



# 1. He is Coming to Our World

**T**he earth was full of colourful flowers, small birds, tiny flies, and all kinds of fruits and vegetables. Children were running around happily. Rivers were flowing with great joy. Though every part of the world was beautiful in a different way, somehow it was an unhappy place. Strange events were taking place on it everywhere.

People had forgotten Allah, Who had provided all these beautiful things. They didn't worship Him, but rather many different things. Some people worshipped fire. Some worshipped the sun. Yet others worshipped even the cattle they ate. They used to seek help from the toy-like figures they themselves carved out of wood and stone. These objects were called idols. But in reality, it was Allah Who created the stones, fire and wood. He created the cattle and the sun. It was Allah Who deserved their worship. The rich oppressed the poor. The female children were unwanted. The poor people were looked down upon. The old were forgotten. The sick went untreated. In short, there was no respect for humankind. No one wanted to obey the laws of Allah. There was total chaos. It was difficult indeed for the world to be a home to such loveless and ignorant people.



Allah had sent many messengers since Adam. The messengers called their people to worship Allah alone, to follow the straight path, to do good deeds, and always to remain honest. But each time, the people were deceived by Satan after a while and quickly forgot the dos and don'ts of the messengers.

Five hundred years had passed since the coming of Isa (Jesus). Now the world was ready to receive another prophet to stop the injustices, oppression and cruelty going on everywhere. He would appear and bring the world peace, justice and prosperity. But when would he come?

## 2. The Kabah, the Diamond of the World

**N**ow, it was close to the time for the appearance of our prophet. The ruler of Makkah was Abdul Muttalib, a descendant of Ibrahim (Abraham) and soon to be the grandfather of our prophet. He loved the Kabah very much and did everything in his power to protect it. He was a great host for those who came to go several time around the Kabah. It was sacred for many people.



response. He said, "I would have expected you to ask me to not destroy the Kabah. But I see now that you are only after your own camels. I had really thought highly of you. I realize now that I was mistaken about your character as a respected ruler." Abdul Muttalib answered, "I am the owner of the camels and have the responsibility to protect them. As for the owner of the Kabah, it is Allah Himself and He will surely protect it." At this answer Abrahah went into a rage. He screamed, "He will not be able to defend it against me." Abdul Muttalib shouted back, "We shall wait and see." He got his camels back and returned to Makkah with them. Going straight to the Kabah he prayed, "My Lord, Your servant protected his own property, and now it is Your turn to protect what belongs to You. After this he told the people of Makkah to leave the city, and he himself left with them and climbed a hill to have a bird's-eye view of Makkah. They could follow all that would happen from there.

## 4. The Birds of Ababil

**A**brahah thought that there was no longer any barrier between him and the destruction of the Kabah. Without losing any time, he gave his army the order to march. At that very moment Mahmud, the giant elephant that Abrahah trusted so much, knelt down and sat on the ground. The soldiers tried very hard to get Mahmud to stand up. But it was no use. When they tried to face the army towards Yemen, he was getting up, but as soon as they tried to turn him toward the Kabah, he knelt down again. Nothing worked.

While Abrahah and his army were busy trying to get Mahmud to walk towards the Kabah, an unusual event took place. All of a sudden, a cloud of birds hovered above the army. They were the birds of Ababil, and each one of them was carrying small pebbles in its beak and claws. It was strange. They were acting as if they had had an order from one and the same source. All at once, they dropped the clay stones on Abrahah's soldiers. As soon as a soldier was hit, he fell to the ground. Abrahah was in shock.

Together with a few soldiers he began running away. But while he was running, a few pebbles hit him, and he fell, too. These tiny birds had destroyed a mighty army.

Thus Allah saved the most precious diamond on earth.



## 12. The Nursing Mother's Joy

**A**s Halima promised, she raised Muhammad ﷺ with great care. She taught him to say words one by one and to speak fluently. It was now time to send back the children to their parents. Halima was sad about this. Over time she had begun to feel a bond with him and did not want to see him go, but she had to send him back. Even though she and her husband wanted him to stay, they reluctantly got him ready. Finally, they set out for Makkah. The people in their tribe had also gotten used to baby Muhammad. They too did not want to see him go. As Halima and her husband were leaving, the others shouted behind them, "Please do not take him back. Let him stay some more with us. We haven't seen a child like him before! He brought great fortune to us. Let him stay for a little longer."

In fact, Halima wanted this more than anyone else. At the end of the long journey, they reached Amina's house. Amina had missed her baby very much. As Amina was kissing and hugging baby Muhammad, Halima explained how Muhammad was different from every other child and how all the others in the tribe loved him. She continued describing how nice and well behaved a boy he was and how he was different from the other children. She described in detail how he slept and walked and talked. As she described these details, Amina was filled with joy.



In those days there was a plague in Makkah. Amina was afraid that the disease would reach her child. Halima was also worried about this, so she had the courage to ask her, "Can he stay with me a little longer? I am afraid that he will catch the disease if he stays in Makkah."

Amina and Abdul Muttalib were willing to send the baby away a little longer, just to make sure he was safe and healthy. Halima was so excited that she felt the whole world was hers. She held tight to baby Muhammad and returned with him to the desert. The flowers gave off a lovely fragrance just for baby Muhammad's return. Everyone was spreading the news, congratulating each other, "Good news! Muhammad has returned!"

## 13. The Cloud that Became an Umbrella

**M**uhammad ﷺ was growing up rapidly. Muhammad had some nursing brothers. In those days, infants who drank milk from the same woman but did not have the same mother were called nursing brothers. Whenever his nursing brothers went

were filled with tears. While his uncle was getting ready to leave, he started crying silently. No matter how hard he tried to hide it, it did not escape his uncle's eyes. He immediately approached his dear nephew and asked, "Why are you crying, my sweet boy? Muhammad bowed his head. He wiped his red eyes. Holding the rope of the camel that was being loaded he responded, "Are you also going to leave me, uncle? I have neither a mother nor a father. Where are you going, leaving me like this? Hearing these words from his nephew, Abu Talib's heart went out to him. How could he go, leaving him with teary eyes? He decided to take him along with him to Damascus. He told him to go and get ready. The other uncles and aunts of Muhammad, who heard this, opposed it. They said, "The road is dangerous, and it is really hot. You cannot take him to Damascus. Muhammad could never stand it. He could get sick." Abu Talib ignored their objections. He mounted Muhammad on the back of his camel. Both the uncle and nephew were very happy. They set out along with a crowded caravan going to the same place. Muhammad was on the back of the camel behind his uncle. The burning rays of the sun had spread everywhere. The caravan was moving sometimes smoothly while at other times the feet of the camels would get buried in the desert sands. Beautiful silver clouds floated above them and gave shade to the caravan. A small cloud floated above the camel Muhammad was riding. The travellers didn't have a difficult time at all. They moved on easily. By the grace of Allah and for the sake of Muhammad, they were having a nice journey under the clouds.

## 29. The Child Awaited on the Way

**T**he travellers moved slowly across the remote desert. Day and night they travelled some distance. When they were about halfway through their journey, they became very tired. To take a break, they headed for the town of Busra where they could dismount from their camels. Busra was a nice town with a lot of trees. Its water was sweet, and its weather was cool. They would take a break near the monastery in that town.

There was an old monk living in this little monastery. This man of religion was the monk Bahirah. Every day, he used to climb to the roof of the monastery and observe the travellers approaching. He was carefully examining every caravan. It seemed he was waiting for an important traveller. According to the books he was reading in the monastery, in these days the last prophet must have come to this world. The Jews too were waiting for the coming of this prophet. Bahirah was very curious about him.

