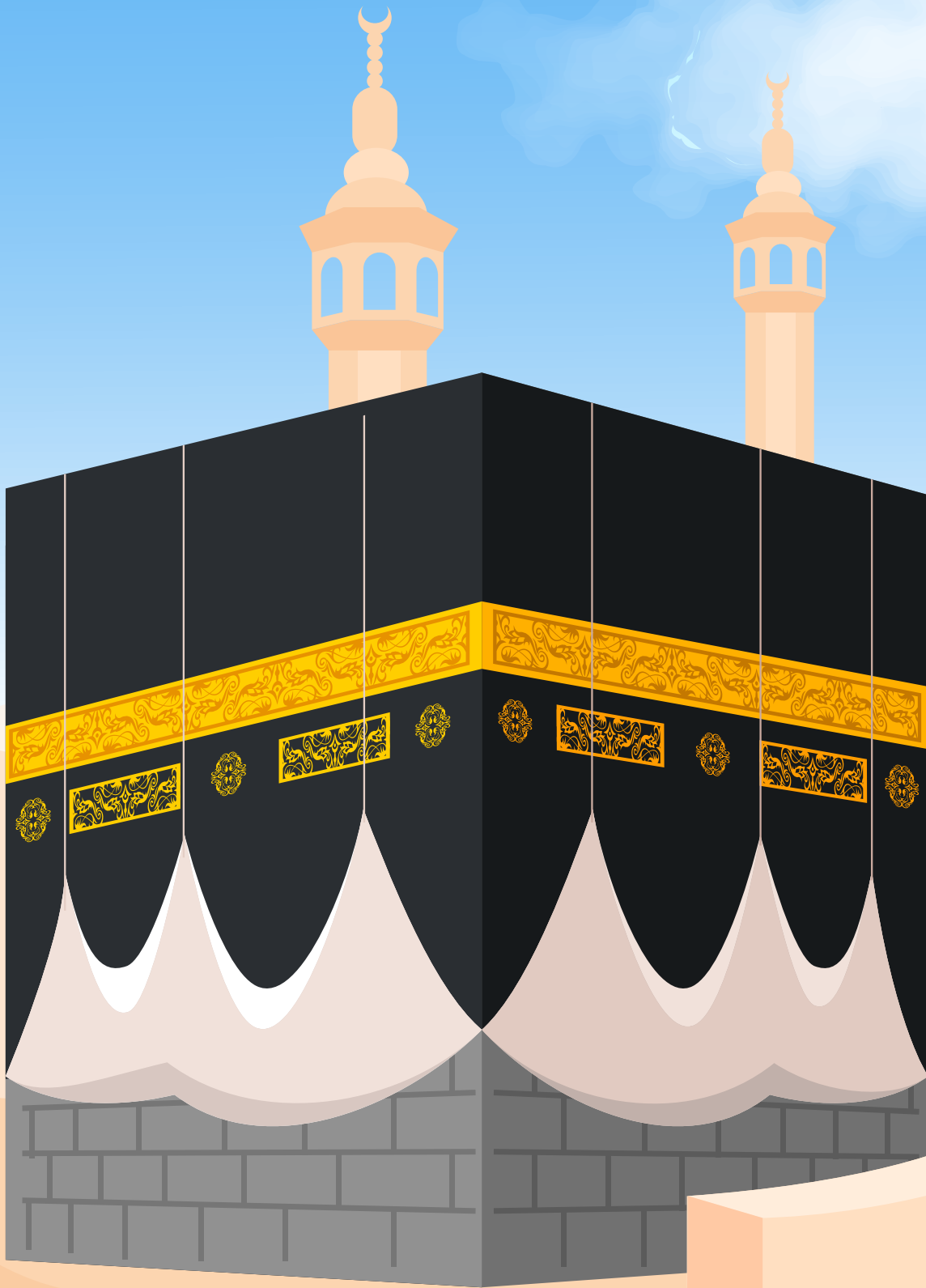




NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

THE KA'BA



The Ka'ba

The **Ka'ba** is the first house of worship dedicated to the One True God on earth. It is the direction Muslims face in their daily prayers and the destination they are taught to travel to if they have the means in order to perform the pilgrimage.

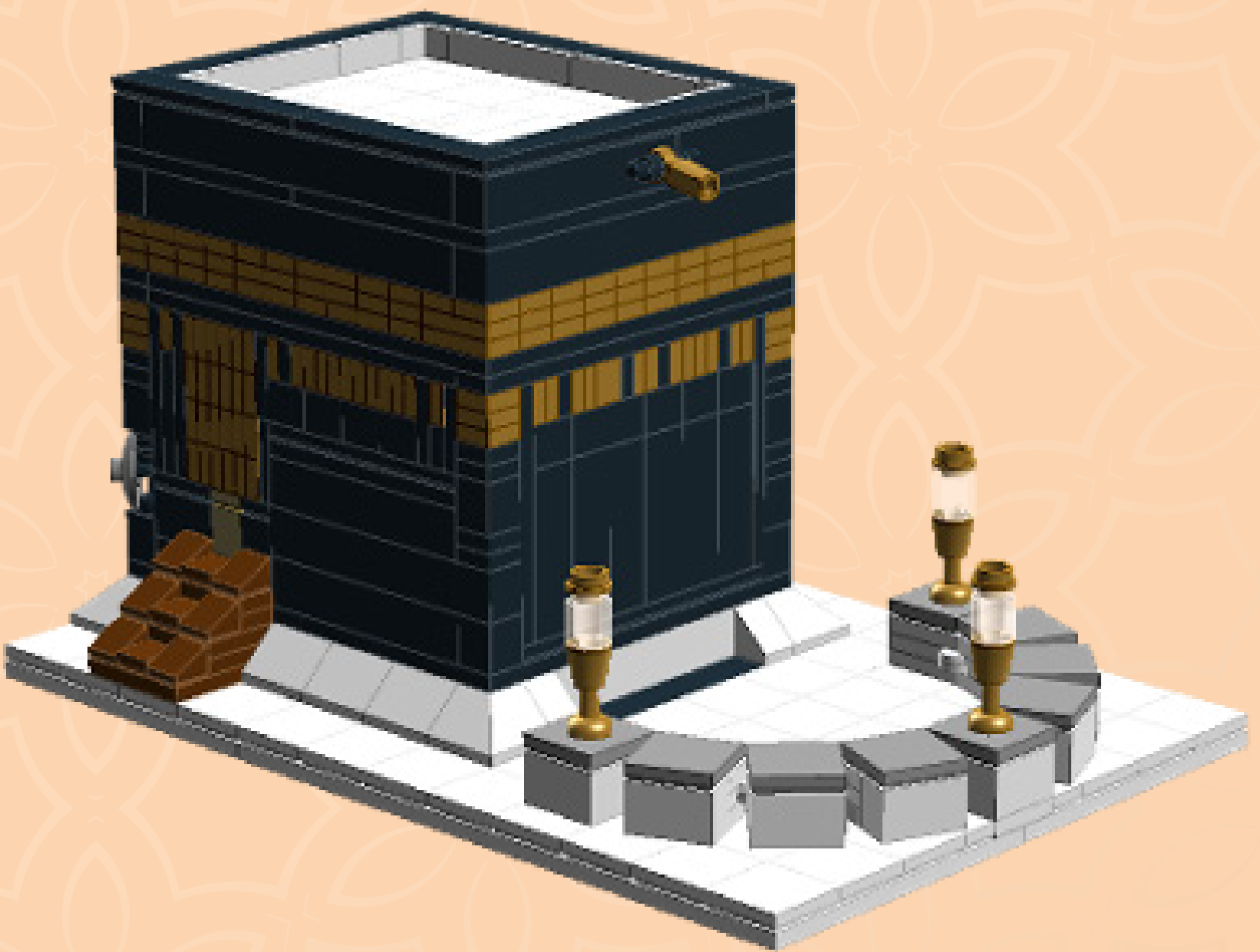
It is a place that holds great respect and reverence in the hearts of Muslims across the world, many of whom save for years in order to visit it.

The **Ka'ba** literally means **cuboid**, named after its shape. The origin of the word refers to a raised structure.



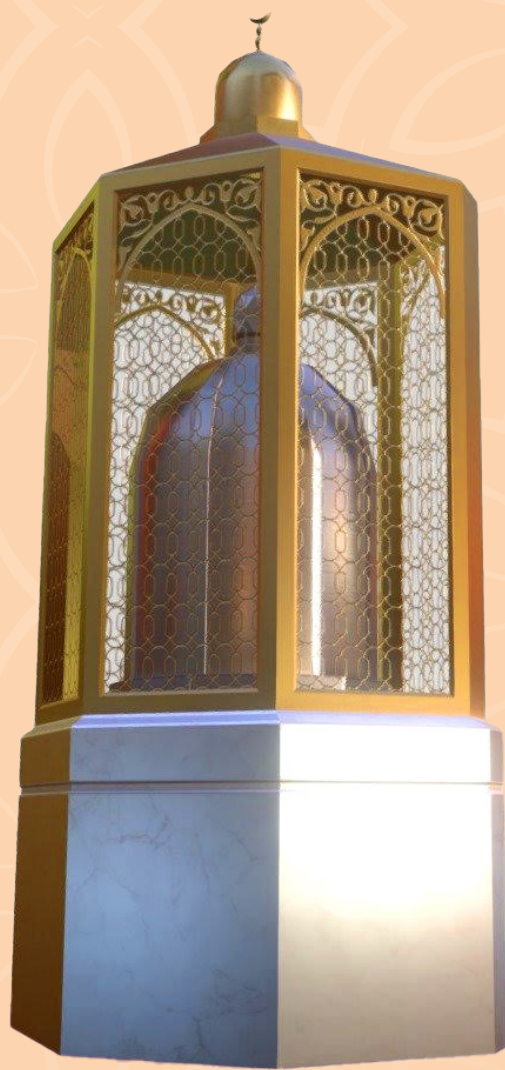
The Foundations of the Ka'ba

The **Quran** clearly states that Abraham built the **Ka'ba**. The foundations that Abraham was able to recognise and raise were laid down by the angels before the creation of Adam, the first man. It was then renewed by Adam when he came down to earth.



Abraham Raises the Foundations of the Ka'ba

Abraham and Ishmael were commanded by God to raise the foundations of the Ka'ba. God says, **“Abraham and Ishmael were raising the foundations of the Ka’ba. As they did so, they asked with humility for Allah to accept all they did, including building the Kaba.”** (2:127) Ishmael would bring the stones to his father Abraham, who would, in turn, place them and organize them to build the **Ka'ba**. As the structure rose, Abraham stood upon a rock in order to complete its construction. The rock upon which he stood is known as ‘Maqam Ibrahim,’ literally ‘the standing station of Abraham.’

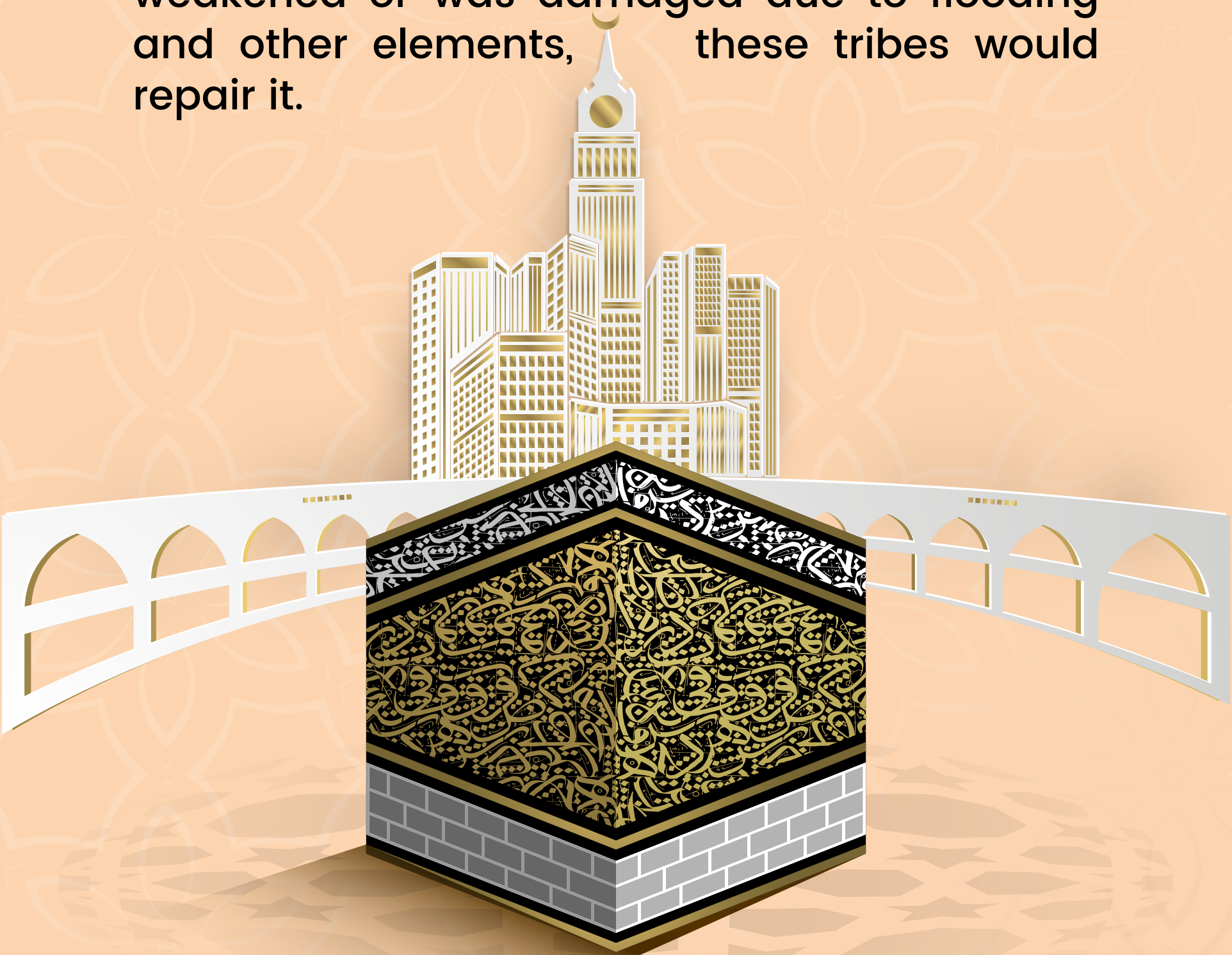


Maqam Ibrahim

Repairs Over the Centuries

Historically, a number of Arab tribes would settle in **Mecca**, each one venerating the Ka'ba and taking custodianship of its upkeep and repairs. They inherited this tradition from Abraham and Ishmael.

Mecca is a valley surrounded by mountains, with the **Ka'ba** at the center. It was therefore often subjected to flooding when rains came to the city. Over time, as the structure weakened or was damaged due to flooding and other elements, these tribes would repair it.



The Quraysh Rebuilding

The tribe of Quraysh, who are of the progeny of Abraham and Ishmael, became the custodians of the Ka'ba for a number of generations before the birth of Muhammad. Five or so years before the ministry of Muhammad started, flooding struck **Mecca** and greatly weakened the structure of the Ka'ba. The Quraysh decided that they would rebuild the **Ka'ba** from its foundations in order to strengthen it.

Despite the need, they were reluctant to start the task, being superstitious about removing the old structure. One of the Qurashite nobles, Al-Walid, volunteered to be the first to start the task. Others then followed his lead.

The Quraysh also decided that they would only use the wealth they were certain was obtained from lawful means. This led to their funds falling short, and so a portion of the **Ka'ba** remained outside of the structure, instead, being marked by a semi-circular wall that can still be seen till today.

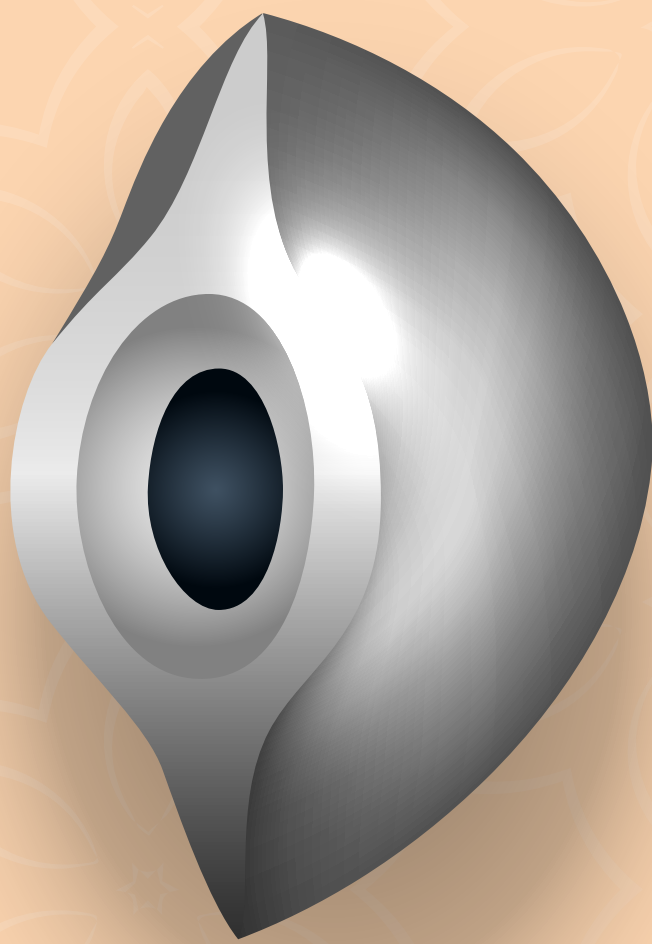
All of the Quraysh, including Muhammad, participated in the rebuilding of this special structure.

The last thing remaining in the construction of the Ka'ba was the replacement of the Black Stone, which is the cornerstone of the structure and has heavenly origins and composition. All the Quraysh nobles wanted the honour of replacing the stone. This led to a dispute.

They eventually agreed that the next person to enter the precinct would arbitrate and decide upon who would receive this honor.

Muhammad was the person who entered, and he decided to place the Black Stone on a cloth, and for each clan to have a delegate, who would raise a piece of the cloth to the place of the Black Stone in the Ka'ba. Muhammad then slotted the Stone in its place.

Black Stone



The Quraysh Rebuilding

- The Ka'ba is a cuboid structure.
- The semi-circular wall on one side is known as the demolished section and was part of the original structure, left out by the Quraysh due to a lack of funds.
- The structure has four corners. One corner contains the Black Stone. This is the starting and finishing point of each circuit of circumambulation during rites of the pilgrimage.
- The corner before the Black Stone is known as the Yemeni corner, as it faces the direction of Yemen in the south.
- The door of the Ka'ba is raised from the ground. Quraysh did this to prevent people from entering without their permission.
- The Ka'ba is now covered by a cloth known as 'kiswa.' This is the black cloth embroidered with Quranic verses that covers the structure. It is replaced annually.

