

# The story of Prophet Lut (Lot, pbuh)

Prophet Lut (peace be upon him), like all other messengers and prophets, is highly revered in Islam. Muslims believe all prophets are pure, sinless and have never committed any transgression. So, what is the story of Lut in Islam?

After leaving Egypt, Prophet Ibrahim traveled with his nephew Lut (Lot). Lut later proceeded to the city of Sodom. The Qur'an does not provide geographical specifics or the city's name, consistently focusing only on elements essential to the narrative's moral guidance.

Sodom was a city consumed by wickedness. Its inhabitants waylaid, robbed, and killed travelers who dared to enter or pass near their city. Among their pervasive evils was sodomy, where men engaged in sexual acts with other men purely for desire and enjoyment. This unnatural act later became known as "sodomy," named after the city itself. It was practiced openly and without shame. The Qur'an explicitly states that they were the first to commit such a sin: **"And [remember] Lut (Lot), when he said to his people: 'You commit Fahishah (the worst of sins, sodomy) which none has preceded you in (committing) it in the 'Alamin (mankind and jinns).'**" [Qur'an 29:28]. This verse is repeated almost verbatim in Qur'an 7:80, serving as clear evidence of the sin's profound abhorrence.

When these pervasive crimes and sins reached

their peak, God the Almighty (Allah) instructed Prophet Lut (Lot, pbuh) to call his people and enjoin them to cease their depraved conduct. Yet, they had sunk into their immoral ways so profoundly that Lut's admonitions fell on deaf ears. Engulfed by their unnatural desires, they steadfastly refused to heed his warnings, even when he cautioned them of divine retribution. The Qur'an recounts Lut's interaction with his people thus: **"Verily, you do sodomy with men, and rob the wayfarer (travelers, etc.)! And practice the unacceptable in your gathering place. But his people did not answer except that they said: 'Bring God's Torment upon us if you are one of the truthful.'"** [Qur'an 29:29]. This exact challenge, a testament to their hardened hearts, had been presented to Nuh, Hud, Salih, Shuayb, and all prophets preceding Lut. It underscores the unchanging nature of disbelief and the persistent machinations of Satan, who vowed to claim a distinct portion of humanity.

Instead of listening and contemplating the divine message, Lut's people responded with threats, vowing to drive him from their city if he persisted in his preaching. God the Almighty (Allah in Arabic and Aramaic, with emphatic L as in "Luck") recounts another interaction between Lut and his community: **"The people of Lut (Lot) (those who dwell in the towns of Sodom)**



Guest Column

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**belied the Messengers."** [Qur'an 26:160]. The use of the plural "Messengers" in this verse, despite Lut being the sole prophet among them at that time, is significant. It reflects the fact that Lut's people were aware of earlier communities who faced divine retribution for defying God and His envoys. Given that all messengers convey the same fundamental monotheistic message, their rejection of Lut effectively constituted a rejection of all prophets and messengers who preceded him.

The Qur'an then details their continued defiance: **"When their brother Lut (Lot) said to them: 'Will you not fear Allah and obey Him? Verily! I am a trustworthy Messenger to you. So fear Allah, keep your duty to Him, and obey me. No reward do I ask of you for it (my Message of Islamic Monotheism), my reward is only from the Lord of the 'Alamin (mankind, jinns, and all that exists). Go ye in unto the males of the 'Alamin (mankind), and leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your wives? Nay, you are a trespassing people!' They said: 'If you cease not. O Lut (Lot)! Verily, you will be one of those who are driven out!'"**

[Qur'an 26:161-167].

This exchange is fascinatingly consistent with those between other prophets and their people: arrogant, proud, and deluded by what they perceived as their own power. Lut's people's response was almost identical to others: **"If you don't stop preaching, we will expel you!"** Lut's powerful reply is then recorded: **"He said: 'I am, indeed, of those who disapprove with severe anger and fury your (this evil) action (of sodomy). My Lord! Save me and my family from what they do.'"** [Qur'an 26:168-169]. This dialogue is concise, direct, yet remarkably descriptive. Truly amazing!

The actions of Lut's people deeply saddened his heart. Their vile reputation spread throughout the land as he tirelessly struggled against them. Years passed, and he persisted in his mission, but to no avail. None responded to his call or believed, except for his immediate family. Even within his own household, not every member embraced his message; tragically, like Noah's wife, Lut's wife was a disbeliever.

When a prophet has exhausted all efforts, their sole recourse is to seek refuge in God Almighty (Allah) for help and guidance. Immediately after his supplications, Prophet Lut received an unprecedented visit. Lut, who had stopped receiving guests or inviting people from other places to visit him, was full of sadness and anger when he

received his guests.

The Qur'an then recounts the story as follows: **"And when Our envoys came to Lot, he was distressed on their account, and he felt powerless concerning them, and he said, 'This is a terrible day.' And his people came rushing towards him—they were in the habit of committing sins. He said, 'O my people, these are my daughters; they are purer for you. So fear Allah, and do not embarrass me before my guests. Is there not among you one reasonable man?' They said, 'You certainly know what rights we have with your daughters. And you already know what we want.' He said, 'If only I had the strength, or could rely on some strong support.' They (the envoys) said, 'O Lot, we are the envoys of your Lord. They will never reach (harm) you. So set out with your family during the cover of the night, and let none of you look back, except for your wife. She will be struck by what will strike them. Their appointed time is the morning. Is the morning not near?' And when Our command came, We turned it upside down, and We rained on it stones of baked clay. Marked from your Lord!), and not far from the wrongdoers."** [Qur'an 11: 77-83].

These clear verses raise a crucial question: Would a messenger from God offer his daughters for adultery? The answer is implicitly given in the subsequent verse when his people retorted, "You certainly

know what rights we have with your daughters. And you already know what we want!" This powerfully suggests that some of those rushing to Lut to assault his guests were none other than his daughters' husbands. This is certainly an intriguing point to consider.

Lut's wife was among those who were doomed. The Qur'an tells us she was a disbeliever. This reveals the immense hardship Lut endured, both within his own home and in his external mission. It serves as clear proof that even God's messengers experienced their share of torment and difficulties.

The Qur'an describes the final moments: **"So We evacuated all the believers (who were) in it. We found (in it) only one household of Muslims. And We left a sign in it for those who fear the painful punishment."** [Qur'an 51:35-37]. The Qur'an refers to them as Muslims because anyone who submits to the will of God is a Muslim.

After years of tireless struggle, only one household of Muslims remained with Lut: his own family, excluding his disbelieving wife. The divine punishment manifested as a devastating earthquake that overturned the city, obliterating it, accompanied by an unprecedented rain. Thus, the people of Lut were utterly erased from memory.

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