

## Lesson 7 - The Dream

### **Learning Objectives**

- To reflect upon and apply the trait of steadfastness to religion as taught by Prophet Ismail
- To understand that Allah (swt) uses various mediums to communicate with His chosen ones

One night Prophet Ibrahim had a strange dream. He dreamt that he was sacrificing his son upon Allah (swt)'s command. Prophet Ibrahim dismissed the dream as a nightmare. However, he dreamt the same dream for a second time. Again, he dismissed the dream and ignored it. The third night, Prophet Ibrahim saw the dream again. This time, he pondered upon it and realised that it was actually Allah (swt) communicating with him through the dream.

Prophet Ibrahim loved his son dearly, especially as he was granted to him in such an advanced age when there was no more hope for a child, yet he was ready to sacrifice him if that was what Allah (swt) wanted. So he spoke to Prophet Ismail about the dream:

*"And when he reached with him [the age of] exertion, he said, 'O my son, indeed I have seen in a dream that I [must] sacrifice you, so see what you think.' He said, 'O my father, do as you are commanded. You will find me, if Allah wills, of the steadfast.'" – Surah as-Saffat 37:102*

Prophet Ismail was willing to go through with the sacrifice as that was what Allah (swt) has commanded and he showed utmost steadfastness and faith in Allah (swt).

This is a very strong statement from Prophet Ismail that we can take many lessons from. His steadfastness and faith in Allah (swt) meant that he was willing to give up everything and sacrifice his life according to Allah (swt)'s command. We too should always strive to remain steadfast on the path of Islam, during both joyous and difficult times.

*Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq (as) said, "After this (during the ghaybat of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam) a time of such doubt will befall you that you will be without the visible signs and a guiding Imam. And no one shall be able to achieve salvation from this except those who recite 'Dua al-Ghareeq':*

*"Ya Allahu. Ya Rahmani. Ya Raheem. Ya muqallib al-quloob, thabbit qalbi 'ala deenik.*

*Oh Allah! Oh Beneficent! Oh Merciful! Oh Turner of hearts! Make my heart steadfast on Your religion."*

This is a short dua and easy to memorise. Let's make a practice of reciting this after every salaah.

Allah (swt) says in the Qur'an:

*"Indeed, those who have said, 'Our Lord is Allah' and then remained steadfast - the angels will descend upon them (at the time of death) saying, 'Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.'" – Surah al-Fussilat 41:30*

With the strength in eiman and steadfastness towards the command of Allah (swt) showed by Prophet Ismail, Prophet Ibrahim was further encouraged to complete the task as per his dream. Thus they headed off towards Mount Arafah to perform the sacrifice.

### **Discussion:**

- What other ways has Allah (swt) used to communicate with the chosen ones? [Inspiration, angel, extraordinary event eg fiery tree for Prophet Musa...]

- How can we practice steadfastness in our faith? [*Trust in Allah (swt), duas eg Dua al-Ghareeq, use Ahlulbayt as role models*]
- What sacrifices do we make in our daily lives in obedience to Allah (swt)? [*performing salah on time when we have other things to do, giving of charity, controlling anger...*]