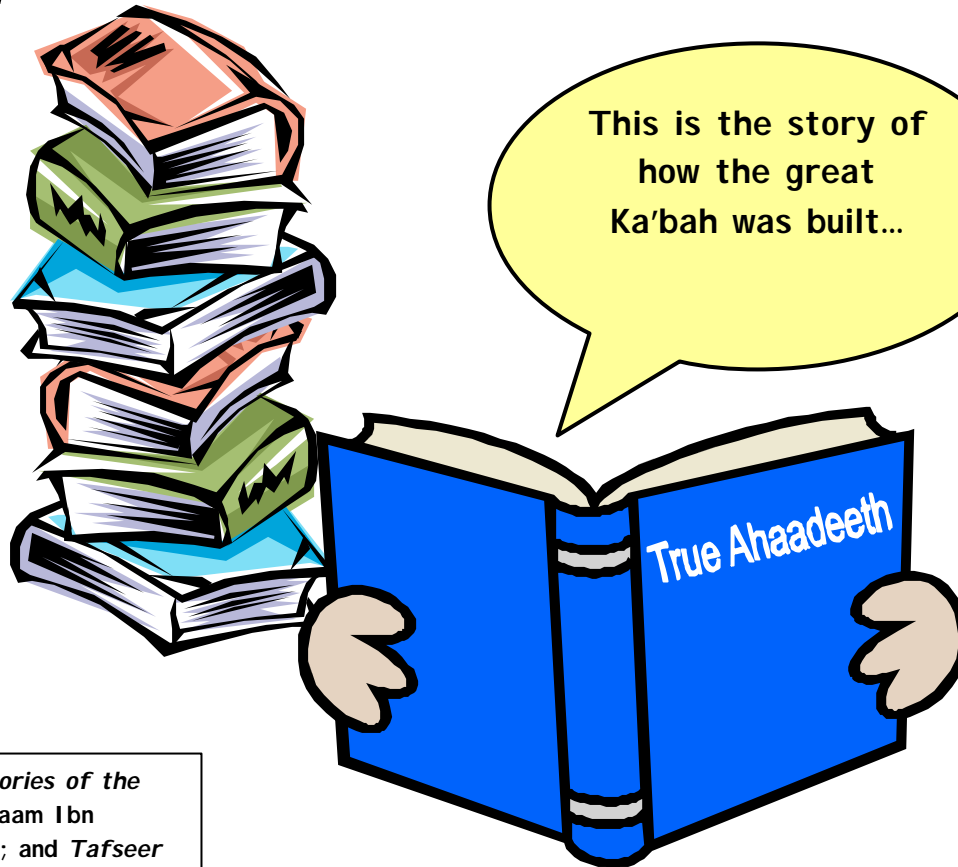


When The Ka'bah Was Built

Nurturing
upon the
way of the
pious *salaf*



References: *Stories of the Prophets* by Imaam Ibn Katheer - chp6; and *Tafseer Ibn Katheer Trans Vol's 1-2*.

Which of you has been to Makkah and seen the Ka'bah? The Ka'bah stands inside a Mosque called the *Masjid al-Haraam*. Many hundreds of years ago, the area around the Ka'bah looked very different. It was surrounded by fields in the valley of Makkah with mountains and hills all around. Our story is about how the great Ka'bah was built. We have to go far back in time – back to the period of Prophet I braaheem, *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam...*

Allaah's noble Prophet I braaheem, *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* had reached the ripe age of 86. Over the years, Prophet I braaheem *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* had grown in *eemaan* and certainty. Allaah had given him a deep understanding of I slaam and his submission to Allaah was complete. For many years, Prophet I braaheem *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* longed for a righteous child. A pious child is a blessing from Allaah. That's because they can help share the message of I slaam with others. I slaam is the only path to *Jannah*.

So Prophet Ibrahim *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* wanted a pious son – one patient, brave and steadfast in worshipping only Allaah. And, one who could convey Islam to others after him.

Knowing that only Allaah gives blessings, Prophet Ibrahim turned to Allaah in prayer.

“My Lord” he prayed, **“Give me a child from the righteous.”**
[As-Saafaat 37:100]

Only Allaah answers our prayers. Indeed Allaah answered His Prophet's *du'aa*. He bestowed upon Prophet Ibrahim *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* a blessed son. The Prophet Isma'eel was born.

His delighted father took charge of the young Prophet. Under the love and care of his father, young Isma'eel learnt many wonderful things. His father taught him about Allaah's Greatness and Grandeur, His Perfection and Honour.

He learnt about Allaah's Purity and Divinity and became established upon worshipping Allaah alone. Young Ismaa'eel *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* received his instructions as a Prophet from his father. And his father was being directed by Allaah.

Now at that time, there was much evil in the land. The people had forgotten Allaah's Greatness and Perfection. Instead of loving Allaah completely and honouring Him with obedience, the people's minds had gone crazy! They had turned their hopes and devotion to things like stones and trees! It's hard to believe that isn't it? But it's true! So, instead of praying only to Allaah for blessings, they prayed to the stones and trees! And instead of turning to Allaah for protection, they turned to the stones and trees for that!

Didn't they know that only Allaah gives blessings and protection? Far Greater and Glorious is Allaah than what the people believe about Him! Yes, the people had gone mad! They were far from the path to Paradise. They were on the path to the Hell-Fire!

Of course, Allaah the Most High Sees everything. He saw what the people were doing. And He wanted to bring the people back to the path to Paradise. Allaah never leaves people on the path to the Hell-Fire without sending a prophet to warn them you see.

So along with sending warnings, Allaah instructed His Prophet Ibraaheem, along with his son Prophet Ismaa'eel *'alayhim-us-salaatu was-salaam*, to build a very special place of prayer. It would be a place for all mankind to establish the worship of Allaah alone. This special place of prayer was the Ka'bah. And it would be built in the blessed land of Makkah.

So the Prophets of Allaah prepared for this task. They sharpened their tools and picked up their pick-axes. But Makkah was a large land. They didn't know where to start building. So Allaah the Most Great send a calm wind to guide them. The wind blew in the direction commanded by Allaah. The Prophets Ibraaheem and Ismaa'eel followed the wind with their pick-axes.

As the wind continued to blow, they followed closely behind. It finally settled at the exact spot where the Ka'bah was to be built.

Then with their pick-axes, they started to dig. Next they brought along large bricks. The big bricks would build the four walls. As they laid down the bricks they made a great *du'aa* to Allaah:

"Our Lord Allaah! Accept this from us. Indeed You Alone are the All-Hearing and All-Knowing.

Our Lord, make us Muslims, submitting, obeying and worshipping You Alone. And from our children, make them Muslims, submitting, obeying and worshipping You Alone...

Our Lord, send to our people, a Messenger from amongst them and known to them who will recite to them Your verses and teach them the Scripture and the Religion. And purify them from *Shirk* and establish them upon *Tawheed*. Indeed Allaah -You alone are

the Most Honourable and Mighty, and the Most Wise.” [al-Baqarah 127-129]

As brick after brick was laid, the walls of the Ka'bah grew taller. The walls became so high that Prophet Ibraaheem *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam* could no longer reach the top. So young Ismaa'eel found a large stone, put it down and Ibraaheem stood on top. Now he could complete the walls.

As the bricks were cemented and joined, the great big Ka'bah was built. It became a symbol of *Tawheed* for all people. It stands as a reminder today, that none deserves worship but Allaah. Did you know that when we stand to pray in *Salaah*, we face the direction of the Ka'bah?

So that's the story of how the Ka'bah was built. We learn that it was built for a great reason. That's the same reason why Allaah created us – to worship none but Him. This is the truth and we love it!

And everything worshipped besides Allaah is false. That's the worst evil and we hate it!

Allaah made us Muslims! As Muslims, Allaah tells us to follow the example of our Prophet Ibraaheem *'alayhis-salaatu was-salaam*. Can you remember the *du'aa* Prophet Ibraaheem made at the Ka'bah? He asked Allaah to send a final messenger. So Allaah sent His final Messenger Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*. Our Prophet Muhammad *sallallaahu alayhi wa-sallam* is upon the way of Ibraaheem too! This clear way is the path of Islaam. Islaam is complete and perfect. Islaam is a straight path to Paradise!

I pray to Allaah to bless and honour all of His Prophets and Messengers.

And finally, all perfect praise and thanks are for Allaah - the Lord of all Perfection and Honour.