

STORIES
OF THE
PROPHETS

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Chapter 1

Prophet Adam (a)

Allah made the mountains and the seas.
He made all the animals.
He made the heavens and the stars.

He made the sun and the moon
and he made the angels.
The angels were like Allah's servants
and did everything He ordered.

Then Allah decided to make a man.
He called this first man Adam.
He taught him many things
so that Adam had more knowledge
than the angels.

There was one Jinn,
called Iblis and he thought
he was better than Adam
so Allah would not let him
stay with the other angels.

He was to be called
'Shaytan', the Devil.
Shaytan blamed Adam for what had
happened to him and was very angry.

Allah let Adam live in
a beautiful place because
he was good. The place was
called Paradise.

It was a very nice place but
Adam was a little lonely,
on his own all of the time.
Allah decided to help Adam.
He made Hawa to be Adam's wife.

They were happy and
liked living in Paradise.

There was, however,
one thing they were not allowed to do.
There was a special
tree and Allah had told them they must not
eat any fruit from that tree.

At first Adam and Hawa were
very good and kept away
from the tree.

Shaytan decided to do
something very naughty.

He told them they were silly
to keep away from the tree.
He said nothing would happen
if they ate its fruit.
He said the fruit was delicious
and they should try it.

After a while they began to
listen to Shaytan and thought
they would have just a little
taste of the fruit, just to see
what it was like.
Shaytan was very happy because
he had made them disobey Allah.

As soon as they had eaten
the fruit,
Adam and Hawa
realised that they had been
very naughty and
they felt guilty
for what they had done.

Allah forgave them
But He wouldn't let them
stay in Paradise any more
So He sent them to live on earth.

Chapter 2

Habil and Qabil -Prophet Nuh (a)

Adam had two sons
called Habil and Qabil.
Adam thought that
Habil, the younger son,
should take over after him.
But Qabil didn't like this
idea and was very
jealous.

To settle the argument
Adam thought of an idea.
He told his sons to think
of a present to give to
Allah and to leave it
on top of a certain hill.

The one whose
present Allah accepted,
would win the
argument.

Allah chose Habil's
present because Habil
had taken a lot
of time and trouble
to choose his present.

Qabil was very upset and
angry. He was so angry
that he killed his
own brother. Afterwards,
when he realised what
he had done, he cried

and cried but it was
too late to be sorry.

Prophet Nuh (a)

After many years Adam
had grandchildren and even
great grandchildren.
There were now lots of
people on earth.
Many of them obeyed Allah
but some were not so good
and did just what they
wanted to do all the time.
This made Allah very unhappy.

Allah chose Nuh,
a good man, to tell the
people that what they
were doing was wrong.
But they wouldn't listen
to him and carried on
doing bad things.

Allah decided that
all the naughty people
should be punished.
He told Nuh to build
a big ark near
his house.

Nuh quickly got busy
choosing good wood and
building it up into a
fine ark.

A lot of people laughed
at him but he did not
take any notice of them,
because Allah had told
him what to do.

When he had finished,
he put lots of food
into the ark and collected
the good people together.
They also took lots of

animals with them
into the ark, two
of every kind.

One day, all of a sudden,
the sky went very dark
and it started to rain.
Lightly at first, then
more and more heavily. Soon
there was water everywhere.
The bad people were not
laughing any more. They
were frightened because
they had no shelter
from the water.

Only the good people
in the ark were
safe and dry.

Chapter 3

Prophet Hud (a) - Prophet Salih (a)

A long time ago,
a great tribe lived in the
South of Arabia.

They were called Ad.

They were very clever and
could do many things.

They used the mountains
for their homes.

They carved out great mansions
with wonderful pillars.

They called their city Iram.

It was very famous.

As time went on,
the people of Ad
thought more about themselves
and less about Allah.

They thought they
didn't need Allah,
because they had
lots of money
and power.

They thought they were
being clever but really
they were foolish.

Before long they turned
to bad ways.

Gangs of them used to
rob and kill people
travelling by.

There was still one good man among them.

His name was Hud.

He did not belong to any of the gangs.

He did not agree with the things they did.

He tried to tell them to stop their bad ways

and told them

to follow Allah's ways.

Hud said Allah would punish the bad ones but most of the people still would not listen.

They thought they were more clever than the messenger of Allah.

Allah told Hud to take all the good people into a big cave near the city. The very next

day a terrible tornado

came and only the

good ones,

the ones who had

listened,

were saved.

Prophet Salih (a)

The people of Thamud

lived in a valley

called al-Hajr

in the north of Arabia.

It was a good land

so everything grew very easily.

Cattle and sheep grazed

on the land.

Everyone

had plenty of everything.

When people have a lot

they sometimes forget

who provides everything,

they sometimes forget Allah.
When this happens
Allah sends a messenger
or a prophet
to try to help the people.

To the people of Thamud,
Allah sent Salih.
Salih told the people
to remember Allah
but a lot of people just
laughed
at him and would
not listen.

He did not give up.
He still tried to persuade
them to worship Allah
and soon people
began to listen.
They realised Salih was right.
The leaders of Thamud
were upset by this.

They did not want people
to listen to Salih.
They did not believe Salih
was sent by Allah.
They wanted him to prove it,
they wanted a sign.
They told Salih
to bring them a camel
but it had
to be a
special camel.

Salih prayed to Allah
and Allah sent
the special camel.
The camel gave lots and
lots of milk so all the poor
people had enough to drink,
and they were very happy.

The leaders of Thamud
became
angry again to see Salih
and his followers so happy.
They decided
to kill the camel.
Salih told them that Allah
would punish them.

Salih took all the good people
away from the valley.
A terrible earthquake came
and destroyed the valley
and all the bad people.
If they had listened to Salih
they would have been saved.

Chapter 4

Prophet Ibrahim (a)

Many years ago a boy called Ibrahim lived in Canaan.

he was very clever and was always asking questions.

Most of the people he knew worshipped idols but Ibrahim did not.

The people had forgotten the messages that Adam, Hud, Nuh and Salih had brought them.

Instead of praising Allah they worshipped statues.

Ibrahim told his father he didn't think people should worship objects they had made themselves. His father was angry and told him not to say anything about the gods again.

Ibrahim decided he must show the people they were wrong so he thought of a plan.

One night he sneaked into the place where all the statues were kept. With an axe

he chopped off the
heads from all but
one of the statues.
The biggest one
he left.

The next morning the
people were very angry
and upset at what had
happened. They were
sure Ibrahim had done it.
They gathered in the
public square and asked
him if he had done it.
Ibrahim told them to ask
their big idol if he
knew who was responsible.

But, of course, the statue
could not speak and the
people knew it was only
stone. Ibrahim shouted at
them and asked how
they could worship lumps
of stone. The bad people were
even more angry.
They started to collect wood
for a fire. They were
going to burn Ibrahim
to death.

They made a big bonfire
and put Ibrahim on the top.
Everyone came to watch. They
lit the wood. The fire burned,
the flames grew higher and
higher. The people had to
back away from the heat
of the flames.

Ibrahim was a good
person. He believed in Allah.
Allah would protect him.
Allah would not let the

fire harm him. When the flames died down the people could not believe their eyes.

They saw that Ibrahim was alive and the flames had not harmed him at all. How had this happened? They all knew this was a great miracle and they fell to their knees.

This wonderful thing had made them believe in Allah. Some people would still not listen. They thought Ibrahim was just a magician

Nimrod, the king of Canaan, heard all about Ibrahim. He wanted to talk to him. He asked Ibrahim about Allah. Ibrahim told him that Allah could do all things. He could give life and death. Nimrod said that he too could do that.

His soldiers brought two men in. Nimrod ordered one to be killed and the other to be saved.

Nimrod thought that this made him like Allah. Ibrahim told him that Allah brings the sun every morning from the East.

He asked Nimrod if he could bring the sun from the west next day, of course, Nimrod was unable to do that.

Chapter 5

Prophet Ibrahim (a) - Prophet Ismail (a)

Ibrahim married a girl called Sarah. They lived very happily in Palestine. They worked and had plenty of everything.

Ibrahim became very wealthy, but he was a good man. He always helped other people too.

After many years Ibrahim and Sarah still had no children. This made them very sad. They both wanted a child to share their life with.

Sarah told Ibrahim that he should marry her servant Hajar too, so that Ibrahim and Hajar could make a child together.

Prophet Ismail (a)

After a while Ibrahim did marry Hajar and she had a son.

They called him Ismail.
They were all very
happy.

Ibrahim, Hajar and Ismail
moved to a valley in
Arabia. They settled in
a good place with hills
and mountains on all
sides to protect them.

After a while Ibrahim
said that he should go
back to see Sarah and
to get more food and water.
Before he left he prayed
to Allah to look after
his wife and son because
they did not have much
food and water left.

The food and water
soon began to run low.
Hajar was very worried. What
could they live on?
They prayed to Allah.

Hajar went to the top of
the mountain, Mount Safa,
to look for Ibrahim.

Now their water was all gone
and they were desperate.
She went to the other
side of the valley and
climbed to the top of Mount
Marwa. She looked towards
the North, East, West and
South for help but found
none.

Hajar kept running
backwards and forwards
between Mount Safa and
Mount Marwa.
She did this seven times.

Suddenly she saw
Ismail kick the ground
with his heel.

A spring of water gushed
out - beautiful, pure water,
they were saved.

Even today this water, called
Zamzam, still flows in the
Valley of Hijaz and when
people go to Makkah on Hajj
they go seven times between
the two mounts in memory
of this miracle that saved
the lives of Hajar and Ismail.

When Ibrahim returned he was
amazed to see the valley.
The water had made the place
very fertile. All the animals
and caravans visited and
made it a prosperous place.

Chapter 6

The Sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (a)

One night Ibrahim had
a bad dream.

He dreamt Allah told
him to sacrifice Ismail.

Ibrahim thought it was
Shaytan playing nasty
tricks on him.

The next night Ibrahim had
the same horrid dream.

Ibrahim knew that
Allah would only
ask him to do such
a thing if he had good
reason.

Even though he loved
his son dearly, he was
prepared to do this
difficult thing for Allah.

Ibraim told
Ismail they
had to go to
Mount Arafat.
He took a knife
and a rope with him.

On the way they passed
a place called Mina.
The devil, Shaytan, came
to Ibrahim and
tried to talk him

out of sacrificing
his son.

Ibrahim turned his back
on him and would not listen.

When they reached Mount
Arafat, Ibrahim told Ismail
what Allah wanted him to do.
Ismail listened and accepted
what was to happen. He was
an exceptional child.

He too was a
great prophet.

Ismail told his father to tie
his hands and legs and blindfold
himself so he would not struggle and
make his father even more upset than
he was going to be and Ibrahim was
blindfolded so he would not see his
son suffer.

Ibrahim did as Ismail
had said. He then took
the knife and did what
Allah had told him to
do. When he took
the blindfold from his
eyes he looked down, not
at his son but at a
dead ram.

Ismail was at his side.

Ibrahim was afraid.
He thought he had disobeyed
but then he heard a voice
telling him not to worry.
Allah looks after his
followers. Ibrahim and Ismail
had passed a difficult test.

Each year, during the
month of Dhul Hijjah,
many Muslims, from all

over the world, travel
to Makkah.

They want to remember
what Ibrahim and
Ismail did.

In the month of Dhul Hijjah
these pilgrims go to Makkah,
Mina and Arafat.
They visit places
where Ibrahim and Ismail
lived and preached.

They give a sacrifice just
as Allah commanded
Ibrahim to do. The pilgrims
sacrifice animals in
memory of the deed.

We must obey
Allah's commands
as Ibrahim and
Ismail did. We
obey by doing
the things we
know are right,
praying, obeying
our parents and
always telling
the truth.

Prophet Ibrahim (a) & Prophet Ishaq (a)

The Well of Zamzam where water first flowed to save the lives of Hajar and Ismail, became a popular place for the caravans to stop.

Some people liked the place so much they decided to stay there.

This place became known as Makkah.

One day Ibrahim had a message from Allah. He and Ismail were to build a place for people to pray. They were to build an altar, it was to be known as the Ka'aba.

The angel Jibrail brought the message saying that the Ka'aba should be built near the Well of Zamzam, the most sacred place on earth.

The foundation stone for the Ka'aba was to come from heaven. It is found today in a

corner of the Ka'aba and is known as the black stone.

When Ibrahim was building the Ka'aba he was standing on a large rock. Allah softened the rock and the shape of Ibrahim's bare feet was left in it. It is still there, for all to see.

When Ibrahim was very old the angels came to see him and said Allah was going to give a son to him and Sarah.

Sarah could not believe it was true. She too was old. The angels said that all things are possible to Allah. They said the son was to be called Ishaq. He was to be a prophet.

Sure enough, Sarah did have a son and they called him Ishaq. he grew up to be a great prophet.

Ishaq married a girl called Rebecca. They had two sons, called Esau and Yaqub. Yaqub became a great prophet.

Yaqub grew up and married Zia and they had lots of children, both boys and girls.

His second wife
Rohsie had two sons,
Yusuf and Benjamin.

Yusuf and Benjamin
were very good, obedient
sons and they became
Yaqub's favourites because
of their good behaviour.
Yusuf too grew up
to be a prophet.

All of these great
prophets were
descendents of Ibrahim.
He is known as
the father of all
the prophets.

Muhammad (s), our great
and beloved prophet,
the last of all the
prophets was a
descendant of Ismail.

Chapter 8

Prophet Yaqub (a) & Prophet Yusuf (a)

Yaqub was also known as Israil.

Israil's children could see that Yusuf was their father's favourite. This made them very jealous. They became so jealous, some of them actually wanted to kill him.

The jealous brothers finally decided to throw Yusuf into a deep well.

They went to Israil, their father, to ask if they could take Yusuf out with them; they said they would teach him to be a good shepherd. Israil would not let Yusuf go because he thought the others were planning to do something bad.

One day Yusuf went to Israil and said that he had had a strange dream. In the dream Yusuf had seen the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowing down to him!

Israil felt that the dream had a message, Yusuf was going to have a great future. He told Yusuf not to tell his brothers about the dream.

Israil's son were still thinking of their plan to kill Yusuf. They pestered Israil to let them take Yusuf with them to their work.

At last Israil agreed, but he made them promise to look after him. They were so bad they knew they would break their promise.

At the end of the day they asked Yusuf to take off his shirt. They killed a sheep and put blood all over Yusuf's shirt; then they threw Yusuf into a well.

They went home and showed the shirt to Israil. Pretending to be very upset; they told their father that Yusuf had got left behind and a wolf had eaten him!

Israil was very upset but he did not believe the story. He knew that one day Allah would

bring Yusuf back
to him.

Poor Yusuf spent the
night in the well.
The next morning, when
someone put the
bucket down the
well to get water,
he sat in the bucket.

The man had to get help
to pull the bucket up.
He was very surprised to see
a boy in it.

The man was a merchant.

The merchant decided
to take Yusuf with
him to Egypt and to
sell him as a slave.
When they arrived in
Egypt, one of the noble
families bought Yusuf.

The man who
bought him told
his wife that they
should take care of
him, as he was a
good-looking child
and they had no
children of their own.
Yusuf became one
of the family.

Chapter 9

Prophet Yusuf (a)

The Pharaoh of Egypt called Firawn had many people working for him.

One of his assistants had a very wicked wife who said many things about Yusuf that were quite untrue. She thought she loved him but he told her that she should honour her husband.

She became very angry and persuaded her husband to have Yusuf put in prison.

While he was in prison, Yusuf used to tell everyone what their dreams meant and his explanation of the dreams always came true.

Allah had given Yusuf this great gift.

Firawn kept having a strange dream and none of his wise men could explain what it meant. Then Firawn heard of Yusuf's great gift and sent for him.

Yusuf would not leave the prison until he had proven his innocence. Firawn had an inquiry and discovered that Yusuf really was innocent, so he was able to leave prison.

Firawn's dream was most unusual. In it, he saw seven skinny cows eat seven big fat ones and there were seven skinny ears of wheat and seven fat ears of wheat.

Yusuf explained that this meant there would be seven years of plenty but seven years of famine would follow, when there would be no water and no food for anyone.

After that there would be a year of rain. Firawn liked and trusted Yusuf so he put him in charge of all the store houses in the land.

Yusuf had worked himself up to a very powerful position. Allah always rewards good people.

Yusuf worked hard; he made sure the store houses were filled with wheat and grain.

Just as he had said, there were seven years of plenty. Those years passed very quickly. Soon the seven years of

famine came. The crops failed. People were hungry. Others were starving.

Yusuf had planned for this. He opened his stores and let everyone have some of the wheat. Back in Palestine, Israil too was facing a hard time with no food for his family or the animals.

He sent his sons to Egypt to get grain from the famous treasurer of Egypt. When they arrived they were told that they must get permission from the governor to buy grain.

They went to see him, but did not realise that the fine man, in splendid robes was really their brother. He told them they could have some grain, but if they wanted any more, they would have to come with their youngest brother and parents.

Yusuf had recognised them straight away and he longed to see his father, mother and young brother Benjamin again.

Eventually the eleven brothers returned with their mother and father. They bowed down before Yusuf. Yusuf put his father on his

throne and reminded him of
the dream he had had so long ago.

The sun, the moon and
eleven stars had bowed
down before him just as
his father, mother and
brothers had done at this
meeting, This was a great
moment in his life
and he thanked
Allah, for all He
had done for him.

Chapter 10

Prophet Shu'ayb (a)- Prophet Yunus (a) - Prophet Ayyub (a)

The Prophet Shu'ayb was a descendent of the Prophet Ibrahim. He was sent to Midian and the Dwellers of the wood to give them Allah's message.

The Midianite people committed many sins.

They gave short measures and weights, they robbed people and caused mischief but most seriously they tried to stop people from worshipping Allah.

Shu'ayb tried to make them change but they would not listen to him. They wanted to throw him out and all the people who had listened to his words.

Then Allah sent an earthquake and all the evil people were destroyed because they would not obey the word of Allah.

Prophet Yunus (a)

The prophet Yunus
was sent to Ninevah.
He became known as the
Lord of the Fish (Dhan-Nun).
He warned the people about
their evil ways and told them
to follow Allah but they
would not listen.

Yunus was so angry he left.
He sailed away but the ship
was so full and heavy,
poor Yunus
was thrown
overboard.

He was
swallowed by an
enormous fish and he
lived in its belly
for three days.
Then the fish spewed
him out on a shore.
He was very ill but
Allah was protecting him.

A plant grew
and its leaves protected
Yunus from the sun and
kept the flies away.
A wild goat provided him
with milk. When he became
better he went back to
Ninevah and gave the
people Allah's message
once more. This time
the people listened
and Allah forgave them.

Prophet Ayyub (a)

The Prophet Ayyub had been a wealthy man.

He was a very good man but he lost his family and his wealth.

He became ill and had terrible sores all over his body.

However he never gave up.

He spent his time praying.

He was very patient and always kept his faith in Allah.

Eventually Allah showed mercy.

He told Ayyub to strike the earth with his foot and miraculously a fountain appeared.

He drank the water and used it to wash his body.

All his sores were healed and everything was returned to him as before.

Allah had rewarded him for keeping his faith despite the terrible afflictions he had tested him with.

Chapter 11

Prophet Musa (a)

Israil's family decided to stay in Egypt. For a long time they were happy. The family grew. There were many people related to Israil and they became known as the Bani Israil.

For some reason the Egyptian people did not like the Bani Israil.

A new Firawn became ruler of Egypt. Israil's people became slaves to the government. They were forced to do many unpleasant jobs and were treated very badly.

One night Firawn had a dream. His high priest, Haman, told him what he thought the dream meant. An Israil boy would be born and he would grow up and cause the death of Firawn.

This made Firawn very angry and so he thought of a horrible plan.

All the boys born to the Israilites would be killed at birth.

He thought this would

stop the dream from coming true.

Imran and his wife had two children, a girl called Maryam and a boy called Iram. Soon after Firawn told of his plan, Imran's wife found out that she was going to have another baby.

They were pleased but they were also worried that if the baby was a boy, he would be killed.

She did not tell anyone that she was going to have a baby. She stayed at home and kept her secret until the baby was born.

It was a boy. She loved the baby very much but realised that if she kept him, he might be killed.

She put the baby in a special box and Maryam went with her to the river Nile.

They carefully put the box in the river and prayed that it would sail to safety.

Allah was watching over the baby. No harm would come to him.

The box sailed into Firawn's gardens. Some maids were there and saw the box caught in the bullrushes. They pulled it out and were amazed to find a beautiful baby inside. They took him to Firawn's wife, Asia, who looked at him and knew at once that he was an Israili.

Firawn wanted to kill the baby but Asia cried and

cried and was so upset that eventually he said she could keep him and even adopt him. The baby was called Musa. He was not happy. He cried because he was hungry but would not take milk from anyone.

Maryam heard of this and she let it be known that she knew someone who might be able to help. She went to her mother and told her what had happened. They went to the palace and when Musa was put in her arms he stopped crying and took milk from her.

With Allah's help Musa and his mother were reunited. She was able to look after Musa for a long time and he loved her dearly.

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*"Wisdom is the lost property of the Believer,
let him claim it wherever he finds it"*

Imam Ali (as)