



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

### SACRIFICE OF IBRAHIM (AS) AND LESSONS TO BE GAINED

Ibrahim (AS) is mentioned by Allah as His intimate friend (Khaleel):

*"And Allah did take Ibrahim (Abraham) as a Khaleel (an intimate friend)" [an-Nisa' 4:125]*

One of the main reasons on why he was a Khaleel of Allah was how he made numerous sacrifices for the sake of Allah:

**1. He sacrificed the love of his family (who were idol worshippers) by seeking the truth on who Allah is:**

*74. And (remember) when Ibrahim (Abraham) said to his father Azar: "Do you take idols as aliha (gods)? Verily, I see you and your people in manifest error."*

*75. Thus did we show Ibrahim (Abraham) the kingdom of the heavens and the earth that he be one of those who have Faith with certainty.*

*76. When the night covered him over with darkness he saw a star. He said: "This is my lord." But when it set, he said: "I like not those that set."*

*77. When he saw the moon rising up, he said: "This is my lord." But when it set, he said: "Unless my Lord guides me, I shall surely be among the erring people."*

*78. When he saw the sun rising up, he said: "This is my lord. This is greater." But when it set, he said: "O my people! I am indeed free from all that you join as partners in worship with Allah.*

*79. Verily, I have turned my face towards Him Who has created the heavens and the earth Hanifa (Islamic Monotheism, i.e. worshipping none but Allah Alone) and I am not of Al-Mushrikun (see V.2:105)".*

*80. His people disputed with him. He said: "Do you dispute with me concerning Allah while He has guided me, and I fear not those whom you associate with Allah in worship. (Nothing can happen to me) except when my Lord (Allah) wills something. My Lord comprehends in His Knowledge all things. Will you not then remember?*

81. *And how should I fear those whom you associate in worship with Allah (though they can neither benefit nor harm), while you fear not that you have joined in worship with Allah things for which He has not sent down to you any authority. (So) which of the two parties has more right to be in security? If you but know."*

6: 74-81

**2. He sacrificed his life when the idol worshippers threatened to burn him**

68. *They said: "Burn him and help your aliha (gods), if you will be doing."*

69. *We (Allah) said: "O fire! Be you coolness and safety for Ibrahim (Abraham)!"*

70. *And they wanted to harm him, but We made them the worst losers.*

71. *And We rescued him and Lout (Lot) to the land which We have blessed for the 'Alamin (mankind and jinns).*

21: 68-71

**3. He sacrificed his wife (Hajar) and son (Ismail) when Allah Ordered him to leave them in the middle of the desert**

One day, Prophet Ibrahim (AS) woke up and asked his wife Hajar to get her son and prepare for a long journey. In a few days, Ibrahim (AS) started out with his wife Hajar and their son Ismail (AS). The child was still nursing and not yet weaned.

Ibrahim (AS) walked through cultivated land, desert, and mountains until he reached the desert of the Arabian Peninsula and came to an uncultivated valley having no fruit, no trees, no food, no water. The valley had no sign of life. After Ibrahim (AS) had helped his wife and child to dismount, he left them with a small amount of food and water which was hardly enough for two days. He turned around and walked away. His wife hurried after him asking: "Where are you going, Ibrahim, leaving us in this barren valley?"

Ibrahim (AS) did not answer her, but continued walking. She repeated what she had said, but he remained silent. Finally, she understood that he was not acting on his own initiative. She realised that Allah had commanded him to do this. She asked him: "Did Allah command you to do so?" He replied: "Yes." Then his great wife said: "We are not going to be lost, since Allah, Who has commanded you, is with us."

Ibrahim (AS) invoked Almighty Allah thus: "O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley with no cultivation, by Your Sacred

House (the Kaba at Mecca); in order, O our Lord, that they may offer prayers perfectly (Iqamat-as-Salat), so fill some hearts among men with love towards them, and (O Allah) provide them with fruits so that they may give thanks. O our Lord! Certainly, You know what we conceal and what we reveal. Nothing on the earth or in the heaven is hidden from Allah." Surah 14: 37-38

**4. Prophet Ibrahim (AS) had a dream - that Allah Ordered him to sacrifice his son, Ismail.**

102. *And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offer you in sacrifice to Allah), so look what you think!" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, Insha' Allah (if Allah will), you shall find me of As-Sabirin (the patient ones, etc.)."*

103. *Then, when they had both submitted themselves (to the Will of Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering);*

104. *And We called out to him: "O Abraham!*

105. *You have fulfilled the dream (vision)!" Verily! Thus do We reward the Muhsinun (good-doers - see V.2:112).*

106. *Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial*

107. *And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice (i.e. ßÈÔ - a ram);*

108. *And We left for him (a goodly remembrance) among generations (to come) in later times.*

109. *Salamun (peace) be upon Ibrahim (Abraham)!"*

110. *Thus indeed do We reward the Muhsinun (good-doers - see V.2:112).*

37: 102 - 110

**LESSONS TO BE GAINED FROM THE SACRIFICE MADE BY PROPHET IBRAHIM (AS)**

**1. Complete obedience to Allah and submission**

120. *Verily, Ibrahim (Abraham) was an Ummah (a leader having all the good righteous qualities), or a nation, obedient to Allah, Hanifa (i.e. to worship none but Allah), and he was not one of those who were Al-Mushrikun (polytheists, idolaters, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah, and those who joined partners with Allah).*

121. *(He was) thankful for His (Allah's) Graces. He (Allah) chose him (as an intimate friend) and guided him to a Straight Path (Islamic Monotheism, neither Judaism nor Christianity).*

122. *And We gave him good in this world, and in the Hereafter he shall be of the righteous.*

6: 120-122

Islam means complete submission to Allah and it is a way of life. Submission must be until death. So, when Allah Ordered Ibrahim (AS) to bring his wife Hajar and son, Ismail, to the middle of the desert, he simply obeyed the Command of Allah. When Ibrahim (AS) had a dream that he must sacrifice his son, Ismail, he did not argue or negotiate with Allah.

*O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger (Muhammad SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam), and those of you (Muslims) who are in authority. (And) if you differ in anything amongst yourselves, refer it to Allah and His Messenger (SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam), if you believe in Allah and in the Last Day. That is better and more suitable for final determination. 4: 59*

## **2. Strive and put in every effort to search for the truth**

8. *(Other) faces, that Day, will be joyful,*

9. *Glad with their endeavour (for their good deeds which they did in this world, along with the true Faith of Islamic Monotheism).*

88: 8 -9

Ibrahim (AS) put in a lot of effort to see if the stars, the moon or sun if his Lord.

10. *O You who believe! Shall I guide you to a commerce that will save you from a painful torment.*

11. *That you believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam), and that you strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives, that will be better for you, if you but know!*

12. *(If you do so) He will forgive you your sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow, and pleasant dwelling in Gardens of 'Adn - Eternity ['Adn (Edn) Paradise], that is indeed the great success.*

13. *And also (He will give you) another (blessing) which you love, help from Allah (against your enemies) and a near victory. And give glad tidings (O Muhammad SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam) to the believers.*

61: 10 - 13

### 3. Make du'a to Allah continuously\

"And (remember) when Ibrahim (Abraham) said: "O my Lord! Make this city (Makkah) one of peace and security, and keep me and my sons away from worshipping idols." 14: 35

Ibrahim (AS) as Allah's Intimate Friend, is even making du'a to Allah. We have to continuously make du'a to Allah to Keep us continuously Guided as we make numerous forms of sacrifice.

Ibn Abi Hatim and Ibn Jarir recorded that Umm Salamah said that the Prophet used to supplicate,

يَا مُقَلِّبَ الْقُلُوبِ ثَبِّتْ قَلْبِي عَلَى دِينِكَ

"Yaa, muqallibal qooloobee thabbit qalbee 'alaa deenik"

O, You Who changes the hearts, make my heart firm on Your religion.

He (SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam) then recited,

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

"Rabbanaa laa toozigh qooloobanaa ba'daidz hadaytanaa wahablanaa milla dunka rahmatan innaka antal wahhaab."

Our Lord! Let not our hearts deviate (from the truth) after You have guided us, and grant us mercy from You. Truly, You are the Bestower.

[Surah Al 'Imran 3: 8]

[Ibn abi Hatim; at Tabari]

### 4. The more you are obedient to Allah, the more you will be Guided by Him

As Ibrahim (AS) are continuously obedient to Allah, the more he was Guided by Him.

The people of the cave in surah al Kahf, when they were tested on their belief, decided to leave their town in order to stay away from the idol worshippers. Allah Guided them more and Protected them.

13. We narrate unto you (O Muhammad SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam) their story with truth: Truly! They were young men who believed in their Lord (Allah), and We increased them in guidance.

14. And We made their hearts firm and strong (with the light of Faith in Allah and bestowed upon them patience to bear the separation of their kith and kin and dwellings, etc.) when they stood up and said: "Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, never shall we call upon any ilah (god) other than Him; if we did, we should indeed have uttered an enormity in disbelief.

18: 13-14

## 5. Trust in Allah

When Ibrahim (AS) was thrown in the fire, he has complete trust in Allah. He made du'a to Allah - "*HasbiyAllah wa ni'mal wakeel - Allah alone is sufficient for me, he is the best disposer of my affairs.*" Allah Cooled the fire and it did not harm prophet Ibrahim (AS).

*"...And whosoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. And whosoever puts his trust in Allah, then He will suffice him. Verily, Allah will accomplish his purpose. Indeed Allah has set a measure for all things."* 65: 2-31

Other stories in the Qur'an on trust:

- The mother of Musa (AS) when she put him in the basket when Allah Ordered her to put her baby in the basket to let it float in the river, with the promise that she will be reunited with her son. (20: 38-39)
- Nuh (AS) obeyed Allah when he was commanded by Allah to build the arc, even though he was abused by his own people
- The companions of prophet Muhammad SallAllahu alayhi wa sallam migrated to Madinah with nothing at all during hijrah

Trust is also one of the qualities of those who are a "mu'min":

*"The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Verses (this Qur'an) are recited unto them, they (i.e. the Verses) increase their Faith; and they put their trust in their Lord (Alone);"* 8: 2

When we leave our houses we were taught to recite the du'a:

"بِسْمِ اللَّهِ، تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ، وَلَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ".

*Bismillaahi, tawakkaltu 'alallaahi, wa laa hawla wa laa quwwata ' illaa billaah.*

In the Name of Allah, I have placed my trust in Allah, there is no might and no power except by Allah.

Reference: Abu Dawud 4/325, At-Tirmithi 5/490. See also Al-Albani, Sahih At-Tirmithi 3/151

## 6. Taqwa to Allah

On sacrificing the animal during Qurban, Allah Reminded us:

*It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is piety from you that reaches Him. Thus have We made them subject to you that you may magnify Allah for His Guidance to you. And give glad tidings (O Muhammad Sallallahu alayhi wa sallam) to the Muhsinun (doers of good). 22: 37*

On performing Hajj, Allah Advised us:

*"...And whatever good you do, (be sure) Allah knows it. And take a provision (with you) for the journey, but the best provision is At-Taqwa (piety, righteousness, etc.). So fear Me, O men of understanding!" 2: 197*

When you have taqwa to Allah, Allah will Help you to get out of every difficulties in your sacrifice:

*"...And whosoever fears Allah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty)." 65: 2*

Also, you will be honoured by Allah:

*O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has At-Taqwa [i.e. one of the Muttaqun (pious - see V.2:2)]. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. 49: 13*

## 7. Patience

Patience is a character of a believer that is difficult to achieve. Ibrahim (AS) was very patient when Allah Ordered him to sacrifice his son, and when Allah Ordered him to bring his wife and son to the desert.

Allah Reminded us when we face difficulties, in our acts of sacrifice:

*153. O you who believe! Seek help in patience and As-Salat (the prayer). Truly! Allah is with As-Sabirin (the patient ones, etc.).*

154. *And say not of those who are killed in the Way of Allah, "They are dead." Nay, they are living, but you perceive (it) not.*

155. *And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sabirin (the patient ones, etc.).*

156. *Who, when afflicted with calamity, say: "Truly! To Allah we belong and truly, to Him we shall return."*

157. *They are those on whom are the Salawat (i.e. blessings, etc.) (i.e. who are blessed and will be forgiven) from their Lord, and (they are those who) receive His Mercy, and it is they who are the guided-ones.*

2: 153-157

Allaah tells us if we are patient and pious, the plot of the enemy cannot do any harm, even if he is powerful, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

*"But if you remain patient and become Al-Muttaqoon (the pious), not the least harm will their cunning do to you. Surely, Allaah surrounds all that they do" 3: 120*

If we don't get the reward of Patience in this world then it will surely be saved by Almighty Allah for the Hereafter that will never end. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: "Whoever persists in being patient, Allah will make him patient. Nobody can be given a blessing better and greater than patience." (Al-Bukhari)

## 8. Understand that Allah is the Best of Planners

- Story of al Khidr and Musa (AS) in surah al Kahf
- Stories of prophet Yusuf (AS)
- Umm Salamah

[In the] battle of 'Uhud the Muslims were sorely tested. Abu Salamah came out of this wounded very badly. He appeared at first to respond well to treatment, but his wounds never healed completely and he remained bedridden.

He said to her [[Umm Salamah](#)]: "I heard the Messenger of God saying. Whenever a calamity afflicts anyone he should say, 'Surely from Allah we are and to Him we shall certainly return.' And he would pray, 'O Lord, give me in return something good from it which on nly You Exalted and Mighty, can give.' "

Abu Salamah remained sick in bed for several days. One morning the Prophet (peace be upon him) came to see him. The visit was longer than usual. While the Prophet was still at his bedside, Abu Salamah passed away. With his blessed hands, the Prophet closed the eyes of his dead companion. He then raised his hands to the heavens and prayed:



“O Lord, grant forgiveness to Abu Salamah. Elevate him among those who are near to You. Take charge of his family at all times. Forgive us and him, O Lord of the Worlds. Widen his grave and make it light for him.”

Umm Salamah remembered the prayer her husband had quoted on his deathbed from the Prophet and began repeating it:

“O Lord, with you I leave this my plight for consideration ... ”

But she could not bring herself to continue ... “O Lord give me something good from it”, because she kept asking herself:

“Who could be better than Abu Salamah?”

But it did not take long before she completed the supplication.

The Muslims were greatly saddened by the plight of Umm Salamah. She became known as “Ayyin al-Arab” – the one who had lost her husband. She had no one in Madinah of her own except her small children, like a hen without feathers.

Both the Muhajirun and Ansar felt they had a duty to Umm Salamah.

When she had completed the Iddah, Abu Bakr proposed marriage to her but she refused. Then ‘Umar asked to marry her but she also declined the proposal. The Prophet then approached her and she replied:

“O Messenger of Allah, I have three characteristics. I am a woman who is extremely jealous and I am afraid that you will see in me something that will anger you and cause Allah to punish me. I am a woman who is already advanced in age and I am a woman who has a young family.”

The Prophet replied:

*“Regarding the jealousy you mentioned, I pray to Allah the Almighty to let it go away from you. Regarding the question of age you have mentioned, I am afflicted with the same problem as you. Regarding the dependent family you have mentioned, your family is my family.”*

- They were married and so it was that Allah answered the prayer of Umm Salamah and gave her better than Abu Salamah. From that day on Hind al-Makhzumiyyah was no longer the mother of Salamah alone but became the mother of all believers, Umm al-Muminin.

**9. As we sacrifice to Allah, do not forget to enjoin good and forbid evil, as Ibrahim (AS) was advising his father from worshipping idols:**

42. *When he said to his father: "O my father! Why do you worship that which hears not, sees not and cannot avail you in anything?"*

43. *"O my father! Verily! There has come to me of knowledge that which came not unto you. So follow me. I will guide you to a Straight Path.*

44. *"O my father! Worship not Shaitan (Satan). Verily! Shaitan (Satan) has been a rebel against the Most Beneficent (Allah).*

45. *"O my father! Verily! I fear lest a torment from the Most Beneficent (Allah) overtake you, so that you become a companion of Shaitan (Satan) (in the Hell-fire)." [Tafsir Al-Qurtubi]*

46. *He (the father) said: "Do you reject my gods, O Ibrahim (Abraham)? If you stop not (this), I will indeed stone you. So get away from me safely before I punish you."*

47. *Ibrahim (Abraham) said: "Peace be on you! I will ask Forgiveness of my Lord for you. Verily! He is unto me, Ever Most Gracious."*

48. *"And I shall turn away from you and from those whom you invoke besides Allah. And I shall call on my Lord; and I hope that I shall not be unblest in my invocation to my Lord."*

19: 42 – 48

We must not forget the reward of enjoining good and forbidding evil:

*Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islam), enjoining Al-Ma'ruf (i.e. Islamic Monotheism and all that Islam orders one to do) and forbidding Al-Munkar (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islam has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful. 3: 104*