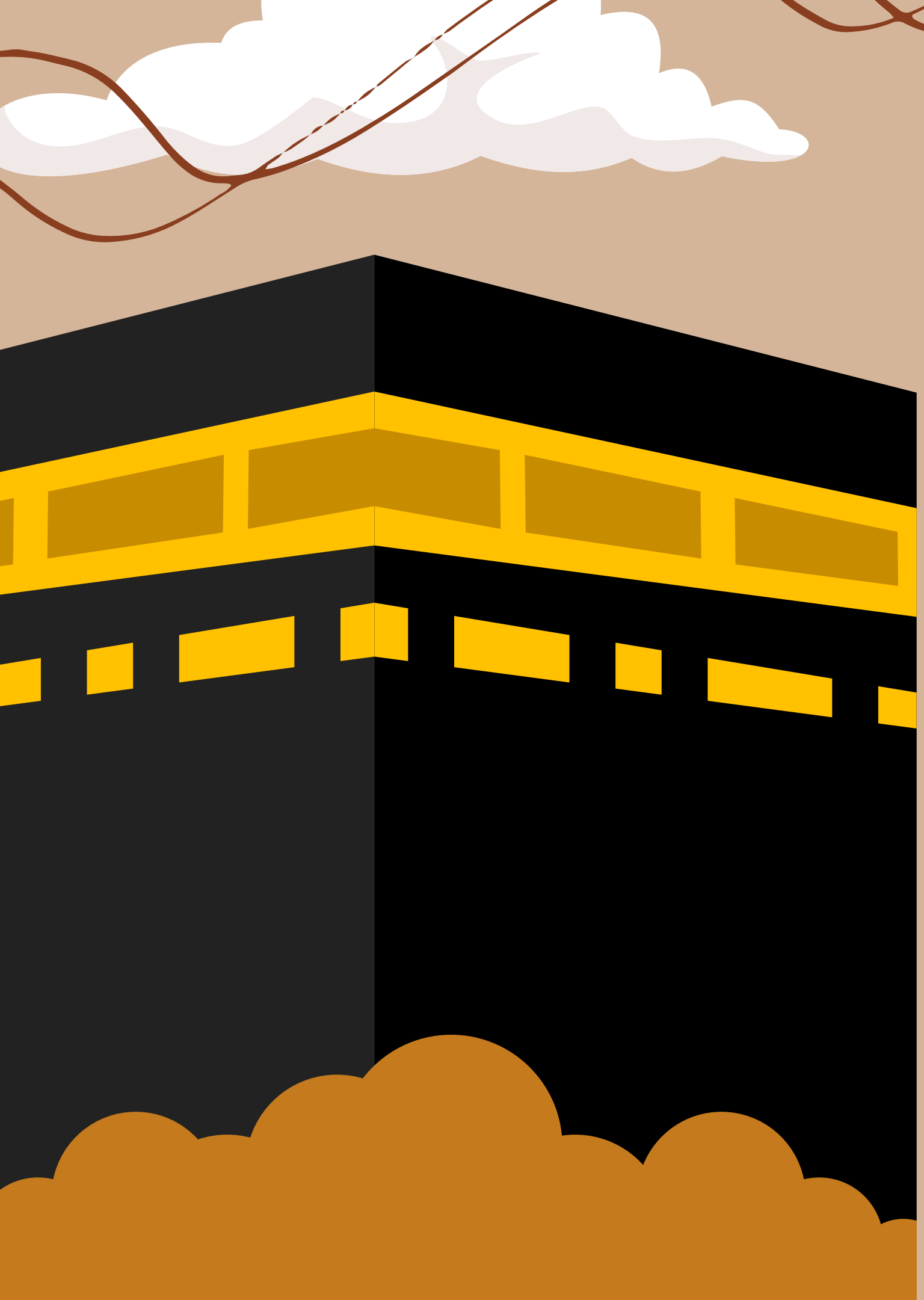


# LESSON 2:

Life Before  
Prophethood





So, we last left the story when Muhammad SAW was a young teenager, working as a shepherd. Now we will continue as he grows into a young adult!

Most people in Makkah at this time were worshipping idols. They were rude, they lied and cheated, they hurt and harmed the poor. They had slaves and they treated them harshly. Women weren't respected, and even animals suffered from mistreatment. Muhammad SAW saw all of this and it made him very upset. He didn't want to hang around with bad people or follow their evil practices. He chose to be different. He didn't lie or cheat, in fact he was the only one in the whole of Makkah who people could trust and believe. All the people called him ALSaadiq (The Truthful), and Al-Amin (The Trustworthy) and they would give him their valuables to look after them.

Muhammed SAW started working for a woman called Khadijah RA in her business and her wealth increased with his honest business dealings. Khadijah RA was super impressed by his manners, hard work, honesty and truthfulness and so Khadijah and the Prophet Muhammad SAW got married. They had 4 daughters and 2 boys. (Their names were AL-Qasim, Abdullah, Zainab, Ruqaiyah, Umm Kulthum and Fatimah!).

By the time Muhammad SAW was 35 years old, the Kaabah had become very old and damaged (since it was built at time of Ibrahim/ Ismail AS). It was crumbling down and needed to be rebuilt to become stronger. All the people of Makkah loved the Kaabah very much. They all respected it and looked after it. To make sure that no one was left out when rebuilding the Kaabah, all the families were given different jobs and different parts to build.

The Kaabah was almost complete except for one special piece that had to be replaced... It was a special stone that is known as Hajar-e-Aswad (The Black Stone). The Hajar-e-Aswad is a stone from Jannah that was given to Ibrahim AS and was put in the corner of the Kaabah. This special stone has many blessings, and everyone wanted to have the honour and job of putting it back! In fact, they fought for 4 or 5 days about who would put it - everyone was arguing about who deserves to do it most!

There was an old person in Makkah called Abu Umayyah. He gave everyone an idea to stop the fighting. He said, tomorrow morning, the first person that comes through the gate of Makkah will decide what will happen with the stone. And so, the next day, all the people came and waited to see who the first person was to walk through the gate.... Can you guess who it was??? Yes, Subhan Allah it was our dear Prophet Muhammad SAW! As soon as the people saw that it was Muhammad SAW, they all became very happy!!! They said, yes, this is the honest and trustworthy one and we are happy with whatever he decides and tells us.

Even though, Muhammad SAW was not yet a Prophet, Allah SWT made Muhammad SAW very wise. He asked the people to bring a big cloth, He then put the Hajar-e-Aswad in the middle of the cloth. He told the leaders of all the families to hold a piece of that cloth. They all carried the cloth to the corner of the Kaabah where the stone had to be put. When they all reached there, Muhammad SAW himself put the Hajar-e-Aswad in its place! Everyone was happy that they all had helped, and the argument ended. This was how our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW stopped a big fight from happening. He SAW was extremely clever and trusted and loved by all and had a beautiful reputation in his community! Muhammad SAW was being prepared for a bigger role!

