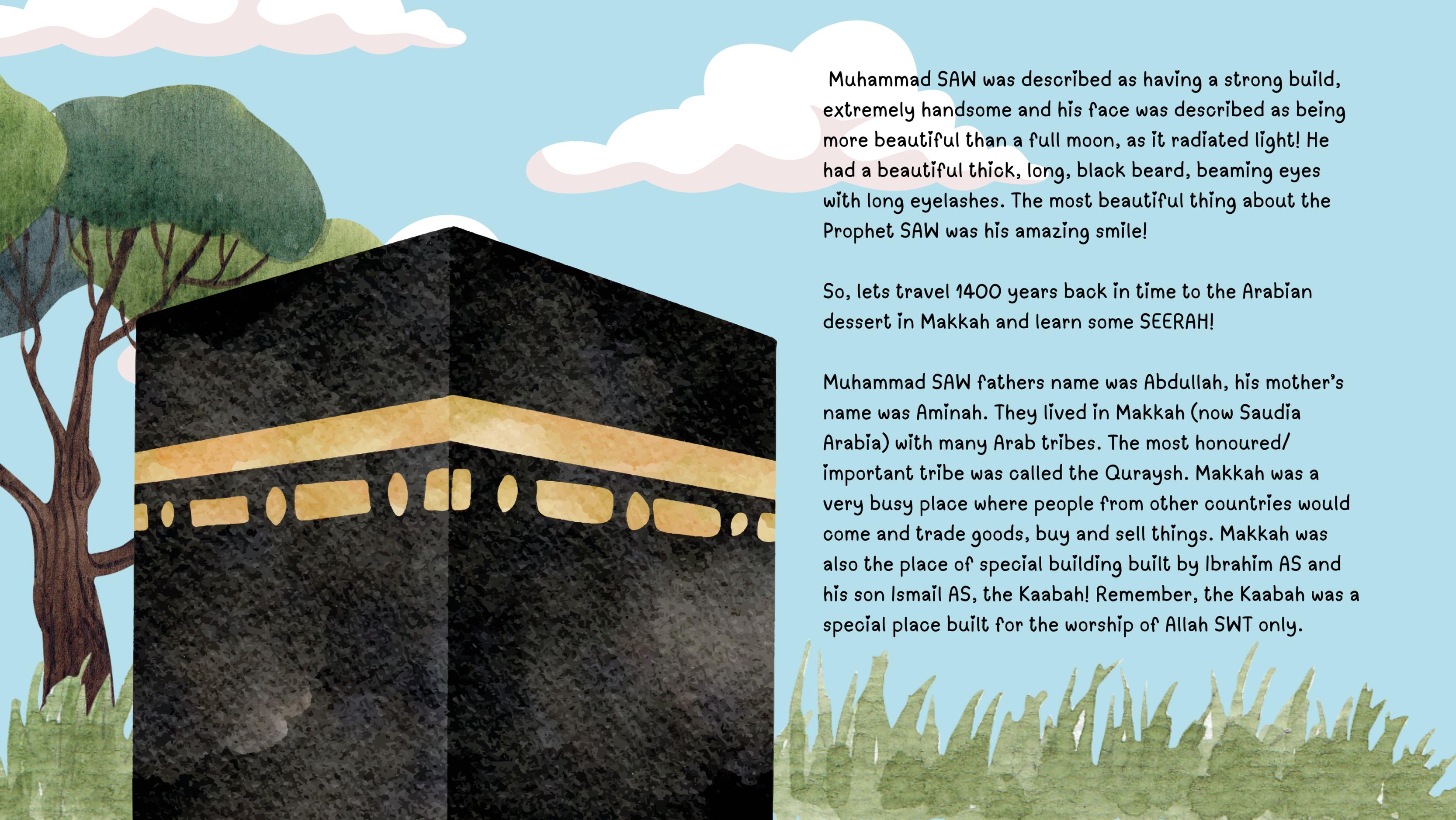




LESSON 1

Learning Seerah

THE PROPHET IS BORN



Muhammad SAW was described as having a strong build, extremely handsome and his face was described as being more beautiful than a full moon, as it radiated light! He had a beautiful thick, long, black beard, beaming eyes with long eyelashes. The most beautiful thing about the Prophet SAW was his amazing smile!

So, let's travel 1400 years back in time to the Arabian desert in Makkah and learn some SEERAH!

Muhammad SAW's father's name was Abdullah, his mother's name was Aminah. They lived in Makkah (now Saudi Arabia) with many Arab tribes. The most honoured/important tribe was called the Quraysh. Makkah was a very busy place where people from other countries would come and trade goods, buy and sell things. Makkah was also the place of special building built by Ibrahim AS and his son Ismail AS, the Kaabah! Remember, the Kaabah was a special place built for the worship of Allah SWT only.

Unfortunately, over time, people forgot about worshipping Allah SWT only. Instead, they worshipped many gods, idols and statues. In fact, when Muhammad SAW was born in Makkah, there was at least over 300 idols around the Kaabah! And people from far and wide would come to pray to these idols! (Side note: The Prophet SAW is a descendant of Ismail AS!)

Just before the Prophet was born, his father Abdullah died (so he was an orphan). Something else happened in Makkah just before the Prophet was born - an amazing miracle that involved elephants! In a faraway land to Makkah, lived a conceited, arrogant man named Abraha. Abraha had a temple where people would come to worship, but he was jealous of the Kaabah had become so popular and people were going there instead of his temple. So, he planned to destroy it with his army of Elephants and men. Abrahah got his huge army together. There were 6,000 soldiers and 13 elephants in his army, and they all began marching towards Makkah. When people saw the huge army, they were scared! They were afraid of the number of soldiers and even more frightened of the elephants. No one had the courage to try and stop the army. The people of Makkah fled to the mountains for safety. They could not fight such a big army. They could not defend the Kaabah. But they didn't need to, because Allah SWT is the owner of the Kaabah and He is the Most Powerful and Allah SWT defended the Kaabah in an amazing way! Animals obey Allah SWT and Abraha's elephant, Mahmood, stopped and would not move towards the Kaabah. The army was poking it and the elephants to move forward but they did not move further.

Then suddenly, Allah sent a flock of birds towards the army. The birds had small stones in their beaks and claws. The birds dropped the stones onto the army. Whoever the stones hit would get hurt. The soldiers tried to run away. But no one can hide from Allah SWT! This is why this year was named 'The Year of the Elephant.'

Subhan Allah, this famous story is found in a Surah/ chapter in Qur'an. (Does anyone know which one? Yes, Suratul Al-Fil, The Surah called The Elephant).





In the Year of the Elephant, in the month Rabi‘Al-Awwal, on a Monday morning, the Prophet Muhammad SAW was born! His grandfather, Abd al-Muttalib was over the moon with excitement! He carried the newborn to the Kaabah, and thanked Allah SWT for this new blessing! He named the baby Muhammad. The name Muhammad was an unusual name and Abd Muttalib told everyone it means the most praised! Subhan Allah, today, Muhammad is now the most popular boy name in the world and every second, billions of people around the world are praise and mention Muhammad SAW by saying the Salawat – this is when we say words like: Allahuma Salli was salim Ala Muhammad... meaning, “O Allah, send prayers, peace and blessings on our Prophet Muhamad.” (Let’s make sure whenever we mention his name we all say this!)

Young Muhammad SAW was loved and cared for by many people - his foster mother Halima and his mother’s servant Barakah. Sadly, when he 6 years old, Aminah his mother passed away, so his grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, looked after him. Then Abdul Muttalib passed away (when Muhammad SAW was 8 years old) and so he was then cared for by his uncle, Abu Talib. His uncle Abu Talib loved Muhammad SAW so much, like his own son, and he protected Muhammad SAW from all harm.

Muhammad SAW grew up with his cousin, Ali RA. Muhammad SAW worked from a young age to help his family. He worked as a shepherd. A shepherd is someone who carefully looks after flocks of sheep/ goats. To be a shepherd you have to be very, very patient, focused and concentrate on all the sheep to make sure they are all safe.

Did you know that every Prophet was a shepherd at one time in their lives? Allah SWT gave them all this training in order to become patient, calm, alert, considerate and watchful.