

THE STORY OF THE SACRIFICE FROM THE QURAAAN

(surah Assaaffaat
37: 083-111)

And verily, among those who followed his [Nūh's (Noah's)] way (Islamic Monotheism) was Ibraheem (Abraham).

When he came to his Lord with a pure heart (attached to Allāh Alone and none else, worshipping none but Allāh Alone – true Islamic Monotheism, pure from the filth of polytheism).



1

When he said to his father and to his people: "What is it that which you worship?

"Is it a falsehood – ālihah (gods) other than Allāh – that you desire?

"Then what think you about the Lord of the 'ālamîn (mankind, jinn, and all that exists)?"

Then he cast a glance at the stars,



2

And he said: "Verily, I am sick (with plague). [He did this trick to remain in their temple of idols to destroy them and not to accompany them to the pagan feast]."

So they turned away from him and departed (for fear of the disease).

Then he turned to their ālihah (gods) and said:

"Will you not eat (of the offering before you)?
"What is the matter with you that you speak not?"

Then he turned upon them, striking (them) with (his) right hand.

3

Then they (the worshippers of idols) came towards him hastening.

He said: "Worship you that which you (yourselves) carve?"

"While Allāh has created you and what you make!"

They said: "Build for him a building (it is said that the building was like a furnace) and throw him into the blazing fire!"

So, they plotted a plot against him, but We made them the lowest.



4

And he said (after his rescue from the fire): "Verily, I am going to my Lord. He will guide me!"

"My Lord! Grant me (offspring) from the righteous."

So, We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing boy.

And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said:

"O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offering you in sacrifice to Allāh). So look what you think!"

He said:

"O my father! Do that which you are commanded, In shā' Allāh (if Allāh wills), you shall find me of As-Sābirūn (the patient)."

5

Then, when they had both submitted themselves (to the Will of Allāh), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering);

We called out to him: "O Ibraheem (Abraham)!"

You have fulfilled the dream!" Verily, thus do We reward the Muhsinūn (good-doers). See 2:112).

Verily, that indeed was the manifest trial.

And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice (i.e. a ram);

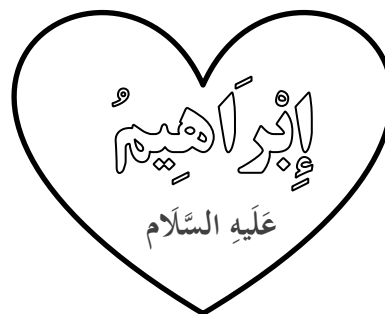
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And We left for him (a goodly remembrance) among the later generations.

"Salām (peace) be upon Ibraheem (Abraham)!"

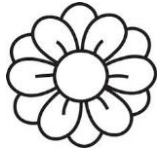
Thus indeed do We reward the Muhsinūn (good-doers. See V.2:112).

Verily, he was one of Our believing slaves.



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**THE STORY OF
UMM ISMAA'EEL
AND
HER LITTLE BOY¹**



By

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Umm Safiyyah**

Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam was one of Allaah's Messengers.

Thousands of years ago Allaah sent him to tell the people that they should worship only Allaah, and not worship anything else.



Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam did just that. He told the people to worship only Allaah.

This is a true story about Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam and his family. A true story is a story that really happened. The last Messenger, Muhammad sall Allaahu alayhi wa sallam told this story to the people who were with him. It was then written down and now we are going to tell you about it!

Let us start then:

¹ Compiled from a combination of two hadeeths in Saheehul-Bukhaaree no.3364 and no. 3365 using the explanation Fat.hul-Baaree of al-Haafiz ibn Hajar al-'Asqalaanee and 'Umdatul-Qaaree of Badrud-Deen al-'Aynee

Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam had a wife whose name was Haajar. In this story we will call her Umm Ismaa'eel, which means the mother of Ismaa'eel. Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam and Umm Ismaa'eel had a little boy.



Can you guess what the boy's name was? Yes, that's right! He was called Ismaa'eel!

One day Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam took Umm Ismaa'eel and their little boy to a far off place in Arabia called Makkah.

Even though Makkah is a busy city nowadays, in those days Makkah was just a hot, open desert. Have you ever seen a desert?

Deserts can look something like this:



So Makkah was an empty desert. No-one lived there in those days because there was no water there.

We can't live without water, nor can animals. If a person doesn't drink anything for a long time then he will die. Even plants die if they don't have any water. This happens more quickly if the weather is hot like it is in Makkah.

So there was no water in Makkah, no animals to milk, no houses or buildings and there was no-one else there.

Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam brought Umm Ismaa'eel and the little boy to sit under a big tree² and placed near them a food bag³ with some dates

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in it and a small water skin with some water in it. Here's a picture of one type of dates.

So then Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam set off back home to Shaam.⁴



At first Umm Ismaa'eel didn't know why Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam was leaving them in such a place on their own. What would happen when the small amount of water ran out? What would they drink and how would they live? So Umm Ismaa'eel followed Ibraaheem and caught up with him.⁵

² this place is where the Zamzam well is, near the Ka'bah

³ Umdatul-Qaaree 15/352

⁴ The saying of Ibn Is.haaq ('Umdatul-Qaaree 15/352) and also mentioned by Ibn Hajar in al-Fat.h

⁵ The saying of Ibn Jurayh ('Umdatul-Qaaree 15/352)

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She said to Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam, "O Ibraaheem! Where are you going, leaving us in this valley⁶ where there is not a single person⁷, nor is there anything at all?"

She asked him three times⁸, and then she said,

Did Allaah order you to do this?

Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam replied,

Yes.

⁶ The word 'valley' may need explaining: It is the low land between hills and mountains

⁷ Umdatul-Qaaree 15/350 and Fat.hul-Baaree

⁸ Sa'eed ibn Jubayr reports, "She called him three times, and he replied to her on the third. So she said to him, 'Who commanded you with this?' He said, 'Allaah.'" (Fat.hul-Baaree)

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She knew then that Allaah had told Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam to leave them there and that Ibraaheem was only doing what Allaah had told him to do.

She said,

Then He will not leave us to die

She knew that Allaah would take care of her and the little boy, even in an empty place like that.

Allaah is very kind and everything is easy for Allaah to do. When Allaah tells us to do things, it is always for a good reason.

So she was happy with that and went back and began drinking the water that Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam had left there.

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Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam carried on towards his home and when he reached a place from where they couldn't see him any more, he raised up his hands, faced towards the place where the Ka'bah is today and made du'aa to Allaah saying:

O our Lord, I have made some of my children live in a valley where people cannot grow food, by Your Sacred House so that they can do the Prayer, O our Lord. So put love for them in the hearts of people and give them fruits - so that they might give thanks

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So Umm Ismaa'eel and the little boy Ismaa'eel stayed in that place until the water ran out and Umm Ismaa'eel became thirsty. The little boy became thirsty too. She looked at him rolling round and kicking the ground⁹ from thirst.

Umm Ismaa'eel didn't like to look at the boy looking so unhappy, so she left him there in that spot and went to look for some people who could help.

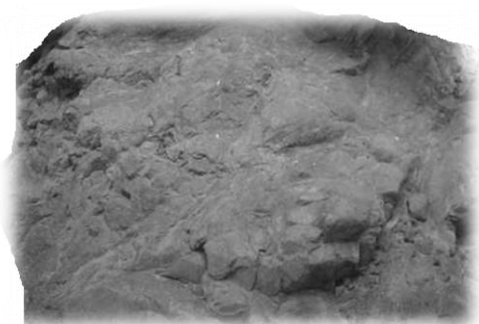


⁹As mentioned in Fat.hul-Baaree in explanation of the word طَيَّئِي. Al-'Aynee mentions that it is rolling in the dust and hitting himself on the ground. He quotes ad-Daawoodee who says it means to move the tongue and the lips as if he is dying. He also mentions that Ibn Durayd explained that when Ismaa'eel became thirsty, he began to hit the ground with his heels. ('Umdatul- Qaaree)

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The nearest mountain to her was a mountain called as-Safaa. She went up the mountain and stood on it looking down at the valley to see if she could see anyone who could help, but she couldn't see anyone.

So she came down from as-Safaa, and when she reached the valley at the bottom of the mountain, she tucked up the edge of her robe and ran like a person who is in some kind of trouble.



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Then she reached a mountain called al-Marwah and stood on it, looking to see if she could see anyone who could help, but she couldn't see anyone at all.

She went back to the mountains as-Safaa and then al-Marwah again and again, looking to see if she could find someone who could help, but she couldn't see anyone at all.



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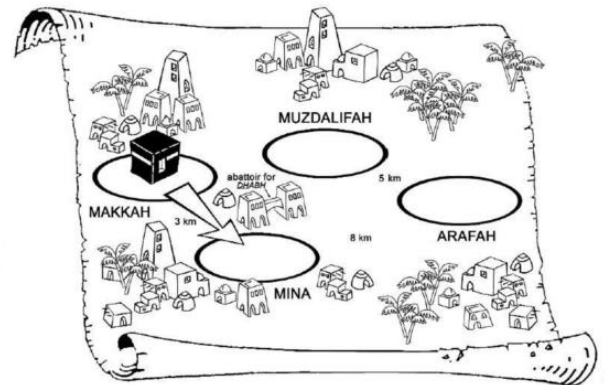
She then decided to go back and check on little Ismaa'eel. When she saw him he looked as if he was going to die from not having enough to drink. It was hard for her to see him like that. She didn't give up and said, "If I go and look I may find somebody."

So again she went up as-Safaa and she looked and she looked but she couldn't see anyone at all. She went between as-Safaa and al-Marwah seven times altogether.



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This is why when Muslims go to Makkah to do Hajj they go between as-Safaa and al-Marwah seven times, just like Umm Ismaa'eel did when she was looking for someone to help her and her little boy.



13

When Umm Ismaa'eel reached al-Marwah for the last time she heard a sound and said to herself "Quiet!" and listened carefully.

Again she heard the sound and then said, "Help, if you can offer any help."

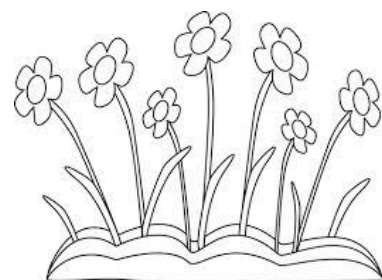
Then she saw an angel in the place of Zamzam, digging¹⁰ its heel on the ground. It was Jibreel alayhis-salaam. Water gushed out from the ground and Umm Ismaa'eel was amazed.

¹⁰As mentioned in 'Umdatul-Qaaree, "It is as if he was digging with the end part of his leg."

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She began to dig and scoop the water into her container.

The Prophet Muhammad sallAllaahu alayhi wa sallam, who told us this story, said that if she had let the water just flow when it came out from the ground then it would have become a stream flowing on top of the ground !



15

So Umm Ismaa'eel drank the water and then her little boy had enough to drink too. The angel said to Umm Ismaa'eel,

Don't be afraid of being left to die¹¹ because this is the House of Allaah which this boy and his father will build. And Allaah never lets His people be ruined.

* * *

This story was rewritten by Madeehah bint Nafees Ahmad with some help from Nasser ibn Najam Alvi. He also helped in writing the extra bits of information under the line at the bottom of some of the pages (the footnotes). It was then checked by Aboo Ismaa'eel Mustafa George.

¹¹Or "Do not fear that the water will run out," and it is narrated, "Do not fear thirst for the people of this valley," and that it is a spring of water from which the two guests of Allaah drink. ('Umdatul-Qaaree)

How much of this story can you remember?

LET'S HAVE A QUIZ !

If you like you can read through the story again, or ask someone to read it for you before you try the quiz. And don't worry if you can't remember any of the answers; just go back to the story to find them! Easy!

Here are the questions:

1. Is this story about Umm Ismaa'eel and her little boy Ismaa'eel a true story?

2. Was Makkah a busy city full of people at the time of this story?

3. Why did Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam leave Umm Ismaa'eel and their little boy in Makkah and go back home? Put a tick next to the right answer.

He left them there because:

- a) He was cross with them
- b) Allaah had told him to do that
- c) He forgot to take them with him

4. What did Umm Ismaa'eel do when she realised that Ibraaheem alayhis-salaam was really going to leave them in Makkah and go back home without them? Put a tick next to the right answer.

- a) She became angry and started screaming
- b) She became sad couldn't stop crying
- c) She knew Allaah would help them and went back

5. What did Umm Ismaa'eel do when the little boy got very thirsty?

6. What happened at the mountain called al-Marwah when Umm Ismaa'eel reached there for the last time?

7. Do you know what as-Safaa and al-Marwah and the area in between look like these days? Can you find out and draw a picture of it? Or maybe you could ask a grown up to help you make a model of it.