



"In the Name of God."

Hiru no Hoshi

No. 247

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***"Recite!
In the name of
your Lord,
who created
human life
from an
embryo."***

Angel Gabriel to Muhammad



The children were walking with Mother to the park one sunny Saturday afternoon in Okinawa, when Mona suddenly commented,

“We were studying about Arabia in Social Studies class yesterday. The book talked about Islam as the religion of Arabia. Isn't that the religion of Muhammad? Did He come from Arabia?”

Mother was helping Anisa pick some wild flowers, when she looked up and answered, “Yes, there is an interesting story, about Muhammad's ancestor coming to live in Arabia. The Prophet Abraham had a son named Ishmael, and he and his mother were sent into the Arabian dessert. They were about to die because there was no water, when the boy's mother prayed for help. The Angel Gabriel came down and pointed to a place in the sand, and suddenly water sprang up from it. This well was called Zamzam. It was considered the Water of Life. Ishmael and his heirs were given the right to this water for all time. Near where the well bubbled up, Abraham built the great Kaaba, a large square building with a black stone in it that Adam had used for the first place of worship to Allah (God).”

“I have heard of that place!” put in Asma, “The Muslims walk around it for pilgrimage.”

“At first Ishmael and his descendants worshiped God,” continued Mother,

“But sadly they gradually fell into idol worshipping...(worshipping statues)...and strangely the Water of Life in Zamzam dried up and disappeared and no one could remember where exactly it was.”

“Zamzam!” cried Riaz, “What a funny name!”

“Shhh!” said Shahla. “Let me listen to the story, Riaz!”

“So for a long time there was no water in Mecca and they had to travel a long way to carry water into the city every day. Muhammad's grandfather was a direct descendant of Ishmael, and a very strong believer in God, when most everyone else in Mecca were idol worshiper. He was determined to find Zamzam and bring back the Water of Life to Mecca. Muhammad's



grandfather was sure he could find it because prophecies said that only when men returned to God, would the Water of Life return.

Around the time that Muhammad was born he did find it!"

"Wow, so that is a double meaning right, Mom?" put in Mona. "The Water of Life could mean the water you drink that saves your life, or it could mean the spiritual teachings from God that Muhammad brought."

Mother gave Mona a big smile.

"Exactly!" Then she continued.

"Muhammad's father died right around the time that Muhammad was born. Soon after He was born, Muhammad's mother gave Him to a Bedouin woman who lived in the desert. This was the custom with wealthy women in Mecca because the air was so bad there, babies would die if they stayed in Mecca."

"Ohhh, poor baby," said Anisa, "far away from His mommy!"

"It was OK," said Mother, "The Bedouin mother loved Muhammad just like her own son. The Bedouins traveled the desert on camels buying and selling animals and other things. They were great storytellers, and had a warm and loving community life. Until Muhammad was about five years old, He lived with them and was part of their life. One time when He was about two years old, His foster brother, who was only a couple of years older than Him, came running into the tent to say, 'Two men are hurting my brother!' Muhammad's foster mother ran out to the desert and the men of the tribe ran after her. They saw Muhammad lying on the ground on His back, He was very weak. When she yelled at the men to go and



catch the men that had done this, they were confused, they just stood there, because there were no footprints in the sand except for Muhammad's. The foster brother always insisted that two men had put their hands into Muhammad chest and had done something. The foster mother believed him because Muhammad was always different, a more spiritual, sweeter child, than any she had ever know."

"Angels right, it was angels that touched His heart, right, Mom?!?" shouted Riaz.

Mother smiled and continued.

"Soon after Muhammad went back to live with His true mother, she died and Muhammad was an orphan. He was only about five years old then."

"Ahhhh, how sad!" said Shahla. "I don't like sad stories!"

Again Mother smiled, and continued.

"His uncle adopted Him and treated Him just like his own son. And His grandfather loved Him very much too, so He had lots of people to love Him. One day when Muhammad was around six years old, His uncle found Him in an alley watching a mouse eating some grain. The uncle came up to Him, and Muhammad said...'It has no idea of the danger.' The uncle didn't know what He was talking about so Muhammad pointed up to the sky, and high above them was a tiny, black speck, a hawk! It was waiting to pounce on the mouse."

"Oh, I get it!" said Asma, "It is the same as us not knowing what danger we are in by living just material lives, and forgetting the spiritual side of life!"

"Wow, Asma! How did you figure that out?" asked Mona.

"Well, He is a Manifestation of God, so everything He says probably has a meaning, even if He was a kid!" The rest of the kids joined Mona in shaking their heads in wonder at Asma's observation.

Mother continued, "Muhammad used to go with His uncle on the caravans traveling from one city to another buying and selling things. One day as they were returning home to Mecca, a message came from a Christian monk who lived in a cave near Mecca. The message invited all of the people in the caravan to a banquet at the monk's cave. All the men went but the uncle left



Muhammad at home because he was only about 11 years old at the time. The monk had spent all the money he had saved his whole life on this one dinner. The monk kept looking expectantly at each face all through dinner. When the dinner was over, he looked so sad and disappointed. As they were leaving Muhammad's uncle said, 'Oh, I am so sorry, I am taking these dates to my son.' With that the monk got very excited, 'What? There was another person in the caravan? Why did you not bring Him! I told everyone in the caravan to come! Bring Him! Bring Him!' So the uncle went and brought Muhammad back. Muhammad shyly stood behind His uncle. The monk said 'This is not your son! Who is this Child?' And the uncle told him it was his nephew. The Monk explained, 'I have been waiting so, so long, because I was told by God that, *When the sun's face is hidden, God would bring His last Prophet.* Today I saw a cloud in the always cloudless Arabian sky, and that cloud covered the sun, casting shade on one wagon of your caravan. That shade followed that one wagon from far out in the desert, all the way to back to Mecca. That wagon was the one that this Boy was riding in. He is the Prophet foretold in the Bible.' "

With this all the children clapped their hands. "Yeah!" they said.

"As Muhammad grew up," continued Mother, "He helped His merchant uncle more and more with his business. Muhammad became know everywhere as, Al-Amin, 'the Trusted One'. He spent much of His time helping the poor and standing up for those who had no rights, like women and children and poor people."

"That sounds just like Baha'u'llah!" said Shahla.

"..and Buddah, too!" said Asma.

"Duh," said Riaz, "He is a Manifestation of God, ya know!"

"Well, of course no one knew that yet. It wasn't until after He married Khadijah and they had four daughters, that the Angel Gabriel came to





Muhammad to tell Him it was time for Him to start telling the people of this New Message.”

“With Christ it happened with a Dove coming down when John the Baptist was baptizing Him,” said Mona.

“Yeah, and with Buddha it was when He was meditating under the Bo Tree,” said Riaz, pleased with himself that he remembered.

“And with Baha’ullah it was in the Dark Pit Prison,” whispered Shahla in a quiet voice.

“Well, Muhammad was in a cave that He used to go to when he needed to escape the greed and selfishness of Mecca,” continued Mother. “The Angel Gabriel came to Muhammad and told Him, ‘Recite!’

Muhammad turned away from the Angel, not wanting this terribly difficult assignment. ‘Recite!’ the Angel commanded again. Again Muhammad turned away.

Putting His arms around Muhammad and holding Him tightly the Angel commanded again with all the force of God, ‘RECITE!!’,.. And what do you think He did?” asked Mother.

“HE RECITED!” shouted all the children.

Mother laughed and continued,

“No, He ran out of the cave and up to Mount Hira. He climbed all the way to the top and was going to throw Himself to the bottom of the mountain, because He didn’t want this job that God had given Him. But when He looked out at Mecca far below in the distance, He breathed in the Power of God, and He decided to..... Recite!”

“YEAH!” shouted the children.

“What does that mean, Mom? Recite?” asked Riaz.

“It means, to say what God puts in His mouth. Not words from His own head,” Mother explained.

“So, when Muhammad got back to His home, He told His wife Khadijah what had happened. She was the very first person to believe that He was the Voice of God. Most of the rest of His family, uncles, cousins



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and such, all turned against Him. Because Muhammad was telling everyone what God spoke through Him, and that there was only one God in the whole universe, Allah, means God in Arabic. So He recited, "There is no god but Allah (God)!" He told them to get rid of all the idols in the Kaaba. That is what made everyone so mad, because Mecca relied on the business from the pilgrims who came from all over and from many different countries to worship the idols. They were afraid if they got rid of the idols people wouldn't come to buy their goods anymore."

"That's selfish!" said little Anisa and everyone laughed.

"Muhammad and His followers were chased out of Mecca. They ran away to Medina. Then eventually, after many years, they had many hundreds or thousands of followers and they came back to Mecca. They took over the Kaaba and returned it to the worship of God like Adam and Abraham had intended."

"Yeah!" shouted the children again.

"All through Muhammad's long life He recited what God (Allah) told Him to say. The Koran is those verses that God gave Muhammad to say.

Some of the teachings of Muhammad are the Five Pillars of Faith.

1. The declaration of Faith "There is no god but Allah(God) and Muhammad is His Messenger."
2. Obligatory prayer five times a day.
3. Giving to the poor.
4. Fasting
5. And, Pilgrimage to Mecca, to circle the Kaaba.

"So," finished Mother, "What do you guys think? Any questions?"

Just as she asked that, they all arrived at the park. The children suddenly disappeared, running off in all different directions to play ball, or slide down the grassy hill on cardboard, or play on the swings.

Only little Anisa remained, holding Mother's hand.

"Well, Anisa, I guess there are no questions!" laughed Mother.

"Let's go swing on the swings!"

"Yeah!" shouted Anisa.

And that is just what they did.



Quiz

1. Who brought the water of life to Abraham's son Ismael?

2. Where was that?

3. Who raised Muhammad until He was 5 years old?

4. What did Muhammad say about the mouse that was eating the grain?

5. How did the Christian Monk know that Muhammad was special?

6. In the cave, what did the Angel Gabriel tell Muhammad to do?

7. Who was the first to believe that Muhammad spoke with the voice of God?

8. Was the rest of His family happy that Muhammad was teaching about God?

9. What are the 5 main things that Muhammad taught?



How did you do? Did you get them all right?

The answers are on the Parents' Page.

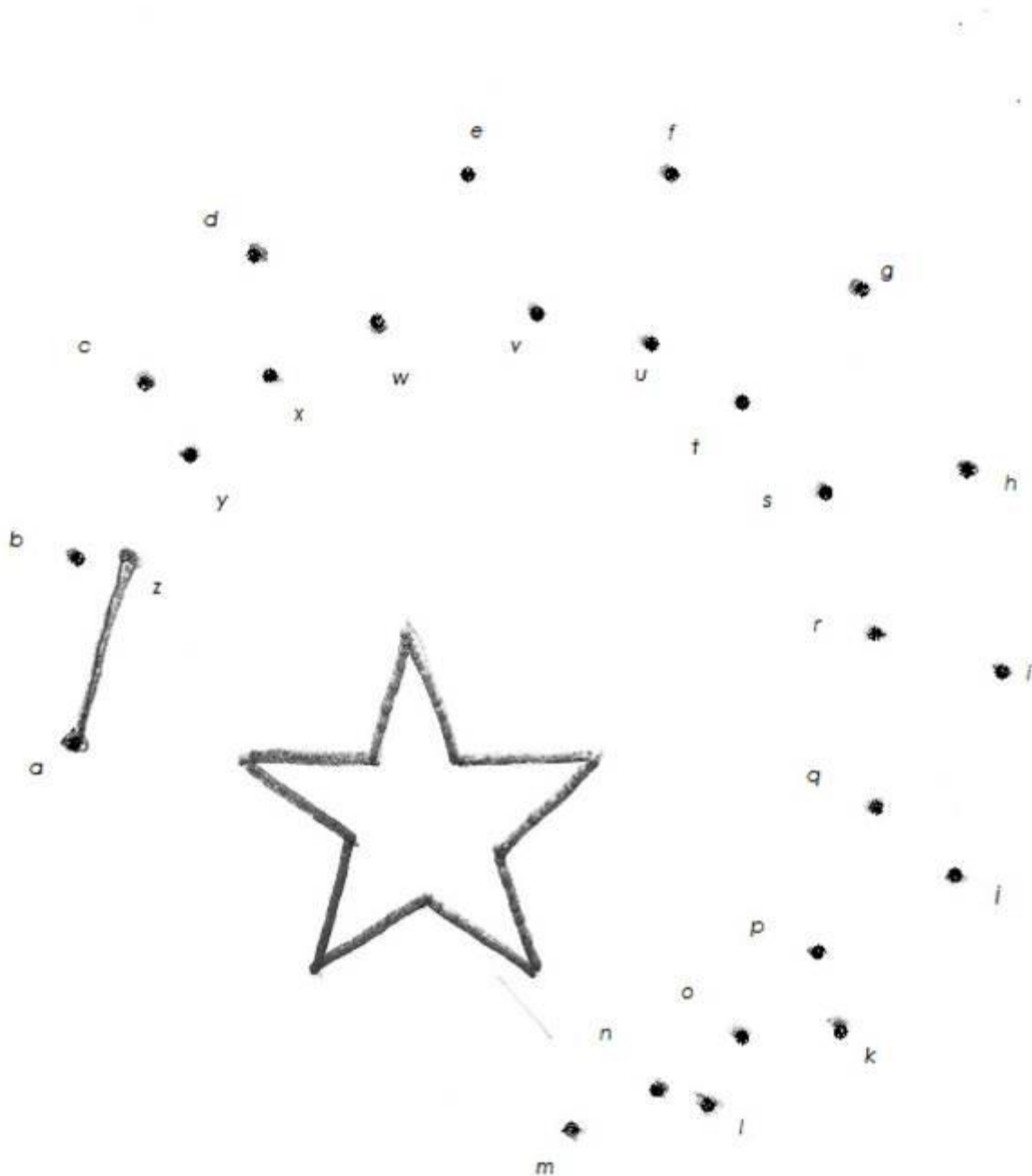
From a to b....

From b to c....

Follow the dots... and what do you see?

One of the symbols of Islam,

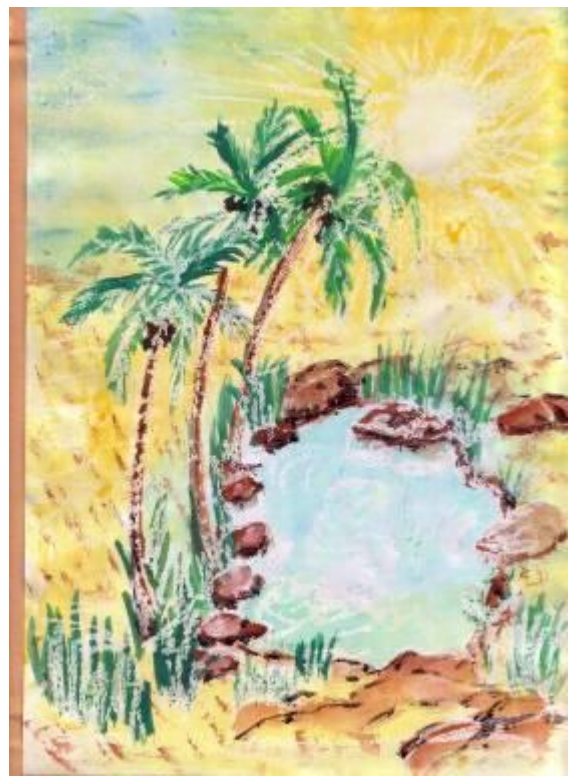
Please color it nicely



Candle Painting

Materials

- 1 piece of white paper
- 1 long white candle
- 1 box of paints and a pallet for mixing paint
- 1 paint brush
- Some tissues
- Construction paper for backing.



Method

- *Tape the picture on the next page to a window.
- *Tape a white piece of paper over that so you can see the picture underneath.
- *Trace the picture using the white candle.(use a lot of candle for the sun so it stays white and a lot of candle lines in the water, for ripples)
- *Paint the picture with the paints.
- *The large spaces of sun and sand you can use a wet tissue soaked in paint.
- *Don't be afraid to mix the paints....put a dab of yellow and a dab of white on the tissue and dab the sand or sun...a dab of blue and a dab of white is good for the water.
- *Use the paint brush for the small places.
- *Glue your picture onto the construction paper.

Maybe this is what Zamzam looked like.



The idea for the picture came from a book called "Zahra's Search",
Illustrated by Winifred Barnum Newman



Everyone Photos



Parents Page

The Divine, life giving water, descends upon us from Lips of the Manifestations of God, pure and sweet. As that water flows down the mountain, someone will wash their hands in it, and further downstream someone will bathe in it, another will wash their clothes in it, then further downstream a shepherd will lead his flock to drink in the water. The further downstream, the more people use the water, so, the more contaminated it becomes. The crystal clear water becomes unrecognizable. This is the story of every religion, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. The more years that have passed since the Manifestation lived, the more man has changed these Teachings. This is the cause of Holy Wars and religious fighting. None of the Great Teachers taught anything but love, and peace and service to mankind.



For example, Muhammad taught that the Christians and the Jews were of the same “Book” and should be considered as brothers. He also taught that it was forbidden to kill an innocent; a woman, a child, an old man, a laborer or anyone. It was only, not forbidden, to kill another warrior. How different is that from how people see Islam today.

It is important that we teach our children about the lives and teachings of these Holy Beings, the Manifestations of God, like Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Christ, Muhammad, the Bab and Baha’u’llah. Then when they see someone of a different religion doing anything to hurt someone else, they will know that is that person’s weakness, not the teachings of the religion. This is how the unity of religions and mankind can come about.

Answers to the Quiz 1)The Angel Gabriel. 2) The Arabian Desert. 3) A Bedouin Woman. 4) “It has no idea of the danger.” 5)A cloud followed His wagon and gave Him shade just like the prophesy. 6) He told Muhammad to “RECITE!” 7) Kahdijah, His wife. 8) No they didn’t like it. 9)To say the declaration of Faith, say the Obligatory Prayer 5 times a day, Giving to the poor, Fasting, Pilgrimage to Mecca.





If you have stories of your children learning a virtue or anything connected to the Faith, please send them to us, so we can have stories of “A little boy in Yamaguchi” or “A little girl in Akita”. You can either write the story yourself or send the details and we will write the story. Either English or Japanese is fine. We also are waiting for pictures of Children’s Classes from your community, or drawings from your children. Please send all stories and pictures to hirunohoshi@gmail.com or vb7mb7@bma.biglobe.ne.jp

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