

My First Book on Palestine



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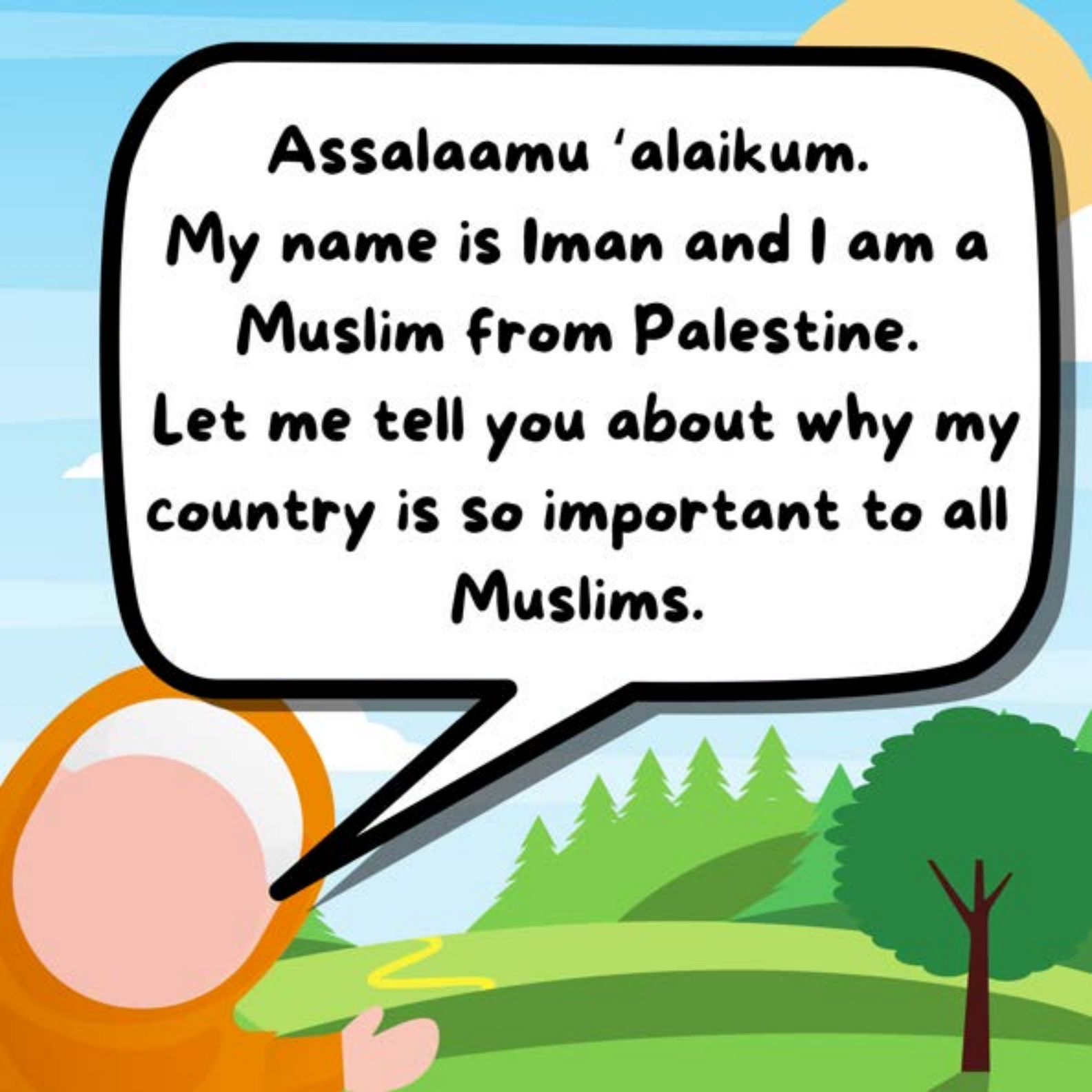
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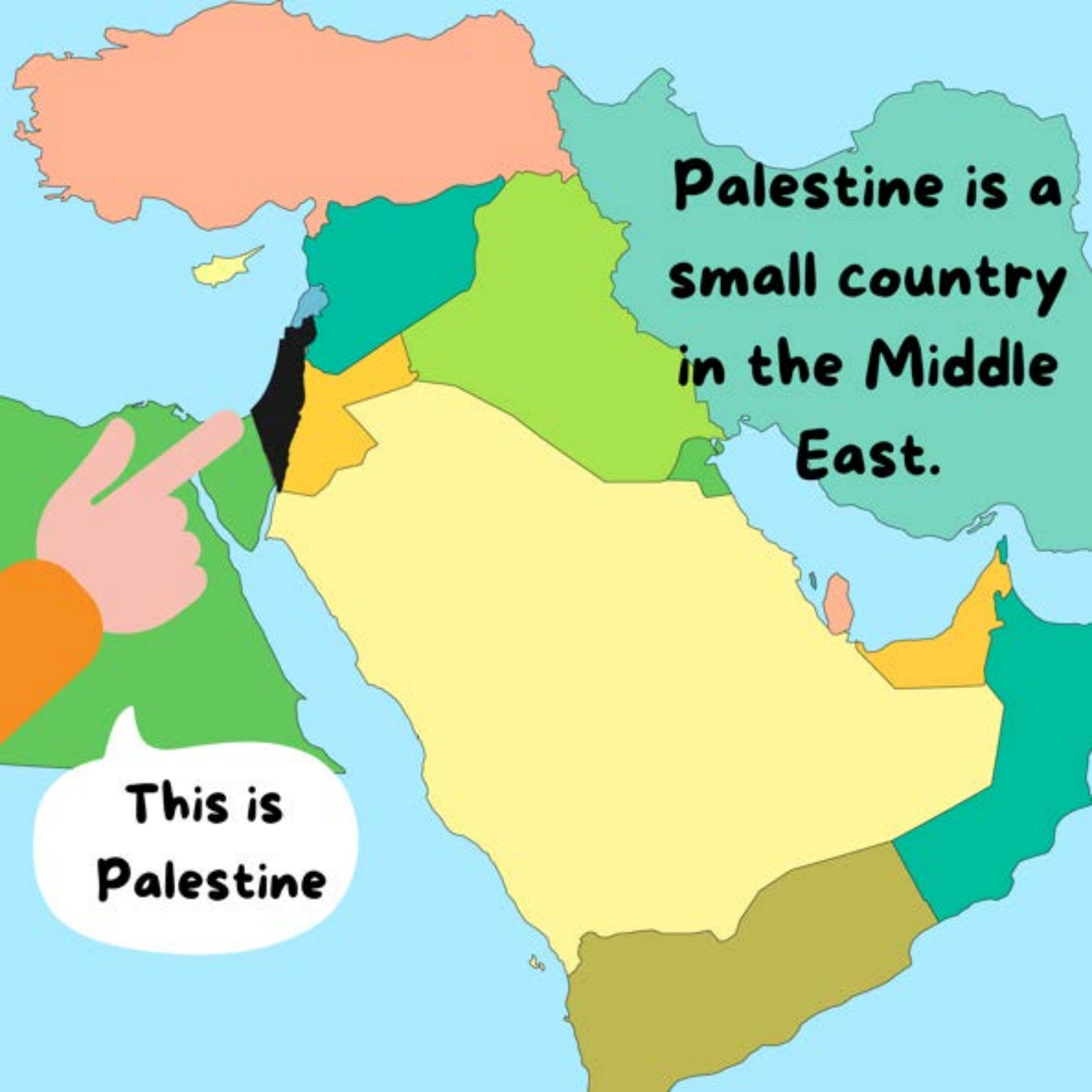
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**Assalaamu 'alaikum.
My name is Iman and I am a
Muslim from Palestine.
Let me tell you about why my
country is so important to all
Muslims.**



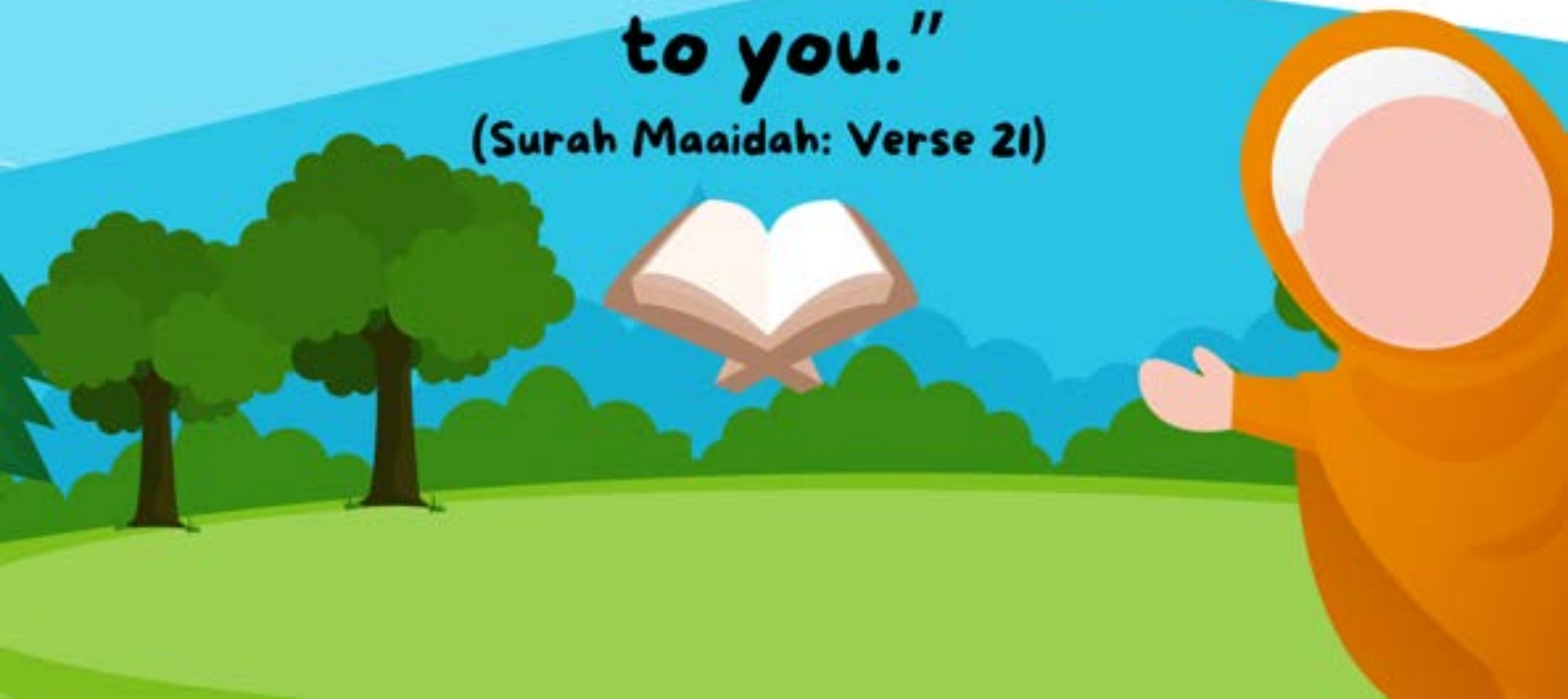
**Palestine is a
small country
in the Middle
East.**

**This is
Palestine**

**In the Noble Qur'aan, Allaah
has named Palestine
"The Holy Land":**

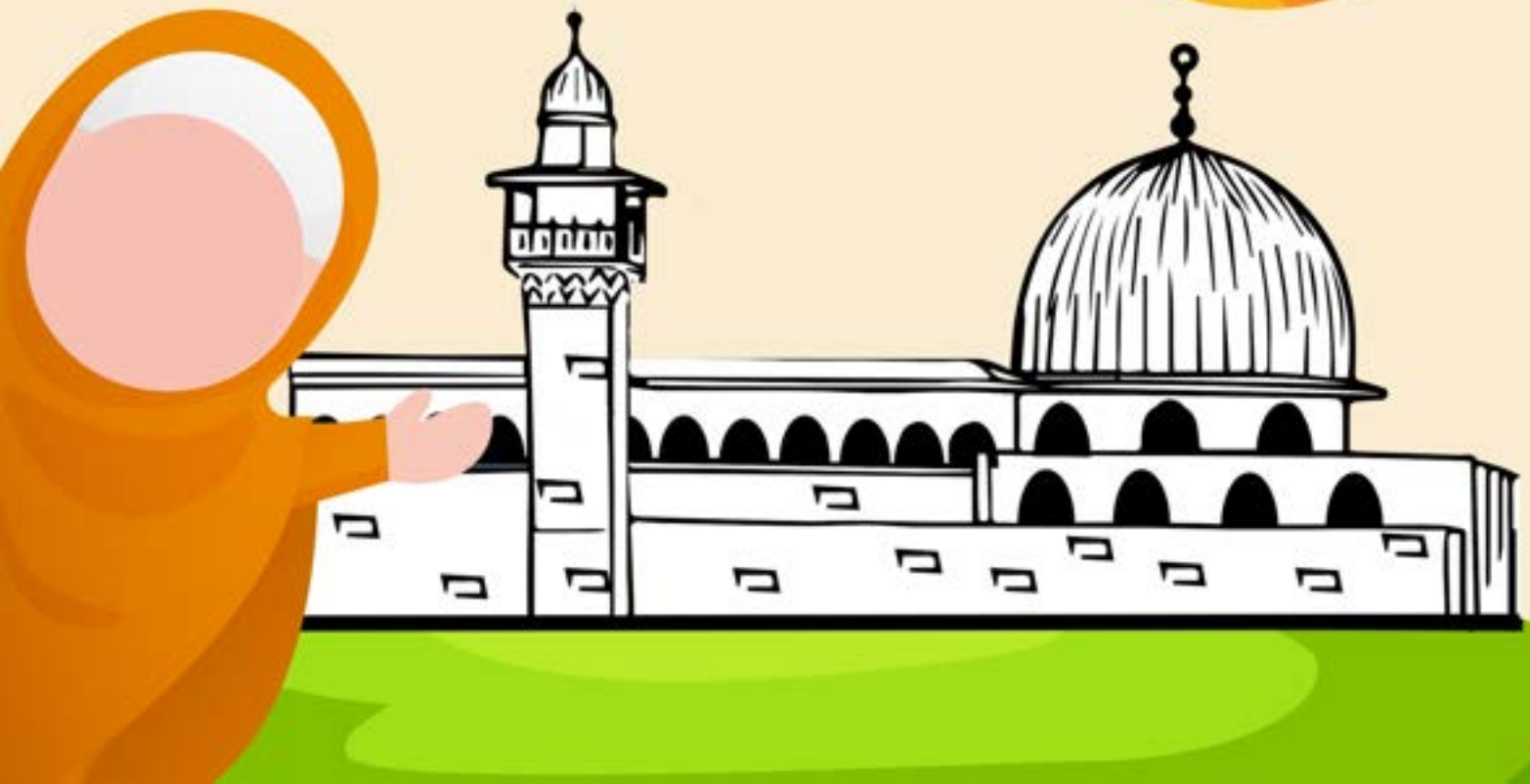
**"O my people, enter the Holy
Land which Allaah has assigned
to you."**

(Surah Maaidah: Verse 21)



**There is a very special masjid in
my country.**

**Can you guess
what it's called?**



That's right!

**It's Masjid al-Aqsa, also named
Bayt al-Maqdis.**

**It is in a courtyard in the heart of
Al-Quds, Jerusalem.**



Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said:
"No journey should be made except
to three masajaad, Masjid al-Haram,
Masjid an-Nabwi and Masjid
al-Aqsa."

(Bukhaari: 1132)



Praying in Masjid al-Aqsa gives the worshipper a quarter of the reward of prayers in Masjid an-Nabwi.⁽¹⁾



Masjid al-Aqsa is also special because it was the first qiblah for the Muslims.⁽²⁾



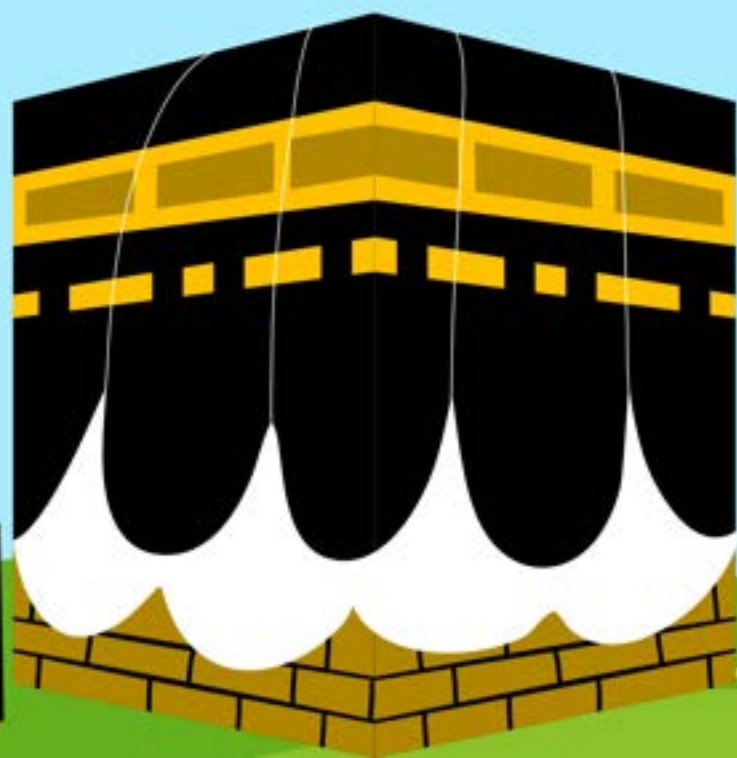
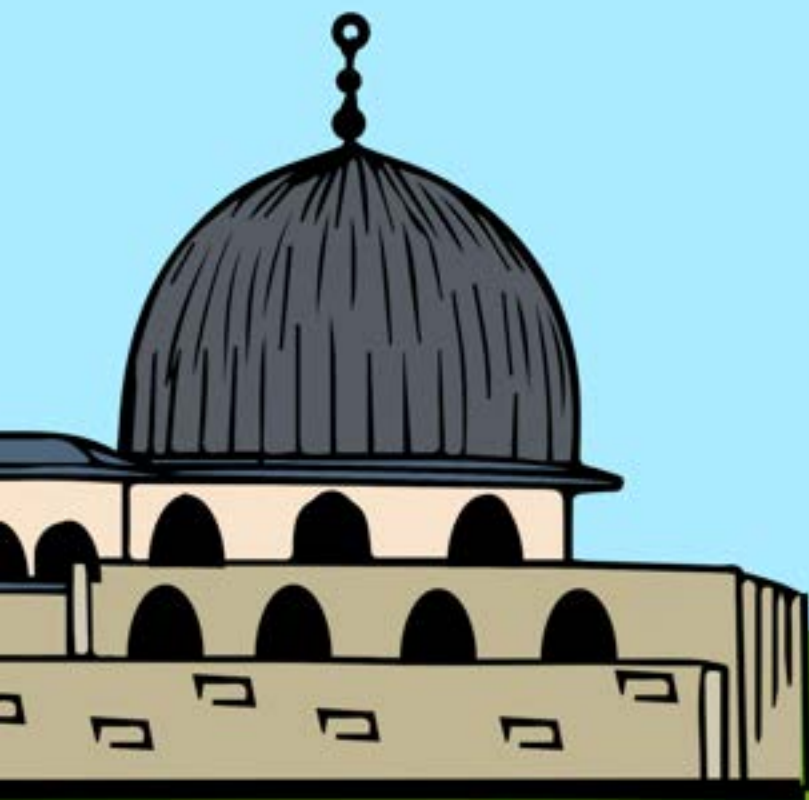
The qibla is the direction toward which Muslims face to offer their prayers.



Another reason why Palestine is very special to the Muslims is because it was home to many prophets, such as Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام. He lived in Palestine with his son Prophet Ishaq عليه السلام and grandson Prophet Ya'qub عليه السلام ⁽³⁾.



Prophet Ya'qub ﷺ built Masjid
al-Aqsa. It was built forty years
after the Ka'bah.⁽⁴⁾



Ya'qub (also called Israel) **عليه السلام** was
blessed with 12 sons including his
favourite son Prophet Yusuf **عليه السلام**.⁽⁵⁾

From Ya'qub's offspring came
Bani Israel (children of Israel).

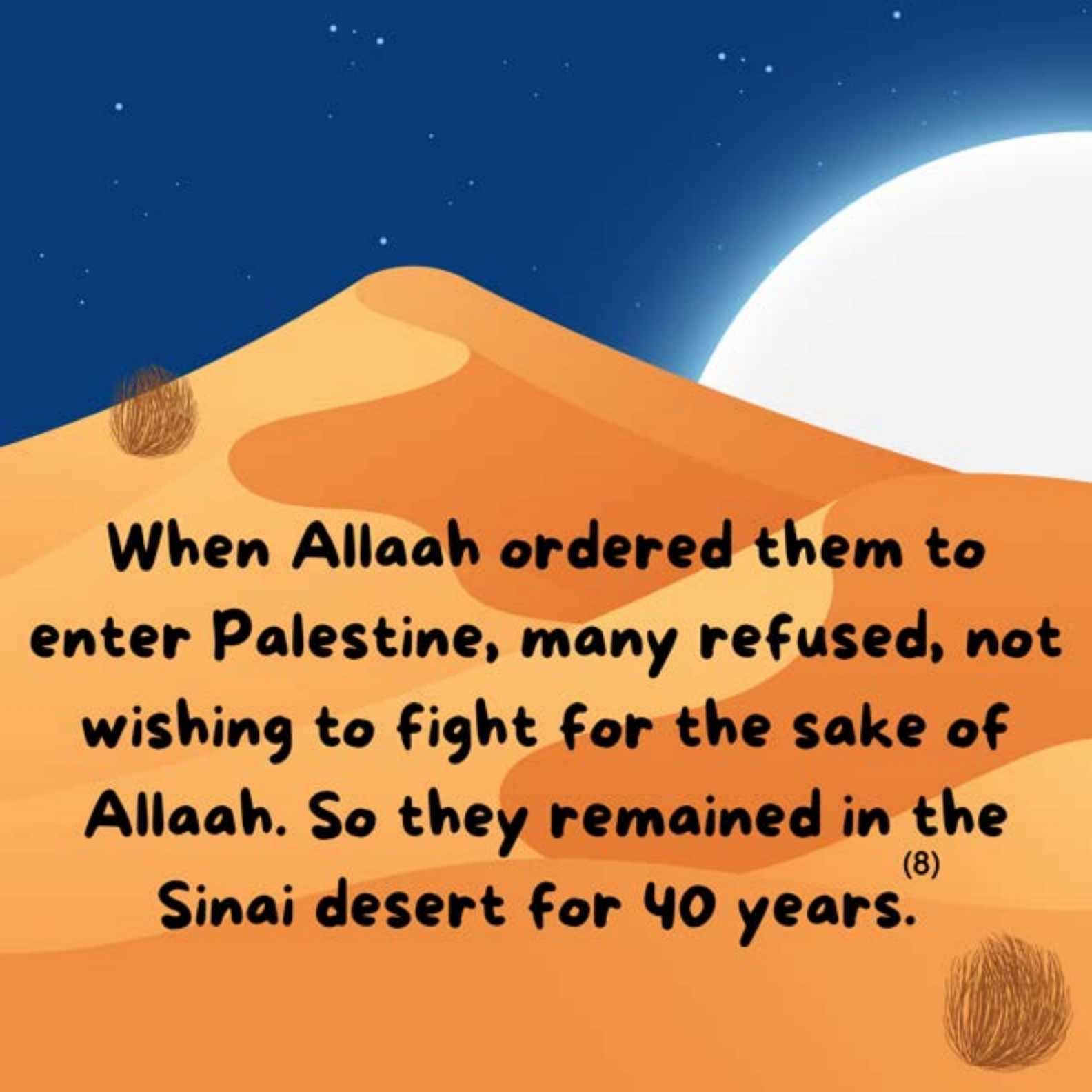


Prophet Yusuf عليه السلام was forced to leave Palestine. He went through many years of hardship and later became the governor of Egypt. This is when he sent for all of his family to move to Egypt.⁽⁶⁾



Many generations later, Bani Israel were taken as slaves by the pharaohs. Allaah raised Prophet Musa عليه السلام amongst them. He led them out of slavery and across the Red Sea into the Sinai desert.⁽⁷⁾





When Allaah ordered them to enter Palestine, many refused, not wishing to fight for the sake of Allaah. So they remained in the Sinai desert for 40 years.

(8)

During this time, Musa عليه السلام wished to enter the holy land (Palestine) but passed away before he could enter it. Allaah sent another Prophet called Yusha عليه السلام who was a brave soldier.⁽⁹⁾ Yusha عليه السلام fought with an army of believers and conquered the holy land.




Then years later Allaah sent
another Prophet called
Dawud عليه السلام. Allaah made him the
king of Palestine. ⁽¹⁰⁾



Dawud عليه السلام had a son called Sulaiman عليه السلام. He too was a prophet. Allaah gave him the special ability that no other prophet had, to control winds and speak to the animals and jinn. ⁽¹¹⁾



The background features a bright blue sky with a large yellow sun in the top right corner and several white, fluffy clouds. In the foreground, there are stylized trees with brown, leafless branches. The ground is depicted with a red brick pattern. In the middle ground, several brown, jagged structures represent ruined buildings. Some of these structures have rectangular openings, and others are partially collapsed. Two tall, thin grey poles stand in the center, with black lines or wires stretching between them. The overall scene conveys a sense of desolation and the aftermath of destruction.


**Over the years, Masjid al-Aqsa
fell into ruin. Sulaiman عليه السلام ordered
his people to rebuild the broken
down masjid.**

Palestine was also home to many more prophets after Sulaiman عليه السلام. They were Prophets Zakariya عليه السلام, his son Yahya عليه السلام and 'Eesa son of Maryam عليه السلام.



Maryam the mother of 'Eesa عليه السلام,
was born in Palestine. She
dedicated her life to the worship
of Allaah in a small room in
Masjid al-Aqsa.⁽¹²⁾



'Eesa  spent many years calling his people to worship Allaah alone. He showed them many miracles as signs of his Prophethood. ⁽¹³⁾





Sadly, many did not believe
'Eesa **عليه السلام** and they made a plan
to kill him, but Allaah saved him.
Allaah raised 'Eesa **عليه السلام** to the
heavens and one day he will
⁽¹⁴⁾
return.

Our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also
visited Masjid al-Aqsa during a
special night journey where he led
all the prophets in prayer.

Allaah says in the Qur'aan:

"Exalted is He, who took His
Servant by night from Masjid
al-Haram to Masjid al-Aqsa,
whose surroundings we have
blessed, to show him Our signs.
Indeed, He is the All Hearing, the
All Seeing." (17:1)



This night journey is called Isra' wal mi'raaj. Our Prophet ﷺ travelled to Masjid al-Aqsa and then to heaven on a white beast named Buraq.⁽¹⁵⁾

It was during this night journey that the Prophet ﷺ was told that Muslims must pray 5 times a day.⁽¹⁶⁾



Years later the Prophet
Muhammad ﷺ gathered an army
to conquer Jerusalem. Usama bin
Zaid رضي الله عنه was put in charge of the
army. The Prophet ﷺ
(17) passed
away before the army left.



'Umar bin Khattab رضي الله عنه was the second ruler over the Muslims after the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم died. He was able to enter Jerusalem without any fighting because the people of Jerusalem surrendered to him.



Upon entering Masjid al-Aqsa
'Umar رضي الله عنه and the believers
cleaned the courtyard and built
Masjid al-Qibly within the
grounds of Masjid al-Aqsa.



**From the time of 'Umar رضي الله عنه
Muslims, Christians and Jews
lived peacefully together in
Palestine for many years.**



So you see there are lots of reasons why Palestine is so important to Islaam and the Muslims. Please keep this blessed land and its people in your duas.

**May Allaah protect the Muslims,
guide us and forgive us all.
Aameen.**

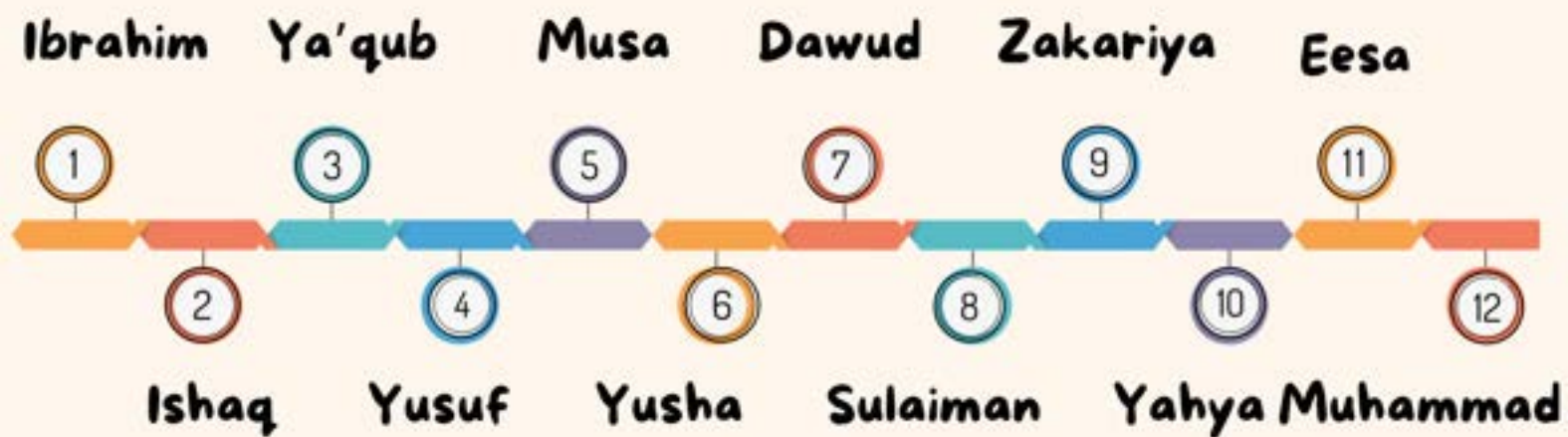


MASJID AL-AQSA

This entire boxed area is Masjid al Aqsa.



Timeline of the Prophets mentioned in this book



Glossary

Allaah: The Name of the One True God.

Assalaamu 'alaikum: A greeting in Arabic that means 'Peace be upon you'.

Qur'aan: A revelation from Allaah and His speech.

Our Prophet: (Muhammad) The final messenger sent from Allaah to guide mankind.

صَلَّىٰ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ : (Salallahu 'alayhi wasalaam), May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him (Muhammad).

عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام : ('Alayhis salaam), May peace be upon him.

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ : (radiy Allaahu anhu), May Allaah be pleased with him.

Masaajid: Plural of masjid (Mosque).

Jinn: A creation of Allaah made from smokeless fire.

References

Main source was a lecture on the History of Masjid Al-Aqsa and Palestine By Shaykh Muhammad ibn Salih Al-Uthaymeen (May Allaah have mercy on him). Available on YouTube.

(1) The Messenger of Allaah ﷺ said "Prayer in this Masjid of mine is better than a thousand prayers in any other masjid, except the Sacred Masjid."

(Bukhari 1190 and Muslim 1394)

It was reported that Abu Dharr (radiyallaah anhu) said: we were discussing in the presence of the Prophet ﷺ which of them was more virtuous, the mosque of the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ or Bayt al-Maqdis. The Messenger of Allaah ﷺ said: One prayer in my mosque is better than four prayers there, but it is still a good place of prayer. Soon there will come a time when if a man has a spot of land as big as his horse's rope from which he can see Bayt al-Maqdis, that will be better for him than the whole world.

(Sahih by al-Haakim, 4/509)

(2) It was narrated that Al-Bara (radiyallaah anhu) said: "We prayed toward Bait Al-Maqdis with the Messenger of Allaah ﷺ for sixteen or seventeen months then it was changed to the Qiblah." (Sunan an-Nasa'i 488)

(3) Narrated Ibn `Umar (radiyallaah anhu): The Prophet ﷺ said, "The honorable is the son of the honorable, the son the honorable, i.e. Yusuf, the son of Ya'qub, the son of Ishaq, the son of Ibrahim. (Bukhari 3382)

(4) Narrated Abu Dhar (radiyallaah anhu): I said, "O Allaah's Messenger ﷺ! Which mosque was first built on the surface of the earth?" He said, "Masjid al-Haram." I said, "Which was built next?" He replied "The mosque of Al-Aqsa." I said, "What was the period of construction between the two?" He said, "Forty years." He added, "Wherever (you may be, and) the prayer time becomes due, perform the prayer there, for the best thing is to do so (i.e. to offer the prayers on time). (Bukhari 3366 and Muslim 520a)

(5) Say (O Muslims), "We believe in Allaah and that which has been sent down to us and that which has been sent down to Ibrahim (Abraham), Isma'il (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Ya'qub (Jacob), and to Al-Asbat [the offspring of the twelve sons of Ya'qub (Jacob)], and that which has been given to Musa (Moses) and 'Îsa (Jesus), and that which has been given to the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between any of them, and to Him we have submitted (in Islam)."
(Suratul Baqara, 136) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(6) Then, when they came in before Yusuf, he took his parents to himself and said: "Enter Egypt, if Allah wills, in security."
(Surah Yusuf, 99) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(7) And indeed We revealed to Musa (saying): "Travel by night with Ibadi (My slaves) and strike a dry path for them in the sea, fearing neither to be overtaken [by Fir'aun (Pharaoh)] nor being afraid (of drowning in the sea)."
(Surah Taa-Haa, 77) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(8) They said: "O Musa! In it (this holy land) are a people of great strength, and we shall never enter it till they leave it; when they leave, then we will enter."

(Suratul Maaida, 22) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

They said: "O Musa! We shall never enter it as long as they are there. So go you and your Lord and fight you two, we are sitting right here."

(Suratul Maaida, 24) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(9) Two men of those who feared (Allaah and) on whom Allaah had bestowed His Grace (they were Yusha and Kalab) said: "Assault them through the gate; for when you are in, victory will be yours; and put your trust in Allaah if you are believers indeed."

(Suratul Maaida, 23) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(10) So they routed them by Allaah's Leave and Dawud killed Jalut, and Allaah gave him [Dawud] the kingdom [after the death of Talut and Samuel] and Al-Hikmah (Prophethood), and taught him of that which He willed. And if Allaah did not check one set of people by means of another, the earth would indeed be full of mischief. But Allaah is full of bounty to the 'Alamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists).

(Suratul Baqara, 251) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(11) And Sulaiman inherited (the knowledge of) Dawud. He said: "O mankind! We have been taught the language of birds, and on us have been bestowed all things. This, verily, is an evident grace (from Allaah)."

And there were gathered before Sulaiman his hosts of jinn and men, and birds, and they all were set in battle order (marching forward).

(Suratun Naml, 16, 17) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(11) continued.....

And there were gathered before Sulaiman his hosts of jinn and men, and birds, and they all were set in battle order.

(Surah Saad, 36) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(12) So her Lord (Allaah) accepted her with goodly acceptance. He made her grow in a good manner and put her under the care of Zakariya. Every time he entered al-mihrab (prayer chamber) to (visit) her, he found her supplied with sustenance. He said: "O Maryam! From where have you got this?" She said, "This is from Allaah." Verily, Allaah provides sustenance to whom He wills, without limit."

(Surah Aal-i-Imraan, 37) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(13) ... "I have come to you with a sign from your Lord, that I design for you out of clay, a figure like that of a bird, and breathe into it, and it becomes a bird by Allaah's Leave; and I heal him who was born blind, and the leper, and I bring the dead to life by Allaah's Leave. And I inform you of what you eat, and what you store in your houses. Surely, therein is a sign for you, if you believe.

(Surah Aal-i-Imraan, 49) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(14) And they (disbelievers) plotted to kill Eesa, and Allaah plotted too. And Allaah is the Best of those who plot. And (remember) when Allah said: "O Eesa! I will take you and raise you to Myself and clear you [of the forged statement that Eesa is Allaah's son] of those who disbelieve, and I will make those who follow you till the Day of Resurrection . Then you will return to Me and I will judge between you in the matters in which you used to dispute." (Surah Aal-i-Imraan, 54,55) Translation by Dr Mohsin Khan.

(15) ... I was then brought a white beast which is called al-Buraq, bigger than a donkey and smaller than a mule. Its stride was as long as the eye could reach. I was mounted on it, and then we went forth till we reached the lowest heaven...

(Muslim 164a)

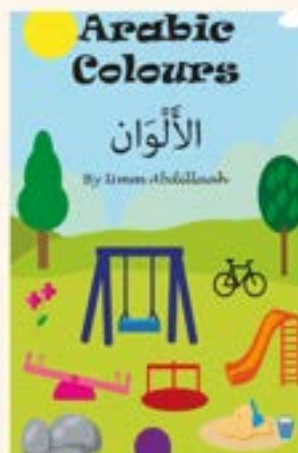
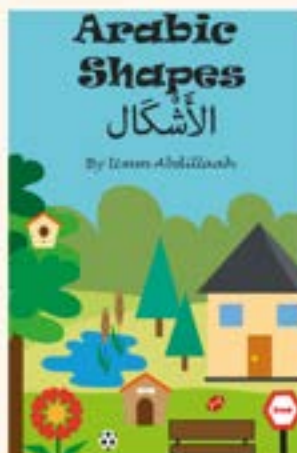
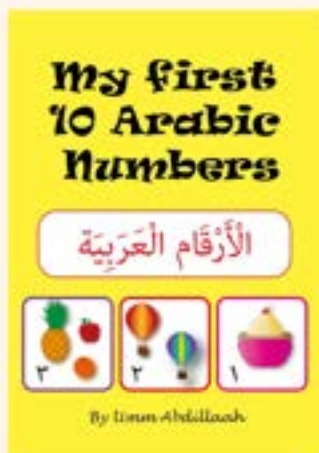
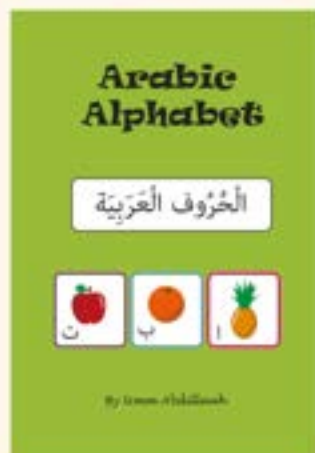
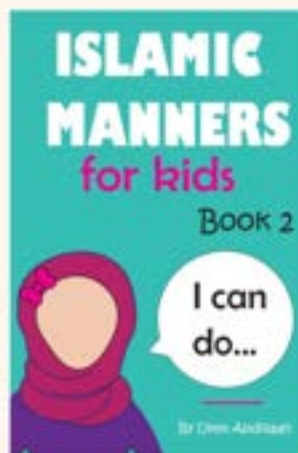
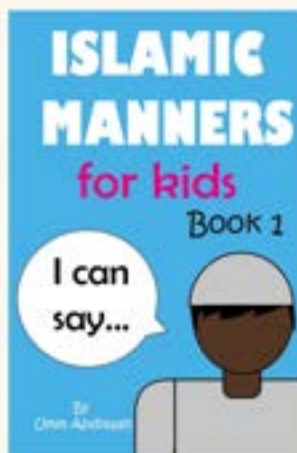
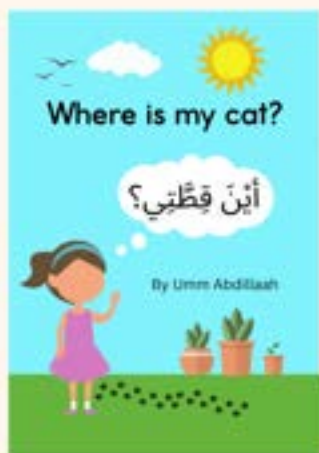
(16) ...Then Allaah revealed to me a revelation and He made obligatory for me fifty prayers every day and night. Then I went down to Musa and he said: What has your Lord enjoined upon your Ummah? I said: Fifty prayers. He said: Return to thy Lord and beg for reduction (in the number of prayers), for your community shall not be able to bear this burden as I have put to test the children of Israel and tried them (and found them too weak to bear such a heavy burden). He (our Prophet) said: I went back to my Lord and said: My Lord, make things lighter for my Ummah. (The Lord) reduced five prayers for me. I went down to Musa and said. (The Lord) reduced five (prayers) for me, He said: Verily thy Ummah shall not be able to bear this burden; return to thy Lord and ask Him to make things lighter. I then kept going back and forth between my Lord Blessed and Exalted and Musa, till He said: There are five prayers every day and night. O Muhammad, each being credited as ten, so that makes fifty prayers...

(Muslim 309)

**(17) Narrated 'Abdullah bin 'Umar (radiyallaah anhu):
The Prophet sent an army under the command of Usama bin Zaid. When some people criticized his leadership, the Prophet said, "If you are criticizing Usama's leadership, you used to criticize his father's leadership before. By Allaah! He was worthy of leadership and was one of the dearest persons to me, and (now) this (i.e. Usama) is one of the dearest to me after him (i.e. Zaid)."**

(Volume 5, Book 57, Number 77: Bukhari)

Umm Abdillaah is the author of the following books.



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