

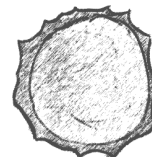
Name of Prophet:



Sulayman (Solomon) peace be upon him.

Special characteristics:

- A kingdom like no other
- Control over the Jinn
- Control over the birds
- Control over the wild animals
- Control over the wind
- Spoke with and understood the animals
- Wisdom



Early life:

Sulayman was the son of the Prophet of Allah, Dawood, may Allah's peace be upon them both. When his noble father died, Sulayman did not inherit any money, houses or any form of wealth. This is because the Prophets don't leave any inheritance behind, whatever wealth they may have had, will be left as charity.

Sulayman was not bothered about wealth, for Allah had chosen him for greatness as well. Sulayman was also to be a Prophet and King of the Israelites.

Middle life:

Although a man, Sulayman had been given special powers that no other man was to be given in the same way. He would have knowledge and power that no other king before or after was to experience. Allah had given him the ability to communicate with the birds, speaking to them in their languages. Sulayman was not restricted to just communicating with birds, he was able to understand even the silent creatures, such as ants. Allah also blessed him with huge armies of men, jinn, birds and wild animals. They all feared him and he kept his armies well disciplined, tolerating no disobedience.

One day, whilst inspecting his armies, he noticed one member missing. "How is it I do not see the hoopoe bird? Or is he not here?" Enquired Sulayman. "I will punish him severely, or even slaughter him unless he brings me an acceptable excuse," he continued, firmly. But it wasn't long before the hoopoe returned with a good excuse. "I have come to know something which you do not know and I have come from Sheba with sure news for you. There I found a woman ruling over them and she has been given plenty of everything and she has a magnificent throne," informed the hoopoe. He then mentioned something quite disturbing to his king, telling him that even though Allah had given these people plenty of everything, they still did not show their thanks to Allah. Instead they worshipped the sun. Thus committing the greatest crime against Allah, that of Shirk! All the Prophets of Allah came with the message of Tawheed, taking the opportunity, Sulayman, peace be upon him sent a message inviting the Queen of Sheba and her people to leave their worship of creation to the worship of the Creator. If they did not then they would pay the consequences.

After consulting her advisors, the Queen thought she may be able to bribe Sulayman into leaving them alone. So she sent beautiful gifts to him.

When the gifts arrived, Sulayman felt insulted, as a Prophet of Allah he knew that such things mean very little, they are just distractions of this world. He commanded his messenger to go back to the Queen and tell her that, "we shall come back to them with such armies that they will not be able to face and we will expel them from there and they will be humiliated and humbled." Upon receiving this news the Queen realised she had no choice and decided to go and surrender in person. When Sulayman heard this he held a meeting with his army of jinn and asked them who from amongst them could bring the throne of the Queen of Sheba. One said he could bring the throne before the meeting was over. Whilst another jinn, who had knowledge of the scripture, said, "I will bring it to you in the wink of an eye," and so he did.

Imagine how the Queen felt, when she finally arrived in Jerusalem all the way from Yemen to find in front of her, what looked like her throne. The Queen realised the truth of Tawheed and embraced Islam. The Prophet King Sulayman married the Queen and sent her back to Yemen. He would visit her there once a month.

We have seen the tremendous power Sulayman had under his control, he was also known for his justice and wisdom, just like his father before him. The case of the two women and the child demonstrates Sulayman's excellence as a judge. This famous case happened during the time of Sulayman's father, Dawood, peace be upon them both.

It so happened that two women were walking along their way, each with her son. Suddenly a wolf appeared and took away one of the unfortunate boys. One woman said to the other, "It is with your child that it (the wolf) has run away." The other replied, "It has run away with your child." The two women then brought their dispute to the Prophet King, Dawood, peace be upon him. He decided in the favour of the eldest woman. But when they passed by Sulayman, he said, "Bring me a knife and I will cut this boy into two pieces, each piece for each of you." The younger woman said, "No may Allah have mercy upon you, this is her son." Upon hearing this, Sulayman changed the verdict of his father, in the favour of the younger woman.

Death:

Prophet Sulayman, peace be upon him was just like all other men and like all other men, they will all die one day. However the bodies of the Prophets do not decompose, Allah preserves their bodies even though their lives come to an end.

Sulayman was inspecting the jinn working under his command, watching over their labour whilst leaning on his staff. In this position, Sulayman, the great and powerful king of the Israelites was visited by the same stranger who had entered the home of Dawood, even though all the entrances were locked. The visitor was the Angel of Death. After taking his soul, the lifeless body of the Prophet Sulayman continued to lean against his staff. A creature of the earth had begun to eat away at the wooden staff, meanwhile the jinn continued to work hard not realising that their master was now dead. A year later the staff gave way and the body of Sulayman, peace be upon him, fell to the ground. Only then did the jinn realise that Sulayman had passed away, may Allah have mercy upon him.