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Stories of the Prophets...

HAZRAT SULAIMAN

(PEACE BE UPON HIM)



Publications Department - Lajna Ima'illah UK, 2023

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Publisher's Note

References to the Holy Quran contain the name of the surah [i.e. chapter] followed by a chapter:verse citation, e.g. Surah al-Jumu'ah, 62:4, and count Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim ['In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful'] as the first verse in every chapter that begins with it.

The following abbreviations have been used: *sas sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam*, meaning 'peace and blessings of Allah be upon him', is written after the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sas).

as 'alahis-salam, meaning 'peace be on him', is written after the names of Prophets other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sas).

Glossary

Conscience a person's sense of right or wrong

Holy Quran the holy book for Muslims revealed to the Holy Prophet (sas)

Idolatry the worship of someone or something other than God as if it is God

Midian According to the Bible, Midian was a son of Abraham. It is also the name of a town near the Red Sea, on the Arabian shore

Prophet messenger of Allah

Tribe a group of people

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

My Dear Children

Assalamo Alaikum

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories of prophets and learn from them.

Allah the Almighty has sent hundreds of thousands of prophets over the course of humanity for our benefit. All prophets have one main message and that is to bring their people closer to God.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more.

May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

First and foremost, our thanks and praise are due to Almighty Allah without Whose boundless Grace and Blessings none of our work would be possible.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. This inspires us daily and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah for a very long time. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project, a team of lajna members in the Ishaat department, coordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to produce this series of books for young children.

The following members of the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books. Humda Bilal, Atia tul Saboor Bhatti, Noore Sahar Ahmad, Syeda Nudrat Mubashira Ahmed, Aalia Rehman, Atifa Ahmad and Hadiqa Asma.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as National Secretary Ishaat UK

GUIDE FOR PARENTS

This book, one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Imaillah UK, is based on the stories of the prophets narrated in the Holy Quran. The books are designed for children of primary school age who can read for themselves and try the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Quran and read them for themselves.

We also hope that you will also be able to use the books with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. Then you can enjoy doing the activities with your children.

May Almighty Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are a beacon of light for all humanity.

Let's learn about...

HAZRAT SULAIMAN

(Peace be upon him)

HAZRAT SULAIMAN^(AS)

The Chapter that mentions the story of Hazrat Sulaiman (as) is called Surah An-Naml, which means 'The Ant'

DID YOU KNOW



He is a prophet mentioned in Islamic, Christian and Jewish scriptures! He is often called 'Solomon' in English.

Dear children,
Have you heard of Hazrat Sulaiman (as)? He was a Prophet of Allah. In fact, his father, Hazrat Dawood (as) was also a prophet! By the grace of Allah, he was blessed with the same power, office, and spiritual knowledge as his father.

WHO WAS HAZRAT SULAIMAN^(AS)?

DID YOU KNOW ?

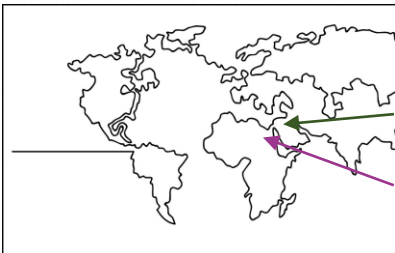
'Dan to Beersheba' is a Biblical phrase, and it refers to the areas in which the Tribes of Israel had settled — 'Dan' in the North, and 'Beersheba' in the South.

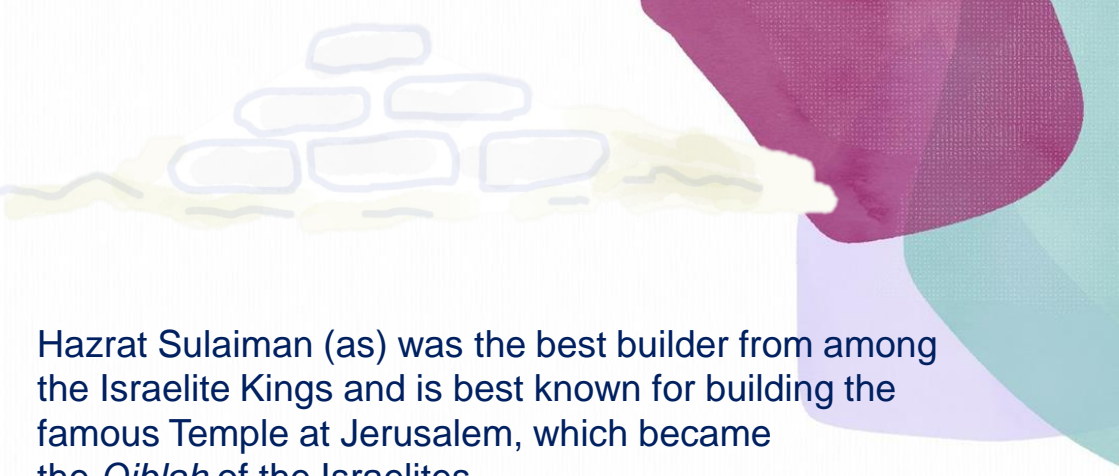
Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was a prophet of Allah. He was the son of Hazrat Dawood (as), who was a prophet, a great warrior and a mighty statesman. Hazrat Dawood (as) founded the Judean dynasty and was the real builder of the Hebrew Kingdom. Through him all the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba became united and organised into a powerful nation whose Kingdom extended from the Euphrates to the Nile.

After Hazrat Dawood (as) passed away, Hazrat Sulaiman (as) united and strengthened the Kingdom he had inherited from his father. He was a great monarch, like his father. He developed the country in many ways — including the things that were made, bought, and sold.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The Euphrates is a river in Asia and the Nile is a river in North-eastern Africa.





Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was the best builder from among the Israelite Kings and is best known for building the famous Temple at Jerusalem, which became the *Qiblah* of the Israelites.

Allah says in the Holy Quran in 38:31:

وَوَهَبْنَا لِدَاوُدَ سُلَيْمَانَ ۗ نِعَمَ الْعَبْدِ ۗ إِنَّهُ أَوَّابٌ

‘And We bestowed on David, Solomon who was an excellent servant *of Ours*. He was always turning *to Us*.’

Allah sent revelations to Prophet Sulaiman (as), as he sent revelations to other prophets. He was a very powerful and mighty King of his people.

DID YOU
KNOW ?

A ‘revelation’ is the way Allah
converses

HAZRAT SULAIMAN^(AS) AND THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS



Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was heir not just to the Kingdom of his father David, but also to his father's spiritual knowledge. In the Quran, Hazrat Sulaiman (as) is quoted as saying that,

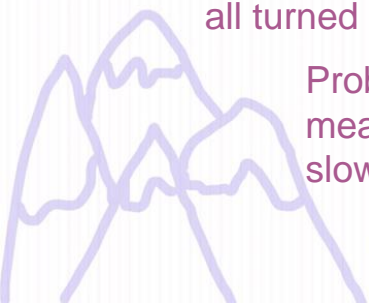
'we have been taught the language of birds, and we have had all *necessary* things bestowed upon us.' [27:17]

Did this mean that Hazrat Sulaiman (as) and Hazrat Dawood (as) could talk to birds? No!

This is an example of **metaphorical language**, which is where a phrase or sentence is used to represent something else.

For example, if your teacher said, 'You've all been snails this morning!' would it mean you had all turned into snails?

Probably not - what your teacher may mean, is that you were all working really slowly - like snails!



Allah Almighty uses metaphorical language in the Holy Quran to explain things in a way that can be understood in the present day, but could also be understood in the past. So, 'the language of birds' meant that Hazrat Sulaiman (as) and his father were taught to use birds for the purpose of communication. Hazrat Sulaiman (as) used birds to carry messages across his kingdom. This was very useful, as his kingdom was incredibly vast!



Birds who migrate during the year also fly in an organised fashion, each having their own role during the flight.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Bees have their own system of government! Each bee has a job to do in its colony. They communicate using body movements.

In nature, birds, insects and bees have specific jobs to do. They communicate using sound, movement and smells. This communication can be considered their 'language'; however they do not speak. This is important, as it means it does not make sense to think that Hazrat Sulaiman (as) spoke with birds.



HAZRAT SULAIMAN^(AS), HUD-HUD, AND THE QUEEN OF SABA'

The Holy Quran tells us of an incident that took place between Hazrat Sulaiman (as) and the Queen of Saba', who was also a powerful ruler at the time.

The incident begins when Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was preparing an army for battle. When reviewing his army, Hud-hud, an important officer of the State, was missing:

'I will surely punish him with a severe punishment or I will slay him, unless he brings me a clear reason *for his absence.*' [27:22]

From this verse, it is clear Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was upset that such an important member of the army was not present at this crucial time. Unless Hud-hud had an acceptable reason for his absence, he would be faced with a severe punishment.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The name *Hud-hud* means *bird*. Some people think that *Hud-hud* is a bird in this incident, but *Hud-hud* was a man. At the time, it was common for tribes and people to be named after animals and *Hud-hud* was a popular name among Hazrat Sulaiman's (as) people. *Hud-hud* is also said to be the name of the father of *Bilqis*, the Queen of Saba'.

(Extracted from 5 volume commentary, Surah An-Naml, verse 21)

Hud-hud was returning from a State mission. He brought Hazrat Sulaiman (as) an important piece of news from Saba'. Saba' was a city in Yemen, and was the seat of Government of the Queen of Saba'.

'...Hud-hud came and said, 'I have acquired knowledge of that of thou hast no knowledge; and I come to thee from Saba' with sure tidings;' [27:23]

Hud-hud explained that the Queen of Saba' and the Sabaeans worshipped the sun and the stars, and Satan had bidden them not to worship Allah. Upon receiving this news, Hazrat Sulaiman (as) said that he would see if the information turned out to be true or false. This proves that Hud-hud was not a bird because birds are never known to speak the truth or tell lies.

Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was a Prophet of Allah. Prophets always try and guide people to believe in the One, true God and to reject idol worship. The Sabaens were worshipping idols, so Hazrat Sulaiman (as) sent a letter to the Queen of Saba'.

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

The Queen of Saba' ruled over a very wealthy people, who had attained a very high degree of civilisation. She was a powerful monarch.

The letter included three different messages:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

1. IT WARNED THAT SABA'S PEOPLE SHOULD NOT TRY TO FIGHT AGAINST SOLOMON'S ARMY.

2. IT INVITED THE QUEEN OF SABA' TO INSTEAD SUBMIT TO SOLOMON.

3. IT ALSO ASKED HER TO GIVE UP WORSHIPPING IDOLS, LIKE THE SUN AND THE STARS, AND TO INSTEAD ACCEPT ALLAH AS THE ONE TRUE GOD.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Bible, the Queen of Saba' is referred to as the 'Queen of Sheba'.

Hud-hud was entrusted with the mission to take Hazrat Sulaiman's (as) letter to her, and to talk with her on his behalf and as his representative.

The letter started with 'Bismillah', as is stated in the Holy Quran:

The Queen said to her chiefs, 'Ye chiefs, there has been delivered to me a noble letter; It is from and it is:

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

'In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful;'

The Queen took advice from her Chiefs. They told her that they would do whatever she decided. This shows how powerful the Queen of Saba' was. She not only had great material resources, such as money, but she also had the respect and obedience of her subjects.

The Queen explains to her ministers and nobles the dangers of offering opposition to Hazrat Sulieman (as). So she sent some presents.



According to the commentary of Surah An-Naml, verse 37, we learn that Hazrat Sulaiman (as) was greatly offended with the Queen's behaviour in sending him presents which seemed to include a throne. He had demanded her unconditional surrender and instead was presented with paltry presents.

It seems that The Sabaeans had either attacked Hazrat Sulaiman's territory or had sought to create unrest in it. This is why the sending of presents offended and annoyed him. In ordinary circumstances, as a righteous man of God, he should have been pleased with the presents.

So when the Queen's ambassador came to Hazrat Sulaiman (as), he said:

'Do you mean to help me with *your* wealth? But that which Allah has given me is better than that which He has given you' (Surah An-Naml, verse 37).

Hazrat Sulaiman (as) then asked that a throne be built for the Queen to sit on it when she arrived. He wanted the throne to be even more beautiful than the one the Queen already had, to see if she would realise the superiority of Hazrat Sulaiman's power and resources, as he had been blessed by Allah.

Hazrat Sulaiman (as) wanted her to realise the error of her ways and submit to Allah.

Hence it says in the Quran

“He said, ‘Make her throne unrecognisable to her, and let us see whether she follows the right way or whether she is one of those who follow not the right way.’” (27:42).

Because Hazrat Sulaiman(as) wanted the Queen of Saba to realise her mistakes, and to accept Allah, there was another lesson for her when she arrived.

Do you know what this was?

Well, Hazrat Sulaiman’s palace floor was made of glass, and there was running water underneath. So, to those who stepped into the palace it seemed as though they were stepping into running water! This is what happened to the Queen of Saba- when she entered the palace, she mistook the glass for water.

Did you know?

Did you know? In the Quran, Allah says that when the Queen saw the palace “she uncovered her shanks” (27:45) which is an Arabic expression for her confusion. In English ‘shanks’ can mean legs.

By this clever illusion, Prophet Sulaiman(as) had demonstrated to the Queen that - just as she had mistaken glass for water- she had mistaken the sun, stars and planets for gods.

However, in reality - just as the glass seemed to her to be the water - the sun and planets only seemed to be gods.

After this, the Queen of Saba realised her mistake and submitted to Allah.

In the Quran it says:

“She said, ‘My Lord, I have indeed wronged myself; and I submit myself with Solomon to Allah, Lord of the Worlds’.” (27:45).

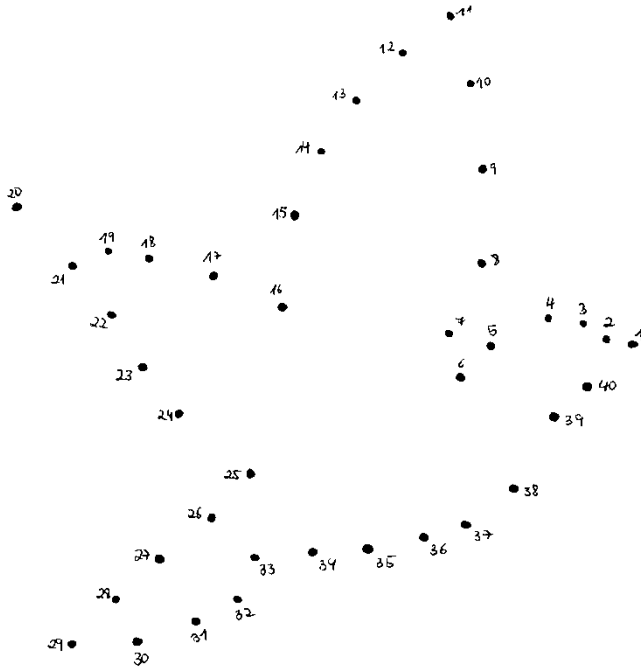
Therefore, it was because of the efforts of Hazrat Sulaiman (as) that the Queen of Saba became a follower of Allah.

Hazrat Sulaiman (as) had always turned to Allah and he was given a high rank by Allah.

However, sadly his kingdom was not going to last as he saw in a vision that his son would be an incapable ruler.

When the time came, Hazrat Sulaiman's son was a weak ruler with foolish and selfish advisors working under him which is why the kingdom fell to pieces, and the mountain tribes revolted and rebelled against the kingdom.

Can you trace the numbers?



ACTIVITY PAGE

Can you find all the words in this word search?

P Z A P S A N M R D
R E L I U P A B E A
O X J A L B M A L U
P Y I T A I L B A D
H E N S I E G R B A
E T N M M E J H I B
T A K A A S G K R I
T H R O N E G E D U
Q U E E N I O N S N

Prophet

Queen

Sulaiman

Naml

Daud

Birds

Jinn

Saba

Throne



NOTES



NOTES

OTHER BOOKS IN THE SERIES...

