

The Prophet Job (peace be upon him)

The Prophet Job (peace be upon him, pbuh), known in Arabic as “Ayyub,” is honored in the Qur’an as an enduring symbol of patience and resilience. Through his story, God presents a lesson in steadfast faith, perseverance through adversity, and unwavering hope. Job’s (pbuh) life invites the reader not only to admire his character but to reflect upon their own journey and seek inspiration directly from the verses of the Qur’an wherein his trials and virtues are described.

Prophet Job (pbuh) ancestry traces back to Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham – peace be upon them all. This lineage underscores Job’s (pbuh) noble heritage and his place within the tapestry of prophetic history.

The story of Job (pbuh) is recounted in both the Qur’an and the Bible, serving as a testament to his remarkable patience and faith. This narrative, in both sacred scriptures, invites the reader to contemplate the virtues of resilience and faith.

The Qur’an presents a different account than the Bible’s regarding the relationship between God and Satan (the cursed one). Unlike biblical narratives where conversations between God and Satan appear, the Qur’an limits Satan’s direct interaction with God to a single moment – when Satan refused to prostrate to Adam after God created him by His own Hands. The Qur’an teaches that Satan’s influence is always harmful and can only occur by God’s permission; Satan has no power to benefit or truly harm anyone independently. Although Satan may plot

and tempt, these actions unfold strictly within the divine will and decree of God, Almighty and All-Knowing. Thus, even in the face of Satan’s schemes, the ultimate control remains firmly in God’s hands.

The story of Prophet Job (pbuh) unfolds in the Qur’an when he calls out to God in heartfelt supplication: **“And Job, when he cried out to his Lord: ‘Great harm has afflicted me, and You are the Most Merciful of the merciful.’ So We answered him, and We removed the affliction that was upon him, and We restored his family to him, and their likes with them, mercy from Us, and a reminder to the servants.”** [Qur’an 21:83-84].

In these verses, we witness Job’s (pbuh) humble acknowledgment of his suffering alongside an unwavering trust in God’s mercy. His plea is simple yet powerful: he admits his pain but relies on the boundless compassion of the Most Merciful. Immediately following his sincere invocation, God answers his prayer, removing the affliction and restoring his family, even doubling their number as a sign of divine mercy and a lesson for all believers. This passage invites readers not only to appreciate Job’s (pbuh) patience but to reflect on the power of turning sincerely to God in times of hardship.

Another lesson is Job’s (pbuh) remarkable politeness and humility in the face of severe hardship. Despite the immense suffering that afflicted him, losing wealth, health, and children, Job’s (pbuh) supplication to God was characterized by gentleness and grace.



Guest
Column

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When he described his affliction, he chose the word “touch,” a subtle and respectful term reflecting patience and acceptance rather than complaint or anger. Throughout his trials, Job (pbuh) did not utter words of bitterness or dissatisfaction; instead, he maintained a humble disposition, exemplifying steadfast faith and trust in God’s wisdom.

The Qur’an describes Job’s (pbuh) prayer and God’s response in another verse: **“And mention Our servant Job, when he called upon his Lord, ‘Satan has touched me with distress and suffering.’ [We said:] ‘Stomp with your foot—this is cool water to wash with, and to drink.’ And We restored his family to him, and their like with them, as a mercy from Us, and a lesson for those who possess insight.”** — [Qur’an 38:41-43]

Satan’s attempts to shake Job’s (pbuh) faith failed miserably, revealing Job’s (pbuh) unwavering devotion and resilience. God eventually commanded Job (pbuh) to strike the ground with his foot, causing a spring of water to emerge that healed his body and restored his health completely. God then returned Job’s (pbuh) family to him, doubling their number as a mercy and a sign of divine reward for patience. A lesson that would infuriate Satan even more is that

the children of Adam exhibit greater patience and steadfastness – they do not disobey the Creator.

One might ask: What exact hardships did Job (pbuh) endure during his severe trial? To answer this, we first need to recognize that prophets are chosen by God not only to convey divine guidance but also to serve as living examples for believers to follow. Job (pbuh) exemplifies patience and resilience in many ways.

When calamity strikes us, it is natural to feel overwhelmed, but Job’s story encourages us to resist complaining or believing that God dislikes us or has singled us out for misfortune. Instead, we are reminded that prophets like Job were human beings selected by God, ordinary in their humanity, but with faith that was undoubtedly more sincere and stronger. This belief protects us from thinking that prophets could withstand hardships that ordinary people cannot, reinforcing that enduring suffering with patience is part of human experience.

Job (pbuh) faced profound losses: his wealth, his children, and his health were taken away. He endured physical illness and social rejection, yet he never wavered in faith or gratitude. His example teaches us that patience through hardship is a key virtue and that God’s tests are opportunities for spiritual growth, not punishments meant to harm.

Recognizing this helps believers see hardships not as signs of divine rejection, but as challenges meant to elevate faith, just as Job’s (pbuh) unwavering trust in God set a timeless example for all

who face distress.

God tested Prophet Job in every conceivable way: his body, his wealth, and his children, leaving no part of him untouched except his heart. Throughout this severe affliction, Job (pbuh) was abandoned by everyone except his devoted wife, who stood by him with unwavering loyalty. For nearly eighteen years, she labored tirelessly, serving others to earn their livelihood and caring for Job (pbuh) day and night, tending to his needs with compassion and steadfastness. Despite the isolation and rejection from his community, she remained a beacon of support and love.

Job’s (pbuh) trials were not only physical but also social and emotional, exemplifying the full spectrum of human suffering. Yet, through all this, he demonstrated unmatched patience, resilience, and faith in God’s mercy.

When the suffering became overwhelming and God’s destined time arrived, Job (pbuh) beseeched his Lord. The Most Merciful responded: Job (pbuh) was told to strike the ground with his foot, and God brought forth a healing spring from which he washed and drank, curing him completely.

The ordeal of the Prophet Job lasted eighteen long years. During this time, he endured immense suffering—not only physical but social and emotional as well. Remarkably, only two close friends remained loyal and visited him during his trial. When one of these friends doubted Job’s worthiness or questioned his faith, Job (pbuh) responded

with humility and wisdom, reminding them that only God truly knows the inner state of His servants.

Another narration recounts the time after Job’s (pbuh) recovery, when God blessed him abundantly. It is said that clouds came forth and rained gold upon Job’s (pbuh) fields, causing his harvest to overflow with blessings beyond measure. This divine favor not only restored his fortune but also served as a sign of God’s mercy and reward for Job’s (pbuh) unwavering patience and faith. These narrations deepen our understanding of Job’s (pbuh) story, showing his resilience in the face of prolonged hardship and emphasizing the importance of sincere belief and trust in God’s wisdom.

During his suffering, Job’s (pbuh) wife, seeking food for them, traded her hair for bread. Grieved, Job (pbuh) swore to strike her a hundred times if he was ever healed. Upon his recovery, God, in His wisdom and mercy, instructed Job (pbuh) to fulfill his oath by striking her once with a bundle of a hundred thin branches, thus completing his vow without harming her.

The most important lesson from Job’s (pbuh) story is the unshakeable faith and turning to God in every circumstance, whether in times of prosperity or adversity. His unwavering patience serves as an enduring example that relief comes to those who persevere in their devotion to God.

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