

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT ILYAS عليه السلام



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HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

HAZRAT ILYAS ﷺ

The first Nabi after Hazrat Musa ﷺ whose name is mentioned in the Qur'an is Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ. He came after Hazrat Hizqeel ﷺ and is referred to as Eelya.

In the Qur'an Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ is mentioned twice. In Surah An'am his name is only mentioned as being among the prophets and in Surah Safat there is more detail of his mission.

The historian Imam Tabari (Rahimahullah) has written that Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ was the cousin of Hazrat Yasa ﷺ and from the progeny of Hazrat Harun ﷺ.

Message and Mission

Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ lived in the region of Jal'aad in Jordan. He was sent to the people of Shaam for their guidance and the centre of his mission was the well-known city Ba'labak.

These people were idol-worshippers who worshipped the idol B'al and were far from the worship of the Oneness of Allah. This idol was made from gold, 20 feet high. He had four faces and four hundred servants were at all times at his service.

Allah Ta'ala sent Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ as a Nabi to the Bani Israeel to reform their beliefs and sway them away from idolatry. Like the other messengers, Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ also applied his best efforts to get the people to abolish idolatry, but they rejected his preaching.

Books of Tafseer such as Tafseer Mazhari and others have reported many incidents concerning Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ from Allama Baghawi (Rahimahullah), Hazrat Wahab bin Munabbih (Rahimahullah) and Hazrat Ka'b Ahbaar (Rahimahullah). However, these are sourced from the Bani Israeel the crux of which is, Hazrat Ilyas ﷺ forbade the king and the people from worshipping the idol called Ba'l and called them towards worshipping One Allah. However, only a few people

accepted his message. The others opposed him to such a degree that the queen ultimately tried to have him killed.

When he heard about the attempt upon his life, Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام fled the area and hid in a cave for a lengthy period. While he was there, a devastating drought struck the land. In desperation, the people searched for Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام so that he could pray for the drought to end. Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام then left the cave by the permission of Allah and went to the king to explain to him that the drought was a result of them worshipping Ba'l. To be delivered from the drought, they needed to stop this worship.

To prove his truthfulness, Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام proposed that the four hundred devotees of Ba'l should present a sacrifice to Ba'l and then pray that she accepts it by sending a fire from the heavens to consume it. He would then also make a sacrifice and pray to Allah to accept it in the same manner. In this way, the one whose sacrifice is accepted will be declared the truthful one. This was an ancient manner of judging acceptance. The king and his people accepted the proposal. The devotees therefore presented their sacrifices and prayed to Ba'l all day to accept. However, no response was forthcoming. When Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام presented his sacrifice and prayed to Allah to accept it, a fire immediately descended from the heavens and devoured it. Seeing this, many people fell into Sajdah and became followers of Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام).

Torrential rains then fell and the drought ended. Despite this, the devotees of Ba'l, the king and queen refused to submit. They were still adamant to have Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام assassinated and he was forced to migrate to another town called Yahudiyah, where he stayed for a long time. Unfortunately, the worship of Ba'l had spread to this place as well and Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام continued to preach the Oneness of Allah to the people and king here as well. However, they also refused to accept his message and were eventually destroyed.

Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام then returned to the Bani Israeel and again preached to them, their king and his son Akhtarya. Unfortunately, they again

refused to accept and it was not long afterwards that they were struck by a disease that killed them. Allah then took his beloved Nabi Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام also from this world.

Lesson

In the time of Hazrat Ilyas عليه السلام the mentality of the Bani Israeel had been changed so much for the worst that there was no evil in the world that they were not keen to do. And there was no virtue that they strove for. In spite of the continuous and successive appearance of the prophets, they still held onto idol-worship. It is a lesson for the latter people to hold onto the commands of Allah and not to deviate from the straight path.

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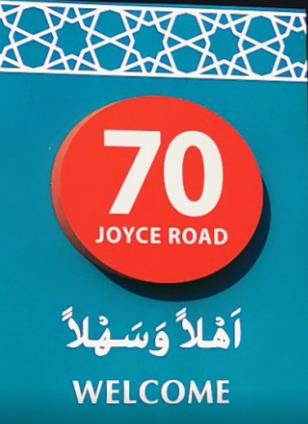
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About Darul Ihsan

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.

