

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT IBRAHEEM عليه السلام



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HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

HAZRAT IBRAHEEM ﷺ

The Qur'an speaks extensively of Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ in both the Makkan and Madanian Surahs since the Qur'an and its message of guidance is called the Ibraheemi message. He is mentioned in 25 Surahs of the Qur'an and in 69 verses.

His story is mentioned in various ways in the Qur'an, in some places it is summarised while in other places detailed to highlight his noble qualities.

Nabi ﷺ referred to Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ as the father of all the Ambiya ﷺ.

The father of Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ was a carpenter who carved wooden idols and sold them to the various tribes at the time. However, Allah had granted guidance and wisdom to Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ from the very beginning. He had always been convinced that since idols have no powers of sight and hearing and could do no harm or good, how could they ever fulfil the needs of people?

The Nation of Ibraheem ﷺ

The nation of Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ were perhaps the first nation that adopted idol worship as the state religion. It is therefore difficult to find another nation in history that manufactured and worshipped idols to the degree that these people did. Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ was born into this nation where everything was centred on idols.

Preaching to his Father Aazar

When Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ realised that the obsession of the people with worshipping idols and heavenly bodies has completely erased all esteem for Allah from their hearts, he took the courage to preach to the people about worshipping Allah Alone.

Recognising his own home as a focal point of idol worship because his father carved the people's idols, and it was because of this that people acted on idol worship, Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام started to preach to his father, Aazar.

He told his father that the manner of worship that he and his forebears adopted was misguided and useless. He explained that the idols they worshipped were no more than toys that could be manipulated, without any will of their own. How could such helpless objects be of help to anyone? He told his father that he had been granted a light of guidance, which his father should also follow to be able to discern the truth from falsehood. He informed his father that shaytan had misled him and he feared that this deception of shaytan should not cause his father to suffer the punishment of Allah.

Unfortunately, these words had no effect on his father. Rather than accept this sincere advice, Aazar threatened to stone Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام if he did not desist from vilifying the idols. Realising that he needed to respect his father, Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام did not behave harshly despite his father's harshness. However, it was his duty to deliver the message, so he politely replied by saying that since he was unable to stop propagating the message from Allah, he would have to part ways with his father. However, he did promise to continue praying that Allah guides his father.

Preaching to the People

When Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام realised that his father was not inclined to listen to his invitation to guidance, he started preaching to the people. However, the people also preferred to cling blindly to the ways of their forefathers and refused to accept. Although they could hear, they were deaf to his message and though sighted they acted blind to the truth he called them towards.

Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام eventually asked them to inform him why they worshipped the idols whereas the idols were unable to give neither benefit nor harm. These idols did not eat, drink or talk and they could

not even turn themselves right side up if someone turned them upside down. How then, could people believe that such statues could harm or benefit them? Unable to reply, the people brushed off the question and said that they preferred not to delve into the subject, but to rather continue doing that which their forefathers did.

Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام then told them that he henceforth declared the idols to be his enemies and if the idols were able to do anything, they were welcome to do as they pleased. Although this challenge ought to have stirred some thought in their minds because the idols were helpless, yet the people resolved not to listen to Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام at all.

Ibraheem عليه السلام Reasons with Celestial Worshippers

The people of Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام worshipped the stars because they regarded the stars to be in control of life, death, sustenance, droughts, victory, defeat and many other matters. They believed that the motion of the stars affected the system of the universe. As a result, they believed that the stars needed to be pleased at all times, which could be done only through worshipping them.

He was astonished that these celestial bodies were worshipped by men when they had been created to worship and obey their Creator, appearing and disappearing at His command.

He tried to prove to them the futility and inconsistency of worshipping the heavenly bodies.

Ibraheem عليه السلام clarified to his people that these celestial bodies do not serve as deities and cannot be worshipped as partners with Allah the Almighty. Indeed, these bodies are created things, fashioned, controlled, managed and made to serve. They appear sometimes and disappear at others, going out of sight from our world. However, Allah the Almighty does not lose sight of anything, and nothing can be hidden from Him. He is without end, everlasting without disappearance. There is no other deity but Allah.

Ibraheem ﷺ made clear to them, first that the celestial bodies are unworthy of worship and second that they are among the signs of Allah.

The people then grew very angry and started to debate with him and threatened him with the wrath of their gods. Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ was not frightened by this and declared that he has no fear for their gods since he has Allah with him and Allah has control over everything in the universe.

Ibraheem ﷺ breaks the idols

He decided to do something about their state of disbelief, but did not reveal it. He ventured to practically demonstrate to them that their idols were equally helpless. It was not long afterwards that the people were all leaving for a cultural festival.

Ibraheem ﷺ waited until the city was empty, then came out cautiously, directing his steps towards the temple. The streets leading to it were empty and the temple itself was deserted for the priests had also gone to the festival outside the city. Abraham went there carrying a sharp axe. He looked at the stone and wood statues of the gods and at the food laid in front of them as offerings. He approached one of the statues and asked: "The food in front of you is getting cold. Why don't you eat?" the statue kept silent. He asked all the other statues around him: "Will you not eat of the offering before you?" (37:91)

He was mocking them for he knew they would not eat. He once again asked them:

"What is the matter with you that you do not speak?" (37:92)

He then raised his axe and started smashing the false gods worshipped by the people. He destroyed them all except one on whose neck he hung the axe.

The Idolaters Question Ibraheem ﷺ

When the people returned, they were shocked to see their gods smashed to pieces, lying scattered all over the temple. They began to guess who had destroyed their idols and Hazrat Ibraheem's ﷺ name came to their minds. They summoned him before a large audience. This was exactly what Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ wanted. He intended to make the truth evident before a large audience of the people and not only to the caretakers of the idols.

At the trial they asked him if he was responsible for breaking the idols. Smiling, he told them to ask the biggest idol which was still whole. He told them that he must be the culprit! They replied that he knew well that the idol could not speak or move which gave Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ the chance to prove the foolishness of worshipping these lifeless objects.

They then realised the senselessness of their beliefs; since their idols were helpless in defending even themselves, how could they be relied upon to help others? However, their arrogance would not allow them to admit their foolishness. All they could do was to use their power of authority as tyrants usually do to punish Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ. They kept him in chains and planned their revenge.

Preaching to the self-made god - King Namrud

The news reached the King Namrud. People considered him to be their god and worshipped him. He was a man endowed with excellent reasoning abilities. Namrud became worried that if the preaching of Nabi Ibraheem ﷺ continued, his claim to divinity and lordship would be rejected by his people. Therefore, he ordered that Ibraheem ﷺ be brought before him.

Namrud could not understand life and death, Namrud claimed that he could also give life and death. He then promptly summoned an innocent person and commanded his executioner to put the man to

death. After this was done, he summoned a criminal in custody who was condemned to be executed and set him free.

Realising that the king was really not capable of understanding subtleties, he decided to name a feat that was apparent and did not need an understanding of the true nature of things. He therefore told the king that Allah was the Being Who made the sun rise every morning in the east and makes it set every evening in the west. He challenged the king to make the sun rise in the west and set in the east if he was indeed a god. This silenced Namrud.

They all agreed that for the sake of revenge Ibraheem عليه السلام should be burnt to death.

The Fire becomes Cool

They decided to throw Ibraheem عليه السلام into the biggest fire they could build. For several days they collected fuel. They dug a deep pit, filled it with firewood and ignited it. They brought a catapult with which to cast Ibraheem عليه السلام into the fire. Ibraheem عليه السلام was put on the catapult; his hands and feet were tied. The fire was ready with its flame reaching the sky. The people stood away from the pit because of the great heat. Then the chief priest gave his order to cast Ibraheem عليه السلام into the fire.

The one who gives the fire the quality to burn ordered the fire to become cool and safe for Ibraheem عليه السلام. He walked out of the fire as if he were walking out of a garden. Cries of astonishment were heard from the disbelievers.

Hazrat Ibraheem عليه السلام migrated to Egypt, there the king realised that he was indeed from the chosen people of Allah and granted him his daughter Hajar, from who Ibraheem عليه السلام had his 2 sons Hazrat Ismaeel عليه السلام and Hazrat Ishaq عليه السلام.

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About Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.

