

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT AYUB عليه السلام



Published By:



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HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

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Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام is mentioned by name four times in the Noble Qur'an.

Although the first two of these Surahs only mention his name, the other two mention brief details about the fact that he experienced gruelling tests. However, despite facing calamities of all types, he never complained to Allah and bore everything with utmost patience. Allah then enshrouded him with His mercy and alleviated all his hardships. Praising him in the Qur'an, Allah says, "What a fine slave! He was certainly penitent."

Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام was Arab and he lived between the periods of Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام and Hazrat Musa عليه السلام. He was a saintly person who was amongst the prophets and messengers of Allah.

There are two primary sources from which we receive information about the nation of Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام and the period during which he was sent as a Nabi. These are the Torah and the ancient historical texts. These details are not mentioned in the Qur'an or in authentic Ahadith since these do not form part of the essential lessons that the Qur'an strives to relate. The Qur'an relates the accounts of the Ambiya عليه السلام to offer advices, admonitions and their message.

Patience in Adversity

Although the Qur'an does not furnish details about the life of Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام, it makes the point very clear that he was a Nabi of Allah and had been one blessed with tremendous wealth and many children. However, he was tested greatly by the destruction of his possessions his family perished, together with utter loss of health as well. However, even then he did not complain but bore it all with patience and continued to be grateful to Allah. The most he uttered concerning his adversities was, "Difficulty has certainly afflicted me and You are the Most Merciful of those who show mercy (so remove my difficulty by Your mercy)". Such was his regard and respect for Allah that he did not attribute his difficulties to Allah.

He knew that although Allah is the real the One who controls all affairs in this world, yet distress and punishment come as a cause of shaytani causes, for this reason he said that shaytan had touched him with distress and suffering.

When he called out to Allah, Allah heard his plea and answered him. Allah instructed him to strike his foot on the ground and to bath in the water that gushed forth from the spot. This restored his health, after which Allah replaced all that he possessed and gave him even more on account of his perseverance. His story of patience and gratitude became proverbial and is a sterling lesson for all to come until the Day of Qiyamah.

Allah says, “(After curing him from the disease) We gifted him with his family and as many of them in addition (twice as many), as a mercy from Us and a reminder for people of intelligence (to remind them that Allah rewards the patient ones and restores their losses)”.

Ibn Asakir narrated: "Ayub عليه السلام was a man who had plenty wealth, slaves, sheep, vast land and many children. All those favours were taken from him and he was physically afflicted as well. His entire body was afflicted, except his heart and tongue, with both of which he glorified Allah, day and night. His disease lasted for a long time until his visitors felt disgusted with him. His friends kept away from him and people abstained from visiting him. No one felt sympathy for him except his wife. She took good care of him, knowing his former charity and pity for her."

Fulfilling an Oath

Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام was deserted by his friends and family when he fell ill, except for his faithful wife, who remained by his side all along. She nursed him through his illness and remained constantly in his attendance. One day she was overcome with pity for him and uttered some words that seemed to be a complaint to Allah. These words angered Hazrat Ayub (Alayhis Salam) greatly and he took an oath saying that he would punish her with a hundred lashes if he ever recovered from his illness.

Whatever the incident was, the dilemma that Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام faced when he was cured how was he to fulfil this oath. While it was wrong to break the oath, it was also wrong to hurt someone who had sacrificed so much for him. Allah then solved his dilemma by instructing him to gather a hundred twigs, bind them together and then as per his oath, strike his wife with it once. In this manner, he was released from the oath and no harm came to her.

Imam Bukhari (Rahimahullah) relates from Hazrat Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه that Nabi ﷺ said, “While (Nabi) Ayub عليه السلام was taking a bath golden locust started to rain down from the sky. As he started to collect them in his robe, his Rabb called to him saying, ‘O Ayub! Have I not given you enough to have no need for this that you see?’ Ayub عليه السلام replied, ‘I swear by Your honour that you certainly have. However, I can never not be in want of Your blessings (Barakah).’”

Lessons

Most Difficult Tests are for the Closest

It is the way of Allah that people who are closest to Allah are put through the most difficult tests. When these people exercise patience through these tests, the very hardships they suffered become a means for the elevation of their ranks in this world as well as in the Akhirah. The incident of Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام clearly depicts this.

Perseverance and Fortitude

While it is not very difficult to express gratitude to Allah when one has been blessed with wealth, honour, well-being and other bounties of this world and if there is no pride, arrogance and egotism. What proves to be difficult is to exercise patience without a word of complaint and to remain satisfied and content when one suffers hardship and difficulties, sorrow, poverty. To persevere with fortitude during such trying times is a true test of a person’s belief and faith in Allah. When a person during such trying times holds firm and continues to exercise patience and express gratitude, then he

soon falls into the lap of Allah's mercy and is showered with Allah's grace, blessings and mercy and he becomes endowed with such bounties that are unexpected, granting him worldly as well as spiritual benefits. Again, the incident of Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام makes a perfect example.

The Value of Loyalty

Amongst the most precious bounties one can be blessed with is to have the unwavering loyalty and faithfulness of one's spouse. Such loyalty is truly appreciated and loved when a husband suffers such calamities and hardships that find none else to stand by his side and assist him, even friends and family desert him apart from his wife.

The wife of Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام stood by him faithfully, sympathetically and obediently and gave him such love and compassion that when the time came for him to fulfil his oath, a special concession was made for her benefit. Such is the regard that even the Shariah accords to a loyal wife.

Losing Faith

Allah makes it evident in the Qur'an that when righteous people like Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام are faced with calamities, they do not harbour negative opinions about Allah and never lose faith in Him. They continue to persevere and make du'a to Allah, pinning all their hopes in Him. When the help of Allah is not immediate, they do not despair, but continue supplicating to Him and trusting in Him without stretching their hands out to anyone else. They believe that Allah will soon respond and alleviate the difficulties. One should not think that calamities are only a punishment for sins committed. Very often calamities come as a form of tests and trials and for the patient and grateful one's brings Allah's mercy. This is what Hazrat Ayub عليه السلام did throughout the many long years of suffering.

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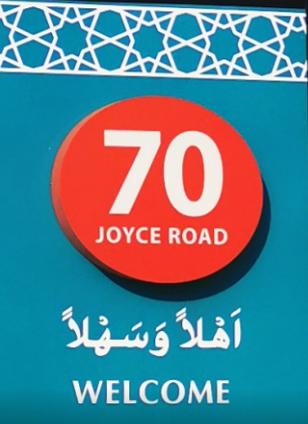
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About Darul Ihsan

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity of those that we serve.

Founding Philosophy

Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre is a multi-purpose, humanitarian-services providing organisation. 'Ihsan' means compassion towards mankind and to act with excellence. The Centre was established in the year 2000 with the primary objective of serving humanity and alleviating poverty and hardship locally and abroad. Since its inception, it has developed and established many humanitarian projects and provides a variety of free services to the community.

Key Objectives

One of the key objectives of the Centre is to promote a better understanding of humanity and peace, thereby serving as a bridge-builder between faiths and communities. Through guidance, Ubuntu and empowerment, the organisation hopes to train and develop the youth to become torch bearers of hope, peace and compassion to humanity.

