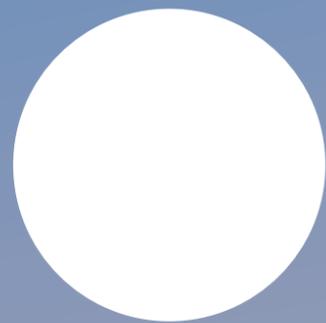




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**Lessons for The
Messenger Muhammad**

From The Story Of

Joseph



The story of Joseph is full of lessons and morals for the believers. The chapter of Joseph in the Quran, **#12**, was revealed in the Meccan era of the ministry of Muhammad in a time of great difficulty for the early Muslim community. As such, this chapter of the Quran contained many lessons for the **Messenger Muhammad** and his disciples. We will look at some of those lessons here.

The Challenges of Family & Tribe

Joseph had to contend with the jealousy of his brothers and an unhealthy sibling rivalry. This led the brothers to a level of enmity and an attempt to rid themselves of Joseph.

Their behaviour is harsh, by any standard, towards their own blood and kin. **The Messenger Muhammad would suffer similarly from some of his close family members and tribe.** When the **Messenger Muhammad** first publicly preached Islam, his own uncle, Abu Lahab, became one of his staunchest opponents.

The **Messenger Muhammad** and his disciples faced all sorts of harm and oppression from their families, relatives, and tribes. Some Muslims were killed and tortured, others were separated from their spouses and children, and others were made bankrupt when their wealth was confiscated. Throughout all of this, they remained strong in faith and endured this harm with perseverance, **trusting in God**, as Joseph did before.



Expulsion and Exile

Joseph's brothers decided that their best course of action was to leave him in a well, whereby he would be picked up by a caravan of travellers and taken to a far and distant land. The **Messenger Muhammad** and his disciples were also forced out of their homeland and exiled. The levels of torture and oppression became unbearable. The **Messenger Muhammad** decided that the Muslims would have to migrate in order to practice their religion.

Just as Joseph's brothers' reasons for their actions were of a lower nature; wanting the love of their father Jacob to the exclusion of Joseph, likewise the Quraysh tribe also had worldly reasons for their stance towards the **Messenger Muhammad**. The Quraysh feared for their power, wealth and status. However, in both cases, the expulsion does not result in the end of **Joseph** and **Muhammad**. Such is the strength of faith and its impact.



Trials & Hardships

The trials facing Joseph do not end when his brothers leave him in the well. If anything, they increase. Joseph was sold into slavery, tempted to sin by his master's wife and imprisoned for many years. Throughout these trials and hardships, Joseph's resilience and trust in God helped him overcome these challenges. This is seen when at the end of his story, Joseph praised God for all His blessings.

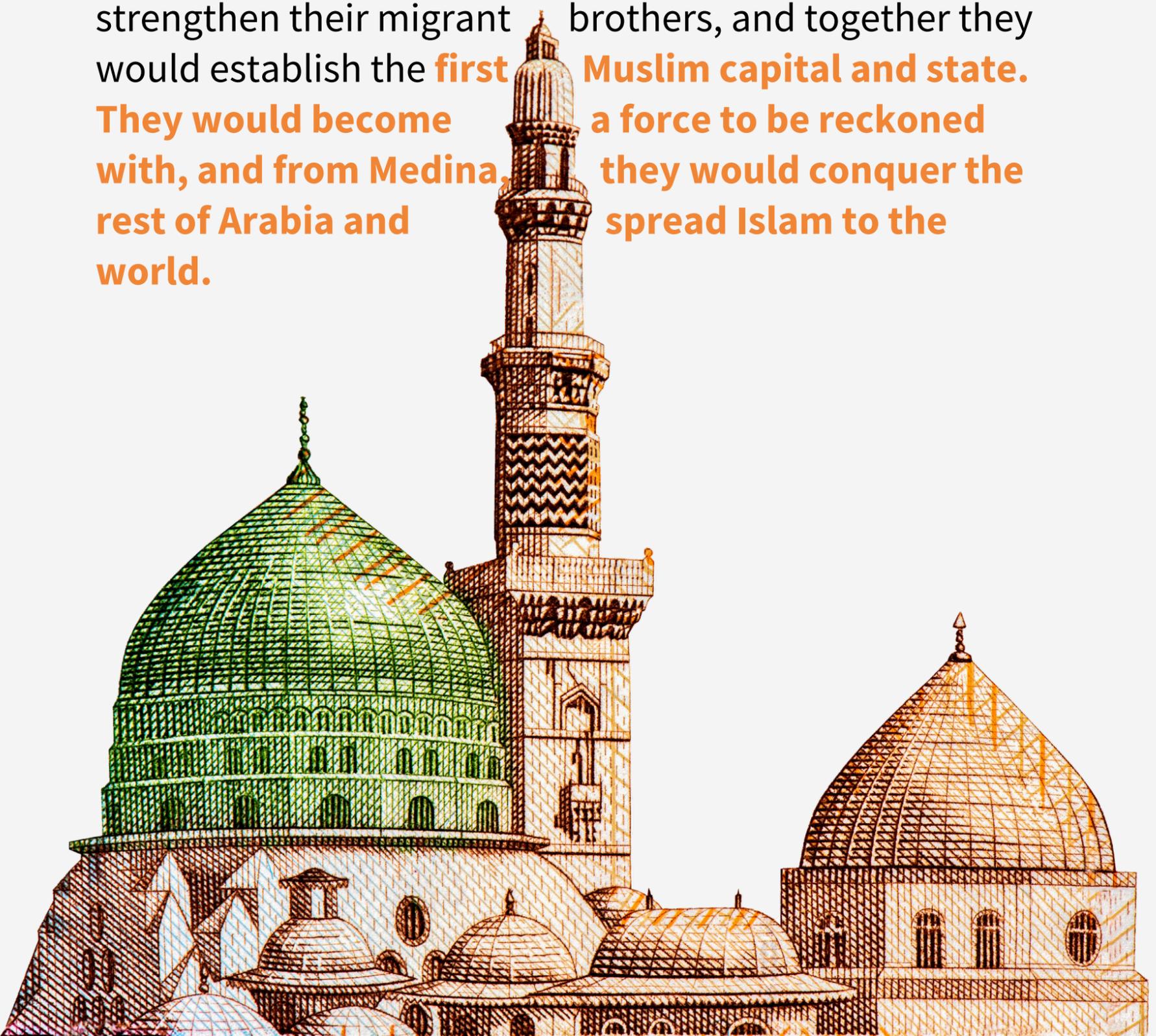
The **Messenger Muhammad** also faced many hardships and trials. He lost his first wife and the protection of his uncle Abu Talib. He saw many of his close disciples killed. He survived numerous attempts of people trying to harm and kill him. The **Messenger Muhammad** too faced these challenges with resilience and God's help.

Just as Joseph would be reunited with his family and see the success of his ministry years down the line, the Messenger Muhammad would also see the same.

From Strength to Strength

Joseph finds help from the most unexpected person and in the most unexpected way. One of his fellow inmates becomes a servant to the king, and in the time of the king's need, he remembers the knowledge and wisdom of Joseph. He recommends Joseph to the king. In this way, Joseph's innocence is declared, he leaves prison, and is elevated to one of the highest positions in the land.

The **Messenger Muhammad** and his disciples left Mecca seeking refuge elsewhere. They left with little wealth and for many of them, fearing for their lives and well-being. Medina would become their home. Yet this was not a sign of weakness, but would become the hallmark of their strength. The Medinan disciples would strengthen their migrant brothers, and together they would establish the **first Muslim capital and state. They would become a force to be reckoned with, and from Medina, they would conquer the rest of Arabia and spread Islam to the world.**



A Victorious Return

Joseph reconciled with his brothers and reunited with his father and family after many years of separation. The long road and path of hardship ultimately brings victory for the believers who remain steadfast in faith and worship. Joseph's story ends with him having knowledge God gave him, holding a position of authority, and being with his family once more.





The **Messenger Muhammad** spent **13 years** in Mecca, and would spend another **10** in Medina before his death. Eight years into his stay in Medina, the Muslims would return victorious to Mecca, the city they were exiled from all those years before. **The Messenger Muhammad would return to conquer that city, its inhabitants would become Muslim, and it would be the place of worshipping God through pilgrimage, as it was in the time of Abraham.**

These similarities in the stories of the Messengers Joseph and Muhammad, demonstrate to us how God helps those who remain strong in their belief in God, worship Him even in times of hardship, trust in Him and His promises, and work to please Him.

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