

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT SULAYMAN عليه السلام



Published By:



DARUL IHSAN
HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

HAZRAT SULAYMAN ﷺ

Hazrat Sulayman ﷺ is mentioned by name seventeen times in the Noble Qur'an, detailing the many favours that Allah had blessed him and his father Hazrat Dawud ﷺ with.

Hazrat Sulayman ﷺ was the son of Hazrat Dawud ﷺ. The name of his mother is unknown. All that is mentioned about her in the Ahadith is that she once advised her son Hazrat Sulaiman ﷺ with the words, "Dear son! Never sleep throughout the night because sleeping during most of the night makes a person most dependent on good deeds on the Day of Qiyamah."

The Qur'an states that Hazrat Sulaiman ﷺ was from the progeny of Hazrat Ibraheem ﷺ through Hazrat Ya'qub ﷺ. Allah states, "We gifted him (Ibraheem ﷺ) with (a son) Ishaq ﷺ and (a grandson) Ya'qub ﷺ, both of whom We guided. We guided Nuh ﷺ before (Ibraheem ﷺ) and from his progeny (we guided) Dawud ﷺ, Sulayman ﷺ ..."

Succession and Leadership

Allah had blessed Hazrat Sulayman ﷺ with great intelligence, a keen sense of judgement and a tremendous aptitude for making the right decisions. All of this became apparent from a very young age. When Hazrat Dawud ﷺ passed away, Hazrat Sulayman ﷺ reached manhood and succeeded him as king and Nabi of the Bani Israeel. This was not a material inheritance, as prophets do not bequeath their property. Their wealth is given away to the poor and needy, not to their relatives. He begged Allah for a kingdom such as none after him would have, and Allah granted his wish. While the mantle of Nubuwwah is not usually inherited by a son, Hazrat Sulaiman ﷺ was amongst the few messengers who was made a Nabi by virtue of lineage to a Nabi. Allah had blessed Hazrat Sulaiman ﷺ with the traits of Nubuwwah that were present in his father Hazrat Dawud ﷺ. Allah says, "Sulayman ﷺ succeeded Dawud ﷺ". Allah also says,

“Indeed We granted knowledge (of passing sound judgement) to Dawud عليه السلام and (his son) Sulayman عليه السلام.”

Special Bounties and Status

Like Dawud عليه السلام, Allah bestowed on Sulayman عليه السلام some specialities and points of superiority and granted him such bounties which became a sign of his high status.

Knowledge of the Language of the Birds

This was nothing but a bounty from Allah because it cannot be learnt. Even today, no one can claim to understand and speak with birds. All that people may understand of their pet birds is perhaps their exclamations of fear, surprise, etc. This too, is done by guesswork or many years of experience. Nonetheless, it is nothing at all like the knowledge that Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام possessed. It is something beyond all natural abilities. It is also evident that the knowledge of the speech of birds does not refer to the knowledge of zoology. The knowledge granted to Hazrat Dawud عليه السلام and Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام was far superior and is therefore mentioned with emphasis in the Qur'an. This was a certainly a miraculous feat and a sign of him being a special servant of Allah.

Command over the Winds

Amongst the privileges that Allah blessed Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام with was that he could command the winds to blow and to stop blowing as and when he willed. He could also control their speed. The strong, fast and cold wind became gentle, slow and comforting at his command, despite this He would sit upon his throne and be carried by the wind with such speed that he could cover the distance of a month's journey in the span of the early hours of the morning or the evening. This was yet another miracle that Allah conferred upon Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام

Kingship

Yet another privilege that Allah blessed Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام with was that he exercised control over the Jinn, animals as well as humans. This was in reply to his supplication to Allah to grant him a kingdom that is greater than that of anyone else. Quoting this supplication in the Qur'an, Allah says, "He (Sulayman عليه السلام) said, 'O my Rabb! Forgive me and grant me a kingdom that cannot be had by any other after me. Undoubtedly, You are the Great Giver.'"

Reconstruction of Baytul Muqaddas

Allah has given the Jinn the strength to accomplish the most difficult tasks. They were therefore employed to reconstruct the splendid Masjidul Aqsa and a city around it.

For this, they carried large and expensive rock from various parts of the world to Baytul Muqaddas, where it was used in the construction. In fact, the sheer size of the rocks and the exquisite beauty amazes people who see the construction even today. The manner in which these large rocks were brought to the site and then used to erect the building is a wonder to all. One wonders where it could have been brought from and how could these stones be laid in their places so high up.

Amongst the other favours that Allah blessed Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام with was that copper melted for Sulayman عليه السلام according to his needs.

The Valley of Ants

The Qur'an relates an incident concerning the Valley of Ants, which occurred during the time of Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام. Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام was once travelling with a large army of men, jinn and animals. Despite their large numbers and varying manners of marching because of their differences, they maintained strict order in their ranks. As they passed through a valley that was inhabited by ants, the leader of the ants saw the approaching army and cried out to warn

the other to run for cover because the army should not trample them. Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام was amused by this action and expressed gratitude to Allah for allowing him the privilege of understanding the speech of all of creation.

Hudhud and the Queen of Saba

Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام was once inspecting his army when he noticed that a bird by the name of Hudhud was absent from the row of birds. Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام asked about his absence and made it clear that he would punish Hudhud severely if he did not have a legitimate excuse. It was then that Hudhud arrived and explained that he had something to tell Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام that he had not heard about previously.

He related that he discovered that the people of Saba in Yemen were ruled by a queen who had been blessed with tremendous wealth and who owned a throne that was most elaborate. However, the queen and her people have been misled by Shaytan to worship the sun instead of Allah.

Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام told Hudhud that he wished to send a letter to the queen. The queen read the letter to her ministers to seek their counsel. She said, "O ministers! An honourable letter has been thrown (given) to me. It is from Sulayman and it says, "I begin with the name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful. Do not be arrogant against me (by refusing to come) and come to me in submission (in obedience as Muslims).'"

After reading the letter to her ministers, the queen assured that she would not decide anything until they had first given their opinions. They reacted as to a challenge, for they felt that there was someone challenging them, hinting at war and defeat, and asking them to submit to his conditions. They told her that they could only offer advice, but it was her right to command action. She sensed that they wanted to repel the invasion threat with a battle. However, she told them: "Peace and friendship are better and wiser; war only brings

humiliation, enslaves people and destroys the good things. I have decided to send gifts to Sulayman, selected from our most precious treasure. The courtiers who will deliver the gifts will also have an opportunity to learn about him and his military might."

However, Allah notified Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام about these gifts even before they arrived. When they presented the gifts to him, Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام told them that they had misunderstood his message. While they thought that it was worldly wealth that he was after, they should note that Allah had blessed him with more than everything they could ever hope to give him. He returned the gifts and made it clear to them that if they did not come in peace, he would have no option but to march against them with an army that they had no defences against. He also directed them to take back the gifts to the queen and to tell her that if she did not stop her kind of worship, he would uproot her kingdom and drive its people out of the land.

The queen's envoys returned with the gifts and delivered the message. They also told her of the wonderful things they had seen. Instead of taking offense, she decided to visit Sulayman. Accompanied by her royal officials and servants, she left Sheba, sending a messenger ahead to inform Sulayman عليه السلام that she was on her way to meet him.

Sulayman عليه السلام asked the jinns whether anyone among them could bring her throne to his palace before she arrived. One of them said; "I will bring it to you before this sitting is over." However, one of the people there who was blessed with knowledge claimed that he would be able to accomplish the task before Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام could blink his eye. True to his word, the throne was there in front of Hazrat Sulayman عليه السلام in an instant. Sulayman عليه السلام ordered that some changes be made to the throne. When the queen finally arrived, she was shown the throne and asked whether hers was the same. Being an intelligent woman, she gave a wise reply and said that the throne appears to be hers.

He then invited her into the great hall, the floor of which was laid in glass and shimmering. Thinking it was water, as she stepped on the floor, she lifted her skirt slightly above her heels, for fear of wetting it. Solomon pointed out to her that it was made of solid glass.

This incident proved to be the final eye-opener for her before she attested to her Iman.

Demise

Then Allah the Exalted ordained for Sulayman عليه السلام to leave this temporary world. He was sitting holding his staff, overseeing the jinns at work in a mine. He died sitting in this position. For a long time, no one was aware of his death, for he was seen sitting erect. The jinns continued with their sand toil, thinking that Sulayman عليه السلام was watching over them.

Many days later, a hungry ant began nibbling his staff. It continued to do so, eating the lower part of the staff, until it fell out of his hand, and his great body fell to the ground.

People hurried to him, realising that he had died a long time ago and that the jinns did not perceive the unseen, for had the jinns known the unseen, they would not have kept working, thinking that Sulayman عليه السلام was alive.

Lanterns of Guidance Biographies of the Ambiya
Moulana Muhammad Abdur Rahman bin Ahmad Shareef
Hyderabadi

Stories of the Prophets
by *Allamah ibn Kathir*

Qasasul Ambiya Stories of the Prophets
by *Moulana Hifzur Rahman Seoharwy*

Atlas of the Quran
Compiled by *Dr. Shauqi Abu Khalil*



OTHER PUBLICATIONS

FANFOLDS



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

BOOKS



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

MASJID POSTERS



[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)



[SHOP ONLINE](#)



أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا
WELCOME

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.

