

Al-Maktab

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Qurbaani

The Story of Hadhrat Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam)

Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام was a great Nabi of Allah Ta'ala. He was called '**Khalilullah**' (The close friend of Allah Ta'ala). He really loved Allah Ta'ala. Allah Ta'ala wanted to test him as He always tests those whom He loves so that they may become more beloved to Him.

The First Test

Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام was a little boy who lived with his father Aazar. Aazar used to make idols and sell them. Ibraheem عليه السلام tried to explain to his father that worshipping idols are wrong. "Why do you worship such things that cannot benefit you or harm you?" he asked. "Worship Allah Ta'ala, who is the Lord of the heavens and the Earth." His father became very angry and threatened to punish him for speaking against his gods.

One day, when the people were all gone out to a fair, Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام destroyed all the idols in the temple with an axe. He then took the axe and hung it on the neck of the biggest idol. When the people returned, they became very angry when they saw their beloved gods destroyed. They questioned Ibraheem عليه السلام regarding their idols as he was the only one left alone at home.

He replied, "Ask the big idol as he has the axe around his neck." The people were shocked and also ashamed as they knew that idols can neither speak nor hear. They decided to take revenge and punish Ibraheem عليه السلام. They made a huge fire and said, "Burn Ibraheem and help our idols!" When Ibraheem عليه السلام was about to be thrown into this fire, the angels came to his rescue and offered to help him.

Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام asked them, "Have you been sent by Allah Ta'ala or have you come on your own." They replied, "We have come on our own." Ibraheem عليه السلام then said, "I do not need your help as Allah Ta'ala will take care of me." He placed all his trust in Allah Ta'ala and knew that there was no one else to save him but Allah Ta'ala. When Ibraheem عليه السلام was thrown in to the fire, Allah Ta'ala ordered the huge fire to become cool and a place of safety for Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام. Not even one hair on his body burnt whilst he was in the fire. Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام passed his first test successfully.

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Ten Great Nights

The first ten days of Zul Hijjah are very great and sacred in the sight of Allah Ta'ala.

It is reported in one Hadith that Rasulullah (Sallallahu alayhi wasallam) has mentioned,

"No good action is loved more by Allah Ta'ala than those good actions that are performed on the first ten days of Zul Hijjah", whether it be Nafal Salaah, Zikr, Charity, recitation of the Quraan Shareef, etc.

In another Hadith it is mentioned that if one fasts on any one of these ten days (excluding the tenth of Zul Hijjah as this is the day of Eid), he will receive the reward of fasting for an entire year. Likewise if a person makes Ibaadah on one of these nights, he will receive the reward of making Ibaadah on **Laylatul Qadr**.

One should read "Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah, La Ilaha Illallah and Allahu Akbar" in abundance.

The Second Test

Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام migrated to Palestine and continued calling people to the oneness and greatness of Allah Ta'ala. He did not have any children for many years and continued making dua to Allah Ta'ala to bless him with a child. At the age of 86, Allah Ta'ala blessed him with a beautiful son, Hadhrat Ismaeel عليه السلام. He really loved his son dearly. Allah Ta'ala wanted to test him again.

Allah Ta'ala ordered him to leave his wife and his baby son in the hot desert land of Arabia with no food and water. Ismaeel عليه السلام began crying out of hunger and thirst. His mother Haajira (Radi Allahu Anha) began running between the hills of Safa and Marwa searching for someone to help her and her baby son. Those who go for Haj and Umrah are required to run between these two hills following the example of Haajira (Radi Allahu Anha). Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام made dua to Allah Ta'ala to take care of his wife and child in this barren land. Allah Ta'ala took pity on them and caused the sweet, tasty water of Zam Zam to gush out of the ground. Both of them quenched their thirst and satisfied their hunger with this special water. The special water of Zam Zam attracted other thirsty travellers to come and settle in this desert. Soon the city of Makkah Mukkaramah came into existence. Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام passed his second test successfully.

The Third Test

Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام often visited his wife and child. He loved his son very much. When Ismaeel عليه السلام grew up into a handsome young boy, Ibraheem عليه السلام saw in a dream that he was slaughtering his beloved son. The dreams of the Ambiyaa عليه السلام are always true and is an indication of a command of Allah Ta'ala. Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام mentioned this dream to Ismaeel عليه السلام, who replied, "O my beloved father, do as you have been commanded. If Allah Ta'ala wills, you will find me to be from the patient ones."

They both left for Mina. Shaytaan, our enemy, tried to mislead them on the way. When Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام saw him he said, "**Allahu Akbar**" and pelted shaytaan with seven stones. Shaytaan sank into the ground. He tried this trick another two times but each time Hadhrat Ibraheem عليه السلام threw stones at him and chased him away. Those who go for Haj also pelt stones in Mina at three pillars which represent the shaytaan.

When they finally reached the place of slaughter, Ismaeel عليه السلام was laid down facing the Qiblah. Ibraheem عليه السلام sharpened his knife. With all his strength he tried slaughtering his son but the knife would not cut the throat of Ismaeel عليه السلام. A voice from the skies echoed, "O Ibraheem, you have fulfilled the command in your dream. Verily we reward those who do good." When father and son realised this was yet another test from Allah Ta'ala which they had passed successfully, they were overjoyed. A sheep from Jannah was sent by Allah Ta'ala and slaughtered by Ibraheem عليه السلام. To remember this great event, we have been commanded by Allah Ta'ala to sacrifice an animal every year on the day of Eidul Adha. Being obedient to Allah Ta'ala made Ibraheem عليه السلام the Khalillullah (The true friend of Allah Ta'ala).

Lessons learnt from this story

- We must love Allah Ta'ala more than our family and children.
- If we see any of our family doing something wrong we should guide them to the straight path with wisdom.
- We should not follow the ways of our forefathers if it is against the laws of Allah Ta'ala. Everything is in the control of Allah Ta'ala. He can make a hot fire cool and in a dry desert cause a spring of cool water to flow. A sharp knife will not cut if Allah Ta'ala does not want it to cut.
- Everything has been created by Allah Ta'ala and can only work with the order of Allah Ta'ala.
- We must fulfil all the commands of Allah Ta'ala.
- If we trust Allah Ta'ala and make sincere dua, He will help us even if everything is against us.
- We must also pass the test of life by fulfilling all the orders of Allah Ta'ala. If Shaytaan tries to mislead us we must disobey him. In this way we can also become the **khalillullah** and gain entry into Jannah. *Insha Allah.*

The virtues of Qurbaani

- ◆ Rasulullah [Sallallahu alayhi wasallam] has said: "There is no deed that is more beloved to Allah Ta'ala on Eid ul Adha than spilling the blood of an animal. (i.e. making Qurbaani). Verily the qurbaani animal will come on the day of Qiyaamah with it's horns, hoofs and it's hair."
- ◆ In another Hadith it is mentioned, "The one who makes Qurbaani will receive a reward for every hair on the animal." The Sahaabah (RA) asked, "What if the animal has wool?" Rasulullah ﷺ said, "For every fibre of wool on its body he will receive a good deed."
- ◆ Once Nabi [Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam] told his beloved daughter Hadhrat Faatima (RA), "Stand by your animal when it is being slaughtered, for verily all your past sins will be forgiven when the first drop of blood falls."

Sunnats on the Day of Eid

1. To take a bath.
2. To use miswaak.
3. To put on one's **best** clothes. (not necessary new).
4. To apply Itr.
5. To go to the Eid Gaah by foot.
6. To say the **Takbeer** aloud whilst going for Eid Salaah.
7. To go by one route and return by another.
8. Not to perform any Nafil Salaah at the Eid Gaah.
9. To perform Eid Salaah at the Eid Gaah.
10. Do not eat anything before the eid Salaah.
11. To eat the liver of one's animal after the Eid Salaah.

PARENTS COLUMN

Dear Parents

Assalaamu alykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakaatuhu

Madrasah and school is now over and all the parents are eager to have their children home for the holidays. *Al-hamdulillah* all our children have performed well and are looking forward to spending the December Holidays in some leisure.

During these days of enjoyment and entertainment (within the confines of Shari'ah) we as parents must make sure that they do not become unmindful of their duties towards Allah Ta'ala. The following are some guidelines that we should keep in mind during the holiday period;

1. **Ensure that they recite the Quraan and revise their surahs and duas daily.**
2. **Ensure that they always dress according to the shariah.**
3. **They are punctual with their five daily salaah, wherever they may be, even on a journey.**
4. **Guard them against all forms of immodesty and shameless activities, such as televisions, internet, etc.**
5. **While enjoying time together with our families during the holidays we should abstain from all sinful activities .**
6. **Be alert and conscious about the Halaal status of where we are buying our food.**
7. **Finally, Do not forget the significance of the 10 days and nights of Zil-Hijjah which will fall on 29 November to 08 December 2008**

Some important Laws of Qurbaani

- ⇒ Qurbaani is waajib on any person owning the amount of Nisaab i.e. approximately R2344-00.
- ⇒ It is Sunnatul Muakkada to slaughter the animal facing towards the Qiblah.
- ⇒ It is makrooh (detestable) to grab the animal by its back legs or to cause it any type of discomfort.
- ⇒ One animal should not be slaughtered in front of another as this causes pain to the animal.
- ⇒ The knife that is being used for Qurbaani must be very sharp so that the least amount of pain is caused to the Qurbaani animal.
- ⇒ Skinning should only start once the animal is completely dead (at least five to ten minutes after slaughtering).
- ⇒ It is mutahab to divide the meat of one's qurbaani animal into three portions. One portion for oneself, one for one's relatives and one portion for the poor.

Ta'limi Board Website

Al-hamdulillah! it is only with the *fadhil* of Allah Ta'ala that the Ta'limi Board has launched a website. This site can be viewed on www.talimiboardkzn.org All the necessary information regarding the maktab can be found on this site. Previous issues of the Al-Maktab could also be viewed on it. Readers are requested to please forward suggestions to the Board for improvement . Also please make dua that Allah Ta'ala accepts it and makes it a means of attaining His pleasure. *Aameen.*

Maktab News

Quiz

Dear Children

Assalamu alyakum wa Rahmatullahi wa barakaatuhu.

Al-hamdulillah! the exams are now over and I'm sure we are all eagerly awaiting our results. Don't worry, everyone has done well. May Allah Ta'ala accept everyone's efforts and allow us to continue practicing whatever good we learnt at madrasah. *Aameen.*

The season of Qurbaani is now very close and everyone is excited about buying their animals. Let us also live the spirit of Qurbaani by taking an active part in looking after the animals, slaughtering it, skinning it, distributing the meat to the poor and needy and of course eating the meat of Qurbaani thereafter. Rasulullah [sallallahu alyahi wasallam] himself would be very active in the days of Qurbaani. On one occasion, he had slaughtered 63 camels himself. He would also skin the animals himself. Let us all try to revive these mubaarak sunnats of Rasulullah [sallallahu alyahi wasallam]. Eid Mubaarak to one and all. We hope you all enjoy your Eidul Adha as well as your holidays and hope to see everyone again in the new year.

Our last theme was "The Greatness of Allah Ta'ala." *Masha Allah* to all those who participated. May Allah Ta'ala accept your efforts and reward you abundantly. *Aameen.*

The names of the winners of the word search are as follows:

	Name	Maktab	Grade
1.	Saaleha Mohammed	Rose Heights (Chatsworth)	3
2.	Zaakira Cassim	Eastview (Phoenix)	5 B
3.	Sameera Patel	Islaamiyyah (Newcastle)	3
4.	Azhar Khan	Lotusville (Verulam)	2 A
5.	Waheeda Khan	Shallcross (Furqaania)	6

The winners for the best projects for each grade are as follows:

	Name	Maktab	Grade
1.	Hamza Jeewa	Madrasah Arqaam (PMB)	1
2.	Sameer Ramphal	Kokstad (Madrasah Noor)	2
3.	Fahyaaz Rahiman	Silverglen (Chatsworth)	3
4.	Mainaaz Shaikh	Kokstad (Madrasah Noor)	4
5.	Fathima Muhammed	Eastview (Phoenix)	5
6.	Shaakira Mitha	Tongaat	6
7.	Bilkis Vawda	Ladysmith	7

Answer all 10 questions correctly and submit your entries. The first 5 correct entries drawn will receive R50-00 cash.

1. What was Hadhrat Ibraheem's ﷺ father's name?
2. What happened to the fire when Hadhrat Ibraheem ﷺ was thrown into it?
3. Where did Hadhrat Ibraheem ﷺ migrate to?
4. Between which hills did Haajirah (RA) run?
5. Name the special water that Allah Ta'ala sent for Ismaeel ﷺ and Haajirah (RA).
6. What did Ismaeel ﷺ say to his father when he told him about the dream?
7. Who tried to mislead them?
8. What happened when Ibraheem ﷺ started slaughtering Ismaeel ﷺ?
9. How can you also become "Khalillullah"?
10. Mention 10 sunnats to practice on the day of Eid.

Project

Write one full page on why you love to attend madrasah. The best article will be published in the next issue of the Al-Maktab and the winner will receive a R100.00 cash prize.

All entries must be handed in by 02 February 2009.

N.B. Please write your name, the name of your Madrasah, the area you live in and your grade on your article in big bold writing. Jazak Allah.