# **THE STORY OF ISA SON OF MARYAM (JESUS SON OF MARY)**

While Maryam (Mary) was praying, an angel, Jibrail (Gabriel) in the form of a man appeared before her. Filled with fear, she tried to flee, praying, “ Verily! I seek refuge with Allah from you….”.

The angel said, “I am only a messenger from your Lord, (to announce) to you the gift of a righteous son.”

Maryam (Mary) said, “How can I have a son, when no man has touched me?”

The angel replied, “So (it will be), Your Lord said, “That is easy for Me (Allah): And we wish to appoint him as a sign to mankind and a mercy from Us (Allah), and it is a matter (already decreed, (by Allah).

(Qur’an 19: 18-19)

The angel’s visit caused Maryam (Mary) great anxiety, which increased as the months went by. How could she face having a child without having a husband. She was from a noble family. She was afraid of the sorts of things people would say about her.

After some months with a heavy womb, she left Nazareth, not knowing where to go. She had not gone far, when she was overtaken by the pains of childbirth. She sat down against a dry palm tree, and there she gave birth to a son. Looking at her beautiful baby, she was hurt that the baby did not have a father so people would treat him and her badly.

Suddenly, she heard a voice nearby, “Grieve not, your Allah (God) has placed water near you and shake the trunk of the tree and ripe dates will fall. So eat and drink and regain your strength; and be of good cheer, for what you see is the power of Allah (God), Who made the dry palm tree gain life, in order to provide you with food.” For a while she was comforted by the miracles of Allah. When Maryam (Mary) was well enough she decided to return to Nazareth. She started to worry again about what people would say. As if sharing the mother’s worry, the baby began to speak, “If you meet any person say: ‘I have taken a vow of silence for Allah (God)’ and do not speak to anybody today”. With this miracle Maryam (Mary) felt at ease.

As she had expected, her arrival in Nazareth with a newborn baby in her arms aroused the curiosity of the people. They scolded her, “This is a terrible sin that you have committed.” She put her fingers on her lips and pointed towards the baby. They asked, “How can we speak to a new born baby?” To their total amazement, the child began to speak clearly, “I am the servant of Allah (God). Allah (God) has given me the Book, and has made me a prophet, and has blessed me wherever I may be, and has enjoined on me prayers and almsgiving as long as I live. Allah (God) has made me dutiful towards my mother. He has not made me arrogant or unblessed. Peace unto me the day I was born, the day I die and the day I shall be raised alive.”

Most of the people realised that the baby was unique, for if Allah wills something, He merely says “Be” and it happens (like the creation of Adam and Eve who had no mother or father). Of course, there were those who regarded the baby’s speech to be a mere trick, but at least Maryam (Mary) could now stay in Nazareth and bring up her son Isa (Jesus) without being harassed.

(Qur’an 19)