

What do we learn from Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)? BS Foad, MD 2017

(1)Towaf (circling the Ka’Ba) and Sa’y (Walking between Safa & Marwa, two of the cornerstones of Hajj are associated with Prophet Ibrahim, Hajir (his wife) and Isma’il (his son). **The Ka’Ba was built by Ibrahim & Ismail** “As Abraham raised the foundation of the house and Ismail, saying this prayer: “Our Lord accept this (effort) from us, for You are the One who hears and knows all things” Al-Baqara (The Cow) 2: 127; “My Lord I have made some of my offspring to dwell in a valley without vegetation by Your sacred house; in order that they may establish regular prayer.” Ibrahim 14: 37 ; ” Indeed Safa & Marwa are among the symbols of Allah, so if those who visit the house, in season or at other times should compass them round, it is no sin.” Al-Baqara 2: 158

(2)The Qur’an praises Prophet Ibrahim as a man of faith and an example to follow

Abraham the true in faith “Abraham was indeed a model, devoutly obedient to Allah and true in faith, he joined not gods with Allah.” An-Nahl 16: 120; “Then We revealed to you (O Muhammad): “Follow the ways of Abraham the true in faith, and he joined not gods with Allah.” An-Nahl 16: 123 **Ibrahim had trust in Allah.** When he was thrown in the fire, he knew Allah will save him: “We said: “O fire be cool and safe for Abraham.” Al-Anbiam (The Prophets) 21: 69; **Abraham was truly obedient and willing to sacrifice his son obeying the order from Allah:** “O Abraham you have already fulfilled the vision, thus do We reward those who do right. For this was a clear trial, and We ransomed him with a momentous sacrifice” As-Saffat 37: 105-107

(3)Ibrahim was wise and logical in his Da’Wa: regarding the idols “Do they hear you when you call on them, or they do you good or harm?” Ash-Shura’a 26: 72 & 73; **How he described Allah** “Who created me, and it is He who guides me; Who gives me food and drink; and when I am ill, it is He who cures me; Who causes me to die, and then to live again; and Who I hope will forgive my faults on the Day of Judgment.” Ash-Shura’a 26: 78-82

Ibrahim did not ask for money or power, rather he asked for knowledge & wisdom: “My Lord bestow wisdom on me, and join me with the righteous; grant me honorable mention on the tongue of truth among the latest generations; make me one of the inheritors of the garden of bliss.” Ash-Shura’a 26: 83-85

Ibrahim explained that what is important is a sound heart: “Let me not be in disgrace on the day when they will be raised up; the day when neither wealth nor sons will avail; but only he will prosper that brings to Allah a sound heart.” Ash-Shura’a 26: 87-89. A sound heart does not hold a grudge, envy or hatred.

(4)Ibrahim teaches us that asking questions is a way to learn and understand: “Remember Abraham said: “My Lord show me how You give life to the dead.” He said: “Do you then not believe?” He said: “Yes I believe but I want my heart to be content and satisfied.” Al-Baqara 2: 260; “And strive in the cause of Allah, as you ought to strive; He has chosen you, and imposed no difficulties on you in religion; it is the religion of your father Abraham.”

Al-Hajj (Pilgrimage) 22: 78

(5)Allah responds to the Dua’a of his righteous servants. Prophet Ibrahim called on Allah to send a messenger to the people of Macca, and Allah responded by sending Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). “Our Lord, send for them a messenger, from among themselves, reciting Your signs and teaching them the book and wisdom, and purifying them, for You are the mighty and wise.” Al-Baqara 2: 129

(6) Allah rewarded Ibrahim in his life, and in the Hereafter he is among the righteous. Allah made all prophets, after Abraham from his descendants. From Isaac & Jacob came Moses and Jesus. From Ismail came Muhammad (PBUH). “Allah said: “I will make you a leader of mankind”. Abraham asked: “And from my progeny?” Allah said: “My covenant does not entail the wrong-doers.” Al-Baqara 2: 124; “And We granted him Isaac & Jacob and ordained prophethood and revelation among his progeny” Al-Ankabut 29: 27; “And We gave him good in this life & in the Hereafter he will be in the ranks of the righteous” An-Nahl 16: 122.