

# Names of Allah

(from the Stories of the Quran)

October 20, 2019

Any praise of Allah SWT that we do we cannot reach His Station, so we should start with gratitude that He put iman in our hearts, and our lives and ask Him to keep us steadfast always. We have so much to be grateful for, to praise Allah SWT for. Good situation or bad, we should always praise Allah SWT.

Today, the topic we will be discussing is repentance. This is our main job, and we should never be lazy with it. We are always making mistakes, and these can be an opportunity to upgrade us, so when we repent, this is a good thing!

It's not just sinners that need repentance, we should be repenting with every act - even good ones. Repentance takes us from darkness into the light, and brings in our hearts guilt, motivates us to return to Allah SWT. And He loves those who repent. He responds by upgrading us, by opening the doors of light to us, and we can walk through life with light.

Once we have this light though, this doesn't mean that we no longer stay aware of our internal and external obstacles. Internally, we might lose our motivation, we might slow down, give in to temptations etc. Outer obstacles might be people who lure us into sins, and those who make us doubt our upgrades. We should guard ourselves, wear our armor at all times.

Allah SWT will save those who believe and have taqwa and fulfill His Promise. Only He can hold us from the beginning till the end, from sinning to our destination with an upgrade. Only His Nurturing can bring us from the lowest levels to the highest. We all need repentance, and we need it always. Allah SWT is the One who also brings us to repentance through His Nurturing.

## **The Story of Adam AS**

This is a story we should keep coming back to because it is a lesson that answers many questions in our lives. It is related to us in Surah Al A'raf from ayah 11. All the stories in the Quran are from the past, and Allah's SWT way and sunnah are one, and the theme is always a win for the believers.

This Surah is A'raf which means to know. And there is always a battle between truth (light/guidance) and falsehood (darkness), and we should know that the believers will always

win. Someone who is in the dark always appreciate the light more, than someone who is already in some light.

This story will be divided into 7 scenes, each with its own lessons. The first one is about the creation of Adam AS and how Allah SWT gave him honor. The story starts with peace, and everything in its place. Yet Allah SWT makes apparent, something that was hidden. Iblees was the most obedient, most pious and he had no competition, but there was pride and jealousy in him. And Allah SWT could easily throw him out, but Allah SWT never does anything without evidence and so He created Adam AS, from sand. And He asked everyone to prostrate to him, and the only one in the heavens who didn't was Iblees. In fact, he started to argue and debate with Allah SWT! This is a reminder that ***we should always keep and honor Allah SWT's position.***

Submitting to someone lower than you is a challenge, like Iblees felt he was better having been made from the fire while man was made from sand. ***We shouldn't make a measure for ourselves.*** Only Allah SWT can judge who is higher and who is lower. And ***we should never take the commands of Allah SWT's easy!*** And when Allah SWT shows us whatever we are, ***we should react by asking for forgiveness***, repentance and not show arrogance. Paradise has no place for people who are arrogant, subhanAllah. We are the ones who put ourselves down when we choose to follow our desires.

So now Iblees is very angry, but he knows Allah SWT will give what he asks so he asks for time until the Day of Judgement - made a more evil choice, subhanAllah. This tells us that a longer time is not an indication of good either, so we should ask for more goodness in whatever time we have. And that Allah SWT gave Iblees this time, is a sign of His Total and Complete Mercy. Shaytan blames Allah SWT for how he is, and this is how people behave as well. Shaytan ends up taking out the bad people from the good people. We shouldn't argue, debate, judge or blame and just repent, and do good deeds.

Shaytan instead of using the time he has for repentance, decided to use this time to push people away from the straight path to Allah SWT. His mission is to drive us from good, and to make us ungrateful. He doesn't want to go to Jahannam alone, so he's trying to mislead as many humans as he can. We should focus on counting the blessings we have and remember to be grateful!

Allah SWT then threw Shaytan out of Paradise. The next scene starts when Shaytan attacks Adam AS while he is in Jannah. Now when Allah SWT put Adam AS, He made the rules and conditions clear, and Allah SWT tells him not to go near this one particular tree. Allah SWT has given so much to us, and made us halal, and He sets boundaries for us. Within us, though, there is a need for us to be immortal and flawless.

When we eat a lot, our veins swell with blood and shaytan can easily analyse us and make us easy targets for him. Shaytan wanted to reveal Adam AS faults, and told him that if they ate

from the tree then they would become either of the two things they desired, mortal or flawless. It became a fight between their knowledge and their desires and shaytan kept telling him until they gave in.

As soon as they ate the fruit, it showed their private parts, their shame, their weaknesses. In Paradise, nakedness is not a property, it is shade, honor, full and joy among other things. Now they can see each other's faults etc. They covered themselves and repented by saying: Rabbana zalamna

Shaytan blames others but Adam AS accepted the blame for his actions and repented. So Adam and Hawa were sent down to the earth. And like in paradise, He SWT gave rules to follow as well:

- Cover yourself, and the best cover is taqwa.
- Be cautious of shaytan who wants to remove our covers.