

Adam and Eve in The Quran, Part 2

We continue the story of Adam (peace be upon him) and Eve as narrated in the Quran.

Adam and Eve dwelled in Paradise: The Quran tells us that God told Adam they were to live in “the” Paradise. The Quran says, “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]. Where this paradise truly is, is a point of debate among scholars.

Adam and Eve’s Test in Paradise: The forbidden tree served as a test for Adam (pbuh) and Eve. Furthermore, God warned Adam and Eve that the devil was an enemy and that they should be on their guard. The Quran says, “(116) And [mention] when We said to the angels, “Prostrate to Adam, and they prostrated, except Iblees [satan’s name]; he refused. (117) So We said, ‘O Adam, indeed this is an enemy to you and your wife. Then let him not remove you from Paradise so you would suffer.’” [20: 116-117]

Satan, eagerly targeting the weakness of mankind, tempted Adam and Eve by whispering into their minds (and hearts). Claiming to be a sincere advisor, he planted in

their minds ideas that would make the forbidden tree appealing. Forgetting the warning, they gave in and erred. The Quran says, “But Satan whispered to them to make apparent to them that which was concealed from them of their private parts. He said, ‘Your Lord did not forbid you this tree except that you become angels or become immortal.’ And he swore [by Allah] to them, ‘Indeed, I am to you from among the sincere advisors.’ So he made them fall, through deception. And when they tasted of the tree, their private parts became apparent to them, and they began to fasten together over themselves from the leaves of Paradise. And their Lord called to them, ‘Did I not forbid you from that tree and tell you that Satan is to you a clear enemy?’” [7:20-22]

By forgetting God’s command, Adam (pbuh) and Eve bore equal responsibility for their error, not just Eve. It is even clear that Adam (pbuh) was the one who misled Eve to err. A sign that she followed her husband. This, too, was a test for Satan, who in fact, furthered his disobedience by exploiting mankind through their desires and giving them the dream of “more” than they can handle.

The Virtue of Repent-



Guest Column

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ance and Supplication: Through this test, God prepared Adam (pbuh) for his role on Earth, as a caretaker and a Prophet. This experience taught Adam (pbuh) firsthand that Satan was a deceptive enemy to mankind. In fact, after this test, the fall into Satan’s trap, and the forgiving of Adam (pbuh), the Quran does not mention any other wrongdoing committed by Adam nor by Eve.

After eating from the tree, Adam and Eve became ashamed and deeply regretted their actions. They acknowledged their errors and sought mercy, repenting sincerely to Allah, their Creator. The Quran says, “They said, ‘Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers.’” [Quran 7: 23].

The story of Adam (pbuh) and Eve in the Quran teaches the virtue of repentance and supplication. It teaches us that Allah, (Allah is the name of God in Arabic) the Almighty, forgives when

repentance is sincere. Adam and Eve recognized their errors and prayed for forgiveness. This, in turn, earned them Allah’s forgiveness and guidance. The Quran says, “Then his Lord chose him and turned to him in forgiveness and guided [him].” [Quran 20: 122]

Adam and Eve are sent to Earth: In the Quran, God consoles Adam. Since the sin of Adam stemmed from desire, which God created in him (and in Eve), and not from arrogance, and since they both confessed their sin, their repentance was accepted. The Quran says, “Then Adam received from his Lord [some] words, and He [God] accepted his repentance. Indeed, it is He who is the Accepting of repentance, the Merciful.” [Quran 2: 37]

Adam (pbuh) is now ready to tackle his mission on Earth. Adam (pbuh) and Eve, both, know what they will do, who their enemy is, and that they have limited time on earth, no matter how long they live, they will have to die, to go back to their Creator, and be judged on how they respond to Satan’s seduction.

So, despite being forgiven, Adam and Eve were no longer granted the comforts of life in paradise and would be sent to Earth. It is important to note that since Allah had

mentioned Adam’s mission on Earth long before his test, Adam and Eve’s appointment to Earth is not viewed as punishment, instead, it aligns with what God wanted. The Quran describes the Earth to Adam and Eve as a place in which to reside and enjoy for a certain time until the day they die and are resurrected, the Quran says, “(24) [Allāh] said, “Descend, being to one another enemies. And for you on the earth is a place of settlement and enjoyment [i.e., provision] for a time. (25) He said, “Therein you will live, and therein you will die, and from it, you will be brought forth.” [Quran 7: 24-25]. The Quran also says, “We said, ‘Go down from it, all of you. And when guidance comes to you from Me, whoever follows My guidance – there will be no fear concerning them, nor will they grieve (38). And those who disbelieve and deny Our signs – those will be companions of the Fire; they will abide therein eternally.’” [Quran 2: 38-39]

Furthermore, Adam (pbuh) is informed by God that he and his progeny will be sent guidance (through messengers and prophets) during their time on Earth. In contrast, Satan, unlike Adam, had not begged for forgiveness and had instead requested respite:

a chance to mislead and reveal the inadequacy of mankind. God facilitated this request but warned that Satan would be powerless over the believers.

Therefore, in the Quran, Adam, Eve, and Satan are all sent down to Earth. On Earth, Adam (pbuh) assumes the role of the first Prophet and the father of mankind.

Lessons from the Story of Adam and Eve: There are many valuable lessons to be extracted from the experience of Adam and Eve in the Quran. From the story one learns that pride and arrogance are the keys to loss and destruction. That one might be seduced to do things to gain benefits that he (or she) does not need. Further lessons include the value of acknowledging errors, the virtue of repenting, and the power of supplication. The test in paradise was an essential lesson that demonstrated free will.

This story in the Quran also tells us about Satan. From my understanding, the story of Satan could be deeper than it was just stemmed from arrogance and pride.

Adam’s (pbuh) story contains many more lessons I may explore in a future article.

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Christian group’s rule keeping beaches closed on Sunday mornings may end

OCEAN GROVE, N.J. – In this seaside community that calls itself “God’s Square Mile at the Jersey Shore,” all the land is owned by a religious group that has for generations enforced an 11th Commandment: Thou shalt stay off the beach on Sunday morning.

But there are signs that decades-old policy may be coming to an end as a way to resolve a court case brought by the state of New Jersey that could cost the group \$25,000 a day in fines for violating state beach access laws.

The Ocean Grove Camp Meet-

ing Association, which has kept beaches closed until noon on Sundays, has deleted that restriction from its website. Item 4 under “Beach Regulations” used to outline the Sunday morning closure. Now, just the number “4” remains on the site, followed by blank space.

The association and its lawyer did not immediately respond to requests for clarification Wednesday, and the state attorney general’s office said it was looking into the matter.

Restricting activity on Sunday morning is central to Ocean

Grove’s very existence. It was founded in 1869 as a Methodist retreat, centered on an enormous hall called The Great Auditorium, where worship services are held near rows of tent cabins where summer pilgrims come to live in its shadow.

The association, a nonprofit Christian entity that owns the beach and the land under all of Ocean Grove’s houses under a charter given to it by the state in 1870, has long kept people off the beach before noon on Sundays.

The state of New Jersey is

challenging the rule, threatening fines and taking the association to court.

The dispute involves an issue that has been contested for generations but never quite settled here: Does a religious group have the right to impose its beliefs on everyone in a community, including those of other faiths, or no faith at all?

“We just feel that’s wrong, that it’s not what America is supposed to be about, and it makes living here very uncomfortable when you’re gay, when you’re Jewish, an atheist or agnostic,”

said Paul Martin, who bought a house in Ocean Grove in 2003 with his wife, Aliza Greenblatt.

“We have the right to live here, too,” said Greenblatt, who like her husband is Jewish. “We’re not anti-Christian. We just want the line between church and state to be respected.”

The couple were among those who defied the rules last year and went onto the beach on Sunday mornings. They said association personnel called the police, but officers did not intervene once they arrived.

— AP

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But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.



Micah 3:8

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