

Stories of The Prophets



Tawhid Institute

Al-Islam.org

Publisher(s):

Tawhid Institute [1]

Simple English accounts of the lives of many Prophets, including Prophets Adam, Nuh, Ibrahim, Yusuf, and Musa (a).

Prophet Adam (a)



Allah made the mountains and the seas.

He made all the animals.

He made the heavens and the stars.

He made the sun and the moon

and he made the angels.

The angels were like Allah's servants

and did everything He ordered.

Then Allah decided to make a man.

He called this first man Adam.

He taught him many things

so that Adam had more knowledge

than the angels.

There was one Jinn,

called Iblis and he thought

he was better than Adam

so Allah would not let him

stay with the other angels.

He was to be called

'Shaytan', the Devil.

Shaytan blamed Adam for what had

happened to him and was very angry.

Allah let Adam live in

a beautiful place because

he was good. The place was

called Paradise.

It was a very nice place but

Adam was a little lonely,

on his own all of the time.

Allah decided to help Adam.

He made Hawa to be Adam's wife.

They were happy and

liked living in Paradise.

There was, however,
one thing they were not allowed to do.

There was a special
tree and Allah had told them they must not
eat any fruit from that tree.

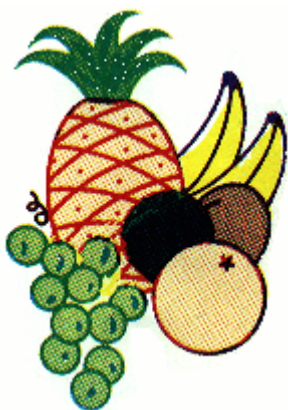
At first Adam and Hawa were
very good and kept away
from the tree.

Shaytan decided to do
something very naughty.

He told them they were silly
to keep away from the tree.

He said nothing would happen
if they ate its fruit.

He said the fruit was delicious
and they should try it.



After a while they began to
listen to Shaytan and thought
they would have just a little

taste of the fruit, just to see

what it was like.

Shaytan was very happy because

he had made them disobey Allah.

As soon as they had eaten

the fruit,

Adam and Hawa

realised that they had been

very naughty and

they felt guilty

for what they had done.

Allah forgave them

But He wouldn't let them

stay in Paradise any more

So He sent them to live on earth.



Habil and Qabil

Adam had two sons
called Habil and Qabil.

Adam thought that
Habil, the younger son,
should take over after him.

But Qabil didn't like this
idea and was very
jealous.

To settle the argument
Adam thought of an idea.
He told his sons to think
of a present to give to
Allah and to leave it
on top of a certain hill.

The one whose
present Allah accepted,
would win the
argument.

Allah chose Habil's
present because Habil
had taken a lot
of time and trouble

to choose his present.



Qabil was very upset and

angry. He was so angry

that he killed his

own brother. Afterwards,

when he realised what

he had done, he cried

and cried but it was

too late to be sorry.

Prophet Nuh (a)

After many years Adam

had grandchildren and even

great grandchildren.

There were now lots of

people on earth.

Many of them obeyed Allah

but some were not so good

and did just what they

wanted to do all the time.

This made Allah very unhappy.

Allah chose Nuh,

a good man, to tell the
people that what they
were doing was wrong.

But they wouldn't listen
to him and carried on
doing bad things.

Allah decided that
all the naughty people
should be punished.

He told Nuh to build
a big ark near
his house.

Nuh quickly got busy
choosing good wood and
building it up into a
fine ark.

A lot of people laughed
at him but he did not
take any notice of them,
because Allah had told
him what to do.

When he had finished,
he put lots of food
into the ark and collected

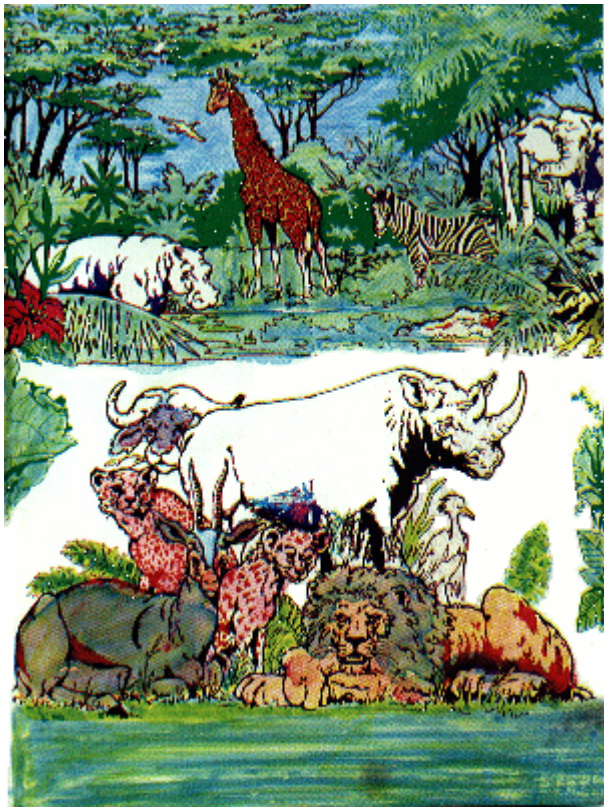
the good people together.

They also took lots of

animals with them

into the ark, two

of every kind.



One day, all of a sudden,

the sky went very dark

and it started to rain.

Lightly at first, then

more and more heavily. Soon

there was water everywhere.

The bad people were not

laughing any more. They

were frightened because

they had no shelter

from the water.



Only the good people

in the ark were

safe and dry.

Prophet Hud (a)

A long time ago,

a great tribe lived in the

South of Arabia.

They were called Ad.

They were very clever and

could do many things.

They used the mountains

for their homes.

They carved out great mansions

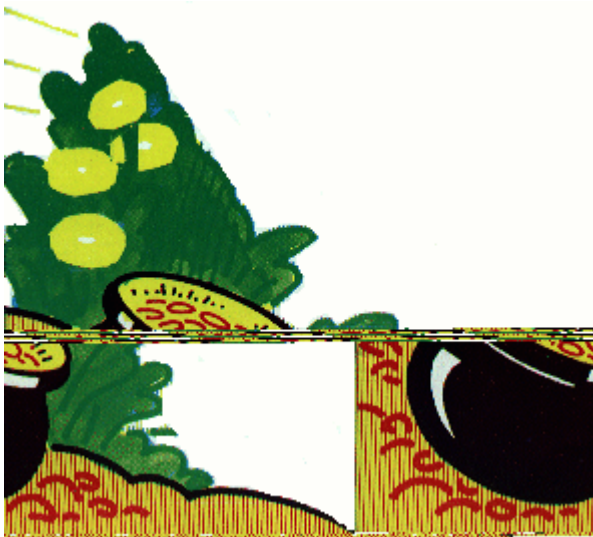
with wonderful pillars.

They called their city Iram.

It was very famous.

As time went on,
the people of Ad
thought more about themselves
and less about Allah.

They thought they
didn't need Allah,
because they had
lots of money
and power.



They thought they were
being clever but really
they were foolish.

Before long they turned
to bad ways.

Gangs of them used to
rob and kill people
travelling by.

There was still one good man
among them.

His name was Hud.

He did not belong to any of
the gangs.

He did not agree
with the things they did.

He tried to tell them
to stop their bad ways
and told them
to follow Allah's ways.

Hud said Allah would punish
the bad ones but most of the
people still would not listen.

They thought they were
more clever than
the messenger of Allah.

Allah told Hud to take all the
good people into a big cave
near the city. The very next
day a terrible tornado
came and only the
good ones,
the ones who had

listened,

were saved.

Prophet Salih (a)

The people of Thamud

lived in a valley

called al-Hajr

in the north of Arabia.

It was a good land

so everything grew very easily.

Cattle and sheep grazed

on the land.

Everyone

had plenty of everything.

When people have a lot

they sometimes forget

who provides everything,

they sometimes forget Allah.

When this happens

Allah sends a messenger

or a prophet

to try to help the people.

To the people of Thamud,

Allah sent Salih.

Salih told the people

to remember Allah

but a lot of people just

laughed

at him and would

not listen.

He did not give up.

He still tried to persuade

them to worship Allah

and soon people

began to listen.

They realised Salih was right.

The leaders of Thamud

were upset by this.

They did not want people

to listen to Salih.

They did not believe Salih

was sent by Allah.

They wanted him to prove it,

they wanted a sign.

They told Salih

to bring them a camel

but it had

to be a

special camel.



Salih prayed to Allah

and Allah sent

the special camel.

The camel gave lots and

lots of milk so all the poor

people had enough to drink,

and they were very happy.

The leaders of Thamud

became

angry again to see Salih

and his followers so happy.

They decided

to kill the camel.

Salih told them that Allah

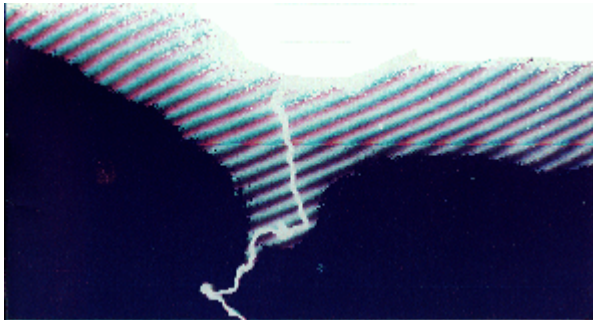
would punish them.

Salih took all the good people

away from the valley.

A terrible earthquake came
and destroyed the valley
and all the bad people.

If they had listened to Salih
they would have been saved.



Prophet Ibrahim (a)

Many years ago a boy
called Ibrahim lived
in Canaan.

he was very clever and was always asking questions.

Most of the people he knew
worshipped idols but
Ibrahim did not.

The people had
forgotten the messages
that Adam, Hud, Nuh
and Salih had
brought them.

Instead of praising

Allah they worshipped

statues.

Ibrahim told his father

he didn't think people should

worship objects they had

made themselves. His father

was angry and told him

not to say anything about

the gods again.

Ibrahim decided he must

show the people they were

wrong so he thought of a

plan.

One night he sneaked into

the place where all

the statues were

kept. With an axe

he chopped off the

heads from all but

one of the statues.

The biggest one

he left.

The next morning the

people were very angry
and upset at what had
happened. They were
sure Ibrahim had done it.

They gathered in the
public square and asked
him if he had done it.

Ibrahim told them to ask
their big idol if he
knew who was responsible.

But, of course, the statue
could not speak and the
people knew it was only
stone. Ibrahim shouted at
them and asked how
they could worship lumps
of stone. The bad people were
even more angry.

They started to collect wood
for a fire. They were
going to burn Ibrahim
to death.

They made a big bonfire
and put Ibrahim on the top.

Everyone came to watch. They lit the wood. The fire burned, the flames grew higher and higher. The people had to back away from the heat of the flames.

Ibrahim was a good person. He believed in Allah.

Allah would protect him.

Allah would not let the fire harm him. When the flames died down the people could not believe their eyes.

They saw that Ibrahim was alive and the flames had not harmed him at all.

How had this happened?

They all knew this was a great miracle and they fell to their knees.



This wonderful thing had
made them believe in Allah.
Some people would still not
listen. They thought
Ibrahim was just a magician
Nimrod, the king of Canaan,
heard all about Ibrahim.
He wanted to talk to him.
He asked Ibrahim about Allah.
Ibrahim told him that
Allah could do all things.
He could give life and death.
Nimrod said that he too
could do that.
His soldiers brought
two men in. Nimrod
ordered one to be
killed and the
other to be saved.



Nimrod thought that
this made him like Allah.

Ibrahim told him that
Allah brings the sun
every morning from the
East.

He asked Nimrod if
he could bring the sun
from the west next
day, of course, Nimrod
was unable to do that.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) II

Ibrahim married a girl
called Sarah. They lived

very happily in Palestine.

They worked and had

plenty of everything.

Ibrahim became very

wealthy, but he was

a good man. He

always helped

other people too.

After many years Ibrahim

and Sarah still had no

children. This made

them very sad. They

both wanted a

child to share

their life with.

Sarah told Ibrahim

that he should marry

her servant Hajar too,

so that Ibrahim and

Hajar could make a

child together.

Prophet Ismail (a)

After a while Ibrahim
did marry Hajar and
she had a son.

They called him Ismail.

They were all very
happy.

Ibrahim, Hajar and Ismail
moved to a valley in
Arabia. They settled in
a good place with hills
and mountains on all
sides to protect them.

After a while Ibrahim
said that he should go
back to see Sarah and
to get more food and water.

Before he left he prayed
to Allah to look after
his wife and son because
they did not have much
food and water left.



The food and water

soon began to run low.

Hajar was very worried. What

could they live on?

They prayed to Allah.

Hajar went to the top of

the mountain, Mount Safa,

to look for Ibrahim.

Now their water was all gone

and they were desperate.

She went to the other

side of the valley and

climbed to the top of Mount

Marwa. She looked towards

the North, East, West and
South for help but found
none.

Hajar kept running
backwards and forwards
between Mount Safa and
Mount Marwa.

She did this seven times.

Suddenly she saw

Ismail kick the ground
with his heel.

A spring of water gushed
out – beautiful, pure water,
they were saved.

Even today this water, called
Zamzam, still flows in the
Valley of Hijaz and when
people go to Makkah on Hajj
they go seven times between
the two mounts in memory
of this miracle that saved
the lives of Hajar and Ismail.

When Ibrahim returned he was
amazed to see the valley.

The water had made the place
very fertile. All the animals
and caravans visited and
made it a prosperous place.



The Sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (a)

One night Ibrahim had
a bad dream.

He dreamt Allah told
him to sacrifice Ismail.

Ibrahim thought it was
Shaytan playing nasty
tricks on him.



The next night Ibrahim had

the same horrid dream.

Ibrahim knew that

Allah would only

ask him to do such

a thing if he had good

reason.

Even though he loved

his son dearly, he was

prepared to do this

difficult thing for Allah.

Ibrahim told

Ismail they

had to go to

Mount Arafat.

He took a knife

and a rope with him.



On the way they passed

a place called Mina.

The devil, Shaytan, came

to Ibrahim and

tried to talk him

out of sacrificing

his son.

Ibrahim turned his back

on him and would not listen.

When they reached Mount

Arafat, Ibrahim told Ismail

what Allah wanted him to do.

Ismail listened and accepted

what was to happen. He was

an exceptional child.

He too was a

great prophet.

Ismail told his father to tie

his hands and legs and blindfold

himself so he would not struggle and

make his father even more upset than

he was going to be and Ibrahim was

blindfolded so he would not see his

son suffer.

Ibrahim did as Ismail

had said. He then took

the knife and did what

Allah had told him to

do. When he took
the blindfold from his
eyes he looked down, not
at his son but at a
dead ram.

Ismail was at his side.

Ibrahim was afraid.

He thought he had disobeyed

but then he heard a voice

telling him not to worry.

Allah looks after his

followers. Ibrahim and Ismail

had passed a difficult test.



Each year, during the
month of Dhul Hijjah,
many Muslims, from all
over the world, travel
to Makkah.

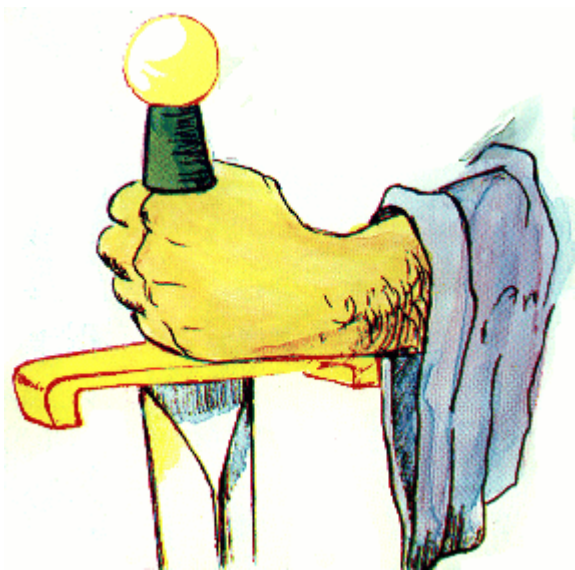
They want to remember
what Ibrahim and
Ismail did.



In the month of Dhul Hijjah
these pilgrims go to Makkah,
Mina and Arafat.

They visit places
where Ibrahim and Ismail
lived and preached.

They give a sacrifice just
as Allah commanded
Ibrahim to do. The pilgrims
sacrifice animals in
memory of the deed.



We must obey

Allah's commands

as Ibrahim and

Ismail did. We

obey by doing

the things we

know are right,

praying, obeying

our parents and

always telling

the truth.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) & Prophet Ishaq (a)

The Well of Zamzam

where water first flowed

to save the lives of

Hajar and Ismail, became

a popular place for the

caravans to stop.

Some people liked the

place so much they decided

to stay there.

This place became known

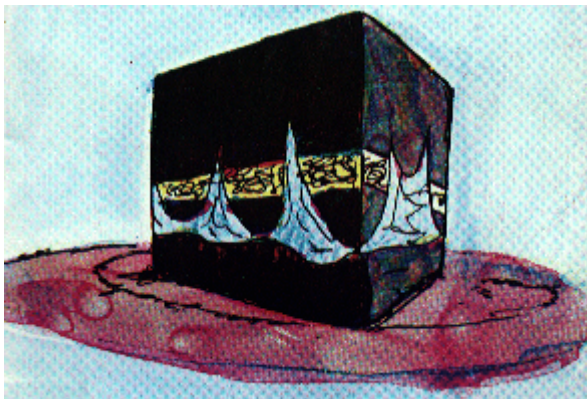
as Makkah.

One day Ibrahim had
a message from Allah.

He and Ismail were to
build a place for
people to pray.

They were to build
an altar, it was to
be known as the Ka'aba.

The angel Jibrail
brought the message
saying that the Ka'aba
should be built near
the Well of Zamzam,
the most sacred place
on earth.



The foundation stone
for the Ka'aba was to
come from heaven.

It is found today in a

corner of the Ka'aba and is
known as the black stone.

When Ibrahim was
building the Ka'aba
he was standing on
a large rock. Allah
softened the rock and
the shape of Ibrahim's
bare feet was left in
it. It is still there,
for all to see.

When Ibrahim was
very old the angels
came to see him and
said Allah was
going to give a son
to him and Sarah.

Sarah could not believe
it was true. She too was
old. The angels said that
all things are possible
to Allah. They said the
son was to be called
Ishaq. He was to be a prophet.

Sure enough,
Sarah did have
a son and they called
him Ishaq. he grew
up to be a great
prophet.

Ishaq married a
girl called Rebecca.

They had two sons,
called Esau and Yaqub.

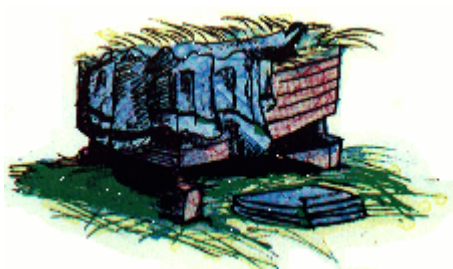
Yaqub became a
great prophet.

Yaqub grew up and
married Zia and they
had lots of children,
both boys and girls.

His second wife

Rohsie had two sons,

Yusuf and Benjamin.



Yusuf and Benjamin

were very good, obedient

sons and they became

Yaqub's favourites because

of their good behaviour.

Yusuf too grew up

to be a prophet.

All of these great

prophets were

descendants of Ibrahim.

He is known as

the father of all

the prophets.

Muhammad (s), our great

and beloved prophet,

the last of all the

prophets was a

descendant of Ismail.

Prophet Yaqub (a) & Prophet Yusuf (a)

Yaqub was also

known as Israil.

Israil's children could

see that Yusuf was their

father's favourite. This
made them very jealous.
They became so jealous,
some of them actually
wanted to kill him.
The jealous brothers
finally decided
to throw Yusuf
into a deep well.



They went to Israil, their
father, to ask if they could
take Yusuf out with
them; they said they would
teach him to be a good
shepherd. Israil would
not let Yusuf go because
he thought the others

were planning to do

something bad.

One day Yusuf went to

Israil and said that he

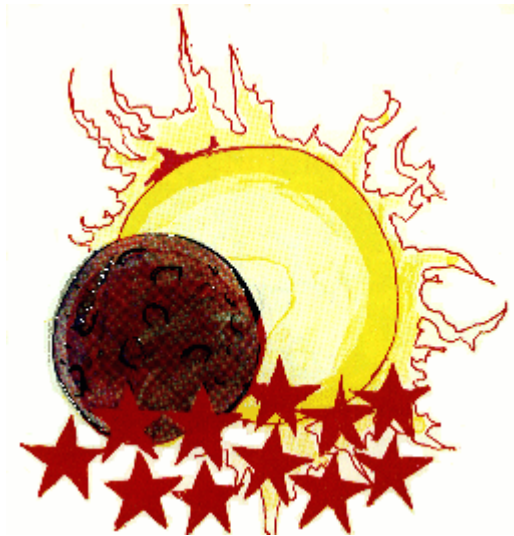
had had a strange dream.

In the dream Yusuf

had seen the sun, the

moon and eleven stars

bowing down to him!



Israil felt that

the dream had a

message, Yusuf was

going to have a

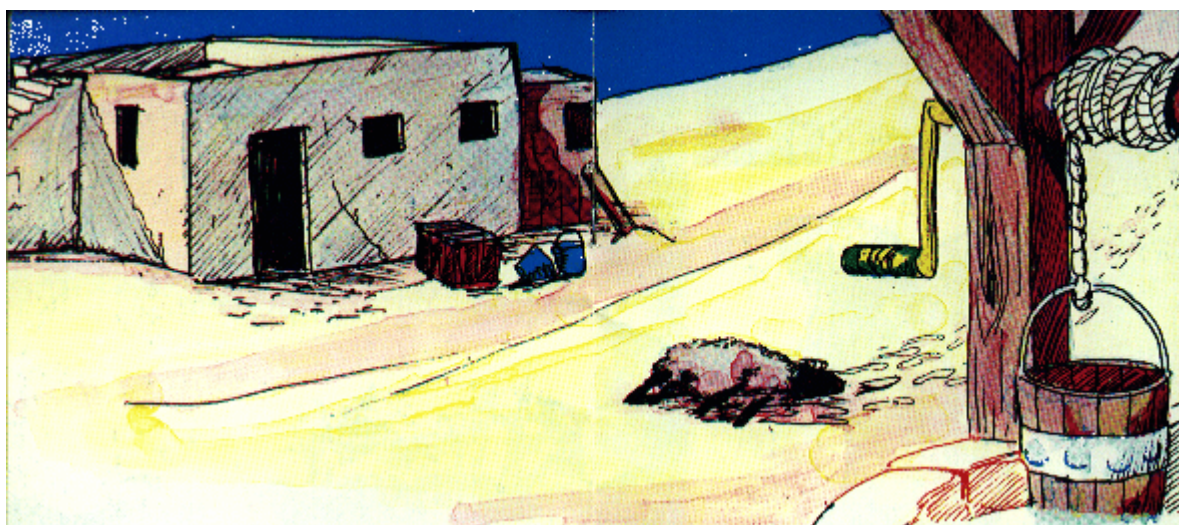
great future. He

told Yusuf not to

tell his brothers

about the dream.

Israil's son were
still thinking of their
plan to kill Yusuf.
They pestered Israil
to let them take
Yusuf with them
to their work.



At last Israil agreed,
but he made them promise
to look after him.
They were so bad they
knew they would break
their promise.
At the end of the day
they asked Yusuf to take
off his shirt. They killed
a sheep and put blood all

over Yusuf's shirt; then they

threw Yusuf into a well.

They went home and

showed the shirt to Israil.

Pretending to be very upset;

they told their father that Yusuf

had got left behind and a

wolf had eaten him!



Israil was very

upset but he

did not believe

the story.

He knew that one

day Allah would

bring Yusuf back

to him.

Poor Yusuf spent the

night in the well.

The next morning, when

someone put the
bucket down the
well to get water,
he sat in the bucket.



The man had to get help
to pull the bucket up.
He was very surprised to see
a boy in it.

The man was a merchant.

The merchant decided
to take Yusuf with
him to Egypt and to
sell him as a slave.

When they arrived in
Egypt, one of the noble
families bought Yusuf.



The man who
bought him told
his wife that they
should take care of
him, as he was a
good-looking child
and they had no
children of their own.
Yusuf became one
of the family.

Prophet Yusuf (a)

The Pharaoh of Egypt
called Firawn had many
people working for him.
One of his assistants had
a very wicked wife who
said many things about
Yusuf that were quite
untrue. She thought
she loved him but he
told her that she should
honour her husband.

She became very angry
and persuaded her
husband to have Yusuf
put in prison.

While he was in prison,
Yusuf used to tell everyone
what their dreams meant
and his explanation of the
dreams always came true.

Allah had given Yusuf
this great gift.

Firawn kept
having a strange dream
and none of his wise men
could explain what it meant.

Then Firawn heard of
Yusuf's great gift and
sent for him.

Yusuf would not leave
the prison until he had
proven his innocence.

Firawn had an inquiry
and discovered that Yusuf
really was innocent, so

he was able to leave prison.



Firawn's dream was most unusual. In it, he saw seven skinny cows eat seven big fat ones and there were seven skinny ears of wheat and seven fat ears of wheat.

Yusuf explained that this meant there would be seven years of plenty but seven years of famine would follow, when there would be no water and no food for anyone.



After that there would

be a year of rain.

Firawn liked and trusted

Yusuf so he put him in

charge of all the store houses

in the land.

Yusuf had worked himself

up to a very powerful position.

Allah always rewards

good people.

Yusuf worked hard; he

made sure the store houses

were filled with wheat and

grain.

Just as he had said,
there were seven years
of plenty. Those years
passed very quickly.

Soon the seven years of
famine came. The crops
failed. People were
hungry. Others were
starving.

Yusuf had planned for
this. He opened his
stores and let everyone
have some of the wheat.

Back in Palestine,
Israil too was facing
a hard time with
no food for his family
or the animals.

He sent his sons to
Egypt to get grain from
the famous treasurer of
Egypt. When they arrived
they were told that they
must get permission from

the governor to buy grain.

They went to see him, but

did not realise that the

fine man, in splendid robes was

really their brother. He told

them they could have some

grain, but if they wanted

any more, they would have

to come with their youngest

brother and parents.

Yusuf had recognised them

straight away and he longed

to see his father, mother

and young brother Benjamin

again.

Eventually the eleven

brothers returned with

their mother and father.

They bowed down before Yusuf.

Yusuf put his father on his

throne and reminded him of

the dream he had had so long ago.

The sun, the moon and

eleven stars had bowed

down before him just as
his father, mother and
brothers had done at this
meeting, This was a great
moment in his life
and he thanked
Allah, for all He
had done for him.

Prophet Shu'ayb (a)

The Prophet Shu'ayb
was a descendent
of the Prophet Ibrahim.
He was sent to Midian and the
Dwellers of the wood to give
them Allah's message.

The Midianite people
committed many sins.

They gave short measures
and weights,
they robbed people and
caused mischief but most
seriously they tried to stop

people from

worshipping Allah.

Shu'ayb tried to make

them change but they

would not listen to him.

They wanted to throw

him out and all the

people who had

listened to his words.

Then Allah sent an

earthquake and all

the evil people were

destroyed because they

would not obey the

word of Allah.

Prophet Yunus (a)

The prophet Yunus

was sent to Ninevah.

He became known as the

Lord of the Fish (Dhan-Nun).

He warned the people about

their evil ways and told them

to follow Allah but they
would not listen.



Yunus was so angry he left.

He sailed away but the ship

was so full and heavy,

poor Yunus

was thrown

overboard.

He was

swallowed by an

enormous fish and he

lived in its belly

for three days.

Then the fish spewed

him out on a shore.

He was very ill but

Allah was protecting him.

A plant grew

and its leaves protected

Yunus from the sun and

kept the flies away.

A wild goat provided him

with milk. When he became

better he went back to

Ninevah and gave the

people Allah's message

once more. This time

the people listened

and Allah forgave them.

Prophet Ayyub (a)

The Prophet Ayyub had

been a wealthy man.

He was a very good

man but he lost his family

and his wealth.

He became ill and had terrible

sores all over his body.

However he never gave up.

He spent his time praying.

He was very patient and

always kept his faith in Allah.

Eventually Allah showed mercy.

He told Ayyub to strike the earth
with his foot and miraculously
a fountain appeared.

He drank the water and used
it to wash his body.

All his sores were healed
and everything was returned
to him as before.

Allah had rewarded him for
keeping his faith despite the
terrible afflictions he
had tested him with.

Prophet Musa (a)

Israil's family decided
to stay in Egypt. For a
long time they were
happy. The family grew.
There were many people
related to Israil and they
became known as the
Bani Israil.

For some reason the

Egyptian people did not

like the Bani Israil.

A new Firawn became ruler

of Egypt. Israil's people

became slaves to the

government. They were forced

to do many unpleasant jobs

and were treated very badly.



One night Firawn had a

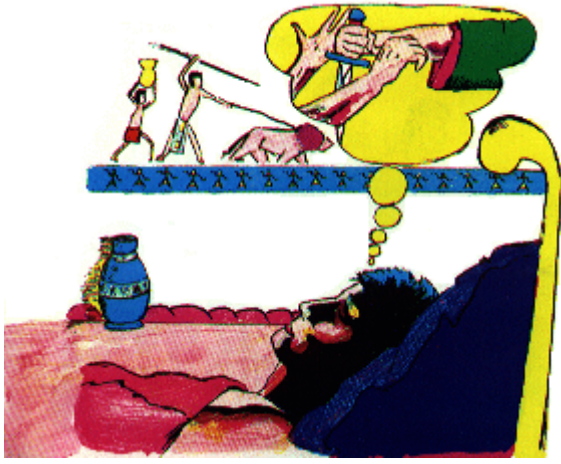
dream. His high priest, Haman,

told him what he thought the

dream meant. An Israil boy would be born

and he would grow up and cause

the death of Firawn.



This made Firawn very
angry and so he thought of
a horrible plan.

All the boys born to the
Israilites would be
killed at birth.

He thought this would
stop the dream from
coming true.

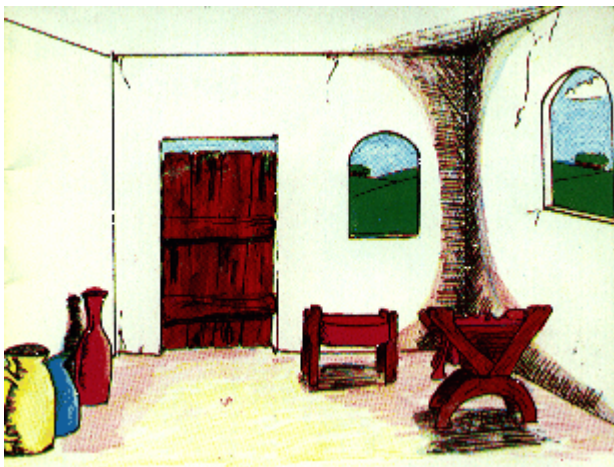


Imran and his wife had two
children, a girl called Maryam

and a boy called Iram. Soon after Firawn told of his plan, Imran's wife found out that she was going to have another baby.

They were pleased but they were also worried that if the baby was a boy, he would be killed.

She did not tell anyone that she was going to have a baby. She stayed at home and kept her secret until the baby was born.



It was a boy.

She loved the baby very much but realised that if she kept him, he might be killed.

She put the baby in a special box and Maryam went with her

to the river Nile.

They carefully put the box in
the river and prayed that it
would sail to safety.

Allah was watching over the
baby. No harm would come
to him.

The box sailed into Firawn's
gardens. Some maids were there
and saw the box caught in the
bullrushes. They pulled it out
and were amazed to find a
beautiful baby inside.

They took him to Firawn's wife,
Asia, who looked at him and
knew at once that he was an Israili.

Firawn wanted to kill the
baby but Asia cried and
cried and was so upset that
eventually he said she could
keep him and even adopt him.

The baby was called Musa.

He was not happy. He cried
because he was hungry but

would not take milk from

anyone.

Maryam heard of this and she let

it be known that she knew someone

who might be able to help.

She went to her mother

and told her

what had

happened. They

went to the

palace and when

Musa was put

in her arms he

stopped crying

and took milk

from her.



With Allah's help

Musa and his

mother were reunited.

She was able to look after

Musa for a long time and

he loved her dearly.
