

Abraham and the Idols

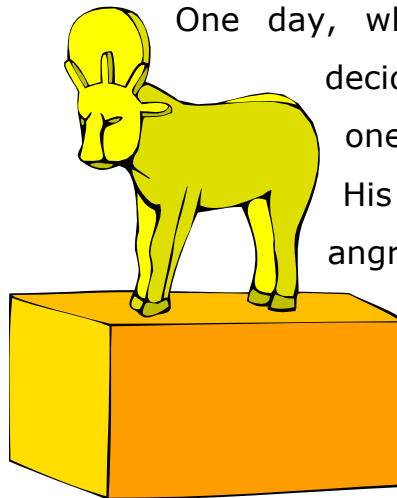
*based on the account in the Qur'an (6:75-80)
used in Book 2, Lesson 1*

As a boy, Abraham lived with his family, who like other people in the area called Babylonia worshipped idols. These idols were made of stone or wood. Some people during that time worshipped the stars the sun or the moon; others worshipped their king or other leaders.



One day Abraham saw his father carving a statue, and he asked his father what it was. His father told him that it was a "god". Because he was bright and wise,

Abraham immediately knew the statue could not be a "god".



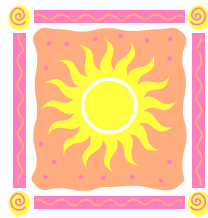
One day, while playing, Abraham decided to ride on top of one of the statue-idols. His father became very angry, and told Abraham not to play with it. He said it was Mardukh, the god of gods; he said the god has big ears that show he has great knowledge. Even though Abraham was just 7 years old he laughed because the idea seemed so strange.

As Abraham grew he came to dislike the idols. He could not understand how a person could make a statue and then worship it. He saw the statues could not eat, drink or talk; if they were knocked down, they could even make themselves stand up. He wondered how

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people could believe that such statues could help or hurt them.

When his father took him to a temple, Abraham saw people bow and cry in front of the idols, begging these false gods for help. Abraham knew the statues could not hear or understand them.



Later in his life Abraham received God's message to tell the people that there is only One God. He told the people, "*I have been sent with guidance from our Lord Who is the creator of the heavens and the earth*".

Discussion Questions for Story

- › What did people in Abraham's time worship? (They worshipped statues or idols.)
- › What do you think about worshipping idols? Is it good or bad? (It's bad because idols are things made by people, which have no real ability to do anything; people created idols; idols didn't create people.)
- › What did Abraham think when his father told him a statue he was making was a "god"? (Abraham thought it could be a god.)
- › Why did Abraham's father get angry with him? (Abraham was riding on a statue his father worshipped.)
- › What did people do in the temple that Abraham thought was strange? (They would bow and cry in front of pieces of wood or stone that had no power to do anything.)
- › What message did Abraham give to people? (That there is One God who is the Creator of heaven and earth.)
- › Who told Abraham to go and tell people about God? (God did; Abraham was one of God's holy Messengers.)