

Exemplar

Muslim Stories, Quotes and Information



for Year 4

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Reading One

Prophet Mohammad was once asked what is the best charitable act that I can do where paradise would be guaranteed. The prophet said look after your mother. The person asked and what else. The prophet said look after your mother. The person said what else. The prophet said look after your mother. The person said what else. The prophet said look after your father.

Reading Two

On another occasion, a person went to prophet Mohammad for advice that he wanted to join the army. Prophet Mohammad asked him if his parents were alive. He replied yes. The prophet Mohammad then asked whether there was someone to look after them in his absence (because of the special circumstances of his parents). The person said no. Then the prophet said that if you want reward from Allah then in these circumstances your first responsibility is to look after your parents and you should not join the army.

Prophet Mohammad's Advice to Abu Hurairah

Prophet Mohammad advised people always that they should look after their parents and be kind to them.

Once, a person called Abu Hurairah asked him, "What should I do to go to paradise?"

The prophet replied, "Paradise lies under the feet of your mother."

Abu Hurairah lived with his mother. She was not a Muslim. She was very upset that her son had become a Muslim. She always said that prophet Mohammad had cast a magical spell on her son and had brainwashed him. The conflict between the mother and son continued to grow because she would say bad things about prophet Mohammad. Abu Hurairah remembered prophet Mohammad's advice and continued to respect and care for his mother.

One day when Abu Hurairah's mother used bad language for prophet Mohammad, Abu Hurairah lost his patience. He went back to prophet Mohammad and said, "My mother hates you and Islam. What should I do with her?" Prophet Mohammad advised Abu Hurairah, "Continue to be kind, caring and respectful towards your mother."

Abu Hurairah went back and followed prophet Mohammad's advice and continued to serve his mother.

Abraham's (Ibrahim's) Curiosity and Reasoning

Muslims believe in Abraham (Ibrahim) as a prophet of Allah. One night Abraham left his house to go to a mountain. He walked alone in the dark until he chose a cave in the mountain, where he sat resting his back against the wall. He looked at the sky. He had hardly seen it when he remembered that he was looking at planets and stars which were worshiped by some people on Earth. His young heart was filled with tremendous pain. He considered what was beyond the moon, the stars and the planets.

The Qur'an continues with the story:

"So we show Abraham the kingdom of the heavens and the Earth that he be one of those who have faith with certainty. When the night covered him over with darkness, he saw a star. He said, "This is my Lord (Allah)." But when it set, he said, "I like not those that set." When he saw the moon rising he said, "This is my Lord (Allah)." But when it set he said, "Unless my Lord guides me, I shall surely be among the erring people." When he saw the sun rising, he said, "This is my Lord (Allah). This is greater." But when it set, he said, "O my people! I am indeed free from all that you join as partners in worship with Allah."
(Qur'an 6:75-78 & 83)

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Abraham's (Ibrahim's) Curiosity and Reasoning

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In that debate, Abraham clarified to his people that these celestial bodies do not serve as deities and cannot be worshiped as partners with Allah the Almighty. Indeed, these bodies are created things, fashioned, controlled, managed and made to serve. They appear sometimes and disappear at others, going out of sight from our world. However, Allah the Almighty does not lose sight of anything, and nothing can be hidden from Him. He is without end, everlasting without disappearance. There is no other deity but Allah.

Abraham's curiosity and reasoning helped him to conclude that the celestial bodies are unworthy of his worship and are actually the signs of Allah. This created a conflict between him and his people, some of whom were worshipers of the stars and planets. They were not happy about Abraham's choice of faith, so they began to argue with him and threaten him.

Abraham and the Statues

Abraham's father and his followers were idol worshipers. He tried his best to explain his faith to the people, that it is Allah that created all human beings, the Earth, the universe, he will cause him to die and be raised up again. It was whom Abraham would pray to and who would forgive his sins on the day of judgement.

Abraham decided to make a point. He knew that there was going to be a great celebration at the other bank of the river which would be attended by all the people. Abraham waited until the city was empty and the temple itself was deserted, for the priests had also gone to the festival outside the city.

Abraham went to the temple with a sharp axe. He looked at stone and wood statues of gods and at the food laid in front of them. He approached one of the statues and asked, "The food in front of you is getting cold. Why don't you eat?" The statue kept silent and rigid. Abraham asked the other statues around him, "Will you not eat of the offerings before you?" He once again asked, "What is the matter with you that you do not speak?" He then damaged some of the statues and placed the axe on the shoulder of the biggest statue which was not damaged at all.

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Abraham and the Statues

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When people returned to the temple and saw the damage to the statues they guessed it had to have been Abraham. Furious, they demanded Abraham was arrested and tried. Abraham did not resist. At the trial, they asked him if he was responsible for breaking the idols. He told them to ask the biggest idol with the axe and said he must have done it. The people replied that Abraham knew that the idols cannot move or speak, so how could the big idol have damaged the other idols and how could he speak now to defend himself. Abraham said, "That is the point I am making. If the idols cannot move or speak, how could they create humans, the world and everything within it?"

The people at the temple became even more angry and decided to punish Abraham by throwing him into the fire with flames that seemed to be reaching the sky. Abraham was thrown into the fire with his hands and feet tied. Allah commanded the fire to be cool and safe for Abraham. The fire only burnt the rope to untie Abraham's hands and feet. Abraham then sat in the middle of the fire as though he was sitting in a garden. The people sat around the fire until it finished burning. They saw Abraham sitting in the middle. He then got up and walked out. People cried in astonishment. Despite witnessing this, they were not willing to accept Abraham with his different faith.

Qur'an 2: 124-129

"And remember that Abraham was tried by his Lord with certain commands, which he fulfilled: He said, "I will make thee an Imam to the Nations." He pleaded, "And also (Imams) from my offspring!" He answered, "But My Promise is not within the reach of evil-doers." Remember We made the House a place of assembly for men and a place of safety; and take ye the station of Abraham as a place of prayer; and We covenanted with Abraham and Isma'il, that they should sanctify My House for those who compass it round, or use it as a retreat, or bow, or prostrate themselves (therein in prayer).

And remember Abraham said, "My Lord, make this a City of Peace, and feed its people with fruits,"

And remember Abraham and Isma'il raised the foundations of the House (With this prayer): "Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us: For Thou art the All-Hearing, the All-knowing. Our Lord! make of us Muslims, bowing to Thy (Will), and of our progeny a people Muslim, bowing to Thy (will); and show us our place for the celebration of (due) rites; and turn unto us (in Mercy); for Thou art the Oft-Returning, Most Merciful. Our Lord! send amongst them a Messenger of their own, who shall rehearse Thy Signs to them and instruct them in scripture and wisdom, and sanctify them: For Thou art the Exalted in Might, the Wise."(Qur'an 2:124-129)

Prophet Mohammad advised Muslims to make things easy and not difficult for people

Once a person came to prophet Mohammad and said that I am trying really hard to fulfil the second pillar of Islam and say the five daily prayers prescribed by Allah in the mosque.

Imam Ma'adh recites long chapters of the Qur'an in his prayers and this makes me very tired. I am getting to a point where I am beginning to prefer not to say my prayers in the mosque.

When prophet Mohammad heard this he became very concerned. He addressed the people at the next opportunity and said that whoever leads the prayer should recite short passages from the Qur'an because old, weak or busy people might be praying behind you, show them special concern.

Qur'an 2:286

"On no soul does Allah place a burden greater than it can bear. It suffers every good that it earns and suffers every ill that it earns."

(Pray) "O Allah! Condemn us not if we forget or fall into error; O Allah! Lay on us not a burden like that which you did lay on those before us; O Allah! Lay not on us a burden greater than we have strength to bear. Blot out our sins, and grant us forgiveness. Have mercy on us. You are our protector; help us against those who stand against faith."

The Story of the Woman who Threw Garbage at Prophet Mohammad

Prophet Mohammad began to tell people the teachings of Allah, for example, all humans are equal irrespective of their ethnicity, disability, status, nationality. Muslims should love everyone for Allah. This love should be shown in a practical way by giving everyone equal rights and respect.

This upset some of the people living in Makkah very much because they felt that by saying this, prophet Mohammad was attacking their way of life and if they did not stop him, he would destroy a civilised society which was built on inequalities.

They could not understand how a society could function in a civilised way if the person employed as house-help had the same right to respect as the person who employed him. Some people went out of their way to show prophet Mohammad that they were not happy with his teachings.

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The Story of the Woman who Threw Garbage at Prophet Mohammad

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Amongst these people, there was a woman who, after sweeping her house, would save all the rubbish and throw it over prophet Mohammad each time he passed her house.

One day he passed by her house and no rubbish was thrown over him. He became very concerned for the woman living in the house because despite her behaviour he loved her for Allah and did not want any harm to come to her. He decided to visit her.

When the woman found out that prophet Mohammad had come to visit her, she became worried. She thought that prophet Mohammad has come to have a go at her when she was too weak to defend herself. She was shocked when he bought her a gift and prayed for her good health and left.

Forgiveness for Abdullah ibn Ubai

In Madina, Abdullah ibn Ubai became the worst enemy of Islam and the prophet Mohammad. Even though he pretended to become a Muslim, because that was politically the right thing to do in Madina, he never missed an opportunity to harm the Muslims. In particular, to harm prophet Mohammad by helping the Makkans, who continued to oppress Islam, even though prophet Mohammad had migrated to Madina at the request of the people of Madina.

Abdullah's own son who was a true Muslim became so upset with his father's behaviour that he said to prophet Mohammad, "If you order the execution of my father, I would like to carry it out. I love my father but he is making life very difficult for everyone."

Prophet Mohammad said, "No. We will love him even more for Allah and show our love in practical terms by being even more kind to him."

Abu Rabi reported that prophet Mohammad said, "The one who visits the sick is like the one who is in the fruit garden of paradise until he returns."

Abu Huraira also reported that prophet Mohammad said, "Allah will ask on the day of judgement:

"O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit me." He would say, "O Allah how could I visit you, You are Allah the Lord of the Worlds?" Thereupon Allah would say, "Did you not know such and such person of mine was ill but you did not visit him and were you not aware that if you had visited him, you would have found Me by him."

"O son of Adam I asked for food from you but you did not feed Me." He would say, "O Allah, how could I feed you, You are Allah the Lord of the Worlds?" Thereupon Allah would say, "Did you not know such and such of my person asked for food from you but you did not feed him, and were you not aware that if you had fed him you would have found him by My side."

"O son of Adam I asked you for a drink but you did not give Me the drink." He would say, "O Allah, how could I provide you with a drink, You are Allah the Lord of the worlds?"

Thereupon Allah would say, "Such and such person of mine asked you for a drink but you did not provide him and had you provided him drink you would have found him by My side."

(Hadith: Muslim Book 45: chapter 13 p175-176 Hadith 2568 and 2569).

Muslims believe in five pillars of Islam

These are:

- 1) Shahada (declaration of faith).
- 2) Salah (five daily prayers).
- 3) Ramadan (9th month of the Islamic calendar in which Muslims fast).
- 4) Zakat (a fixed percentage of money which must be given on savings once every year to purify ones wealth). Muslims can give Zakat at any time in the year. A lot of people tend to choose Ramadan to give Zakat because it is easy to remember.

The prophet Mohammad taught Muslims that if they love Allah, then they would they would love their neighbours:-

"Aisha reported that prophet Mohammad said that Angel Jibrael (Gabrail) kept stressing the importance of treating the neighbours with kindness so much that for a moment I thought that they might even be given the right to inherit."

"Abu Thar reported that the prophet Mohammad said that whenever you are making food, make a little extra and send some to the neighbours as a present."

(Hadith: Muslim, Book 45, chapter 42, page 200 hadith 2625, 2625R1.)

- 5) Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime compulsory for those who can afford the cost).

How Allah Influenced The Life of Yusuf (Joseph) - Part One

When prophet Yusuf was eighteen years old, he was very handsome and robust with a gentle temperament. He was respectful, kind and considerate. His father loved him very much. His brothers were jealous of him. Together they decided to get rid of him.

The brothers went to their father and said, "O our father! Why do you not trust us with Joseph, when we are indeed his well wishers? Send him with us tomorrow to enjoy himself and play, and verily, we will take care of him."

He said, "Truly, it saddens me that you should take him away. I fear lest a wolf devour him, while you are careless."

They said, "If a wolf devours him, while we are guarding him then surely we are the losers."
(Qur'an 12:11-14)

They coaxed their father into sending Yusuf with them. They were excited that they could now get rid of Yusuf.

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How Allah Influenced The Life of Yusuf (Joseph) - Part One

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On leaving home, they went directly to the well, as they had planned, on the pretext of drinking water. One of them put his arms around Yusuf and held him tightly. Startled by this unusual behaviour, Yusuf struggled to free himself. The rest of his brothers rushed to hold him. One of them removed his shirt, while the others lifted Yusuf and threw him into the deep well. Yusuf's pleas made no difference to their cruel hearts.

There was water in the well which buoyed Yusuf's body, so he was not harmed. He sat lonely in the water, then clung to a rock ledge overhead and climbed on top of it. His brothers left him in this desolate place. Then they killed a sheep and soaked Yusuf's shirt in its blood. They went back home.

They went to their father in the early part of the night weeping, "O our father! We went racing with one another, and left Yusuf by our belongings and a wolf devoured him; but you will never believe us even when we speak the truth" and they bought his shirt stained with false blood.

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How Allah Influenced The Life of Yusuf (Joseph) - Part One

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The broken hearted father burst into tears, "Nay, but your ownelves have made up a tale. So for me patience is most befitting. And it is Allah alone whose help could be sought against that which you assert."

(Qur'an 12:16-18)

Yusuf surrendered himself to Allah's will. A caravan was on its way to Egypt. They stopped at the well for some water. As a man from the caravan lowered his bucket into the well Yusuf was startled and he then grabbed hold of the bucket. As the man began to bring the bucket up, he felt the load unusually heavy, so he peeped into the well. What he saw shocked him. A man was clinging to the rope! He shouted to his friends, "Better give me a hand fellows! Looks like I found real treasure in the well!"

They got Yusuf out of the well, they clapped iron shackles on his feet and took him along to Egypt, where he was sold as a slave to the chief minister of Egypt called Aziz.

How Allah Influenced The Life of Yusuf (Joseph) - Part Two

Aziz soon began to like Yusuf very much and trusted him enormously. He removed Yusuf's shackles and made him his wife's personal attendant. Yusuf soon was confronted with his second test from Allah.

Aziz's wife Zulaikha, could not resist the handsome Yusuf and her obsession with him caused her sleepless nights. Zulaikha convinced her husband Aziz that the only way to save her honour was to put Yusuf into prison.

Aziz knew Yusuf was totally innocent. He loved Yusuf because he had been a very loyal servant. After a lot of thought he put Yusuf into prison convincing himself that this would safeguard Yusuf's honour as well.

Whilst in prison, Yusuf began to interpret dreams using the knowledge that Allah had given him. The king of Egypt got to know Yusuf's gift of interpreting dreams. The king of Egypt said, "Verily, I saw (in a dream) seven fat cows, whom seven lean cows were eating ... and seven green ears of corn, and seven others dry. O notables! Explain to me my dream, if it be that you can interpret dreams."

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How Allah Influenced The Life of Yusuf (Joseph) - Part Two

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They said, "Mixed up false dreams and we are not skilled in the interpretation of dreams." The man who was released from prison remembered and said, "I will tell you its interpretation, so send me forth." He said, "O Joseph, the man of truth! Explain to us the dream" Joseph said, "For seven consecutive years, you shall sow as usual and that (the harvest) which you reap you shall leave in ears, except that which you eat. Then there will come seven years... .."

(Qur'an 12:43-49)

The king was told the interpretation of the dream as told by Yusuf. The king said, "Bring him to me that I may attach him to my person." Then when he spoke to him, he said, "Verily this day, you are with us in high rank and fully trusted."

(Qur'an 12:54-57)

This is how Yusuf was put into power by Allah's plan. Allah influenced Yusuf's life by taking him from a small town called Canine to Egypt and gave him a position of power so that he could establish justice on the land of Egypt.

Children are like Butterflies

Children are like butterflies in the wind.

Some can fly higher than others,

But each one flies the best it can.

Why compare one against the other?

Each one is different.

Each one is special.

Each one is beautiful in his own way.

Unknown poet—any help?

The Natural World

Allah created you from dust, then from a little fluid, then He made you pairs (the male and female). No female beareth or bringeth forth save with His knowledge. And no-one groweth old who groweth old, nor is aught lessened of his life, but it is recorded in a Book, Lo! that is easy for Allah.

And the two seas are not alike: this, fresh, sweet, good to drink, this (other) bitter, salt. And from them both ye eat fresh meat and derive the ornament that ye wear. And thou seest the ship cleaving them with its prow that ye may seek of His bounty, and that happily ye may give thanks.

He maketh the night to pass into the day and He maketh the day to pass into the night. He hath subdued the sun and moon to service. Each runneth unto an appointed term. Such is Allah, your Lord; His is the Sovereignty; and those unto whom ye pray instead of Him own not so much as the white spot on a date-stone.

(Qur'an 35:11-13)

Allah presents this as evidence that there has to be a creator because if one does not believe in a creator then in a way they are suggesting that the world came into existence at random just like that. Allah asks Muslims to reason and decide whether such thinking makes sense to them.