

Prophet Ismael

LEVEL: BEGINNER

Ismael (peace be upon him) is the son of Ibrahim (peace be upon him), and his mother is Hajar. Ismael is one of the noble prophets mentioned in the Quran, and his story is filled with lessons of patience and faith.

1. The Birth of Ismael (peace be upon him):

Ismael (peace be upon him) was born to Ibrahim (peace be upon him) when Ibrahim was eighty-six years old, and his wife Sarah was barren and unable to conceive. When Sarah sensed Ibrahim's deep desire to have offspring, she gave her maidservant Hajar to him as a wife, and Hajar gave birth to Ismael.

2. The Journey to Mecca:

Allah commanded Ibrahim (peace be upon him) to take Hajar and her son Ismael to a distant place in the heart of the desert. Ibrahim obeyed Allah's command and left Hajar and her son in this barren place, where there was no water or food.

When Hajar wanted to ask Ibrahim why he was leaving her in this desolate place, she asked him, "Did Allah command you to do this?" He replied affirmatively, and she said, "Then He will not abandon us." This showed the deep faith and trust both Ibrahim and Hajar had in Allah's mercy.

3. The Miracle of Zamzam Water:

After Ibrahim departed, the water and food that Hajar had were depleted. She began to feel thirsty and hungry, and baby Ismael started crying because of the thirst. Hajar began searching for water, climbing up the hill of Safa and then going down and running to the hill of Marwah seven times.

During her search, Allah sent the angel Gabriel (peace be upon him), who struck the ground with his wing or his heel at the spot where Ismael was. Water gushed out from beneath Ismael's feet, and this water became known as the Well of Zamzam.

4. The Building of the Kaaba:

Ismael grew up in Mecca and learned the Arabic language from the tribe of Jurhum, who had settled in Mecca. He began to contribute to the life of the people there. Later, God commanded Ibrahim (peace be upon him) to build the Kaaba. He went to Mecca and asked his son Ismael to help him.

The father and son built the Kaaba and placed the Black Stone in its place, and they prayed to God to accept this work, saying:

"Our Lord, accept [this] from us. Indeed You are the Hearing, the Knowing." (Al-Baqarah: 127).

5. The Test of Sacrificing Ismael:

Ibrahim (peace be upon him) saw in a dream that he was sacrificing his son Ismael. Since the dreams of the prophets are true, Ibrahim understood that this was a command from God. He went to Ismael and said to him:

"O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think." (As-Saffat: 102).

Ismael (peace be upon him) demonstrated great faith and patience and replied:

"O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast." (As-Saffat: 102).

When Ibrahim was ready to carry out the command, God sent a great ram from heaven to be sacrificed instead of Ismael and said:

"And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice." (As-Saffat: 107).

Activities

True or False:

1. Ibrahim and Ismael built the Kaaba together in Mecca.
2. The tribe of Jurhum helped raise Ismael and taught him the Arabic language.
3. Allah commanded Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ismael, but he was stopped and given a ram to sacrifice instead.

Multiple Choice

1- Who was the mother of Prophet Ismael?

- A) Sarah B) Hajar
C) Maryam D) Aisha

2- What did Hajar do when she ran out of water and food in the desert?

- A) She climbed Safa and Marwah searching for water
B) She waited patiently for help
C) She traveled back to Ibrahim
D) She sought shelter under a tree

3- What is the name of the well that sprang up in the desert for Ismael?

- A) Zamzam
B) Safa
C) Marwah
D) Jurhum

Place the events in correct order:

- Hajar searched for water between Safa and Marwah.
- Ibrahim left Hajar and Ismael in the desert by Allah's command.
- Allah sent a ram to be sacrificed in place of Ismael.
- Ismael and Ibrahim built the Kaaba in Mecca.

Fill-in-the-Blank:

Hajar ran between the hills of _____ and _____ seven times in search of water. The Well of _____ sprang up to provide water for Hajar and Ismael. Ibrahim (peace be upon him) and Ismael built the _____ in Mecca. Allah commanded Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, _____, as a test of faith.

Activities

Match the Terms

Birth of Ismael

Journey to Mecca

Miracle of Zamzam

Building of the Kaaba

Test of Sacrifice

A) Ibrahim dreamed he must sacrifice his son, and Ismael agreed to follow Allah's command.

B) Ismael was born to Ibrahim and Hajar when Ibrahim was 86 years old.

C) Allah commanded Ibrahim to leave Hajar and Ismael in the desert.

D) Water sprang up near Ismael's feet when Hajar searched for water.

E) Ibrahim and Ismael built this sacred structure together.

Answer the Questions

1-How did Hajar show her trust in Allah when Ibrahim left her in the desert?

2-Describe how the Well of Zamzam was created.

3- What did Ismael say to his father when he learned about the command to be sacrificed?