Stories of The Prophets

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Simple English accounts of the lives of many Prophets, including Prophets Adam, Nuh, Ibrahim, Yusuf, and Musa (a).

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Prophet Adam (a)

Allah made the mountains and the seas.

He made all the animals.

He made the heavens and the stars.

He made the sun and the moon

and he made the angels.

The angels were like Allah’s servants

and did everything He ordered.

Then Allah decided to make a man.

He called this first man Adam.

He taught him many things

so that Adam had more knowledge

than the angels.

There was one Jinn,

called Iblis and he thought

he was better than Adam

so Allah would not let him
stay with the other angels.

He was to be called 'Shaytan', the Devil.

Shaytan blamed Adam for what had happened to him and was very angry.

Allah let Adam live in a beautiful place because he was good. The place was called Paradise.

It was a very nice place but Adam was a little lonely, on his own all of the time.

Allah decided to help Adam.

He made Hawa to be Adam's wife.

They were happy and liked living in Paradise.

There was, however, one thing they were not allowed to do.

There was a special tree and Allah had told them they must not eat any fruit from that tree.

At first Adam and Hawa were very good and kept away from the tree.
Shaytan decided to do something very naughty.

He told them they were silly to keep away from the tree.

He said nothing would happen if they ate its fruit.

He said the fruit was delicious and they should try it.

After a while they began to listen to Shaytan and thought they would have just a little taste of the fruit, just to see what it was like.

Shaytan was very happy because he had made them disobey Allah.

As soon as they had eaten the fruit,

Adam and Hawa realised that they had been
very naughty and 
they felt guilty 
for what they had done. 
Allah forgave them 
But He wouldn't let them 
stay in Paradise any more 
So He sent them to live on earth.

Habil and Qabil

Adam had two sons 
called Habil and Qabil. 
Adam thought that 
Habil, the younger son, 
should take over after him. 
But Qabil didn’t like this 
idea and was very 
jealous.
To settle the argument
Adam thought of an idea.
He told his sons to think
of a present to give to
Allah and to leave it
on top of a certain hill.

The one whose
present Allah accepted,
would win the
argument.

Allah chose Habil's
present because Habil
had taken a lot
of time and trouble
to choose his present.

Qabil was very upset and
angry. He was so angry
that he killed his
own brother. Afterwards,
when he realised what
he had done, he cried
and cried but it was
too late to be sorry.
Prophet Nuh (a)

After many years Adam had grandchildren and even great grandchildren. There were now lots of people on earth. Many of them obeyed Allah but some were not so good and did just what they wanted to do all the time. This made Allah very unhappy. Allah chose Nuh, a good man, to tell the people that what they were doing was wrong. But they wouldn't listen to him and carried on doing bad things. Allah decided that all the naughty people should be punished. He told Nuh to build a big ark near
his house.

Nuh quickly got busy choosing good wood and building it up into a fine ark.

A lot of people laughed at him but he did not take any notice of them, because Allah had told him what to do.

When he had finished, he put lots of food into the ark and collected the good people together. They also took lots of animals with them into the ark, two of every kind.
One day, all of a sudden,
the sky went very dark
and it started to rain.

Lightly at first, then
more and more heavily. Soon
there was water everywhere.

The bad people were not
laughing any more. They
were frightened because
they had no shelter
from the water.
Only the good people

in the ark were

safe and dry.

Prophet Hud (a)

A long time ago,

a great tribe lived in the

South of Arabia.

They were called Ad.

They were very clever and
could do many things.

They used the mountains

for their homes.

They carved out great mansions

with wonderful pillars.

They called their city Iram.

It was very famous.

As time went on,

the people of Ad
thought more about themselves
and less about Allah.
They thought they
didn't need Allah,
because they had
lots of money
and power.
They thought they were
being clever but really
they were foolish.
Before long they turned
to bad ways.
Gangs of them used to
rob and kill people
travelling by.
There was still one good man
among them.
His name was Hud.

He did not belong to any of
the gangs.

He did not agree
with the things they did.

He tried to tell them
to stop their bad ways
and told them
to follow Allah's ways.

Hud said Allah would punish
the bad ones but most of the
people still would not listen.

They thought they were
more clever than
the messenger of Allah.

Allah told Hud to take all the
good people into a big cave
near the city. The very next
day a terrible tornado
came and only the
good ones,
the ones who had
listened,
were saved.
Prophet Salih (a)

The people of Thamud

lived in a valley
called al–Hajr
in the north of Arabia.

It was a good land

so everything grew very easily.

Cattle and sheep grazed

on the land.

Everyone

had plenty of everything.

When people have a lot

they sometimes forget

who provides everything,

they sometimes forget Allah.

When this happens

Allah sends a messenger

or a prophet

to try to help the people.

To the people of Thamud,

Allah sent Salih.

Salih told the people
to remember Allah
but a lot of people just laughed at him and would not listen. He did not give up. He still tried to persuade them to worship Allah and soon people began to listen. They realised Salih was right. The leaders of Thamud were upset by this. They did not want people to listen to Salih. They did not believe Salih was sent by Allah. They wanted him to prove it, they wanted a sign. They told Salih to bring them a camel but it had to be a special camel.
Salih prayed to Allah

and Allah sent

the special camel.

The camel gave lots and

lots of milk so all the poor

people had enough to drink,

and they were very happy.

The leaders of Thamud

became

angry again to see Salih

and his followers so happy.

They decided

to kill the camel.

Salih told them that Allah

would punish them.

Salih took all the good people

away from the valley.

A terrible earthquake came

and destroyed the valley
and all the bad people.

If they had listened to Salih

they would have been saved.

Prophet Ibrahim (a)

Many years ago a boy
called Ibrahim lived
in Canaan.

he was very clever and was always asking questions.

Most of the people he knew
worshipped idols but

Ibrahim did not.

The people had
forgotten the messages
that Adam, Hud, Nuh
and Salih had
brought them.

Instead of praising

Allah they worshipped
Ibrahim told his father he didn't think people should worship objects they had made themselves. His father was angry and told him not to say anything about the gods again. Ibrahim decided he must show the people they were wrong so he thought of a plan. One night he sneaked into the place where all the statues were kept. With an axe he chopped off the heads from all but one of the statues. The biggest one he left. The next morning the people were very angry and upset at what had
happened. They were sure Ibrahim had done it.

They gathered in the public square and asked him if he had done it.

Ibrahim told them to ask their big idol if he knew who was responsible.

But, of course, the statue could not speak and the people knew it was only stone. Ibrahim shouted at them and asked how they could worship lumps of stone. The bad people were even more angry.

They started to collect wood for a fire. They were going to burn Ibrahim to death.

They made a big bonfire and put Ibrahim on the top.

Everyone came to watch. They lit the wood. The fire burned,
the flames grew higher and higher. The people had to back away from the heat of the flames.

Ibrahim was a good person. He believed in Allah. Allah would protect him. Allah would not let the fire harm him. When the flames dies down the people could not believe their eyes. They saw that Ibrahim was alive and the flames had not harmed him at all. How had this happened? They all knew this was a great miracle and they fell to their knees.

This wonderful thing had
made them believe in Allah.

Some people would still not listen. They thought Ibrahim was just a magician.

Nimrod, the king of Canaan, heard all about Ibrahim.

He wanted to talk to him.

He asked Ibrahim about Allah.

Ibrahim told him that Allah could do all things.

He could give life and death.

Nimrod said that he too could do that.

His soldiers brought two men in. Nimrod ordered one to be killed and the other to be saved.
Nimrod thought that
this made him like Allah.

Ibrahim told him that
Allah brings the sun
every morning from the
East.

He asked Nimrod if
he could bring the sun
from the west next
day, of course, Nimrod
was unable to do that.

**Prophet Ibrahim (a) II**

Ibrahim married a girl
called Sarah. They lived
very happily in Palestine.

They worked and had plenty of everything.

Ibrahim became very wealthy, but he was a good man. He always helped other people too.

After many years Ibrahim and Sarah still had no children. This made them very sad. They both wanted a child to share their life with.

Sarah told Ibrahim that he should marry her servant Hajar too, so that Ibrahim and Hajar could make a child together.
Prophet Ismail (a)

After a while Ibrahim did marry Hajar and she had a son. They called him Ismail. They were all very happy. Ibrahim, Hajar and Ismail moved to a valley in Arabia. They settled in a good place with hills and mountains on all sides to protect them. After a while Ibrahim said that he should go back to see Sarah and to get more food and water. Before he left he prayed to Allah to look after his wife and son because they did not have much food and water left.
The food and water soon began to run low.

Hajar was very worried. What could they live on?

They prayed to Allah.

Hajar went to the top of the mountain, Mount Safa, to look for Ibrahim.

Now their water was all gone and they were desperate.

She went to the other side of the valley and climbed to the top of Mount Marwa. She looked towards...
the North, East, West and South for help but found none.

Hajar kept running backwards and forwards between Mount Safa and Mount Marwa.

She did this seven times.

Suddenly she saw Ismail kick the ground with his heel.

A spring of water gushed out – beautiful, pure water, they were saved.

Even today this water, called Zamzam, still flows in the Valley of Hijaz and when people go to Makkah on Hajj they go seven times between the two mounts in memory of this miracle that saved the lives of Hajar and Ismail.

When Ibrahim returned he was amazed to see the valley.
The water had made the place very fertile. All the animals and caravans visited and made it a prosperous place.

The Sacrifice of Prophet Ibrahim (a)

One night Ibrahim had a bad dream. He dreamt Allah told him to sacrifice Ismail. Ibrahim thought it was Shaytan playing nasty tricks on him.

The next night Ibrahim had
the same horrid dream.

Ibrahim knew that

Allah would only

ask him to do such

a thing if he had good

reason.

Even though he loved

his son dearly, he was

prepared to do this
difficult thing for Allah.

Ibrahim told

Ismail they

had to go to

Mount Arafat.

He took a knife

and a rope with him.

On the way they passed

a place called Mina.

The devil, Shaytan, came
to Ibrahim and
tried to talk him
out of sacrificing
his son.
Ibrahim turned his back
on him and would not listen.
When they reached Mount
Arafat, Ibrahim told Ismail
what Allah wanted him to do.
Ismail listened and accepted
what was to happen. He was
an exceptional child.
He too was a
great prophet.
Ismail told his father to tie
his hands and legs and blindfold
himself so he would not struggle and
make his father even more upset than
he was going to be and Ibrahim was
blindfolded so he would not see his
son suffer.
Ibrahim did as Ismail
had said. He then took
the knife and did what
Allah had told him to
do. When he took the blindfold from his eyes he looked down, not at his son but at a dead ram.
Ismail was at his side.
Ibrahim was afraid.
He thought he had disobeyed but then he heard a voice telling him not to worry. Allah looks after his followers. Ibrahim and Ismail had passed a difficult test.

Each year, during the month of Dhul Hijjah, many Muslims, from all over the world, travel to Makkah. They want to remember what Ibrahim and Ismail did.
In the month of Dhul Hijjah

des pilgrims go to Makkah,

Mina and Arafat.

They visit places

where Ibrahim and Ismail

lived and preached.

They give a sacrifice just

as Allah commanded

Ibrahim to do. The pilgrims

sacrifice animals in

memory of the deed.

We must obey
Allah’s commands as Ibrahim and Ismail did. We obey by doing the things we know are right, praying, obeying our parents and always telling the truth.

**Prophet Ibrahim (a) & Prophet Ishaq (a)**

The Well of Zamzam where water first flowed to save the lives of Hajar and Ismail, became a popular place for the caravans to stop. Some people liked the place so much they decided to stay there. This place became known as Makkah.
One day Ibrahim had a message from Allah. He and Ismail were to build a place for people to pray. They were to build an altar, it was to be known as the Ka'aba. The angel Jibrail brought the message saying that the Ka'aba should be built near the Well of Zamzam, the most sacred place on earth.

The foundation stone for the Ka'aba was to come from heaven. It is found today in a
corner of the Ka'aba and is
known as the black stone.

When Ibrahim was
building the Ka'aba
he was standing on
a large rock. Allah
softened the rock and
the shape of Ibrahim's
bare feet was left in
it. It is still there,
for all to see.

When Ibrahim was
very old the angels
came to see him and
said Allah was
going to give a son
to him and Sarah.
Sarah could not believe
it was true. She too was
old. The angels said that
all things are possible
to Allah. They said the
son was to be called
Ishaq. He was to be a prophet.
Sure enough,
Sarah did have
a son and they called
him Ishaq. he grew
up to be a great
prophet.
Ishaq married a
girl called Rebecca.
They had two sons,
called Esau and Yaqub.
Yaqub became a
great prophet.
Yaqub grew up and
married Zia and they
had lots of children,
both boys and girls.
His second wife
Rohsie had two sons,
Yusuf and Benjamin.
were very good, obedient sons and they became Yaqub's favourites because of their good behaviour.

Yusuf too grew up to be a prophet.

All of these great prophets were descendants of Ibrahim.

He is known as the father of all the prophets.

Muhammad (s), our great and beloved prophet, the last of all the prophets was a descendant of Ismail.

**Prophet Yaqub (a) & Prophet Yusuf (a)**

Yaqub was also known as Israil.

Israil's children could see that Yusuf was their
father’s favourite. This made them very jealous.

They became so jealous, some of them actually wanted to kill him.

The jealous brothers finally decided to throw Yusuf into a deep well.

They went to Israil, their father, to ask if they could take Yusuf out with them; they said they would teach him to be a good shepherd. Israil would not let Yusuf go because he thought the others
were planning to do
something bad.

One day Yusuf went to
Israil and said that he
had had a strange dream.

In the dream Yusuf
had seen the sun, the
moon and eleven stars
bowing down to him!

Israil felt that
the dream had a
message, Yusuf was
going to have a
great future. He
told Yusuf not to
tell his brothers
about the dream.
Israil's son were
still thinking of their
plan to kill Yusuf.
They pestered Israil
to let them take
Yusuf with them
to their work.

At last Israil agreed,
but he made them promise
to look after him.
They were so bad they
knew they would break
their promise.
At the end of the day
they asked Yusuf to take
off his shirt. They killed
a sheep and put blood all
over Yusuf's shirt; then they threw Yusuf into a well.

They went home and showed the shirt to Israil.

Pretending to be very upset; they told their father that Yusuf had got left behind and a wolf had eaten him!

Israil was very upset but he did not believe the story.

He knew that one day Allah would bring Yusuf back to him.

Poor Yusuf spent the night in the well.

The next morning, when
someone put the bucket down the well to get water, he sat in the bucket.

The man had to get help to pull the bucket up.

He was very surprised to see a boy in it.

The man was a merchant.

The merchant decided to take Yusuf with him to Egypt and to sell him as a slave.

When they arrived in Egypt, one of the noble families bought Yusuf.
The man who bought him told his wife that they should take care of him, as he was a good-looking child and they had no children of their own. Yusuf became one of the family.

Prophet Yusuf (a)

The Pharaoh of Egypt called Firawn had many people working for him. One of his assistants had a very wicked wife who said many things about Yusuf that were quite untrue. She thought she loved him but he told her that she should honour her husband.
She became very angry
and persuaded her
husband to have Yusuf
put in prison.

While he was in prison,
Yusuf used to tell everyone
what their dreams meant
and his explanation of the
dreams always came true.

Allah had given Yusuf
this great gift.

Firawn kept
having a strange dream
and none of his wise men
could explain what it meant.

Then Firawn heard of
Yusuf’s great gift and
sent for him.

Yusuf would not leave
the prison until he had
proven his innocence.

Firawn had an inquiry
and discovered that Yusuf
really was innocent, so
he was able to leave prison.

Firawn's dream was most unusual. In it, he saw seven skinny cows eat seven big fat ones and there were seven skinny ears of wheat and seven fat ears of wheat. Yusuf explained that this meant there would be seven years of plenty but seven years of famine would follow, when there would be no water and no food for anyone.
After that there would be a year of rain.

Firawn liked and trusted Yusuf so he put him in charge of all the store houses in the land.

Yusuf had worked himself up to a very powerful position.

Allah always rewards good people.

Yusuf worked hard; he made sure the store houses were filled with wheat and grain.
Just as he had said, there were seven years of plenty. Those years passed very quickly. Soon the seven years of famine came. The crops failed. People were hungry. Others were starving. Yusuf had planned for this. He opened his stores and let everyone have some of the wheat. Back in Palestine, Israil too was facing a hard time with no food for his family or the animals. He sent his sons to Egypt to get grain from the famous treasurer of Egypt. When they arrived they were told that they must get permission from
the governor to buy grain.

They went to see him, but
did not realise that the
fine man, in splendid robes was
really their brother. He told
them they could have some
grain, but if they wanted
any more, they would have
to come with their youngest
brother and parents.

Yusuf had recognised them
straight away and he longed
to see his father, mother
and young brother Benjamin
again.

Eventually the eleven
brothers returned with
their mother and father.

They bowed down before Yusuf.

Yusuf put his father on his
throne and reminded him of
the dream he had had so long ago.

The sun, the moon and
eleven stars had bowed
down before him just as
his father, mother and
brothers had done at this
meeting. This was a great
moment in his life
and he thanked
Allah, for all He
had done for him.

**Prophet Shu'ayb (a)**

The Prophet Shu'ayb
was a descendent
of the Prophet Ibrahim.
He was sent to Midian and the
Dwellers of the wood to give
them Allah's message.
The Midianite people
committed many sins.
They gave short measures
and weights,
they robbed people and
caused mischief but most
seriously they tried to stop
people from
worshipping Allah.

Shu’ayb tried to make
them change but they
would not listen to him.

They wanted to throw
him out and all the
people who had
listened to his words.

Then Allah sent an
earthquake and all
the evil people were
destroyed because they
would not obey the
word of Allah.

**Prophet Yunus (a)**

The prophet Yunus
was sent to Ninevah.

He became known as the
Lord of the Fish (Dhan–Nun).

He warned the people about
their evil ways and told them
to follow Allah but they would not listen.

Yunus was so angry he left. He sailed away but the ship was so full and heavy, poor Yunus was thrown overboard.

He was swallowed by an enormous fish and he lived in its belly for three days. Then the fish spewed him out on a shore.

He was very ill but Allah was protecting him.

A plant grew and its leaves protected Yunus from the sun and
kept the flies away.

A wild goat provided him with milk. When he became better he went back to Ninevah and gave the people Allah’s message once more. This time the people listened and Allah forgave them.

Prophet Ayyub (a)

The Prophet Ayyub had been a wealthy man.

He was a very good man but he lost his family and his wealth.

He became ill and had terrible sores all over his body.

However he never gave up.

He spent his time praying.

He was very patient and always kept his faith in Allah.

Eventually Allah showed mercy.
He told Ayyub to strike the earth with his foot and miraculously a fountain appeared. He drank the water and used it to wash his body. All his sores were healed and everything was returned to him as before. Allah had rewarded him for keeping his faith despite the terrible afflictions he had tested him with.

**Prophet Musa (a)**

Israil's family decided to stay in Egypt. For a long time they were happy. The family grew. There were many people related to Israil and they became known as the Bani Israil. For some reason the
Egyptian people did not like the Bani Israil.

A new Firawn became ruler of Egypt. Israil’s people became slaves to the government. They were forced to do many unpleasant jobs and were treated very badly.

One night Firawn had a dream. His high priest, Haman, told him what he thought the dream meant. An Israil boy would be born and he would grow up and cause the death of Firawn.
This made Firawn very angry and so he thought of a horrible plan. All the boys born to the Israelites would be killed at birth. He thought this would stop the dream from coming true.

Imran and his wife had two children, a girl called Maryam
and a boy called Iram. Soon after Firawn told of his plan, Imran's wife found out that she was going to have another baby.

They were pleased but they were also worried that if the baby was a boy, he would be killed.

She did not tell anyone that she was going to have a baby. She stayed at home and kept her secret until the baby was born.

It was a boy.

She loved the baby very much but realised that if she kept him, he might be killed.

She put the baby in a special box and Maryam went with her.
to the river Nile.

They carefully put the box in
the river and prayed that it
would sail to safety.

Allah was watching over the
baby. No harm would come
to him.

The box sailed into Firawn's
gardens. Some maids were there
and saw the box caught in the
bullrushes. They pulled it out
and were amazed to find a
beautiful baby inside.

They took him to Firawn's wife,
Asia, who looked at him and
knew at once that he was an Israili.

Firawn wanted to kill the
baby but Asia cried and
cried and was so upset that
eventually he said she could
keep him and even adopt him.

The baby was called Musa.

He was not happy. He cried
because he was hungry but
would not take milk from anyone.

Maryam heard of this and she let it be known that she knew someone who might be able to help.

She went to her mother and told her what had happened. They went to the palace and when Musa was put in her arms he stopped crying and took milk from her.
With Allah’s help

Musa and his

mother were reunited.

She was able to look after

Musa for a long time and

he loved her dearly.

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