

STORYTELLER:
ISLAMIC STORIES



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Illustrations by Rebecca Wallis



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Introduction



Islamic Stories



In each of the world's six main religions - Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism - stories play a very important part. They have been used for many hundreds of years to teach people about their faith in a way which makes difficult messages easier to understand. Many stories tell of times in the lives of religious teachers, leaders, gods and goddesses. Others explain mysterious events such as how the world was created or what happens when you die. Many have a strong moral or lesson to teach.



The collection of stories in this book comes from Islam. Islam is the religion followed by Muslims. They believe in one God, whom they call Allah. They follow Allah's guidance throughout their lives. Islam began in the 7th century CE in the country we now call Saudi Arabia in the Middle East. A man called Muhammad was chosen by Allah to receive his message for the world. He was the last of all the prophets of Islam. The messages were later collected together to make the Qur'an, the Muslim holy book. Allah did not speak to Muhammad directly. His messenger was an angel called Jibril. In this book, you can read some of the stories which show how Allah gave His message to the world through His angels and prophets.

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The Birth of the Prophet Muhammad

In the year 570CE, the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, was born in Makkah, a city in Saudi Arabia. His father, Abdullah, died a few months before his birth. His mother's name was Amina. Amina was good and pretty and pure, and Allah, the One God, had chosen her to be Muhammad's mother. The happy news was proclaimed far and wide, in the heavens and on Earth. Soft breezes blew, crops grew lush and green, and trees bowed under the weight of their fruit. The whole world was filled with joy.

A few days before the Prophet's birth, an angel appeared from the sky and visited Amina in her dreams.

“I bring you good news,” the angel said. “Oh mother of the blessed last prophet. Your son will be the lord of the worlds, the

best of men. He will save the world. When he is born, you must say these words, 'I place him under Allah's protection, safe from wickedness and envy.' And you must call him Muhammad, the praised one."

Did you know?

Muslims believe that Allah has sent many prophets to teach people how to live. Muhammad was the last and greatest of these prophets. Among the prophets that came before him were Adam, Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus). They are also important figures in Judaism and Christianity. Muslims often write the letters 'pbuh' after the names of the prophets. These stand for the words 'peace be upon him'.