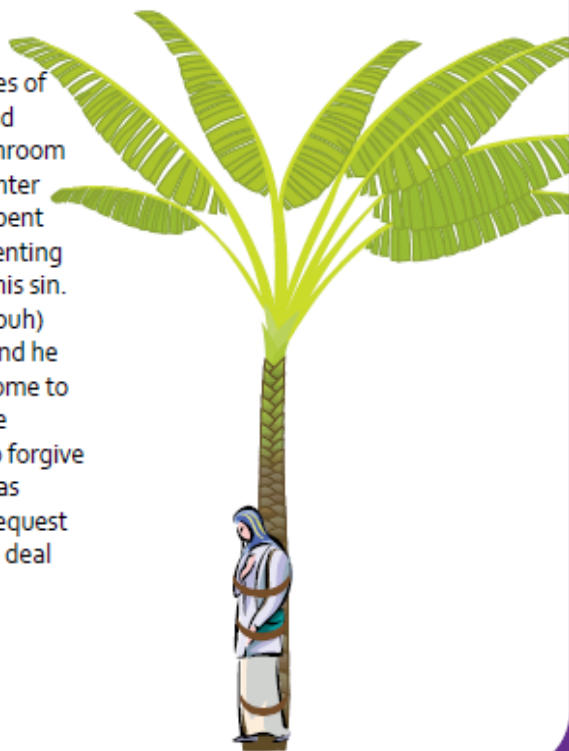


## 55. The Pillar of Tawba

Abu Lababa was sent for consultation to the Jewish tribe of Banu Qurayda to settle the constant treachery they displayed towards the Muslims. He betrayed his position by remarking in favour of the Jews and against the Muslims.

As he was returning to Madina he felt ashamed of his action. He went home to get a rope and went to the masjid of the Prophet (pbuh). There he tied himself to a pillar crying out, "O Allah! I will not untie myself until You have accepted my tawba."

Only at the times of salaa, eating and visiting the bathroom would his daughter untie him. He spent long hours lamenting and regretting his sin. The Prophet (pbuh) was informed and he said, "Had he come to me I would have begged Allah to forgive him but as he has made a direct request to Allah, He will deal with him."



A few days later, the Prophet (pbuh) was informed by Allah that Abu Lababa was forgiven. After his forgiveness, as a sign of shukr Abu Lababa offered all his wealth to be used in the way of Allah. The Prophet (pbuh) accepted a third since Abu Lababa had a duty of supporting his family as well.

The pillar to which Abu Lababa tied himself is represented in the masjid of Madina today. It is called the pillar of tawba.

