# The Story of the Black Stone

When Prophet Mohammad ﷺ reached the age of thirty-five years, he settled by his judgment, a grave dispute which threatened to plunge the whole of Arabia into a fresh series of wars.

It was the year 605 A.D. and the people of Makkah were rebuilding the Ka’bah (House of Allah), the question arose as to who should have the honour of raising the black stone, the most holy relic of that house, into its proper place.

According to the Muslim belief the black stone came from the heavens. Prophet Aadam (Adam), the first man created by Allah (God) and the first prophet of Islam, upon the orders of Allah (God), had descended to the Earth with the black stone. Later when Prophet Aadam (Adam) built the Ka’bah for the first time in Makkah, upon the orders of Allah (God), he placed the black stone in the Ka’bah (House of Allah).

Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) much later in the human history on Earth rebuilt the Ka’bah (House of Allah) at the same spot, upon the order of Allah (God), and placed the black stone in the Ka’bah just as Prophet Aadam (Adam) had done originally.

As time went past people forgot the teachings of Prophet Aadam Adam) and the teachings of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) about Allah (God), however they continued to regard the black stone as a holy relic of the Ka’bah (Sacred House).

In 605 A.D. when the Ka’bah was being rebuilt, each tribe in Arabia wanted the honour of placing the black stone into the structure of the Ka’bah. The senior citizens present at the time said, ‘why don’t we wait and let the next person who enters the gate decide who should place the black stone in the Ka’bah’. All the people who were arguing with each other agreed.

Everyone’s eyes were on the gate. The person who came through the gate was Mohammad ﷺ, who later at the age of forty was appointed by Allah (God) as the last Prophet of Islam. ‘It’s Al-Amin’, cried out the people in one voice. Al-Amin was the title the people of Arabia had given Mohammad ﷺ which meant the ‘truthful’. The senior citizens explained to Mohammad ﷺ the dilemma they were facing and said, ‘will you please decide who amongst those present should carry the black stone to its final destination. We have all agreed that whatever you say will be binding on all those present.

Mohammad ﷺ was faced with an enormous task and he wanted to ensure that the decision he took would be fair and just. After thinking hard for a while, he said, ‘bring a cloth sheet that is large enough for one representative from each tribe present to stand around’. Once the sheet was bought Mohammad ﷺ placed the black stone in the middle of the sheet.

He then asked a representative of each tribe present to stand around the sheet to share the honour of lifting the black stone by taking hold of the cloth. All the representatives of the tribes came forward and happily took part in holding the cloth and shared the honour of lifting the black stone.

This advice satisfied all the contending parties. The stone was thus deposited in its place, and the re- building of the Ka’bah was completed without further interruption.

(Taken from the information in ‘The stories of the prophets by Imam Ibn Kathir, translated by Sheikh Mohammad ﷺ Mustafa Gemeiah and edited by Aelfwine Acelas Mischler)