



# The Story of Hajj



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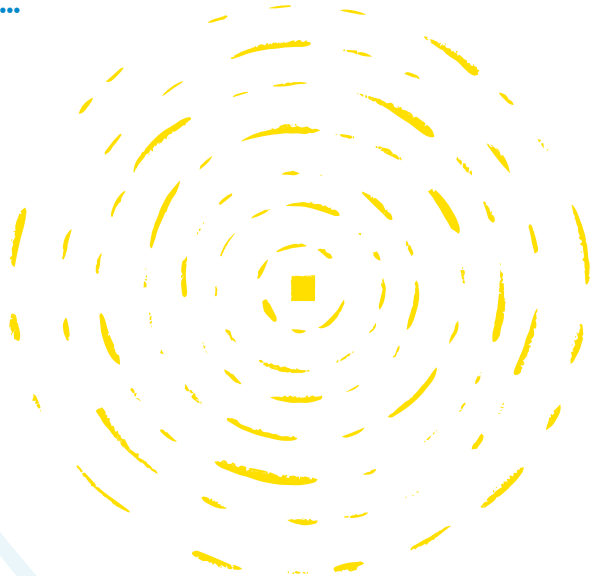
Give h  pe  
through Qurban

Each year, since the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) over 1,400 years ago, Muslims around the world travel to Makkah to perform the sacred ritual of Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam. Today, with the permission of Allah (SWT), Muslims perform Hajj in their millions,

## *Alhamdulillah.*

But why do Muslims perform Hajj? To answer this question, we must venture to a time before our beloved Messenger (PBUH).

*This is the story of Hajj...*



There was once a time on earth when only one man believed in Allah (SWT). His name was Ibrahim (AS) and he is one of the most important prophets in Islam. Throughout his prophethood, Ibrahim (AS) endured many trials that tested his devotion to Allah (SWT), and two of these trials recounted to Muslims by Allah (SWT) contain the origin story of Hajj.

In the first of these two events, Allah (SWT) gave Ibrahim (AS) an immense trial by commanding him to leave his wife Hajar and their infant son Isma'il (AS) alone in the barren desert of Makkah.

As Ibrahim (AS) turned to leave them, Hajar cried out to him, "Oh Ibrahim, where are you going, leaving us in this valley where there is no one, nor is there anything else around?" She repeatedly asked him, but he did not turn to respond. Hajar finally cried out, "Did Allah command you to do so?", and Ibrahim (AS) said "Yes". Hajar responded, "Allah (SWT) will not abandon us".



Both Ibrahim (AS) and Hajar had full certainty that Allah (SWT) would take care of her and baby Isma'il (AS).

With Ibrahim (AS) now gone, and Hajar and Isma'il's (AS) provisions depleting, she decided to search for provisions. Hajar left baby Isma'il on the desert floor and rushed to the nearby hills of Safa and Marwa, where she ran back and forth seven times desperately searching for help in the distance.

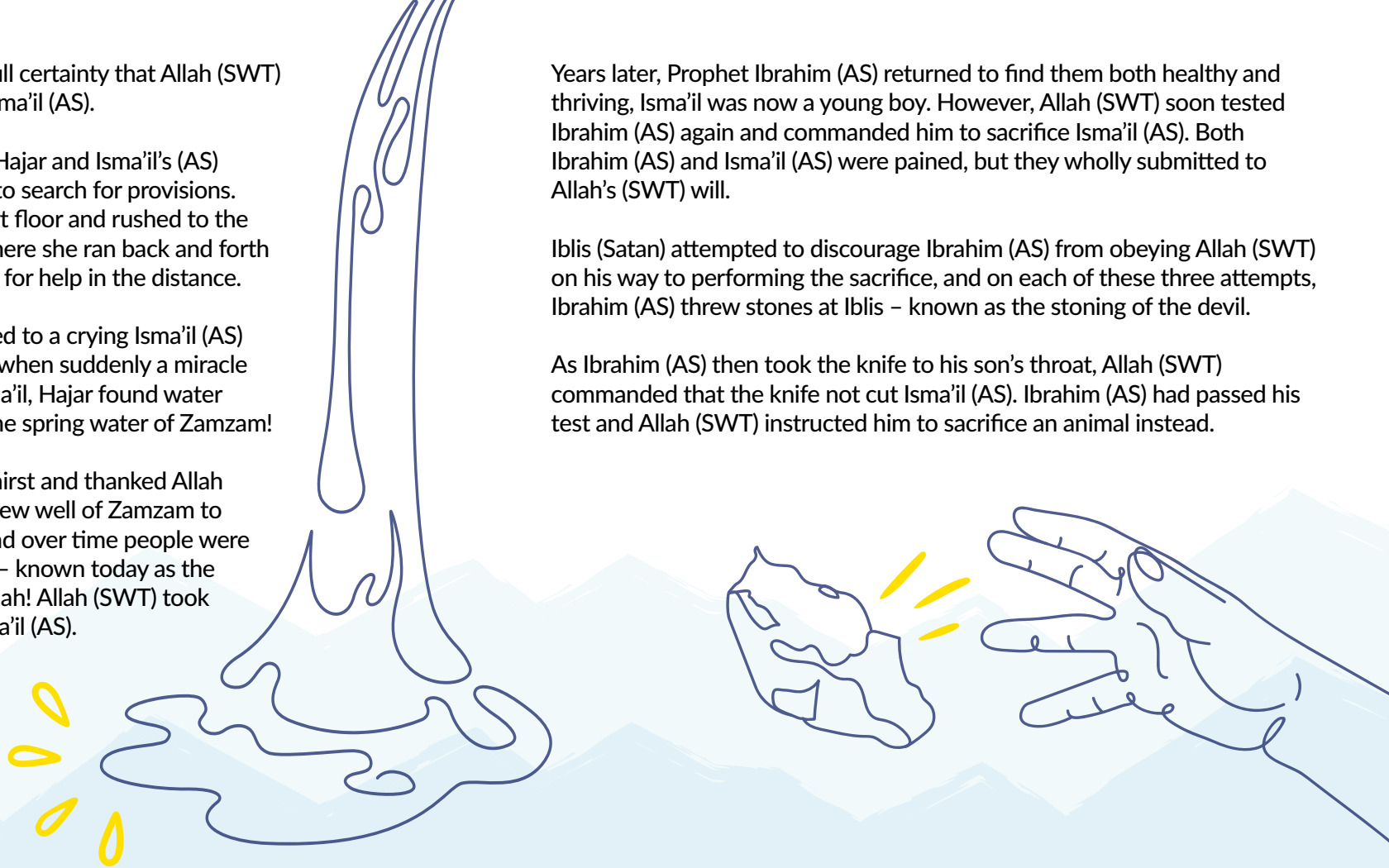
With no help in sight Hajar returned to a crying Isma'il (AS) kicking the sand in a fit of hunger, when suddenly a miracle occurred. There, beneath baby Isma'il, Hajar found water emerging from the sand – it was the spring water of Zamzam!

Hajar and Isma'il quenched their thirst and thanked Allah (SWT). Hajar was able to use the new well of Zamzam to make trade with a passing tribe, and over time people were attracted to a growing settlement – known today as the thriving city of Makkah, Subhan'Allah! Allah (SWT) took care of the affairs of Hajar and Isma'il (AS).

Years later, Prophet Ibrahim (AS) returned to find them both healthy and thriving, Isma'il was now a young boy. However, Allah (SWT) soon tested Ibrahim (AS) again and commanded him to sacrifice Isma'il (AS). Both Ibrahim (AS) and Isma'il (AS) were pained, but they wholly submitted to Allah's (SWT) will.

Iblis (Satan) attempted to discourage Ibrahim (AS) from obeying Allah (SWT) on his way to performing the sacrifice, and on each of these three attempts, Ibrahim (AS) threw stones at Iblis – known as the stoning of the devil.

As Ibrahim (AS) then took the knife to his son's throat, Allah (SWT) commanded that the knife not cut Isma'il (AS). Ibrahim (AS) had passed his test and Allah (SWT) instructed him to sacrifice an animal instead.



Ibrahim (AS) and Isma'il (AS) spent their lives calling people to worship the one God, Allah (SWT). They were commanded by Allah (SWT) to build the sacred house at the site of the well of Zamzam, known today as the Ka'aba. It was intended as a place of sacred gathering and would later become the direction in which Muslims pray to Allah (SWT) – a symbol of oneness, unity and submission.

Once complete, Ibrahim (AS) and Isma'il (AS) would travel to Makkah to visit the Ka'aba every year, and after Ibrahim's (AS) death, this practice was continued by his son. Over time however, the people of Makkah began to worship other gods at the site of the Ka'aba, and Ibrahim's (AS) tradition was lost...

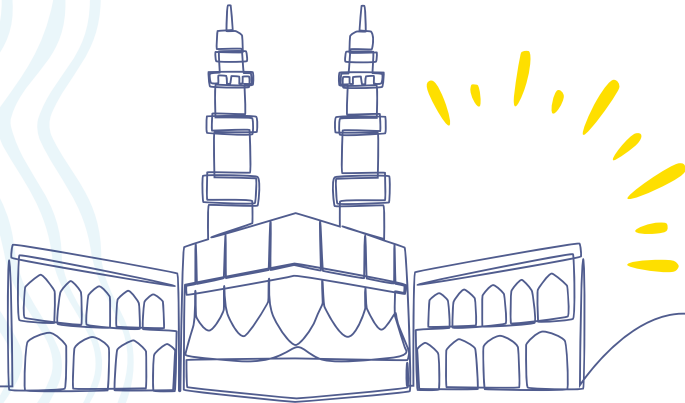
That was until Allah's (SWT) final Messenger, Muhammad (PBUH) came with Allah's (SWT) command to restore Ibrahim's (AS) tradition of Hajj, as a pillar of Islam.

In all these events are extraordinary lessons for the rest of mankind.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) led the first Hajj in 632 CE, re-establishing the traditions started by the Prophet Ibrahim (AS). Today, millions of Muslims from all over the world travel to Makkah to visit the Ka'aba, run between the two hills of Safa and Marwa seven times, perform the symbolic stoning of the devil and sacrifice a sheep, goat or cow (known as Qurbani) to honour the obedience of Ibrahim (AS) as part of the rites of Hajj.

Hajj and the sacred act of Qurbani takes place each year during the first 10 days the sacred month of Dhul Hijjah, with many Muslims across the world choosing to donate their Qurbani to their sisters and brothers in need, seeking unmatched rewards in what Allah (SWT) considers the 10 best days of the entire year.

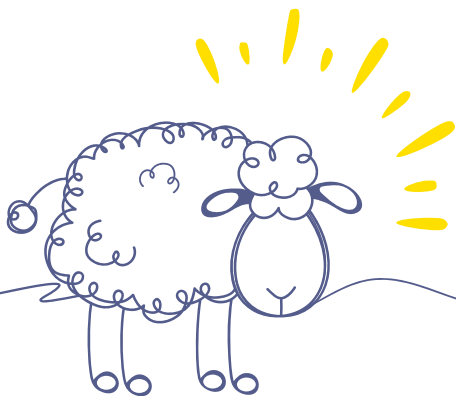
*The story of Hajj continues until today,  
Alhamdulillah.*



### *Maybe you are not going for Hajj this year...*

While not everyone will have the opportunity to perform Hajj this year, the door to immense reward remains wide open. Giving Qurban is one of the most powerful acts of worship during the blessed days of Dhul Hijjah. Even if you are thousands of miles from Makkah, you can still honor the legacy of Prophet Ibrahim (AS) and partake in the spirit of sacrifice by donating your Qurban. Through trusted organizations like Islamic Relief, your sacrifice reaches the most vulnerable families around the world—those who might otherwise go without meat the entire year.

*You may not go to Makkah, but your Qurban can go around the world!*



These ten days are the most beloved to Allah (SWT), and worship during them brings immense reward. Giving Qurban is more than tradition—it's a powerful act of faith and compassion. Whether for yourself or a loved one, your sacrifice can bring joy and nourishment to those in need. Don't miss this chance to give and draw closer to Allah (SWT).

*Choose your Qurban today and help a family in need experience the joy of Eid.*



<b>Group A</b>	Mali, Niger	<b>\$99</b>
<b>Group B</b>	Kenya, Somalia, Bangladesh, Rohingya Refugees	<b>\$150</b>
<b>Group C</b>	Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan	<b>\$250</b>
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**Eid Gift \$25**



*We hope you will treasure this story for many years to come and share it with loved ones.*

Visit **irau.co/hajj** to read our Hajj Guide, which includes a step-by-step guide to performing Hajj.

*Or scan the QR code here*



Learn more at **irau.co/qurban**



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