

## Prophet Ibrahim (A.S)

Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) was the second greatest Prophet in Islam. He was the father of Prophet Ismail (A.S) and Prophet Ishaq (A.S), who were two other Prophets of Allah (S.W.T). Sayyidah Hajrah (A.S.) and Sayyidah Sarah (A.S.) were his wives. Through the lineage of Prophet Ishaq (A.S) came many other Prophets such as Prophet Yaqub (A.S), Prophet Yusuf (A.S) and Prophet Musa (A.S). Through the lineage of Prophet Ismail (A.S) came our Beloved Messenger Muhammad (S.A.W). For this reason, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) is often referred to as “The Father of the Prophets.”

Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) was born in a village in Iraq. At a young age Allah (S.W.T) blessed him with Prophethood, but the people in his village all worshipped stones and idols. Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) wondered how they could worship and pray towards that which cannot move or benefit them. So, one day, when all the villagers had left, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) took an axe and smashed all the idols one by one. He then placed the axe around the neck of the largest idol, which he left untouched.

When the villagers returned, they were shocked by what they saw and wondered who could have done such a thing. They called on Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and questioned him. When they asked if he was responsible, he pointed to the largest statue with the axe around its neck and said it must have been the culprit. They replied that the statue could not move, so how could it have done it? Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) had shown them that worshipping something powerless made no sense. The only true Lord is Allah (S.W.T).

Many of the villagers were still overtaken by their pride. Out of anger, they decided to build a huge fire and throw Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) into it as a punishment. However, when Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) was cast into the fire, it did not burn him as it should have. Allah (S.W.T) had ordered the fire to be cool to protect him. This miracle inspired many people in the village to accept the message of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) about the Oneness of Allah (S.W.T).

As a young man, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) travelled to the Arabian Peninsula, now known as the city of Makkah. Many of the rituals of Hajj and Umrah come from the actions of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) and his family.

When Prophet Ibrahim (A.S), his wife Sayyidah Hajar (A.S.), and his baby son Sayyidina Ismail (A.S) arrived in Makkah, he was commanded by Allah (S.W.T) to leave them there. After a while, Sayyidina Ismail (A.S.) began to cry due to thirst. Sayyidah Hajar (A.S.) ran between two hills, Safa and Marwa, seven times in search of water. After her efforts, Allah (S.W.T) caused the blessed spring of Zamzam to gush forth to provide water for Prophet Ismail (A.S.). This water continues to benefit people to this day.

Later, when Sayyidina Ismail (A.S.) had grown up, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) met his son again and told him that Allah (S.W.T) had commanded them to build a House for His worship. Together, they built the Ka’bah. After completing it, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S) made a dua asking Allah (S.W.T) to accept their work:

رَبَّنَا تَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

“Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us. Indeed! You are the All-Hearer, the All-Knower.” Qur’an Chapter 2, Verse 127.

SubhanAllah, despite it being a Command of Allah (S.W.T), Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) still asked his Lord to accept it. This teaches us to have humility and remember that we are nothing more than the servants of Allah (S.W.T). The place at which Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) stood to make this dua is called Maqam Ibrahim, and his footprints are still visible there until this day.

In another historical event, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) had a dream in which Allah (S.W.T) commanded him to sacrifice his son. When he told his dream to his son Sayyidina Ismail (A.S.), he found his son to be obedient and accepting to the Command of Allah (S.W.T). Just as Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) was about to carry out the command, Allah (S.W.T) sent down a lamb to be sacrificed instead and told Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) through Angel Jibril (A.S.) that his dream had been fulfilled. Because of this, every year on Eid-ul-Adha we sacrifice a lamb or goat to show our love for Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) and Prophet Ismail (A.S.).

In conclusion, Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) is a noble and greatly respected Prophet in Islam. From his life, we learn the importance of standing for the truth in the face of wrongdoing, submitting to the Will of Allah (S.W.T), remaining humble, and trusting Allah (S.W.T) in all situations. May Allah (S.W.T) make us to follow in the righteous footsteps of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) and Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.). Ameen.

By Aasiya Salyani