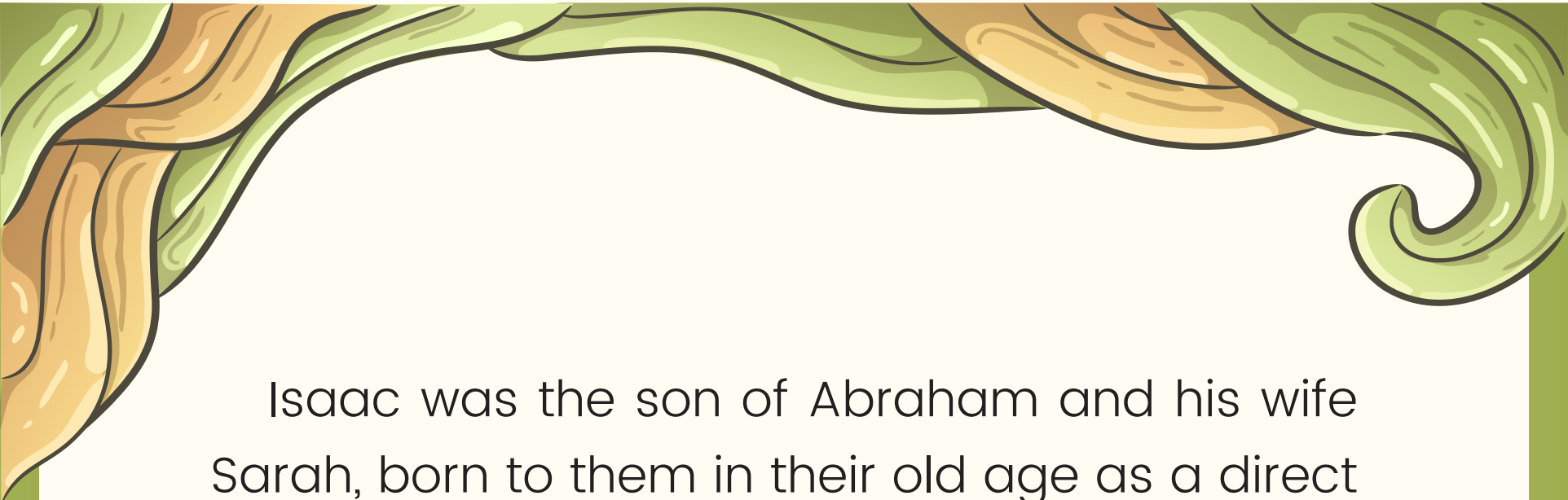




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The Story of The Messenger Isaac

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Isaac was the son of Abraham and his wife Sarah, born to them in their old age as a direct gift and promise from God. He holds a distinguished place in Islam: he is named directly in the Quran, honored as a messenger in his own right, and recognized as a vital link in the chain of messengers that God commissioned for the guidance of humanity.

The story of Isaac illustrates three themes that run through the narrative of many messengers: God's power over what seems impossible, the honor of a righteous household, and the responsibility carried by those chosen to guide others to the worship of God alone.

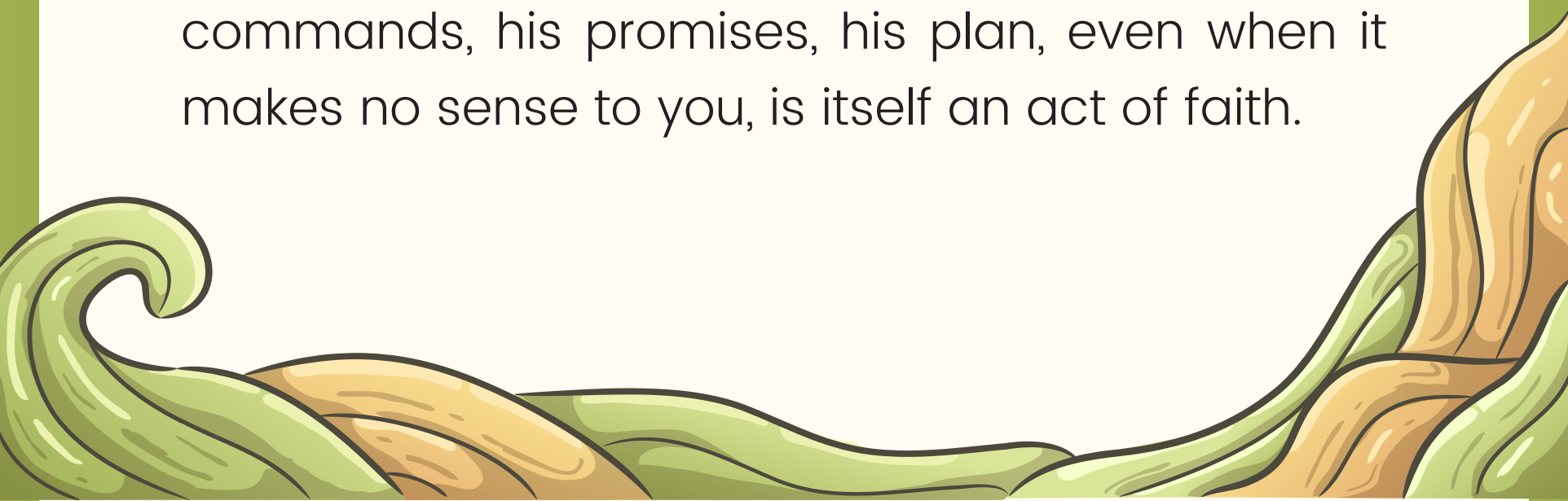


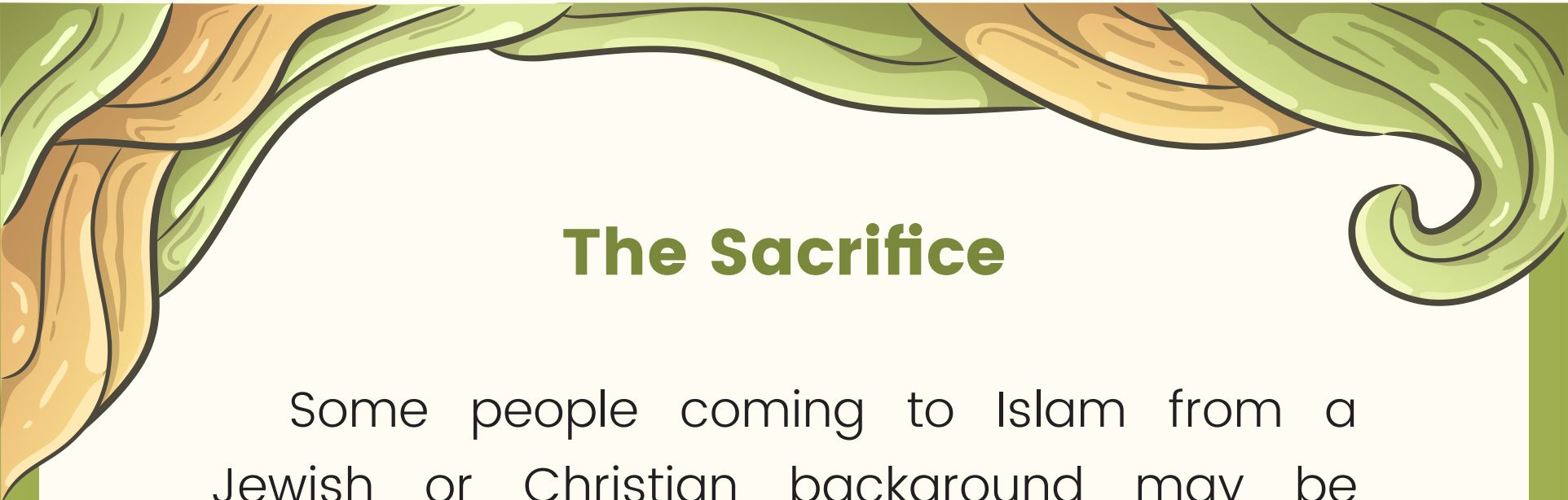


A Promised Child

Abraham and Sarah had grown old without children when angelic visitors came to Abraham with news of judgment upon the people of Lot. In the same visit, they delivered glad tidings to the two of them: Sarah would bear a son, Isaac, and after him a grandson, Jacob. “And his wife was standing, and she smiled. Then We gave her good tidings of Isaac, and after Isaac, of Jacob.” (11:71) The same account appears in another chapter of the Quran, where the visitors give Abraham news of “a knowledgeable boy,” prompting Sarah's astonished response before the news is affirmed that the promise stands regardless of her disbelief in its likelihood. “She said, ‘Woe to me! Shall I bear a child while I am an old woman and this, my husband, is an old man? Indeed, this is a strange thing!’ They said, ‘Are you amazed at the decree of God?’” (11:72–73)

Sarah's reaction is deeply human, she measured the promise against her own circumstances and found it beyond reasonable expectation. Yet the angels' reply is the lesson every believer is meant to remember: nothing is outside the decree and power of God. Trusting His commands, his promises, his plan, even when it makes no sense to you, is itself an act of faith.



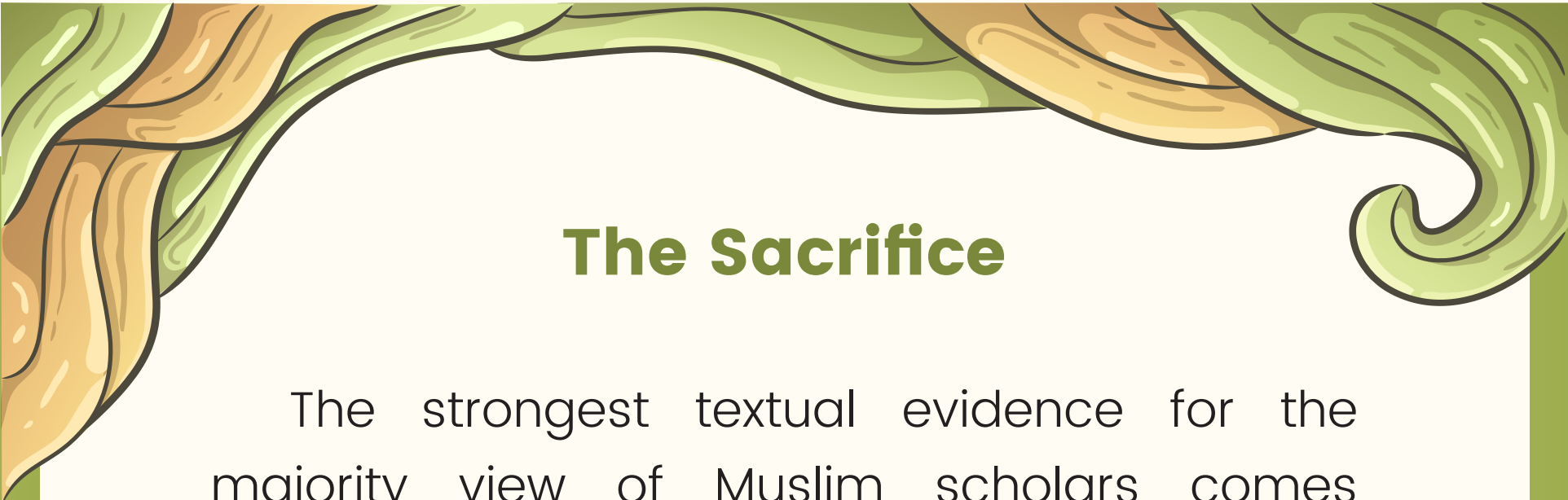


The Sacrifice

Some people coming to Islam from a Jewish or Christian background may be familiar with the story of Abraham, a devoted man to God and a father who was commanded to sacrifice his beloved son. In the Biblical account, it is assumed the son in question is Isaac. Islamic scholarship, however, overwhelmingly identifies that son as Ishmael, Isaac's older half-brother, Abraham's first born son.

The account is found in Chapter 37 of the Quran. Abraham sees a vision commanding him to sacrifice his son; the son consents in complete submission to God; and at the moment of sacrifice, God ransoms him with a great offering. "We gave him good tidings of a forbearing boy... He said, 'O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I am sacrificing you, so tell me what you think.' He said, 'O my father, do as you are commanded.'" (37:101- 102)





The Sacrifice

The strongest textual evidence for the majority view of Muslim scholars comes immediately after the sacrifice narrative concludes. Only after the trial is resolved does the Quran announce, as a separate and later piece of news, that Abraham would also be given Isaac: “And We gave him good tidings of Isaac, a prophet from among the righteous.” (37:112)

Since Isaac's birth is announced only after the sacrifice story is complete, most Muslim scholars conclude that the son chosen for the sacrifice had to be Ishmael, the firstborn, who was already living with Abraham well before Isaac was born. In either case, the amazing story is full of many lessons and is another accolade for this noble family.





The Prophetic Household

Isaac grew up in a family unlike any other. His father, Abraham, is the messenger of God, known as the leader of pure and uncompromising belief and dedication to the One True God. He was a man who broke the idols and false gods, argued and challenged the tyrannical pagan kings of his time, and rebuilt the Ka'ba, the first Temple of God. Though Isaac and Ishmael were raised in different lands, Ishmael in Mecca, and Isaac in the land of Palestine/Canaan, both were shaped by the same household legacy, one of uncompromising devotion to God and noble character.

Abraham's generous hospitality is recorded in the Quran, in the very passage where he receives the angelic visitors and hurries to serve them a roasted calf before he even learns their purpose. The combination of firm devotion to the worship of the One True God alongside warm hospitality became part of the legacy Isaac carried forward and later passed to his own children.





Marriage & Family

Isaac married and became the father of Jacob. Jacob is mentioned repeatedly in the Quran, alongside Isaac as the next link in the Abrahamic prophetic chain. “We gave him good tidings of Isaac, a prophet from among the righteous. And We blessed him and Isaac. And among their descendants are doers of good and those who clearly wronged themselves.” (37:112–113)

Jacob came to be known as Israel (devoted servant of God). Through him, Isaac's household became the root of the tribes of Israel and the long line of messengers sent to guide them. Isaac's marriage and fatherhood was not just a family milestone, but the hinge point for centuries of subsequent history of the messengers of God.





Isaac as a Messenger

Isaac was not honored in Islam merely as a link between greater men; the Quran names him directly as a messenger of God in his own right, sent with the same essential mission as every messenger before and after him; calling people to worship God alone and to abandon every form of false worship. The Quran consistently describes Isaac using qualities that recur throughout its portraits of the messengers. He is called “a messenger from among the righteous” (37:112). He is also declared of those rightly guided (6:84). Isaac is a blessed and devoted servant of God, chosen to be among the best of the pious (37:113, 38:45, 38:47).





His Legacy

Isaac's place in the Quran is almost always a shared one, mentioned together with his father, Abraham and his son, Jacob. A triad the Quran returns to repeatedly as a symbol of righteous succession. “And remember Our servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — men of strength and vision. Indeed, We chose them for an exclusive quality: remembrance of the Home [of the Hereafter]. And indeed, in Our sight, they are among the chosen and outstanding” (38:45–47).

Through Jacob and his children, the twelve tribes of Israel descended. Isaac became the grandfather of a nation to whom God would send messenger after messenger; among them Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, and finally Jesus. Islam regards all of them as brothers in one mission, and Isaac stands at the root of that entire branch of the prophetic tree.





Lessons

- Trust God's plan even when it defies expectation. Sarah's astonishment did not stop the promise from being fulfilled, a reminder that a believer's role is to trust, not to calculate what God can or cannot do.
 - Righteous lineage is a responsibility, not just a blessing. Isaac did not simply inherit prophethood; he carried it forward and lived up to its standards.
 - God honors true faith with devotion and noble character. The believer should attempt to emulate the messengers in these qualities and others that God praises.
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