# THE STORY OF ABRAHAM (PROPHET IBRAHIM) AND MAKKAH

One day, Ibrahim (Abraham) asked his wife Hajar to prepare for a long journey. After a few days, Abraham started out with his wife Hajar and their son Ismail (Ishmael). The child was still nursing and still not weaned.

Abraham walked through cultivated land, desert and mountains until he reached the desert of the Arabian Peninsula and came to an uncultivated valley having no fruit, no trees, no food and no water. The valley had no sign of life. Here Ibrahim (Abraham) left them with a small amount of food and water hardly enough for two days.

He turned around and walked away. His wife hurried after him asking, “Where are you going, Ibrahim (Abraham) leaving us in this barren valley?” Ibrahim (Abraham) did not answer her, but continued walking.

She repeated what she had said, but he remained silent. Finally, she understood that he was not acting on his own initiative. She realised that Allah had commanded him to do so. She asked him, “Did Allah command you to do this?” He replied, “Yes”. Then his wife said, “We are not going to be lost, since Allah who has commanded you, is with us.”

Ibrahim (Abraham) prayed to Allah, “O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring dwell in a valley without cultivation by Your Sacred House (Kab’bah in Makkah) in order, O Lord, that they may offer prayers perfectly. So, fill some hearts among men with love towards them, and (O Allah) provide them with fruits, so that they may give thanks” (Qur’an 14:37)

Ismail’s (Ishmael’s) mother went on suckling Ismail (Ishmael) and drinking from the water she had until it was all used up. After a while Ismail (Ishmael) began to cry because he was thirsty. Hajar knew that Allah will help. With this trust in her heart she climbed a hill nearby called Safa just in case she might see some water from the height or see people who might be carrying water. When she did not see anything, she came down the hill back to the valley.

She checked that her son was safe, then crossed the valley and climbed the second hill, called Marwa, again hoping that from a height she might see water or see people who may be carrying water. When she did not see anybody, she climbed down the hill and returned to the valley, checked that her son was okay and climbed up Safa repeating the whole process seven times.

When she reached Marwa the seventh time and was returning back to the valley where her son was, she saw an angel by the heels of her son digging the ground till water flowed from this place. This water is called Zam Zam water and people drink it to this day when they go for Hajj. After Hajar quenched her thirst by drinking the water and suckled her child, the angel said to Hajar, “Don’t be afraid of being neglected, for the house of Allah, which at that time resembled a hillock, will be built into a cube by this boy and his father and Allah never neglects his people.”