

Names of Allah

(from the Stories of the Quran)

November 24, 2019

Allah

Every single person is blessed with abundance by Allah SWT and the biggest blessing, or pleasure, is knowing Allah, and worshipping Him. With faith, even a little is a lot, and we can be content. But without faith, and a lot of wealth etc, then we are drained.

Today's story is about Bilqis, the hudhud and Sulaiman AS, the sun and the Throne of Allah SWT. There is nobody like Allah SWT, only He knows everything we think, feel or dream and if we believe in Him, He can show us the most amazing things, and with Him everything is possible. He is capable of everything, and there is no boundary for Him. He is free from all faults and imperfections and is the Most Beautiful.

Allah SWT is the Most Loving, the Most Loved, full of Honor and Majesty. He is the One we should flee to, attach ourselves to and the only One worthy of worship. There's nobody who can resist His Beauty, His Majesty and they may do it by their tongues but He is Irresistible. He wants to guide us, and fix us, to take us to Paradise. Knowing Him gives purpose, meaning and value to our lives. Knowing Him will give peace to our hearts.

Allah SWT has given the ability to communicate to all creatures, and this is a reminder not to underestimate any form of communication. Birds, ants etc. Allah SWT gave Sulaiman AS the ability to understand the speech of the animals, including the ants which were not in His Domain. In the last session, we saw how an ant inspired Sulaiman AS's dua, which opened up huge opportunities for him.

This is why we should be grateful to Allah SWT for each situation because they are all opportunities, doors to goodness. Look at the birds, they have the most faith (tawakkul) in Allah SWT - you never find them hungry or poor. They leave their homes in the morning and return fed.

This story starts when Sulaiman AS is taking attendance, even though his army is huge - animals, men and jinn and he knows each of them, and he knows when someone is missing. He was firm and needed each unit in its place. He knew that the hudhud was not there, and he first

put the blame on himself - saying maybe he didn't see the bird. And everyone knew that those who were not in their place would be punished (severe punishment or death) - this is to ensure responsibility, to make sure everyone understood how important it was to be unified and present.

Punishment was not reasonable either, Sulaiman AS asked for evidence/reason for his absence and the reason should be to serve the bigger vision - to spread the message of Allah SWT. This teaches us that the bigger picture should always be about *la ilaha ilallah*, and how Sulaiman AS trained his army to always keep this vision above everything else.

And the hudhud left only because he was serving the vision of the army, and when he returned he brought the news straight to the leader, nobody else. And he gave him the full news, with all the details - he was certain of all facts. This teaches us to go straight to those in charge, to obey them and not waste their time with little issues all the time.

The hudhud told Sulaiman AS that there was a people that worshipped the sun, instead of Allah SWT. He knew he wouldn't be able to change the situation himself, so he went to the leader, who he knew could actually change things.

There is a hadith that when the sun rises, there are two angels on either side of it, and they're calling out and everyone can hear it except the jinn and the ins. And they say, come to your Lord, and don't waste your time or money because there's not much time left. And the sun is very punctual, it has its fixed time. In the hadith, Nabi SAW asked a companion where the sun went when it sets, the companion replied that Allah SWT and Nabi know best. Nabi SAW said it goes to prostrate under the Throne of Allah SWT. Everytime it rises, it takes permission from Allah SWT, this is why the sun and moon perform their duties perfectly, and never overtake each other. And on the day of Judgement, Allah SWT will command the sun to rise from the west and the doors of repentance will be closed.

Allah SWT chose the hudhud to relay this information to Sulaiman AS, at the right time, in the right way. And this happens to us as well, sometimes things stay hidden until we need to find out about it in the right way. Allah SWT keeps things hidden until He wants to, and only He can bring them out, subhanAllah - people, ideas, things etc.

The Arsh is the biggest creation, and what it is is the Throne of Allah SWT. It is above the seven heavens, and Allah SWT has a *kursiy* - the footstool. And this footstool alone is so large that the universe is like a ring in front of it. Next to this footstool is the Throne, with 8 carriers. Allah SWT is free from all need, including the need for this throne and the angels etc, but it is an honor for the creation.

The top of Paradise is Firdaws, and above this lies the Arsh of Allah SWT. Imagine how big the Throne is and this is why we ask that on the day of Judgement we ask for His Shade! And we make dua that Allah SWT grants us a place in Firdaws al Alaa, with complete tawakkul!

In another Hadith, Nabi SAW said that those people will be under the Throne of Allah SWT who will love for the sake of Him, advice and gift for His sake, then His Love is obligatory for them, subhanAllah.