

# Exemplar

# Muslim Stories, Quotes and Information

# for Year 1



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## The Story of Solomon

Qur'an Chpt 27: 15-19

Solomon inherited his father David's (Dauds) prophethood and dominion after his death. Allah had blessed Solomon with many abilities. He could command the winds and understand and talk to birds and animals. During his time, horses were the main mode of transport. Solomon made sure that all his horses were well cared for, to please Allah.

One day Solomon gathered his army, which had different battalions of men, birds and animals. He marched them to the country of Askalon.

While they were passing through the valley, an ant saw the approaching army and cried to warn the other ants: "Run to your homes! Otherwise, unaware, Solomon and his army might crush you!"

Solomon hearing the cry of the ant, smiled. He was glad that the ant knew that Solomon would not intentionally harm Allah's creation because he loved Allah very much. Solomon thanked Allah for saving the lives of the ants.

### THE STORY OF JESUS SON OF MARY (ISA SON OF MARYAM)

While Mary was praying, an angel in the form of a man appeared before her. Filled with fear, she tried to flee, praying, " Verily! I seek refuge with Allah from you....".

The angel said, "I am only a messenger from your Lord, (to announce) to you the gift of a righteous son."

Mary said, "How can I have a son, when no man has touched me?"

The angel replied, "So (it will be), Your Lord said, "That is easy for Me (Allah): And we wish to appoint him as a sign to mankind and a mercy from Us (Allah), and it is a matter (already decreed, (by Allah).

(Qur'an 19:18-19)

The angel's visit caused Mary great anxiety, which increased as the months went by. How could she face having a child without having a husband. She was from a noble family. She was afraid of the sorts of things people would say about her.

After some months with a heavy womb, she left Nazareth, not knowing where to go to be away from this depressing atmosphere. She had not gone far, when she was overtaken by the pains of childbirth. She sat down against a dry palm tree, and there she gave birth to a son. Looking at her beautiful baby, she was hurt that the baby did not have a father so people would treat him and her badly.

Suddenly, she heard a voice nearby, "Grieve not, your Allah has placed water near you and shake the trunk of the tree and ripe dates will fall. So eat and drink and regain your strength; and be of good cheer, for what you see is the power of Allah, Who made the dry palm tree gain life, in order to provide you with food." For a while she was comforted by the Allah's miracle.

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## THE STORY OF JESUS SON OF MARY (ISA SON OF MARYAM)

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When Mary was well enough she decided to return to Nazareth. She started to worry again about what people would say. As if sharing the mother's worry, the baby began to speak, "If you meet any person say: 'I have taken a vow of silence for Allah' and do not speak to anybody today". With this miracle Mary felt at ease.

As she had expected, her arrival in Nazareth with a new born baby in her arms aroused the curiosity of the people. They scolded her, "This is a terrible sin that you have committed." She put her fingers on her lips and pointed towards the baby. They asked, "How can we speak to a new born baby?" To their total amazement, the child began to speak clearly, "I am Allah's servant. Allah has given me the Book, and has made me a prophet, and has blessed me wherever I may be, and has enjoined on me prayers and alms-giving as long as I live. Allah has made me dutiful towards my mother. He has not made me arrogant or unblessed. Peace unto me the day I was born, the day I die and the day I shall be raised alive." (Qur'an 19)

Most of the people realised that the baby was unique, for if Allah wills something, He merely says "Be" and it happens (like the creation of Adam and Eve who had no mother or father). Of course, there were those who regarded the baby's speech to be a mere trick, but at least Mary could now stay in Nazareth and bring up her son Jesus without being harassed.

### The story of Quaswa - from the life of the prophet

When Muslims migrated from Makkah to Medina, everyone wanted their house to be used by the Prophet Mohammad.

The Prophet Mohammad didn't want to disappoint anyone and he wanted to be fair so he asked the people of Medina whether it was alright to let Quaswa the camel to wander around and where ever he sat would be where he stayed.

The people agreed and felt that that was a fair way of deciding a place where the Prophet Mohammad was going to stay.

Quaswa was allowed to move around, all the people moved back and the place where he sat is the place where the Prophet's house and the first Mosque in Medina was made.

This mosque is called the Mosque of The Prophet and still exists to this day.

### THE STORY OF JONAH (YUNIS) - Part One

Jonah lived in a town called Nineveh where people did not believe in Allah. Their rules did not give all human beings equal rights. They felt it was okay to treat anyone they did not like badly.

Allah appointed Jonah a prophet so that he could teach people that:

- all human beings were equal,
- they should respect each other and care for each other,
- they should be fair and just towards each other,
- they should love each other for Allah and live together in peace.

The people of Nineveh did not listen to prophet Jonah because they felt that what Prophet Jonah was saying would destroy their civilised society. Prophet Jonah became impatient and disheartened. He left Nineveh in anger without waiting for instructions from Allah.

Hardly had he left the city when the skies began to change colour and looked as if they were on fire. The people of Nineveh were filled with fear at this sight. They decided to follow the teachings of prophet Jonah and live together in peace. They thought that this might save them from the disaster about to befall them from the skies. As soon as they decided to live together in peace the skies cleared.

Meanwhile prophet Jonah had boarded a small ship in the company of other passengers. It sailed all day in calm waters. When night came the sea suddenly changed. The waves looked wild. They rose as high as mountains, then plunged down like valleys, tossing the ship. Behind the ship a large whale was splitting the water and opening its mouth.

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### THE STORY OF JONAH (YUNIS) - Part One

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The tempest continued and the Captain asked the crew to lighten the ship's heavy load. All the baggage was thrown overboard, but this was not enough. The crew suggested that to lighten the load further, one person had to be thrown off the ship into the angry sea.

The Captain directed, "We will make lots with all the travellers' names. The one whose name is drawn will be thrown into the sea". Prophet Jonah knew this was the seamen's tradition when facing the tempest. Prophet Jonah reluctantly participated in the lot, and his name was added to the other travellers' names. The lots were drawn and "Jonah" appeared.

Prophet Jonah realised that Allah's hand was in this, for he had abandoned his mission without Allah's consent. The matter was over and it was decided that Jonah should throw himself into the water. Jonah stood at the edge of the ship, looking at the furious sea. It was night and there was no moon. The stars were hidden behind a black fog. Jonah kept mentioning Allah's name as he jumped into the raging seas and disappeared beneath the huge waves.

The whale found Jonah floating on the waves. It swallowed Jonah into its furious stomach and shut its ivory teeth on him, as if they were white bolts locking the door of the prison. Allah ordered the whale not to harm Jonah.

### THE STORY OF JONAH (YUNIS) - Part Two

After swallowing Jonah, the whale dived to the bottom of the sea. Jonah imagined himself dead, but his senses became alert when he found he could move. He knew he was alive. He began to remember Allah and prayed:

“La ilaha illa Anta (none has the right to be worshiped but You O Allah, Glorified be You. Truly, I have been of the wrong doers” (Qur’an 21:87).

Jonah continued to pray to Allah repeating the above prayer. Fishes, whales, sea-weeds and all the creatures that lived in the sea heard the voice of Jonah praying and celebrating Allah’s praises. All these creatures gathered around the whale and began to celebrate the praises of Allah in their own languages. Allah saw that Jonah was truly repentant. Allah accepted Jonah’s “sorry” and forgave him. Allah commanded the whale to surface and eject Jonah onto an island. The whale obeyed and swam to the farthest side of the ocean. Allah commanded it to rise towards the warm, refreshing sun and the pleasant earth. The whale ejected Jonah onto a remote island. He was weak and ill. Allah caused a vine to grow over him for protection and caused Jonah to get better.

Gradually Jonah became strong and healthy. He went back to Nineveh. He was pleasantly surprised to notice the change that had taken place there. The entire population came out to welcome him and told him that they had turned to believe in Allah and are following his laws and living together in love and peace. Together they led a prayer of thanksgiving to Allah.

**The Story from Life of the Prophet**  
**Mohammad is protected by his Uncle Hamza**

Prophet Mohammad was being attacked outside Kab'a when his Uncle Hamza, who at that time was not a Muslim, returned from a hunting trip.

Seeing his nephew in such distress, he helped him by asking people to stop.

The people stopped because they respected Hamza enormously and Hamza said, "When I am on hunting trips and I lie down under the stars, I know that there has to be a God, and therefore let my nephew talk about God without hurting him."

From that day on, Hamza protected him.

## The Story of Prophet Mohammad and Abu Talib

Prophet Mohammad had four very best friends and companions who supported him throughout his mission. They were called Umar, Abu Bakr, Uthman and Ali. These companions, after the death of prophet Mohammad, became Khalifas. Abu Bakr was the first Khalifa, Umar was the second, Uthman was the third and Ali was the fourth. Khalifa means leaders in Islam. Thus making sure that the message of the prophet Mohammad was clearly understood and practiced after the death of prophet Mohammad. However, there was another friend of prophet Mohammad called Abu Talib who was also his Uncle. Abu Talib brought Mohammad up after the death of his parents and grandparents. Abu Talib always knew that there was something unusual about prophet Mohammad when he was little. But it was on his journey in Syria that he was told by a Christian Monk to look after Mohammad and protect him because he has a great mission to accomplish in life.

Prophet Mohammad was about ten years old then. Prophet Mohammad did not become a prophet until he was forty years old! Abu Talib followed the Monks advice even during the most difficult times, when prophet Mohammad was being treated badly for his beliefs, after he became a prophet without abandoning his own religion of worshipping Gods and Goddesses. Abu Talib remained a loyal friend to prophet Mohammad until his death and prophet Mohammad loved and respected him very much.

### THE STORY OF THE REVELATION OF THE QUR'AN

It was the last ten days of the month the Arabs called Ramadan that Mohammad climbed, as he often did when he wanted to think alone, once again the mountains of Hira and spent a day of fasting and a night of prayer sitting in his usual place. Much later, when the night was at its darkest, just before dawn, he heard a voice. This voice grew louder and louder and seemed to come from all directions, from around the cave, from beyond in the night, and from within Mohammad himself. He looked around and there appeared to him an angel who was holding a coverlet of green brocade upon which was embroidered some writing. 'Read!' commanded the being. Mohammad was stunned. 'What shall I read?' The angel squeezed him hard in embrace, and then released him. 'Read' commanded the angel once more. 'What shall I read?' exclaimed Mohammad, a little louder this time. Again the angel embraced him and the embrace was tighter than before. 'Read!' commanded the angel for the third time. 'What shall I read!' replied Mohammad who was fearful of another embrace. 'Read!' continued the angel:

'IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD WHO CREATED YOU FROM A DROP OF LIQUID: READ IN THE NAME OF ALLAH WHO TAUGHT MAN THE USE OF THE PEN AND TAUGHT HIM WHAT HE KNEW NOT BEFORE.....' (Qur'an 96:1-5)

These were the first verses of the Qur'an revealed to prophet Mohammad (and the revelation of the Qur'an continued for the next 23 years).

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## THE STORY OF THE REVELATION OF THE QUR'AN

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Mohammad repeated these verses over and over again, after the angel, until he could recite them perfectly. Soon he was alone. The angel and the writing had gone. Only the words remained, carved forever upon his memory. And there was an extraordinary sensation in his body...of having been held in a very tight embrace.

He arose, trembling with awe and began to wander out of the cave and down the mountain path, when a voice... the very same voice ... called to him from the heavens:

'OH MOHAMMAD! TRULY YOU ARE THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH AND I AM HIS ANGEL GABRIEL'

Mohammad looked up and beheld the angel so enormous that he covered the whole horizon. Mohammad looked up at him for a moment, and then turned to escape. But no matter which direction he looked the angel was there, filling the entire sky. Helpless, Mohammad just stood, neither advancing nor turning back, until Gabriel disappeared from the skies as suddenly as he had appeared.

Each year during the month of Ramadan over the next 23 years Angel Gabriel asked prophet Mohammad to recite the Qur'an revealed up to that point. Once the whole Qur'an was revealed and just before the death of prophet Mohammad, the angel Gabriel asked prophet Mohammad to recite the whole Qur'an to him in the month of Ramadan. Till this day Muslims do the same. They read the Qur'an every day but during the month of Ramadan they recite the whole Qur'an during special prayers at night called the Tarawih prayers. They distribute sweets when the whole Qur'an is finished normally on the 27<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan to celebrate that they have been able to follow this example of the prophet Mohammad.

### THE STORY OF ABRAHAM (PROPHET IBRAHIM) AND MAKKAH

One day, Abraham woke up and asked his wife Hajar to get her son and prepare for a long journey. After a few days, Abraham started out with his wife Hajar and their son Ishmael (Ismail). The child was still nursing and still not weaned.

Abraham walked through cultivated land, desert and mountains until he reached the desert of the Arabian peninsula and came to an uncultivated valley having no fruit, no trees, no food and no water. The valley had no sign of life. After Abraham helped his wife and child dismount, he left them with a small amount of food and water hardly enough for two days. He turned around and walked away. His wife hurried after him asking, "Where are you going, Abraham leaving us in this barren valley?" Abraham did not answer her, but continued walking.

She repeated what she had said, but he remained silent. Finally, she understood that he was not acting on his own initiative. She realised that Allah had commanded him to do so. She asked him, "Did Allah command you to do this?" He replied, "Yes". Then his wife said, "We are not going to be lost, since Allah who has commanded you, is with us."

Abraham prayed to Allah, "O our Lord! I have made some of my offspring dwell in a valley without cultivation by Your Sacred House (Kab'bah in Makkah) in order, O Lord, that they may offer prayers perfectly. So fill some hearts among men with love towards them, and (O Allah) provide them with fruits, so that they may give thanks" (Qur'an 14:37)

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## **THE STORY OF ABRAHAM (PROPHET IBRAHIM) AND MAKKAH**

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Ishmael's mother went on suckling Ishmael and drinking from the water she had until it was all used up. After a while Ishmael began to cry because he was thirsty. Hajar knew that Allah will help. With this trust in her heart she climbed a hill near by called Safa just in case she might see some water from the height or see people who might be carrying water. When she did not see anything she came down the hill back to the valley.

She checked that her son was safe, then crossed the valley and climbed the second hill, called Marwa, again hoping that from a height she might see water or see people who may be carrying water. When she did not see anybody she climbed down the hill and returned to the valley, checked that her son was okay and climbed up Safa repeating the whole process seven times.

When she reached Marwa the seventh time and was returning back to the valley where her son was, she saw an angel by the heels of her son digging the ground till water flowed from this place. This water is called Zam Zam water and people drink it to this day when they go for Hajj. After Hajar quenched her thirst by drinking the water and suckled her child, the angel said to Hajar, "Don't be afraid of being neglected, for the house of Allah, which at that time resembled a hillock, will be built into a cube by this boy and his father and Allah never neglects his people."

With water soon people began to settle in the valley and all kinds of vegetation began to grow particularly the date trees and soon Makkah became a settlement.

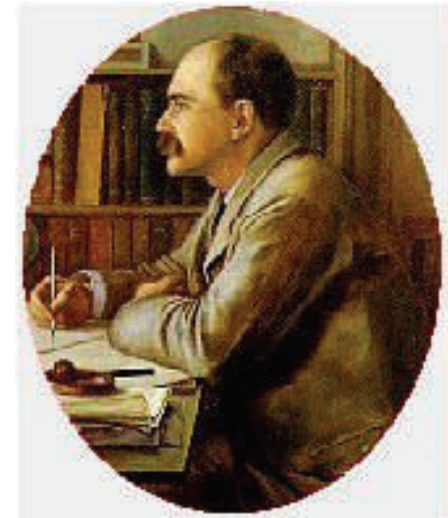
## I Keep Six Honest Serving Men

I keep six honest serving-men  
(They taught me all I knew);  
Their names are What and Why and  
When  
And How and Where and Who.  
I send them over land and sea,  
I send them east and west;  
But after they have worked for me,  
*I* give them all a rest.

*I* let them rest from nine till five,  
For I am busy then,  
As well as breakfast, lunch, and tea,  
For they are hungry men.  
But different folk have different views;  
I know a person small-  
She keeps ten million serving-men,  
Who get no rest at all!

She sends 'em abroad on her own affairs,  
From the second she opens her eyes-  
One million Hows, two million Wheres,  
And seven million Whys!

*The Elephant's Child*



## Reading from the Qur'an 103:1-3

In the name of Allah, the compassionate,  
the merciful. By the time! Man is surely  
in loss, except those who believed and  
did good works and joined together in  
the mutual teaching of the truth and  
patience.

### The Story of Abdul Quadir Jilani

His mother sent him on a journey to school, in Damascus, at the age of 5.

On their way their caravan got attacked by robbers. The robbers asked Abdul Quadir Jilani whether he had any money on him. He replied yes. The robbers searched Abdul Quadir Jilani and found no money. The robbers got upset and beat him up because they thought that he was lying.

Abdul Quadir Jilani assured them that he does have the money but that his mother had sewn it in his clothes. The robbers checked his clothes and found the money in his clothes.

The robbers then asked Abdul Quadir Jilani why he told them where the money was because they would never have found it. Abdul Quadir Jilani told the robbers that his mother told him to always tell the truth and to listen to my mother is the only way to please my mother, so I had no choice but to tell the truth.

