

Adam and Eve in The Quran

Adam (peace be upon him) is revered as the first human being and the initial Prophet in Islamic tradition. While variations exist in the narratives across different revealed religions, they generally uphold fundamental similarities. Here, I aim to delve into the account of Adam and Eve as depicted in the Quran.

Creation of Adam in the Quran: The story of Prophet Adam is recounted in various verses and contexts. While these verses don't explicitly detail the process of the first human creation, they convey the essence of life's purpose and other significant values.

According to the Quran, before the creation of Adam, God had already decreed that mankind would be established on Earth. The Quran states, "And [mention, O Muhammad], when your Lord said to the angels, 'Indeed, I will make upon the Earth a successive authority.' They said, 'Will You place upon it one who causes corruption therein and sheds blood, while we declare Your praise and sanctify You?' Allah said, 'Indeed, I know that which you do not know.'" [Quran 2:30]

God informed the angels that He would create Adam, the first human being, to serve as a successor to those who inhabited the Earth before humans,

(a good point of study) to inhabit and prosper the Earth. This indicates that even before the events in which Adam and Eve are tested, it was intended for Earth to be their destination.

The angels were intrigued by this decision. As perfect beings created to fulfill their roles in complete obedience, their inquiry to God was not intended as a challenge but rather as a quest for understanding. God's response suggested that Adam would be favored for a specific purpose.

What was Adam created from? The Quran depicts that Adam was created from clay, "[So mention] when your Lord said to the angels, 'Indeed, I am going to create a human being from clay.'" [Quran 38: 71], or from dust, "... He created Him from dust; then He said to him, 'Be,' and he was." [Quran 3: 59]. This spectrum of descriptions underscores humanity's origins and intrinsic connection to the earth.

After being molded into form, Adam's soul, created by God, was infused into him. The Quran does not elaborate on the nature of the soul, indicating it as beyond human comprehension, the Quran states, "And they ask you, [O Muhammad], about the soul. Say, 'The soul is of the affair [i.e., concern] of my Lord. And you [i.e.,



Guest Column

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mankind] have not been given of knowledge except a little.'"

Adam is honored as the First Human: The Quran informs us about Adam, stating, "And We have certainly created you, [O mankind], and given you [human] form. Then We said to the angels, 'Prostrate to Adam,' so they prostrated, except for Iblees [Satan]. He was not among those who prostrated." [Quran 7:11]

After creating the first human, God commanded the angels to prostrate to Adam. While prostration is an act of worship reserved for God alone, this prostration by the angels was a sign of respect. Furthermore, this gesture of honoring the first human also served as a test for Satan, who, despite being present, refused to participate. The Quran teaches us, "[So mention] when your Lord said to the angels, 'Indeed, I am going to create a human being from clay. So when I have proportioned him and breathed into him of My [created] soul, then fall [down] to him in prostration.' So the angels

prostrated – all of them entirely. Except Iblees [Satan]; he was arrogant and became among the disbelievers." [Quran 38: 71-74]

Satan, originally a member of the Jinn, had elevated himself among the angels through his devout worship. However, his disobedience stemmed from his arrogance and sense of superiority over Adam. Despite God's wisdom in choosing Adam and humanity as Earth's inhabitants, Satan couldn't accept Adam's superiority. The Quran narrates, "And He taught Adam the names – all of them. Then He showed them to the angels and said, 'Inform Me of the names of these, if you are truthful.' They said, 'Exalted are You; we have no knowledge except what You have taught us. Indeed, it is You who is the Knowing, the Wise.' He said, 'O Adam, inform them of their names.' And when he had informed them of their names, He said, 'Did I not tell you that I know the unseen [aspects] of the heavens and the earth? And I know what you reveal and what you have concealed.'" [Quran 2:31-33]

Unlike the angels, Adam was endowed with free will, enabling him to discern and make choices. Additionally, he was bestowed with the gift of knowledge, encompassing the names, attributes, and functions

of all creations, animate or inanimate. This knowledge equipped Adam for his future responsibilities on Earth. When Adam was tasked with showcasing his knowledge to the angels, it symbolized a teacher imparting wisdom to students, underscoring his superiority. Through this, the angels realized that purity and absolute obedience were not the sole requisites for assuming the role of vicegerents on Earth.

Adams' suitability for the role of vicegerent was humbly acknowledged by the angels, but challenged by Satan, who was condemned and banished from heaven.

The Creation of Eve: Adam's spouse, commonly known as Eve or Hawaa, is not specifically named in the Quran, although she is referenced in multiple passages. The Quran does not provide explicit details about how Eve was created. However, it is indicated that Eve was created from Adam, as stated, "O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women...." [Quran 4:1]

The hadith (traditions of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) further reveal that Eve was created from Adam's rib which was taken while he was asleep. The narrations that describe this story of

the rib are often used to emphasize being gentle and kind to women. The Prophet says, "O Muslims! I advise you to be gentle with women, for they are created from a rib, and the most crooked portion of the rib is its upper part. If you try to straighten it, it will break, and if you leave it, it will remain crooked; so I urge you to take care of the women."

After Eve was created, the couple was granted residence in paradise, as mentioned in the Quran, "And We said, 'O Adam, dwell, you and your wife, in Paradise and eat therefrom in [ease and] abundance from wherever you will. But do not approach this tree, lest you be among the wrongdoers.'" [Quran 2: 35]

Eve was created to accompany Adam as his companion and life partner, and they were instructed to live together in tranquility. In paradise (the exact location of which is debated), Adam and Eve were free to eat and enjoy everything except for one tree. The Quran does not specify the type of tree (although some verses suggest that it bore fermented fruits.) This prohibition set the stage for the impending test. (to be continued...)

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Vatican and Rome begin dash to 2025 Jubilee

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican crossed a key milestone Thursday in the runup to its 2025 Jubilee with the promulgation of the official decree establishing the Holy Year. It's a once-every-quarter-century event that is expected to bring some 32 million pilgrims to Rome and has already brought months of headaches to Romans.

Pope Francis presided over a ceremony in the atrium of St. Peter's Basilica for the reading of the papal bull, or official edict, that laid out his vision for

a year of hope: He asked for gestures of solidarity for the poor, prisoners, migrants and Mother Nature.

"Hope is needed by God's creation, gravely damaged and disfigured by human selfishness," Francis said in a vigil service afterward. "Hope is needed by those peoples and nations who look to the future with anxiety and fear."

The pomp-filled event, attended by cardinals, bishops and ordinary faithful, kicked off the final seven-month dash of

preparations and public works projects to be completed by Dec. 24, when Francis opens the basilica's Holy Door and formally inaugurates the Jubilee.

In a novelty, Francis announced in the papal bull that he would also open a Holy Door in a prison "as a sign inviting prisoners to look to the future with hope and a renewed sense of confidence."

For the Vatican, the Holy Year is a centuries-old tradition of the faithful making pilgrimages to Rome to visit the tombs

of Saints Peter and Paul, and receiving indulgences for the forgiveness of their sins in the process. For the city of Rome, it's a chance to take advantage of some 4 billion euros (\$4.3 billion) in public funds to carry out long-delayed projects to lift the city out of years of decay and neglect.

"In a beautiful city, you live better," said the Vatican's Jubilee point-person, Archbishop Renato Fisichella, who himself is not indifferent to the added bonus of Jubilee funding.

"Rome will become an even more beautiful city, because it will be ever more at the service of its people, pilgrims and tourists who will come."

Pope Boniface VIII declared the first Holy Year in 1300, and now they are held every 25 years. While Francis called an interim one devoted to mercy in 2015, the 2025 edition is the first big one since St. John Paul II's 2000 Jubilee, when he ushered the Catholic Church into the third millennium.

— AP

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Luke 12:34

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