

The Great Messengers

HAZRAT YUNUS عليه السلام



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DARUL IHSAN
HUMANITARIAN CENTRE
GUIDANCE • UBUNTU • EMPOWERMENT

HAZRAT YUNUS ﷺ

Hazrat Yunus ﷺ is mentioned in six Surahs of the Qur'an. While his name is mentioned in four Surahs, his titles of Zun Noon and Sahibul Hoot (man of the fish) are mentioned in the other two.

Surah Al-An'am mentions his name in a list of other messengers, whilst other Surahs provide some glimpses of his story.

Hazrat Yunus ﷺ was the son of Matta. Hazrat Yunus ﷺ belonged to the Bani Israeel, but was sent to Iraq to guide the Assyrian people. The capital of the Assyrian people at the time was Ninewa, the ruins of which are still evident today on the eastern banks of the Tigris River. It is close to the present city Mosul. The inhabitants numbered over a hundred thousand.

Rejection of the People

The people of Ninewa to which he was sent were idol worshippers and lived shameless lives. Yunus ﷺ spent a long period of time trying to preach to them. However, just like the many nations before them, they rejected the message of Tawheed and even mocked at him. The people disliked his interference in their way of worship, so they argued. "We and our forefathers have worshipped these gods for many years and no harm has come to us." He tried to convince them of the falsehood of idolatry and of the goodness of Allah's laws but they ignored him. He warned them that if they continued with their denial, Allah's punishment would soon follow. Instead of fearing Allah, they told Yunus ﷺ that they were not afraid of his threats. "Let it happen," they told him. Yunus ﷺ was disheartened. When they collectively resolved not to believe, Allah told him to warn the people that a severe punishment will afflict them after three days. "In that case, I will leave you to your misery!" so saying, he left Nineveh, fearing that Allah's anger would soon follow.

The People are Forgiven

The leaders of the community knew that Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام never lied and since this was the first time he had issued such a warning, they realised that this may be their end. They therefore convened and decided to watch what he does. If he left them, then the warning was certainly true, but if he did not, they had nothing to fear.

The night before the third day dawned, Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام left the city by the command of Allah and had travelled a distance by the time morning arrived. The punishment came as a dark cloud and started to draw close to the city and it looked like it was filled with fire. The people started to panic and were filled with fear by this sight. They recalled the destruction of the people of 'Aad, Thamud and Nuh. Was theirs to be a similar fate? Slowly faith entered their hearts. They knew that their destruction was imminent if they did not believe in what Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام conveyed to them. However, they were unable to find him, so they immediately repented for their past and declared their Iman in Allah. With humility and sincere repentance, the men, women and children all gathered in a nearby field and pleaded to Allah to forgive them and grant them His mercy. It was a momentous hour, filled with sincere repentance. Allah accepted their repentance, removed the punishment and showered His blessings upon them once again. When the threatening storm was lifted, they prayed for the return of Yunus عليه السلام so that he could guide them.

When Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام saw that the punishment had been removed, he was hesitant to return to the city because he would be executed for lying to them about the punishment. Little did he realise that they had all accepted Iman. He therefore decided to leave the area since he could think of no way of saving himself from execution.

The Storm at Sea

Yunus عليه السلام headed for the Euphrates River, where he boarded a boat that was full of people. It sailed all day in calm waters with a good wind blowing at the sails. As the boat reached midway across the

river, it suddenly stopped and would not move at all despite the efforts of the crew. When night fell, the weather suddenly changed. A gusty storm blew as if it were going to split the ship into pieces. The waves were rough. They rose up as high as mountains then plunged down like valleys, tossing the ship and sweeping over the deck. Behind the ship, a large whale was splitting the water and opening its mouth. A command had been issued from Almighty Allah to one of the huge whales of the sea to surface. It obeyed. The whale hurried to the surface of the sea and followed the ship as it had been commanded. The tempest continued and the chief crewman asked the crew to lighten the ship's heavy load. They threw their baggage overboard, but this was not enough. Their safety lay in reducing the weight further, so they decided among themselves to lighten their load by removing at least one person. The crew then made an announcement that since the boat sailed and stopped by the will of Allah it appeared that Allah had stopped it because there was a runaway slave on board. They pleaded to the guilty person to give himself up so that the rest of them may not suffer on his account.

Yunus عليه السلام jumps into the Sea

Realising that he was the one who ran away without the permission of Allah, Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام declared that he was the runaway slave and should therefore be thrown overboard. However, seeing his pious and noble countenance, the people refused to accept that he could be the guilty one. The captain directed: We will make lots with all of the travellers' names. The one whose name is drawn will be thrown into the sea. The lot was drawn and 'Yunus' appeared. Since they knew him to be the most honourable among them, they did not wish to throw him into the ferocious sea. Therefore, they decided to draw a second lot. Again Yunus's عليه السلام name was drawn. They gave him a final chance and drew a third lot. Yunus's عليه السلام name came up again. Yunus عليه السلام realised that this was Allah's wish, Although Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام did not commit a sin, he made an error of judgement by leaving without Allah's permission and this is regarded as a crime for someone of his calibre. The matter was over, and it was decided that Yunus عليه السلام

should throw himself into the water. Yunus عليه السلام stood at the edge of the ship looking at the furious sea. It was night and there was no moon. The stars were hidden behind a black fog. But before he could be thrown overboard, Yunus عليه السلام kept mentioning Allah's name as he jumped into the raging sea and disappeared beneath the huge waves.

The Whale Swallows Yunus عليه السلام

While the boat started to sail on its way, a gigantic fish swam up to Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام and swallowed him whole and shut its ivory teeth on him as if they were white bolts locking the door of his prison. The whale dived to the bottom of the sea, the sea that runs in the abyss of darkness. Three layers of darkness enveloped him, one above the other; the darkness of the whale's stomach, the darkness of the bottom of the sea, the darkness of the night. Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام imagined himself to be dead, but his senses became alert when he found he could move. He knew that he was alive and imprisoned in the midst of three layers of darkness. His heart was moved by remembering Allah. While he was in the belly of the fish, Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام supplicated to Allah and said, "There is no deity but You (O Allah). You are Pure. I have certainly been from among the wrongdoers (so please forgive me and remove me from this fish)". This is the positive affirmation of Yunus عليه السلام known as Ayate Kareema.

Allah Almighty saw the sincere repentance of Yunus عليه السلام and heard his invocation in the whale's stomach. Allah commanded the whale to surface and eject him onto an island. The whale obeyed and swam to the farthest side of the ocean. The whale ejected Yunus عليه السلام onto a remote island. Due to his stay in the fish's belly, the body of Hazrat Yunus عليه السلام had become soft and sensitive just like that of a newborn fledgling. Extremely weak and suffering exposure, he lay on the water bank unable to move. Allah then made a tree grow over him for shade and instructed a mountain goat to come to him every morning an evening so that he could drink its milk.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gradually he regained his strength and found his way to his hometown, Nineveh. He was pleasantly surprised to notice the change that had taken place there. The entire population turned out to welcome him. They informed him that they had turned to believe in Allah. Together they led a prayer of thanksgiving to their Merciful Lord.

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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.



أَهْلًا وَسَهْلًا

WELCOME

