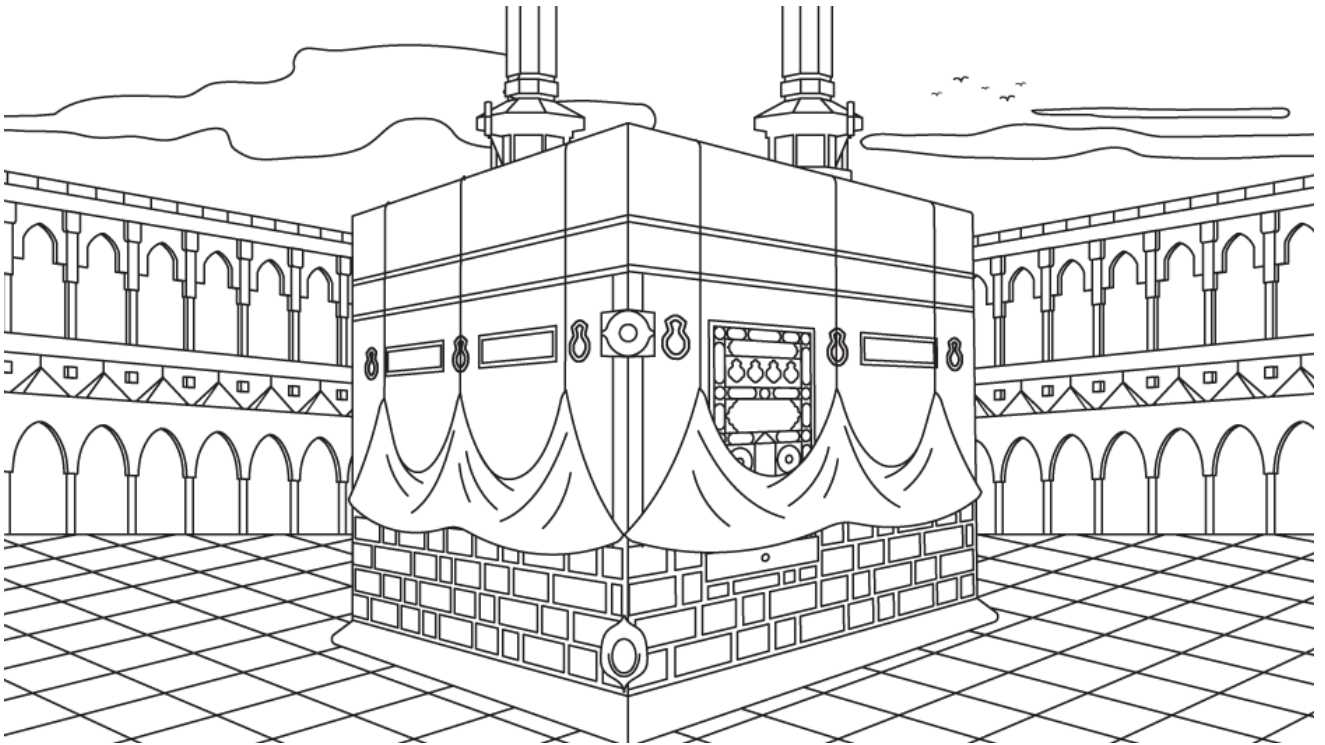


The Black Stone and the Kaaba



In the middle of the most important mosque in Makkah, stands a very special building to Muslims. It's called the Kaaba.

Once the Kaaba was damaged by heavy rain, so some of the most well-known families in Makkah worked together to rebuild the Kaaba.

One important piece of the Kaaba that fell out of its place after the rainfall was the Black Stone, a rock that belonged in the corner of the building.

It was almost time to place the special Black Stone back in its place in the Kaaba.

But, who should have the great honour of placing the Black Stone in the Kaaba? All of the families who had helped to rebuild the Kaaba thought they should be the one to do it.

No-one could agree and a big argument broke out.

Finally, someone had an idea, “Let’s wait until the morning and see who comes into the mosque first. Whoever it is, they can decide who should put the Black Stone in its place.”

They heard footsteps and held their breath, waiting to see who it was. As they saw who the person was, the families said together, “Here comes the trustworthy one.”

It was Muhammad. Everyone was happy when they saw him. They all respected Muhammad and trusted him to make a good decision.

Muhammad listened as they told him what they were arguing about.

Everyone watched Muhammad nervously whilst he was thinking, hoping he would choose them to do the important job.

“One person from each family must take a corner of the cloth and lift it together.”

The people did as Muhammad told them and they worked together to lift the Black Stone. Once everyone helped to lift it up, Muhammad put the Black Stone back in its place in the Kaaba.

They knew Muhammad had found a way that was fair, so no-one felt left out.
