

Masjid Al-Haram

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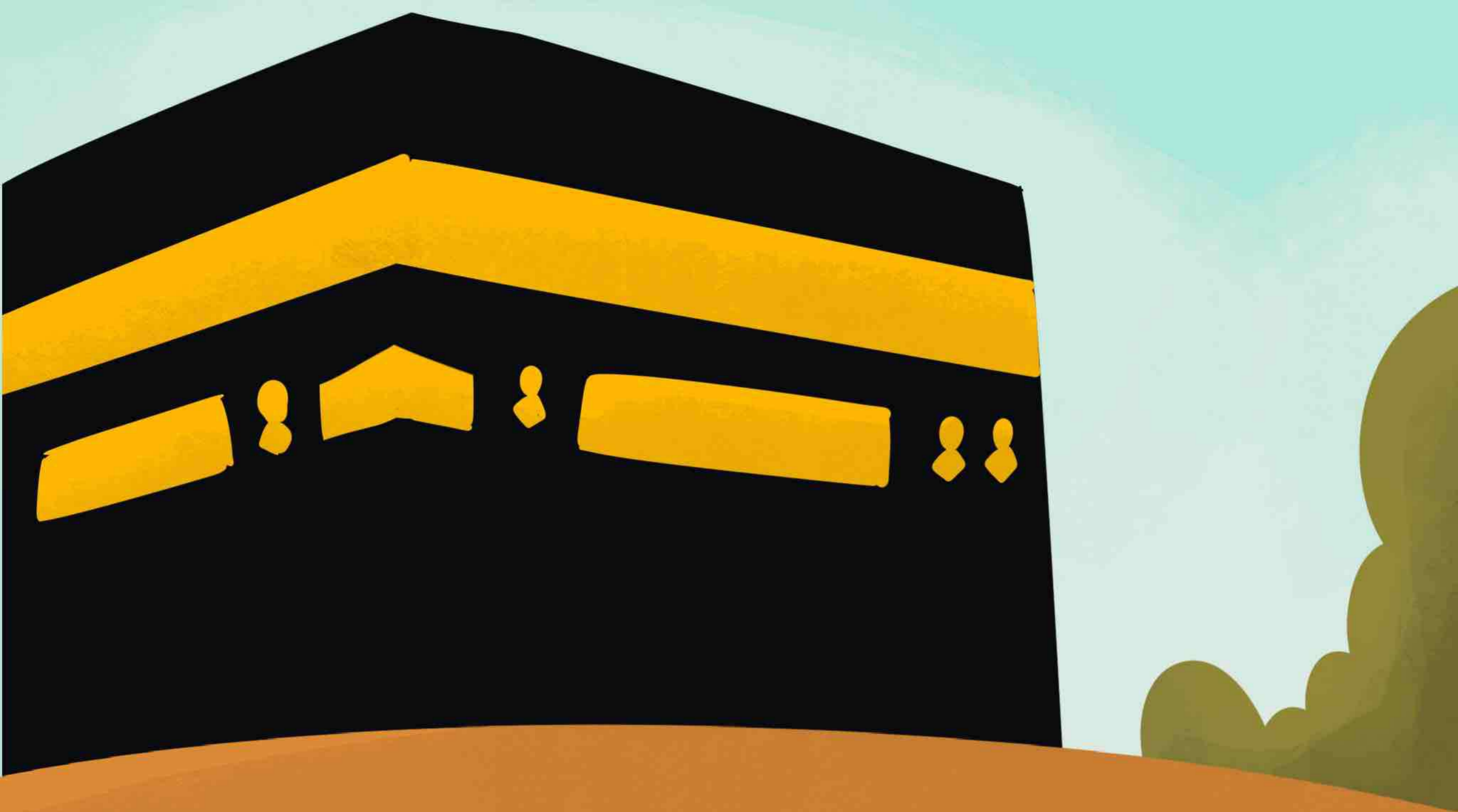
There is a city named Mecca. It is located in the Hejaz region of Saudi Arabia, 330 meters above sea level. Mecca is home to a very important mosque. Do you know the name of the mosque? It is called Masjid al-Haram.

A stylized map of Saudi Arabia. The landmass is colored in shades of tan and brown, with a large yellow-green area in the center representing the Hejaz region. A red dot is placed on the western coast of this region, labeled 'Mekkah'. The surrounding areas are colored in light blue, representing the Red Sea to the west and the Persian Gulf to the east.

● Mekkah

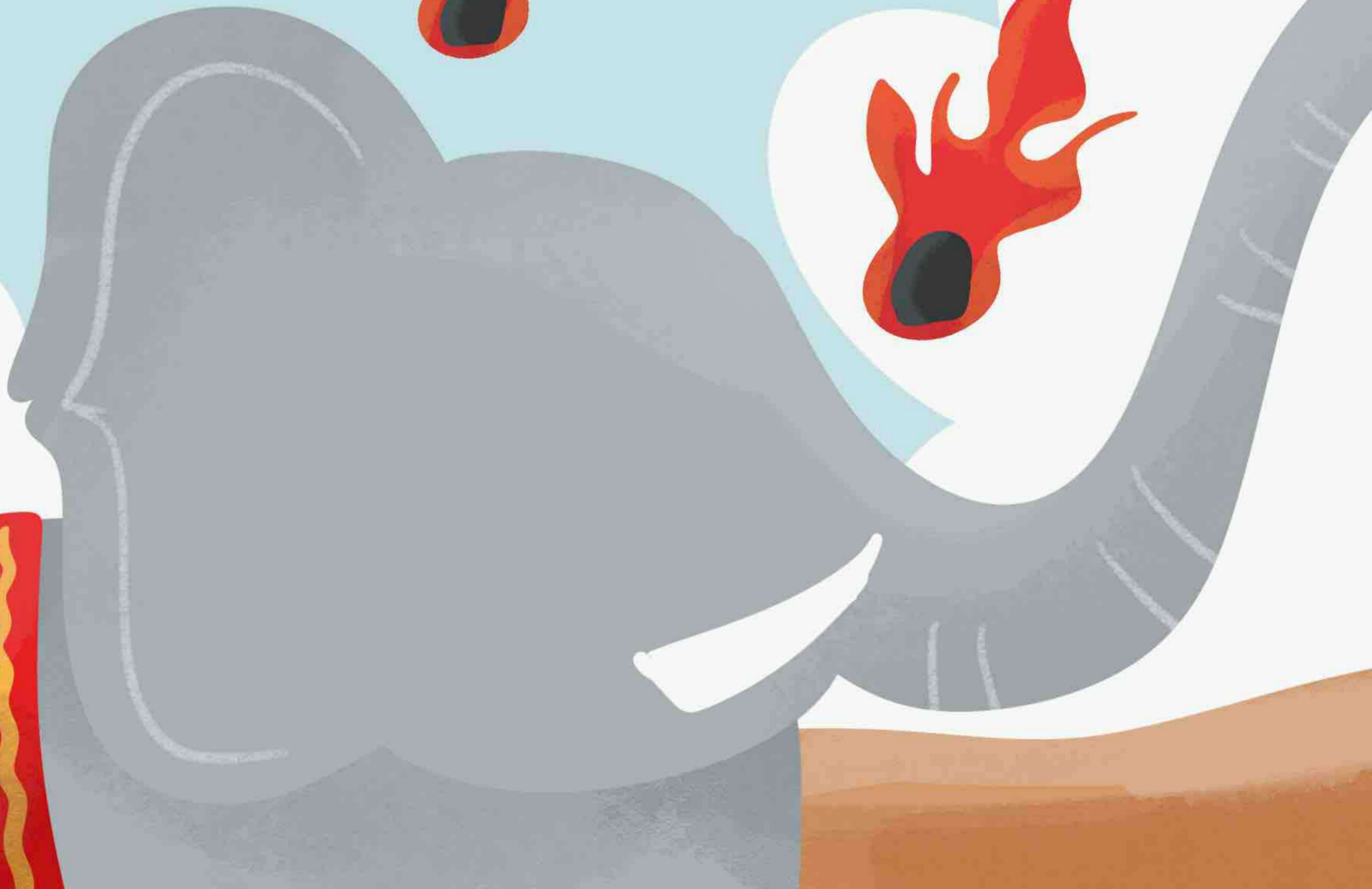
Masjid al-Haram is special because it was the first mosque ever built on Earth. According to the Qur'an, Allah Ta'ala said: "Indeed, the first House [of worship] established for mankind was that at Makkah – blessed and a guidance for the worlds." (Ali Imran : Verse 96)

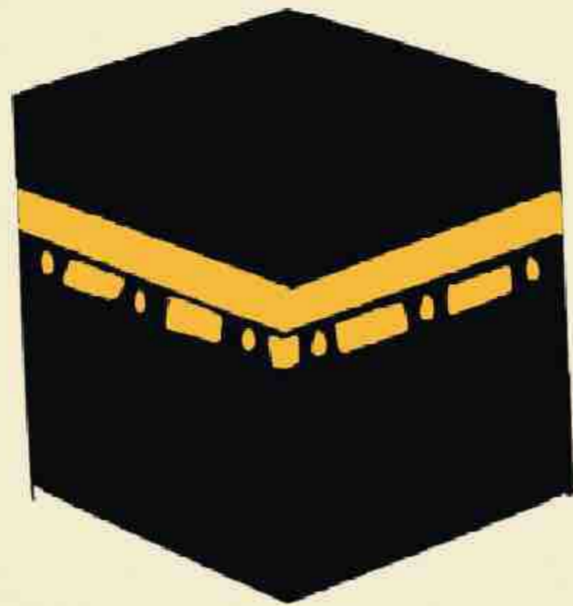




At the center of Masjid al-Haram is the Kaaba which is used as qiblah by the Muslim. The shape of the Kaaba resembles a cube with a height of about 15 meters. It was first built by Prophet Ibrahim and Prophet Isma'il alaihis salam, and later completed by following generations, until Rasulullah Shalallahu 'Alaihi Wa Salam put the Hajar Aswad back in its place.

In the same year Rasulullah Shalallahu Alaihi Wassalam was born, the Kaaba was attacked by Abrahah and his soldiers who had an elephant. But Allah Ta'ala protected the Kaaba by sending a flock of birds. The birds carried hot stones and defeated Abrahah's army.

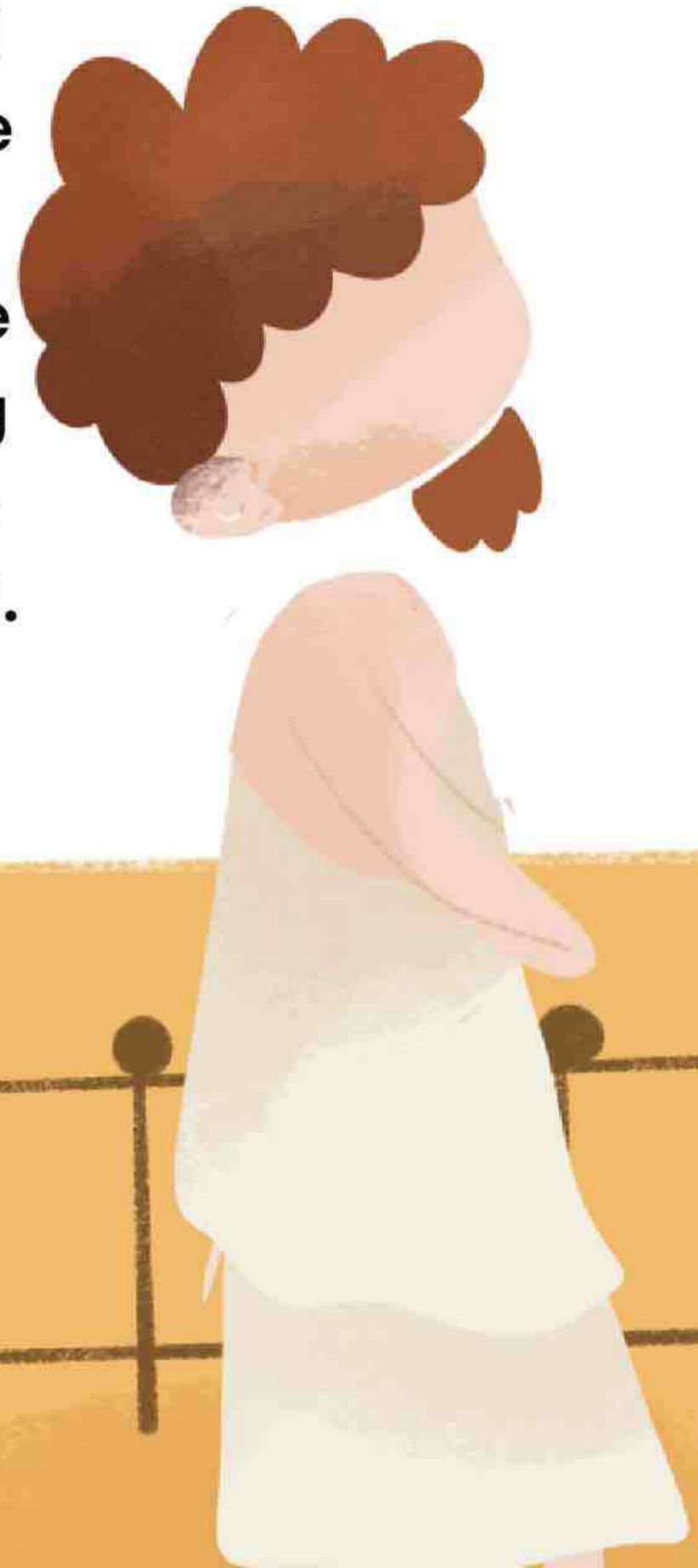




During the time of Caliph Umar Al-Khattab, walls were built around the Kaaba. Umar bought and destroyed nearby houses to make more space around it.



Not far from the Kaaba, there are two hills called Safa and Marwa. This is where Hajj and Umrah pilgrims do the Sae' (the ritual of walking or running between the Safa and Marwa).





Masjid al-Haram is a special place protected by Allah Ta'ala, and people who pray there are rewarded as if they have prayed one hundred thousand times. May Allah make it easy for us to pray in Masjid al-Haram. Amin.

Reference:

<https://www.islamqa.info/amp/id/answers/3748>