

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT SHAMWEEL عليه السلام



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HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
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HAZRAT SHAMWEEL ﷺ

After the demise of Hazrat Musa ﷺ, the Bani Israeel had no king or leader for almost 350 years. Each tribe and family had their own leaders and judgements in civil suits were handed down by the judges amongst them. The Nabi of the time would supervise proceedings and engaged in the work of Da'wah. Hazrat Yusha ﷺ did this until his last moments on earth and appointed judges and others in positions of authority. It sometimes happened that these judges and others in authority would be appointed as messengers, after which he would fulfil a dual task.

Ibn Jarir (Rahimahullah) reported that the condition of the Israelites deteriorated. They committed many sins and killed whom they wished of the prophets. The Bani Israeel were not united under one leader, they were often plundered by neighbouring kingdoms and dynasties such as the Amaliqa, the Medes and the Amorites. This left the Bani Israeel in ruin when their lands were annexed, their wealth looted and their strength lost.

They used to go war, taking with them The Ark of the Covenant. They did this so that they would be victorious by its blessings, and it became a symbol of calm and a relic left behind by Musa ﷺ's people.

Four centuries after the demise of Hazrat Musa ﷺ, the Bani Israeel suffered a terrible defeat at the hands of a Palestinian nation. So crushing was the defeat that even their sacred casket, which they had guarded for so many centuries, was taken away. Amongst the many relics belonging to Hazrat Musa ﷺ and Hazrat Harun ﷺ, the casket also contained the original tablets of the Torah. It was then housed in the temple of Bayt Dajun, dedicated to the idol Dajun.

The children of Israel remained like sheep without a shepherd until Almighty Allah sent them a prophet named Shamweel ﷺ. They asked him to appoint a king over them to lead in a war against their enemies.

Shamweel عليه السلام leads the Israelites

It was during this period that a very pious and righteous judge by the name of Shamweel who was from them was blessed with the mantle of Nubuwwah, to bring some relief and charged with the guidance and reformation of the Bani Israeel. It has always been the case that when a nation is blessed with a Nabi, they are rejuvenated and start to rise from any fallen condition they may find themselves in.

They asked the prophet's help in appointing a strong leader, a king under whose banner they could unite and fight the Philistines. Shamweel عليه السلام, knowing their weakness, told them: "I fear that when the time comes to fight you may refuse." But they assured him that they had suffered enough insults and were now ready to fight in the way of Allah, even if they lost their lives.

Shamweel عليه السلام prayed to Allah for guidance. Allah revealed to him that He had chosen Talut, to be their king. The prophet wanted to know how to recognise the future king. He was told that Talut would come to him by himself and that they should then hand over the control of kingdom to him, for he would lead them in battle against the Philistines.

Talut is Appointed King

Talut was tall, pious, very intelligent and physically powerful. However, the Bani Israeel were appalled by the appointment because Talut was a poor man who hailed from a poor family. They felt that a king needed to be from an aristocratic family.

Some historians have written that the reason for their objection was that the leaders of Bani Israeel traditionally hailed from the progeny of Hazrat Ya'qub's عليه السلام son Yahuda. Talut, on the other hand, came from the lineage of Hazrat Ya'qub عليه السلام's son Bin Yameen. This was therefore a cause for jealousy, which they expressed by arguing with Hazrat Shamweel عليه السلام.

Hazrat Shamweel رضي الله عنه explained to them that leadership was not born from wealth and aristocracy, but that leadership required intelligence and strength. Talut possessed both of these to a remarkable degree. They would therefore be doing well for themselves to follow him and reclaim their lost land. He also assured them that Allah's help was with Talut since Allah had selected him and none can argue with Allah's selection.

However, despite explaining to them, the Bani Israeel were adamant that a king needs to be a wealthy person. When the argument became prolonged, some people suggested that proof be shown to convince the people that Talut was indeed appointed by Allah. When Hazrat Shamweel رضي الله عنه prayed to Allah for such a sign, Allah informed him that the sign will be that Talut shall return to them the sacred casket. When the Bani Israeel found the casket with Talut the following morning, they accepted that he was their king appointed by Allah and agreed to obey him.

The Death of Jaloot

Talut set about organising his army with strong faith and wisdom. He ordered that only men free from responsibilities should join. Those engaged in building homes, men who were about to be married and those occupied with business should not join. Talut took command of a large well-trained army of the Bani Israeel and marched with them against the Amaliqah, he needed to test them to see if they could be relied upon to obey orders. This was necessary because the Bani Israeel were given to be cowardly and disobedient, especially since they had not engaged in Jihad for a long while. Therefore, when they reached the Jordan River, Talut instructed them that it was an order from Allah for them not to drink from the river. Whoever drank from it would immediately be expelled from the army. They were, however, given the concession to drink just a little if they were very thirsty.

It then happened that the people who had drunk to their fill from the river lost courage when they faced the army of Jalut and conceded they that were unable to fight. They therefore sought permission to

leave. It was those who obeyed the order who were able to persevere and fight. He believed in quality and not numbers; better a small band of true believers he could rely on than a huge army of unreliable men. These men fearlessly marched on to face the enemy and said to the others that it so often happens that a small army defeats a large army by the will of Allah. This is because Allah is with those who trust in Him, who persevere and obey His commands.

Jalut was a giant of a man and had an army much larger and better equipped than the army of the Bani Israeel. The Muslims prayed to Allah to grant them fortitude and steadfastness and to assist them against the enemy. The Torah and books of history relate that there was a youngster in the army of the Bani Israeel who had never before displayed any feat of bravery and was not even experienced in battle. When Jalut stepped forward to challenge someone in single combat, it was this youngster who stood up to meet the challenge. Talut tried to stop the youngster, but he refused to give up the challenge. This youngster was the young Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام.

It is said that Hazrat Dawood عليه السلام was the youngest son and had not even come to fight in the battle. He had been sent only to bring news of the army and his father on the battlefield. However, when he saw the reluctance of the soldiers of the Bani Israeel to take up Jalut's challenge as he repeated it over and over again, Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام decided that he will stand up.

Jalut ignored Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام when he stepped forward since the youngster posed no threat to him. Seizing the opportunity, Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام flung three rocks at Jalut's head with such force that giant's head was crushed and he fell to the ground. Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام then immediately sprang forward and severed his head from his body. When they saw their leader fall, Jalut's army lost courage and fled the battlefield, thereby allowing the Bani Israeel to valiantly reclaim their land and property.

Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام became loved and admired amongst the Bani Israeel and it was soon afterwards that Allah blessed him with

Nubuwwah and also gave him kingship over a vast kingdom.

When Hazrat Shamweel ﷺ passed away, Hazrat Dawud ﷺ succeeded him as Nabi of the Bani Israeel.

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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.

