# THE STORY OF PROPHET AYUB (JOB)

1) A group of angels were discussing the creation of Allah (God) and humans in particular. How those who were humble earned the pleasure Allah (God), whilst those who were arrogant incurred His displeasure? One of the angels remarked, “The best creature today is Ayub (Job), a man of noble character who displays great patience and always remembers his Generous Lord. He is an excellent model of the worshippers of Allah (God). Allah (God) has blessed him with a long life and plenty of riches, yet he is never haughty or selfish. He feeds and clothes the poor and makes them feel as though he was not doing them a favour, so kind and gentle is he.”

2) Iblis, though a very knowledgeable jinn (a spirit who is neither good or bad) had disobeyed Allah (God) out of pride. Out of pride he could not accept that Allah created Prophet Aadam (Adam) out of dust as miracle without a mother or a father. Not only that, he promised Allah (God) that he will tempt Aadam (Adam) and his children to be proud, arrogant and selfish at the very least.

3) When Iblis overheard the discussion of the Angels regarding Prophet Ayub (Job) he felt as though he was not doing his job effectively. Iblis immediately began to devote all his attention to Prophet Ayub (Job). He planned to tempt Ayub (Job) to become arrogant, proud and selfish in the very least.

4) Iblis decided that his first task has to be to distract Prophet Ayub (Job) from his prayers by whispering to him about the good things in life, but Prophet Ayub (Job) was a true believer and would not let evil thoughts tempt him. This disturbed Iblis more, so he began to hate Prophet Ayub (Job) even more.

5) Iblis complained to Allah (God) about Prophet Ayub (Job). He said that though Prophet Ayub (Job) was continuously glorifying Allah (God), he was not doing so out of sincerity but to satisfy Allah (God) so that his wealth should not be taken away. It was all a show out of greed. “If You removed his wealth then You will find that his tongue will no longer mention Your name and his praying will stop”.

6) Allah (God) told Iblis that Prophet Ayub (Job) was one of His most sincere devotees. He did not worship Him because of favours; his worship stemmed from his heart and had nothing to do with material things. But to prove to Iblis the depth of Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) sincerity and patience, Allah (God) allowed Iblis to do whatever he and his helpers wished to do with Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) wealth. Iblis was very happy. He gathered his helpers and set about destroying Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) cattle, helpers, farms until Prophet Ayub (Job) was left with nothing. Iblis was very happy.

7) Iblis appeared before Prophet Ayub (Job) in the guise of an old man and said, “All your wealth is lost. People say that you lost your wealth because you gave too much charity and you are always wasting your time worshiping Allah. Others say that Allah (God) has bought this upon you in order to please your enemies. If Allah (God) had the capacity to prevent harm, then He would have protected your wealth.”

8) Prophet Ayub (Job) replied, “What Allah (God) has taken away from me belongs to Him. I was only its trustee for a while. He gives to whom He wishes and takes it away from whom He wishes.” With these words Prophet Ayub (Job) again prostrated to Allah God).

9) Iblis was frustrated. Again he went to Allah (God) and said, “I have stripped Prophet Ayub (Job) of all his possessions, but he still remains faithful to you. However, a real test for a parent is through his children. You will then see how Prophet Ayub (Job) will reject you”.

10) Allah (God) granted Iblis authority but warned him that it would not reduce Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) faith in his Allah (God) nor his patience.

11) Iblis again gathered his helpers and set about his evil deeds. He shook the foundation of the House in which Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) children lived. The building came crashing down killing all of them. Then he went to Prophet Ayub (Job) disguised as a man who had come to sympathise with him. In a comforting tone he said to Prophet Ayub (Job), “The circumstances in which your children died were sad. Surely, your Allah (God) is not rewarding you properly for all your prayers”. Having said this Iblis waited anxiously, hoping Prophet Ayub (Job) was now ready to reject Allah.

12) Prophet Ayub (Job) replied, “Allah sometimes gives and sometimes takes away. He is sometimes pleased and sometimes displeased with our deeds. Whether a thing is beneficial or harmful to me I will remain firm in my belief and remain thankful to Allah (God).” Then Job prostrated to his Lord.

13) At this Iblis was extremely vexed. Iblis again called on Allah (God). “O Allah, Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) wealth is gone, his children are dead but he is still healthy in body and as long as he enjoys good health he will continue to worship You in the hope of regaining his wealth and having more children. Grant me authority over his body so that I may weaken it. He will surely neglect worshiping You and will thus become disobedient.”

14) Allah (God) wanted to teach Iblis a lesson that those people who truly believe do not become weak in faith when tested with harsh conditions. Allah (God) said, “I give you authority over his body but not over his soul, intellect, heart for in these places reside the knowledge of Me and My religion.”

15) Iblis now began to take revenge on Prophet Ayub’s (Job’s) body and filled it with disease until it was reduced to mere skin and bone and he suffered severe pain. But through all the suffering Prophet Ayub (Job) remained strong in his faith, patiently bearing all the hardships without complaining. He did not despair or turn to others for help but remained hopeful in the mercy of Allah (God). Even close relatives and friends deserted him. Only his wife remained by his side and took good care of him.

16) In this helpless state, Prophet Ayub (Job) turned to Allah (God) not to complain but to seek His mercy.

Allah (God) says, “Commemorate Our Servant Ayub (Job). Behold he cried to his Lord, "The Evil One has afflicted me with distress and suffering!" (The command was given:) "Strike with thy foot: here is (water) wherein to wash, cool and refreshing, and (water) to drink." And we gave him (back) his people and doubled their number - as a Grace from Ourselves, and a thing for commemoration, for all who have Understanding.” (Qur’an 38: 41-44).

17) Prophet Ayub (Job) obeyed the command of Allah (God) immediately. Allah (God) restored his good health and All that he had lost.

(Ends)