# The Story of Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ

(The true friend of Allah)

Hadhrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ was a great Nabi of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ. He was called [khalilulla] the close friend of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.

He really loved Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ wanted to test him. He always tests those whom he loves so that they may become more beloved to him.

## THE FIRST TEST

Hadhrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ was a little child who lived with his father Aazar who used to make idols and sell them.

Ibraahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ tried to explain to his father that worshipping idols is wrong." Why do you worship such things that cannot benefit or harm you?" He asked.

"Worship Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ, who is the Lord of the heavens and the earth." His father became very angry and wanted to punish him for speaking against his gods.

One day, when the people all were gone out to a fair, Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ destroyed all the idols in the temple with an axe. He then hung the axe on the neck of the biggest idol.

When the people returned, they became very angry at this and asked Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ about the idols.

He replied, “Ask the big idol, he has the axe around his neck.” The people were shocked and ashamed as they knew that idols can neither speak nor hear.

They made a huge fire to burn Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ. When Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ was about to be thrown into the fire, the angels came and offered to help him.

Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ asked them," Have you been sent by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ or have you come on your own?" They replied, "We have come on our own." Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ then said, "I do not need your help as Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ will take care of me.

He placed all his trust in Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ and knew that there was no one else to save him but Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.

When Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ was thrown into the fire Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ ordered the fire to become cool and a place of safety for Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ. Not even one hair in his body burnt whilst he was in the fire.

**Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ passed his first test successfully!**

# THE SECOND TEST

Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ migrated to Palestine and continued calling people to the oneness of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ. He did not have children for many years and continually begged Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ to bless him with a child.

At the age of 86, Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ blessed him with a beautiful son, Hazrath Ismail عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ. He really loved his son dearly. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ wanted to test him again.

Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ ordered him to leave his wife and his baby in the hot desert with no food and water.

Ismail عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ began crying out of hunger and thirst. His mother Haajara عَلَيْهَا ٱلسَّلَامُ began running between the hills of Safa and Marwa searching for help.

Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى took pity on them and caused the sweet, fresh water of Zam Zam to gush out of the ground.

The special water of Zam Zam attracted other thirsty travelers to come and settle in this desert.

Soon the city of Makkah Mukarramah came into existence.

**Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ passed his second test successfully!**

# THE THIRD TEST

Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ loved his son very much. When Ismail عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ grew up into a handsome young boy, Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ saw in a dream that he was slaughtering his beloved son. The dream of the Ambiyah are always true and is an indication of a command of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.

When Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ mentioned the dream to his son Ismail عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ. He replied, “O my beloved father, do as you have been commanded. If Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ wills you will find me to be from the patient ones.”

They both left for Mina. Shaythan, our enemy, tried to mislead them on the way. When Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ saw him he said,”Allahu Akbar” and pelted Shaythan with seven stones. Shaythan sank into the ground.

He tried this trick another two times but each time Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ threw stones at him and chased him away.

When they finally reached the place of slaughter, Ismail عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ was laid down facing the Qiblah. Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ sharped his knife. With all his strength he tried slaughtering his son but the knife would not cut the throat of Ismail عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ.

A voice from the skies echoed, "O Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ, you have fulfilled the command in your dream, verily we reward those who do good."

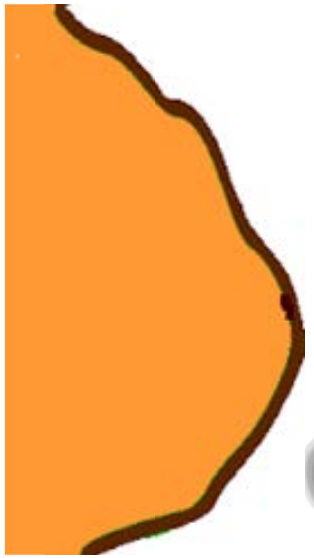
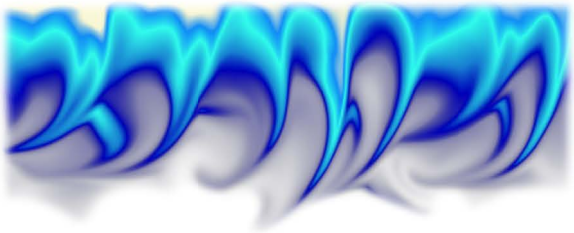
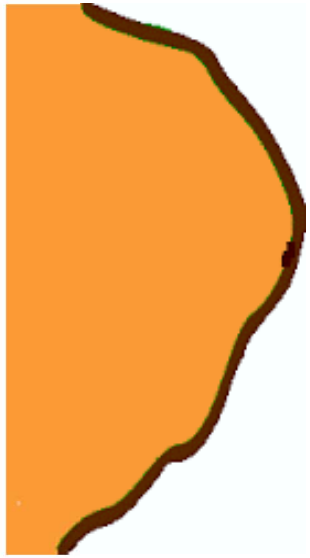
When the father and son realized it was yet another test from Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ which they had passed successfully, they were overjoyed. A sheep from Jannah was sent by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ and slaughtered by Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ. To remember this great event, we have been commanded by Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ to sacrifice an animal every year on the day of Eidhul Adha.

**Hazrath Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ passed his third test successfully!**

# Discussion points

## We have learnt that...

1. We can get closer to Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ only by obeying his commands wholeheartedly.
2. The creations do not have the power of functioning on their own. They function only by the will of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.
3. The fire has the quality of burning but it was cool on Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ by the command of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ.
4. Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ tests those whom He loves, so that they become more beloved to him.
5. Each obligations of Hajj are the remembrance of the sacrifice of Ibrahim عَلَيْهِ ٱلسَّلَامُ and his noble family.

## So Now to Practice...

a) Next time you are tested with something, remember the hard tests of Ibrahim Khalilullah.
b) And when it comes to the commands of Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ, obey it wholeheartedly though it looks hard.
c) Always remember that Allah تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَىٰ is the only one from whom we should seek help at all times.