

السَّلَامُ عَلَى نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ ايوب

PROPHET AYYŪB (JOB AS)

(ع) ايوب نبي الله

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Discuss the story of Prophet Ayyūb (as)
- Discuss the morals from the story of Prophet Ayyūb (as)
- Understand that we all face different tests in life
- Understand that we should not allow Satan to tempt us to do the wrong thing when we are going through difficulties
- Understand that calamities are always surrounded by blessings

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

PRIMARY LEVEL

Prophet AYYŪB AS (JOB AS)

We have learnt about many Prophets who were sent by Allah ((SWT)) to guide mankind. One such Prophet was Prophet Ayyūb (as), who went through a lot of severe difficulties and pain but remained patient all the time.

Prophet Ayyūb (as) was the grandson of Prophet Abraham (as). He was not only a Prophet but had many other likeable virtues, patience being the foremost! In English, he is known as Job. There is a saying: “as patient as Job.”

PROPHET AYYŪB WAS WELL OFF



Prophet Ayyūb (as) was a prosperous man with many flocks of sheep, cultivated lands, wealth and children. But all these did not make him arrogant (proud). Instead, he was all the time grateful to our Lord. He was generous and entertained the orphans and needy with meals; he treated his relations with kindness and generosity. Thus the Prophet was a humble man, with exalted position but firm faith in Allah (SWT).



Naturally, Satan, or Iblīs, did not like this. He (Satan) asked Allah's permission to test Prophet Ayyūb's (as) patience. He destroyed all of the Prophet's wealth... his large farms, sheep and cattle too. Prophet Ayyūb (as) did not utter a single word of complaint; instead he thanked Allah (SWT) for having given him all the above gifts in the first place.

After some time, all of Prophet's children died. He was much shocked but he held fast to his faith in Allah. He neither sighed nor shed a tear. He prostrated before the Almighty. He said: "All my possessions and children were gifts from Allah. If He has taken these back, it is no use to lament over their loss."

A few years later, Prophet Ayyūb (as) contracted a terrible illness, which left him bed-ridden, and unable to leave the house. The only person who remained with him was his faithful and loyal wife. It is narrated that even then the Prophet (as) praised Allah.

Despite all this, Prophet Ayyūb (as) never complained about Allah (SWT). He did not even ask Allah (SWT) to change anything in his life. He was simply patient and please with what Allah (SWT) had tested him with.

Eventually, though, the disbeliever who lived at his time began to mock him. They would say to him: 'look what God has done to you'. This hurt him very deeply, because it was an attack on his faith. Therefore, he prayed to Allah (SWT) in a very polite and beautiful way, saying:

"O Allah, harm has really touched me, and you are the Most Merciful....." (21:83)

Allah (SWT) accepted his prayer and removed all his sufferings. Gradually his health, family and wealth all returned to him. The Prophet bowed down to Allah in thanks.

MORALS FROM THE STORY

From this story we find many lessons that we can reflect upon to assess our relationship with Allah. This story especially should make us question if we worship Allah because of His blessings on us or out of our love for Him.

Prophet Ayyūb (as) was one of Allah's very sincere worshippers. He prayed to Allah (SWT) in good and bad times without a complaint! Allah tests us in many ways and we should, therefore, be steadfast in worshipping Him constantly - not thank Allah and praise Him only in happy times and complain and turn away from Him during difficulties.

WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN TESTS

Read and ponder over this story. Ahmad and his family lived happily until his father's company closed down. His father, Mr. Jawad lost his job and had no income for a long time. He kept having faith in Allah (SWT) and assured the family to remember Allah regularly. He sold his big land and the family moved into a small apartment. Luckily, Ahmad's mother was a teacher, so she went back to teach with good salary while father managed the house and children. Mr. Jawad also mowed neighbours' lawns and earned extra dollars for the family. He thanked Allah for these new sources of income. At dinner time, the whole family thanked Allah (SWT) for fresh warm food and a shelter over their head. They always gave away in charity for the less fortunate refugees and orphans. Until one day, Mr. Jawad was called for an interview. As he had been an honest worker, he had a good letter of recommendation. So out of many applicants, he was hired for a new job. That evening, the whole family prayed extra special to thank Allah (SWT)



SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS

Remember when Prophet Ayyūb (as) lost his wealth, children and then health. He stayed patient, worshipped Allah and asked for HIS help.

Remember how Satan tempted Prophet Adam (as) to eat the prohibited fruit? Do you know the result of that? Both of them were asked to leave the beautiful gardens where they lived.

Think of the time when Prophet Abraham (as) left his wife Hājer with her young baby in the desert and without any water! He had said that he was leaving them in the care of Allah (SWT). His wife did not complain to her husband and neither did she break down and shout out at the Lord. She believed in Allah (SWT). The baby kicked the land with his heels and amazingly a fountain of water gushed out. Till today, this spring of Zamzam has water that is considered holy by all the visitors to Mecca.



When Prophet Abraham (as) was taking his son, Ismā'īl to sacrifice him, Satan tempted him about three times to give it up. But Prophet Abraham (as) stayed firm in obeying Allah's command. He threw stones at Satan and drove him away.

When we are in difficulty and going through a rough time, we should never lose hope. We must maintain our strong faith in Allah and keep asking for His Mercy. Otherwise, Iblīs, the Satan, will tempt us towards the wrong direction.

People may shake our faith by making unkind remarks about our difficulties. Some may say that Allah has brought this on us to please our enemies. We will be told to give a break to our pleadings to Allah. These are temptations from Satan, and we should make sure never to listen to them.

CALAMITIES SURROUNDED BY BLESSINGS



Let us listen to the simple story of Batool. Her mother fell sick badly. Her father was overseas on business. So poor Batool had to nurse the mother, help with house chores and also look after the baby brother. This left her with hardly any time for school work. Even then she did quite well in the tests. Sam, the student with the top grade was chosen to present his poem on the Grandparents' Day. Batool, being an excellent student otherwise, felt sad. Yet she prayed to Allah as usual and thanked Him. Her mother was getting better and father too was returning home soon. She did not complain to anyone about her difficulties. In her heart, she accepted that Allah knows the best. This is how Allah (SWT) wanted it to happen. On the morning of Grandparents' Day, Sam did not turn up in the school. He had left for a vacation Straight away, the teacher called out Batool and asked her to read out her poem. Batool said aloud: "Alḥamdulillah!" With a quiet "Bismillah" and a prayer in her heart, she presented her work with great eloquence in front of the visitors. Everyone applauded.

Class Activity

Write under each Prophet's name why we remember him. Pick your answers from the box below:

a. Prophet Ayyūb (as)

.....

b. Prophet Noah AS

.....

c. Prophet Moses (as)

.....

d. Prophet Muḥammad (as)

.....

- saving the virtuous from the flood
- delivering the oppressed from the Pharaoh of Egypt
- establishing and spreading Islam
- for his patience and firm faith in Allah (SWT)

Review Questions:

1. Prophet Ayyūb (as) lost his:

- a. farms and vineyards
- b. buildings and stables
- c. young and old children
- d. wealth, family and health

ⁱ BIBLIOGRAPHY:

SML notes – Ancient Prophets

Stories from Qur'an by Seyyid Muhammad Suhufi - Islamic Seminary
– Pakistan

Al Islam.org by Ahlulbayt