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STORY OF JOB



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Job (Arabic: Ayyub) was one of God's Messengers. His story is mentioned a number of times in the Quran and God praises Job for his patience and devotion. He is sometimes described as Job the Patient. He is a great example and role model for the believers, especially when facing affliction and challenges in life.

Job's Life

The Messenger Job was someone who was blessed by God with wealth and children. He lived a relatively comfortable life. God tests His devoted servants, and in particular His Messengers. This is to show us that this life is a life of tests and trials. God tests His Messengers, so the rest of us should also expect to be tested. These tests show a believer's measure of sincerity and faith in God. This is why these tests expiate sins and increase God's love and mercy for the believer.



Job's Illness

God tells us in Chapters 21 and 38 that Job was afflicted by illness as a test. This affliction would affect him in his health, wealth and children. It is said that Job was afflicted with an illness so severe that hardly a part of his body was left untouched. This led people to shun and avoid him. This social outcasting reached such an extent that Job had to leave his town and live on the outskirts, alone.

People rarely visited him. Only his wife would visit regularly in order to give him food and look after him. He could no longer enjoy good health, family and children or wealth. This illness and condition continued to afflict Job for eighteen years. Eighteen years of being alone and afflicted with pain and discomfort. Eighteen years of having no one except his wife regularly near him.

God says, "Remember Job, when he cried to his Lord, 'Suffering has truly afflicted me, but you are the Most Merciful of the merciful.'" [21:83]



Job's Two Friends

One story mentions that there were only two close friends of Job's that continued to visit him during his time of difficulty. Eighteen years had passed by while Job was ill. His two friends visited him one day and one remarked to the other, "Job must have committed some major sin." He was asked what he meant by this. The man replied, "For eighteen years Job has been like this, so it must be a punishment."

The other friend later mentioned this remark to Job. Job said, "I do not think so. Rather, God knows that I would sometimes pass by two men who would be arguing, and in their argument they would invoke God's name. I would return home and expiate on their behalf their use of God's name in vain."



Job's Cure

Job's wife would help him each day when he would want to use the bathroom. They would leave his small hut and walk a distance away where he would relieve himself. One day, his wife walked ahead of him and went out of sight. It is then that God commanded Job to strike the ground. Water sprang forth, from which he drank and bathed. In this way, God cured Job of his illness. His health and well being was fully restored.

His wife returned looking for him. Job saw her searching and so he walked to her. She saw this unfamiliar man and said, "Excuse me, have you seen the sick Messenger of God? You look similar to him when he used to be healthy." Job replied that it was him. God cured Job after many years of trial, while Job remained patient and devoted to His Lord.

God says, "We answered him, removing his suffering, and restored his family to him, along with more like them, as an act of grace from Us and a reminder for all who serve Us." [21:84]



God's Blessings

God not only cured Job, but further honored him with an increase in wealth and children. God says, "We restored his family to him, with many more like them; a sign of Our mercy and a lesson to all who understand." [38:43]

From the ways in which God helped Job was with an oath he had made. His wife angered him on one occasion while he was severely sick and lacking in patience, so he took an oath that he would lash her a hundred times.

After curing him, God told Job to instead take a hundred stalks of dry grass and strike her once. In this way, she would not be hurt and he would still fulfil his oath to God. God praises Job in the Quran for his patience, devotion and repentance. God describes him as one of His most blessed and excellent servants.