

DHUL-HIJJAH



ZANIB MIAN

ILLUSTRATED BY TUGRUL KARACAN
AND BASMA HOSAM



Ali: Migo?

Migo: Yes, my banana button?

Ali: Tell me about Dhul-Hijjah!

Migo: Ahhhh. Dhul-Hijjah, my mini pancake, is one of the four holy months. The first ten days of **Dhul-Hijjah** are the best days of the whole year.

Allah loves these special days of **Dhul-Hijjah** from the 1st to the 10th, in fact, there are no other days during which Allah loves you to do good deeds more than He does on these days, so there is a chance to get heaps of rewards.

These days are the days of **Hajj**, the **Qurbani** (sacrifice) and **Eid Al-Adha** and during the Hajj there is a very special day, called the **Day of Arafah**.

Ali: That's a lot of special things all in ten days, Migo!

Migo: That's right, my berry muffin. I will tell you all about it carefully.

In the days of Dhul-Hijjah, the best thing you can do is Hajj and Umrah, but most people



can only go to Makkah for Hajj once in their lives, and some people have not been at all. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam (see your Migi & Ali A-Z of Islam book), which means you must do it if you have enough money to travel and if you are well enough.

The fantastic news is, that even if you are not on Hajj, Dhul-Hijjah is just as special for you, and there are many things you can do to make Allah happy and feel great inside and out.

FASTING:

If you are old enough and healthy enough, you can fast for the first nine days of Dhul-Hijjah, like the Prophet (saw) did. Fasting is an amazing way to worship Allah! Fasting on the 9th day, which is the Day of Arafah is even more special. For that, Allah forgives your sins from the past year and the coming year.

DHIKR:

All kinds of dhikr is fantastic, but in these days the Prophet (saw) asked us to do more,

Takbeer, Tahleel,
Tahmeed,

Takbeer is to say that Allah is great, by saying **Allahu Akbar**.

Tahleel is to say, with belief, that Allah is one – **La ilaaha ill-Allah**.

Tahmeed is to thank Allah and praise Him, by saying **Alhamdulillah**.

There are different versions, but saying, Allahu akbar, Allahu akbar, laa ilaaha ill-Allah, Allahu akbar, wa Lillaah il-hamd is a good way to do this.

So say these words out loud, with a beautiful voice full of love for Allah, because He loves you so, so

much.

Ali: Even more than my Mum!

Migo: Haha, yes, my little bean, He loves you even more than your mum loves you, which is very much indeed.

EXTRA GOOD DEEDS

Like I said, on these days of Dhul-Hijjah Allah loves it even more when you do something good. It can be for yourself, like learning something new about the deen, or a new surah, or it could be for someone else. You could help someone; smile at people; be kind; and give charity.

Ali: Smiling is a charity! Allah loves it when we smile.

Migo: That's right, chicken lickin.



DOING QURBANI

You can get closer to Allah by doing a Qurbani, just like Prophet Ibrahim (as) did to show that nothing matters more to him than Allah (swt). I will tell you all about that story.

SAY SORRY TO ALLAH

Allah is so kind to us. He loves us very much. He forgives us if we slip up and do something He doesn't like. We just have to feel sorry for what we did and ask Him. The days of Dhul-Hijjah, especially the Day of Arafah are fantastic days where Allah forgives many people.

Ali: How do I know if I did a bad thing?

Migo: Hmmm ... well usually when you do something that you shouldn't have, you feel bad straight away, and you don't want anyone to know.

Ali: OK Migo. Let's pretend we are going to do Hajj. What would we do? Where would we go?

Migo: Well, people might be afraid if a big brown bear comes along.

Ali: But you're a friendly bear, Migo. You cried for two days when you accidentally squashed a ladybird by sitting on it.

Migo: Yes. That was very sad.

Ali: Anyway, I know animals don't do the things humans do to worship Allah. They have their own way. But I just want to pretend!

Migo: Alright, my star in the sky, I will tell you. If we were going for Hajj, it would be a dream come true!

The people that do **Hajj and Umrah** are the **guests of Allah**. He invites them and they go, and when they ask, He gives them. Imagine being the guest of Allah! I can't imagine anything more special.

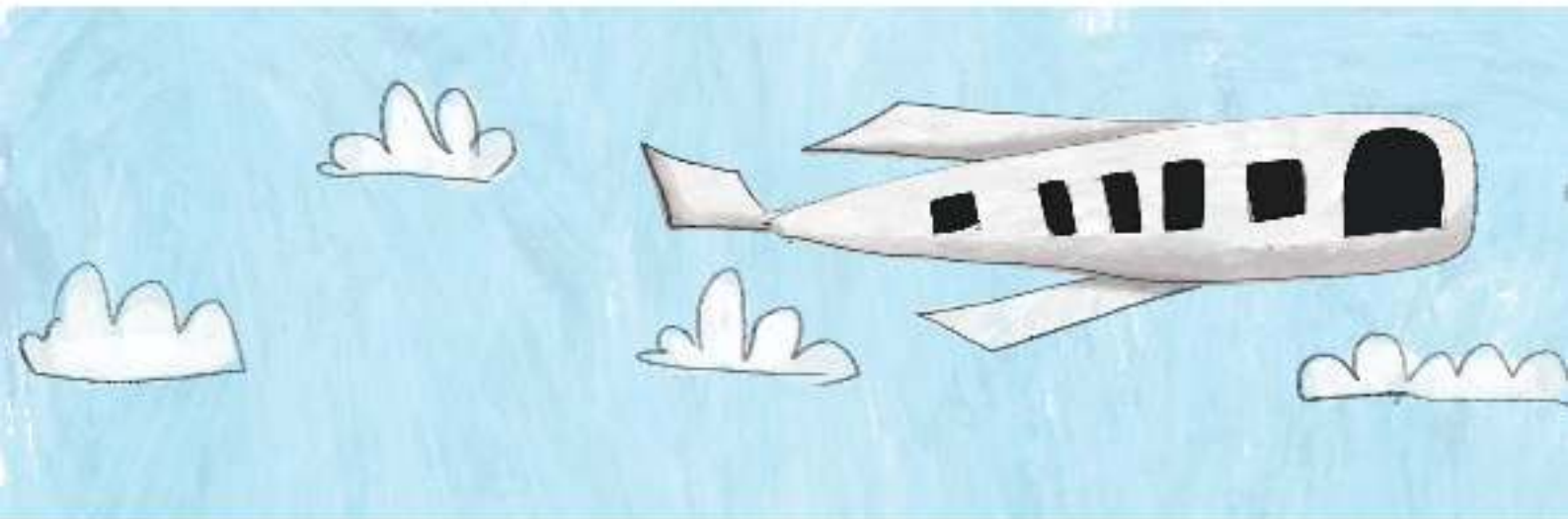


Doing Hajj is one of the best deeds you can do. And if you do it with care, Allah forgives any bad things you might have done and the reward is Jannah.

Ali: Wow, Migo. I want to do Hajj, even more than I want to sit on a rainbow!

Migo: Insha'Allah you will do it one day, Ali.

Now, let's see. If we went for Hajj, we would go on a plane to get to **Makkah**, where the **Kaaba** is. We would get into **Ihram** and do **Umrah**. Umrah can be done at any time of the year, but Hajj is only done on the set dates in the month of Dhul-Hijjah. Hajj must be done once in your life at least, Umrah is up to you, but it has so many rewards, you'd surely want to do it!



For **Umrah**, the main things you do are:

- **Get into Ihram** – it's a special way of thinking and behaving to keep us pure for the Umrah (or Hajj).

For Ihram men and boys wear two simple, white sheets. Girls and women wear their normal covering clothes and head scarf.



- **Recite Talbiya.**

“Labbayk Allaahumma labbayk,
labbayka laa shareeka laka labbayk. Inna
al-hamd wa'l-ni'mata laka wa'l-mulk, laa
shareeka lak”

This means, “Here I am in Your
service, O Allah, here I am. Here I am, You
have no partner, here I am. All praise and
blessings are Yours, and all power, You
have no partner.”

- **Do tawaf around the Kaaba,** circling seven times while doing dhikr and duas from deep in your heart.

- Pray at **Maqam Ibrahim**, the place where prophet Ibrahim (as) stood on a stone to build the Kaaba, while his son **Ismail (as)** passed the stones to him.
- Go to the **Zamzam well**, and drink.
- Go to **Mount Safa** and **Mount Marwa** for **sa'ay**. This is walking from one mount to the other seven times, just like **Hajar (as)** did. I will tell you more about that in a moment.

You can learn in more detail about Ihram and Talbiya in Migo & Ali: A-Z of Islam.

Then when it's the **8th** of **Dhul-Hijjah**, the days of **Hajj** begin, and we would set off to a place called **Mina**, which 8km from **Makkah**.



People walk or take a car. Everyone says the wonderful words of **talbiya** on the way. There are millions of people, but it is so **peaceful**, you can't imagine it until you are there! There will be people from all over the world, of every size, age, and colour; all going to do the same thing, with a **love of Allah** in their hearts.



In **Mina**, there are big white tents for people to stay in. We would pray Dhuhr, Asr, Maghrib and Isha and we would worship Allah by reciting Quran, making dhikr and duas. We would sleep in Mina and look forward to the next day, the **9th of Dhul-Hijjah**, which is the **Day of Arafah**.

After Fajr the next morning, we would set off for the area where **Mount Arafah** is. We would spend the **Day of Arafah** there and what an amazing day it is!

The day of Arafah is a very very special day. You can say it is **Allah Ta'aala's most favourite day**, and there is no day better than it! As for **Shaytan**, it is his **worst day**! He hates the day of Arafah. On this day he feels really grumpy and angry. That's because on this day, Allah sends down a great amount of mercy and forgives people.



Once the pilgrims (people who are doing hajj) get to Arafah they listen to a special talk at Dhuhr. They spend the whole day praying, reading Qur'an and making dua. Allah is so pleased with the people, He comes near to Earth (in a way that suits Him swt because He is not like humans and other things He created) and He says: **"Look at My servants. They have come from far and near, with hair all messy and faces covered with dust, to seek My mercy..."**

In Arafah there is a mountain called Mount Arafat or the Mount of Mercy. Prophet Muhammad (saw) stood near to it to give a talk to his people during Hajj.

Even if you're not on Hajj, this day is special! We should **fast on the day of Arafah** because if we do, insha'Allah our sins for the last year and the one to come will be forgiven. We should also carry on reciting Takbir, Tahmid, Tahleel and Tasbih.

After sunset, we would go to a place called **Muzdalifah**. We would do maghrib and Isha there and then we would spend the night there under the stars! There are no tents there. It feels very special to sleep that way, knowing Allah is close and pleased with you. In Muzdalifah, we would also collect small pebbles for the rami over the next three days of Hajj.

On the 10th of Dhul -Hijjah we would pray fajr and head back to Mina. This day is EID day for people who aren't doing Hajj. But for the pilgrims, it isn't Eid, they have other things to do! In Mina, there is a place with three pillars which are a **symbol of Shaytan**. It's not really him, it's a stone pillar, but part of Hajj is to remember any bad things that shaytan might have made you do, by giving you bad ideas, and throw pebbles at the pillars. On the 10th we would go to the first pillar and hit it with seven small pebbles.

Next, we would **sacrifice an animal**, for Allah, and give the meat to poor people to cook and enjoy. I'll tell you more about that in a while.

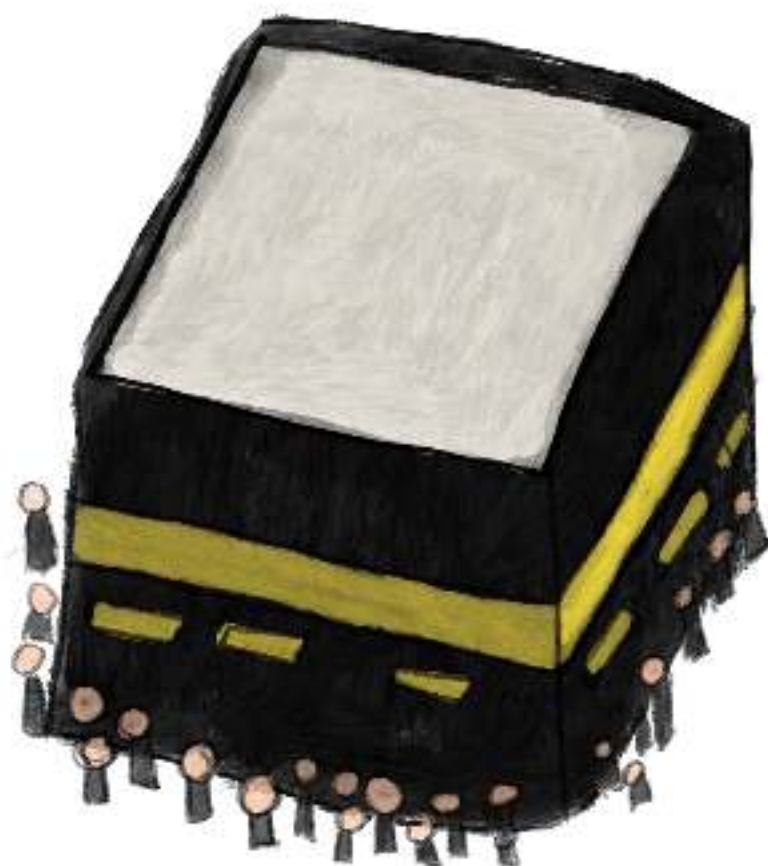


After that, we can **come out of Ihram**. You can come out of Ihram by cutting a bit of your hair if you are a girl or lady, or shaving your hair if you are a boy or man.

Then people go back to **Makkah** to do the **tawaaf** around the Kaaba, and the **sa'ay**, like you do for Umrah (see Umrah). For the next two days, the **11th and 12th of Dhul-Hijjah**, back in Mina,

the pilgrims throw stones at the Jamaraat again, but this time, at two more stone pillars that are symbols of Shaytan. After that, they can go back to Makkah and stay there for as long or little as they like.

Before leaving Makkah, the pilgrims do a 'goodbye' tawaaf around the Kaaba; thinking about their whole Hajj and how it made them feel; how it changed them and how lucky they were that Allah chose them to come for Hajj.



Ali: I can't wait to go for Umrah and Hajj insha'Allah, and see the Kaaba and drink the Zamzam water that came out when angel Jibreel (as) hit the ground.

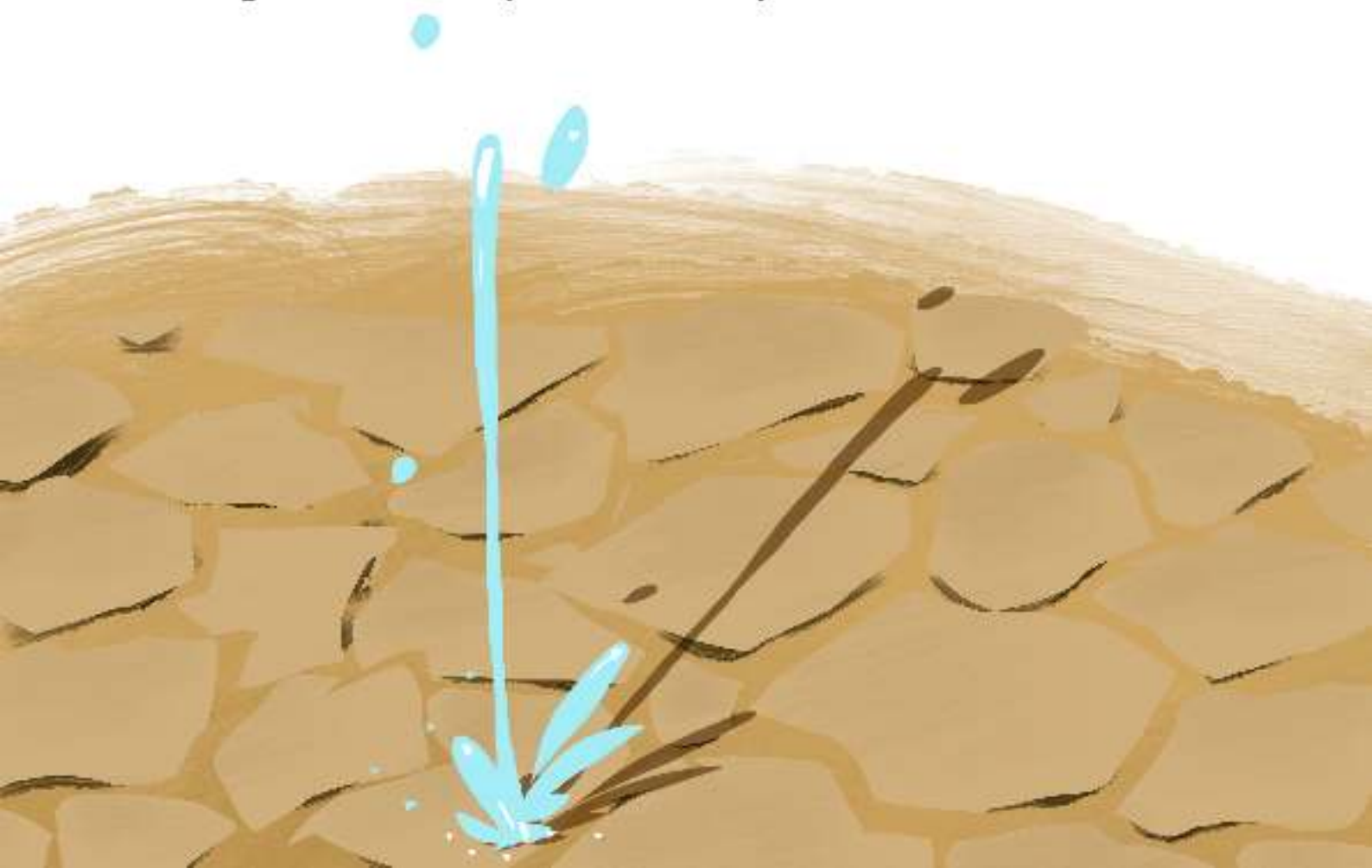
Migo: You clever little button. You remember that!

Ali: Yes, Migo, and I think Prophet Ibrahim (as) is special isn't he? Because he built the Kaaba and he's the reason we do the sacrifice.

Migo: Yes, Prophet Ibrahim (as) is very special. He is even called Allah's friend. He had an amazing life, with miracles and tough times too. And he got through it all with a great trust in Allah. Now that you have heard about the Hajj, you will see that every year, during Hajj, Muslims do what this great prophet and his family did.

You'll remember that Ibrahim (as) had to leave his baby son Ismail and his wife Hajar (as) in a desert, where there was no food or water.

Hajar (as) wasn't scared, because she knew that if Allah had asked her husband, a prophet, to do that, then Allah would surely look after them and Allah can make anything happen. But she didn't just sit there, when her baby was thirsty, she ran and ran from a mountain called Safa to a mountain called Marwa, looking for water. She ran between the mountains seven times and then Jibreel (as), a massive angel, came and hit the ground near the baby. Water started flowing from the ground. Lots of it and it hasn't stopped flowing to this day. It's the special Zamzam water.



Now, when we do Hajj and Umrah, we do the **sa'ay**, which is running between those **mounts Safa and Marwa**, like **Hajar (as)** did, and we drink the **Zamzam** water. Sa'ay actually means **'to try hard,'** just like **Hajar (as)** did.

Then when **Ismail (as)** was bigger, Allah gave **Ibrahim (as)** the chance to **show his absolute love for Allah** and to show that he would be able to **give up anything in the world**, because he is only completely attached to Allah. **Ibrahim (as)** had such **strong faith** in Allah, **love for Him and trust in Him**, that he was even willing to give up his son, **Ismail (as)**. But of course, Allah didn't want him to do that! He did love that his prophet was willing to let go of his son. **What a great sacrifice.** A sacrifice is when you give up something you love and want, for someone you love. For Muslims, our love for Allah should be more than the love for anything or anybody else.

Allah loved this strength and love from Ibrahim (as) so he gave him a ram to sacrifice and to share the meat with poor people so they can have a good meal. ALLah Loved it so much that He asked us to be like Ibrahim (as) and make a sacrifice every year on Eid AL-Adha, which is the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah for people on Hajj. This sacrifice is called the qurbani.



Ali: I love my toy car – the one that goes faster than the others – but I love Allah more!

Migo: Excellent. Nothing stays forever. Everything belongs to Allah and one day will go back to Him, so it's a good thing to remember that. I would give up the world's most delicious apple pie.

Ali: Haha, Migo, that's good. I know how hard it is for you to give up food. Especially pies.

Migo: haha, it's the hardest!

Ibrahim (as) was the first one to call people to Hajj, after he **built the Kaaba with Ismail (as)**. They built it together. Ismail (as) passed the stones to his father as he stood on a rock to build the Kaaba. The rock that he stood on has his footprints in it and is still found next to the Kaaba. When we do Umrah, we stop and pray there. It's called the **Maqam Ibrahim** or Place of Ibrahim.

Ali: And I know that Prophet Muhammad (saw) did Hajj too and showed everyone how to do it.

Migo: Absolutely. In the Prophet Muhammad's (saw) times, things had changed so much. He had to remove statues from the Kaaba, which people had put there over time and started to pray to. He showed all the Muslims how to do Hajj and he gave a special talk at Arafah.

Read more about Prophet Ibrahim's (as) and Prophet Muhammad's (saw) stories in Migo & Ali: Love for the Prophets.



Visit our website to browse these popular Islamic books.

muslimchildrensbooks.co.uk

