

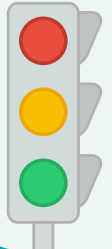
Surah al-Fil: Part 1

 **SURAH 105**



Learning Objectives

In this lesson, I will:



Summarise the 'Army of Elephants' story

Reflect on Allah's Name **ar-Rabb**

Explain how the story demonstrates Allah's power



Key Words

Have you not seen - **أَلَمْ تَرَ**

People - **أَصْحَابُ**

The elephant - **الْفِيلُ**

T Thinking Starter

What is the largest animal on land?

What is the largest animal in the sea?



IT'S STORY TIME!

The Army of Elephants and the Power of Allah

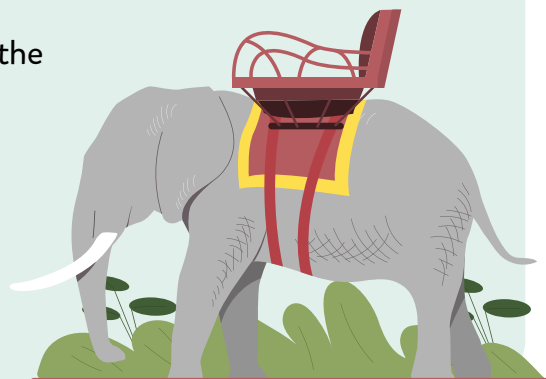
A long, long time ago, there was a Christian ruler in Yemen named Abrahah. One year, as the Yemeni Arabs prepared to go for hajj, he decided that enough was enough. He was not happy that Yemeni Arabs loved the Ka'bah in Makkah. So he decided to build a grand, magnificent church in Yemen, which he wanted the people to visit instead of the Ka'bah.

The Arabs refused. They were proud that the Ka'bah had been built by their ancestors, Prophets Ibrahim and Isma'il عليهما السلام.

One night, a man from the Banu Kinanah tribe, angry about Abrahah's plans, crept into the church, and used it as a toilet. Abrahah was furious. "Who dared to do this?" he roared.

When he was told it was someone who loved the Ka'bah, he swore that he would march to the Ka'bah and destroy it.

Abrahah then gathered a large army of men and mighty elephants to march towards Makkah. At the front of his army was a giant elephant named Mahmud.



'Abdul Muttalib's Trust in the Lord of the Ka'bah

As Abrahah and his army marched, some Arab tribes tried to stop them, but they were defeated. When they reached Mughammas, near Makkah, Abrahah sent a commander to Makkah to steal some of their possessions. This included 200 camels that belonged to 'Abdul Muttalib, the grandfather of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and leader of Quraysh.

Abrahah then sent a messenger to invite the chief of Makkah to meet him. When 'Abdul Muttalib arrived, Abrahah was impressed by him and honoured him. 'Abdul Muttalib then asked for his camels to be returned.

Abrahah was surprised: "I was impressed by you, but now I am disappointed. You speak to me about your camels, but you don't speak to me about the House I have come to destroy—the symbol of your religion and the religion of your forefathers?"

'Abdul Muttalib, calm and confident, replied: "I am only the master of my camels, but **the House has its own Lord who will protect it.**"

"It cannot be defended against me," snapped Abrahah.



Allah, The Protector

The next day, as Abrahah prepared to enter Makkah, Mahmud the elephant suddenly stopped. No matter how much they pushed, pulled, or struck him, the elephant would not move towards the Ka'bah.

Then, something incredible happened. Flocks of birds appeared in the sky. Each bird carried small stones in its beak and claws. The birds flew over Abrahah's army and struck them with the stones.

They destroyed his army. Many soldiers died, and those who survived ran away in fear. As for Abrahah, he developed a disease that caused his limbs to decay and discharge pus and blood. He returned to Yemen in a pitiful state, and eventually died.

In this miraculous way, Allah protected His sacred House, and showed that He Alone is the Real Protector.

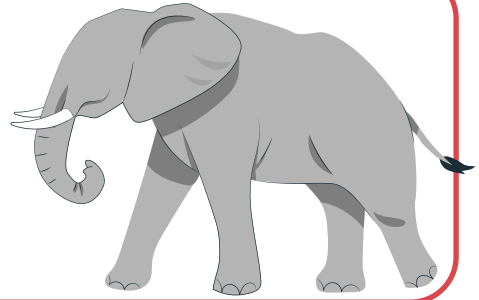




Task 1

Finish off the sentence.

I'm Mahmud. I... _____



Surah al-Fil



	الْفِيلِ	بِأَصْحَابِ	رَبِّكَ	فَعَلَ	كَيْفَ	أَلَمْ تَرَ
(1)	the elephant	with the people	your Lord	dealt	how	have you not seen

Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the people of the elephant? (1)

Allah begins with a question that the Arabs already know the answer to: 'Don't you know what your Lord did to Abrahah and his army when they planned to destroy the Ka'bah?'

This question makes us realise that what Allah did was truly incredible. Allah wants us to reflect on **His great power**.



Task 2

Fill in the gaps using the words below:

reminding

Muhammad

worry

House

protects

Names

In this surah, Allah is telling _____ صلى الله عليه وسلم that it was YOUR Lord (رَبُّكَ) who protected the Ka'bah, and not the idols of the disbelievers.

One of Allah's Beautiful _____ is ar-Rabb: the Nurturing Lord. This means that Allah creates, _____, provides, and takes care of everything. Allah is _____ Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم: O Muhammad, your Lord will also take care of you, just as He took care of His _____. Do not _____ and carry on with your mission.



Task 3

Answer the following questions.

Who was Abrahah?

What did 'Abdul Muttalib say to Abrahah?

Why did Allah send down birds?

How does this story remind us that Allah is All-Powerful?

I Act On What I Learn

I will always worship Allah with confidence and trust Him to take care of me.

P Progress Check



1. How did Allah protect the Ka'bah from Abrahah and his army?

☐

2. What does **ar-Rabb** mean?

☐

3. How does the 'Army of Elephants' story demonstrate Allah's power?

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