

السَّلَامُ عَلَى سُلَيْمَانَ نَبِيِّ اللَّهِ

PROPHET SULAYMĀN (AS)

(ع) سُلَيْمَانَ نَبِي اللَّهِ

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

PROPHET SULAYMĀN (AS)

Allah (SWT) sent 124,000 prophets in all to help and guide the people on the earth. Out of these the names of 25 Prophets are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. One of these is Prophet Sulaymān (as).

PROPHET SULAYMĀN (AS)

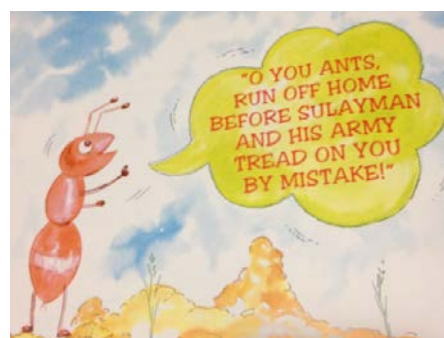
Allah (SWT) granted him the greatest kingdom that any King has ever ruled over. Like his father, Prophet Sulaymān (as) was well known for his strength, wisdom, judgement and devotion to Allah (SWT). He was also blessed with the ability to talk to insects, birds, animals, and Jinn. Even the wind would obey him.



Although powerful and rich, he never forgot or denied that all his gifts were from Allah (SWT). He never stopped thanking Allah (SWT) for His blessings!

PROPHET SULAYMĀN AND THE ANTS

Once Prophet Sulaymān (as) was passing through a valley in which there were ants. The chief of the ants warned his fellow ants of the approaching army and advised them to quickly



Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Be introduced to Prophet Sulaymān (as) as a sinless Prophet of Allah (SWT)
- Discuss the story of Prophet Sulaymān (as) and the ants
- The story of Prophet Sulaymān (as) and the people of Saba'

enter their homes (the holes) to avoid being crushed.

When Prophet Sulaymān (as) heard the warning of the chief of the ants, he smiled and walked up to the chief. Gently, he lifted it on the palm of his hand and said: "Don't you know that I'm the Prophet of Allah and I would not harm any of Allah's creatures?"

"Of course, I do!" answered the chief. "But I feared if my fellow ants saw the pomp of your great army, they may forget the blessings of Allah (SWT) and become ungrateful"

RESPECT FOR ALL GOD'S CREATURES

Well, what do we learn from this meeting of Prophet Sulaymān (as) with the ants? It clearly shows us that we should *respect all creatures* of Allah (SWT), irrespective of their size or rank.

Prophet Sulaymān (as) did not consider the tiny ant as a useless or insignificant creature. He did not let his army march over the line of ants! He *was gentle and polite* when he addressed the chief of the ants. By lifting it up on his palm, he made it feel important. Would you care to give such a little creature any importance among other living things on this world?

An ant has a delicate but sturdy body! It lifts a grain so many times heavier than its body and carries it to its hole. It stores food for use in winter and rainy days.

All creatures of Allah (SWT) deserve respect. We should never look down upon any creation of Allah (SWT), no matter how small or useless it may seem.



We should be kind to animals, and look after plants and vegetation. Allah (SWT) has given us humans control over this world and so we are responsible for looking after all its creatures.

PROPHET SULAYMĀN (AS) AND THE PEOPLE OF SABA'

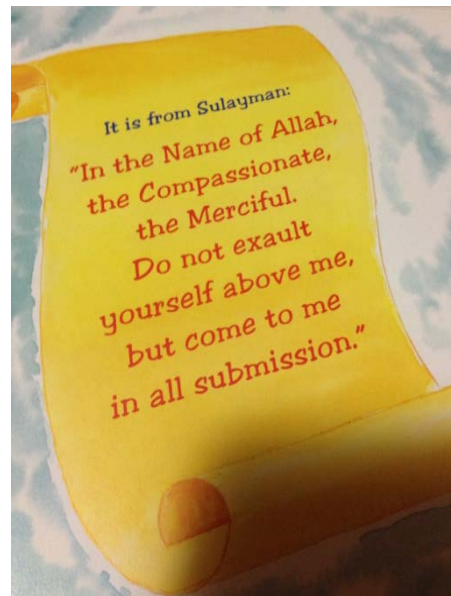
One day, Prophet Sulaymān (as) noticed his messenger bird, the hoopoe (*hudhud*) was missing.

A little later, the bird appeared and reported:

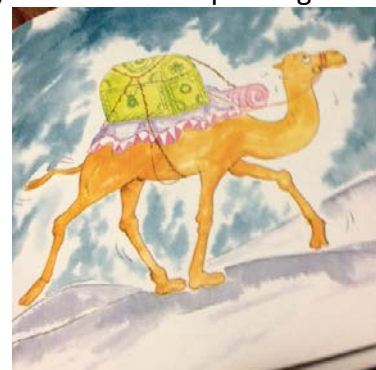
"Surely I found a woman ruling over them, and she has been given great blessings and a great kingdom. I found her and her people worshipping the sun instead of Allah (SWT)..." (27:23-24)

Prophet Sulaymān (as) sent a letter to the people of Saba' and their queen, inviting them to the worship of Allah (SWT). The letter read :

"In the name of Allah, the Kind and Merciful. Do not elevate yourself and come towards me submitting"
(27:30-31)



When Queen Bilqis received the letter, she consulted her ministers and decided to send Prophet Sulaymān (as) valuable gifts. Prophet Sulaymān (as) refused to accept the gifts.



The Prophet of Allah was not interested in these riches. (Allah SWT) had given him much blessings and unmatched wealth. The prophet was grieved. He aimed to invite the Queen and her people to the right path. He decided to show the Queen a miracle.

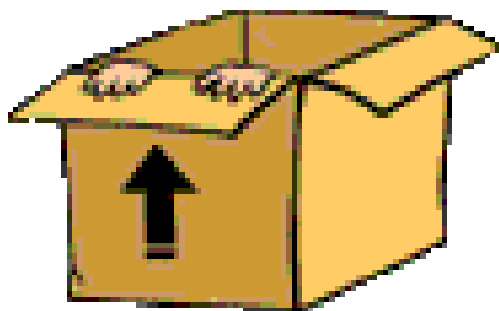
He invited her to his kingdom, and then he asked his ministers and companions to bring her throne from Saba' to the land of Prophet Sulaymān (as). One of the Jinn who was close to Prophet Sulaymān (as) offered to bring it so fast that Prophet Sulaymān (as) would not have time to stand from his place. A human, who would be the next prophet after Prophet Sulaymān (as), offered to bring it before Prophet Sulaymān (as) even blinked.

When Bilqīs reached the land of Prophet Sulaymān (as), she was amazed at how her huge throne had come to this land so quickly.

Another miracle occurred soon after. The floor of the prophet's palace was made of slabs of polished glass that deceived the Queen's eyes. She saw water on the floor. So she tucked up her skirt. Prophet Sulaymān (as) explained that the water was underneath the glass! She realized the truth and understood the message of Prophet Sulaymān (as), because no person could create something like this at that time. Eventually, she submitted to Allah (SWT) and became a Muslim, worshipping only Allah (SWT).

CLASS ACTIVITY:

Put in this box, all the good qualities that one should have:



Whinging	shouting	Thanking Allah
Getting angry		greeting young and old
Respecting all		saying thank you
Laughing at others	doing sajdah	being polite

Review Questions

1. Why was Prophet Sulaymān (as) able to avoid trampling the army of ants?

- He was the youngest son of Prophet David (as)
- He was gifted with understanding the languages of insects, birds and all creatures
- He was a friend of the ants.

2. Which bird was missing from the court of Prophet Sulaymān (as)?

- The eagle
- The parrot
- The hoopoe (hudhud)

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