

THE STORY OF HIJRA

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) first started to tell people about the message of Islam, and they should only worship the One True Lord of all Creation. The disbelievers of Makkah were angry that they were told that they should not worship idols. These idols were made of stone and all sorts of materials (some were even made of dates).

Slowly and secretly the Muslims started to travel to Madinah, and The Prophet (peace be upon him) was waiting for Allah The Almighty to order him to leave and travel to Madinah.

The Quraish had planned to surround the Prophet's house with a group of strong young men, one from each tribe, to kill him when he left his house. Allah revealed their plans to the Prophet and so `Ali ibn Abi Talib agreed to sleep in the Prophet's house that night. The Prophet (peace be upon him) threw some sand at faces of the waiting men and recited some words from the Qur'an, and walked passed them. They were unable to see him as he walked past their very eyes. Therefore, Muhammad (peace be upon him) was able to leave his house safely.

The next morning the young men who had been chosen to kill the Prophet discovered `Ali in the Prophet's house and they were confused. How had Muhammad (peace be upon him) escaped?

The Prophet (PBUH) then headed towards Abu Bakr's house they got some things for the journey and then left Makkah for Yathrib. They also had the company of Abu Bakr's daughter, Asma, with them for the first part of their journey. They did not head directly for Yathrib, but went in the opposite direction towards Mount. Thawr, in the south. They knew the Makkans would come after them when they discover Muhammad (peace be upon him) had escaped from them.

While the Prophet (peace be upon him) and Abu Bakr were in the cave a group of men stepped very close to the entrance of the cave. Abu Bakr could see their feet and was very afraid the Prophet (peace be upon him) would be found, The Prophet (peace be upon him) comforted Abu Bakr, that they should not fear as Allah was with them, and indeed, Allah the Almighty protected them. He caused a bird to build a nest and lay eggs at the entrance of the cave and a spider to spin its web across the cave entrance. In this way, the enemies were convinced that he could not possible be in the cave.

When the time was right, The Prophet (peace be upon him) and Abu Bakr left the cave and continued on their journey to Madinah. It was a long and difficult journey and the Muslims were in Madinah, eagerly awaiting their arrival.