



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

Abraham

A COMPLETE MAN

ROLE MODEL, LEADER AND TEACHER OF GOODNESS

Abraham is a revered figure by Muslims and by people of the Scripture, Jews and Christians. For Muslims, he is considered as one of the greatest Messengers of all time. In the Quran, God describes him as a great role model, a leader and a teacher of goodness who exemplified the best traits that are showcased in many people, a whole nation, but rarely in any individual.

“Abraham was a nation...”16:120 is a common translation however, the meaning is that Abraham was a complete man, an outstanding example for us to follow. He taught goodness and lead by modeling excellent behavior. He believed in the One True God and had complete devotion to Him in a time where everyone else rejected God and rebelled against Him.

Let us take a brief look at his life and why he was described in this way...



ABRAHAM & HIS FATHER

As Abraham gained maturity he found himself disagreeing with the practices of his father and people who were idol worshippers. To Abraham, it made little to no sense that they would worship idols which they themselves built and fashioned with their own hands. Furthermore, these supposed gods could not speak, help others or even defend themselves. God tells us the words of Abraham to his people in the Quran, “How do you worship what can neither benefit nor harm you, instead of God? Fie on you and on the things you worship instead of God. Have you no sense?” 21:66-67.

In order to prove this point, he destroyed all of the idols with the exception of the biggest. He placed the axe around the neck of the remaining idol and asked his people to question it regarding the culprit instead of him. Thus, Abraham shows us the importance of sticking to the truth even if it is unpopular and despite the lack of support. He challenges the status quo rather than simply accept it when it seems wrong.



ABRAHAM MIGRATES

After the incident with the idols, the people attempted to burn him alive but God saved him. Instead he was exiled. He had to leave behind everyone and everything he knew. He left with his wife seeking a new land. He migrated to please God, seeking to find a place and a land where he could better serve and worship God.



ABRAHAM LEAVES HIS FAMILY IN THE DESERT

Abraham longed for a child to inherit his ministry and mission for decades. His wish was finally granted when he had reached old age. Ishmael was born. Yet whilst Ishmael was still a baby, God commanded him to leave Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, in a barren desert land in Arabia. The land had neither people, nor food or water. Abraham obeyed God, trusting in His wisdom and submitting to His command.

Ishmael and his mother were blessed with a miraculous water spring for their dedication to God and this helped them survive as God had a plan for Ishmael. The water would attract other settlers and before long it would become the city of Mecca. Yet again Abraham shows his unwavering and complete dedication to God, loving Him more than anything else in this world.



ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE ISHMAEL

Some years after leaving Ishmael and his mother in Mecca, Abraham was commanded by God to return and sacrifice Ishmael as he had reached adolescence. Abraham immediately set off. After meeting Ishmael, he told him about God's commandment. Ishmael assured his father that he should obey God's command and that he too will comply with God's wish. Abraham had established a family on faith and his son was following in his footsteps. As Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son, God exchanged Ishmael for a ram. God was not in need of a human animal sacrifice as false religions preach, rather He was testing the resolve of Abraham. Abraham had passed another test. He had rid himself of any worldly attachment and of loving anything but the One True God.



ABRAHAM & ISHMAEL BUILD THE CUBICLE BUILDING THAT WAS DEDICATED AS THE FIRST HOUSE BUILT FOR MONOTHEISM.

Abraham would visit his son and family periodically. When Ishmael had grown to adulthood, Abraham returned to Mecca with a command from God for both him and his son to raise and erect the walls of the first house built for monotheism, a place dedicated to the worship of the One True God. Ishmael would pass the stones to his father and Abraham would build. Throughout this process both of them called upon God to accept their efforts, “Our Lord, accept from us. You are the All Hearing, the All Knowing.” 2:127