



Stories from the Hijaz

THE MAKKAH CHRONICLES



Mother and son left in desert



Nabi Ibrahim (AS) left Sarah (RA) and Ismail (AS) in a bleak, isolated place, much like this one.
Photo [HTTPS://7ANANS.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM/2014/08/IMG_6592.JPG](https://7anans.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/img_6592.jpg)

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IT is held by some scholars that our forefather, Nabi Adam (AS) laid the foundation of the Kaabah in Makkah. Most indicate that there is no evidence that Nabi Adam actually built the Kaabah.

It is evident that Nabi Ibrahim (AS) was instructed by Allah to effect its construction as revealed by the following Quranic verse: 'And [O Muhammad], when We designated for Ibrahim the site of the House, [saying] "Do not associate anything with Me and purify My House for those who perform tawaaf [circumambulation of the Kaabah] and those who stand [in prayer] and those who bow and prostrate.'" (22:26)

Ibn Kathir indicates in his tafsir: 'There is no authentic report from the infallible [i.e. Prophet Muhammad (SAW)] informing us that the House (the Kaabah) was built before Ibrahim, and whoever states that, relying upon this verse in the Quran (for evidence of that), has no basis for such a claim because what is meant by the verse is that he was simply being informed of where the House was to be built.'

There is a dearth of literature on what happened in Makkah in the time between Nabi Adam and Nabi Ibrahim. Makkah was a barren valley, far removed from the normal trade routes. There were no identified wells, and it is surrounded by mountains, which made it an inhospitable area.

Yet we know that the first

mosque was built there. Bukhari reported that Abu Tharr narrated: "I asked the messenger of Allah: 'O messenger of Allah! Which mosque was the first built on earth?' Muhammad (SAW) replied: 'The Sacred Mosque (in Makkah).' I then asked: 'Which mosque was built next?' Muhammad (SAW) said: 'The Aqsa mosque (in Jerusalem).' Thereupon, I asked: 'What was the period between the building of the two mosques?' The Prophet (SAW) replied that it was forty years.

that over a billion face its direction five times a day, and millions stream to it annually.

Nabi Ibrahim was given the title Khalilullah, which means 'the friend of Allah'. Ibrahim was the forefather of many great prophets and is held in high esteem by all the major revealed religions. He was married to Sarah (RA), lived in Palestine, and years went by without them having any children.

He was a prophet of Allah and, having left his native land, he was concerned over who would con-

longed for a descendant and encouraged a union with Haajar.

A son was born and he was named Ismail, which means 'Allah will hear'. Initially, there was great joy amongst all but the situation changed soon thereafter.

Ismail (AS) was still an infant when Sarah's feelings began to change towards Haajar. She asked Nabi Ibrahim to take Haajar and Ismail as far away as possible from her. Allah revealed to His prophet to take them to a place called Bakka, which is now called Makkah.

had was what they arrived with. No tribes inhabited the area.

Nabi Ibrahim took them to a spot under the shade of a tree and left with them a bag of dates and a flask of water. He then set off back to his home.

As he was leaving, Haajar called to him, saying: 'Where are you going? How can you leave us in this deserted valley that has neither humans nor anything else?' She repeated this a few times but he did not reply and continued walking away from them.

Finally, she understood that he was not acting on his own initiative. She realised that Allah had commanded him to do this so she asked: 'Did Allah command you to do this?'

Nabi Ibrahim replied: 'Yes.'

Whereupon she said: 'Then He will never forsake us and will not us be lost.'

Nabi Ibrahim submitted to the command of Allah and with sadness but patience prepared himself for the separation from Haajar and Ismail.

He turned towards where they were, close to where the Sacred House would be erected and prayed for them in the following words: 'O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in an uncultivable valley by Your Sacred House in order, O our Lord, that they may perform as-salaah. So fill some hearts among men with love towards them, and (O Allah) provide them with fruits so that they may give thanks.' (Quran 14:37)

When Nabi Ibrahim was in Egypt, the pharaoh gave him a slave called Haajar (RA). Sarah was aware that her husband longed for a descendant and encouraged a union with Haajar. A son was born and he was named Ismail, which means 'Allah will hear'.

We know that Allah SWT earmarked Makkah to be the centre of our universe and it took events that touches all aspects of humanity, and the miracles that our Creator wills to effect the habitation of the barren land to the extent

continue the prophetic office after him and whether he would indeed be a father one day.

When Nabi Ibrahim was in Egypt, the pharaoh gave him a slave called Haajar (RA). Sarah was aware that her husband

Bakka was a bleak and isolated place and Haajar was bewildered when Nabi Ibrahim said that he was going to leave her and Ismail there.

There was no water or plants around and the only supplies they