

## NABI EBRAHIM (ABRAHAM) AS\* Part 3

\*(We must always say Alayhis Salaam when we mention the name of a Prophet. It means, "May ALLAH -Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala's blessing and mercy be on him")

Story Number

11

My Dear Children

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

In part 2 of the life story on Nabie Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) we read how he reminded his father to pray to the ONE and Only ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). When his father got mad and angry with him he decided to leave home. Then we note how his life was filled with hardship and trials. He left his wife Hajirah and only son Ismail in the desert and walked away as commanded. They had no water or food and we see how ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) is AR-RAZZAQ –The Provider (another of the 99 beautiful names) provided them with the water from the Zamzam well. Soon a number of people settled here and made Mecca their home. Today, we in Islam are also reminded to have firm belief in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) as HE provides and sustains us.

We continue with the final part of the life story on Nabie Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam)

### EBRAHIM RETURNS TO MECCA

Some years later Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) came back to Mecca to visit his wife and son, Ismail who was now 12 years old. When he saw his son he was so happy and pleased to see him. He took Ismail everywhere and enjoyed playing with him and spending most of his time with him. Hajirah was also delighted to see father and son so close and happy together.

One night Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) had a vision that he had to kill his son as a sacrifice to his LORD. The next morning he knew that this vision and message had to be followed as he was a Prophet. As he was also known as 'Khaleelullah' - 'ALLAH'S Friend' he made up his mind to act on the commandment of his LORD. He called his only son, Ismail, whom he loved dearly and said to him,

"O my son, I have seen in a vision that I offered you to ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) in sacrifice. How do you feel about it." Ismail looked at his father and without any hesitation said to his father, "O my father, do, as you are commanded, you will find me among those who practice patience and constancy. If ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) so wills, I will accept it." (Qur'an 37:102)

### THE SACRIFICE IS PREPARED

Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) picked up the knife and asked Ismail to follow him. On their way to Mina (about 3 km from Mecca), the shaytaan (iblis), 'Ula' whispered in the ears of Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) not to carry out this commandment of sacrificing his only son, whom he loved so dearly. Instead he turned around and pelted Ula with stones to indicate that he was not prepared to listen to iblis, Ula.

When they arrived at Mina, he asked his son to lay down so that he could place the knife on his throat and closed his eyes. Everything was ready for the deed to be completed but ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) substituted a ram in the place of Ismail and called out to him,

"....., O Ebrahim! You have already fulfilled the commandment –thus indeed do WE reward those who do right." (Qur'an 37:104-105).

In this incident we note how eager and willing Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) was, to carry out the commandment of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). He was prepared to give up that which he loved most dearly for the sake of his Creator.

This act of sacrificing an animal for the sake of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) is still practiced today by the Muslims all over the world. When the Korbaan (sacrifice) is done on Eid-ul-Adha we must keep in mind this action of Nabie Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam). When we slaughter the animal we must do it to

fulfill our position as Muslims, that is, the one who submits completely to the will of our Creator and also the one who is ready and willing to give up that which he loves most dearly, for the sake of the Creator. There is an ayat in the Glorious Qur'an, which reminds us of our role on this earth, namely,

*“My prayer and my sacrifices, my life and my death  
Are all for ALLAH, the Lord of the worlds” (Qur'an 6:163)”*

This is an excellent example of how Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) who was prepared to lay down the life of those dearest to him to accept and follow the truth.

### **EBRAHIM LEAVE MECCA**

After this incident Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) once more left Mecca to visit his first wife, Sarah. He was now almost 99 years old. When he reached the home of Sarah, two angels visited him that night and gave him the following good news. His fear and suspicion soon disappeared when these two strangers indicated that they were sent by his Creator.

*“Fear not, we are sent by our Creator to bring you the good news that Sarah will also have a son by the name of Ishaq and later Yacoob.” (Qur'an 11:69-73)*

He rejoiced at the news unlike Sarah who was shocked and could not believe it. “I am ninety years old and how can a woman of that age bear children?” At this uncertainty of Sarah, the angels replied,

*“Do you wonder at ALLAH news. The mercy of ALLAH is with you, O people of the house. Surely, HE is praiseworthy and Glorious,” (Qur'an 11.73)*

A boy was born to Sarah who was named Ishaq. After a while Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) left for Mecca to once again visit his wife Hajira and his first son, Ismail as well as to rebuild the Kaaba.

### **REBUILDING OF THE KAABA**

After the rejoicing at meeting the family in Macca he decided to rebuild the Kaaba from its foundation again. He was commanded by ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to build HIS house and purify it for all those who make the tawaaf (circuit) who stand in prayer and bow and prostrate in submission. And he must also proclaim among the people the pilgrimage (Qur'an 22:26-27).

He asked Ismail, his son to help him. Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and his son worked together to reconstruct the Kaaba from its foundation. They brought stones from the nearby mountain and set to rebuild the Kaaba. While they were building it they prayed to their Lord who is ALL KNOWING and ALL HEARING to make them both submissive to ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). They also asked their Creator to raise from among their offspring a nation submitting to HIM alone, also to show them their ways of devotion and turn to them full of mercy, as HE is the most Merciful. Their final prayer to their Lord was to make this place, Mecca a city that is safe and secure for all those who come there.

Dear children we have come to the end of the story of Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and we learn how steadfast he was in his belief in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). He followed all the commandments of his Lord and was also prepared to sacrifice everything; even his loved ones, to fulfil his promise. When we go for Hajj (pilgrimage) we do not only have to fulfil all the rituals of Hajj but also ask our Creator to accept our Hajj by following in the footsteps of this “friend” of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).

If you know someone who has been to Hajj please ask them to relate their journey as well as all the spiritual devotions and actions that they had to perform. You will be able to relate a number of events that Hajira and Nabie Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) were involved in at that time.

In our five daily prayers millions of Muslims throughout the world repeat the Durood (blessings to Ebrahim - Alayhis Salaam) several times to ask our Lord to shower HIS blessings on this Prophet as well as make us of those who are steadfast and firm in our belief in the One and Only ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).

They even ran up and down Safa'a and Marwa today not only to repeat the hardships of Hajirah but also to remind us that every effort we put in together with the belief in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala)

will eventuate great reward from ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). Furthermore ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) has promised in the Qur'an "I will provide for you, if you remember ME."

If you have an English translation of the Qur'an please read the very interesting lesson that Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) has left behind for us to follow and also get closer to the Creator.