

Prophet Adam (as)

The following was taken from Stories of Prophets by Allama Ibn Katheer

Before the creation of Mankind Allah created angels and jinns. However, jinn were and are always opposing the law of Allah. They had shed blood on earth and created chaos. When Allah decided to create Mankind and to send him on earth, the angels set the question of 'Will You place therein those who will make mischief therein and shed blood'. But Allah knows what they don't know.

As such, Allah the Almighty created Prophet Adam (as). After his creation Allah explained this in the Qur'an as 'Allah taught Adam all the names of everything, then He showed them to the angels and said: "Tell Me the names of these if you are truthful." They (angels) said: "Glory be to You, we have no knowledge except what You have taught us. Verily, it is You, the All-Knower, the All-Wise." He said: "O Adam! Inform them of their names," and when he had informed them of their names, He said: "Did I not tell you that I know the unseen in the heavens and the earth, and I know what you reveal and what you have been hiding?" Allah created Prophet Adam (as) with earth, water, air and fire. Allah gave him knowledge which angels were unaware of. This is to show the superiority of knowledge of Prophet Adam (as) over angels and at the same time the superiority of Man over other creatures. Allah asked Adam to teach the angels the names of things that is to show to them his knowledge on Allah and Everything.

Hence Allah ordered the angels to prostrate. All of them did so except Iblis (a jinn) who refused and was proud and was one of the disbelievers (disobedient to Allah)." The order of prostration was meant to show his (Adam) superiority again over the angels in creation and knowledge. It was not like prostration of ibaadah for Allah. It is a sign of respect. Iblis disobeyed due to his pride, knowledge and his creation out of fire which is above earth, but earth is submissive. Therefore, Allah ordered Prophet Adam (as) to dwell with his wife in the Paradise and both of them freely with pleasure and delight of things therein as wherever they will but come not near this tree or they both will be of the Zalimeen (wrongdoers)." Then the Satan made them slip there from (the Paradise), and got them out from that in which they were. Then Allah ordered them to get down all with enmity between themselves. On earth will be a dwelling place for them and an enjoyment for a Time."

Allah created Eve / Hawa (ra) out of the crooked ribs of Prophet Adam as a companion in Jannah. They were allowed to stay in Jannah, to eat whatever they desired but not to approach the forbidden fruit. Shaitaan influenced and their curiosity deceived them. They were sent to earth. For 300 years they kept on asking forgiveness till Prophet Adam (as) received from his Lord Words that His Lord pardoned him (accepted his repentance). Allah forgave Adam and Eve but as a symbolic punishment he sent them on earth. However, the decision was already taken when Allah announced that He will create a viceroy on earth. Prophet Adam had to face many problems inexistent in Jannah like weathering, cyclones, old age, wife, children and the Everyday chores. Above all, he had to struggle with the spirit of evil. Satan, the cause of his expulsion from Paradise, continued to beguile him and his children in an effort to have them thrown into the eternal hellfire. The battle between good and evil is continuous.

The pinnacle of earthly bliss was reached when Adam and Eve witnessed the birth of their first children, a set of twins. Adam was a devoted father and Eve a contented mother. The twins were Qabil and his sister. Later Eve gave birth to a second set of twins, Habil and his sister. The family enjoyed the bounties and fruits of the earth provided by their Lord. The children grew up to be strong and healthy young adults. Qabil tilled the land while Haabil raised cattle. The time arrived when the two young men desired life partners. This was part of Allah's plan for mankind, to multiply and form nations with different cultures and colours. Allah revealed to Adam that he should marry each son to the twin sister of the other. Adam instructed his children according to Allah's command, but Qabil was displeased with the partner chosen for him, for Haabil's twin sister was not as beautiful as his own. Adam was in a dilemma. He wanted peace and harmony in his family, so he invoked Allah for help. Allah commanded that each son offer a sacrifice, and he whose offering was accepted would have right on his side. Abel offered his best camel while Cain offered his worst grain. His sacrifice was not accepted by Allah because of his disobedience to his father and the insincerity in his offering. This

enraged Qabil further. Realizing that his hopes marrying his own beautiful sister were fading, he threatened his brother. "I will kill you! I refuse to see you happy while I remain unhappy!" Haabil feeling sorry for his brother, replied, "It would be more proper for you, my brother to search for the cause of your unhappiness and then walk in the way of peace. Allah accepts the deeds only from those who serve and fear Him, not from those who reject His Commands."

Haabil was intelligent, obedient, and always ready to obey the will of Allah. This contrasted sharply with his brother who was arrogant, selfish and disobedient to his Lord. Habil did not fear his brother's threats, but neither did he want his brother to be hurt, Allah had blessed Abel with purity and compassion. Hoping to allay the hatred seething in his brother Abel said, "My brother, you are deviating from the right path and are sinful in your decisions. It is better that you repent to Allah and forget about your foolish threat. But if you do not then I will leave the matter in the hands of Allah. You alone will bear the consequence of your sin, for the Fire is the reward of the wrong-doers." This brotherly plea did nothing to lessen the hatred in Qabil's heart, nor did he show fear of Allah's punishment. Even familial considerations were cast aside. Qabil struck his brother with a stone killing him instantly. This was the first death and the first criminal act committed by man on earth. When Haabil had not appeared for some time, Adam began to search for him but found no trace of his beloved son. He asked Qabil about Haabil's whereabouts. Qabil insolently replied that he was neither his brother's keeper nor his protector. From these words his father understood that Abel was dead and Adam was filled with grief.

Meanwhile Qabil did not know what to do with his brother's corpse. He carried it on his back wandering from place to place trying to hide it. His anger had now subsided and his conscience was saddled with guilt. He was tiring under the burden of the corpse which had started to have a stench. As a mercy, and to show that dignity could be retained Even in death, Allah sent two ravens that began fighting, causing the death of one. The victorious bird used its beak and claws to dig a hole in the ground, rolled its victim into it and covered it with sand. Witnessing this, Cain was overcome with shame and remorse. "Woe unto me!" he exclaimed. "I was unable to do what this raven has done, that is to hide my brother's corpse." Cain then buried his brother. This was also the first burial of man.