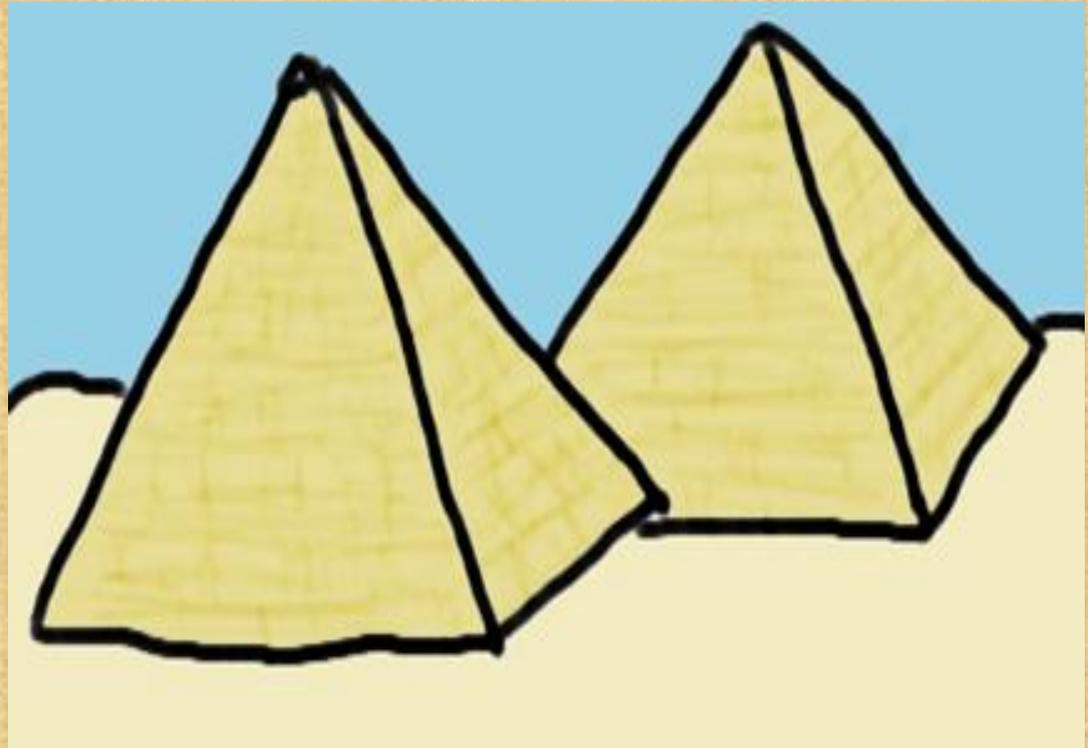


Hadhrat Hajra and the Well of Zam Zam

Story three

Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} tried and tried to make his people believe in Allah but they did not listen. Allah Taala told him that it was time to leave his home, so he left with his wife Hadhrat Sarah and his nephew Hadhrat Loot^{as}. They travelled all the way to Egypt. It was in Egypt that he married his second wife Hadhrat Hajra who was the daughter of a king.



Allah Taala blessed Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} and Hadhrat Hajra with a baby boy. He was named Ismail^{as}. Hadhrat Sarah did not have any children so she began to feel a little jealous. She told Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} to leave Hadhrat Hajra and the baby somewhere far away from her. Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} could not make Hadhrat Sarah change her mind so he prayed to Allah and said “O my Allah what shall I do?”

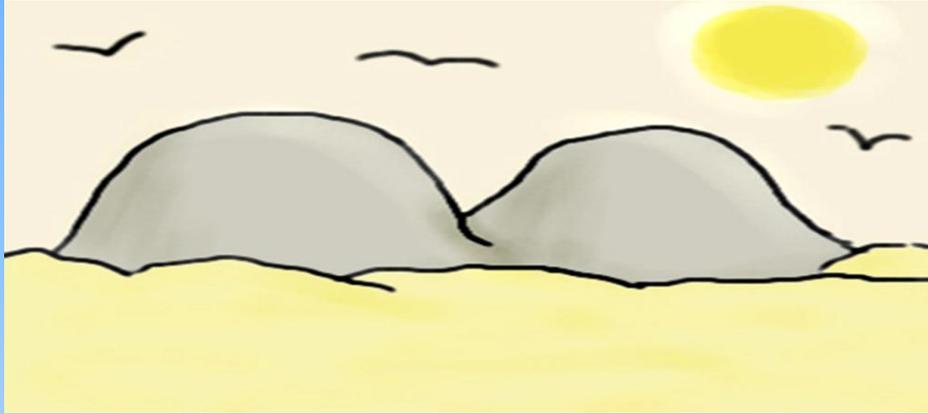
“O my Allah what shall I do?”

Allah answered his prayer. He told Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} to do as Hadhrat Sarah said. He told Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} to take his son and Hadhrat Hajra to a faraway place, but it was not any old place, it was a place that had been chosen by Allah Himself. Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} had so much trust in Allah that he did not even ask Allah why, he just did as he was told.



He gathered some food and water for the journey and then set off with Hadhrat Hajra and Hadhrat Ismail^{as}.

Finally they reached the valley.



It was a horrible place. There was nothing to be seen for miles around ,apart from sand and rocks.

When Hadhrat Hajra saw this unfriendly place she asked Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} “Are you leaving me here because Allah wishes it?”

“Yes” said Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as}.

Hadhrat Hajra also trusted Allah and she knew that Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} was doing this because Allah had told him to. So she was very brave and did not ask any more questions and was ready to stay with her baby son.

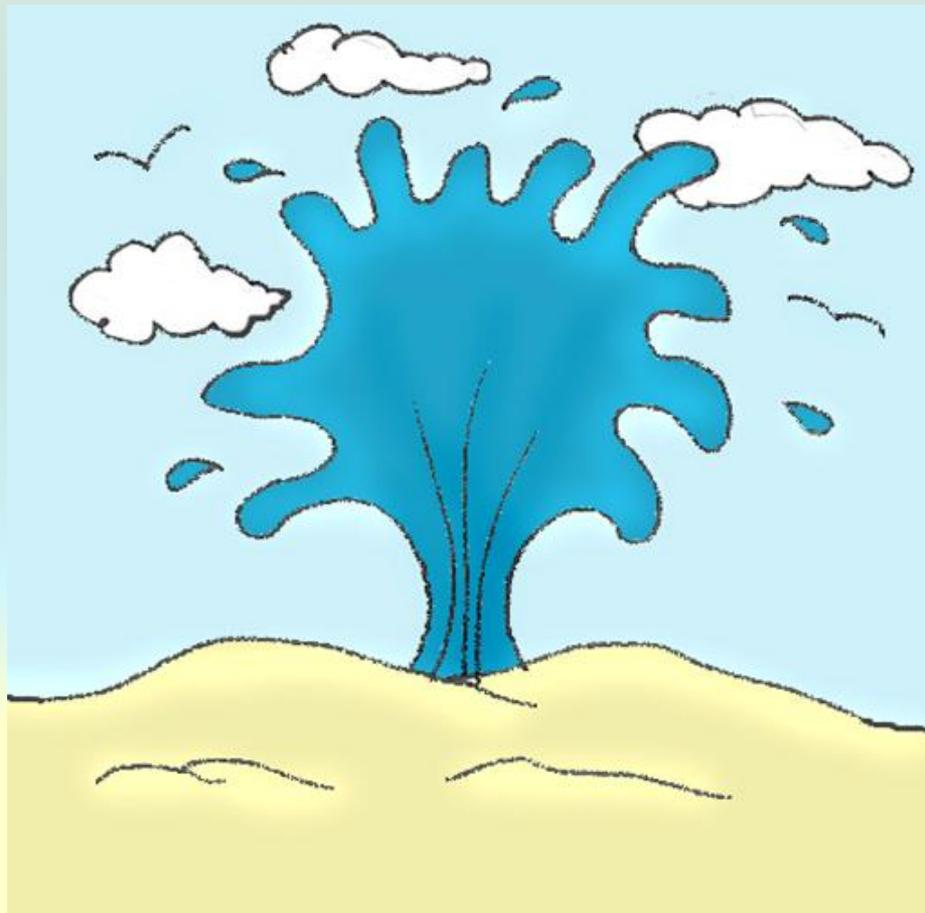
Soon it was time for Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} to leave. He gave Hadhrat Hajra a water skin and some dates. As he left he prayed for his wife and son, asking Allah to protect them, provide for them and keep them safe. He also prayed that his children would never worship idols and would always worship Allah alone.



Hadhrat Hajra and her baby were left all alone. Soon her dates and water ran out. Her little son cried and cried with hunger. She put Hadhrat Ismail^{as} down in the sand and ran frantically between the two hills (Safa and Marwah) on either side of the valley. She hoped that she might find someone to help her.



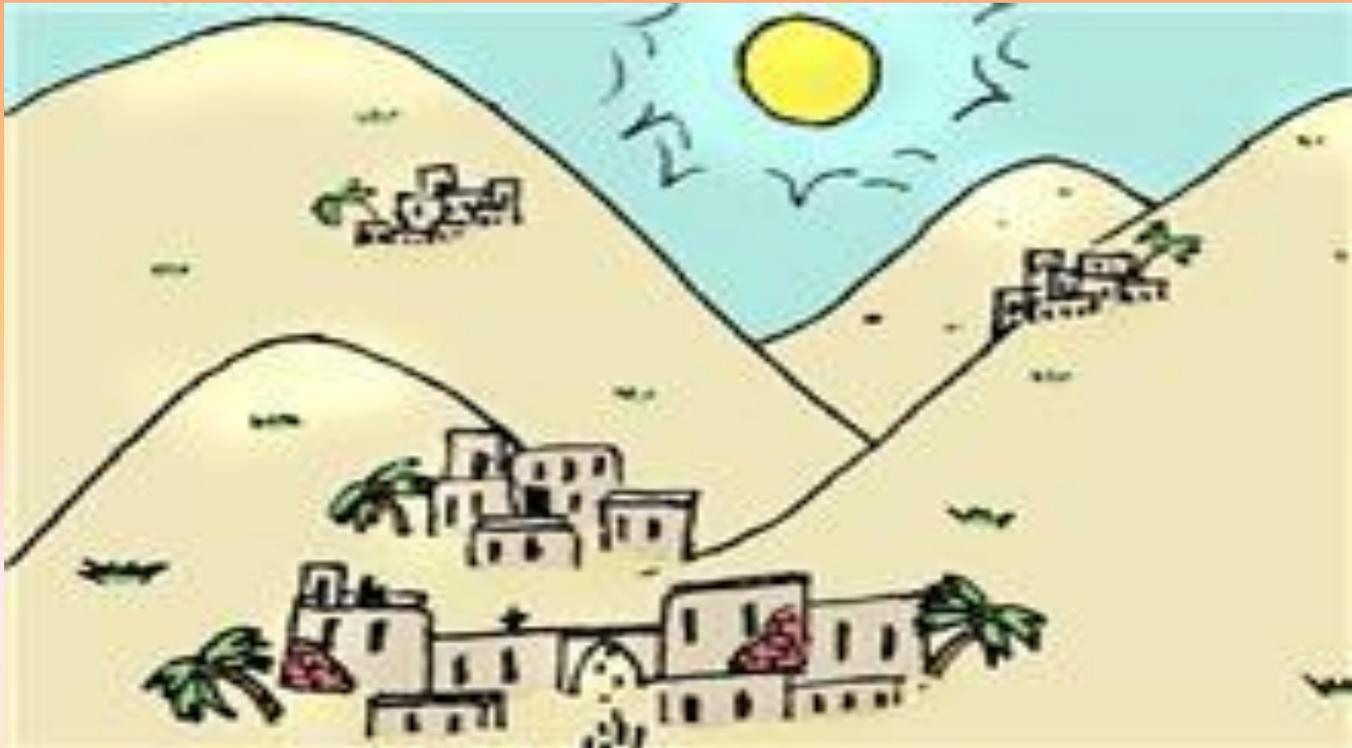
Then she ran back to check on baby Ismail^{as}. She did this seven times. Exhausted she cried “can anyone hear me?” As she turned around to check on her son she was astonished to find that there was a pool of water at his feet where he had been kicking his tiny feet in the sand. She gathered some rocks and placed them around the water to collect it.



The water attracted birds that began to fly above it. From a distance nomad travellers saw the birds. They knew that there was no water in this area, so why were the birds flying there? They sent a few men to go and have a look. they returned to the nomads telling them that there was definitely water there. They travelled towards the water and found Hadhrat Hajra sitting near the water. They asked her if they could stay there and she replied yes. Soon the travellers sent for other members of their family to come and settle there.



Before long, lots of people began to gather around the well and decided to live there. Because of the water lots of nomads used to come and go and after a while that place became a small town. Hadhrat Hajra had people around her. She had food water and shelter and all because her little baby kicked his tiny feet right on that place where the Zam Zam spring water was ready to gush out. This is how Allah helps those who believe and trust in Him. Allah did not let Hadhrat Hajra and her child die in the desert, in fact He gave her everything she needed to survive.



Because Hadhrat Ibrahim^{as} and Hadhrat Hajra listened to Allah, that bare valley became a village, then a small town and then the city of Mecca where the water of Zam Zam flowed, where food was plenty and where the greatest Prophet- Hadhrat Muhammad^{saw} would one day live.

