



NEW MUSLIM  
ACADEMY

# *The Birth of* **JESUS**

*as Told in the Quran*



Muslims believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus. We believe that Jesus' birth was a virgin birth, as he had no father. Rather, God created the spirit of Jesus, and Gabriel blew this spirit into Mary. God mentions the story of Jesus' birth in detail in the 19th chapter of the Quran. God tells us how Mary was approached by the Archangel Gabriel and given the glad tidings of motherhood. Not only would she be a mother with no male intervention, but her son would become one of God's greatest messengers.

"Mention in the Quran the story of Mary. She withdrew from her family to a place to the east and secluded herself away. We sent Our Spirit to appear before her in the form of a perfected man." [19:16-17]



At first, Mary is surprised and afraid at this news. She seeks God's help and protection:

**"She said, 'I seek the Lord of Mercy's protection against you: if you have any fear of Him!'**

**but he said, 'I am but a Messenger from your Lord, [come] to announce to you the gift of a pure son.'**

**She said, 'How can I have a son when no man has touched me? I have not been unchaste,' and he said, 'This is what your Lord said: "It is easy for Me. We shall make him a sign to all people, a blessing from Us.'" [19:18-21]**





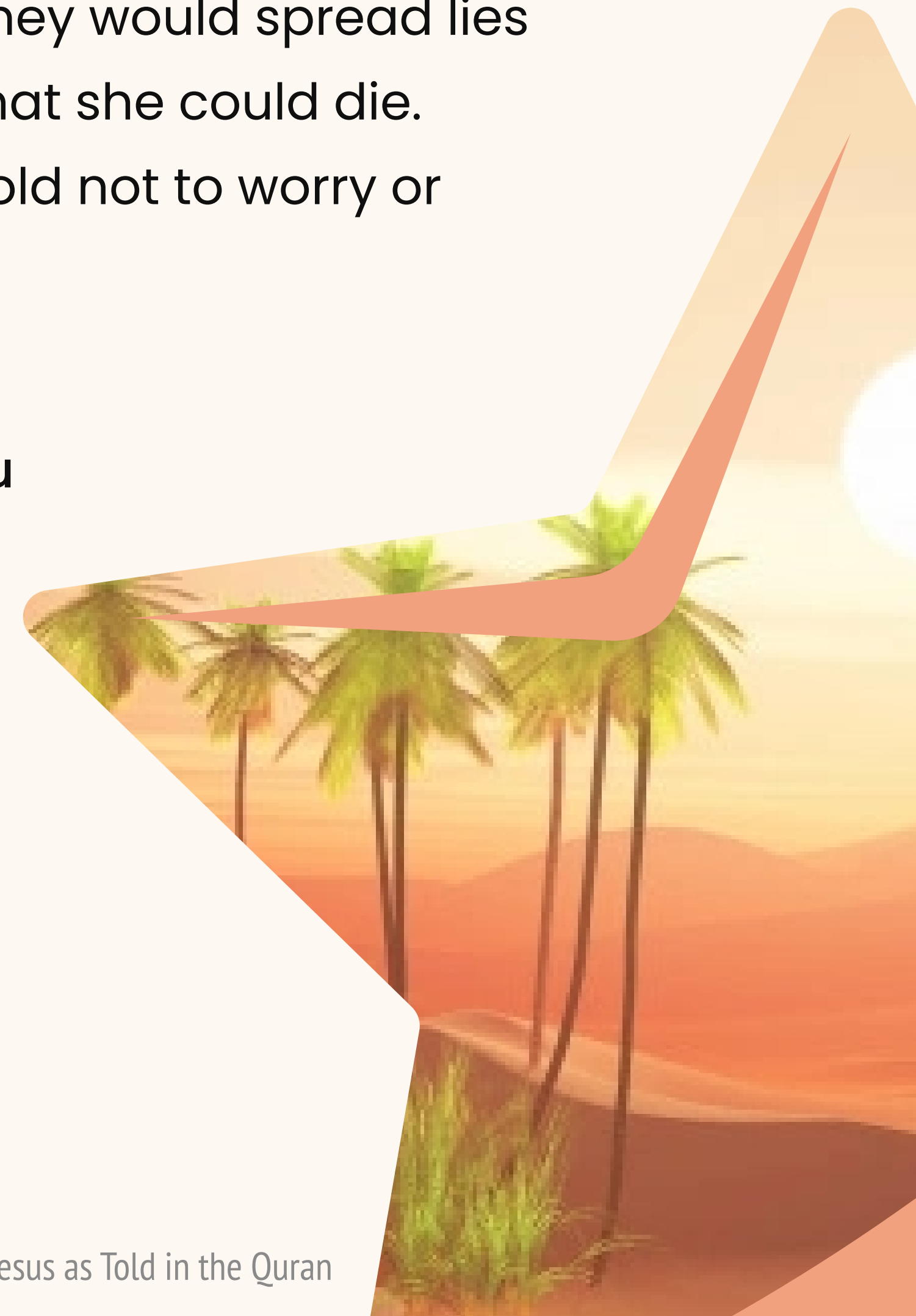
Thus, when Mary enquired from Gabriel how it would be possible for her to be pregnant, she is told such is the power of God, when He wills for something to come to be, He simply commands it. This in itself is an honour from God for Mary. The Messenger Muhammad stated that Mary was one of the greatest women who ever lived. Her faith, piety and devotion to God made her a personality revered by Muslims. However, as we see through many stories in the Quran, even the righteous are tested by God.

“And so it was ordained: she conceived him. She withdrew to a distant place and, when the pains of childbirth drove her to [cling to] the trunk of a palm tree, she exclaimed, ‘I wish I had been dead and forgotten long before all this!’” [19:22-23]



Mary knew that by giving birth, it would raise suspicions that she had been unchaste. People would cast aspersions towards her. They would spread lies and rumours. She lamented her situation and wished that she could die. However, God does not abandon the faithful. She was told not to worry or despair. God would not forsake her.

“...but a voice cried to her from below, ‘Do not worry: your Lord has provided a stream at your feet and, if you shake the trunk of the palm tree towards you, it will deliver fresh ripe dates for you, so eat, drink, be glad, and say to anyone you may see: “I have vowed to the Lord of Mercy to abstain from conversation, and I will not talk to anyone today.”’ [19:24-26]



The first sign of God's help was for her to shake the palm tree and dates would fall for her to eat. The palm tree trunk is extremely strong and usually very difficult to shake. Shaking it does not usually cause its fruit to fall. This is the case in normal circumstances. Consider that the one shaking the tree is a woman who has just given birth and feeling the after-effects of giving birth. Yet, God helped her. She was further instructed not to speak to anyone when her people would inevitably come forward, making their accusations.

God tells us how when Mary came to her people carrying her son, they began to accuse her of being unchaste and having besmirched the good name and reputation of her family. In response, Mary simply pointed towards her son Jesus.

**"She went back to her people carrying the child, and they said, 'Mary! You have done something terrible!**



Sister of Aaron! Your father was not an evil man; your mother was not unchaste!' She pointed at him. They said, 'How can we converse with an infant?'" [19:27-29]

God allowed Jesus to speak as a baby in the cradle. Jesus spoke to his people, telling them that his mother was innocent of their accusations and that he was a servant of God and His Messenger.

"[But] he said: 'I am a servant of God. He has granted me the Scripture, made me a prophet, made me blessed wherever I may be. He commanded me to pray, to give alms as long as I live, to cherish my mother. He did not make me domineering or graceless. Protection was on me the day I was born, and will be on me the day I die and the day I am raised to life again.'" [19:30-33]



Such was Jesus, son of Mary. [This is] a statement of the Truth about which they are in doubt: It would not befit God to have a child. He is far above that: when He decrees something, He says only, 'Be,' and it is.  
'God is my Lord and your Lord, so serve Him: that is a straight path.'" [19:34-36]

This story shows God's immense power and control over all things. This is why we believe in God's right to be worshipped alone. It is why we trust in Him, love Him and dedicate all acts of religious devotion to Him. Believing in God brings about His mercy and pleasure, as well as His divine care and protection.

