

Prophets
of
ALLAH

BOOK I

M.D. ZAFAR

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PREFACE

The Prophets of Allah are the best teachers of mankind. They guided the humanity to the right path and did their best to save it from going astray. Their lives are the models to be copied for all times to come, and their footprints are to be followed for success in this world and in the next world. Therefore, knowledge about the Prophets' lives and mission is most essential for each and every person. It is as important for Muslim children as it is for elders. With this end in view, we have published these series. Insha Allah, we shall publish a number of small books for children in easy and simple language.

This series consists of four books.

Book I—introduces the very first prophet—the father of mankind, the first man on earth—Hadrat Adam *Alaihissalam*, the famous Prophet Noah *Alaihissalam* and one of the earliest prophets Hadrat Hud *Alaihissalam*.

Book II—narrates the lives of Prophets Saleh, Abraham and Lot *Alaihissalam*.

Book III—describes the story of Prophet Joseph *Alaihissalam* and Book IV—Gives the life story of Prophet Moses *Alaihissalam*. We hope that this attempt will be appreciated by the public at large and Islam-loving parents in particular. They will find these books useful for educating their children and bringing them up as Muslims.

THE FIRST MAN ON EARTH

1

This is the story of the first man on the earth. There was a time when this earth was without any human life on it. Allah decided to inhabit it with man. He created man out of clay and called him Adam.

Allah had created many other things before Adam. Among them were the unseen creatures called jinns and angels. After the creation Adam *Alaihissalam*, He said to the angels: "I am about to place a vicegerent on earth".

The angels were in a fix. They said, "Lord, will you place on the earth one who will do harm and will shed blood? We, on the other hand, sing Your praises and sanctify You day and night".

Allah said, "I surely know that which you do not know".

Now, let us learn the meaning of viceroy.

Suppose there is a king and he has divided his kingdom into several parts. Then he appoints an officer in each part of the kingdom to manage the affairs of the government according to his wishes. This officer is a vicēroy. We may call him a Caliph as well.

Well, after the creation of Adam *Alaihissalam*, Allah taught him the names of all things. Then He showed those things to the angels, and asked, "Tell me the name of all these things, if you think you are right".

The angels replied with one voice, "You are glorified! We have no knowledge except of that which You have taught us. You only are the Knower and the Wise".

Now, Allah turned to Adam *Alaihissalam* and said: "O Adam! Tell the angels the names of all these things". Adam *Alaihissalam* did so readily. And, when he had informed them of the names, Allah said:

"Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of heavens and the earth? And, I also know that which you disclose and which you hide".

The angels kept quiet.

Then Allah said to the angels:

“Prostrate yourselves before Adam”.

All the angles fell prostrate before Adam, except Iblis (Satan). He said, “How can I prostrate before Adam? He is made of clay, while I am made of fire. I am superior to him”. Thus Satan disobeyed Allah and became His rebel.

Allah did not like Satan’s misbehaviour. He said: “Get away! You cannot be allowed to show your pride here. You are included among those who are cursed for ever”.

Satan said, “Allow me time till the day when the dead will be raised from their graves”.

Allah said, “Your request is granted. You are given that concession”.

Satan was very happy. He said, “Now, because You have caused me to go astray, I shall lead astray the good people, I shall come upon them from the front and from the back, from their right and from their left, and I shall turn many of the believers into unbelievers”.

Allah said, "Get away from My sight. You stand accursed for ever. As for your followers, I will cast them all into Hell".

3

Adam *Alaihissalam* felt very lonely. So Allah felt for him and created for him a female companion. She was called Eve. She was Adam's wife. Allah sent *Adam and Eve* to live in Paradise. This was the Eternal Garden with trees laden with the choicest fruits. There was plenty to eat. All kinds of comforts were available there. Allah said to Adam *Alaihissalam*:

"O Adam! You and your wife may live in the Garden and eat anything you may like but you should not come near this particular tree, otherwise, you will be harming yourselves".

Thus *Adam and Eve* began their life in Paradise. They were living a happy and contented life. They devoted themselves to the worship of Allah and offered their prayers to Him.

Satan was angry at what he thought a great disgrace for being degraded. He held Adam re-

sponsible for the disgrace which had befallen him. Had he been a good fellow, he should have admitted his fault and should have repented to Allah, his Creator, and asked for His forgiveness. But, he was mad with rage and arrogance. Hence he made up his mind to avenge himself on *Adam and Eve*. He had come to know that Allah had prohibited them to go near a particular tree. So he went to them one day quietly and whispered:

“Your Allah has forbidden you to go near this tree so that you do not become angels and become immortal”.

Satan further said, “By Allah, I am your true friend and a well-wisher. I am talking you the truth”.

The poor fellows did not know that *Satan* was their enemy in the garb of a friend. So, they both fell a prey to his clever words.

Thus *Satan* misled *Adam and Eve* by a trick. They both tasted the fruit of the tree. All at once they became naked. Bewildered, they began to hide their private parts by heaping upon themselves the leaves of the Garden. They soon real-

ised that they had committed a great sin, and their Allah was angry with them.

Allah spoke to them saying, "Did I not forbid you from that tree and tell you that *Satan* is an open enemy to you?"

Adam and Eve were very sorry. They said: "Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If you do not forgive us and do not show us mercy, we shall be doomed for ever".

Thus *Adam and Eve* implored Allah and asked His forgiveness. They were not proud like *Satan*. Allah liked their repentance and He was pleased to forgive them. He told them once again that *Satan* was their bitter enemy and that they should never believe in what he said.

Then Allah said: "You will go down and live on the earth. Both you and *Satan* shall be the enemies of each other. You will have on the earth a habitation and provision for a certain period. You should do good deeds which I like". Allah further said:

"O *Adam and Eve*! noble deeds according to My will. Thus alone will you prove yourself faith-

ful viceroy of Mine on the earth, and will deserve Eternal Gardens as reward after death. This is the advice for all human beings. If a person does not follow the right path of Allah, he becomes a follower of *Satan* and will be thrown into the fire of Hell”.

Thus, Adam *Alaihissalam* was the first ever man and Prophet on the earth.

LESSONS TO REMEMBER

1. Man has been man from the very beginning of this world. All men are the children of Prophet Adam *Alaihissalam*. Those who say that man has descended from monkeys or apes are wrong, and mistaken. They do not have the knowledge sent down by Allah.

2. To err is human, to forgive Divine. But it is for man to repent and ask Allah’s forgiveness after he has committed a sin. Man is very dear to Allah. But it is satanic not to feel sorry after having committed a crime. Those who do not repent of their sins shall be thrown in the fire of Hell.

3. The first man who lived on the earth was a Prophet of Allah. Allah has not only provided man with food and other necessities of life but shown him right guidance also from the very beginning.

4. Man is Allah's viceroy on the earth. He should use and employ the things given by Allah according to His will. He is not the sole master of anything on the earth and, therefore, cannot do his will against the will of Allah.

5. Good men are those who follow and obey the commands of Allah; they will be admitted to Paradise in the Next World. Those who disobey Allah, earn only His wrath and will be cast into Hell.



THE GREAT FLOOD AND NOOH'S ARK

1

This is the story of a great flood commonly known as the Great Deluge. It destroyed all those people who did not believe in Allah. They hated virtue and had a great liking for vice. They mocked at the Prophet of Allah who was sent to guide them.

Children! Do you know the name of that Prophet? He was Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam*.

The first Prophet of Allah, Adam *Alaihissalam* and his wife Eve, were lured by *Satan* into eating the "forbidden fruit" in Paradise. Allah forgave their fault. After that, they were sent to the earth to live here for a certain period of time. They lived on earth for many years. Many children were born to them. When those children grew up, they had their own children. The population of human being went on increasing on the earth.

Gradually their number increased to such an extent that they could not live in one place. So, they migrated to different places in all directions.

The children of Adam *Alaihissalam* remembered the teachings of their parents. Adam *Alaihissalam* and Eve, for a pretty long time. But, as time passed, they forgot the good teachings of their parents and began to follow *Satan*. They made images of their fore-fathers and worshipped them. They did not bow to one Allah, but made some idols of anything which was useful for them, or, which frightened them, and they worshipped them. They took the stone idols as their gods, and believed that they had the power to fulfil their needs.

2

When those people were led astray by *Satan* and they could not think of anything good, Allah sent a righteous man, named Nooh *Alaihissalam*, to guide them. Allah appointed Nooh *Alaihissalam* as His Prophet.

Do you know the meaning of the word 'Prophet' A Prophet is a Messenger of Allah. He is appointed to convey Allah's commandments

to the people. he tells them to follow the path of righteousness, the path of Allah. He preaches to them to be virtuous, kindhearted, truthful and obedient to Allah. He forbids them to worship idols. Thus a Prophet is a Messenger of Allah, appointed by Him to guide the people to the path of virtue and righteousness.

Now, Nooh *Ataihissalam* the Prophet of Allah, was entrusted with the duty of guiding mankind to the path of Allah.

Nooh *Ataihissalam* carried out his mission with great zeal and sincerity. He said to his people: "O my people! Serve Allah. You have no other god than Him. You should believe in the Day of Judgment when you will be rewarded for your good deeds and punished for your misdeeds".

He said, "O my people! I give you a plain warning. Obey me and keep your duty unto Allah".

"O my people ! Ask Allah to forgive you. I convey to you the messages of Allah. I know from Allah that which you do not know".

Nooh's *Ataihissalam* teachings had no effect upon his people. They mocked at him and ridi-

culed him. You will ask why the people did not follow the teachings of Nooh *Alaihissalam*. The reason is not far to seek. When a person does not want to please his Creator, Allah, it means that he does not care to be his devotee. For, a true devotee of Allah cannot become a slave to his satanic wishers. He cannot steal the belongings of others. He is not allowed to do whatever he may like. He will have to become a virtuous person. He will have to forego his personal interests, and at times will have to face dangers in seeking the truth and in serving others.

A person who is selfish and does not think of the good of others, cannot become virtuous and dutiful to Allah.

The people of Nooh *Alaihissalam* were following such evil ways of life. They worshipped idols. They had no regard for the virtuous and the righteous. They had become very wicked. They could not be brought back to the right path in any manner.

When Nooh *Alaihissalam* spoke to his people they refused to hear him. They turned a deaf ear to him. When he invited them to act on the Com-

mands of Allah, they turned away from him and paid no attention to what he said.

Nooh *Alaihissalam* tried his best to bring home to them the commandments of Allah but to no effect. He carried the message of Allah from door to door, in the streets and market places but they remained unmoved. He also tried to bring them round by preaching to them, individually at their homes, but without any success. He said to them:

“O my people! Remember Allah Who is your Creator and Sustainer. Do not become rebels to Him. Seek His pardon for your sins. Return to Him. He is ever-Forgiving”.

Still, Nooh's *Alaihissalam* teaching had no effect on the people.

He would say; “My dear people! Allah is Merciful. He sends down rain for you. He has bestowed on you wealth and children. He has created for your benefits rivers and springs of water. He has grown for you gardens and farms. Why don't you pay homage to such a Lord?”

The people jeered at him.

Nooh *Alaihissalam* would again and again remind them.

“O people! Allah has created you. He has given you the wisdom and the intelligence and made you men. He is the Creator of the earth, the sun, the moon and the stars. He has given heat to the sun and light to the moon. He has grown plants from the soil. He has caused you to live on the earth; to move about upon it; to build houses for your comfort and enjoy the benefits of countless things created by Him”.

He would say:

“O my people! Just consider that you have to meet death one day. You will return to Allah after death. You will reap the harvest of all your doings in this world. Then why don't you obey Him? Remember, you cannot escape Him. You will have to return to Him at last”.

3

The people still did not listen to Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam*. They did not pay heed to his advice. They followed in the footsteps of their chiefs, who were proud of their wealth and children. Now they started conspiring against Nooh *Alaihissalam*.

Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* preached the message to his people for 950 years, but to no effect. Only a few of his people became his followers. Even, one of his own sons did not listen to him and remained with the disbelievers. Do you know who is a disbeliever or *Kafir*? Well, those people who do not believe in Allah and disobey Him are called disbelievers or *Kafirs*. The disbelievers turned against Nooh *Alaihissalam* and became his bitter enemies. Those in the forefront were the elders who were wealthy persons. Those wicked people would jeer at Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* and say:

“You are no more than a mortal human being like us; nobody except a few mean people have paid any attention to you. You are in no way superior to us; we regard you as a liar”.

Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* heard all this nonsense and tolerated their jeering and mocking. But he was firm and steadfast in his work. He knew that whatever he was doing, was to please Allah, his Creator. He was aware that Allah had the knowledge of everything. So he did not lose courage and continued his mission. He said:

“O my people! I ask for no reward from you.

My reward is with Allah alone. And, those who become my followers will be rewarded by Allah”.

“O people! I do not possess any wealth, nor have I any knowledge of the unseen. I am not an angel either. But, I say with confidence that Allah knows best what is there in the hearts of those who do not believe. Allah will certainly punish the wrong-doers”.

Wickedness does not last long. Allah gives respite to His creatures to mend their ways for as long as there is any hope of their improvement. After, the period of respite is over, they have to face a painful torment and they are wiped off the surface of the earth in no time.

The wicked people became so haughty that they said:

“O Nooh! You have disputed with us for long; now you should bring upon us that doom with which you threaten us”.

Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* said: “Only Allah will bring doom upon you if He so wills and you will not escape it in spite of your best efforts”.

“O my people! I know that no amount of advice from me will profit you if it is not the will of Allah. If Allah wills to keep you astray, none can help you. Allah is your Creator and you will be brought back to Him on the Last Day”.

“O my people! I have not invented anything. If I have done so, I have committed a sin. But, I am innocent of all that you say about me”.

At last Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* lost all hope. He prayed to Allah and said:

“My Lord! They have disobeyed me and followed *Satan*. They are after increasing their wealth and children. I knew that they are seeking nothing but ruin”.

“O Allah! they have plotted a mighty plot. They worship satanic idols. They bow to Wadd, Suwa, Yaghuth, Ya’ug and Nasr who are their favourite gods. They have rejected you, O Allah! Let them have taste of the painful torments now”.

And Allah said to Nooh *Alaihissalam*:

“No one else is going to believe in Me except those who have already believed. Do not be

upset at what they are doing”.

Then Allah ordered Nooh *Alaihissalam* to build a big boat and said: “I am going to punish those who have not listened to you. Do not speak to me about the wicked”.

As Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* was building the boat, the chiefs of his people mocked at him. Nooh *Alaihissalam* would say:

“Do not make fun of me; you will soon come to know the truth; then we shall mock at you”.

4

Then the day came when the boat was complete and ready. Nooh *Alaihissalam* said to his followers:

“Get in it in the name of Allah, Who is Forgiving, Merciful”.

And Allah said to Nooh *Alaihissalam*. “Take in the boat a pair of every species of living things and let the people of your house and the Muslims also get in it”.

At the command of Allah the water in the beginning started gushing out from an oven.

Then, water began pouring down from the heaven. In no time the whole earth was flooded with water and every thing was sinking or drowning in it.

Nooh's boat started sailing over the flood water. He had already got in it with his followers, including his family members. But one of his sons did not get in the boat.

Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* again tried to save him, but in vain. He said to him:

"My dear son! Leave the company of the wicked persons. Obey Allah and join us in the boat".

But, the son did not listen to his father's advice, and replied:

"I will climb up a mountain and save myself from the flood".

Nooh *Alaihissalam* said: "Alas, my child, nobody will escape drowning today unless my Allah has mercy on some one".

Nooh *Alaihissalam* was speaking to his son when suddenly a high wave came in between them, and swept away the son.

Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* felt upset and cried to Allah: "My Lord! You have promised to save my family members. My son was a member of my family, but he has also been drowned"

Allah said: "O Nooh! Your son was not of your household; his conduct was evil and he was a companion of the disbelievers. You should not complain when you do not know even this".

Nooh *Alaihissalam* understood his mistake and asked Allah to forgive him his sin. He knew: "As one sows, so one reaps". A Prophet's son is no exception to the general rule. So, all the wicked people except those who had embarked on the boat were drowned.

Then Allah said:

"O earth! Swallow your water and O sky! be clear of clouds"!

The water started subsiding, and the will of Allah was fulfilled. The boat came to rest upon Mount Al-Judi.

All the living creatures on the boat—men, women, children alongwith their Prophet came out. They began to live on the earth as noble

people. The evil disappeared and righteousness began to flourish. The obedient servants of Allah held supremacy and those who were regarded as low and mean were made masters over the land.

LESSONS TO REMEMBER

1. A person who becomes used to evil loses all sense of goodness.

2. It is not an easy task to call people to righteousness. A Messenger of Allah has to face many hardships.

3. The devotees of Allah while showing the path of virtue to their fellow-beings, do not care whether anybody listens to them, or not; they go on doing their mission. Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* worked on his mission for 950 long years.

4. Allah allows sufficient respite to the wicked persons so that they may come back to the right path. But when they do not mend their ways, and there remains no hope of their improvement, torment comes down and they are com-

pletely destroyed and the earth is cleared of their wickedness.

5. A person becomes good or bad through his own action. The nobility and piety of his elders does not help him in any way.



Prophet Hud

Alaihissalam

1

After Prophet Nooh *Alaihissalam* appeared another great and powerful tribe called the Aads. They were favored by Allah with wealth and strength. They were very proud of their riches and physical power. They had splendid gardens. They built lofty buildings and led a luxurious life. They were so vain of their strength that they had begun being cruel and unjust to the poor people. They had wholly forgotten Allah because of their wealth. They had made hundreds of images of their gods and goddesses and worshipped them. The chieftains of the tribe and their associates were playing havoc in the land. They lived in magnificent and palatial buildings and did not think for a moment that they had to die one day.

When the people of Aad became extremely wicked and turned their back to the guidance sent

down by Allah, Allah appointed a Prophet to show them the right path. This Prophet was Hud *Alaihissalam*.

2

Prophet Hud *Alaihissalam* asked his tribesmen to obey Allah. He said:

“O my people! You have no god other than Him. Your gods and goddesses are your own inventions.”

“O my people! I ask for no reward for my teachings. My reward is with Him Who made me”.

The people said:

“O Hud! You are a fool to talk like that. There is no clear proof for what you say. We are not going to give up our gods. We have no faith in you”.

Hud *Alaihissalam* said: “O my people! Allah is my witness that what I say is true. I am a Messenger of God and His Prophet. Whatever I tell you is from Allah, the Creator of the universe. This is all for your own good. I am calling you

towards Him Who is the Lord of the whole universe”.

“O my people! You may remember that the people of Prophet Noah *Alaihissalam* also refuted his teachings. They followed the path of evil instead of righteousness. They forgot all about Allah. This brought upon them the anger of Allah and they were drowned in a horrible flood”.

“O my people! The same Allah has now bestowed wealth and honour upon you. If you, too, disobey Him, there will be nobody to save you from His punishment”.

The chiefs of the tribe insisted on worshipping their gods and said :

“O Hud *Alaihissalam*! How can we leave all that our elders have been doing? Surely, our elders were not wrong in worshipping our gods and goddesses”.

Hud *Alaihissalam* said, “O my people ! It is not right to follow your elders blindly. Allah has given you intelligence and wisdom. You should at least listen to what I say. I do not ask any favour from you and I have no selfish motive”.

“O my people! If you do not listen to me and turn away, I fear that Allah will grasp you by the forelock, and will give you a terrible punishment for disobedience”.

The tribesmen were intoxicated with wealth and power. Hud *Alaihissalam* and his teachings had no effect on them. They just smiled at the claims of Hud *Alaihissalam*, and said:

“O Hud! It seems that you are under the curse of one of our gods, or you have gone mad. That is why you are talking nonsense. You may bring the punishment on us; we are not going to believe in you because you are a liar”.

Prophet Hud *Alaihissalam* did not care much for what his people said. He continued his preaching. At last some of the people became Muslims, but the majority of the tribesmen remained unmoved.

3

Prophet Hud *Alaihissalam* left no stone unturned in order to bring his tribesmen to the right path. But he met with little success. When Allah saw that there was no effect of Hud's preaching and there was no chance of another person's becom-

ing a Muslim. He decided to let them face His torment.

So, one day, the people of Aad saw a dense cloud coming towards their valleys. They were overjoyed to see it and said: "Here is a cloud that will bring rain for us. We stand badly in need of rain water".

But they were mistaken. It was not a cloud of rain, but Allah's wrath for which they had been shamelessly clamouring. It was a horrible wind, the like of which they had never known before.

The raging wind was a torment of disgrace for the wicked people. It continued playing havoc for eight days and seven nights. It was a stormy wind, a wind full of painful torment. It destroyed every thing by the will of Allah. Lofty buildings were razed to the ground. Big and sturdy trees were uprooted. All living things perished, except Hud *Alaihissalam* and his few followers. People lay dead in their beautiful houses and gardens like stalks of hay.

The ruins of the habitations of the tribesmen of Aad *Alaihissalam* can be seen even today. This tribe lived in the southern part of Arabia. In the

time of the revelation of the Quran the people of Arabia sometimes passed by those ruins and wondered at the thought that once there lived in those places a people who were very powerful and wealthy.

LESSONS TO REMEMBER

1. When man becomes vain of his power and strength he forgets Allah and starts worshipping self-made gods and goddesses.

2. Man is a slave of Allah. He should remain a slave to Him and should obey His commandments.

3. Obedience to the Prophets of Allah is the first step of obedience to Allah.

4. The beliefs of our fore-fathers may be wrong or right, one should accept the right beliefs, and discard the wrong ones.

5. Continued disobedience to Allah leads man to destruction. The wrongdoers have to meet Allah's wrath, sooner or later.

6. There are many good lessons for us in the stories of the ancient people.

