

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT YAHYA عليه السلام



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HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

HAZRAT YAHYA ﷺ

Hazrat Yahya ﷺ is mentioned five times by name in the Qur'an alongside his illustrious father Hazrat Zakariya ﷺ, these were the prayers his father made for his coming.

Allah chose the name Yahya for him and this was the first time this name was ever kept for a child. Apart from his name, Hazrat Yahya ﷺ was also blessed with certain specialties. These were:

1. Hukm: This means that he was decisive when passing judgement, possessed deep insight into matters and always gave the correct opinion. Allah guided him to read the Book of Jurisprudence closely; thus, he became the wisest and most knowledgeable man of that time. Therefore, Allah the Almighty endowed him with the faculties of passing judgments on people's affairs, interpreting the secrets of religion, guiding people to the right path, and warning them against the wrong one.

2. Hannaan: This means that he was very soft-hearted and even more compassionate towards people than their very own mothers.

3. Hasoor: This means that he exercised control over his carnal passions, and was very abstinent and cautious. In fact, he never got married and the thought of evil never crossed his mind.

Dua for Pious Off-Spring

According to historical reports, Hazrat Yahya ﷺ was six months elder than Hazrat Isa ﷺ. Hazrat Zakariya ﷺ made dua for pious off-spring and as such Hazrat Yahya ﷺ was a very pious and righteous person and was a prophet of Allah just like his father Hazrat Zakariya ﷺ.

A Life of Devotion

Yahya ﷺ was born a stranger to the world of children who used to amuse themselves, as he was devoted all the time. Allah endowed

him with knowledge and wisdom. When children took delight in torturing animals whereas, he was merciful to them. He fed the animals from his food until there was nothing left for him, and he just ate fruit or leaves of trees. Ibn Wahb has mentioned that, according to Malik, grass was the food of Yahya ibn Zakariya, and he wept sorely in fear of Allah. A chain of narrators reported that Idris Al Khawlani said: "Shall I not tell you who had the best food? It is Yahya ibn Zakariyah, who joined the beasts at dinner, fearing to mix with men. "When called to play, he would tell the others, "I have not been created for play and amusement."

His Prophethood

He professed his Prophethood (Nubuwwah) at the age of thirty. He then started to preach to the people in eastern Jordan, encouraging them to repent for their wrongs and to then reform themselves. It is said that he wore garments made of camel hairs and all he ate were birds caught in the forest and honey. He lived an ascetic life and encouraged people to fast and to pray. He slept anywhere in the mountains or in holes in the ground. He sometimes would find a lion or a bear as he entered a cave, but being deeply absorbed in praising Allah, he never heeded them. The beasts easily recognised Yahya as the prophet who cared for all the creatures, so they would leave the cave, bowing their heads. His most important duty was that he gave the good news of the coming of Isa عليه السلام and he already prepared the ground with spreading guidance. Yahya عليه السلام loved reading since childhood. When he grew up, Allah the Exalted called upon him:

"O Yahya! Hold fast to the Scripture (The Torah)." And We gave him wisdom while yet a child. (19:12 Qur'an).

Blessed with the Help of Allah

Allah has declared that he would be blessed with peace and safety on three occasions when people are most vulnerable and in need of assistance. These three occasions are:

1. At the time of birth, when one is leaving the womb and entering this world
2. At the time of death, when one is leaving this world and entering the realm of Barzakh in the grave.
3. At the time of resurrection, when one is leaving the Barzakh and entering the Akhirah

Therefore, anyone blessed with the help of Allah during these occasions is truly fortunate.

Preaching and Teachings

Hazrat Harith Ash'ari رضي الله عنه reports that Nabi ﷺ said, "Allah commanded Yahya bin Zakariya عليه السلام to implement five commands and to order the Bani Israeel to implement them, but Yahya عليه السلام was slow in carrying out these commands. Isa عليه السلام said to Yahya عليه السلام, 'You were ordered to implement five commands and to instruct the Bani Israeel to implement them. So, you may proceed to instruct them, or I will do it for you.' Yahya عليه السلام said, 'My brother! I fear that if you do it, I will be punished or the earth will be shaken under my feet.' Hence, Yahya عليه السلام called the Bani Israeel to Baytul Muqaddas, (and they arrived in large numbers) until they filled the Masjid. He started to address them by first thanking Allah and praising Him. Then he said, 'Allah ordered me to implement five commandments and that I should order you to adhere to them. These are:

1. That you worship Allah alone and not associate any as partner with Him. The example of this command is the example of a man who bought a servant from his money with paper or gold. The servant started to work for the master, but was paying the profits to another person. Who among you would like his servant to do that? Allah created you and sustains you, so you should therefore worship Him alone and not associate anything as partner to Him
2. I also command you to pray with devotion, for Allah directs His

attention towards His servant as long as the servant does not turn away. So, when you pray, do not turn your heads to and fro.

3. I also command you to fast. The example of it is the example of a man amongst a group of men. Because the man has some musk wrapped in a piece of cloth, all in the group smells the scent of the wrapped musk. Verily, the odour from the mouth of a fasting person is better before Allah than the scent of musk.

4. I also command you to give charity. The example of this is the example of a man who was captured by the enemy, who tied his hands to his neck and brought him forth to cut off his neck. He said to them, 'Can I pay a ransom for myself?'. He then ransomed himself with small and large amounts until he liberated himself.

5. I also command you to always remember Allah. The example of this deed is like that of a man who the enemy is tirelessly pursuing. He then takes refuge in a fortified fortress (and is safe from them). When the servant remembers Allah, he will be resorting to the best refuge from Shaytan.”

Nabi ﷺ then said, “And I instruct you with the five commandments that Allah has given me. (1) Stick to the Jama'ah, (2) listen (to the truth), (3) obey (your leaders), (4) perform Hijrah (migration) and (5) strive in Jihad for the sake of Allah. Whoever abandons the Jama'ah for even the distance of a hand span, he will have removed the tie of Islam from his neck until he returns. Whoever uses the slogans of the period of ignorance will be among those kneeling in Jahannam.”

Someone then asked, “O Rasulallah ﷺ! Even if he prays and fasts?” Nabi ﷺ replied, “Yes, even if he prays, fasts and claims to be Muslim (he will still be headed for Jahannam).”

Ibn Asakir has reported from Hazrat Wahab bin Munabbih (Rahimahullah) that Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام was so overwhelmed by his fear for Allah that he wept very much, causing lines to be etched upon his cheeks because of the stream of tears.

It is reported that his father Hazrat Zakariya عليه السلام once found him in the forest and said, “Dear son! You are weeping here while we were worrying so much about you that I had to come out in search for you.” Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام replied, “Dear father! Did you not tell me that there is a valley between Jannah and Jahannam that cannot be crossed to gain access to Jannah without the tears shed for fear of Allah?” When he heard this, Hazrat Zakariya عليه السلام also started to weep.

Martyrdom

Bani Israeel generally accepted the preaching of Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام and would gather in large numbers to listen to him. However, his popularity was detested by the despotic King Herod of Judea, who feared that his kingdom will fall to Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام.

It then occurred that Herod’s step brother died, leaving behind a young and beautiful wife, whom Herod fell in love with. She also loved him and the two agreed to marry. However, such a marriage was not permissible in the Israeeli religion and Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام cautioned them not to proceed. He warned them of the punishment of Allah should they go ahead. This infuriated Herod’s lover so much that she convinced Herod to assassinate Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام. Although Herod desperately wanted this, the overwhelming popularity of Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام made him hesitate.

The lover then waited for the perfect opportunity, which did not take long to present itself. During Herod’s birthday celebration, her daughter entertained the royal court with a spectacular dance which made Herod very jubilant. In fact, he was so impressed by her that he asked her to make any request she wished. She then turned to her mother to ask what it was she should ask for. “Ask for the head of Yahya,” her mother smiled. The girl looked up at Herod and said, “I would like the head of Yahya handed over to me in a platter.” As reluctant as he was, Herod could not refuse the request and did as he was bidden.

The most surprising aspect of this incident was that no one from the

Bani Israeel made any protest when Herod assassinated Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام. It is still not certain where the exact location of his martyrdom was.

When Hazrat Isa عليه السلام learnt about the martyrdom of Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام, he started to preach publicly. The Qur'an makes it clear that together with their rebellion and insolence, the Jews were guilty of even assassinating their Ambiya عليهم السلام.

Hazrat Wahab bin Munabbih (Rahimahullah) related that after the Jews killed Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام, they turned towards his father Hazrat Zakariya عليه السلام to kill him as well. He managed to squeeze through a crack in a tree and hide himself. When they were unable to find him, shaytan led them to the hiding place. Rather than getting him out of the tree to execute him, the wretched people started to saw through the tree until both the tree and the noble Nabi of Allah عليه السلام were cut in two.

Meeting on the Night of Mi'raj

In the narration describing the Mi'raj, Imam Bukhari (Rahimahullah) has quoted from Nabi ﷺ that when he reached the second heaven, he met Hazrat Yahya عليه السلام and Hazrat Isa عليه السلام, who were cousins (sons of sisters). Hazrat Jibra'eel عليه السلام informed Nabi ﷺ who they were and asked him to greet them both. Nabi ﷺ then greeted them and they replied to his greeting and said, "Welcome to a pious brother and a pious Nabi."

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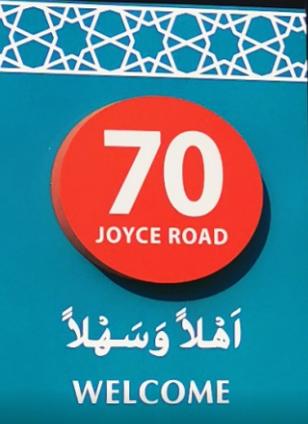
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Darul Ihsan Humanitarian Centre provides education, guidance, social, empowerment and welfare services to the community. In providing this service, we adopt a holistic approach, that gives due importance to basic needs as well as human rights and dignity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

