

Muhammad and the Camel

A story of the Muslim Faith

Props:

Camel

Large Tray of Sand

Wooden brick (upright) for post

Tree

Silver/blue circle paper/felt for water

(There are no figures for Muhammad or the other man in the story.)

Today I'd like to share a story that is special to Muslims.

Place Muslim symbol.

Place tray before you.

It was a hot day.

Use hands to sprinkle sand across tray.

The sand of the desert was scorching beneath the people's feet.

Hold fist above the scene.

The sun was beating down upon the people's heads.

It was so hot and everyone was looking for shade from the sun, and a long, cool drink of water.

Wave hand like a fan.

Everyone was happy to come to a beautiful garden.

Place tree in centre of sand.

In the garden there were tall trees to shelter under.

Place pool of water beside tree.

And a cool, clear pool of water where people could stop to drink and wash the dust of the hot, dry sand from their sweaty faces and sore feet.

The garden was beautiful and everyone was grateful to reach its sanctuary.

Hold up a finger to show a pause.

Someone very wise was walking in the garden that hot day. He was enjoying the cool shade of the trees and the refreshment of the sparkling water. His name was Muhammad, Peace be upon him.

The garden was a paradise, but something disturbed Muhammad as he enjoyed the garden.

Muhammad heard a noise.

Put hand to your ear.

The noise was sharp on his ears and it cut to his heart.

Point to your heart.

The noise was like a baby crying. Muhammad looked about him to find out where the noise was coming from.

Muhammad walked through all the garden searching for the origin of the noise, eventually he came upon a camel.

Place camel in the sand away from the tree and water.

Place post beside camel.

It was the camel that had made the noise. It was moaning. The camel was tied by a rope to a post, out in the heat of the midday sun.

Hold fist above for the sun.

The poor camel could not reach the shade of the trees or the cool water of the pool and it was sad and suffering.

Muhammad went to the camel, he stroked his hairy muzzle,

Brush finger over camel's nose.

And batted flies from his eyes.

Flap hand before camel.

Muhammad calmed the poor animal in its suffering. At last the camel began to quieten and trusted Muhammad's kindness.

Then Muhammad couldn't understand how anyone could treat the animal so badly.

Muhammad called out loudly into the depths of the garden: "Whose camel is this?"

Gesture through garden with hands.

Then from out of the shade of the trees came a man, the man was not hot or thirsty, he had been sleeping in the shade of the biggest tree.

Muhammad said to the man: "This camel works hard for you, but you are not looking after it. You have left it out in the sun, without water, to suffer. Don't you remember that this camel is one of Allah's creatures, and it is your job to care for him?"

The man was ashamed, he had been selfishly thinking only of himself while his camel suffered.

Remove post.

He untied the camel from the post and led it to the shade of the trees, he brought it water to drink and looked after it.

Move camel under the shade of the tree and beside water.

From that day, the man always looked after all Allah's creatures with care and respect.

He listened to and learned from the lesson the Prophet had taught him.

Wondering Questions:

I wonder, what you think the lesson in the story was?

I wonder, why do you think it is important to Muslims to look after animals?

I wonder, what did the story mean by "Allah's creatures", when the camel belonged to the man?

I wonder, do you think we should look after animals? Why?

I wonder, have you ever done something selfish?

I wonder, what does it mean to learn from your mistakes?

I wonder, what kind of person do you think Muhammad was?