

السَّلَامُ عَلَى آدَمَ صَفْوَةِ اللَّهِ

Prophets and Messengers:

Adam [A.S]

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- Review basic facts about prophecy and prophets
- Be introduced to Prophet Adam (as) the first Prophet of Allah (SWT)
- Discuss briefly the story of the creation of Adam and Eve
- Review the importance of total obedience to God

FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Prophet Ādam (as)

PROPHETS OF ALLAH

Prophecy or “Nubuwwa” is one of the five fundamentals of Islam. As Muslims, we believe that God sent us Prophets as role models to follow. Below are some of the characteristics of Prophets:

1) They are sent by God:

Prophets are chosen by God to reveal messages to us. They are sent to guide us and be our role models.

2) They are sinless

If your role model was one who sinned and committed bad deeds; would that make them a good role model? In the same way, it does not make sense at all if our Prophets were sinners but also our role models. Allah (SWT) only chooses the purest of people as guides; for this reason, all our prophets were sinless and pure and perfect role models for all Muslims.

PROPHET ADAM

Altogether, we have 124,000 Prophets in Islam. Our last prophet is Prophet Muḥammad (saw) and our first ever Prophet is Prophet Adam (as). Prophet Adam was the first ever human being to be created in this world. Before his creation, only angels and jinn existed.

Allah (SWT) wanted to create His best creation – the human being. The first of the human beings created was Prophet Adam. Due to the high status of a human being, Allah (SWT) asked all the angels to prostrate (do Sajdah) to Prophet Adam (as). All the angels prostrated together. Satan was also ordered to prostrate to Adam, but he refused.

In the Holy Qur'an, Allah (SWT) narrates:

“And (remember) when We said to the angels: "Prostrate yourselves before Adam." And they prostrated except Iblis (Satan), he refused and was proud and was one of the disbelievers (disobedient to Allah)” [2:34]

WHY DID SATAN NOT PROSTRATE?

Satan did not listen to the command of Allah (SWT) because he felt that he was better than Prophet Adam (as). Allah (SWT) tells us Satan's exact words in the Qur'an:

“(Allah) said: "What prevented you (O Iblis) that you did not prostrate, when I commanded you?" Iblis said: "I am better than him (Adam), You created me from fire, and him You created from clay” [7:12]

His arrogance led him to disobey the commands of Allah (SWT). Satan said to Allah (SWT) that he would not prostrate because he was created from fire and Adam was created from clay; and for that reason Satan thought he was better than Adam. Satan is guaranteed to be in hell for disobeying Allah (SWT)!

From that day, Satan made a promise to Allah (SWT) that he would mislead and misguide the children of Adam (which is us). Satan's goal is to make us disobey Allah (SWT) just like he did on that day. He is constantly whispering to us and trying to influence us to do things which Allah (SWT) has forbidden us from doing. For example, if there is your favourite movie coming on TV but it is prayer time, then Satan comes to you and makes you think 'you can pray later... it's okay, prayer will not be qadha until later...!' If a person listens to this, then they are obeying Satan and disobeying Allah (SWT).

SATAN TRICKS ADAM AND EVE

When Allah (SWT) created Adam, he also created a wife for him. His wife's name was Eve (Hawwā'). Allah (SWT) allowed Adam and Eve to live in a beautiful and comfortable garden on Earth. He told them they were allowed to enjoy this entire garden and live in it happily. The only thing was that they were not allowed to eat from a certain tree.

Satan, who was now very jealous of Adam (as), wanted to trick Adam. So he went to Adam and Eve, and told them that if they ate from that forbidden tree, they would live

forever. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve believed him and ate from the tree.

Once they ate from the tree, Allah (SWT) became displeased with them. He kicked them out of that beautiful garden, and they had to live a hard life on Earth, working for their food and struggling always. However, Adam and Eve continued to ask Allah (SWT) to forgive. Prophet Adam did not stop repenting and crying until Allah (SWT) forgave his mistake and was pleased with him again.

OBEYING ALLAH (SWT)

It is very important that we obey Allah (SWT) totally in our day to day lives. Allah (SWT) doesn't *need* us to obey Him. Rather, He wants us to obey him because it is good for us! This example may help you understand this better:

If you really love someone, for example your baby sister or baby brother, would you ever tell them to do anything which was bad for them? For example, would you ever tell your baby sister to take a knife and cut herself? You wouldn't because you know it is bad for her! At the same time, you would tell her to be careful and do things that are good for her because you love her and you only want what is best for her. Similarly, Allah (SWT) would *never* tell us to do anything that's bad for us; he only tells us to pray, fast or give charity because it is good for us! That is why we need to obey Him completely – it is for our own good! If we disobey him and listen to Satan's commands then we are only harming ourselves; nobody else!

Review Questions

Q1. We should obey Allah (SWT) because:

- a) Whatever He tells us to do is bad for us
- b) Whatever He tells us to do is the wrong thing
- c) Whatever he tells us to do is the best thing for us

Q2. Satan refused to prostrate (do sajdah) to Prophet Adam because:

- a) He did not understand what Allah (SWT) wanted him to do
- b) He said he was better than Prophet Adam and therefore wouldn't prostrate
- c) He did not hear the command of Allah (SWT)