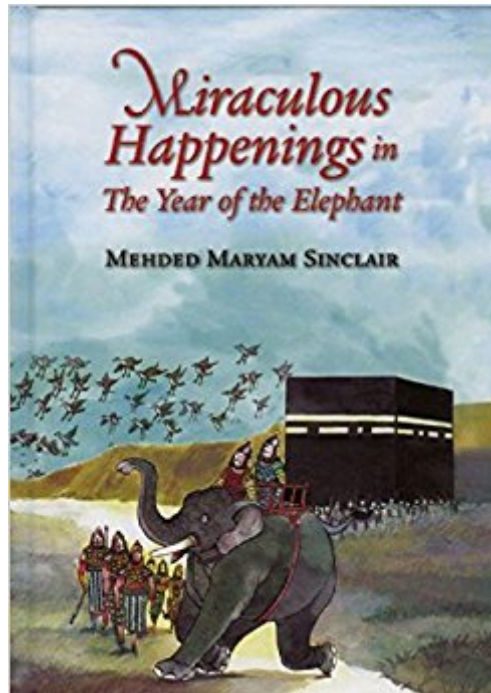




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# Miraculous Happenings In The Year Of The Elephant



## Synopsis

The greedy and power-hungry king Abrahah intends to divert the world's pilgrims from the Ka'ba, the House of Allah in Makkah, to the cathedral his slaves have built for him. But when the cathedral's spires finally slice through the brilliant Yemeni skies and its magnificent doors are opened, the throngs Abrahah has been boasting about do not arrive. In a rage, he vows to destroy the Ka'ba, but Allah, the Causer of all causes, has other plans. True happenings, stranger by far than fiction, demonstrate that if He says, "Be!" be it surely is.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,577,782 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Muslim](#) #1205 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction](#) #16013 in [Books > Children's Books > Religions](#)

Age Range: 7 - 11 years

Grade Level: 2 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Mehded is a professional story teller with 25 years of experience. Her career as a touring and teaching artist began with Vermont Council. She performed in various venues from school, colleges to theater. He lived in Turkey for 10 years teaching language and story telling and now resides in Amman, Jordan.

Miraculous Happenings in the Year of the ElephantAt last! This is the first high quality book of Muslim literature for children about a story from Islamic history written in vivid, compelling style, and on top of that, accompanied by an audio telling (not 'reading', but authentic 'telling') that will delight and fascinate children of all ages. The illustrations seem loud, over-done and cliché. Nevertheless

it's a beautiful hard-cover book, one your children will want to read again and again with or without the CD, improving their grasp of well-written English along the way. As for the CD, even very young children love the language and walk around repeating parts of it as they listen...the best language instruction you could ever give a toddler. Last but by no means least, the story is carefully researched and verified by scholars of sunna and tafsir. Hopefully there will more books like this one.

My husband and I purchased the audio recording of this story when our daughter was about 15 months old and I played it almost every day for a few weeks. It was the first recorded story that I ever played just for her and I wasn't sure how she would react. She LOVED it! Even though she was too young to understand the content of the story, she would obviously be paying close attention to the sound effects and the voice of the storyteller. She would bounce up and down to the beat of the drums, and repeat "Allah!" whenever she heard it being said in the story. Playing the story would almost immediately quiet her if she was feeling cranky and put a big smile on her face especially as she "danced" to the drumbeats. Now, as a 20-something-year-old adult, I have to say that I was a bit surprised by how much *I* really enjoyed the story! I am not ashamed to admit that I actually cried during my first listening of the story because of Mehded's vivid descriptions and storytelling style. A few of the more dramatic points in the story got me quite emotional! I read the book after listening to the story many times and was mildly disappointed by the illustrations because I had already developed very detailed images in my mind of the whole story. But the book is still great for allowing young readers to review and retell the story in their own voice and is a fine example of a beautiful Islamic story in very descriptive and well-written English--definitely a must-have book for one's growing children's library. Additional positive aspects of the book and recording include the fact that they teach the reader/listener about the history tied to a chapter of the Qur'an and about reliance on God when facing any difficulty. PLUS the story is very well researched and has been checked by reliable scholars. Overall, *Miraculous Happenings in the Year of the Elephant*--both the book and recording--are great tools for developing your and your child(ren)'s love for reading stories and storytelling, while learning about Islam and developing love for God and the Prophet Muhammad at the same time. Look out for other books and audio stories by Mehded such as *Bowing of the Stars* (an audio story about the Prophet Yusuf (Joseph))--yes, I cried listening to this for the first time, too!). May God continue to bless Mehded's storytelling!

Mehded Sinclair brings the poignant Qur'anic story of Abrahah and the elephant to life in this

attractively illustrated book. The Year of the Elephant marks the Prophet's birth, peace be upon him. Abrahah is consumed with rage and jealousy. He wants the pilgrims to visit his magnificent building rather than Kaba. He marches to Mecca with his elephant and army of men with the intention of destroying the 'House of Allah'. Abd al Muttalib counsels Abrahah that God will defend His 'House'. The people of Mecca flee to the hills and watch as Abrahah's army approaches. As the elephant nears the Kaba, it stops and stubbornly refuses to advance. It is a bad omen. Suddenly the sky is filled with birds who rain pebbles on Abrahah's army. Mehded Sinclair weaves excitement and captivation into this cautionary parable with her brilliantly descriptive style. This is a highly recommended pick for public libraries and schools.

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