the wrongdoers." The dead Egyptian was one of Firaun's special servants, and the guards were searching all over for his murderer. Musa (alayhis salaam) was afraid and on the lookout, not knowing when Firaun's guards would come for him. He feared being caught and taken before the King.

The dead man became the talk of the town. No-one knew who killed him. Only Musa (alayhis salaam) and the young Israelite knew who had done it. Firaun was furious about the death of his servant and told his guards that they must find the man responsible for his murder.

The Secret is Disclosed

The next day, Musa (alayhis salaam) again saw the same Israelite in a fight with another Egyptian. The Israelite again cried out for help. Musa (alayhis salaam) said: "You like to fight. Here you are, still fighting and quarrelling with people. Must I help you again? You are a quarrelsome person."

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) wanted to stop the fight and went towards them. However, the Israelite, seeing Musa's (alayhis salaam) anger, was afraid that Musa (alayhis salaam) would hit him as he had hit the Egyptian the previous day, so he shouted out: "Musa, do you want to kill me like how you killed that

Egyptian yesterday?” Hearing this, the Egyptian ran away to tell the guards. When the news reached Firaun, he became angry. He said: “Is this the boy who was our foster-child in the palace, the infant who was brought up by the Queen! Is this how he repays me for my favours onto him?”

Allah Ta’ala wanted to rescue Musa (alayhis salaam) from Firaun’s evil. Firaun and his ministers held a meeting and decided to kill Musa (alayhis salaam). A man who heard this went to Musa (alayhis salaam) and told him about the plan. He accepted his advice and ran away from the city. Allah Ta’ala inspired Musa (alayhis salaam) to go to Madyan, an Arab land, which Firaun did not control. Musa (alayhis salaam) left Egypt in fear, watchful in case anyone followed him. But the guards did not know that he had left Egypt. He left in the name of Allah Ta’ala, asking Allah Ta’ala for help.

In Madyan

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) reached Madyan where he did not know anyone. He was worried, but was certain that Allah Ta’ala would not let him die. Musa (alayhis salaam) came to a well where people were drawing out water for their animals. He found two girls there, holding their sheep and waiting for the shepherds to finish with their flocks so that they could have a turn to give water to their sheep.

Musa (alayhis salaam) asked them why they weren't getting water. They replied, "We cannot take water until the other people have all finished. They are strong and we are weak. Our father is an old man and there is no one to help him."

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) drew out water for them very quickly and they left with their sheep.

Where was Musa (alayhis salaam) to go? Where would he find shelter for the night? He made dua to Allah Ta'ala, "O Allah, I am certainly in need of whatever good You will send down to me."

The two girls returned home earlier than normal. Their father was surprised to see them so early and asked them the reason. They replied that Allah Ta'ala had sent a noble man who took out the water for them. Their father realized that it must have been a stranger because no-one had ever been kind to his daughters before. He asked them to go and call this man. The old man said to them, "A stranger has been good to you and he has no shelter in this land. Where will he sleep the night? We owe him the right of hospitality. One of you should go and call him."

One of the girls came to him, walking modestly and said, "My father is calling you." Musa (alayhis salaam) realized that Allah Ta'ala had answered his dua and therefore accepted the offer. He walked ahead of the girl so that he would not be looking at her. When they arrived, the old man asked him his name and from where he had come.

When Musa (alayhis salaam) had finished explaining his incident, the old man said, “Do not fear. You are safe from the unjust people.” This old man happened to be Hadhrat Shuaib (alayhis salaam), who was a great Nabi of Allah Ta’ala.

Marriage

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) stayed there as a guest and after some time the old man said to Musa (alayhis salaam), “I would like you to marry one of my two daughters on condition that you work for me for eight years.” Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) accepted the offer and got married to one of the daughters.

To Egypt

After ten years, Musa (alayhis salaam) left with his family. The night was cold and dark and Musa (alayhis salaam) did not have any fire or lamp with him. While they were travelling, he saw a fire. He said to his family, “Stay here. I have seen a fire. I will bring some to you.” Musa (alayhis salaam) went towards the fire and when he came to it, he heard a voice saying, “O Musa, I am your Lord, so remove your shoes. You are in the Sacred Valley of Tuwaa.” It was here that Allah Ta’ala spoke to Musa (alayhis salaam) and made him His Prophet.

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) had a stick with him which he used for various purposes. Allah Ta'ala asked: "What is in your right hand, O Musa?" Musa (alayhis salaam) replied, "This is my stick." Then Musa (alayhis salaam) began to list the uses of this stick because he wanted to speak to Allah Ta'ala for a longer time. He said: "I lean upon it and I use it to drop the leaves of the trees to feed my sheep and I also have other uses for it." Allah Ta'ala said: "Throw it down, O Musa!" He threw it down and it became a slithering snake. Then Allah Ta'ala said: "Pick it up and do not fear! We will return it to its original form." Allah Ta'ala gave Musa (alayhis salaam) a second sign: "Place your hand under your armpit and it will come out bright without any defect. This is another sign."

Go to Firaun, he has transgressed the Limits

Thereafter, Allah Ta'ala commanded Musa (alayhis salaam) to begin the work for which he had been created. Firaun had become oppressive and was encouraging corruption in the land. Firaun's people had rejected Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala does not like corruption. He wanted Musa (alayhis salaam) to go to Firaun and call him to worship Allah Ta'ala. But how could Musa (alayhis salaam) go back and confront the tyrant? He had killed an Egyptian and was forced to leave Egypt for fear of his life. Allah Ta'ala knew all this but wanted Musa (alayhis salaam) to still go in spite of it.

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) asked Allah Ta'ala to send his brother Harun (alayhis salaam) with him because he was more clear in speech.

Return to Firaun, inviting him to Allah Ta'ala

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) and Harun (alayhis salaam) went to Firaun and stood in front of him, calling him to Allah Ta'ala. Firaun became angry at Musa (alayhis salaam) and said with arrogance, "Who are you to stand up and warn me? Aren't you the boy whom we pulled out of the water? Did we not bring you up as our own child? Did you not stay with us for many years of your life? Then you killed one of our people."

Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) did not get angry or deny this. He said politely, "Indeed I did it by mistake. So I fled from you, fearing you. But my Allah Ta'ala has now made me a Prophet." Firaun asked, "Who is the Lord of all the worlds that I hear you mentioning?" He said: "The Lord of the heavens and the earth. Your Lord and the Lord of your fathers. The Lord of the East and the West and what is between them."

Then Firaun tried to frighten Musa (alayhis salaam). He said: "If you take a god other than me, I will imprison you!" Musa (alayhis salaam) replied, "What if I bring you a clear sign?" Firaun said: "Bring it then if you are truthful!" So Musa (alayhis salaam) threw down his stick and it turned into a big snake. He drew out his hand

and it was brighter than the sun. The ministers then suggested to the King that he should gather the best magicians in his kingdom and challenge Musa (alayhis salaam). The King agreed. An announcement was made throughout the kingdom: “Whoever knows magic should come to the King.” The day and time was set for the challenge.

To the Arena

The people left their houses in the morning and walked to the arena. Children, young and old, men and women, all were going to the arena to watch the magicians. People were only talking about the contest and the names of magicians.

When the magicians came, they said to Firaun: “Will we receive a reward if we beat Musa?” He said. “Yes, I will make you from those who are very close to me.”

Between Truth and falsehood

When the magicians were ready, Musa (alayhis salaam) told them: “Throw down what you have to throw.” They threw their ropes and sticks and said: “By the honour of Firaun we will win.” The people saw that there were snakes slithering in the arena. They shouted, “Snakes! Snakes!” Musa (alayhis salaam) saw their

snakes and was afraid. Allah Ta'ala gave Musa (alayhis salaam) courage and said: "Do not be afraid. You certainly have the upper hand. Throw down what is in your hand; it will swallow up whatever they have brought. Remember, magicians will never be successful wherever they go."

Musa (alayhis salaam) then threw down his stick and it swallowed up whatever they had brought. The truth was now exposed. The magicians were dumbfounded and said, "This is not magic. This is from Allah Ta'ala!" They all cried out aloud, "We believe in the Lord of all the worlds, the Lord of Musa (alayhis salaam) and Harun (alayhis salaam)."

Firaun's Threat

Firaun became wild with rage. He shouted to the magicians, "I shall cut off your hands and feet from the opposite sides and I will crucify all of you." The magicians replied, "That's not a problem! Indeed we are turning to our Lord, Allah, the Lord of the heavens and the earth. We hope that Allah Ta'ala will forgive us and we are the first among the people to accept Islam."

Firaun was deeply worried by Musa (alayhis salaam). He spent sleepless nights, unable to enjoy his food or drink. His ministers also provoked him saying, "Will you leave Musa (alayhis salaam) and his people to cause corruption in the land?" Firaun decided

that the only way to overcome this problem was to kill Musa (alayhis salaam).

Firaun's wife

Firaun's wife believed in Allah Ta'ala and rejected Firaun. She believed in Musa (alayhis salaam) in spite of her husband Firaun. Firaun loved her more than anyone else. Despite this, she accepted the message of Musa (alayhis salaam) and rejected her husband. She worshipped Allah Ta'ala in the house of Firaun. Allah Ta'ala was pleased with Firaun's wife and saved her from Firaun and his actions. Allah Ta'ala made her an example for the believers through her faith and courage.

Famine

Egypt was a green and fertile land, full of blessings and fruits, a land where grains and crops grew in abundance. The Nile River provided plenty of water to Egypt to irrigate its crops. It was a source of joy and blessing to the people of that land. Firaun and the Egyptian people felt that the Nile River was the key to their provisions and this is what made Egypt so rich. They did not realise that the keys of all provisions and riches are with Allah Ta'ala alone. Only Allah Ta'ala gives provisions to whoever He wills, and

withholds it from whoever He wills. They did not realise that the River Nile also flows with the command of Allah Ta'ala.

Allah Ta'ala then commanded the Nile River to dry up. All the water disappeared into the ground. Now Egypt had no more water. Without water, how could the crops of the Egyptians be irrigated? The fruits of the land disappeared and its grain got finished. Famine and drought gripped the whole of Egypt.

Firaun and his guards were powerless. They could not help themselves, let alone help anyone else. It was now only that the people of Egypt realised that Firaun was not their God and that food and provisions is only in the hands of Allah Ta'ala. Despite knowing this, it did not benefit Firaun or his people in any way. It did not wake them up and make them turn to Allah Ta'ala.

Five Signs

Allah Ta'ala then sent them another sign. He sent rains and the Nile began flowing again. It rained and rained until the fields were so flooded that the crops were all washed away. The rain now became a curse. Then Allah Ta'ala sent locusts which ate up the crops and fields. It left nothing behind. The armies of Firaun could not fight the army of Allah Ta'ala. How could they fight them when neither their swords nor their spears were of any help?

The people of Egypt saw that Firaun was weak and powerless but they still could not reflect! Allah Ta'ala then sent down another army; an army of lice. We seek protection in Allah Ta'ala from His anger! Lice in their beds, in their clothes, on their heads, in their hair! They spent sleepless nights looking for lice and cursing them until morning. How could they fight them? It was impossible to fight the army of Allah Ta'ala.

Then Allah Ta'ala sent frogs. There were frogs everywhere. They found frogs in their clothes in their beds, in their food and everywhere. Frogs jumped about all over. The frogs made their lives a misery. They croaked all night. Whenever they killed one, ten more appeared. The guards were powerless against the frogs. Allah Ta'ala then sent a fifth sign against them; blood. Their noses began to bleed and this made them very weak. Even the doctors were unable to treat them.

Whenever they saw a sign, they said to Musa (alayhis salaam): “Ask Allah Ta'ala to remove this difficulty from us. We repent and believe, and we will send the Bani Israaeel away with you.” But everytime Allah Ta'ala removed the calamity from them, they broke their promise.

The departure

The Bani Israaeel realised that they could not live any longer in Egypt. Though it was a vast piece of land, what use could they

make of its fertile lands and blessings when they were living like prisoners suffering all sorts of torture under Firaun and his people? How long could they be patient? Were they not human beings? Allah Ta'ala revealed to Musa (alayhis salaam) that he should lead the Bani Israaeel out of Egypt. Firaun's guards heard of this and informed Firaun.

One night Musa (alayhis salaam) led the twelve tribes of the Bani Israaeel out of Egypt towards the Holy Land. After travelling some distance, they found themselves on the seashore.

As dawn broke, they looked back and saw Firaun and his huge army. The people of Musa (alayhis salaam) were really worried. In front of them was the sea and behind them was Firaun and his army. Death was certain. But Musa's (alayhis salaam) faith in Allah Ta'ala was not shaken. He told them: "Don't worry, my Allah is with me. He will guide me."

Allah Ta'ala commanded Musa (alayhis salaam) to strike the sea with his stick. He struck it and the sea divided into twelve roads, one for each tribe. The waters rose up like mountains on either side. The people crossed unharmed and reached the land of safety and peace.

Firaun's drowning

Firaun saw how the Bani Israaeel had crossed the sea in safety and decided to follow them. When Firaun and his army entered the pathway in the sea, Allah Ta'ala gave the command and the sea flooded back over them. As the waves were about to crash over Firaun, he cried out, "I believe that there is no god except the One in whom the Bani Israaeel believe, and I am one of the believers.'

Firaun was told, "Do you want to believe now? When you oppressed the people before and were from those who caused corruption."

Firaun and his entire army drowned in the sea. The tyrant who had ordered the death of thousands of children was now dead. Allah Ta'ala saved the Bani Israaeel from Firaun and his oppression.

The Torah

Allah Ta'ala did not want the Bani Israaeel to go astray. Therefore, Allah Ta'ala commanded Musa (alayhis salaam) to purify himself and fast for thirty days. Then he was to go to Mount Sinai so that Allah Ta'ala could speak to him and give him a book which would guide the Bani Israaeel. Allah Ta'ala gave Musa (alayhis salaam) the Torah.

- Hadhrat Dawood (alayhis salaam) was given the Zaboor.

- Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) was given the Torah.
- Hadhrat Isa (alayhis salaam) was given the Injeel.
- Hadhrat Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was given the Qur-aan Shareef.

Lessons learnt from this incident

1. Always place your trust in Allah Ta'ala. He will take care of all our needs.
2. Don't ever be proud like Firaun. The one who is proud is disgraced in this world and in the hereafter.
3. If you place your trust in Allah Ta'ala and do the effort of Dawah, Allah Ta'ala will destroy your enemies.
4. Be patient and fulfil the orders of Allah Ta'ala no matter how weak you may be.
5. When you are on the truth, Allah Ta'ala will test you, so remain steadfast.

Questions

1. What was the name of the tyrant king who oppressed the Bani Israeel? _____

2. What were the five signs that Allah Ta'ala sent down to the people of Egypt? _____

3. What is the name of the huge river that flows through Egypt? _____

4. How did Allah Ta'ala destroy Firaun? _____

5. Which book was revealed to Hadhrat Musa (alayhis salaam) and on which Mountain was it revealed? _____

6. What was Hadhrat Musa's (alayhis salaam) brother's name? _____



Hadhrat Isa (alayhis salaam)

In the time of the Bani Israaeel, there was a pious man whose name was **Imraan**. His wife was also very pious and her name was **Hannah**. They didn't have children but they always made dua to Allah Ta'ala to bless them with obedient pious children. Allah Ta'ala finally accepted their dua. Hannah was overjoyed and made a vow that she will give this child over to the service and worship of Allah Ta'ala.

When she gave birth, she realised that she was blessed with a baby girl. She preferred a boy so that he could serve the Deen of Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala inspired her that this child, even though she is a girl, will be able to serve the deen of Allah Ta'ala very well. Hannah named her daughter **Maryam**.

When she grew up, a room was built for her next to the masjid. Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) would sit there the whole day and

worship Allah Ta'ala. Hadhrat Zakariyya (alayhis salaam), who was the husband of Hadhrat Maryam's aunt, was her guardian and would see to her needs.

Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) devoted all her time to the worship of Allah Ta'ala. She was a very pious girl with excellent qualities. Once, when Hadhrat Zakariyya (alayhis salaam) came to Maryam (radhiyallahu anha)'s room, he noticed that she had fresh fruit with her (which was out of season). He asked her, "O Maryam, where did this come from?" She replied, "It came from Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala gives food to whomsoever He wishes."

The birth of Isa (alayhis salaam)

Once, while Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) was alone in her room busy in the worship of Allah Ta'ala, the angel Jibraeel (alayhis salaam) appeared before her in human form. She became afraid and told him to fear Allah Ta'ala and not to come close to her. He replied that he is an angel who has been sent by Allah Ta'ala with a message that she will soon be blessed with a son. She said in astonishment, "How can I get a child when I am not married?" The angel replied, "This is the will of Allah Ta'ala."

After some time she realised that she was getting a baby. Naturally she was worried about what her people would say. How can she give birth to a child when she is not married? She left the room and went out of the town. When the pains of childbirth

overtook her, she sat down under a date tree. Allah Ta'ala inspired her to eat from the tree and drink the water from below her.

After she gave birth, Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) became more worried: "How can I go back to my people. What will I tell them? What will they say?" she cried. Allah Ta'ala told her to go to her people and if anyone asks her anything, she should indicate to them that she is fasting and that she cannot speak to anyone. When Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) came to her people, they were astonished and asked her what she had done and where did the child come from?

Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) remained silent and pointed to the child. They were shocked and asked, "How can we speak to a baby?" Then baby Isa spoke up. Yes, the child spoke! SubhaanAllah! What a miracle! He said, "I am the servant of Allah. Allah Ta'ala has given me a Book and will soon make me a Prophet....." The people realized that this is a very special child and that Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) is innocent from any sin.

Prophet-hood

The Bani Israaeel had become very evil. They committed every kind of sin. They killed their own Prophet, Hadhrat Yahya (alayhis salaam) mercilessly. (This was done after Isa (alayhis salaam) was born but before he became a Prophet.) They changed the Book of Allah Ta'ala (the Torah) for the sake of gaining more money.

When Isa (alayhis salaam) came of age, Allah Ta'ala made him a Prophet and gave him the Injeel (divine book) to guide his people. He immediately started calling his people to Allah Ta'ala which was a challenge to the priests, monks and kings. He told his people, "O people! Allah Ta'ala has sent me as His Prophet to guide and reform you. I have brought the Injeel which explains what is mentioned in your Torah and which will decide between truth and falsehood." The people were divided into two groups; one obeyed and followed him whilst the other was arrogant and rejected his call.

Miracles of Isa (alayhis salaam)

Allah Ta'ala gives every Prophet a miracle to prove his Prophethood. The people cannot challenge this miracle and then believe in the truth of this prophet.

In the time of Isa (alayhis salaam), medicine was at its peak. There were many doctors who were experts in the field of medicine. They had discovered cures for rare sicknesses. Allah Ta'ala blessed Isa (alayhis salaam) with such miracles that would leave every person shocked and astonished. He could restore sight to the one born blind. He could cure the leper and he could also bring the dead back to life with the command of Allah Ta'ala. No doctor was a match for him.

Isa (alayhis salaam) continued to call his people to Allah Ta'ala using different methods. He was not married and didn't have a house of his own. He would travel from place to place inviting people to Allah Ta'ala. Some accepted his message whilst most of the people rejected him.

Hatred of the Jews

Over time, the hearts of the Bani Israaeel became very hard. They felt that the knowledge they had was enough and that they were on the right path. They felt that there was no need for anyone to guide them. They were ungrateful for the favours of Allah Ta'ala on them. When they asked for water, Allah Ta'ala opened up twelve springs for them from the ground, one for each tribe. When they needed food, Allah Ta'ala provided for them from Jannah. Allah Ta'ala saved them from Firaun and his army. Whatever they asked for was given to them but they were very ungrateful. They no longer had any respect in their hearts for the Prophets of Allah Ta'ala. They felt that no one should tell them anything.

Call to the Oneness of Allah Ta'ala

Isa (alayhis salaam) explained to them their wrong beliefs, customs and actions. However, they were not prepared to accept

any new teaching. They could not differentiate between truth and falsehood. They were soaked in the love of wealth. They felt that the new Book was only for the poor class. They killed their own Prophets. They forgot Allah Ta'ala. They only accepted what suited them. When Isa (alayhis salaam) called them to the Oneness of Allah Ta'ala, they did not obey. Rather, they got angry with him. Their hatred for him grew day by day. Only a few of them accepted his message.

Plan of the Jews

Isa (alayhis salaam) would go from place to place calling people to Allah Ta'ala. People would flock to listen to what he had to say. They would express their love for him and would respect him. When the Jews saw that Isa (alayhis salaam) was becoming famous and people were flocking to him, they became even more angry and jealous. They held a meeting to discuss what should be done with Isa (alayhis salaam). It was decided that Isa (alayhis salaam) should be killed.

The plan of Allah Ta'ala

When Allah Ta'ala wants to protect someone, all the powers of the world cannot harm him. The Jews had a plan, but Allah Ta'ala had a better plan. They surrounded the house in which Isa (alayhis

salaam) and his followers were. Allah Ta'ala informed Isa (alayhis salaam) of the evil plot of the Jews. Isa (alayhis salaam) advised his followers and said that he will not be with them for very long, but however, they should be strong. Allah Ta'ala will make them victorious over their enemies.

Allah Ta'ala then raised Isa (alayhis salaam) to the heavens alive. When the enemy entered the house, they caught hold of a person thinking that he was Isa (alayhis salaam). They killed him and hung him on the cross. They were very happy because they thought that they killed Isa (alayhis salaam). However, in actual fact, they did not kill Isa (alayhis salaam) but rather they killed someone who resembled Isa (alayhis salaam) as Allah Ta'ala mentions in the Qur'an,

“They did not kill him nor did they hang him on the cross, rather someone who looked like him was in front of them.”... “Most definitely they did not kill him; rather Allah Ta'ala raised Isa (alayhis salaam) to Him.”

Isa (alayhis salaam) was about thirty three years old when Allah Ta'ala raised him to the heavens.

Coming of Isa (alayhis salaam) before Qiyaamah

Isa (alayhis salaam) will come down before the day of Qiyaamah. He will not come down as a new Prophet, but rather as a follower

of our beloved Nabi Muhammad (alayhis salaam). He will come to kill Dajjaal. When Dajjaal will see Isa (alayhis salaam), he will try to run away, but Isa (alayhis salaam) will catch him and kill him. After Dajjaal is killed, there will be only one religion i.e. Islam. All the followers of the previous Books as well as the idol worshippers will all follow him. He will spread justice and peace in the world. Isa (alayhis salaam) will live for forty years after which he will pass away a natural death.

Lessons learnt from this incident

1. Hadhrat Imraan and his wife Hannah were prepared to offer their child to serve Allah's Deen. We and our families should also be ready to serve the Deen of Allah Ta'ala.
2. By trusting in Allah Ta'ala, He will provide for you from the unseen like how He provided for Maryam (Radiyallahu anha).
3. Allah Ta'ala has the power to do anything. Look how He created Hadhrat Isa (alayhis salaam) without a father.
4. The Jews were a blessed nation but when they became proud and did not obey Allah Ta'ala, they became the worst nation on Earth.
5. Always be thankful of the favours of Allah Ta'ala and appreciate whatever He has given us. In this way Allah Ta'ala will increase our bounties and favours.

Questions

1. What was Hadhrat Maryam's (radhiyallahu anha) father's and mother's names? _____

2. What promise did the parents of Hadhrat Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) make to Allah Ta'ala if they had a child? _____

3. What did Allah Ta'ala provide for Maryam (radhiyallahu anha) from the unseen? _____

4. Which Prophet was her guardian? _____

5. Which Prophet of Allah Ta'ala did the Jews kill? _____

6. What did Isa (alayhis salaam) say when he was still a baby? _____

7. What miracles did Isa (alayhis salaam) perform? _____

8. Why did the Jews not listen to Isa (alayhis salaam)?_____

9. What evil plan did the Jews have for Isa (alayhis salaam)?_____

10. How did Allah Ta'ala save Hadhrat Isa (alayhis salaam) from their evil plan?_____

11. When will Isa (alayhis salaam) come back to the Earth and what will he do?_____



Hadhrat Muhammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Birth of Nabi Muhammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Hadhrat Ibraahim (alayhis salaam) had two sons; Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam) and Ishaaq (alayhis salaam). Allah Ta'ala blessed the progeny of Hadhrat Ishaaq (alayhis salaam) with Ambiyaa. All the Ambiyaa that came after them were from the children of Hadhrat Ishaaq (alayhis salaam). It is the wisdom of Allah Ta'ala that Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was the only Prophet that came from the children of Hadhrat Ismaa-eel (alayhis salaam).

Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was born on the 12th Rabiul Awwal 570 CE.

Family of Nabi Muhammad ﷺ

Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam)'s mother's name was Aaminah and his father's name was Abdullah. His father passed away before he was born. His grandfather was Abdul Muttalib. His uncle, who loved him very much, was Abu Talib.

With Hadhrat Halimah (radhiyallahu anha)

It was the custom of the Arabs to send their children to the countryside in order to grow up healthy and strong. Nabi's (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) mother also sent him to the countryside. Hadhrat Halimah (radhiyallahu anha) was blessed with the opportunity of taking Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to the country side and breastfeeding him. She noticed that as soon as she took Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), the blessings of Allah Ta'ala rained upon her. She was not short of anything in her home.

After two years, she brought him back to his mother. After experiencing so much of blessings, Hadhrat Halimah (radhiyallahu anha) requested his mother to take him back with her for another two years. Everyone loved him. He would go out to graze the goats with the children of Hadhrat Halimah (radhiyallahu anha). One day, whilst they were out grazing goats, two men in white clothes caught hold of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), split his chest, took out his heart, washed it, placed it back and then

stitched him up again. The children came running to their mother and informed her of what had just happened.

Hadhrat Halimah (radhiyallahu anha) got a bit worried and quickly brought Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) back to his mother. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was four years old when this incident took place.

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) stayed with his mother for only two years and thereafter she passed away. He was six at that time. His grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, then took care of him. When Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was eight years old, his grandfather also passed away. Thereafter his uncle, Abu Taalib, took care of him. Abu Taalib was very fond of his nephew and loved him very much. He treated him like his own son.

First journey to Syria

The Arabs of Makkah used to often go on trade journeys to Syria. When Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was twelve, his uncle took him with on one of those journeys. On the way, they met a priest who told Abu Taalib that this young boy will be the final Prophet of Allah. He also advised him to return back to Makkah because if the Jews were to see him, they would kill him immediately. Abu Taalib then sent him back to Makkah.

Second journey to Syria and marriage

There was a very rich business woman in Makkah whose name was Khadijah. She was a widow and was looking for someone to manage her business for her. She heard about the honesty and truthfulness of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and therefore requested him to go on a business trip for her to Syria. Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha) sent her slave, Maysarah, with Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). On the way they met another priest. Looking at the features of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), he told Maysarah (Khadijah's slave) that this person is going to be the final Nabi. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) sold the goods and made a huge profit.

When they returned, Maysarah explained to Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha) about the good qualities in Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Hearing this, Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha) decided to propose to Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) for marriage. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) accepted and the nikah was then performed.

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was twenty five years old at that time whilst Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha) was forty. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) had six children from Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha), two boys and four girls. Both Nabi's (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) sons passed away in infancy.

Introduction to Nubuwwat

As Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was reaching forty years of age, he loved to be alone. He didn't want to mix too much with the people. He would go up to the Cave of Hira, sit all alone and worship Allah Ta'ala. Sometimes he would go for many days on end. Six months before he became a Nabi, whatever dream he would see at night, would take place the next day exactly as he had seen. These dreams were all true and this was an introduction to his Nubuwwat.

On one occasion, when Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was in the cave, all of a sudden the angel Hadhrat Jibrael (alayhis salaam) appeared before him. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) got very frightened. Hadhrat Jibrael (alayhis salaam) told him not to worry because he was an angel and Allah Ta'ala has sent him with a very important message. He informed Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) that Allah Ta'ala has chosen him to be his final Nabi.

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) relates the incident as follows, "Jibreel (alayhis salaam) came into the cave and said to me, 'Read!' I told him that I could not read. He hugged me so hard that I thought that I was going to die. Again he told me, 'Read!' and again I told him that I could not read. For a second time, he squeezed me until I thought that I was going to die and for a third time he told me, 'Read!' For a third time I told him that I could not

read. He then squeezed me even harder and said, “Iqra’ bismi rabbikallazi khalaq....’

This incident marks the beginning of the Nubuwwat of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). He was forty years old at that time.

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) rushed home afraid and said to Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha), “Cover me!” Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) then explained to her what had just happened. She comforted him and said that Allah Ta’ala will not disgrace him but rather Allah Ta’ala will give him honour and respect.

First people to accept Islam

As soon as Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was made a Nabi, he started calling people to Allah Ta’ala. The first woman to accept Islam was his wife Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha). The first man was Hadhrat Abu Bakr (radhiyallahu anhu). The first boy was Hadhrat Ali (radhiyallahu anhu). Thereafter others followed.

Calling people to worship Allah Ta’ala

Allah Ta’ala commanded Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to spread Islam secretly. For the first three years, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) called the people secretly. After this time had

passed, Allah Ta'ala gave Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) permission to spread the word of Islam openly.

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) immediately climbed Mount Safaa and called his people. They came rushing to hear what he had to say. When they had all gathered, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: “O my people! If I have to tell you that there is an enemy behind this mountain waiting to pounce on you, will you believe me?” They all replied in one voice: “Most definitely! You are Al Ameen, As Saadiq.” Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) continued: “I call all of you to worship one God, Allah, and I warn you of a painful punishment if you do not obey me.”

The people became very angry with him and went away. His uncle, Abu Lahab, was the first to reject him saying: “What! Did you call us here only for this reason? Tabban laka saa'iral yawm!” (An expression in Arabic meaning, may you be disgraced for the rest of the day).

Allah Ta'ala revealed Surah Lahab wherein Abu Lahab is disgraced.

Despite all of this, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) continued calling his people to Allah Ta'ala. They mocked and laughed at him. They swore him. They threw stones on him. They threw the intestine of animals on him when he read Salaah. They made Nabi's (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) life a misery.

The Sahaabah (radhiyallahu anhum) who accepted Islam were also put through many difficulties. They were kicked out of their

homes and were tortured. They were made to lie on the burning sand of Makkah, but they were patient and never complained. Hadhrat Sumayya (radhiyallahu anha) was the first person to be martyred in Islam. Abu Jahl threw a spear at her which caused her death.

To Taa'if

When Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) lost all hope in his people, he decided to go to the town of Taa'if thinking that maybe the people of Taa'if will accept his message. When he reached Taa'if, he first went to the three leaders. They not only rejected his message, but they also got the youngsters to chase him out of the town and pelt him with stones. They hit him to such an extent that blood flowed from his blessed body and clogged his shoes.

The angel of the mountains came and requested Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) to give him permission to crush the two mountains on either side of Taa'if on its people. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said, "No, I have hope that someone from their progeny will accept my message." Subhanallah! Look at the tolerance and compassion of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam).

What was the outcome of this kindness of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam)? Years later, a delegation from Taa'if came to Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and accepted Islaam.

May Allah Ta'ala instil in us the kindness, compassion and tolerance that Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) had. Aameen.

Migration to Abyssinia

In the 5th year of Nubuwwat, when the Muslims could no longer bear the torture of the Makkans, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) gave permission to a group of Sahaabah to migrate to Abyssinia. The King of that place was a just ruler. The Sahaabah (radhiyallahu anhum) lived there in peace. The Makkans became angry when they heard that the Muslims were living peacefully in Abyssinia. They sent a delegation to Abyssinia to bring back the Muslims.

When they reached Abyssinia, they spoke to the king. He called the Muslims to his court. Hadhrat Ja'far (radhiyallahu anhu) spoke on behalf of the Muslims. The King was pleased with the message of Islam and sent the Makkan delegation back with all their gifts.

Boycott in the Valley of Abu Taalib

In the 7th year of Nubuwwat, the Makkans boycotted Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and the Muslims in a valley called the Valley of Abu Taalib. They were boycotted for three years. They had no contact with the people outside. No one was allowed to go in or come out. All food supplies were cut off. No one was

allowed to do business with the Muslims or get married to them. For three long years the Muslims lived in the valley tolerating all these difficulties. The Muslims were a strong nation. They did not give up hope. They did not leave Islam.

After three years, some of the Quraish got together and put a stop to the boycott.

In the 10th year after Nubuwwat, Hadhrat Khadijah (radhiyallahu anha), the wife of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) as well as Abu Taalib, the uncle of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) both passed away. Therefore, this year was also known as the year of sorrow.

Mi'raaj (Journey to the heavens)

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) went through so much of difficulties and afflictions that he himself mentions: “No other Nabi has undergone more difficulty than myself.”

In order to console him, Allah Ta'ala called him to the heavens. Two angels came with a winged horse called Buraaq from Jannah. They first took him to Masjidul Aqsa where Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) led all the Ambiyaa in Salaah. From there he was taken up to the heavens. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) saw Jannah and how beautiful it was. He also saw Jahannam and its horrors. He then went further and spoke to Allah Ta'ala directly. Allah

Ta'ala then gave Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) the gift of Salaah.

This did not happen in a dream. All this took place physically whilst Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was awake.

Migration to Madinah

After receiving Nubuwwat, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) stayed in Makkah for thirteen years. When the Muslims could no more bear the difficulties they were going through, Allah Ta'ala gave them permission to migrate to Madinah. The Muslims started leaving for Madinah quietly until only Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and a few Sahaabah were left in Makkah.

The Makkans realised what was happening and decided that the only way they could get peace, was to kill Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Allah Ta'ala informed Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) of this wicked plan and commanded him to leave immediately for Madinah. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) left with Hadhrat Abu Bakr (radhiyallahu anhu). They first went to the cave of Saur because the kuffaar were on the lookout for them. The kuffaar came right to the entrance of the cave but saw a spider's web covering it and a bird had laid its eggs there. They thought to themselves that how can anyone be inside here when a spider's web is covering the entrance. Hence they went away.

When Allah Ta'ala wants to protect someone, he does so from the unseen. When Allah Ta'ala wants to protect someone, all the armies of the world put together will not be able to harm that person.

First Masjid is built and Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) enters Madinah

After three days, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and Hadhrat Abu Bakr (radhiyallahu anhu) left for Madinah Munawwarah. They reached Quba which is on the outskirts of Madinah and stayed there for a few days. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) built the first Masjid there.

Thereafter, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) entered Madinah Munawwarah. The people were extremely happy. The children were singing poetry in praise of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). This was the happiest day of their lives.

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) stayed at the house of Hadhrat Abu Ayyub Ansari (radhiyallahu anhu). A land belonging to two orphans was bought and a Masjid was built. A room was also built next to the Masjid for the wives of Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam).

Plot to destroy Islam

Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and the Muslims were free to call people to Allah Ta'ala in Madinah. However, the Makkans still hated the Muslims. They had meetings upon meetings planning how they would destroy the Muslims and Islam.

On many occasions they prepared an army to fight the Muslims. That is how the Battle of Badr, Uhud, Khandaq, etc. took place.

In 6 A.H., Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) decided to make Umrah. He left with about 1400 Sahaabah. When they neared Makkah, the Quraish prevented them from entering. They wrote out an agreement with the Muslims that they should come back the following year for only three days. There were many other things also mentioned in the agreement. The following year, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) left with the Sahaabah for Makkah. As per agreement, they remained there for three years and thereafter returned to Madinah.

The Quraish did not keep up to the terms of the agreement. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) prepared a large group of Sahaabah and marched to Makkah to confront the Makkans. This was in 8 A.H. Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) conquered Makkah without any fighting.

After the conquest of Makkah, people started accepting Islam in large numbers. Islam spread far and wide. People from all over came to Madinah and accepted Islam.

Farewell Haj

In 10 A.H., Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) informed the Sahaabah of his intention to perform haj. They all got ready and left for haj. There were about 124 000 Sahaabah with Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) on this haj. This was the only haj that Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) performed. It is also called the Farewell Haj of Nabi Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wasallam). Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) gave the Sahaabah a lot of advice on this journey.

Demise of Nabi Muhammad ﷺ

A year later, in 11 A.H., Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) got very sick. As a result of this sickness, Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) passed away on the 12th Rabiul Awwal. This was the saddest day that came upon the Muslims. Some of the Muslims were dumbfounded and could not speak.

One Sahaabi says, “The day Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) entered Madinah was the brightest of days and the day Nabi

(sallallahu alayhi wasallam) left this world was the darkest of days.”

May Allah Ta’ala bless us all with the true love of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) and allow us to follow in his Mubaarak Sunnah. Aameen.

Some Features of Nabi ﷺ

- Nabi (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) was slightly taller than a person of middle height.
- His face was extremely handsome and bright. He was extremely fair with redness in his cheeks.
- The pupils of his eyes were black and there were red lines in the whiteness.
- His beard was full and dense.
- His cheeks were smooth and full of flesh.
- His teeth were thin and white.
- His shoulders were broad and fully fleshed.
- He had a broad chest with a thin line of hair from the chest to the navel.
- His skin was softer than silk.

- His perspiration gave off a better fragrance than musk.
- The seal of Nubuwwat was situated between the shoulders. It is described as a small piece of flesh, the size of a pigeon's egg.
- As a Sahaabi says, "I haven't seen anyone, neither before him nor after him, more beautiful and handsome than him."
- Hadhrat Hassaan bin Saabit (radhiyallahu anhu) says:

*"My
eyes have not seen
anything more beautiful than you,
no woman has given birth to a person
more handsome than you, you have been created
free of all (inner and outer) faults,
as though you have been created
according to how you
wanted.*

مولای صل وسلم دائماً أبداً علی حبیبک خیر الخلق کلهم